

ROUNDING UP CAMPUS NEWS SINCE 1900

THE BAYLOR LARIAT

FRIDAY, JANUARY 26, 2007

Wikid research

Professors, students discuss merits of Wikipedia as viable resource

By Melissa Limmer
Staff Writer

When faced with a research project or paper, many students turn to the Internet. It's fast, easy and full of information. But the Internet can also be inaccurate.

One online source students often rely on is Wikipedia.

The Web site is meant to be an online encyclopedia that allows people to post information on anything from historical events to music groups, said Danny Wool, a spokesman for Wikipedia.

"I mainly just use it when I need the history of something," Tyler junior Stacy Horton said.

"I've found inaccuracies ... I usually double check."

These inaccuracies are making some people wary of using the site for academic research.

"Never put it in a research paper or rely on it without checking other sources because of the loose way it is governed," said John Robinson, a reference associate at the Jessie H. Jones Library.

Robinson also said Wikipedia doesn't have the same standards as scholarly works do and professors normally have requirements about what online resources students can use for research projects and papers.

Concerns about Wikipedia's reliability stem from the fact that anyone

can add information to the site.

"However, that does not mean that anyone can post anything," Wool said.

Information on the site does have to meet certain standards, he said. One of them is that information must be considered "encyclopedic" and neutral.

"The language (of the posting) has to reflect that," he said.

Wool also said that postings have to be notable.

"We are not MySpace," Wool said. "We do try to strive for notable topics. We are not there to make people famous."

But deciding what is notable and what isn't can sometimes be a problem.

"That is a question that comes to us all the time," Wool said.

Please see ONLINE, page 4

Photo illustration by David Poe

National survey gives Waco homeless voice

By Kirsten Horne
Reporter

Socks, shampoo, lotion and toothpaste may seem like staple items for many. But for the homeless in Waco, they are the incentives offered for participation in a survey.

"The Heart of Texas Homeless Coalition is sponsoring the homeless count here in Waco," said Jill McCall, executive director of Compassion Ministries. "It is a national survey used by the government to calculate how many homeless people are here in the city."

This year Baylor participated in the event. Dr. Dennis Myers, associate dean of graduate studies for the School of So-

cial Work, organized a group of Baylor students to volunteer and hand out the surveys at the Salvation Army.

"This year we got roughly 40 students to participate," Myers said.

Students participating in the event were given several choices of volunteer times. They could hand out surveys at either the Salvation Army or First Lutheran Church during their weekly Friday Morning Breakfast.

Aside from the many people willing to volunteer, students and staff were also able to raise \$500 worth of gift cards from various restaurants such as McDonald's and Wendy's.

"These cards were used as an incentive to fill out the survey,"

Myers said. "We were so proud of the amount we were able to raise."

In addition, clothes, toiletries, hygienic products and some food items were given out. There were also various agencies there to talk to the homeless as they came by.

"It is almost like a fair for the homeless to attend and the students to be a part of," Myers said.

"There are so many different benefits we are offering as enticements to get the homeless to come out."

"This was really an effort to connect and reach out to these people," McCall said. "There were 15 agencies total that were there to talk and share informa-



Melea Burke/Lariat staff

Kareem Andrew Dimele completes a survey Thursday with a volunteer from the Heart of Texas Homeless Coalition at the Salvation Army in Waco.

tion with them."

Some of these agencies included Caritas, Compassion Ministries, Planned Parenthood and Mission Waco.

"The public health depart-

ment is also offering HIV testing to anyone interested," McCall said. "There will also be nurses on hand for general

Please see SURVEY, page 4

Expo offers health advice

By Sapna Prasad
Reporter

For students who are struggling to keep their New Year's resolutions of getting in shape, there's help on the way.

Saturday the McLane Student Life Center will host Baylor's first Fitness/Wellness Expo for students, faculty and staff.

"January is the month for fitness resolutions," fitness coordinator Van Smith-Davis said. "This is the best way to provide the facts and information that you need to achieve those goals."

Smith-Davis said the expo is focused on teaching students about the three major areas of wellness: nutrition, fitness and stress.

There are six hour-long sessions those interested can choose to attend, each focusing on an aspect of total wellness and stressing the importance of balance in each area.

The personal training program will also offer a free tour of the fitness center and a brief orientation of the fitness equipment.

Regina Mastin, a registered dietitian, will present a session called "Nuts about Nutrition" that will address the new food guide pyramid, general nutrition facts, how to eat well on campus and how to avoid the dreaded freshman 15.

Mastin provides nutrition counseling on campus and interacts with a number of students who struggle with nutrition issues. She said she hopes the expo will help students get back on the road to being healthy.

A Baylor graduate herself, Mastin remembers walking into the cafeteria as a freshman and getting carried away with the variety available at every meal.

"After months of little exercise

Please see HEALTH, page 4

Lebanon edges toward war as students riot over politics

By Brian Murphy
The Associated Press

BEIRUT, Lebanon — University students loyal to Lebanon's government clashed with Hezbollah supporters Thursday, setting cars ablaze and battling with homemade clubs and stones. The melee deepened worries that Lebanon cannot contain the political and sectarian rivalries threatening to push it toward civil war.

