

ROUNDING UP CAMPUS NEWS SINCE 1900

THE BAYLOR LARIAT

FRIDAY, JANUARY 19, 2007

BU joins arms race with \$22M facility

Offices, practice fields to be moved closer to campus for football

By Will Parchman
Sports writer

After years of falling behind its competitors in the Big 12 Conference arm's race, Baylor is finally getting its on-campus practice facility.

Baylor President John Lilley announced Wednesday that the Baylor Board of Regents unanimously approved the proposal for a \$22 million football practice facility, tentatively scheduled to break ground in March. Plans call for the facility to

be located across University Parks Drive, adding to the Turner Riverfront Complex, which is currently home to the Baylor basketball, baseball, softball, tennis and soccer programs.

Football and track remain the only two programs that don't make their home on campus. Football and track offices are located in Floyd Casey Stadium off Valley Mills Drive. Nothing is official yet, but the

board of regents' approval of the funds was expected to be the final domino to fall before the deal is finished. Details about the building won't be available until the regents finalize plans next month, but it's expected to be a regal complex.

The building will become the new home for Baylor's football operations and will house locker rooms, coaches' offices, a weight room and a number of

training rooms.

It is also set to include two grass practice fields and one artificial field, replacing Baylor's current practice fields outside Floyd Casey Stadium.

Head Coach Guy Morriss said that depending on the generosity of additional donors, the facility could range between 55,000 and 100,000 square feet and could easily exceed the current price tag.

Baylor should hear from the regents within the next month if it will receive any more than the planned amount and the upgrade could include, among other amenities, an indoor practice field.

"This will be one of the most

significant building projects in the school's history," Athletic Director Ian McCaw said. "Both the football program and Baylor athletics in general stand to benefit a great deal."

Lilley added that the construction of the practice facility should build into both Baylor's Victory with Integrity campaign and Baylor 2012. The construction is planned

to take 18 months, but more details should be revealed in February when the board of regents releases a formal proposal.

Currently on the recruiting trail in preparation for college football's national signing day in early February, Morriss said the facility's impact on the program could be enormous.

"It's something that needed to be done for the good of Baylor football," said Morriss, the school's longest tenured coach since Grant Teaff, who is entering his fifth season at Baylor.

"As a coach, when your feet hit the floor in the morning you're looking for ways to attract

Please see FACILITY, page 4

"This will be one of the most significant building projects in the school's history."

Ian McCaw
Athletic Director



McCaw

McCaw's Victory with Integrity campaign and Baylor 2012. The construction is planned

Parking stresses increase

Construction, structural problems lead to loss of hundreds of spaces

Melissa Limmer
Staff writer

It's 8:55 a.m. as your sweaty hands grip the steering wheel and your groggy eyes dart from side to side looking for that perfect parking spot. Your first class starts in five minutes and there is no open parking spot in sight. This is no nightmare. This is the reality of trying to park on campus.

Parking is again limited this semester due to the ongoing construction on the new Eighth Street parking garage behind the Stacy Riddle Forum, and the closure of the top floor of the Fifth Street Parking Garage.

"(Parking) is not at all easy and has gotten worse since last semester. Hopefully it will get better," Houston sophomore Natalie Johnson said.

Matt Berkley, a Glenwood, Colo., sophomore, described parking on campus as "a nightmare" if you don't arrive on campus before 8 or 9 a.m.

Berkley said he thinks the Dutton Avenue Office and Parking Facility is the worst garage on campus.

The spring semester brings with it a new wealth of parking problems. After-hours parking increases

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Abbie Rosen/Lariat staff

The early bird gets the tickets

Students gather outside the Student Union Building ticket office Thursday as early as 12 p.m., six hours before the ticket counter opened to purchase a ticket for the highly anticipated Sing performance.

Regent says students No. 1 priority of board

Kate Boswell
Staff writer

Regent Minette Drumwright Pratt addressed concerns that the Baylor Board of Regents was not willing to listen to students during Thursday night's Student Senate meeting.

"In it all, please know that you students are our No. 1 concern," she said. "(The regents) are for you and because of you. You are more important to us than I know how to express."

Internal Vice President Travis

Plummer said the regent search committee visited once before to gain student input on the search for a new president after former President Sloan resigned.

He said Pratt's visit occurred because of frustration with the amount of time student representatives were given at the October regents meeting.

Plummer said in the past student government officers were allowed more input, but in October they were only allotted 10 minutes.

"We came in, expressed

some concerns about specific issues, and were ushered out," Plummer said. "It was just a miscommunication on how much students want to be involved. I, in an effort to try to bridge the gap in communication, e-mailed Regent Pratt and asked if she could come in to one of the meetings."

Pratt said the shortened meeting time was due in part to the board's recent restructuring.

Student life and academic af-

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Baylor Regent Minette Drumwright Pratt fields questions Thursday at the Student Senate meeting held on the fourth floor of the Cashion Academic Center.

David Poe/
Lariat staff

SMU bid under scrutiny

By Angela K. Brown
Associated Press

DALLAS — Saying some Bush administration policies conflict with church teachings, Methodist ministers from across the nation launched an online petition drive Thursday urging Southern Methodist University to abandon plans to build his presidential library.

The petition says church members believe that linking George W. Bush's presidency with a university bearing the Methodist name "is utterly inappropriate."

Among the petition's 18 organizers are 10 Methodist bishops, SMU graduates and a retired professor.

"Methodists have a long history of social conscience, so questions about the conduct of this president are very concerning," said one of the organizers, the Rev. Andrew J. Weaver of Brooklyn, N.Y., who graduated from SMU's Perkins School of Theology.

The petition comes on the heels of criticism by some fac-

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Students say class cancellation better late than never

By Claire St. Amant
Staff writer

On Wednesday Baylor joined the ranks of many other Texas schools and closed campus due to severe winter weather.

While the announcement came later than most, Dr. Karla Leeper, chief of staff for President John Lilley, said officials were continuing to monitor roadway conditions in the early morning hours in order to make the appropriate call.

The decision was made in conjunction with Baylor Police Chief Jim Doak, Leeper said.

"The weather's unpredictable," she said. "We try to make a decision as to the start of a normal class day as close as possible."

At 5:54 a.m. Baylor announced classes would run on a delayed schedule, with classes beginning at 10 a.m. but by 8 a.m. the university was completely closed due to icy roadways.

