



SENIOR WIDE RECEIVER IS CLIMBING THE LADDER ON BAYLOR'S ALL-TIME RECEIVING LIST PAGE 4



WHERE ARE YOU MOST VULNERABLE TO FIRES? PAGE 3

ROUNDING UP CAMPUS NEWS SINCE 1900

THE BAYLOR LARIAT

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 13, 2006

Dorms to sign offline

Brooks construction to temporarily kill communication

By Van Darden
Staff writer

Construction at the Brooks Village site will interrupt communications lines at nearby buildings starting at 5 p.m. Friday, Information Technology Services announced this week.

Kokernot, Martin, Penland and North and South Russell Residence Halls, in addition to the ROTC offices, will be affected by the outage until Saturday.

However, Bob Hartland, director of IT servers and networks, said he expects the negative effects to be minimal.

"Anything inside the dorms will be basically dead for the night," Hartland said. "But everything should be back up by noon on Saturday."

Adam Brock, assistant coordinator for residential technologies, said telephone lines, local and Internet network access, cable TV and some alarm systems will be offline that night.

"Fire and building alarms will still work. They just won't automatically notify the Baylor Police Department," Brock said.

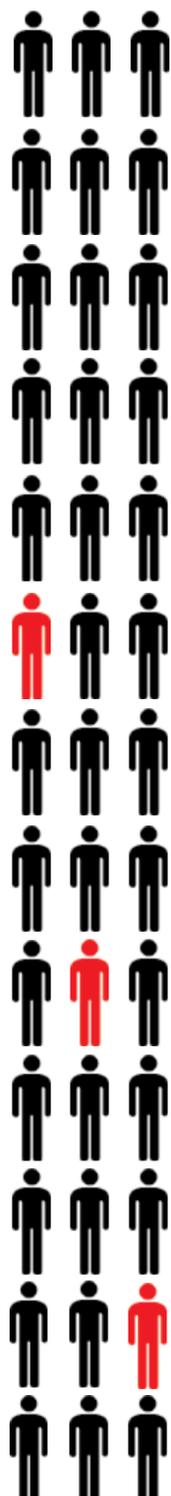
Hartland said that the outage won't affect access to dorms.

"The card readers should be fine because they can work in 'off-line' mode," he said. "Communication to those card readers will be down, but it won't hinder (a resident's) entrance and egress."

McKinney freshman Travis Brooks said he's a little concerned about this Friday's outages.

"I think it'll pose a little bit of a scare about getting in to the building or using my Bearbucks," Brooks said. "But I'm not

Please see OUTAGE, page 6



Against the grain

Atheists, agnostics seek recognition

By Laura Frase
Staff writer

Every Sunday a small group gathers among the lounge chairs of the Bill Daniel Student Center, ready for heated debates over religion, politics or simple pet peeves.

No, this isn't the debate team.

It's the unofficial Atheist and Agnostic Society, created by San Antonio junior Justin Mueller more than two years ago.

The organization started on the baylor.edu, when Mueller began asking if there were any atheists at Baylor. From the response, meetings began and a Facebook.com group was born.

The Facebook.com group boasts 87 members, but at the meetings, there are about a dozen to 20 consistent members, Albuquerque, N.M., junior Gigi Le said. And the meetings on Sunday afternoons seem to be working out for the organization.

"I mean, we're not going to come on Sunday morning, we're sleeping," Le added.

The group doesn't just talk about religion, but focuses on philosophy, politics and other topics as well.

One of the founding ideas behind the organization is to cultivate a discussion group.

"We have all sorts of varying belief types from fully nothing to something," Le said. "It's just an exchange of ideas. Sometimes it will be polite discus-

sion or fierce debate depending on our mood."

But, Le said the group also acts as a type of "safe haven" for people who aren't religious at all.

Even though the organization can't have official guest speakers, it finds plenty of volunteers to speak to the group. The group has had regular speakers from Antioch Community Church, people "very vocal" about their faith and even people who don't believe in dinosaurs, Mueller said.

"We had to catch them up on their public education for third grade," he said.

In addition to speakers, the group is planning a field trip to the creationist museum near Dallas where the members will "try to have a nice little debate with the entire museum," Mueller said.

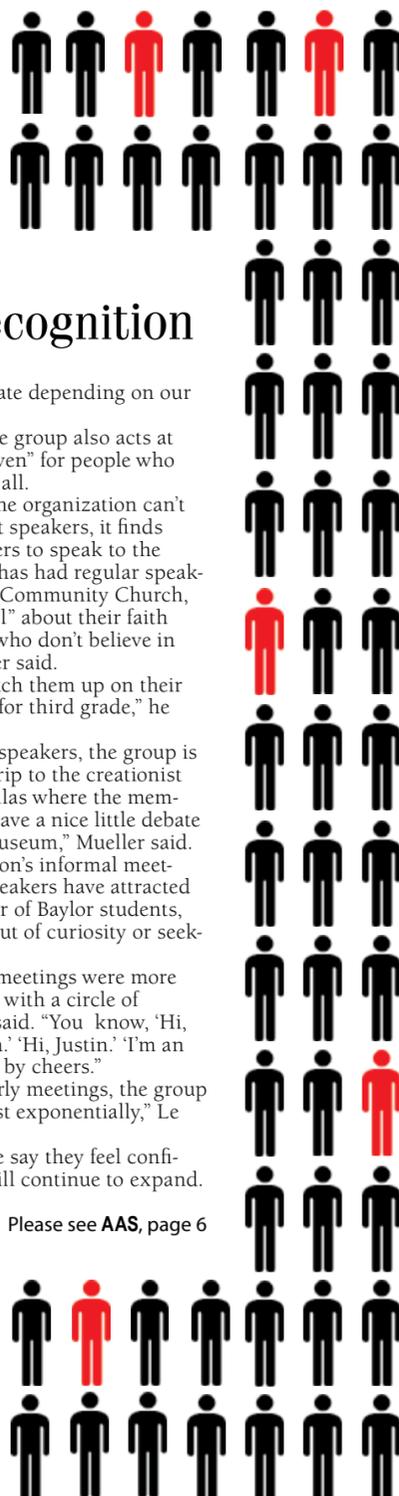
The organization's informal meetings and guest speakers have attracted a growing number of Baylor students, whether it's just out of curiosity or seeking a new belief.

"Our original meetings were more like an AA group, with a circle of people," Mueller said. "You know, 'Hi, my name is Justin.' 'Hi, Justin.' 'I'm an atheist.' Followed by cheers."

From those early meetings, the group has grown "almost exponentially," Le said.

Mueller and Le say they feel confident the group will continue to expand.

Please see AAS, page 6



Senate eyes changes

New e-mail and ombudsman discussed at Tuesday's meeting

By Analiz González
Staff writer

The faculty senate met Tuesday to select members for a committee that will choose a new faculty ombudsman, listen to a report by President John Lilley and discuss possible changes in summer school.

"Dr. O'Brien indicated that there will be a faculty committee to select the next faculty ombudsman," Faculty Senate Chair Dianna Vitanza said. "An ombudsman is a person who advocates for the faculty. So if there is a problem that a faculty member needs legal help with as far as academic position or any sort of concern (they can contact the ombudsman)."

The faculty's previous ombudsman, Greg Benesh, can no longer serve under the title because he is now Interim chair of the physics department.

Vitanza said she hopes a decision for the ombudsman will be made before the end of the semester.