At least three people were killed and dozens were injured before army troops backed by tanks and firing barrages of

warning shots into the air dispersed most rioters. The military then declared Beirut's first curfew since 1996.

But the fallout reaches far beyond the casualty count. The clashes, sparked by a cafeteria scuffle between pro-government Sunni Muslims and pro-Hezbollah Shiites, reinforced fears that Lebanon's sectarian divisions are erupting into violence as they did during the 1975-1990 civil war.

It was the third straight day of violence, sparked by a Hezbollah-led strike Tuesday that came ahead of a crucial gath-

ering of donor nations in Paris. The conference Thursday raised pledges of \$7.6 billion to help Prime Minister Fuad Saniora's U.S.-backed government rebuild after last summer's devastating Israel-Hezbollah war.

The money and show of international support could boost the embattled Saniora. The Iranian-backed Hezbollah has vowed to bring him down unless the opposition is given more power.

The chaos has paralyzed the government. Hezbollah leader

Please see FIGHT, page 4

Lebanese army soldiers point their guns to the area where confrontations erupted Thursday between government and Hezbollah supporters in the streets around Beirut Arab University. At least three people were killed in the rioting as Lebanon drifts closer to civil war.



Associated Press

West Texas woman dead after confrontation with police

The Associated Press

PLAINVIEW — Two police officers shot and killed a woman at an apartment complex for mentally and physically disabled people Thursday after the woman ignored repeated pleas to drop a 14-inch knife, authorities said.

It was the second officer-involved shooting in Plainview since September.

The shooting occurred when an officer was backing away after trying to

subdue the woman by firing two rounds from a beanbag shotgun, Plainview police Capt. Michael Carroll said.

"He tripped on something and the other two officers then fired as she was still coming," Carroll said.

Police were called to the complex about 4:15 a.m. after a tenant heard an alarm in the apartment. When they opened the door they found the woman holding the knife and she was threatening officers, Carroll said.

Carroll said it is believed the woman, who was pronounced dead at the scene, was shot three times. An autopsy is pending. She had a history of mental problems, Carroll said.

Police did not release the woman's name Thursday pending notification of relatives. She had lived in the 20-unit complex for 20 years, Bethesda Manor Inc.'s assistant manager Gayle Walker said.

The officers, Sgt. Dion Guerra, Cpl.

Mike Hurst and officer Art McIntee, were placed on paid administrative leave.

The September shooting was the first officer-involved shooting in Plainview in about a decade. Jose Ceballos Jr. was wielding a knife when police forced open the door of a house and shot him as he approached. His cousin, Leonor Pacheco, said Ceballos was mentally ill and that he didn't believe officers needed to shoot him. A grand jury later declined to indict the officer.

Baylor fans need to temper criticism of coaches

It took a while, but it's finally happened. A plague that has afflicted so many sports enthusiasts has struck the Baylor faithful. The microwave culture and "What have you done for me lately?" mentality has a pocket of Baylor fans young and old questioning the mettle of our coaches. In both football and men's basketball, the coaches are unreasonably having the coals beneath them heated. First, allow me to say, I don't think either coach is above criticism. Both Guy Morriss and Scott Drew have had their share of

struggles, and it's only natural for those who put their heart and soul on the line with the successes and failures of their teams to acknowledge them. But when recognizing weakness turns into refusing to see progress or even suggesting firing, people need to take a more realistic look at the situation. We are Baylor. That sentence should make all who claim the green and gold proud, but our history in the two "money sports" should also show Bears fans why patience is such a necessity. I know Baylor has had some genuine success in football and



point of view

BY DANIEL YOUNGBLOOD

basketball in its long history, but to call that success anything but modest in the grand scheme of college athletics would be false. In football, Baylor's all-time record is 505-491-43, with seven conference championships, only three of which have come since the early 1970s. Basketball has been worse historically. Its

all-time record is 1,067-1,225, and the Bears' most success again came in the distant past. I bring this up to say a school with such sparse success can't treat its programs like the University of Texas or the University of Alabama would. This is especially true considering Baylor's conference affiliation. Baylor is the only private school in the Big 12, and its records in football and basketball since joining the conference show it's tough to compete in this situation. It also shows the Baylor athletic administration has made some awful hires and deci-

sions in the past. After suffering through the Dave Roberts and Kevin Steele eras in football and the Dave Bliss era in basketball, Baylor fans have been bitten too many times not to be shy. But both Morriss and Drew have shown signs they're moving in a direction that will make Baylor fans proud to once again claim the Bears, without shame, around the water cooler. Both Morriss and Drew were forced to clean monumental messes left by previous regimes, and both have made huge strides in our programs' national prominence in four short years. Both need time and support to get to

where they're going. More than anything else, Baylor needs stability. Barring severe meltdowns, both Morriss and Drew deserve at least six years to turn their situations around. Numerous other programs have proven that patience often pays off. Baylor needs to take note. Bear fans, back the coaches and support their programs, and don't be surprised if we're not all where we want to be in two years. Daniel Youngblood is a senior journalism major from Fort Worth.

