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THE TORCH

the brooks college newsletter

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A Letter From Samuel Palmer Brooks

*Greetings, students
and colleagues,*

I wish to extend my Christmas blessings and greetings to you all. I write to you from an undisclosed location, possibly far east, north, south, or west of there.

I hope you have each enjoyed your autumn term at our beloved university. I submit to you my regrets that I have been unable to share much of it with you. For undisclosed reasons, whether excellent, unsatisfactory, negative, or positive, I am taking an extended holiday.

I hear it's growing colder down, up, or over there. Here, it's much warmer,

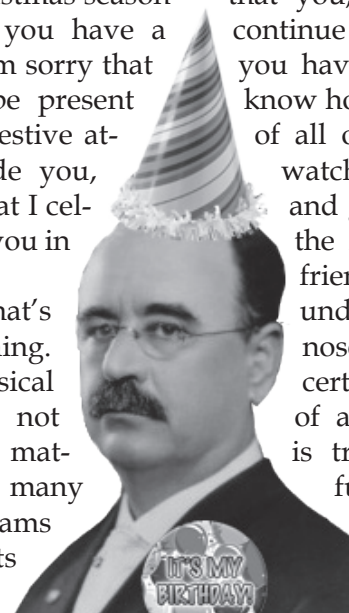
cooler, windier, or more pleasant. I may or may not have ever been here before, and therefore it's all new or familiar to me. Nevertheless, you may be sure that this experience is a fresh one, and I am trying to embrace it, as difficult or effortless as it may or may not be.

While I cannot as easily watch over you from wherever I am, I still keep informed as to the goings on at my namesake residence hall. How could I not? I've been around for so long that I know it must seem as if there is a gaping wound in your hearts, as well as in the wall, in the place where I used to

be. I know that you've begun the Christmas season nicely, and you have a fine tree. I am sorry that I will not be present to don my festive attire alongside you, but know that I celebrate with you in spirit.

And that's just the thing. My physical presence is not what truly matters, is it? So many of my dreams and thoughts and ideals have been entrusted to this community, and they indeed live on and

remain. I am glad to see that you, as a family, continue on in the way you have. You cannot know how proud I am of all of you. I miss watching you come and go, and seeing the firm bonds of friendship form under my very nose (which is certainly in need of a few pats). It is truly a beautiful thing, and I charge you to defend your community against



SEE LETTER, PAGE 2

Faculty friends: why they're important



Jennifer
Groves
*Contributing
Writer*

When I woke up on Tuesday October 20, 2009, it seemed like an ordinary day. I got up at 9 am,

which is what I always do before my 9:30 class, and rushed off to make sure I got there on time.

One somewhat special thing about that day was that Jennifer Tran and I were going to Robinson Tower to get our photos taken for the website. We headed to my car. It wouldn't start. Not so or-

dinary anymore.

Now, I never do well with car trouble, and this was about the fifth thing to go wrong with my car, and so I became quite upset. It was hard to not cry.

But then, the day got extraordinary. I had called every male in my phone that might have some inkling about cars with no

avail. Not a single person answered. Out of desperation, I called my film professor's office phone and left a voicemail, but like everyone else: no answer. Unlike everyone else, however, he returned my call and promptly.

He came out to the

SEE FACULTY, PAGE 3

LETTER

CONTINUED, PAGE 1

all maladies – physical or spiritual. Defend her against division, against depression, against petty disagreements. Defend her against loneliness, against pride, against self-sufficiency. This is why each of you has been called to that place.

Well, I had better finish up. I suppose you all know that today is my birthday. When I learned that this reputable publication was due to be released today, I very much wanted to be a part of it. Know that my heart is with you, and my blessing be upon you. I thought I'd end with something I penned a good while ago, but I intend for it to encourage you to live accordingly...

I stand on the border of mortal life but I face eternal life. I look backward to the years of the past to see all pettiness, all trivi-

ality shrink into nothing and disappear. Adverse criticism has no meaning now. Only the worthwhile things, the constructive things, the things that have built for the good of mankind and the glory of God count now. There is beauty, there is joy, and there is laughter in life--as there ought to be. But remember, all of you, not to regard lightly nor to ridicule the sacred things, those worthwhile things. Hold them dear, cherish them, for they alone will sustain you in the end; and remember too that only through work and oft-times through hardships may they be attained. But the compensation of blessing and sweetness at the last will glorify every hour of work and every heartache from hardship.