She said a committee set up to discuss the future of summer school is discussing changes that might raise the low summer enrollment. They are looking into having shorter semesters.

In other business, Vitanza said the senate recently updated its Web site and that they are considering adding pictures of senate members to the site.

The senate has also developed an e-mail address, faculty_senate@baylor.edu, so they can send out the agenda, minutes and a newsletter to the faculty directly instead of having to go through the provost office.

"Now we will have our own identity," Vitanza said.

But the e-mail was set up so that faculty would not be able to respond because the number of e-mails would be too high, she said.

The senate newsletter will probably include messages from the chair or members of committees, depending on what issues they are addressing at the time, Vitanza said.

She added that the senate also plans to send out the minutes electronically, and to do so sooner.

"They didn't used to be available until a month later and we will try to speed it up."

Lilley told the Lariat he will make it a point to attend all the faculty senate meetings he can make.

He said he will share some important points and then open the floor for questions.

"It's important for me to chat with them and find out what the issues are," Lilley said.

Please see SENATE, page 6



Kelly Moore/Lariat staff

Two customers peruse the items at Harts 'n Crafts on 8th Street just off the Baylor campus. Some of the brightly colored knick-knacks available for purchase were made by students.

Colorful items draw shoppers

By Grace Maalouf
Reporter

Painting purple polka dots on aqua wooden boards isn't rocket science. But Alicia Hart thinks it might be social work.

"I'm making people happy by the products I sell," Hart said.

Hart, 26, is the owner of Harts 'n Crafts, a craft boutique which opened May 2002 on the corner of University Parks Drive and Dutton Avenue.

Hart said her store gained a reputation for its products' vibrant colors through the bright name plaques she sold to incoming freshmen.

But, tucked away in the Ivy Square Complex, Hart said the store still wasn't noticed as much as she would have liked.

"It was kind of disappointing because no one knew about me at that location," Hart said.

This summer Hart relocated to a house on 8th Street, between Common Grounds and the

University Book Store and Spirit Shop. She tore up the flooring, repainted the rooms, and coated the exterior walls in vivid lime green.

The preparation took her two months, but by July 1, she was ready for business.

"I love [the new location] because I can see life going on outside," Hart said.

And now that the store is nearer to campus, Hart said business has at least doubled.

"A lot of the traffic now is foot traffic, whereas before, people had to drive to get there," Hart said. "Students stop by on the way to class all the time."

Hart said the store gets busiest in the afternoons. Customers browse the rooms of the former duplex, which Hart decorated to look like the corresponding rooms of a house. Colorful coffee mugs line the cabinets of what was once the kitchen and hand-made soaps sit on a shelf in the bathroom.

Please see CRAFTS, page 6

U.S. Embassy bombing ploy snuffed out in Syria

By Sam F. Ghattas
Associated Press

DAMASCUS, Syria — Syrian guards foiled an attempt by suspected al-Qaida-linked militants to blow up the U.S. Embassy on Tuesday, exchanging fire outside the compound's walls with gunmen who shouted "God is great" and tried to storm in with automatic weapons and hand grenades.

The brazen, midmorning assault in a heavily guarded neighborhood

of the capital could highlight the Syrian regime's weakening grip on militants, who have battled Syrian security forces repeatedly in recent years.

The attack, which left at least 10 civilians and a Chinese diplomat wounded, came amid high tension between Washington and Damascus.

The rapid response by Syrian guards won rare praise from the United States, which accuses President Bashar Assad's government of

supporting terrorism in its backing of Hezbollah guerrillas and Palestinian militants.

"I do think that the Syrians reacted to this attack in a way that helped to secure our people, and we very much appreciate that," Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice said. No Americans were hurt, and the embassy was not damaged.

White House spokesman Tony Snow also thanked Syrian officials and called for Damascus to "become an ally and make the choice of fight-

ing against terrorists."

But Syria responded with a sharp criticism of the United States, blaming its policies in Lebanon, Iraq and the Palestinian territories for increasing Islamic militancy.

"It is regrettable that U.S. policies in the Middle East have fueled extremism, terrorism and anti-U.S. sentiment," the Syrian Embassy in Washington said in a statement. "The U.S. should ... start looking

Please see PLOT, page 6



Associated Press

Militants attempted to blow up the U.S. Embassy in Syria Tuesday, but the attack was foiled by Syrian guards.

NoZe Brothers have fallen one step behind 'The Funny'

I saw a NoZe Brother once. It was about nine o' clock on a Thursday night, a misty sort of evening, and my walking had brought me to the intersection of Fifth and Bagby streets. As I crossed over to my apartment, I looked back over my shoulder to see a black Dodge Ram pull up to the stop sign. Staring out from the passenger window, an awkward sort of guy in a wig, schnozz glasses and a fake beard shot me the bird.

I waved back cheerfully, astounded again by the staggering creativity of the Brotherhood.

NoZe, let me be frank with you. Last week, you guys showed up in Chapel and gave out these quaint little airplane-safety cardish brochures about how to take naps in Chapel without getting caught or whatever. Then, this weekend you held UnRush and turned your papers in in hopes that some neophytes might come and try to join your ranks. Honestly, I hope lots of folks showed up. I hope you met

some excellent candidates, and that you read some funny satire.

Because frankly, brothers, you're in need of some new blood.

My pops came to Baylor back in the day, and I recall stories from the dinner table about how those crazy NoZe brothers would show up at random times and places, doing the darndest things to spoof Baylor, always one step ahead of the authorities and one slip away from being kicked off campus.

I wondered what it would be like to meet one of those wonderful be-wigged and be-schnozzed mystery men. Would I thrill at their pranks? Would I gush at their cleverity, and admire the caliber of the hot babe they'd inevitably have hanging off their arm?

Apparently, I was fated to be underwhelmed. From what I've seen around here, you guys aren't the fellows my pops bragged on. You don't merrily stick it to the man. Instead, you

point of view



BY BEN HUMENIUK

seem more like the type of guys who decide to swap their Dungeons and Dragons cards every once in a while for garrulous wigs and cheap booze while writing mildly amusing passes at satire.

Honestly, it seems like you're placeholders for the NoZe name, but you practice none of the effort that's earmarked your bunch in the past.

You put a pair of glasses and a big nose on top of Pat Neff last year? Amusing, and good for one photo op, maybe. You put out an issue of the *Rope* every once in a while with cookie-cutter jokes about how Lilley is a septuagenarian, with mildly Photoshopped pictures and Poppa Rollo's ads that inevita-

bly reference sausages? Well, good. But we've seen this from you before.

Seriously, look around campus. In a place that's cluttered with this odd mixture of Greek letters, shirts with Bible verses, and a couple thousand kids trying to use Mom and Dad's tuition money to live up to Mom and Dad's expectations, we need someone to rock the boat a little bit.

We need some pink and blue to clash with green and gold. We need you guys to remind us to not take stuff like Baylor, Baptist life, grades and ourselves too seriously.

Now, I'm not saying you should do something insane like burning down bridges. That hasn't worked too well in the past.

But c'mon. Why is it that the only thing folks talk about in reference to you is that prank you pulled on Todd Lake by dropping thousands of Ping Pong balls on him, leaving him only a sole paddle for his defense? The

folks who saw that incident in Chapel as freshmen are graduated and gone. What will you do to astonish us?

Honestly, you're in a bit of a tough position, not quite being an official campus institution, but also being watched and monitored by the administration to the point where you can't quite be the rouge pranksters you might wish you could be. That makes sense.