Editorial

Consequences of Bush library outweigh benefits

When the location for George W. Bush's presidential library is decided in a few weeks, someone is bound to be disappointed. Undisclosed amounts of money have gone into attempting to persuade the site selection committee to choose an appropriate location. All but one contender will have wasted the majority of that money. The losers will only have the national attention that has come out of the race as a benefit. And with the University of Dallas dropping out of the running Monday, the race is now just between Baylor and Southern Methodist University. The site selection committee went into exclusive talks with SMU in December, but that doesn't mean the game is over. Some here at Baylor support our university's library proposal without reservation. Considering the economic benefits the project would bring, their stance is understandable. The library is estimated to cost between \$200 million and \$500 million; it would be largely funded by private donors and would attract visitors, jobs and revenue both to the university and its surrounding community. It's also undeniable that

the library could offer incredible academic opportunities to research the institution of the presidency and American politics as a whole. Unfortunately, economic and academic factors aren't the only ones in play. An example of this surfaced last week when prominent members and leaders of the Methodist church publicly opposed SMU's proposal on moral grounds. One of their main objections was to a proposed public policy center and think tank, which they feared would be mostly a center for defending Bush's legacy and advancing political schools of thought similar to those of his administration. Baylor's library proposal contains plans for a Center for Democracy. We would hope any academic and research facilities at the library would truly be dedicated to open intellectual scholarship and debate. But by its very nature, a presidential library center's objective is to advance policy. Assuming the Bush administration reverses its penchant for secrecy and gives the library useful resources, the library would give historians a chance to analyze the administration's actions during Bush's years in office. It might help pinpoint



TOON BY DAVE HUMENICK THE BAYLOR LARIAT 1/23/07

reasons behind some of his policy failures. As a university, Baylor has consistently worked hard to make the headlines for the quality of our law school, business school and other programs. Getting the Bush library certainly would bring widespread attention, but it would be a shame if the library and

its auxiliary institutions functioned as a bastion of Bush's political ideology. Given the Bush administration's unpopular actions, such as the war in Iraq, negative detainee treatment, circumventing the Geneva Conventions as well as federal courts and expanding the realm of executive power into questionable territory, getting this

president's library on either campus would immediately associate the school with the president's reputation. In the long term, such associations may fade, but they would have an immediate impact if the library came to Baylor. Regardless of what motives have gone into the discussion, it would imply we are proud of the legacy Bush has

left. As the opposition at SMU has shown, we cannot afford to have this president's legacy be associated with a Christian institution. At this point, if the site selection committee passes over Baylor for SMU, it wouldn't be too big of a surprise. But for more reasons than one, it wouldn't be a disappointment, either.

Abortion debate a lost cause for both sides; balance is key

The anniversary of the landmark Supreme Court decision Roe v. Wade earlier this week got me thinking about my stance on abortion, and I came to a conclusion. Abortion isn't right, but it isn't wrong, either. This may be difficult for many to understand, but it's the cold, hard truth. The entire debate between those who are anti-abortion and abortion rights is one of the most important in America today. Not because one side will emerge victorious over the other, but because the two sides provide a necessary balance in our society. Unfortunately this unwinnable debate is a hot-button issue that always comes up when outspoken conservatives and liberals come together. But how do people decide which stance to take? Anti-abor-



point of view

BY JORDAN DANIEL

tion advocates, who are often conservatives in favor of the death penalty, will first point to the Bible. They say every life is precious and should be protected. Their counterparts, typically liberals who are opposed to the death penalty, will usually respond with the predictable, "But, what about the death penalty? Are their lives not precious?" I don't think a murderer's life is precious, but that doesn't decrease the validity of the argument.

It's a good one, but also indicative of the fact that both sides do less to prove their own point and more to discredit the other. When abortion rights proponents defend a woman's right to choose they'll usually say, "It's a woman's right to decide what she wants to do with her body." The only problem with that argument is, it's not her body she's destroying. It's the one inside her, and that's not hers to terminate. One side says life begins at conception, the other says life begins at birth. Clearly, the two aren't going to come to an agreement here any time soon, so I'll put that aside right now. I guess the main problem I have with abortion is the reason the procedure is performed. According to Religious Tolerance, a Christian

organization based in Ontario, more than 90 percent of abortions are performed exclusively as a means of birth control. These women feel they're too young, aren't financially stable or aren't responsible enough to raise a child. That's a little selfish, don't you think? But like all difficult debates, it's not that simple. Religious Tolerance claims that about 7 percent are performed for medical reasons, or cases of rape or incest, which would appear reasonable. Also, since Roe v. Wade, about 40 million abortions have been performed in the U.S. If abortions were illegal in America, the population would likely be about 60 million people higher than it is now, and seeing as how we already use the most oil and waste the most food and

other resources, that many more people would only magnify the problems. And what if it were made illegal globally? Would we be in the midst of a worldwide famine right now? Most likely. Twenty-five percent of women worldwide have had an abortion. Ten billion people on earth would increase global warming, overpopulation and other problems that already affect us greatly. The point is, there's so much more to the debate. The two sides, equally weighted, pull against each other. That's the way it should be, a constant stalemate. Without evil, there can be no good, and in this debate, the only evil would be if one side won over the other. Jordan Daniel is a senior journalism major from Waco.