"In the span of two hours on early Wednesday morning, road conditions deteriorated rapidly, so Baylor officials made the call in the interest of safety and closed the university," director of media relations Lori Scott Fogleman said via e-mail.

"We posted that information on our Web site and notified the media as quickly as we could."

With Waco Independent School District releasing closure announcements the night before, some Baylor students wanted the news to be released earlier than Wednesday morning.

"I wish it would have been more prompt," McGregor junior Flor Avellanda said.

"I have to leave so early to get to school, and I could've already left before they released the update."

Avellanda said she lives 30 minutes away from campus, but chose not to

leave early in hopes of a closure.

"If I had left earlier, I would've missed the news," she said.

While some students weren't too disappointed with the closure, others housed close to campus expressed displeasure at the tardiness of the announcement.

"It was a little stressful because we didn't know whether we should prepare for the classes we had on Wednesday or not," Austin junior Caroline Nelson said.

"I wish there was more fair warning,

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Immigration goes hand in hand with human rights

The term "illegal alien" is absurd. But before you get all worked up, let me explain a few things. Alien can mean anything not originally from the area. In the United States, we have labeled certain people as being "illegal" and "alien." From the viewpoint of an archeologist, historian, Native American or Mexican-American, this label is fallacious.

For thousands of years, these people lived in accordance with the laws of nature, often migrating where food and conditions were better. Some also built extraordinarily advanced civilizations and huge cities, far larger and more complicated than

any other in Europe or the world at that time.

Jump thousands of years ahead and the first explorers made contact with the new world. One explorer, Christopher Columbus, "discovered" the new world and began the process of massive immigration from Europe into the natives' land. This is the world's most severe case of illegal immigration, and yet it's a part of history many of us don't like to discuss. Every inch of this hemisphere was home to real people who lived here for tens of thousands of years before making contact with the rest of the world. They were the first people here and

point of view



BY RAFAEL BENAVIDES

this is their only home. So where does this tie into the current immigration issue? The vast majority of people from Latin America are indigenous. They are Native American and Mestizo (a mix of Indian and European). Many Mexicans trace their heritage to native civilizations north and south of the U.S. border. Ninety percent of

the population of Mexico is full or partially indigenous. Mexico is undeniably Indian, a heritage they celebrate vividly.

But for whatever reason, the United States defines "Indian, Native American or Alaska Native" only as a person who still attains tribal affiliation. Native Americans are the only people who must keep tribal affiliation to be considered a part of their race. Most Mexicans do not maintain tribal affiliations because they are modern Indians forced to live in a modern world.

Before it was a state, many families from the U.S. immigrated to Texas for land and a

chance for a better life. It was an agreement at first, but too many families began to immigrate into Texas illegally and soon the land was mostly Anglo. Many Anglos did not want to be a part of Mexico, as they still spoke English and felt more American than Mexican anyway. They fought to separate from Mexico. After half of Mexico's land was forcibly handed over to the United States in the name of "manifest destiny," another huge wave of immigrants inhabited the land.

Look through the eyes of history. Mexicans, and other natives of this continent, like me cannot be "illegal." Our ancestors have lived here before

anyone else and we have been here before the borders were being drawn out on maps. Indians are not only found in history books and they are not only 1.5 percent of our population. The numbers are much, much higher than that. We are still here and we affirm our right to be here. Think about it, what gives you more right to be and live here than us? Before you tell me that I don't have a right to be here, justify your own reasons for owning and controlling this land that you simply stumbled upon.

Rafael Benavides is a sophomore journalism major from Laredo.

Editorial

Regents: Get to know us

Most Baylor students could probably name their own university's president, John Lilley. Most could likely also come up with the name of the student body president, Mark Laymon.

But what about the official governing body of this university? Could any student at Baylor name a single member of the Baylor Board of Regents?

If they can't, it might not be their fault. The board of regents at times seems more like a shadowy myth than a real institution. But it makes decisions that affect the life and college experience of every current and future Baylor student.

The board usually receives the most notice from students for increasing tuition. But that's not the only thing the 31 regents do. They also authorize building projects such as Brooks Village, sign off on Baylor's operating budget and approve new degree plans.

They serve three-year terms up to three times consecutively as the university's ultimate decision-makers.

But most Baylor students never get a chance to interact with the people who vote on which direction this university takes. That should change.

Regents should be directly involved in more events on campus that let them interact with students on a regular basis. There are many ways to do this.

Thursday, for example, regent Minnette Pratt attended the weekly Student Senate meeting.

This observation of and participation in standard student government



function gave her the opportunity to see the student body's representatives debate bills about events and issues Baylor students care about.

Attending Student Senate meetings was a great way for Pratt to gain an understanding of the concerns and interests of the students themselves. Her involvement in student life is commendable, and other regents should follow her example, reaching out to the student body by interacting more with student government officials, addressing students directly and attending

more student events.

Since regents have jobs and obligations unrelated to Baylor, it is understandable that they can't show up at every campus function.

But any increased involvement in student life would be a step in the right direction.

It would show a willingness to take Baylor students seriously and learn more about the people their decisions ultimately affect.

At the same time, it also would allow students to gain insight into the

way this university operates and learn more about the regents themselves. If students could see the board of regents as a real group of people and not a phantom entity that just controls this institution's purse strings, it might show they're meant to serve as more than just a scapegoat for financial complaints.

They play a vital role in shaping Baylor's identity. As such, they should make an effort to remain connected with the biggest part of Baylor's identity — its students.

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.

Correction

Wednesday's story "Partnership provides links for BU leaders" Casey Martin's hometown was mistakenly listed as San Francisco. He is from San Diego.

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.

Swearing in of Muslim congressman a celebration of diversity

On Jan. 4, Keith Ellison took his ceremonial oath of office as a Democratic representative from Minnesota using Thomas Jefferson's Quran. From this, we learn the following surprising fact: Thomas Jefferson owned a Quran.

Which probably shouldn't surprise us at all. Jefferson was renowned for his restless intellect and wide-ranging interests. Still, one hopes the tacit reminder that this Founding Father and author of American values did not fear the Quran will silence those who have condemned Ellison's decision to use that book for his swearing-in. One hopes, but one does not expect.

After all, the objections raised by the congressman's critics are not exactly steeped in logic.

Take conservative columnist Dennis Prager, who wrote that Ellison's decision "undermines American civilization." Throughout history, he said, people of other faiths have taken their oaths using Christian Bibles. If you can't do that, he said, you shouldn't be allowed to serve in Congress.

