



The Cure



Matthew
Carrington
*Staff
Writer*

The middle of the semester is approaching, meaning some of us are about ready for the downhill stretch (if that even exists in college), but also that most of us are either in blatant denial about our standing in that one class that's freakishly hard, or we are just beginning to realize that we'll have to kick things up another notch to ensure our success by the end of the school year. Whichever group you fall into, you're bound to be plagued thoroughly at some point, if you haven't been already, by worries, both substantial and exaggerated.

On a day to day basis we, as human beings, worry about others' perceptions of us: we dress certain ways, act certain ways, talk certain ways. It often seems that our temporal lives revolve around the perceptions of others. This is perfectly understandable—especially for we college students who are trying to discover where exactly we belong in the grand scheme of things; however, others' perceptions of us shouldn't dictate our lives to the extent that we change who we are to suit everyone else's tastes. Besides, "everyone" is a whole lot of people to please all at once.

While our everyday lives consist of mostly inconsequential details that we

endow with undue importance, some weightier concerns do exist: am I majoring in the right field? Am I going to make high enough grades this semester to maintain my scholarships? Is he/she the one?

"...the more time we spend worrying about little nothings and "big somethings", the less free we become as thinking, feeling human beings...."

These worries seem like they actually deserve more of our time and efforts than other facets of our lives, especially the more superficial worries already mentioned; however, the more time we spend worrying about little nothings and "big somethings", the less free we become as thinking, feeling human beings, and the more cluttered our lives become. Seeing as most of the "big somethings" are unavoidable and require much of our attention, the results, being restricted lives and unhealthy temperaments, can be rather depressing.

The good news is, we're not designed to have to deal with these things by ourselves. Not only do we have friends to lean on and seek comfort from, but we have a constant source of encouragement and instruction that's within reach every moment of our lives—no, not Dr. Phil (bear with me), but the Great Counselor himself!

We can always count on God to save us from our daily toils, as well as our long term worries. In Philippians 4:6 we're told that we're to be anxious in

nothing, but lift our worries to God in prayer, thankful for his power to save us. Luke 12:6-7 tells us that we are not to fear because God knows even the number of hairs on our heads; if He knows such small details about our lives, shouldn't we trust Him when it comes to the most important decisions we have to make and the toughest times we must face?

Trust me, I know a lot about worrying. My mom tells me every time I see her that I need to loosen up, take things one step at a time. I've found myself caught up in various worries lately, and I've had to remind myself that the best cure for worries is to simply give them to God. Not only are we saved by faith, but we prosper by it.

There was a psychology experiment in which a mouse was placed in a tub of water for several minutes at a time until it was just on the verge of exhaustion and drowning. At first, the mouse only lasted a few minutes before it began to sink, at which point one of the psychologists reached in and lifted up the mouse and allowed it to recuperate, subsequently returning the mouse into the water after a period of rest. This process was repeated at slightly irregular intervals for an extended period of time, during which the mouse lasted up to twice as long as in the original test before giving up to fatigue. This is the same as the hope we have in Christ. Even when life gets hard, we know that our Savior is there to lift us out of our

UPCOMING EVENTS

- Brooks Backs the Bears vs. Tech FEB. 18
- SerMin @ King's Club FEB. 19
- All University Sing FEB. 19, 24-26
- Torch Meeting 8 P.M. FEB. 24
- Oscar Night Watch Party FEB. 27
- Women's Basketball @Oklahoma FEB. 27
- Men's Basketball @ Oklahoma State MARCH 1
- Men's Basketball vs. Texas MARCH 5
- Women's Basketball @ Colorado MARCH 5
- Spring Break MARCH 5-13
- Women's Basketball @ Big 12 Champ. MARCH 9-12
- Torch Deadline MARCH 12
- New issue of The Torch MARCH 18



TORCHnews

If you're interested in writing, photography or drawing send an email to

BROOKS.TORCH@GMAIL.COM.

Join us for our next meeting at
8 P.M. THURSDAY, FEB. 24,
in the Brooks College Seminar Room!