Opinion policy

Opinions expressed in the Lariat are not necessarily those of the Baylor administration, the Baylor Board of Regents or the Student Publications Board. Editorials are written by the editorial board and are solely the opinions of members of the board and not Baylor University. Letters to the editor should include name, major, graduation year, phone number and student identification number. Non-students should include their address. 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.

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HARD #15
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THE Daily Crossword

Edited by Wayne Robert Williams

ACROSS

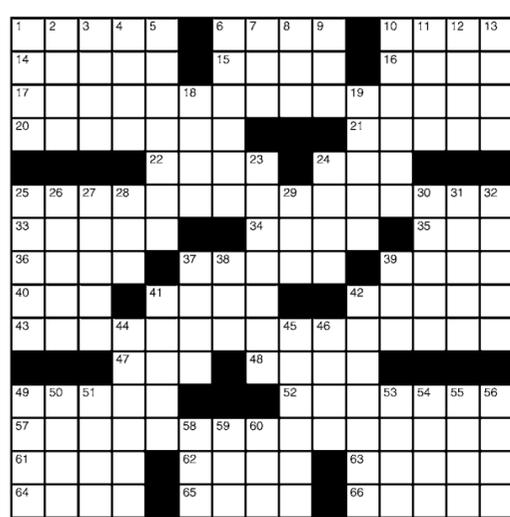
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- 6 Emulate Sinatra
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- 15 Yank or Oriole
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- 22 Dogs and cats
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- 25 Visitors' group?
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- 18 Ready for business
- 19 Traffic congestion
- 23 Forage crop
- 24 Petri dish medium
- 25 Gulf of Mex. neighbor
- 26 Stomachs of ruminants
- 27 Show signs of grief
- 28 Afghanistan cash

ACROSS

- 29 Professional charge
- 30 Medicinal plant
- 31 Get into condition
- 32 Wise men
- 37 Bean curd
- 38 Capital attachment?
- 39 Lanka preceder
- 41 Snoots
- 42 Flight formation
- 44 Eurasian plum
- 45 Usher
- 46 Old Cosby series
- 49 Letters for 606
- 50 Alt.
- 51 First name in spies
- 53 Anticrime acronym
- 54 Understanding words
- 55 Latin list ender
- 56 9-digit ID numbers
- 58 Frequently, in a poem
- 59 Opponent
- 60 Pedro's Mrs.



By Robert H. Wolfe North Woodmere, NY
For today's crossword and sudoku answers, visit www.baylor.edu/Lariat 1/26/07

Edwards entertains with experimental folk



Courtesy Photo

Jackson Edwards, who hails from Ontario, Canada, now resides in Waco with his wife and plays gigs around town whenever he gets the chance.

By Allie Cook
Entertainment Editor

He may be a long way from home, but regardless of his location, Jackson Edwards will find a way to play music.

Originally from Manitoulin Island in Ontario, Canada, Edwards came to Waco in June with his wife, Amber, who's earning her Master of Fine Arts in theater at Baylor.

Since then, he's been playing gigs around town whenever he has the chance.

He is playing at 8:30 p.m. today at Beatnix Coffeehouse on Lake Shore Drive and at 9:30 p.m. Saturday at Common Grounds.

Edwards started playing guitar about five years ago and played his first gig when he was in college at Gardner-Webb University. He's also been playing harmonica for about three years.

"I just kind of picked it up," Edwards said. "And once I picked it up, I never put it down. Once I got started, I just went into it full force."

He describes his music as bluesy-folk, with some of his main influences being Tom Petty, Bob Dylan, Stevie Ray Vaughn, Ben Harper and Ryan Adams.

"It's tough (to describe) because I kind of jump around a lot," Edwards said. "The biggest trend in it is a rootsy and raw acoustic kind of sound."

Something that sets Edwards apart from the rest of guitar players in coffee shops is his use of a porch board.

The low-end rhythm instrument allows for self-accompaniment through the use of a foot pedal.

"It produces a beat and fills up a lot of space," Edwards said.

"When I put a beat to it, you can feel the song. It adds another dimension to the music I'm doing."

Brett Jamison, a longtime friend of Edwards and a freelance photographer in Waco, said Edwards' music is unique. Jamison said his use of a porch board makes him kind of a "one-man band."

"I like his stuff," Jamison said. "He's really pretty out there and doing a lot of things you don't see other people doing, kind of experimental."

Jamison said Edwards doesn't just play music, either.

"He's very entertaining between songs as well," Jamison said. "He's a witty young lad."

Edwards said he also covers a lot of different songs during his shows.

During any given gig, he may play "Shakedown on 9th Street" by Ryan Adams, "Mr. Jones" by Counting Crows, "Maggie's Farm" by Bob Dylan or a host of other acoustic hits.

Eric Weiss, a Houston senior, will accompany Edwards on guitar for the shows this weekend.

"It's my first time to play with him on stage, and I'm pretty excited," Weiss said.

Edwards and Weiss met about six months ago and formed a friendship over their common interest in music.

"We just started talking music and hanging out," Weiss said. "Then we started jamming together at his house."