*Yours with affection
and hope,*

SA Brooks



PHOTO BY SAMMY

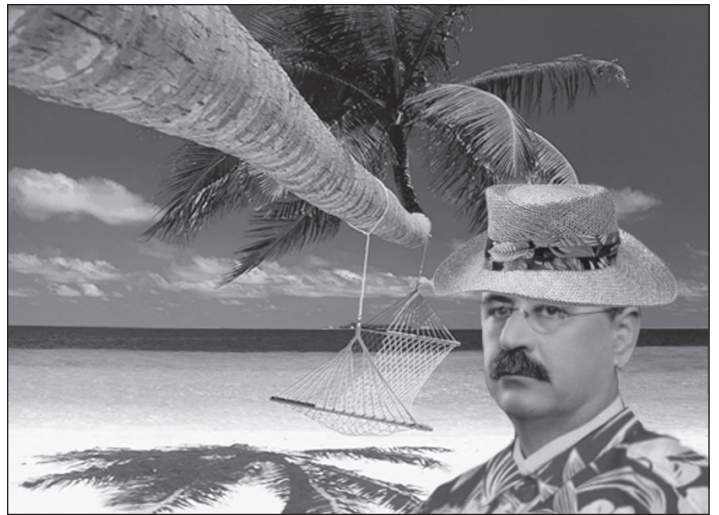


PHOTO BY SAMMY

The Cold is Here



Nathan
Fischer

*Staff
Writer*

The cold weather has finally arrived, a little late I might add. People may now wear the coats that they bought back in August when they were on sale, knowing that they were going to have to

wait at least five months to wear them. Hot chocolate, tea, and coffee have again reclaimed their position in peoples' hands. The leaves are falling rapidly as the trees go into a slumber for the winter. Tempers seem to be a little lower than the hotter months; is it the cold weather or the fact that vacation is around the corner? Being in a warm classroom is a little more inviting then it was just a month ago. Classes are coming to an

end. The shops are filling with shoppers for those ever so special Christmas gifts.

This is the last issue of The Torch for the semester, even though she loves The Torch; I know Katy (Our Editor) is smiling on the inside. Christmas events are filling our Calendars with places to go and people to see. Don't miss these events, they are fun, no matter how many fingers are lost to the cold. Professors are just about

ready to close their grade books, while students are wishing there was a way to absorb the textbook by osmosis and wondering why they didn't read all semester. When walking to class people look like a line of train engines with the steam from their mouths. Baylor is coming to the end of the semester without missing a beat. Be safe everybody and have a VERY MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR!

God Bless and be safe!

Upcoming Events

Santa's Workshop	12/4
Final Sunday Dinner of the semester	12/6
Last Day of Classes	12/7
Study Days	12/8-12/9
Pancake Break	12/9
Final Exams	12/10-12/16
Commencement	12/19
Spring Semester Begins	1/11
MLK Day	1/18
Acoustic Cafe	1/21
Sing Tickets on Sale	1/21
Deadline for Torch submissions!	1/24
Intersections	1/26
New issue of The Torch!	1/29



Sammy says...

This trip was the
BEST idea ever.



Decide what Sammy
says!

E-mail your idea to
BROOKS.TORCH@GMAIL.COM
and maybe you'll see it
here next issue!

DISCLAIMER Sammy sends his re-
gards from his extended vacation.

FACULTY

CONTINUED, PAGE 1

Bookstore parking lot and attempted to start the car.

He unhooked my battery, loaded it into his car, and drove me where I needed to be. We got to the store, and the guy confirmed the battery was dead. I panicked. I didn't have the money. If I bought a new battery, then I wouldn't be able to pay my phone bill. My stomach had turned to knots.

The guy finally tells us that it will be \$100. My heart sank into my gut. I didn't have it to spare. But before I had time to react, this professor just pulls out his wallet. "Do you need me to get this?" My heart started to lighten with relief, but I didn't think I could accept. I pondered. "I can give you

\$40." He shook his head, gave the card to the guy, and said, "If you want to pay me back someday, you can. However, I will never think of this again, so if you don't pay me back, I won't be worrying about it."

I was stunned. Shocked. Why would he do this? He did it because he cared about me enough to help me out during a time when no one else really could.

This is why I am telling you this story: I am a senior here at Baylor University, and I have been making friends with my professors since freshman year. And since freshman year, I have been slightly teased for doing such a thing.

I am here to tell you that developing a friendship with a professor is much more rewarding

than you could possibly imagine. I am not saying that you should become friends with your professors so that they will pay for things. I am saying you should understand that professors are at a different stage in life, and they can help guide and mentor you through these years of college. It is much more rewarding to spend an hour talking to a professor in their office, than watching a TV show or taking a nap. I would not have had Brian Elliott to call if I hadn't invested in our relationship over the past year.

Baylor is an incredible place filled with a Christian community that most of us find in our friends and contemporaries. I am writing this to tell you that you can find that even more so through developing meaningful

relationships with some of your professors. By no means do I think you will get along with all of them or even most. But if you find that one professor that you think, "man, he/she is really cool," do not hesitate to set up a meeting with him or her. They are here to invest in us as students; it is a part of their job that most of them love doing.

Brian Elliott is only one of my many examples of professors whom I have taken the time to get to know and have therefore invested in me. And if you cannot find this in a professor, you might be able to find it in a staff member like our Hall Director or someone in Student Activities. Don't limit yourself to only having friends in the same phase of life as you.