But you don't have to do anything illegal to get our attention. Just be creative.

Wake us up. You claim to have "The Funny"? If so, stop holding him hostage in the back room with your beer bong. Please actually let him show up in the *Rope* from time to time.

And for Elmo's sake, please let him inspire you to greater shenanigans. Even your *Lariat* knock-off last year has been done before. Put some effort into it!

Like it or not, you are the court jesters of this institution, and your humor is the saving

grace that allows you to point out the messes that we become oblivious to because of our own self-absorption.

If this offends you, then I understand. You will likely react by extracting a picture of me from Facebook (and there's some really dumb ones on there), doing some haphazard Photoshop work on it, and writing something parodying this column in the *Rope* to make me look like a total buffoon. You're welcome to try.

But honestly, I don't think I'm that worried about your attempt, and I think my lack of worry is the problem.

If the NoZe Brotherhood of my generation has decided to stay drunk on booze and the complacent attitudes of its fellows, then it is impotent.

Please start dazzling us again. Start stepping on toes. And give me some stories to tell my boy someday. He'll appreciate it, I promise.

Ben Humeniuk is a junior English major from Brownwood.

Editorial

Ethanol won't fix problems

Ethanol isn't the answer to our growing dependence on oil, particularly foreign oil.

We don't mean to offend Leonardo DiCaprio and his matchbox hybrid car that gets 60 miles to the gallon and runs on ethanol, but the facts show that while it may be really cool to say you fill up with ethanol, it isn't actually economically or mechanically feasible for the general public.

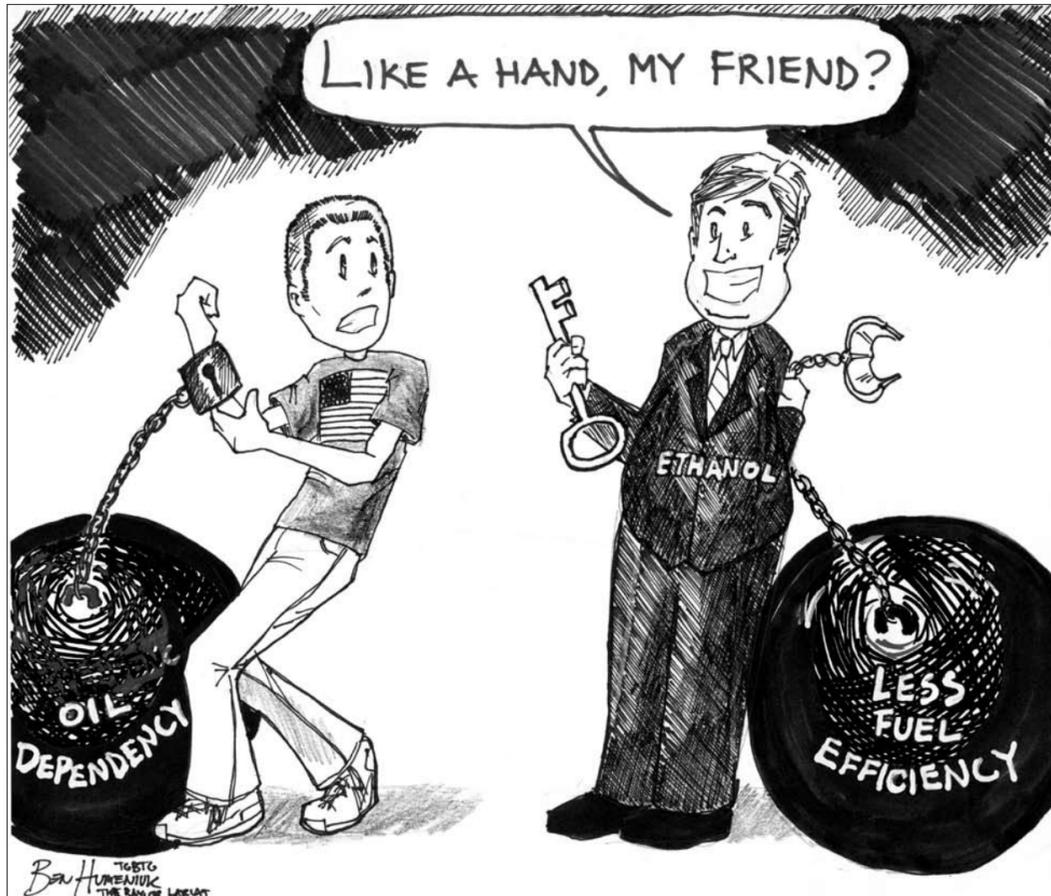
If you are thinking that ethanol burns cleaner and is actually cheaper than the normal gasoline that we've depended on for so many years, you're actually right on both counts. Sort of.

The exhaust from cars that burn ethanol is much less harmful to the environment than gasoline, and ethanol, or gasohol, is about 10 cents cheaper per gallon than the good stuff.

But what the politician shaking your hands and kissing babies doesn't tell you is that gasohol is actually much less efficient than the super liquid we call gasoline. You'll pay less to fill up your tank, but you'll spend 33 percent more in the long run because ethanol produces only 2/3 the amount of energy gasoline does.

There have been some instances of a complete domestic overhaul of energy sources that had a positive result. In Brazil, the government sponsored a switch to a fuel called E25, which consists of 25 percent ethanol and 75 percent gasoline. Brazil requires every vehicle in the country to be compatible with the fuel.

On television, in the newspapers and in the magazines, proponents of



a widespread switch to ethanol will have you believe that this wonder fuel is compatible with every car, but that simply isn't the case. Ethanol as low as E10 (10 percent ethanol and 90 percent gasoline) has proven to corrode vital engine parts and eventually leads to engines completely breaking down.

And is ethanol really that much better for the environment?

The answer is no. While the use of gasohol produces primarily water vapor, and some carbon dioxide, a study by the Environmental Protection Agency showed that the manufacturing of ethanol is actually harm-

ful to the ecosystem surrounding the plant.

Making a cleaner-burning fuel that isn't manufactured in a clean way doesn't make a whole lot of sense.

It is relatively well known that the crop grown to produce ethanol is corn. What you may not realize is how much the average American's diet relies on corn and corn byproducts.

You may also not be aware that a nationwide switch to ethanol isn't possible when considering that to meet the fuel demands of every American, more than 200 million acres of corn would need to be har-

vested each year. But only 75 million acres of corn is currently harvested each year. Where are the other 150 million acres of corn going to come from? Is the United States going to start importing corn products from other countries?

We're the largest corn producer in the world, and we already export 20 percent of the crop, according to the National Corn Growers Association.

Apparently, the best options are that we stop eating as much as we already do, stop using fuels as much as we already do and stop supplying the rest of the world with their corn products.

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

Letters to the editor

Students should reach out

I was walking on Eighth Street in front of Collins Residence Hall and noticed a homeless man on a bike.

This is not a unusual sight, but as I saw him I wondered to

myself why it is that I am able to walk on the other side of the street, as a student at Baylor, while he lives on the streets day after day.

What is the real difference between that man and myself, other than a Baylor e-mail

address and a dorm room? Why is it that I am able to obtain an education at a university, and this man has no opportunity to do the same?

Why do I own an iPod, a laptop and a car, and he owns nothing but a bicycle and the clothes

on his back?