For more information or to listen to Edwards' music, visit his Web site at www.myspace.com/jacksonedwards.

BEAR BRIEFS

It's Scholars' Day

The School of Engineering and computer science will host its third annual Scholars' Day from 1 to 4 p.m. today. The event will be held in the Robert M. and Louise Rogers Engineering and Computer Science Building in rooms 104 and 106.

Circle K to hold first meeting

Circle K International, a co-ed service organization, will have their first meeting 9 p.m. Monday in the Cowden Room of the Bill Daniel Student Center. For more information contact Stephanie_Kraemer@baylor.edu.

Get study abroad info Monday

For those interested in studying abroad, an information session will be held 4 p.m. Monday in Room 201B in Poage Legislative Library.

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

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POLICE BLOTTER

Criminal mischief

5 cases of criminal mischief occurred in the parking lot between Waco Hall and Tidwell Bible Building around 2:30 p.m. Jan. 24. Baylor Police Chief Jim Doak said five individual vehicles were "substantially damaged" in the incident.

A report of criminal mischief was made Jan. 23 regarding the damage done to dryers in a Penland Residence Hall laundry room. Doak said the damage was mechanical and appeared to be deliberate.

A report of criminal mischief involving a scraped car occurred in the Dutton Avenue Office and Parking Facility on the second floor sometime between 8 p.m. Jan. 20 and 4 p.m. Jan. 23.

Burglary

A burglary of a computer took place sometime between 3 p.m. Jan. 12 and 9 a.m. Jan. 22, at the Sid Richardson Science Building. Doak said the case is still under investigation.

Narcotics

A student was issued a citation for being in possession of minor drug paraphernalia at Allen Residence Hall on Tuesday. The student was issued a citation, and the case is being sent to judicial affairs.

A Campus Crime Log is available at www.baylor.edu/dps

Dallas man pardoned after serving 20 years

The Associated Press

DALLAS — A Dallas County man who spent about 20 years in prison for a rape he did not commit received a full pardon for innocence from Gov. Rick Perry on Thursday.

When informed of his pardon, Larry Fuller choked back tears and said, "This is what justice is all about," said Eric Ferrero, a spokesman for the Innocence Project, a New York-based legal center that seeks to uncover wrongful convictions.

Fuller was freed from prison in October when specialized DNA testing showed he did not commit the crime. He is one of 12 Dallas County men to be exonerated by DNA evidence since 2001, and one of 24 in Texas since 1989, according to the Innocence Project.

The pardon wipes clean

Fuller's record and allows him to seek compensation from the state for his time in prison.

Texas allows the wrongfully convicted to receive \$25,000 for each year spent in prison, with a cap of \$500,000.

In 1981, Fuller was sentenced to 50 years on an aggravated rape conviction.

At the time Fuller was a 32-year-old Vietnam veteran who had received the Air Medal for taking care of his crew.

He was released from prison in 1999 but sent back in 2005 for a parole violation.

Of the 12 Dallas County men, two are still seeking pardons from the governor or writs from the Texas Court of Criminal Appeals, Ferrero said.

Either option clears up an individual's record, Ferrero said.



Abbie Rosen/Lariat Staff

Reaching for the world

Friendswood sophomore Liz Abrams, a nursing major, explores the Mayborn Museum Complex for an assignment given by her psychology professor.

Senate passes OneBU bill

By Kate Boswell
Staff writer

Student Senate voted Thursday to award OneBU \$1100 to fund BUnited Day, which will be held Feb. 27.

"We're very passionate about the subject, not just the event itself but the goal behind it," Houston junior and OneBU president Victoria Mgbemema said. "It's awesome (that the bill passed)."

According to the bill, the event's theme will be "The Best of Our World" and it "will work to both educate students and faculty on issues relating to the awareness of differences and the importance of working together."

According to Mgbemema, BUnited Day will feature performances from different groups on campus, building activities and a student art display.

The total cost of the event is expected to be \$1,660. The funds from the Student Life Fund will cover 70 percent of the total cost. OneBU members said they would raise the rest of the money through various fundraisers.

The bill states that any unused funds will be returned to the Student Life Fund.

THE VOICE OF SOUTH TEXAS COLLEGE OF LAW ALUMNI



[camaraderie]



[critical thinking]



[preparation]



[loyalty]



[determination]



[relationships]

Aimee Maldonado '04

Attorney
Law Office of Timothy S. Hart
Houston

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PRIMEVAL [R] 1230 250 510 735 955	DREAM GIRLS [PG-13] 1245 335 710 1000
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\$1.50 All Shows Tuesdays

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FLAGS OF OUR FATHERS [R] 350 915	ERAGON [PG] 100 315 530 745 1000
OPEN SEASON [PG] 1250 705	SAW III [R] 355 935
FLUSHED AWAY [PG] 110 320 545 750 955	STRANGER THAN FICTION [PG-13] 1245 710

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Soldier sentenced to 18 years for homicide in Iraq

By Beth Rucker
The Associated Press

FORT CAMPBELL, Ky. — A 101st Airborne Division soldier was sentenced Thursday to 18 years in prison for murdering a detainee and taking part in the killings of two others in Iraq last year.