End of semester reflections



Katy
McDowall
Editor

As a semester comes to a close, it is often time for one to reflect on the events that have occurred in the past few months. It saves one from focusing too much on the impending final exams, and how completely unprepared they are and how they have not even started their huge English research paper due on Dec. 7, and how all of their finals are on the first two days of exams except for one exam that falls a full four days later, etc., etc. These next few weeks are the most stressful of the semester, so it is kind of nice to sit back, take a few moments, and reflect.

The Torch has reached its fifth and final issue for the semester before it makes its grand return on Jan. 29, 2010. (You should go ahead and mark that on your calendar.) As its editor, this fills me with a great sense of relief (a break at last!), and a great sense of excitement for what is to come.

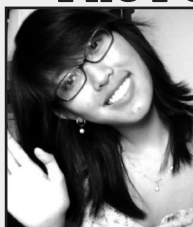
For *The Torch*, this semester began with a very, very late night in order to get that first issue out and delivered to each and

every room of Brooks on Move-In Day. Since that time, there have been a few more late nights, but it hasn't been anywhere near as stressful.

Still, this newsletter has been through a lot since Aug. 19. Together we traveled to Kenya with Nathan Fischer and to England with Jennifer Atwood. We were introduced to Matthew Carington and his experiences as a freshman. We saw the first floor win Brooks Blaze, and we mourned the loss of the bust of Samuel Palmer Brooks. Our chaplain, Kyndall, shared countless words of inspiration. We met a number of our amazing community leaders. Andrew Hwang amused us with cartoons, Anson Jablinski kept us connected to the arts, and Emilie Moore kept us healthy.

In these past few months, we have been through much together, and will go through more in the coming semester. I want to thank everyone who took the time to contribute thus far. *The Torch* would not be possible without you. As for everyone else, *The Torch* would still love to have you. So don't be shy; send an e-mail to Brooks.Torch@gmail.com if you're interested. Now back to that paper....

The Forgotten Committee



Jennifer
Tran
Contributing
Writer

Ever wondered where your FREE Drowsy Chaperone Tickets came from? Who hosted and provided the food for that one Tailgate Party?

Right about now, you're probably overwhelmed by memories of the free stuff and the joys you shared from saving money (I personally would be). Let me introduce you to the Campus Life Committee! As one of your co-chairs, I'd like to personally invite you to attend our meetings Monday nights at 9:30 in the Seminar Room. Come to one, come to two, or better yet come to all because you are more than welcome to join us. What is the Campus Life Committee? Good Question! In

general, our committee plugs Brooks into Baylor. If there is a Baylor-wide event, we're there and better yet we're there to represent Brooks. Our objective is to get Brooks' residents involved in the Baylor community. After all, you wrote a full essay on community and service to join Brooks did you not? This is service. This is community. I strongly encourage my fellow residents to get involved.

Our upcoming events include Stompfest, Relay for Life, Steppin' Out, Bearathon, Diadeloso and much, much more. If this doesn't interest you then I don't know what will. Our first meeting in the spring will be Jan. 25 at 9:30 in the Seminar Room. If you have any questions regarding the committee or any suggestions or event requests please email either one of us at: Jennifer_Tran@Baylor.edu OR Brooke_Bormann@Baylor.edu.

IN

breaks

sleeping

Christmas music

energy drinks



finals

fall semester

cold

Ugg boots with
Nike shorts

OUT

What's in and what's out?

E-mail your ideas to BROOKS.TORCH@GMAIL.COM.

BIC, Honors Program: learning to balance the two



Sarai
Ingram
*Staff
Writer*

Being in both the Baylor Interdisciplinary Core (BIC) and the Honors Program here at Baylor has been difficult, but it's been good.

While I was in high school, I was one of those students who didn't have to work at all to make straight A's, and all of my teachers appreciated me for it. When I came to Baylor, I knew that I wanted to be part of at least one of the four different sections of the Honors programs.

I decided that I really don't like classical texts, so I didn't choose Great Texts, and I also decided that I wanted to have a set degree plan that I could follow step by step, so I didn't choose University Scholars. I applied to both the BIC and the Honors Program and I got into both.

The BIC program of-

fered a different way of looking at my studies, and the Honors Program allowed me to write a thesis by the end of my senior year.

Fortunately, college is a huge challenge for me intellectually, but, unfortunately, since I didn't really have to do anything to get A's during high school, I didn't know how to study when I got here. Being in two honors programs and not knowing how to study is not a very good thing at all, so understandably, my GPA wasn't where I wanted it to be at the end of my first semester, but I've since gotten it back in the range where it should be.

I'm a sophomore now, and I think that being independent for this long (not that 1.5 years is a long time...) has allowed me to think for myself a little more and make decisions that are good for me, without worrying what other people think of my decisions.

I ended up dropping the BIC program this se-

mester because I haven't liked it since I've been in the program, and I am just now figuring out that I can still keep those friends without having to be in the same program.

I know that statement sounds like it is common sense, but when I got here, I didn't really know anyone and the BIC program was the first thing that allowed me to make good friends here at Baylor. I thought that if I got out of the program, I would be left behind, and that I wouldn't be able to join in the conversations that involved BIC, or that I wouldn't be able to join in the exasperated talks about how "they gave us two papers for World Cultures AND a test in Social World in the SAME WEEK," or "how do they expect us to do all of this stupid reading and still study for the midterm?"