Shane Claiborne spoke about his work with the Simple Way community in Philadelphia during the Sept. 11 chapel service. He spoke about how we must learn to love our neighbor as ourselves.

I believe that as Baylor students and as Christians, we should seek to love others in our community with the love that Christ has shown us.

In whatever avenue we may choose to accomplish this, we should seek to serve and truly

love all those who are our neighbors.

By doing this, our role as Baylor students will be fulfilled as we learn to love our neighbors who are just across the road.

Kendra Kirkland
Communication specialist 2010

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THE Daily Crossword

Edited by Wayne Robert Williams

ACROSS

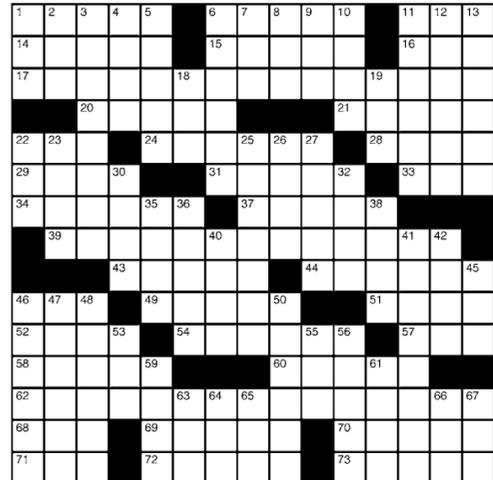
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By Philip J. Anderson
Portland, OR
9/13/06

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

Love your neighbor, speaker advises

By Claire St. Amant
Reporter

People might describe Shane Claiborne as a circus performer, entrepreneur, writer, radical, fundraiser, preacher or monasticist. But he prefers a different title.

"I'm a lover of people," he said. "When I have to write down my vocation, that is what I put."

Claiborne is the author of *Irresistible Revolution* and the co-founder of The Simple Way, an inner-city community ministry in Philadelphia. He spoke Monday in Chapel about how to be a follower of Jesus.

"It's nothing extraordinary to be a believer of Christ, but to be a follower is dangerous," Claiborne said.

And he would know. From working with Mother Teresa in Calcutta to sleeping with the homeless in a Philadelphia park, Claiborne takes Jesus' ministry out of the Bible and into the streets.

"He opens up the Bible, and he lives like Jesus did, in a community with other Christians," Houston junior Sara Phillips said.

Claiborne's radical ideas about how community should look for a Christian in today's world have shaped The

Simple Way ministry. After-school programs, food and clothing drives and a unique spin on Christian conventions called People Against Poverty and Apathy (PAPA) are just some of the ways the Simple Way is reaching out and impacting the world, he said.

"He is an ordinary guy who is living an extraordinary life by simply trying to live as Jesus Christ did," Ardmore, Okla., senior Jessica Dooley said.

Claiborne is perhaps best known for traveling to Iraq in March 2003 on a peacemaking trip.

Claiborne's book tells the story of his journey from mainstream Christianity to radical faith in Jesus. He's donating all proceeds from his book to charity.

"One day my friends and I decided to stop complaining about the current state of the church and to be the church we'd always dreamed of," Claiborne said.

Claiborne left dreams of a wealthy career as an anesthesiologist to become a lover of people. At The Simple Way, the idea of how to really love your neighbor is lived out, Claiborne said.

"He doesn't just tell people how to live, he lives that way," Phillips said. "It's not like he is advocating peace

and sacrifice but has never done anything to further those causes."

In Chapel, Claiborne's adventure-filled stories frequently elicited laughter and applause from the audience. Claiborne included stories about being arrested and brought before a court. All for the sake of loving people, he said.

"I just look at the Scripture and I think, what if Jesus really meant that?" Claiborne said. "Jesus gets me in a lot of trouble."

His off-beat, yet distinctly Christian viewpoint has made him a regular visitor and speaker on college campuses, he said.

"People are looking for fresh voices, not from the political right or left, but people with something new to say," Claiborne said. "College students are especially interested in a message of love instead of a political statement."

Claiborne also spoke Sunday at Church Under the Bridge, a ministry he said is truly in the business of learning how to love your neighbor.

"It's not that hard to go down the street and let someone borrow a cup of sugar," Claiborne said. "But bringing someone into your home who was sleeping in a cardboard box is probably a lot closer to what Jesus meant."



Courtesy Photo

Shane Claiborne, co-founder of The Simple Way ministry, spoke Sunday at Church Under the Bridge, a place he said is on the right track. The author spoke Monday to students in Chapel.

BEAR BRIEFS

Leadership lecture
Dr. Matthew Sleeth, author of *Serve God, Save the Planet*, will lecture on leadership in public life at 6 p.m. today in the Alexander Reading Room.

Frankly Speaking
The Department of Multicultural Activities will hold a discussion group, *Frankly Speaking*, at 3:30 p.m. today in the Fenestress Room of the Bill Daniel Student Center. The topic will be: "Is it burnout or time to get out?"

Intramural tennis
Intramural tennis registration will take place from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. today through Sept. 22 at the Campus Recreation Office of the McLane Student Life Center. The cost for registration is \$5.

Slam dunk contest
Zeta Phi Beta will be hosting a slam dunk contest at 7:20 p.m. today at Russell Gymnasium.

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Internships land BU students jobs

By Lindsey Grewe
Reporter

Baylor students wanting a secret weapon when embarking on job searches need look no further than internship opportunities.

With a year and a half left in her college career, Ana Perez, a San Antonio junior, has already found herself in demand among San Antonio-area deaf support specialists.

Her secret weapon? She completed a 120-hour internship program through San Antonio College.

For four months, Perez was thrust outside her comfort zone. Three years of classes in deaf support and social work had barely begun to prepare her.

"In my classes I studied to work with people, but to actually practice it was completely different," Perez said. "You can't write the stuff that you actually learn on the field."

Perez's internship with San Antonio Independent Living gave her the opportunity to work closely with people in need of social services in San Antonio's deaf community. Perez assisted a recovering drug addict trying to get her daughter back. She worked with deaf Hurricane Katrina evacuees.

Perez's director gave her the responsibility of teaching a class on finances in sign language.

"I got three job offers within a month of finishing my internship," Perez said. "It was resume building in ways you wouldn't believe."

Dr. John Boyd, director of Career Services, has found Perez's experience common among students who intern.

"Roughly 60 percent of jobs are being filled by internships," Boyd said. "By taking on an internship, you have a good

chance of being offered a job."

The career services center holds an internship job fair in the spring to help place students.

Businesses view students with internships as "a cut above," Boyd said. "Jobs and graduate schools want more than grades and test scores. They want to know what you have done in your chosen field."

Ashley Hayes, an Austin senior, did a short internship in Lorena under Dr. Garrett Cook, an anthropology, forensic science and archaeology professor.

"It's a good diving board into a real-world career," Hayes said. "It forces you to work in a new situation and it puts a lot of pressure on you to perform."

Hayes said it wasn't all glamour, though.

"I worked on an archaeological dig," Hayes said. "It sounds interesting, but it is very time consuming, and as an intern you find yourself doing a lot of the grunt work."

Perez said her internship also had difficult points.

"For the first month I was nothing but a go-fer," Perez said. "Before my supervisor let me get my hands dirty, I had to show my worth through a bunch of meaningless errands like getting coffee and driving to the store on her every whim."

Both Perez and Hayes agreed that the positive aspects far outweighed the negative.

Even a bad experience can be rewarding in the long run, Boyd said.