Pfc. Corey R. Clagett, 22, was one of four soldiers from the division's 3rd Brigade "Rakkasans"

who were accused in the detainees' deaths during a May 9 raid on the Muthana chemical complex in Samarra, about 60 miles north of Baghdad.

In an agreement with prosecutors, Clagett, of Moncks Corner, S.C., pleaded guilty to charges of murder, attempted murder, conspiracy to commit murder and conspiracy to obstruct justice.

Prosecutors dropped a second

obstruction charge and charges of disrespecting an officer and threatening.

The soldiers first told investigators they shot the detainees because they were attempting to flee, a story they now say they made up, and that commanders had given them orders to kill all military-age males on the mission.

Two of those soldiers, Spc. William B. Hunsaker and Spc.

Juston R. Graber, have changed their stories and pleaded guilty. The squad leader, Staff Sgt. Raymond Girouard, is awaiting his court-martial.

"(Sgt. Girouard) said we were going to cut the zip ties loose and kill the detainees," Clagett told the military judge, Col. Theodore Dixon, on Thursday. "I knew it was an unlawful order. I just went along with it."

Prosecutors said Clagett fa-

tally shot one detainee and seriously wounded another. Official say Graber then killed the wounded detainee, and Hunsaker killed the third.

The judge asked Clagett what his intention was when he shot at the detainees.

"To kill them, your honor," Clagett said.

Clagett's lawyer, Paul Bergrin, has insisted Clagett was following orders, but sought the

plea agreement after Hunsaker, 24, told a military judge that Clagett helped him shoot the detainees.

Clagett will also be demoted to private and dishonorably discharged.

If he does not cooperate with prosecutors, he could be sentenced to life in prison with a chance at parole.

Military prosecutors would not discuss the case.

Elderly couple fights off wild animal days before 50th wedding anniversary

Mountain lion has man in clutches of teeth as wife beats it with club

By Lisa Leff
The Associated Press

SAN FRANCISCO — Wildlife officials on Thursday credited a woman with saving her husband's life by clubbing a mountain lion that attacked him while the couple were hiking in a California state park.

Jim and Nell Hamm, who will celebrate their 50th wedding anniversary next month, were hiking in Prairie Creek Redwoods State Park when the lion pounced.

"He didn't scream. It was a different, horrible plea for help, and I turned around, and by then the cat had wrestled Jim to the ground," Nell Hamm said in an interview from the hospital where her husband was recover-

ing from a torn scalp, puncture wounds and other injuries.

After the attack, game wardens closed the park about 320 miles north of San Francisco and released hounds to track the lion. They later shot and killed a pair of lions found near the trail where the attack happened.

The carcasses were flown to a state forensics lab to determine if either animal mauled the man.

Although the Hams are experienced hikers, neither had seen a mountain lion before Jim Hamm was mauled, his wife said. Nell Hamm said she grabbed a four-inch-wide log and beat the animal with it, but it would not release its hold on her husband's head.

"Jim was talking to me all

through this, and he said, 'I've got a pen in my pocket and get the pen and jab him in the eye,'" she said. "So I got the pen and tried to put it in his eye, but it didn't want to go in as easy as I thought it would."

When the pen bent and became useless, Nell Hamm went back to using the log. The lion

eventually let go and, with blood on its snout, stood staring at the woman. She screamed and waved the log until the animal walked

away.

"She saved his life, there is no doubt about it," said Steve Martarano, a spokesman for the Department of Fish and Game.

Nell Hamm, 65, said she was scared to leave her dazed, bleeding husband alone, so the

couple walked a quarter-mile to a trail head, where she gathered branches to protect them if more lions came around. They waited until a ranger came by and summoned help.

"My concern was to get Jim out of there," she said. "I told him, 'Get up, get up, walk,' and he did."

Jim Hamm, 70, was in fair condition Thursday. He had to have his lips stitched back together and underwent surgery for lacerations on his head and body. He told his wife he still wants to make the trip to New Zealand they planned for their anniversary, she said.

Nell Hamm warned people never to hike in the backcountry alone. Park rangers told the couple if Jim Hamm had been alone, he probably would not have survived.

"We fought harder than we ever have to save his life, and we fought together," she said.

"She saved his life, there is no doubt about it."

Steve Martarano
Dept. of Fish and Game

SURVEY from page 1

health screenings."

However, there have been roadblocks in conducting the survey.

"I think it is sometimes hard to get some homeless to come out and take the survey," Hewitt senior Rachel Harvey said.

"Some of them are just recently homeless and aren't willing to admit it. It is a pride thing. Hopefully though, these incentives will help bring them out. And by talking to the different agencies here, it is also a great way for them to try to get back on the right track."

Harvey has been volunteer-

ing with Salvation Army for two years, but now helps out with Baylor as well.

"I just love working with the homeless people here in Waco," Harvey said.

"They really end up being just like everyone else. They all have their own stories. I love hearing about them."

FIGHT from page 1

Sheik Hassan Nasrallah said Wednesday that donors were backing the wrong side in the standoff and that he could topple Saniora at any time.

In Paris, Saniora pleaded to his countrymen to "distance themselves from tensions."