Prager was echoed by a blowhard chorus. Virgil Goode, a Republican representative from Virginia, warned constituents that unless we get tough on immigration, we'll see many more Muslim congressmen demanding to use Qurans. The American Family Association called for a law requiring the use of Bibles at swearing-in ceremonies.

For sheer illogic, though, Roy Moore, he of the Ten Com-

point of view



BY LEONARD PITTS

mandments rock at the Alabama courthouse, topped them all. He cited the constitutional principle of freedom of religion "without interference by government" in demanding Congress prevent Ellison from taking the oath on a Quran.

Lord, where to begin? In the first place, Moore's argument refutes itself so effectively he must have been drinking when he wrote it. In the second place, what does immigration have to do with it? El-

lison was born in Detroit. In the third place, I doubt his election presages a flood of Muslims in Congress, but if that happened, it would be because a majority of voters wanted it. Isn't that the very definition of democracy? In the fourth place, contrary to what Prager thinks, this isn't the first time a politician has declined to take his oath on a Bible.

Law professor Jonathan Turley reminds us that presidents John Quincy Adams, Theodore Roosevelt and Herbert Hoover opted not to use Bibles. Jewish lawmakers have used Jewish holy books. President Franklin Pierce declined an oath altogether. In the fifth place, it's stupid to require a man to take an oath on a book that has no meaning

for him. In the sixth place, what does it tell you that we're even having this conversation?

It tells me — reminds me — that there has always been a strain of intolerance in the American character, a reactionary streak that denies American values under the guise of defending them.

That strain rises periodically, enflamed by demagogues and opportunists like Charles Coughlin in the 1930s and Joe McCarthy in the 1950s, but it feels stronger and less abashed now than it has in years.

It is paradoxical that the same nation that speaks seriously of electing Condoleezza Rice or Barack Obama to the presidency can also speak seriously of denying Keith El-

lison his office because he is a Muslim. That's just the kind of country we are, I'm afraid. Not always sufficiently brave.

So Muslims — doesn't matter whether we're talking Middle East crazies or a Midwest politician — become the latest brand name of our fears.

Some people claim to defend American values they're too faint-hearted to even understand. And yet for all that, this week, a Muslim put his hand on Thomas Jefferson's Quran and swore to serve all the people of his district.

Then he shook Virgil Goode's hand and invited him to have coffee. Thank goodness we're that sort of country, too.

Leonard Pitts is a columnist for the Miami Herald.

The Baylor Lariat

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THE Daily Crossword

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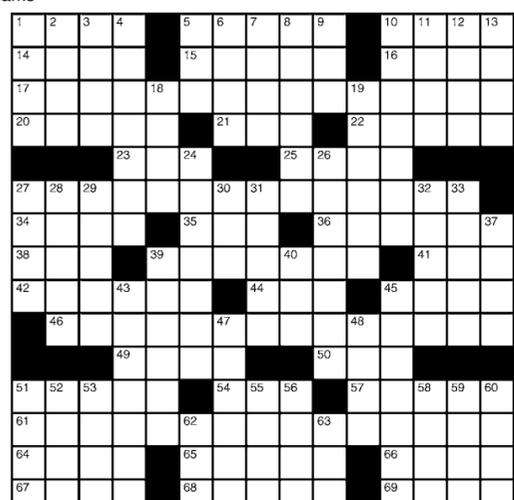
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- 35 Season opener?
- 36 Stun guns
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- 26 Manet and Monet
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- 29 Dapper
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- 43 No foolin' now!
- 45 Burn rubber
- 47 Part of OSHA
- 48 Pipe down!
- 51 Ewe offspring
- 52 Manchurian border river
- 53 Sten title role
- 55 Nile queen, briefly
- 56 Ager of parents?
- 58 English composer
- 59 Sister of Osiris
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- 63 Sardonic



By James E. Buehl Edgewater, FL 1/19/07
For today's crossword and sudoku answers, visit www.baylor.edu/Lariat



Melea Burke/ Lariat staff

Blanco freshman Jessica Schwimd and Austin freshman Cullen Cooper sign a steel beam Thursday in the Bill Daniel Student Center. Students were invited to become a part of history by signing their names on the beam, which will top Brooks Village.

Brooks celebrates 'top out'

By Jon Schroeder
Staff writer

Just past the halfway point for Baylor 2012, the mid-way mark has been reached in one of the vision's larger projects.

Brooks Village will be half completed today, and to celebrate the occasion Baylor is holding a "top out" ceremony at 2:30 p.m.

Topping out, at least in today's ceremony, means placing the highest piece of steel on the Brooks Village construction. The 7-foot piece of steel, painted white, has been available for students, faculty and staff to sign since Wednesday in the Bill Daniel Student Center. It will be available to sign until the ceremony.

Because of recent weather, the steel will not actually be placed until next week, but the celebration will still be held in the Barfield Drawing Room of the Bill Daniel Student Center.

Weather permitting, tours of the Brooks Village construction site will be held afterward.

"We liked the idea of celebrating this milestone in the project," said Dr. Samuel "Dub" Oliver, vice president for student life.

More than just a ceremony about the construction of a building, it's a celebration of an "important benchmark" for Baylor 2012, said Dr. Frank Shusok, dean for student learning and engagement.

When Baylor adopted its Baylor in 2001, he said 3,600 students lived on campus. That's roughly 30 per-

cent of Baylor's student body.

With the construction of the North Village Residential Community, Baylor could house 4,200 students, about 35 percent of the student body. When Brooks Village opens in the fall, 420 more students will find on-campus housing, and 38 percent of Baylor's students will be able to live on campus.

Although this is the first time Baylor has held a topping out celebration in recent memory, Oliver said a similar ceremony was held when the steeple was placed on the chapel of the George W. Truett Theological Seminary complex in May 2001.

Oliver said this particular ceremony came at the suggestion of the Whiting-Turner Contracting Co., which is overseeing the Brooks Village project.

Speakers will include President John Lilley, Oliver, Shushok, a Whiting-Turner representative and a student who will be living in Brooks Village when it opens in the fall.

According to a December 2000 article in *Modern Steel Construction*, the topping out tradition may have begun anywhere on earth, in varying times.

It may have started in Scandinavia, when corn was hoisted to the top of newlyconstructed buildings as a sacrifice to Woden.