Governing Board Update



Emilie
Moore
President

Co-chairs and committees have some fantastic events for us this semester. Behind the scenes, the Governing Board is also thinking about ways to improve your experience here, and we're looking ahead to leadership elections in the spring as well!

As always, please let any co-chairs or officers (Emilie Moore, Jennifer Tran, Chase Kanaly) know what you're thinking. We love input!

Attend these upcoming committee events!

ComTrad: Brooks Backs the Bears, Feb. 18

Acatac: Rock Band Friday, every Friday night in the JCR
Oscar Night Watch Party, Feb. 27

SerMin: King's Club, every Saturday at 10 a.m.

TORCHSTAFF

| handing out the torch since fall 2007 |

- Huy Bui *staff writer*
- Matthew Carrington *staff writer*
- Nathan Fischer *staff writer*
- Emily Goeke *staff writer*
- Anson Jablinski *staff writer*
- Sally Ann Moyer *staff writer*
- Katy McDowall *editor*

snow day 2011



photos by emilie moore and
lindsay putnam



Reflecting on the Brooks Induction Ceremony



Emily
Goeke
*Staff
Writer*

It began with silence. The darkness and firelight mingled with the silence to call up deep primal feelings, to connect us with the very essence of our humanity. Out of the darkness came a voice that spoke of a far off time when Baylor was still young and Samuel Palmer Brooks was president. He spoke of the vision and the passion that Brooks had for Baylor. He spoke as one telling a creation myth, as if that part of our history was lost in the mists of time. Then came another voice who spoke of the creation of Brooks College. As she spoke her voice became more excited and her speech quicker as her story rushed towards the climax of Brooks opening its doors.

Like the sudden rising of the sun nine voices spoke out in the firelight. They spoke of who they were, each in turn sharing a piece of themselves. They said things like, "I am spirited," "I love the Lord," and "I am not afraid to be different." In them was reflected the myriad of diversity that lived in Brooks College. Rushing toward an even greater climax, they each in turn spoke the words, "We are," and finally together they shouted, "Brooks!"

After a moment a final voice spoke out in the darkness. She spoke of the future of Brooks College. She called on the new members to rise to the challenge of living in community and closed with, "Brooks College is entrusted to you. To you we hand the torch."

In silence those twelve people left the stage to join the other members of the College. Next, the faculty master spoke. He said many profound things, most of which will be forgotten, if they haven't been already. But that didn't matter. It was the spirit of his message that would endure. He spoke of the value of community, of how it changes us, and how this was a rare opportu-



The Brooks College induction ceremony. // photo by nick batts

nity that we should not let pass us by. Then the residence hall director spoke. His words have also been forgotten, but his message was the same, and it will live on in the hearts and minds of those who were there. Then four students came to the stage, one from each class. They spoke about what Brooks College meant to them, how it changed them, and what they hoped for its future.

Next the Immortal Message of Samuel Palmer Brooks was read. In many ways this is the founding charter of Brooks College. It first established the values on which Brooks was founded. After the speaker had read the line, "To you I hand the torch," several of the other speakers began lighting the candles of the audience (which had been handed out as they entered Minglewood Bowl). The members passed the flame to one another.

However, it was a very windy night. We had to protect our flames very carefully. But whenever someone's flame went out, the people around them would help them relight it. Though this was not planned, it ended up being very meaningful. There are many forces in the world that can blow out the flame of community, so you have to actively care for it. But even for all our care, sometime that flame goes out. But that is when you see the beauty of

community, because there will always be someone next to you to help you relight your flame.

With our little struggling flames joined together, we read the Community Covenant. This was our creed and our commitment. It is our Ten Commandments and our Five Pillars. It establishes our values and our goals for this way of life. When we read it together, we declared to ourselves, to each other, and to the world our commitment to these values. It was our oath to live together.