"No one can help a country if the people of this country don't want to help themselves," he said. "I call on your wisdom and reason."

Leaders on all sides called for calm. Nasrallah, who has insisted in recent days he does not want Lebanon to tumble into civil war, went on TV in the evening to tell followers it was a "religious duty" to get off the streets to allow security forces to keep order.

"I appeal to you in the name of Lebanon and human conscience ... It's a pity to waste Lebanon like this," said Parliament Speaker Nabih Berri, a Hezbollah ally. "It is time we learn from the past."

During Lebanon's civil war, Christians battled Muslims. But the new confrontation has taken different sectarian lines: Shiites support the opposition, Sunnis back the prime minister and Christian parties are divided between the two camps.

If sectarian divisions explode in Lebanon, it would likely further fuel Sunni-Shiite tensions around the Arab world, already heightened by Iraq's turmoil. Mainly Sunni Arab nations like Egypt and Saudi Arabia have shown alarm at Hezbollah's increasing strength in Lebanon and have backed Saniora.

Thursday's clashes in Beirut showed just how quickly any spark can turn into a wildfire.

Students said it began with

a scuffle in the cafeteria of Beirut Arab University between Sunni Muslims and supporters of the Shiite Hezbollah. As Sunnis in the surrounding Tarik el-Jadideh district moved in, Hezbollah activists called in reinforcements.

Hezbollah activists with walkie-talkies were seen coordinating as a ragtag convoy of hundreds of vigilantes raced to the campus. Gangs, many wearing blue and red construction hard hats and wielding clubs made from sticks and even chair legs, poured into the area and battled Sunni students and riot police and soldiers.

Hezbollah backers claimed Sunni gunmen fired from apartment balconies near the school, wounding several people. The claim could not be independently confirmed.

Thick black smoke rose over the campus and the neighborhood on the southern edge of Beirut as rioters set fire to vehicles, tires and trash. Bands of youths clashed with stones and clubs in running street battles as the army tried to close off streets with tanks and armored vehicles. Troops fired tear gas and warning shots into the air.

"We are afraid about the future of the country. We are afraid about civil war," said Mohammed Abdul-Sater, a 21-year-old Shiite student.

Three people were killed and 169 injured, security officials said. It appeared one of the dead was Sunni and the other two Shiite, judging by the district of the hospitals their bodies were taken to.

Up until the 8:30 p.m. curfew was imposed, young men were in the streets around the university. Government backers set fire to the offices of a small pro-Hezbollah party and

burned its banner in the street as sporadic gunfire was heard. Hezbollah supporters smashed store windows miles away in downtown Beirut as they left a protest camp ahead of the curfew.

After the curfew began, most streets were emptied. The last time Lebanon imposed a curfew was February 1996 to stop labor unions from holding anti-government protests. In 1984, the army imposed a curfew to halt street battles between the army and Muslim militias.

The alarming violence signaled what Lebanese have been fearing for months: that the drawn-out confrontation between Hezbollah and Saniora's government could move into the streets and rage out of control.

"Nobody should be surprised when things start to spin out of control," U.S. Ambassador to Lebanon Jeffrey Feltman said in an interview with Al-Hurra, the U.S. government-funded Arabic-language satellite television network that broadcasts to the Middle East.

He said he suspected Syria, which backs Hezbollah and controlled Lebanon for nearly three decades, was behind the current troubles, but did not provide any evidence.

The Hezbollah-led opposition has staged two months of demonstrations and sit-ins in a bid to topple Saniora's government.

But the prime minister has held out, refusing the opposition's demands for a veto-wielding share of the Cabinet.

The alarming violence has stunned supporters of both sides. But the leadership of the two camps do not appear to be backing down.

ONLINE from page 1

He said Wikipedia doesn't allow the posting of original research, and everything has to be verifiable and have a source.

So, who decides what information meets these requirements and what doesn't?

According to Wool, this is not the job of Wikipedia's small staff of seven, but rather the job of thousands of volunteers who post on the Web site.

The volunteers, many of whom are students, can edit any posting. Volunteers and users can also edit the articles for inaccuracies. Wool said there are "millions of eyes looking at every edit."

Nevertheless, Wikipedia has recently had some concerns regarding the editing.

Microsoft Corp. landed in the Wikipedia doghouse Tuesday after it offered to pay a blogger to change technical articles on the site.

Wikipedia founder Jimmy Wales and his volunteer editors, writers and moderators have blocked public-relations firms, campaign workers and anyone else perceived as having a conflict of interest from posting fluff or slanting entries.

Paying for Wikipedia copy is not allowed.

Microsoft acknowledged it had approached the writer and offered to pay him for the time

it would take to correct what the company was sure were inaccuracies in Wikipedia articles.

Microsoft spokeswoman Catherine Brooker said Microsoft had gotten nowhere in trying to flag the alleged mistakes to Wikipedia's volunteer editors, so it sought an independent expert who could determine whether changes were necessary and enter them on Wikipedia.

Brooker said Microsoft believed that having an independent source would be key in getting the changes to stick — that is, to not have them just overruled by other Wikipedia writers.

The Associated Press contributed to this story.