I'm really glad that I figured out that I can still join in those conversations, but I don't have to have those situations directly affect me. I'm ac-

tually looking forward to next semester when I can hear them complain about BIC and I don't have to feel all the stress that goes along with it; I can just sit back and listen, and be glad that I can work on my honors thesis without stress.

As for still being in the Honors Program, I've already decided that I want to be published in some type of Forensic Science or Anthropology journal by the time I graduate from Baylor, and I feel like I can do that because I already have to versed in the art of research for my honors thesis; why not hone my researching skills and get nationally recognized in the Forensic Science community at the same time?

I'm glad that I have high expectations for myself, and I know that I'm happy just being in one honors program now, but for all of you out there with more time to spend studying, being in the BIC and the Honors Program is a great experience.

HANDING OUT THE TORCH SINCE FALL 2007

Daniel Abernathy
Matthew Carrington
Ashley Davis
Nathan Fischer
Sarai Ingram
Anson Jablinski
Emilie Moore
Andrew Hwang
Katy McDowall

Staff Writer
Staff Writer
Staff Writer
Staff Writer
Staff Writer
Staff Writer
Staff Writer
Cartoonist
Editor

Join the Torch team!

If you have any interest in writing, photography or other useful skills, please consider contributing.

No former background is required.

Please contact us at BROOKS.TORCH@GMAIL.COM.

Join The Torch group on Facebook!
Search for "The Torch: The Brooks College Newsletter"

Get to know your Community Leaders!

CL Spotlight: Christian Latham

FLOOR: 2M

YEAR: SOPHOMORE



HOME: Magnolia, TX

MAJOR: Majors: Economics, Political Science, Minor: History
Baylor Interdisciplinary Core, Pre-Law

ACTIVITIES:

Baylor University Student Court, Judicial Affairs Student Advisory Board, Campus Living and Learning Student Advisory Board, New Student Programs First-Year Advisory Board, Waco Police Dept. Victim Services Volunteer.

LIKES:

Sleeping in, eating delicious food, sleeping in, engaging in deep conversation, people with a sense of humor, and learning stuff.



DISLIKES:

Early mornings, eating dining hall food, early mornings, artificial social interactions, people who take themselves too seriously, and wasting time.

FUN FACTS: Once, in a water polo game, an opposing player ripped a hole in my eyelid with his thumb while attempting to block my shot.

DREAMS AND AMBITIONS:

The future for me is by no means a definite prospect, but I would very much like to attend a top law school and pursue a vocational call to impact the world in a positive way.

BEST PART OF THE CL EXPERIENCE:

The best part of the CL experience, without question, is the fact that I get to spend time with and learn from an entire hall of really cool guys.

PURPOSE AS A CL:

To foster the development of lasting relationships within the context of an enriching community.

WHY DID YOU CHOOSE BROOKS?:

Brooks College is not only the best residence hall on campus for the most basic reasons (architecture, dining hall, chapel, ...bathrooms), but the emphasis on faith, academics, and community here is priceless.



photos courtesy of christian latham

SPECIAL EDITION

Double feature: Heather Owen

FLOOR: 2K

YEAR: SENIOR



HOME: I grew up in Shelby, NC but my family moved to Benton, TN after I came to Baylor.

MAJOR: Baylor Business Fellows and Economics majors, Religion and Art minors

ACTIVITIES:

Leading a girls Bible study in Brooks, SING Alliance, college ministry at Harris Creek Baptist Church, doing fun stuff with my hall

LIKES:

Christmas with my fam-

ily. Doing things outside with my family like fishing and canoeing and water skiing. Playing with toys from when I was a kid. Doing spontaneous fun things. Traveling anywhere.

DISLIKES:

Writing papers. Allergies. Buying plane tickets.

FUN FACTS: I went sky diving for my 18th birthday. My roommates and I last year dressed up like squirrels and did the ATO Bed Races! This past May I went to Kenya on a mission trip with a team from Brooks College.

DREAMS AND AMBITIONS:

I have studied a lot of economic development through my economics



major and I would love to work with an organization that implements business and economic practices in order to reduce poverty. I want to live in a foreign country for a while. I want to have a family I can enjoy and invest in.

BEST PART OF THE CL EXPERIENCE:

So far one of the best parts is the fun I have with girls on my hall. We have watched crazy youtube videos at open door nights, tailgated before a football game, competed in the Bed Races, had a movie night in the study room, jumped out and scared people coming onto our floor... It's just been a lot of fun!

PURPOSE AS A CL:

My purpose is to help my girls be a part of true Christian community, community that involves sharing all aspects of life together, loving one another, and encouraging each other toward God and toward excellence in everything we do.