In Egypt around 2700 B.C. plants were grown atop pyramids to provide sustenance for the souls of dead slaves. Native Americans also may have begun topping out, lifting trees above the roofs of new lodges to ensure that their buildings were not taller than trees.

Baylor alum to hold book signing at Barnes & Noble

By Aileen Wong
Reporter

Author and Baylor alumnus Tim VanDuivendyk will be signing his book *The Unwanted Gift of Grief* from 2 to 4 p.m. Saturday at Barnes & Noble on Waco Drive.

The book offers guidance to readers as they deal with all kinds of grief, especially those dealing with the loss of a loved one. It also tells how to help someone who's dealing with grief.

"The book is an invitation to pain," said VanDuivendyk. "The real healing is in the wilderness that is pain."

VanDuivendyk is the chaplain and system executive for spiritual care and development at Memorial Hermann Healthcare System in Houston.

The author has two messages he wants to tell his readers. The first is for people who are dealing with grief.

"When people are at a loss in life, they need to take time to enter the wilderness," VanDuivendyk said. "Grief is a gift that no one wants. To begin healing, you need transformation and resurrection."

His second message is for those who know someone dealing with loss.

"If you know someone dealing with a loss, don't try to talk them out of grief," VanDuivendyk said. "Talk them through their grief. Grief works and provides healing through anger and tears."

The book is a compilation of VanDuivendyk's personal experiences, from having a child with Down syndrome, to helping others work through

their grief as a chaplain.

The author went through his own pain when his 26-year-old daughter with Down syndrome, Abby, was taken to the emergency room for a severe cold.

She was diagnosed with pneumonia, and her condition worsened in the hospital. Abby was given a 1 percent chance of survival, but she miraculously pulled through.

Today, she's in her early 30s and works at the Wellness Center at Memorial Hermann Healthcare System.

"I believe in miracles," VanDuivendyk said. VanDuivendyk's book has been presented at churches and is respected by church leaders.

"I found his book to be extremely practical and extremely theological," said Corky Fowler, district

lay leader for the metropolitan area for the United Methodist Church in Houston.

The Unwanted Gift of Grief has been nominated for the 2008 Louisville Grawemeyer Award in religion.

"Having been someone who's been through grief in the past year with the loss of a close friend, it's one of the best books on grief I've read," Craig Nash, the department manager of Barnes & Noble, said.

"It's had lots of positive feedback," said VanDuivendyk. "It's been a surprise."

VanDuivendyk graduated from Baylor in 1968. He currently lives in Houston.

The Unwanted Gift of Grief is VanDuivendyk's first book and took 10 years to write. It's now in its fourth printing.

Rehearsals raise safety concerns

By Melissa Limmer
Staff Writer

In response to concern over safety in the area around The Stacy Riddle Forum at night, a bill was submitted in yesterday's Student Senate meeting asking the Baylor Police Department's "presence to be more noticeable" around the area.

The bill, which passed unanimously, states that "currently, policing patrolling presence has not been seen around Eighth and Ninth streets."

Concern about the safety around the building has increased because many students are forced to park farther from the building during nightly Sing rehearsals, as a result of construction on the Eighth Street parking lot.

Houston junior Liz Price, a member of Kappa Alpha Theta, said she decides to walk to the Panhellenic building for Sing practice instead of trying to find a place to park.

"Nobody really knows where to park," Price said. She also said she does see police at the Panhellenic building "a lot."

"I am glad that they are there," Price said, but added that they are usually there writing tickets.

Price also said people are usually at the building for All-University Sing rehearsal until 10 or 11 p.m. and "it is really dark and really late at night and you see random people and it is really kind of scary." According to Price, most people end up parking somewhere in front of Memorial Residence Hall or Ninth Street, other people park on 10th Street towards Speight Avenue.

"I've taken to walking to my car in groups," Shannon Daily, a Houston junior, and Sing chair for the Alpha Delta Pi sorority said. Daily also said she has seen a police car "maybe once" when she leaves around 11 p.m.

Police Chief Jim Doak said that Baylor police are "very aware" of the situation at the Panhellenic building and are "patrolling very heavily in that area." According to Doak, besides car patrols, the Baylor Police Department uses foot and bike patrol after 9 or 10 p.m. when weather permits, and provide "shuttles that they are opting not to take."

Doak also said that the area around the Panhellenic building "is a very safe area of campus," and that police are spending a "disproportionate" amount of time in the area. Doak said that the Baylor police department does all they can to "ensure that our campus is as safe as we can possibly can make it."

BEAR BRIEFS

StuFu Scholarships

Student Foundation is currently accepting applications for their \$2000 scholarships. The applications are available in Ed Crenshaw Student Foundation Building or at www.baylor.edu/studentfoundation. Scholarships are open to all students and applications are due by 5 p.m. Jan. 31.

Mission Week 2007

Applications for Mission Week 2007 co-directors are available now at the BSM. Interviews run through Jan. 26. For more information visit www.baylorbsm.org.

To submit a bear brief, e-mail Lariat@baylor.edu.

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Senate passes Democrats' ethics bill

By Jim Abrams
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The Senate, responding to voter frustration with corruption and special interest influence in Washington, on Thursday overwhelmingly approved far-reaching ethics and lobbying reform legislation.

Under the bill, passed 96-2, senators will give up gifts and free travel from lobbyists, pay more for travel on corporate jets and make themselves more accountable for the pet projects they insert into bills.

Majority Leader Harry Reid, D-Nev., who made the bill his first initiative as head of

the Senate, called it the "most significant legislation in ethics and lobbying reform we've had in the history of this country."

The Senate did reject the idea of setting up an independent office to investigate the ethical breaches of members.

But it said that lobbyists can no longer hire the spouses of members or pay for lavish parties for members at national conventions.

Passage of the bill came a day after the measure appeared dead, the victim of a test of will between the two parties.

Republicans were angry they could not get a vote on a proposal giving the president, with congressional approval, more power to

kill single spending items in larger bills.

So GOP senators voted against a resolution needed to move the bill to final passage.

On Thursday morning, both sides accused the other of killing the bill and betraying the trust of voters who had demanded that Congress clean up its act.

"What this maneuver shows is that the Republican leadership hasn't learned the lessons of the 2006 election," said Sen. Charles Schumer, D-N.Y.