"It benefits you by helping you know if you want to do this or not," he said.

After her experience, Perez said she would recommend an internship to anyone.

"Every degree program should make you do one," Perez said.



Melea Burke/Lariat staff

One-handed snag

Reynard Coker, a Houston freshman, makes a catch Tuesday outside South Russell Residence Hall. He's not alone — Baylor set records in both passing and receiving Saturday against the Northwestern State Demons.

Baylor educates students to eliminate fire risks

By Sarah Viesca
Reporter

Brian Johnson, an Ennis senior, will be the first to say that fires are no joke. Johnson and his three roommates were displaced in 2004 after their Baylor Plaza apartment caught fire. Johnson said the fire originated in the apartment next door with a sparking bathroom fan.

"We went outside, saw the fire and went back to try to get our stuff," Johnson said.

Since their room smelled like smoke, Johnson said his roommates and he had to live in Brooks Residence Hall for about nine days. He said Baylor bought them new clothes since they had to take everything to the cleaners.

Although Johnson and his roommates were not injured, not everyone is as lucky.

According to the Center for Campus Fire Safety, a nonprofit organization dedicated to preventing campus fire issues, 89 students have died and hundreds more have been injured

nationwide in the last six years because of fires, both on and off campus.

Many student-related fires involve a disabled smoke alarm, careless disposal of cigarettes and lack of automatic sprinklers.

Baylor's risk management department has several regulations in place in order to ensure the safety of residents. Candles, extension cords and live Christmas trees are prohibited in the residence halls.

If a student is caught with any prohibited items, he or she may be required to meet with a risk management representative. In some cases, students could face termination of their housing rights.

Fire Marshal Leigh Ann Moffett said she teaches residential staff members how to use a fire extinguisher correctly and how to respond appropriately to a potential fire.

Moffett also said if students see smoke or fire, they should immediately activate the fire alarm system and evacuate the building.

Fire safety tips

- ◆ Install UL-listed smoke alarms in every room.
- ◆ Test smoke alarms monthly.
- ◆ Purchase a fire extinguisher and learn how to use it.
- ◆ Know two ways out of the building.
- ◆ Never leave candles unattended.
- ◆ Don't overload electrical outlets.
- ◆ Dispose of cigarettes in ashtrays.

source: Center for Campus Fire Safety

"What people fail to realize is that the fire itself isn't necessarily what will kill a person, it's the smoke. Although they may not see the fire, smoke spreads fast," Moffett said.

Each residence hall conducts one unannounced fire drill at the beginning of the semester. If residents fail to evacuate the building during the alarm, they could face \$100 fines, according to the Baylor fire safety policies.

"Unfortunately, false alarms do occur sometimes from people intentionally tampering with equipment or people spraying

too much air freshener," Moffett said.

Some apartment complexes, such as the Arbors, Baylor Plaza, Cottonwood and Speight-Jenkins are upgrading fire safety by installing wireless smoke detectors.

Moffett said these smoke detectors are just like battery-operated ones, except they send a signal to the fire alarm panel for immediate response.

University Rentals Property Manager Joe Phipps Jr., said most apartment fires start in the kitchen.

For instance, a student might be frying bacon. If he or she happen to leave the stove unattended, there could be a potential grease fire, Phipps said.

He said he always advises tenants to always make sure their smoke alarms are working properly and consider getting renter's insurance.

Even though the apartment's insurance will usually cover damages when a student starts a fire, renter's insurance can provide a safety net for liable students, Phipps said.

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Kelly Moore/Lariat staff

Trent Shelton breaks free for a 46-yard touchdown during Saturday's game against the Northwestern State Demons. Shelton's first catch of the night broke the Baylor record for catching a ball in the most consecutive number of games.

Shelton catches up to Baylor record

By Daniel Youngblood
Sports editor

When Baylor receiver Trent Shelton caught the ball on a post route for a 46-yard touchdown in the first quarter of the Bears' game against Northwestern State, he not only gave his team the lead, he also made history.

With the first of his nine catches on Saturday, Shelton set the Baylor record for catching passes in 35 consecutive games, beating former Baylor record-holder Reggie Newhouse.

"It made me feel real good because I do not know how many more records I can get to, but you never know with this new offense," Shelton said.

"Shawn (Bell) told me before the game, 'If you are going to break the record, let's make it a touchdown,' and that is exactly what happened. I guess Shawn brought some good luck with him," he said.

Shelton's record-breaking performance, combined with the fact that his 116 career receptions rank seventh in Baylor history and that his 1,395 career receiving yards rank sixth, should be enough to recognize him as one of Baylor's best.

But Shelton, who has been spent most of his career quietly putting up big numbers as the Bears No. 2 receiver behind fellow senior Dominique Zeigler, has no desire to be in the limelight.

"I don't even want to be the star receiver,"

"I don't even want to be the star receiver. ... I like my role as it is."

Trent Shelton
Baylor receiver

Shelton said. "Ziggy has been getting more pub, and the credit's due to him because he's been having the best seasons. But I like my role as it is."

For Baylor quarterback Shawn Bell, Shelton is often the go-to guy.

"Trent and I have been together for a long time; we were on scout team as freshmen, and he's my number one read on most plays," Bell said.

"Any time he's singled up, I'm going to go to him because he's got that type of ability."

His 158 receiving yards Saturday capped off a special night for Shelton, but while his record and recent performances have put him in the spotlight lately, he said he understands that in this offense, no one receiver will dominate the stat book too much.

And he likes it that way.

"Next week, I could have zero catches and Trey Payne (or one of the other receivers) could have nine for 158 yards," Shelton said. "That's how this offense works."

While offensive coordinator Lee Hays agreed

that it's rare in his offense for one receiver to have a big game every week, he said the fact that Shelton had such an impressive game was a testament to his ability to get open and also the inability of the Northwestern State cornerbacks to guard him one-on-one.

"It's not typical for a guy to get nine catches each week, so that speaks to Trent's performance," he said. "It really depends on the coverage teams are giving us."

Hays also said he refuses to attribute Shelton's performance to his pass-happy offensive scheme.

"I'd love to say (his performance) was a product of the system, but that was just Trent being Trent and Shawn and Trent hooking up," Hays said.

"There were a couple of times where Shawn probably should've gone the other way with (the ball), but I won't complain as long as they complete them."

Shelton's new record has drawn attention and comments from almost every direction. So naturally preseason All-American cornerback C.J. Wilson, possibly the most outspoken player on Baylor's team, had something to say on the subject.

"I told everybody when I went to (the Big 12 Media Day in) Kansas City that he was one of the most under-rated guys in the Big 12," Wilson said.

"He's got the goods, and I don't say that about receivers. But he's one of those guys."

Cross country team disheartened by ranking

By Will Parchman
Sports writer

Respect never comes easy in collegiate sports, but the women's cross-country athletes feel they have legitimate beef with the NCAA pollsters.

The NCAA released on Tuesday its annual cross-country poll, which takes into account returning starters and results from the previous season.

Baylor will continue its season as the No. 13 ranked team in the nation, according to the poll.

"I'd say we're the underdogs a little bit, but that's the fun part,"

freshman Nichole Jones said. "It's an opportunity to prove them wrong."

The Lady Bears finished third in the Big 12 and 15th in the nation last year. The team not only has returning players, but also the winning attitude developed during last season.

"I think that our team has had excellent results," senior runner Monique Ortega said. "I'm excited. We're going in with the mentality that we're going to win."