WHY DID YOU CHOOSE BROOKS?:

I have lived in Brooks since it opened my sophomore year. I have loved the community, the people and the pattern of life it maintains since the beginning. I wanted to be a CL at Brooks so that I could introduce other students to all that Brooks has to offer.



photos courtesy of heather owen

Why blue?



Kyndall
Renfro
Chaplain

Since returning to campus after Thanksgiving break, some of you may have noticed the blue décor donning Robbins Chapel. For those of you who grew up observing the church calendar, hopefully seeing all the blue made you feel right at home. For those of who are more accustomed to the traditional red and green Christmas colors, the blue might look a little out of place.

You may know that Advent—the season leading up to Christmas—began on Sunday, November 29th this year, and you may have attended the first-ever Brooks Advent Service last Monday. Traditionally purple was the primary color of Advent, but in recent years more churches have been substituting blue for purple (in order to distinguish Advent from the season of Lent which also uses purple). Blue can be used to symbolize royalty, the night sky, or the announcement that the King is coming.

Brooks Residential College is clearly not a church, but because Robbins Chapel is a sacred

space dedicated to Christian worship, we attempt to use this space in a way that is unique to Christian worship. Thus we have decorated the chapel in accordance with the seasons of the church calendar. Of course, not all Christians follow the church year (though most at least celebrate Christmas and Easter), so even some students who spent their whole lives in church are not quite sure what the church year is really about.

Well, it turns out this is the perfect occasion to learn because in “church time,” the year has just begun! Advent is like the “January” of the church calendar—a new year is starting afresh, a year that will lead us through Advent, Christmas, Epiphany, Lent, Holy Week, Easter, Pentecost, and Ordinary Time. But why observe the church year when we’ve already got a secular calendar that the rest of our society follows faithfully?

There are a number of good reasons to observe the church calendar, but at its most basic level, the church calendar is a yearly rehearsal of the life of Jesus. Instead of an ancient story from long ago, the tale comes to life in front of us. We commemorate and rehearse all the parts of the story—the longing for a Messiah, the celebration of his arrival, his work on earth, his death, his resurrection. In this way, wor-

ship becomes more than simply what we hear with our ears and sing with our lips. It begins to involve our whole beings—what we see with our eyes (such as the colors of the season), what we taste with our mouths (such as fasting during Lent), what we touch with our fingers (such as the ashes of Ash Wednesday), etc. Our very lives are structured around the calendar that we might remember and relive the great story of God’s engagement with us and with the world.

During Advent, we are reliving what it is like to wait on God, to look expectantly for a Savior. We are not merely recalling the past; we are also affirming that despair in need of divine intervention has its place in the current Christian experience. Christianity encompasses both joyful receiving and anxious waiting. A season of need is not just part of the Christmas story; it is a season of common life experience. Advent provides hope to those in darkness.

There is also a penitence aspect of Advent, which means that we prepare for the coming of Jesus by repenting of our sins. He will come both as Deliverer and as Judge, thus we wait for him expectantly, but also humbly. He will do much to help us, but he will also show us how much we lack.

May the color blue this season lead you to humility and to hope.

“And the Grinch, with his Grinch-feet ice cold in the snow, stood puzzling and puzzling, how could it be so? It came without ribbons. It came without tags. It came without packages, boxes or bags. And he puzzled and puzzled ‘till his puzzler was sore. Then the Grinch thought of something he hadn’t before. What if Christmas, he thought, doesn’t come from a store. What if Christmas, perhaps, means a little bit more.”



-Dr. Seuss

Christmas Jokes



Q: What is the difference between the Christmas alphabet and the ordinary alphabet?

A: The Christmas alphabet has
(No I, No E)

Q: How do sheep in Mexico say Merry Christmas?

A: Felice Navidad

Q. What happened when the snowwoman got angry at the snowman?

A: She gave him the cold shoulder

Q. Why was Santa's little helper depressed?

A: He had low elf-esteem.

Q. What do you call people who are afraid of Santa Claus?

A: Claustrophobic

Everybody has one



Matthew
Carrington
Staff
Writer

That's right. You have one—maybe not right next to you, but somewhere on your street back home. You know, that one neighbor—and it's always just one—that irks you to your core, sinks your boat, rubs your hair the wrong way. And it's not because they were designed wrong or anything; they're just out to surpass your every effort, to point out your mistakes, to show you how to do it right. But then again, if they didn't, who would?

I'm on the same page, trust me. The only difference is that mine has a different name: Mary (I'll go with Mary just in case by some cosmic fluke one of you knows the neighbor I speak of). Do you remember how Davinci was the quintessential Renaissance man? Well, Mary is his exact parallel, except without all the weird backwards writing, and in the field of annoying neighbor.

"But how bad can it actually be?" you ask. Oh, let me tell you.

First of all, I'm almost positive that my neighbor and her husband are a duo of serial killers who use "special fertilizer" on their yard (which means

that they bury their victims there)—I just don't see any other way that they can keep their grass so green year round. Midwinter, when my yard is crusty and brown and covered in leaves, Mary's is immaculate and perfect and green. I swear to you that she looks out of her window and just waits for the next leaf to fall, whereupon she (or her husband) immediately pounces on her lawn and removes the bogey from the grass.