As the weight of our oath fell upon us and invigorated us, our resident chaplain gave the benediction. After that we blew out our candles and walked silently in the dark back to the College. We walked together through the Archway and gathered in the Quad. There, aided by the acoustic qualities of the architecture, we learned the Brooks Chant, a tradition passed down to us from the previous Brooks Hall. We began by saying the word "Brooks" slowly and quietly. Then we said it louder and faster, and louder and faster, and louder and faster. In the passion of ecstatic unity, with one voice, we climaxed with a Sic 'em. A wave of joy and belonging fell upon us as we smiled at each other, met with old friends and new, and listened to one of our members play the bagpipes.

let's be frank



Kyndall
Renfro
Chaplain

I am starting a new series in the Torch called "Let's Be Frank," and the idea is to introduce a new topic every issue. Originally I was going to title the series "Exposed," because I wanted to open topics that we often keep hidden. But since this first article addresses the issue of porn, "Exposed" seemed like an awkward title.

Before you freeze up and stop reading this article because your chaplain just used the word "porn," I promise this will not be your typical treatment of the issue. As far as I can tell, the typical "treatment" goes something like this, "Don't look!! Protect your future (or present) marriage. True love waits. Virgin eyes for Jesus!" My paraphrase, but I think it's pretty accurate. You don't have to confess to me, but . . . is that campaign working for anyone? (The statistics say no, somewhere between 50-60% of Christian men admit to an addiction.)

If you ask me, we are approaching

this whole thing from a skewed—and honestly, not very Christian—perspective. Since when did Jesus come to earth just so you could have a happier marriage or a sanitized sex drive? Don't get me wrong. I do believe Jesus is for marriage and purity; I am just saying his vision is bigger than that. I think Jesus came to redeem the whole world, set the captives free, release the prisoners, etc. (The Gospel of Luke agrees with me.) The problem with most "Christian" guides to dating or purity you can find in a bookstore is that they treat your life like it is all about you. "Be pure, because it will enhance your marriage." And to be frank, generic promises like that often lose out to the appeal of immediate gratification.

Jesus came to free captives. Let's look at things from that angle. Did you know most porn models did not choose their occupations? Many girls are forced into the profession by their fathers; others are forced by husbands and lovers. 65-75 percent of all women in the field were abused as children. So don't let "pleasured" faces fool you—smiles are often a trained response to avoid the next beating.

If Jesus asks you to refrain from porn, I don't think his main reason is because he wants you to have a picture-perfect

marriage. If Jesus is calling you to give up porn, it is because he doesn't want you to participate in slavery.

You can't help Jesus set the captives free while you're engaging in the exploitation and torture of porn models.

Okay, so that was brutal, but true. If this topic has peaked your interest, ask me to say more! I love to discuss this issue, and even if you're not that interested, if I talk long enough about porn, I'm bound to say something you can quote out of context to make the chaplain sound dirty, and that's always funny.

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troubles and stresses whenever we call upon His name.

For the remainder of the semester, know that you're not alone in your struggles. Christ is there with you every step of the way when you ask for His guidance and strength. I sincerely hope that the rest of your semester goes smoothly and bears good fruit for you. And remember, Dr. Phil may not be the most reliable source from which to attain the answers to all your problems (although he is rather entertaining).

Sammy says...



I'm
back.

IN

panda cam

snow days

new bust

The Torch

Spring Break

midterms

skipping class

Mubarak

&

Lady Gaga's
egg costume

OUT

DISCLAIMER Dr. Samuel Palmer Brooks did not, to our knowledge, actually say the above quote. We also have no record he ever wore this suit.

Lunar New Year



Huy
Bui

*Staff
Writer*

Framework enveloped me, wooden bars intricately placed in positions vital for support. Hands nervously gripped the handles provided, moistening the thin bandage wrapping.

I had only been standing still for a few minutes until a voice yelled at me, through small holes in the structure I could see hands motioning. Awkwardly my partner and I shuffled towards a din originating behind double doors. It was only a few seconds until we were shoved through, the costume barely scraping by. Light and sound bombarded me, my partner being safe from the explosion of sensation behind me. He made sure to keep his head down, lest the illusion be crippled. The drums soon started to play.