Sophomore Erin Bedell and junior Lauren Hagans are both notable returnees.

Hagans notched a win in the

8,000-meter dash at the Bear Relays in 2005 and Bedell, a returning All-Big 12 performer, finished the 2005 season as the 40th ranked runner in the nation, the best finish in the country by a Baylor freshman.

Jones had first-place finishes in both events this fall, the North Texas Invitational and the Bear Relays.

"She's an amazing young lady, and very humble," head Coach Todd Harbour said. "She is definitely going to be a big part of our team this year."

After feeling somewhat slighted by the NCAA, the Lady Bears are left wondering what

else they must do to impress those at the top.

"It's always an honor to be ranked, so I guess my first reaction is excitement," Harbour said. "I thought we should have been a little bit higher. Once we get into some bigger races we'll get a little bit better idea of where we stand."

Ortega agreed that while the team is pleased to be near the top, the journey won't stop until they receive the respect they feel they deserve.

"I think we have higher goals and expectations for this season. I do think we are better than that," she said.



Courtesy Photo

The Lady Bear cross country team run alongside the Brazos River in Waco during a pre-season practice in early August. The team expressed surprise at being ranked No. 13 by the NCAA cross country poll.

Texans lack strong running back, leader

By Kristi Rieken
Associated Press

HOUSTON — Is it possible to miss someone who was never there?

The question — and Reggie Bush — came to mind while watching the Houston Texans' ineffective running game in the

opener.

Although Bush was never in Houston, the possibility of what the Heisman Trophy winner could bring came up often during last year's 2-14 debacle.

Now he's helping the Saints win, and the Texans are without a running game and likely in for another long season.

Problems at the position were evident from the outset of Houston's 24-10 loss to the Eagles. "Our young backs can both run better," Texans coach Gary Kubiak said. "Wali missed some things and he can be a better player and will be a better player every time that he goes out there."

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Mayer's 'Continuum' far exceeds past works

By Anna Woodcock
Entertainment editor

With all the tabloid hype surrounding John Mayer and his supposed relationship with pop star Jessica Simpson, one can't help but wonder how the publicity related to Tuesday's release of his third studio album.

ALBUMREVIEW

But while the rumor subsided due to false claims, Mayer's album certainly didn't. *Continuum* is his best CD yet, and you don't need a tabloid to prove it.

With each album, Mayer's maturity becomes more apparent in his vocals and word

choice. He seems to have come a long way from "Your Body is a Wonderland" in 2001's *Room for Squares*. The new album's "Heart of Life" is just one example of his ability to conquer the broad and powerful theory of life in just a three-minute song.

The first single, "Waiting on the World to Change," is an upbeat, swinging tune with a somewhat political message. With a passive stance on a protest to war (describing the way our generation approaches politics), "Waiting" conveys a strong message with straightforward lyrics.

The smooth, bluesy sound is evidence of his musical influences.

Another politically charged song is "Belief," where the melody is catchy without being cliché, something Mayer continues to avoid successfully.

"Stop this Train" and "Gravity" are two powerhouse songs on the album. The first details the overwhelming speed of life, to which any college student can relate. The tempo of the song is steady and progressive, chugging along like a train.

The second is proof that Mayer plays truly from the soul and not to impress. His ingenious writing talent is showcased in a melancholy song about the struggles of remaining grounded throughout life's hardships.

For the rest of the album, your heart breaks right along with Mayer's abridged progression through the stages of grief.

"Slow Dancing in a Burning Room" strikes a chord in the hearts of those in relationships by creatively portraying the end of a doomed relationship. It's defensive and bitter, stirring the emotions of someone in the anger stage.

"Dreaming with a Broken Heart" is similar to the above: the song's slow, soulful nature makes depression seem like your best friend.

The last two songs, "In Repair" and "I'm Gonna Find Another You," are so perfectly positioned on the album, ending the griev-

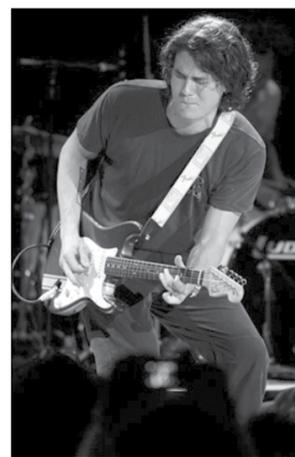
ing process with resolution and acceptance. His lyrics brilliantly capture the mood: "You might have your reasons, but you will never have my rhymes."

Overall, *Continuum's* mixture of relationship tragedy with contemplations on life creates a mellow and relaxing, but certainly not boring, album. His easily distinguishable raspy voice is clearer and stronger than ever.

With Mayer, it seems the more songs he writes, the more his soul is conveyed and the deeper emotion he pours out.

You relate to your own life while listening and can't help but wonder how he knows it so well.

Grade: A



Associated Press

John Mayer performs Monday from his new album, *Continuum*, during a free concert at the House of Blues in Chicago.

BRAN to debut artist CD

By Cat Smith
Reporter

If you can sing, Baylor wants to make you famous.

Baylor Rising Artists Network will release its first CD this week, and seven aspiring artists have the chance to make it big—at least on campus.

The CD will feature student artists who write and perform their own music and were given the chance to make a professional recording of their songs.

Amy Reeves, one of the project's coordinators, said this is a great opportunity for students to get their music out to the Baylor public.

"Our musicians learn about recording in a studio, as well as the business side of the industry," Reeves said. "We wanted to give them the full educational experience."

The release party will be from 8 to 11 p.m. Thursday at the Seasons Creamery by North Village. CDs will be on sale for \$10.

The party will feature performances by three of the artists on the CD, as well as free ice cream samples.

"The CD is a great mix," Reeves said. "We have everything from acoustic rock to country and more."

Reeves said one of the requirements for students to be on the CD is that all the songs are original and the music is written when they come to the studio.

"The BRAN network really got off the ground about two years ago, but this is the first CD we have ever made," Reeves said. "We hope this is something that will continue for years."

China Spring senior Seth Philpott is one of the artists featured on the CD. He said he had never been in a studio, so working on the network CD has been a rewarding experience.

"I have always known that I wanted to be a musician, and working with BRAN has given me lots of opportunities," Philpott said. "It helped the most by giving me the chance to play and create a fan base."

Other artists on the CD include Calgary, Alberta, junior Denise Hearn and Ducanville graduate student John Boswell.

When recording the CD, the artists worked with Steven Collins at Troubadour Studios.

"We were really impressed with the talent that came to the studio," Collins said. "This project has exceeded my expectations."

The studio helped students polish and arrange their original songs.

"The students had pretty good ideas; we just took what they brought us and helped give it a more professional sound," Collins said.

The network has plans to make another CD next year.

"We will hold auditions in the spring for next year's CD so I really encourage everyone who might be interested to go to the Web site and check it out."