"I believe that we owe it to the voters as well as the institution to come to a fair agreement and pass this legislation," said Republican leader Mitch McConnell, R-Ky.

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Chris Weeks/Lariat staff

Barricades block the entrance to the top floor of the Fifth Street Parking Garage. The floor was closed after structural problems were detected. It is not immediately known when it will be open for parking again.

PARK from page 1

es drastically every spring near the Stacy Riddle Forum and other places on campus because of late-night All-University Sing practices and sorority recruitment and pledging.

Internal Vice President Travis Plummer said the Student Senate was sought out by administrators and asked whether it thought building the parking garage on Eighth Street would be beneficial to students. He said the student government was glad the administration asked for the student body's opinion, their efforts weren't well-timed.

Plummer also said Baylor decided to go ahead and build the garage this semester in conjunction with the construction of Brooks Village.

Shelley Deats, manager of parking services, said the new parking garage isn't projected to be finished until next fall.

The closure of the top floor of the Fifth Street Parking Garage, which resulted in the loss of 146 spaces, was announced in an e-mail to the Baylor faculty on Jan. 11. According to the e-mail, the garage was closed because of "structural issues" and will not be opened again until a "complete inspection is made, repair requirements are defined and repairs are completed."

The e-mail also said the results and recommendations for repairs would not be available until the first week in February.

The parking spaces shortage doesn't only affect student stress levels, but also their bank accounts. Deats said a total of 2,381 citations were written during the fall of 2006. The garage with the most citations was the Fifth Street Parking Garage, with 991 citations. The number of citations this fall increased by more than 1,000 from the 1,357 written for the spring of 2006.

Deats said parking services is "one step ahead of the game this year" because of the online parking updates. These updates listed on the parking services Web site, www.baylor.edu/parking, give students a general idea of the open spaces available in the four parking garages. Deats said these numbers are manually tabulated by parking services employees.

The first count for parking space availability is posted before 10:30 a.m. and is updated periodically throughout the day at peak times.

Deats said she would like in the future to be able to install real-time equipment in the parking garages that could keep track of the cars exiting and entering garages in order to give students more accurate and up-to-date information.

REGENT from page 1

fairs were once separate committees, she said, but the two have now been combined.

Pratt is the chairwoman of Academic and student affairs committee.

"Believe me, we were all very disappointed, and I was extremely so, as chairman, that our committee meeting did not have the time we needed to hear adequately what your representatives had prepared to bring to us," Pratt told the senate members.

She said that the student life and academic affairs committees had previously been allotted two hours each, but that the two committees were merged and given two hours total.

She assured senate members that the meetings would now be three hours long and that the board would be happy to listen to student concerns.

However, many students have expressed feelings of disconnect where the board of regents is concerned.

In a random survey of six students, none of the six was

able to name a single regent, and only two out of the six offered a guess at what the regents do.

Chris Holmes, Baylor assistant general counsel, said the board of regents is Baylor's board of directors.

"All corporations — Baylor is a nonprofit corporation — must have a board of directors. Baylor's board of regents is actually its board of directors," he said.

Plummer said he hopes bringing regents and administrators to senate meetings will bridge the gap between the student body and the administration.

"Something we've been really trying to do with senate this year is make it a great communication tool and not an allocation tool," Plummer said. "And that means bringing more regents to Student Senate meetings, more administrators to come speak and really letting students know that student senate meetings are open."

Plummer has also been advocating for a student Regent on the Board of Regents.

Student Senate member

Samer Baransi asked Pratt about the proposal during the meeting.

"I just had a quick question regarding Travis' proposal," Baransi said. "I just wanted to get your unofficial word, not binding or anything like that, if you just thought that was kind of a realistic proposal."

"Now, you're talking about the Student regent?" Pratt said. "Well, frankly, just us kids here, I..." Pratt said.

Baylor president John Lilley interjected: "There's a Lariat reporter here, by the way."

Pratt then went off the record and asked not to be quoted.

Plummer remained optimistic about the idea of a student regent and said that the Student Senate would be willing to compromise with the board of regents on the issue.

"I am more than willing to compromise and work to middle ground on this issue," Plummer said. "A precise student regent with immediate voting power is not necessarily what I need; what I need is student representation."

SMU from page 1

ulty who said the library complex's public policy institute dedicated to the philosophy of the Bush administration would hurt the school's reputation.

"I understand there are some who have reservations, and my advice to them is understand that a library and institution would enhance education, be a

place for interesting discussion and be a place for people to express their views and write and think, and these universities I think understand that and are excited about the prospects and so am I," the president told Belo Corp. television.

SMU became the apparent winner in the library competition last month.

The president's site selection

committee said it was entering into further talks with the 11,000-student private university, which is first lady Laura Bush's alma mater. The Bushes are Methodists.

If negotiations with SMU fail, the library will go to one of two other finalists: Baylor University in Waco, near the Bushes' Crawford ranch, or the University of Dallas.

FACILITY from page 1

kids to our campus. When our (practice facility) is sitting over there on University Parks, that's going to make a heck of a good first impression on a recruit."

Even more than benefitting potential recruits, Morriss said the current players should find themselves using one of the most advanced practice facilities in the nation once it's completed.

"I think it's going to have some immediate impact," Morriss said.

"I think it'll help solidify an

already solid (recruiting) class. It will answer some questions that we've been trying to fight with our hand behind our back. It'll give us something more to hit back with."

Assuming the construction plans follow through as expected, Baylor will become the last team in the Big 12 to construct a football practice facility.

If the additional funding falls in place, Baylor's facility could also be the Big 12's most expensive one.

While football certainly stands to benefit a great deal from the complex, it won't be

the only program using it.

Morriss said portions of the facility, including the running track, should be open to some other sports and perhaps even to student and faculty use.

But ultimately, Morriss said, nothing can happen until they stick the first shovel in the ground.

"People get excited about things they can see," he said. "Once they see the steel coming out of the ground, there will be some excitement."

"We just want to make sure it's done right and it's a first-class facility."

CLOSE from page 1

but I was still happy when classes were cancelled."

The Sheila and Walter Umphrey Law Center cancelled its first two classes at 8 and 9:15 a.m., but remained open for the rest of the day.

Brad Toben, the dean of the law school, said administrators there decided road conditions had improved enough by the late morning to open delayed.

Second year law student Ryan Reneau of New Braunfels said he wasn't surprised the law school held classes.