Speaking of her husband (or pawn; either term suffices), my favorite quality in him is that as I drive right by him on my way out of the neighborhood and give him a hearty wave, he acts just like he would if my car weren't there (except for that one time when I honked as I drove by—he shot his hand up rather quickly. Probably just a reflex). In fact, he spoke to me for the first time in six years the other day—no joke. It was weird. But I digress.

Back to the matter of Mary. I remember one morning, as I was walking my dog, Mary made it a point to charge in my direction at an unprecedented clip (I checked both of her hands to make sure she didn't have a weapon, or chloroform or something). She fastidiously relayed to me that when my dog barks at her purebreds, the poor

collies become scared (I withheld the fact to myself that it is always her hounds that instigate the barking war). No sooner had she finished her rant than my dog jumped up in her direction. Her words: "Oh, I see that your dog hasn't been trained yet." I ended the conversation with a farewell (knowing that I would have to see her again at some point) and exited as lithely as possible.

Mary is one of those neighbors whose yard just makes you want to stop tending to yours; you know that you'll never primp your lawn up to par anyhow. Sadly, the neighbors on the other side of my house are still suffering from the delusion that they can at least come close to imitating Mary's green thumb. All they actually accomplish is making my yard look bad from both angles.

There are many things that I miss at home. Truthfully I say to you Mary is not one of them. So, the next time you find yourself at home in the presence of your favorite someone next door don't forget to appreciate your neighbors here at Baylor. Also, don't forget to scan them over for weapons, like garden sheers, or a trowel, or a loose key. That's right, a loose key—you'd be surprised at how proficient they are at their ancient art.

Fine ARTS FORECAST



Anson
Jablinski
*Staff
Writer*

E-mail me if you want an event to be in the Forecast!

The Fine Arts Forecast features as many performances and exhibits featuring Baylor students as possible.

Unless otherwise noted, all events are at **7:30 pm in Jones Concert Hall** (in the McCrary Music Building) and **totally free** of charge.

**FRIDAY, DECEMBER 4
&
SATURDAY, DECEMBER 5**

School of Music
Christmas Concerts

Tickets are sold out but there is a waiting list [254-710-3571].

**TUESDAY, DECEMBER 1-
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 6**

Baylor Theatre:
"Fuddy Meers"

See [www.baylor.edu/theatre] for showtimes and ticket information.

**THURSDAY, JANUARY 14
7:30PM IN WACO HALL**

Waco Symphony

Presenting guest violinist
Jason Issokson
and the Mendelssohn Violin
Concerto.

Student tickets are \$5 at the door!

STARTING JANUARY 21

Martin Museum of Art

"McClanahan's
McClanahans"
and the
University of Dallas 20th
National Print Invitational

See [www.baylor.edu/martin-museum] for museum hours and other information.

**THURSDAY, JANUARY 28-
SUNDAY, JANUARY 31**

(7:30 Thur-Sat., 3:00 Sun in the Hooper-Schaefer Fine Arts Center)

Baylor Opera:
Albert Herring
by Benjamin Britten

Ticket information at the Theatre Department box office [254-710-1865].

On Off-Campus Eats: THIS SEASON AT STARBUCKS



Ashley
Davis
*Staff
Writer*

Trying something new at Starbucks can be daunting. There are many seasonal drinks to try, and it can be hard to convince yourself to spend \$3.45 on the unknown. Well, that's what I'm here for. I took the plunge, and tried all of the seasonal drinks.

Peppermint White Chocolate Mocha: To me, the Peppermint White Chocolate Mocha tastes like a melted down candy cane. I could hardly tell it was a latte though—very little of the espresso flavor came through amidst all of the syrup. Still yummy though.

Peppermint Mocha: You know Andes Mints? Well, that's what a Peppermint Mocha tastes like, except it's hot and provides an energy boost. If you like mint chocolate chip ice cream (and I feel like most people do), you'll definitely like the Peppermint Mocha.

Eggnog Latte: I thought this one was a little weird. It didn't taste completely like a latte or eggnog. Not as sweet as a lot of the other holiday drinks, which is a plus. It tasted mostly just like hot, thin eggnog, but I still liked it.

Caramel Brulee Latte: This is a new drink that I just had to try when I saw it. I was a little disappointed, but not so much so that I wouldn't get it again. It's extremely sweet, which drowns out the espresso fla-

vor quite a bit.

Caramel Apple Spice: I'm in love with this drink. Instead of steamed milk and espresso, you get steamed apple juice and caramel syrup with whipped cream and cinnamon on top. It's a very sweet drink, but it's warm and tastes like autumn in cup!

Espresso Truffle Latte: This isn't necessarily a seasonal drink this year, but it was introduced as one last year, so that's how I'll always think of it. It's so amazing that Starbucks decided to continue serving it all year after its debut, which makes me quite happy. Instead of being nauseatingly sweet like some of the other holiday drinks, the Espresso Truffle is true to its name. It's a darn near perfect blend of dark, rich chocolate and bold espresso. DELICIOUS!