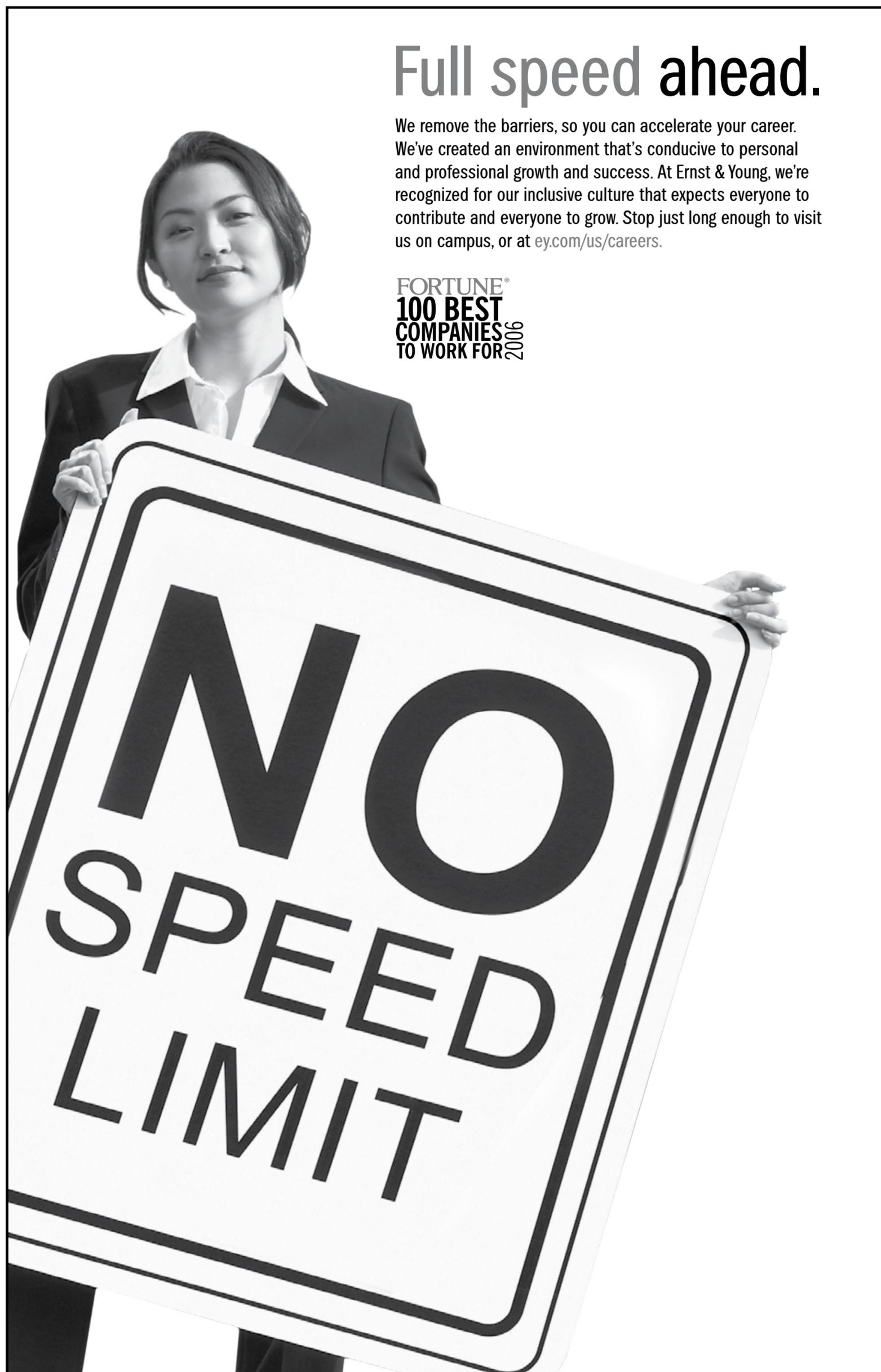
Philpott said his work with the network has given him a lot of opportunities, and he encourages aspiring musicians to give the network a chance.

"BRAN will open up doors for students at Baylor to make a name for themselves," Philpott said. "Even if you don't think you are good enough to make it now, you will get experience and contacts that may help you later in your career."

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Dean of student development aims at expansion

By Katelyn Foster
Reporter

Cheerful and welcoming, Dr. Elizabeth Palacios already fulfilled the most important aspect of her new position.

She was named the new dean for student development Aug. 7. Palacios will work in student activities, multicultural affairs and campus recreation. She intends to make student development "student focused and service oriented."

Palacios will concentrate on three areas of expansion: academic collaboration in and out of the classroom; exposure to diverse experiences and situations; and reaching out to give back to the community. Her goal is to help students find their strengths through different areas such as leadership and volunteering.

"We want this environment not to be controlling but inspiring," Palacios said.

She said she believes college is the time for students to re-evaluate and redefine themselves.

"I want to make sure that what we do is conducive to self-discovery," Palacios said.

To Palacios, learning comes first.

"Student development is about complementing what is learned in the classroom," she said. "I want to bring academics and student life together. We can't divorce each other."

Whether through the Greek system, a club or intramurals, Palacios wants students to gain a better understanding of one another. She desires for students "to go beyond being tolerant, but to be accepting of each other's differences."

"I want them to not only learn about themselves but about each other," Palacios said. "We have a sense of accountability with each other."

Student life faculty members say they are delighted to have Palacios in this new position.

"I'm thrilled to have her as a co-worker," director for campus recreation Kim Scott, said.

I consider myself very lucky to have been head of the search committee that helped bring her here. She's a tremendous asset," she said.

Department members have been encouraged by the student reaction.

"The real telling that she was the right one for this job was the way students responded to her," Scott said. "She had them engaged the second she met them."

Palacios, a Baylor alumna

with more than 25 years of experience, came to student development after being a full-time lecturer in the educational psychology department.

Her reputation from her previous position gives student life confidence in her passion and abilities to reach students.

"After this position has been vacant for over a year, it's refreshing to have such a strong student advocate whose long history at Baylor is best characterized by listening to students and teaching them how to take responsibility for their own personal growth and development," Scott said.

Palacios said she is excited about working with a great team of faculty while having accessibility to meet students on a deeper level and help them develop within, among and throughout the community.



Henry Chan/Lariat staff

Dr. Elizabeth Palacios was named the new dean for student development Aug. 7, but she already has a vision for the position, which has been vacant for more than a year.



Henry Chan/Lariat staff

Faculty Senate Chairwoman Dianna Vitanza talks Tuesday with Dr. Steve Gardner, an economics professor, after the Faculty Senate meeting.

SENATE from page 1

During the meeting, he reiterated what he shared on Monday's faculty and staff meeting about Baylor's emphasis on strategic planning.

This year, the faculty sen-

ate will prioritize issues such as consistency and fairness in the tenure process, COLA and equity in salaries, classification and treatment of lecturers, the future of summer school and changes in academic support for athletes.

OUTAGE from page 1

worried about security. I don't think Baylor will let us down."

Martin Residence Hall director Jonathan Stoops said the residence halls affected by the outages will increase security coverage for the evenings of the outages.

"Because Martin, Kokernot and the Russells are directly affected, there's more of a focus on preventing things from happening that are not supposed to happen," Stoops said.

The CLs on duty will increase their nightly rounds as well," he said. Kokernot Residence Hall director Meghan Becker said she and her staff will tell the residents to be careful.

"We want to keep the communication lines open," Becker

said.

Becker said Kokernot will also increase the internal night security working at the front desk in addition to maintaining the increased security outside of the building.

Brock said all hall directors know to contact Baylor police immediately anytime an alarm goes off.

"As for the vending and laundry machines and copiers, we've suggested alternate locations for residents to use," Brock said. "Or we've suggested they use coins."

Betty Mullins, administrative assistant for Baylor ROTC, said she doesn't the outages will affect ROTC.