"It has been my experience that we don't close very often," he said.

"I'm paying lots of money so I like them to stay open."

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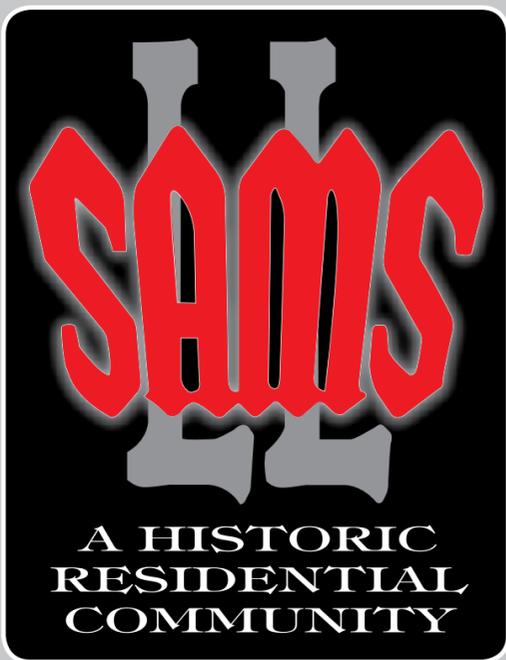
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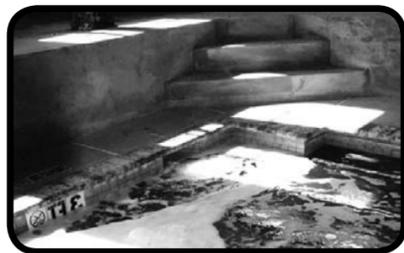


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Academics stressed for BU athletes

By Lequalan McDonald
Reporter

Many people enjoy following college sports, but few know exactly what it takes to keep their favorite athletes academically eligible.

With college athletics bringing in millions of dollars to the universities the athletes represent, it's understandable that some forget athletes are students as well.

But to Baylor student-athletes and the staff at Student-Athlete Services, an athlete's classes come before competition.

Bart Byrd, the assistant director of Student-Athlete Services, is one of the men responsible for making sure this happens.

Byrd, who used to coach athletes, said one of the reasons

he chose this profession was to avoid the long hours of coaching while still working with athletes.

Byrd said the students he helps do a good job of helping themselves.

"Student-Athlete Services are here to help the student-athletes," Byrd said. "We do all that we can for them, but the responsibility of graduating is ultimately up to them.

"And they do a good job of it," he said.

Since joining the Big 12, Baylor has continually had one of the highest graduation rates in the conference.

"Five of the first 10 years we have been tops in the Big 12. Three of those 10 years we were in second, and the other two years we were third," Byrd said.

One of the reasons this is

possible is the work Byrd and his staff put in.

"The staff is wonderful and very committed to the student-athletes," Byrd said.

Byrd heads a department with nine full-time staff members, four graduate assistants, 10 monitors and 60 tutors. He and his staff oversee all 475 scholarship and non-scholarship student-athletes as well as 50 trainers and managers.

Former quarterback Shawn Bell, who graduated in with a degree in education, was aided by the Student-Athlete Services during his playing years.

Bell, who's currently pursuing a masters in sports management, said the most important thing was the support Student-Athlete services gave them.

"Either with help in a class, scheduling classes or picking up books, Student-Athlete Ser-

vices provided a lot of help," Bell said. "They emphasize school first because they know of the importance of having a degree."

Bell said without the academic help that Byrd and his staff provides for student-athletes, many of them would struggle.

Kendal Smith, a Dallas native, is a graduate student and one of the many tutors for Student-Athlete Services, is in her second semester with the department.

She said the interaction with athletes can be a challenge sometimes because of everyone comes from a different background.

But she said in the end, it's been a positive experience and well worth the time and effort.

"I'm learning just as much as I am teaching," Smith said.



Associated Press

After struggling through the 2005 season with Baltimore Orioles and being out of Major League Baseball in 2006, Sammy Sosa may reach an agreement with the Texas Rangers that will have him back in the league.

Rangers near deal with former fan fave

By Stephen Hawkins
Associated Press

DALLAS — Sammy Sosa and the Texas Rangers kept up negotiations on a minor league contract Thursday, working their way toward a deal.

The Rangers and Sosa's agent, Adam Katz, have exchanged a couple of proposals. While they could finalize a deal this week, Katz said Thursday that the sides had not reached an agreement.

Texas has offered Sosa a deal that would require him to earn his spot on the roster during spring training. The 38-year-old former slugger, 12 short of 600 home runs, didn't play in the major leagues last year.

If completed, the contract likely would be worth about \$500,000 should Sosa make the 40-man roster. He would also have the chance to earn additional performance bonuses.

Sosa returned home to the Dominican Republic after

working out for the Rangers in Texas on Monday. It was his second workout for team officials, who previously went to the Dominican Republic to watch him.

Texas rookie manager Ron Washington was impressed by what he saw during Monday's workout in an indoor batting cage.

Washington said Sosa would primarily be a designated hitter if he makes the team, and bat in the middle of the order with Mark Teixeira, Michael Young and Hank Blalock.

"This is a guy that has had a lot of success playing the game, and someone who can help us offensively," second baseman Ian Kinsler said Thursday.

"He definitely wants to prove himself again. ... We want him to be himself and swing hard, like he did in the past."

Sosa last played for Baltimore in 2005, when the seven-time All-Star hit .221 with 14 homers and 45 RBIs in 102 games.

Coaches one win away from milestone

By Dave Goldberg
Associated Press

INDIANAPOLIS — Two weeks ago, Lovie Smith made the three-hour trip from Chicago to watch Tony Dungy's Colts take on Herman Edwards' Chiefs in a first-round NFL playoff game.

The night before, the three old friends and their wives dined at P.F. Chang's in downtown Indianapolis in what was as much a symbolic meeting as a gathering of old pals — three black coaches celebrating the arrival of their teams in the NFL playoffs.

"We talked about starting in '96 in Tampa and some of the things we remembered from then," Dungy recalled on Thursday. "How great it is that we are in the playoffs and that at least two of us have a chance to make it to the Super Bowl. You realized it would be awesome if it happened and, hopefully, it will."

If the Colts beat the New England Patriots on Sunday and Smith's Bears beat the New Orleans Saints, it would put two black coaches in the NFL's marquee game for the first time in its 41 years. If either one wins, that, too, would be a first.