Gingerbread Latte: I have to say that I miss last year's Gingersnap Latte (which I'm sure got discontinued because it had these weird chunks of ginger on top that got soggy if you didn't chug the latte right after you got it). The Gingerbread-adjust doesn't compare. It's more sweet than spicy, and doesn't have an overly large amount of coffee flavor. It's still nice and seasonal, but might be my least favorite.

The verdict: Although I do like all of the drinks, even those I had complaints about, I'd have to say that the winner is the Caramel Apple Spice. It makes me feel like a kid, and you'd be surprised at how delicious apple juice and whipped cream are together. Happy (coffee) drinking!

**MAD
LIB:**'Twas the Night
Before Christmas

'Twas the _____ before Christmas, and all through the _____
TIME PERIOD NOUN
 Not a creature was stirring, not even a _____
NOUN, ANIMAL
 The _____ were hung by the _____ with care,
NOUN, PLURAL NOUN
 In hopes that St. _____ soon would be there.
NAME

The children were nestled all snug in their _____,
NOUN, PLURAL
 While visions of sugar-_____ danced in their _____.
NOUN, PLURAL BODY PART, PLURAL
 And _____ in her _____, and I in my cap,
PERSON
 Had just settled down for a long winter's nap.

When out on the lawn there arose such a clatter,
 I sprang from the _____ to see what was the matter.
NOUN
 Away to the window I flew like a flash,
 _____ open the shutters, and _____ up the sash.
VERB VERB

The moon on the breast of the new-fallen snow,
 Gave the luster of mid-_____ to objects below.
TIME PERIOD
 When, what to my wondering eyes should appear?
 But a _____, and eight tiny _____.
NOUN NOUN, PLURAL

With a little old driver, so lively and soft,
 I knew in a moment it must be St. Sam.
 More rapid than mice his aardvarks they came,
 And he whistled, and _____, and called them by name;
VERB

"Now, Dasher! Now, _____! Now, _____ and Vixen!
NAME NAME
 On, _____! On, _____! On, _____ and Blitzen!
NAME NAME NAME
 To the top of the _____! To the top of the _____!
NOUN NOUN
 Now _____ away! _____ away! _____ away all!"
VERB VERB VERB

And then, in a twinkling, I heard on the roof,
 The prancing and pawing of each little hoof.
 As I drew in my hand, and was turning around,
 Down the _____ St. _____ came with a bound.
NOUN NAME

His eyes -- how they _____! His dimples, how _____!
VERB ADJ.
 His _____ were like _____, his _____ like a _____!
BODY PART, PLURAL NOUN, PLURAL BODY PART NOUN

He spoke not a word but went straight to his work,
 And filled all the _____, then turned with a jerk.
NOUN, PLURAL
 And laying his _____ aside of his _____
BODY PART BODY PART
 And giving a nod, up the _____ he rose.
NOUN

He sprang to his sleigh, to his team gave a _____,
SOUND
 And away they all flew like the down of a thistle.
 But I heard him exclaim, as he drove out of sight,
 "Merry Christmas to all, and to all a good _____!"
TIME PERIOD



Find the answers to the crossword at: <http://www.blackdog.net/holiday/christmas/crossword/solution.html>

ACROSS

2 Wishes written on paper make this.

4 _____ to the world.