The girls in the dorm across the street will probably get it much worse than us," Mullins said.

AAS from page 1

The first year and a half was very touch and go," Mueller said. "But now we have kind of a tone going, so if both me and Gigi were killed tomorrow in a violent Baptist uprising, the group would still go on."

With such a growing number of atheists on campus, Mueller said that students don't always come for its religious, or non-religious, aspects.

"You also have a lot of people that are at Baylor because of the Baylor tradition; it's a family thing," he said.

Mueller added that one of the group members is here "solely" because her parents work for Baylor, meaning free tuition.

"Who's going to turn down free school?" Mueller said.

Mueller said he came to Baylor because it was the best option among the colleges he had chosen.

However, Le came for one reason alone: forensic science.

"I have long since changed that major ... but that was my reason," she said. "I mean, I came from a very liberal town, liberal state, so I didn't realize how religiously fanatic it was until I got here."

After they both came to Baylor and feelings of unwelcomeness tore into them both, they had nobody to relate to.

"I created the group out of sheer desperation and seeking some form of a circle of friends," Mueller said.

While Mueller formed a group of friends through the organiza-

tion, he wants more from it. He wants it to be recognized.

Mueller said he is "irked to say the least," about policies regulating student groups

"We get no recognition, no table, no advertisement, no funding," he said.

In spring 2005, Mueller approached Dr. Dub Oliver, vice president of student life, to begin the process of making the Atheists and Agnostics Society an official student organization on campus. The request was denied because of Baylor's policy, Oliver said.

Baylor's Student Policies and Procedure states: "The recognition of a student organization represents University endorsement and approval of the goals and purposes of that organization as being consistent with and in support of the goals and mission of Baylor University."

Oliver said he believes an atheist group would not be consistent with Baylor's goal.

However, Oliver said he supports the group's purpose for discussions.

"The university is a good place for the interchange of ideas, but because there is a good interchange of ideas, it doesn't necessarily mean they have a chartered organization to go with them," Oliver said.

Despite a previous rejection, Mueller plans to address the policy again.

Until the organization is able to gain funding one way or another, Le said they "hope to fundraise through brownie sales, atheist auctions or pay to take an atheist to church."

Nine programs to be ranked among best

By Erin Pedigo
Reporter

What college doesn't love to be at the top?

Professors in doctoral programs are vying for high rankings for their sections in this fall's doctoral ranking program.

A prestigious national ranking program will be looking at nine of Baylor's doctoral programs this year.

The program, sponsored by the National Academy of Sciences and the National Research Council, ranks doctorate programs to provide statistics and information around the country to prospective graduate students, professors and industries.

The nine Baylor programs being ranked this year are biomedical studies, chemistry and biochemistry, English, math, physics, psychology, religion, sociology and statistics.

Dr. Ken Wilkins, biology professor and associate dean of graduate studies and research, said Baylor was last rated in this program in 1995, when four programs were rated.

"We want to establish a baseline," Wilkins said. "When this happens again we would want to rank higher."

The program ranks college and university graduate programs across the country so that results can be compiled in *Research Doctorate Programs in the United States*, a book published after the ranking is com-

pleted, once a decade.

Indicating the book on the table, Wilkins said, "There's going to be more (information in it) now than there was then."

Research Doctorate Programs rankings are very important to colleges and universities, Wilkins said, since the rankings rate schools against one another. Since the rankings won't change for a decade, effects are long-lasting.

Many prospective graduate students use the results to select a graduate school.

"It serves the purpose of letting people know that certain programs are the best in their field," Wilkins said.

When professors are looking for jobs at universities, compa-

nies use it to help hire the best possible candidates.

Dr. Ken Park, director of graduate studies for physics, said he was optimistic about being ranked again. He hopes this time the program's overall improvements will be reflected in the ranking.

The National Research Council was established as a subsystem under the National Academy of Sciences in 1916.

The National Academy of Sciences was formed by a congressional charter in 1863.

The National Research Council's mission is to advance studies of science and technology by making both very useful to the public, according to the National Research Council mission statement.

CRAFTS from page 1

"Two freshmen walked in today and said it smelled better than their dorm," Hart said.

Hart customizes furniture, picture frames, and wall signs for customers, but she also sells work by Baylor students and other artists.

April Heflich, a Pottsboro senior, makes handbags and painted pillows that are sold at

the store. Heflich, an interior design major, said although her own personal style leans toward "more neutral" colors than the ones Hart uses, she still appreciates the opportunity Hart's store offers her.

"I like that her store is whimsical," Heflich said. "It gives me a lot of freedom to be creative."

Hart said now that she has more room in her store, she has

more creative license too. She's been able to stock more products and work more on art.

"Now that there's more room and more things, you're more likely to find something you're looking for," said Sarah Hixson, a Southlake sophomore who sells tote bags at Harts 'n Crafts.

Hart extended the hours of her store to correspond with the hours of surrounding busi-

nesses, and she said she's finally beginning to see some profit. She's made more than 300 of her trademark name plaques for freshmen so far and feels like her hard work is starting to pay off.

"I'm so not religious," Hart said. "I just think sometimes God puts things in front of you and if you have the patience to wait it out, things will be greater than you ever anticipated."

PLOT from page 1

at the root causes of terrorism and broker a comprehensive peace in the Middle East."

It curly said that Syria "performed its duties" under the Geneva Conventions to protect the embassy.

Anti-American sentiment has been rising across the Middle East since Israel's 34-day blitz of Hezbollah in Lebanon that ended nearly a month ago, on top of turmoil in Iraq that many here blame on the United States.

There was no immediate claim of responsibility for Tuesday's attack, but suspicion immediately fell on a little-known al-Qaida offshoot called Jund al-Sham, Arabic for Sol-

diers of Syria.

Syria's ambassador to the U.S., Imad Moustapha, told The Associated Press it was too early to say but "it's logically possible" Jund al-Sham was responsible.

At the State Department, deputy spokesman Tom Casey said: "Clearly, it was an organized terrorist attack on our embassy. But exactly who was responsible for it and who they might be affiliated with and what their motives are, are things that we'll just have to look at as the days go on."

Three attackers and a Syrian guard were killed in the attempted bombing of the embassy, located in the same neighborhood as Assad's office and residence. A fourth attacker was wounded and arrested.

The attackers came in two cars, one of them an explosives-laden pickup truck. The first car pulled up in front of the embassy's entrance and three gunmen burst out. Shouting "Allahu akbar" — "God is great" — they threw hand grenades and fired automatic weapons toward the gate and a Syrian guard post, sparking a 15-minute gun battle.

At the same time, the truck — filled with pipe bombs rigged to gas canisters — pulled up to another gate on the other side of the triangle-shaped compound.

But when the shooting erupted, the driver ran away without detonating it. The driver was shot and arrested, and the truck did not explode.

The three attackers tried to

throw their grenades over the embassy's white 15-foot-high walls, but none made it over. One blast peppered the wall with pockmarks.

Three Syrian security agents were wounded as well as the 10 civilians and the Chinese diplomat who was watching the gun battle from the rooftop of the Chinese Embassy across the street.

The U.S. Embassy has about 40 staffers, but no ambassador. The United States withdrew its ambassador several days after the Feb. 14, 2005, assassination of former Lebanese Prime Minister Rafik Hariri in a Beirut car bomb — an attack his supporters blamed on Syria. Damascus has denied any role, but the Hariri's killing further soured U.S.-Syrian ties.

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