There were just three black head coaches in the NFL when Dungy started nearly a decade ago in Tampa, with Edwards and Smith on his staff. Back then, 70 percent of the league's



Associated Press

Chicago Bears head Coach Lovie Smith watches a practice on Thursday. Smith and his team play the New Orleans Saints in the NFC Championship Sunday for the chance to represent the NFC in the Super Bowl.

players were black — a percentage that still holds.

This year, there were seven black coaches, including Dennis Green in Arizona and Art Shell in Oakland. Both men were fired after the season. The others are Cincinnati's Marvin Lewis and Cleveland's Romeo Crennel.

No black head coach has ever taken the final step.

"Of course, it would be special if that happened," Smith said. "I hope for a day when it is unnoticed but that day isn't here. This is the first time, I think, two black men have led their teams to the final four. You have to acknowledge that. I do, we do. I realize the responsibility that comes with that."

So do black players. "We're making progress slowly," says defensive tackle Anthony McFarland of the Colts, who played for both Dungy and Smith in Tampa Bay.

"I don't think players think of 'black players' and 'white players.' It shows that for Tony and Lovie to come this far that there are at least some organizations that have confidence that black men can be head coaches. I hope it goes beyond that so we don't have to think of their race," he said.

NFL leaders acknowledge that's in the future.

"We still have problems with the front office," said Pittsburgh's Dan Rooney, one of

league's senior owners.

When Jerry Reese was promoted to general manager of the New York Giants this week, he became just the third black man in that key position.

As recently as 1987, when 200 league and team officials convened for their annual March meeting, there was just one black person among them. Two years later, Shell became the first black head coach of the modern era. There hadn't been one since Fritz Pollard in the barnstorming days of the early 1920s.

There have been some positive strides toward diversity in recent years, but the NFL's numbers are still nowhere close to the NBA's, which currently has 11 black coaches for 30 teams, and has had 56 in its history.

The NFL started a minority intern program nearly two decades ago for players and college coaches. It, in turn, has brought dozens of black assistant coaches into the league.

But a year ago, when there were nine vacancies, only Shell, who had been working in the league office, was hired. It's no wonder they end up rooting for each other to succeed.

"Of course, Tony is a good friend," Smith said. "I'm a big Colts fan since they are on the AFC side of the football. But not if we play them in the Super Bowl."

SPORTS BRIEFS

Baseball team praised

According to a study released by *Baseball America*, the Baylor baseball program is the 17th best program in the nation since 1999. The study focused on numerous categories, including winning percentages, tournament appearances, players drafted in the top 10 rounds and tradition. The Bears score was third highest in the Big 12 behind No. 1 University of Texas and 11th-ranked Nebraska. *Baseball America's* last such study was done in 1997, when the Bears were ranked 80th.

Baca wins first pro tourney
Former Baylor golfer Ryan Baca

won his first professional tournament when he finished seven under par at the The Lake Conroe Open, a 54-hole tournament played at Walden on Lake Conroe. With the win, Baca earned \$4,800.

Track athlete honored

Baylor's Reggie Witherspoon was named Big 12 Indoor Track & Field Athlete of the Week on Tuesday. The senior from Marietta, Ga., won the 200 at the Arkansas Invitational and helped the Baylor team take first in the 4X400 meter relay with a 46.2 lead off leg.

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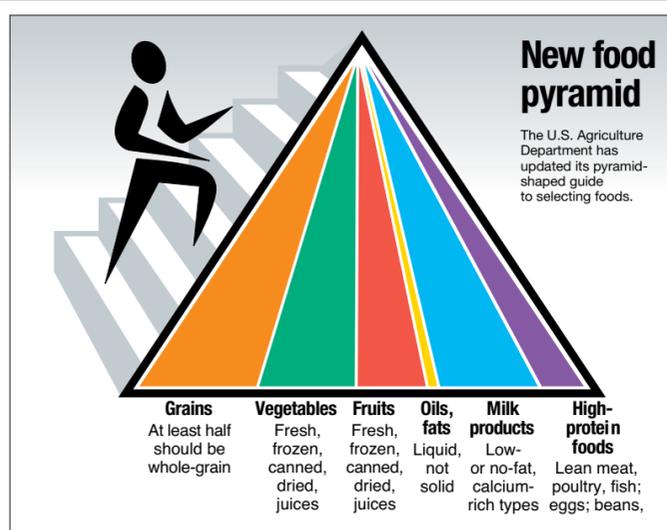


New Year, New You

Healthy ways to stay on top of your resolution

By reporter Kirsten Horne

Abbie Rosen/ Lariat staff



New food pyramid

The U.S. Agriculture Department has updated its pyramid-shaped guide to selecting foods.

In case you haven't heard, the food pyramid changed in 2005. Instead of strict guidelines, daily servings are determined by a person's sex, activity level and age. Find out your daily food requirements at MyPyramid.gov.

Students like it cheap
What foods are healthy yet won't put a dent in your wallet? Check out these eight foods.



You know what they say: "An apple a day keeps the doctor away." The fiber in apples can also help lower cholesterol.

Fulfilling resolution dreams takes small steps

When the clock strikes midnight, balloons drop, couples kiss, and people toast to the beginning of a new year.

For many Americans, that means a fresh start and a vow to start living a healthier lifestyle.

According to the American Obesity Association, nearly 64.5 percent of Americans are overweight, so getting back in shape tends to be a common goal.

Many Americans start off the new year by going to the gym every day after work or school, trying to squeeze in a workout whenever given the chance.

This might work well for the first few days, weeks or even months, but many people find themselves slipping back into the same rut they were in before.

"My classes are packed the first few months after the break," said Sarah Rozeman, an aerobic trainer at the McLane Student Life Center.

"If you are a beginner, then you have to first admit that to yourself. From there you can begin planning a schedule that is realistic to your fitness level," Rozeman said. "I see so many students fall short of their New Year's goals because they think they have to head into it full speed. Just ease up a little and you will stick with it much longer and be more successful."

Rozeman also advises students to find a workout partner.

"Get with someone besides your best friend, because then you are less likely to cancel on them," Rozeman said.

Another suggestion: Find a personal trainer.

"Personal trainers are great. They can work with you on your level and keep you consistent in your schedule," Rozeman said.