5 The Christmas season.

8 Santa will bring me a _____.

9 The main Jolly Elf.

10 Santa's helper.

11 They twinkle and glow.

13 Standing under this means a kiss.

15 Wrap with paper, ribbon and a _____.

16 Desire.

DOWN

7 Large, festive meal.

8 Special delights or pleasures.

12 Frozen flakes of it fall from the sky.

14 First word of famous Christmas poem.

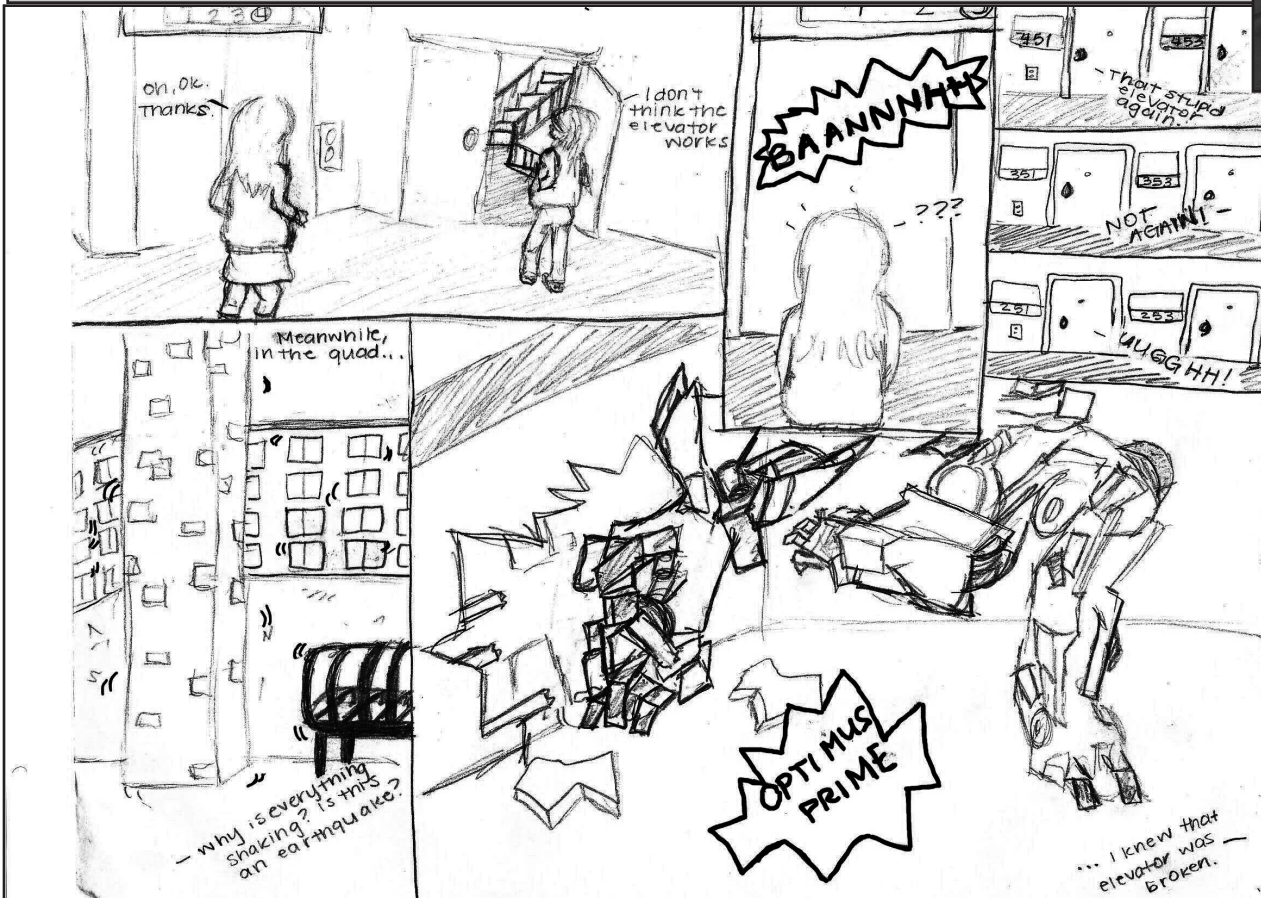
16 What you do before giving a present.

FUN PAGE:

Need something to do that isn't studying?
 The Torch is here for you... as always.

TorchJoons

Sarai
Ingram
Cartoonist



BROOKS CLASSIFIEDS

Christmas at Brooks

Christmas Toy Drive:

From now until Dec. 7 bring Brooks a children's toy to put under our Christmas tree! All donations will go to Mission Waco's Christmas "Toy Store." *Don't have time to buy a toy?* Leave a monetary donation at the desk and we will buy one for you! (Note: Please leave all toys in the box at the desk not under the tree.)

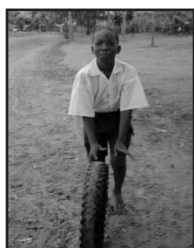
Brooks College Open Mic Night:

Sing? Dance? Act? Do impressions? Then head to the front desk and sign up for our Open Mic Night to be held **Dec. 7** during Christmas at Brooks.

Help support Victor!

For the third year in a row, Brooks is sponsoring Victor Omondi, a Kenyan child and honorary Brooks member.

Let's bless him and pray for him, as well as give to support him! Just a dollar every few weeks will really make a difference...but only if EVERYONE does it!



THE COMMUNITY NEEDS YOU!

If you're interested in meeting other great people, contributing to the community that supports you and making Brooks even better, why not stop by a committee meeting this week? You can join any time, so visit and find the one that fits you!

COMMUNITY AND TRADITIONS

- Tuesdays - 9:30 PM - Seminar Room -
ARTS AND ACADEMICS

- Every other Sunday - 4:30 PM - Library -
CAMPUS LIFE

- Every other Monday - 9 PM - Seminar Room
SERVICE AND MINISTRY

- Mondays - 7 PM - Seminar Room

Need prayer?

The Brooks Prayer Team meets daily to pray for requests from the College and beyond. If you have a request, send an e-mail to BROOKSPRAYER@GMAIL.COM. Let us know how to pray! Also, if you are interested in joining, please do. The team is open to all. For more information, e-mail us!

M.A.P.S.

THE MINORITY ASSOCIATION OF
PRE-HEALTH STUDENTS

All pre-health students are welcome to attend any of our meetings to learn more about this exciting organization! If you have any questions, feel free to e-mail us at BAYLORMAPS@YAHOO.COM.

Are you in an organization that has an event coming up soon or have an announcement to make?

Let your community know—send it to
BROOKS.TORCH@GMAIL.COM.