Immediately, my arms went into their routine, throwing the lion head around with grace and balance. Mentally, I walked through the steps in my mind: Left, right, jump now, remember to blink the eyes!

Cheering children stared in awe, while parents explained, "That's just lion dancing. It's to bring good luck!" Sweat poured down my brow, but the sounds of merriment emanating from around me pushed me to continue as the drums came

to a halt.

"Come on, come on!" I urged, speaking to my partner gripping on my belt behind me. I was answered with an outstretched hand, holding an orange piece. I barely had time to stuff it into my mouth and flip my goggles down when the sound of a fuse igniting sounded a few inches away. Mini-explosions erupted around, battering us with bits and pieces of firecrackers. Wildly, I danced around as my partner and I were consumed in a cloud of smoke.

While everyone else was enjoying the snow, I was in Houston's Chinatown. Every year, around the beginning of February is Lunar New Year (Hopefully you already knew this).

People of all ethnicities join together and celebrate the coming of the New Year, as based on the lunar calendar. As part of tradition, many teams all over don lion costumes and dance all around town. If you were at the SLC last weekend then you got to partake in this tradition! An important thing to notice that these are lions, not dragons (Dragon dancing is when many performers run around with sticks :D). In olden times, these were used to scare away evil spirits and bring good fortune for the coming year. These days, it has become more of an exciting tradition, and for good reason!

For my temple, lion danc-



Senior member Anh Tan spews fire.



My partner and I prepare to run through the blazing fireworks.



*Two of our best Oanh Vu performers, Sang and Phu.
//photos courtesy of huy bui*

ing is their primary form of income, so they can continue to accommodate for the many visitors and festivals that are held each year. Each year, our lion dance troupe goes all around the Houston area and dances for...well all kinds of places!

We had around 20 to 25 shows this year, from places ranging from a private residence, to Fiesta, to Teahouse. Everyone acts like family, we laugh at each other when we

mess up, and we congratulate each other when we do well. Each show is split into parts, the guys show, girls show, Oanh Vu (Kids whose age ranges from 6 - 13), and finally the big ground show.

Oh, what do I do? I'm on firework duty, whenever the firecrackers roll out, I run in (If you were confused about the orange before, it keeps smoke from going into your lungs and allows you to breathe...kind of).

Reflection is Key



Nathan
Fischer
*Staff
Writer*

In a world that moves faster than most of us can keep up with, it is inevitable that decisions will be made without taking into consideration all aspects of the outcome.

Our time here is important not only because we are to learn about a sub-

ject, receive a degree, and obtain that longed for job position; but more so because we learn how to approach the world.

When the fast paced society of today's colleges meets the ability to learn life-changing skills, reflection is key. Without the art of looking back to see where mistakes were made previously, we are only stumbling through to the next check mark on our to-do list.

A wise professor once told me that when you get something wrong the first time it is important to fix the situation so it doesn't happen again. He said

that by ignoring, or not reflecting, on a past problem, it will inevitably hurt you later.

If you get the same thing wrong a second time you might just be... and he stopped there, you fill in the blank.

I leave you with this though; learning should not only be about what the future holds, but also about fine-tuning mental processes to better serve us in the future. Learning how to learn is very important. ■

FINE ARTS forecast



Anson
Jablinski
*Staff
Writer*

A few more must-see events this month: check it out!

Per usuale, write me if you have an upcoming event you want to see listed in the Forecast!

Unless otherwise noted, all events listed here are at 7:30 p.m. in Jones Concert Hall (in the McCrary Music Building) and 100% free of monetary demand.

Concert Band *Sunday, February 20*

Baylor Jazz Ensemble *Tuesday, February 22*

I was in this jazz band last semester, but – very regrettably – I had to drop out in order to maintain a moderate level of sanity. I will definitely be at this concert, and you should go, too!!