"I plan to start back the new year by going to a personal trainer," said Houston senior, Lisa Massey. "I think it will give me direction and motivation to keep a workout routine throughout the semester."

To start

living healthy, changing your eating habits is important as well, Rozeman said. It is important to remember to not only watch what you eat but how much you are eating. Health magazine suggested a few quick and easy ways to check your serving size:

- A checkbook can equal one (3-ounce) serving of grilled fish
- A gift card can equal one serving of vegetables
- A five-piece pack of gum can equal a four-ounce serving of cheese
- A box of Altoids can equal one (1-ounce) serving of almonds or walnuts

Aside from eating right, Rozeman also suggests drinking more water.

"I see it as the miracle drug," Rozeman said. "It is good for your skin, keeps you hydrated, gives you energy and keeps you from getting sick."

An increase in water intake will also help you work out harder and longer. According to the *New York Times Guide to Personal Health*, a reduction of 4-5 percent in body water will result in a decline of 20-30 percent in your work performance. Rozeman adds that this is why it is important to remember to keep well hydrated when sweating in the gym.

Through a reasonable exercise plan, a healthy

and proportional diet and plenty of water, we should all meet our goals in 2007.

And remember: It wasn't just the sparkling grape talking when you made your resolution but a desire to be happy and healthy.



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The calcium in cottage cheese strengthens bones and teeth, making it that much harder to break your arm in a competitive intramural basketball game.

Change up your workout

If most Americans are aware that exercising is good for them, then why are most of these people finding it difficult to get up and start moving? According to Sarah Rozeman, aerobic trainer at the McLane Student Life Center, one of the biggest downfalls for students is that they aren't thinking about how to incorporate fun into their workout.

"Most students believe that running is the only way to get fit," Rozeman said.

However, most students can't stand the thought of lacing up their tennis shoes and running out the door for a nice jog.

"Bearobics is one great way to get active," Rozeman said. "And with so many different workout classes, it is easy to sign up and get started."

- Bearobics class offerings include:
- Yoga, an intense physical and mental practice.
 - Turbo Kick, a mix of kickboxing, martial arts and dance.

- Awesome Abs, an intense, 20-minute class concentrating on training and sculpting the abdominal muscles.
- Boot Camp, an intense cardio and toning class.

- Fire and Ice, combining varying cardio combos with Pilates-type toning for an intense workout followed by stretching and relaxation.
- Hip Hop, helping you learn the latest dance moves with an intense workout.
- Water Works, combining cardio, toning and flexibility while in the water.

"Students just need to keep moving," Rozeman said. "And if you are pressed for time, walk briskly to class instead of driving. It is an easy way to add an extra 20-30 minutes of cardio into your day."

Check online for upcoming activities at Baylor, and in Waco such as the Bearathon, Race for the Cure and the Waco Striders annual cross country run.

For more information on Bearobics classes and others, visit: <http://www.baylor.edu/campusrec>.

Dishing on vitamins: Mom was right

Growing up, most have heard their mother say, "Make sure you take your vitamins!" And, "Vitamins are good for you!" Have you ever wondered just how good they are?

"Vitamins are very important because they help us obtain energy-yielding nutrients from food," said Cheree Moore, senior nutrition major from Frost. "They do not give us energy by themselves; they simply help our bodies obtain energy from the food we eat."

According to The Diet Channel Web site, if taken correctly vitamins can actually lower cholesterol, keep you from getting sick, help in healing cuts and bruises, keep vital organs functioning properly, slow the aging process and even help fight cancer.

When taking supplements, it is important to know the two categories of vitamins.

"There are both water-soluble vitamins as well as fat-soluble vitamins," Moore said.

According to researchers at The Vitamins and Nutrition Center, water-soluble vitamins are easily flushed out of a person's system and can be taken often. These consist of vitamin C and the B-complex vitamins: thiamin, riboflavin, niacin, biotin, pantothenic acid, B6, folate and B12.

Fat-soluble vitamins are the ones to be wary of. Moore said, taking too much of these vitamins can be dangerous to a person's health.

"These fat-soluble vitamins are D, E, A and K," Moore said. "Fat-soluble vitamins are more readily absorbed than water soluble," Moore said. "When they are ingested, they are stored in the liver and fatty tissue. This is different from water-soluble vitamins, which aren't as likely to be toxic because they are excreted from the body at a faster rate."

Your mother wasn't lying to you: Taking vitamins are fundamental in maintaining overall health. While these vitamins are found in food, you should consider taking supplements in moderation to help your body acquire the energy from the food we already eat.

No more excuses for missing class this semester

Your nose is running, your throat feels like it is trying to suffocate you, you think you may have a fever coming on and then you groan. You know exactly what it is: a cold. Many Americans come down with the common cold everyday, but thankfully there are ways to beat it.

During the cold winter months, acute viral nasopharyngitis, better known as the common cold, is something most of us can't seem to stay away from. In fact, it is so common that every 32 seconds someone in the United States catches one, according to researchers at Fitness.

Thankfully, there are some simple preventative measures, as well as some tips for the not-so-lucky victims.

It is important to realize how contagious colds

can be. Researchers at Fitness found a few pointers to prevent yourself from getting sick:

- Gargling with water can help remove mucus that drains down from the sinuses to the throat.
- Always use your own pen, because you never know what germs pens may be carrying.
- Stay active and moving. According to a study at the University of South Carolina, researchers found that people who were physically active were 20-30 percent less likely to catch a cold than those who were not.
- Drinking hot tea can help boost your body's defenses against infections.
- Many breakfast foods contain micronutrients which may reduce the risk of illness.

For those unfortunate ones who happen to catch a cold, researchers at Fitness also found the best ways for you to get rid of your cold quickly:

- A study from the Cleveland Clinic Foundation found that people who used zinc nasal spray recov-

ered quicker than those given a placebo.

- The broth in chicken noodle soup will actually reduce inflammation in your throat and sinuses.
- It is important to get enough sleep. When you start moving around it is harder for the body to fight off the illness.
- Treat your symptoms right. Head to the pharmacy and read the labels of the over-the-counter drugs.

Hand washing is also a great way to keep you healthy and kill germs.

Fitness researchers discovered that 84 percent of people continue to wash their hands the wrong way.

They suggests that in order to perform correct hand washing, you must first wet your hands, lather up the soap and scrub your palms, under your fingernails, and between your fingers for at least 15 seconds. Then, make sure to rinse using lukewarm water.