Campus Orchestra *Thursday, February 24*

The Twenty-Four Preludes of Claude Debussy

*Tuesday, March 1, at 7:30 p.m. in
Roxy Grove Hall.*

Dr. Terry L. Hudson, Baylor Assoc. Professor of Piano, will present the complete piano preludes of Debussy – twenty-four little musical gems. If you've got a taste for Romantic piano, you need to go to this. I will absolutely, most certainly be there!

Womens' Choir

*Thursday, March 3 at 5:00 p.m. in
Jones Hall.*

Symphonic Band and Wind Ensemble

*Thursday, March 3 at 7:30 p.m. in
Jones Hall. Double your pleasure,
double your fun.*

Baylor Symphony Orchestra and Baylor Theatre

*Sunday, March 20. Presenting
"The Siege of Leningrad" – a
dramatic storytelling of the
1941-1944 event. Accompanied
by excerpts from Dmitri Shostakovich's
7th Symphony, which was performed
in Leningrad in 1942, despite abominable
siege conditions. Hear the entire
symphony (sans narration) on
February 22.*

Baylor Theatre

*Presents Anna in the Tropics by
Nilo Cruz, opening on Wednesday,
March 2. See [baylor.edu/theatre]
for showtimes and ticket
information.*

Martin Museum of Art

*Presenting ceramics by Phillips
Ahnen and prints by DeCaen,
Olsen, and Rush. On display
through Saturday, February 26.
See [www.baylor.edu/martinmuseum]
for museum hours and
other information.*

ComTrad Celebrates V-Day with Princess Bride



Sally Ann
Moyer

*Staff
Writer*

The Brooks Residential College Community and Traditions (ComTrad) committee hosted "The Princess Bride" 8 p.m. Friday, Feb. 11, in the Great Hall.

"We decided since it was kind of near Valentine's Day to do a love story movie," Vanessa Wyns, ComTrad co-chair and Fort Collins, Colo., sophomore, said.

Movies in the quad are a normal event for ComTrad. The committee typically hosts two or three per semester.

"Typically we have movies in the quad, but since the weather is so bad we decided to have it in the Great Hall," Wyns said.

Arlington sophomore Jennifer Tran, vice president of Brooks College, has attended five, including "The Princess Bride," and while she enjoyed Friday's movie, she preferred the previous venue.

"It was good; the movie was good, but the quad was more relaxing, just more open," Tran said.

San Antonio freshman Garner Richardson, a Brooks College resident and occasional ComTrad member, agreed.

"The seats were a little uncomfortable," Richardson said, "It just wasn't ergonomic."

He did, however, enjoy the provided snacks.

"There was candy and popcorn, gummy bears and

a mixed fun bag of chocolate assortments," he said.

Tran didn't eat any of the food, but enjoyed building community.

"I went to support the community," Tran said. "I'm the VP so I should be at these events to make sure everything goes smoothly."

While Richardson's opinion of "The Princess Bride" is not as high as it once was, it was still the main reason he came to the event.

"The film choice was key for me," he said, "The food really wasn't a draw for me."

He also went as part of furthering Brooks College's goal of fostering community.

"I hadn't seen it in awhile and the main thing was supporting the community," Richardson said.

The film choice was decided by committee vote.

"We just emailed everybody in ComTrad and asked for suggestions and then we pulled together all of the suggestions and took a vote," Wyns said.

ComTrad plans to host more movies this semester than in past semesters.

"This semester, we're actually trying to do more because we think it's a good way for a bunch of different people to come together and have fun or relax," Wyns said.

Typically about 30 people attend each screening, according to Wyns, and that number was consistent with Friday's turnout.

"I think [residents] like the screenings," Wyns said.

Four screenings have already been planned for the semester.

"It's kind of like an easy thing to plan, kind of a low



//photos by sally ann moyer

key event, not so stressful," Wyns said.

Tran looks forward to the future ComTrad movie screenings.

"The Great Hall is where we eat, where we go to build community around a meal," Tran said, "And the quad is definitely more inviting."