HEALTH from page 1

and poor food choices, clothes begin to feel tight and you are too sluggish to make it to class or study," Mastin said. "Then you begin to see the importance of a healthier lifestyle."

Smith-Davis and Loeen Irons, lecturer of health education, will lead the closing session at Saturday's expo.

"Managing Your Daily Stress" will teach students the benefits of meditation and stretching, among other effective ways to relieve stress.

"I hate to see people miserable and feel that they have no

options," Irons said. "They can learn to cope with the stress they are experiencing, and they can learn to reduce their stress levels."

Smith-Davis also said this session is perfect for students who don't have time to work out or who choose not to.

Every time she gives a stress management lecture, Smith-Davis gives participants a tennis ball as a small parting gift. She said students should attend the session to learn the creative ways a tennis ball, easy to take everywhere, can help relieve stress.

Each participant will also re-

ceive coupons for massages on campus, passes to attend Bearobics and information on health services available at the SLC. Water bottles, T-shirts and free massages are only a few of the door prizes.

"There's not a lot you can guarantee in life," Smith-Davis said. "I can guarantee that the things you will learn at the expo will have you feeling better, looking better and performing better."

Early registration is \$10 and ends at noon today. On-site registration Saturday morning will cost \$15. Registration forms are available at the SLC.

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Abbie Rosen/Lariat Staff

Piecing it together

Callie Binder, a 2004 Baylor graduate and full-time employee of Sky Ranch, a Christian summer camp, works on a camp recruitment project Thursday in the Bill Daniel Student Center.



Baylor Photography

Senior tennis player Martija Zgaga hopes to win the second national title of his Baylor career. This season The Bears are currently No. 2 nationally.

Tennis aims high as season starts

By Daniel Youngblood
Sports editor

When a program as used to success as the Baylor men's tennis team has grown to be over the past five years, being ranked No. 2 in the nation isn't good enough.

That's the way junior phenom Lars Poerschke feels at least.

"The trophies we have won aren't going to win us anything this year," said Poerschke, who finished last year as the No. 4 singles player in the nation.

"There are a lot of good teams. We're not No. 1, so we'll have to chase somebody. We're going to try to dominate the whole season and be at our best in May."

May is a big month for the Baylor tennis teams. Early May

is when the NCAA tennis championships take place.

Senior Netter Martija Zgaga said the team's goal is to win another national title.

"It's really exciting for me because it's my last year," he said. "We have a great team again this year and we have a great chance to win the NCAA championship."

We won it my freshman year, and it would be really nice to win again my senior year."

But before the Bears can get there, they must first tackle a tough regular season schedule.

Aside from playing a difficult Big 12 schedule, the Bears also play No. 4 University of California-Los Angeles on Feb. 10, No. 10 Pepperdine University on April 1 and the nation's top ranked team in the University of

Georgia on April 10.

The Georgia match holds significance for many reasons. Not only will it pit the nation's two best teams against each other, it will also give the Bears a chance to avenge their loss to the Bulldogs in the semifinals of the NCAA championship last year.

Zgaga said he's looking forward to the matchup.

"Playing Georgia in April is going to be a great experience," he said. "The NCAA championship is being held at their facility, and we'll have a chance to get used to their crowd."

Zgaga said Georgia had a great team last year, and is even better this year. He said he expects the title to go to either Georgia or the Bears.

But while the Bears ultimate

goal is a title, the team is focused on every match and winning the matches they're expected to win.

The Bears started their spring season with a 5-0 victory over the University of Hawaii and played in the Sherwood Classic in Los Angeles, Calif. and the Rice Tournament in Houston.

Poerschke said the Bears' attention is now focused on Texas A&M-Corpus Christi, which they play at 2 p.m. Saturday, at the Baylor Tennis Center.

"Saturday's our first home match, and it's always important to get off to a good start," he said. "Texas A&M-Corpus Christi is actually pretty underrated right now. They're better than their ranking, so it's going to be a tough match."

Lady Bears to end road trip with OSU

By Will Parchman
Sports writer

Bernice Mosby knows as well as anyone that conference road wins at this point in the season are crucial.

Actually winning them, however, is much easier said than done.

Mosby, the senior forward that has quickly taken point for the Lady Bears' Big 12 title hopes, led Baylor to a tight 63-59 victory in Austin over the University of Texas on Wednesday night.

But for the second time this week, a road trip looms ahead.

The Lady Bears will travel to face Oklahoma State University at 1:30 p.m. Saturday in Stillwater, Okla. The game will wrap up the team's two-game conference road trip, their longest of the season.

"Wins on the road are big," said Mosby, who recorded game-highs in points (23) and rebounds (12) against Texas on Wednesday. "It's still just another game, but I think it's very important to win on the road because it's so much easier playing at home."

Sophomore guard Jessica Morrow, who has now won all three games she's played against Texas, agreed that Baylor's road wins have been big in getting the team back on its feet.

"Wins on the road like that, they're huge," she said.

Baylor has now countered a two-game conference losing streak with its current two-game winning streak, pulling ahead to 4-2 in conference.

The Lady Bears held Texas' All-American Tiffany Jackson to just eight points on 3-of-11 shooting Wednesday night. With Jackson taken out of the game, the Lady Bears were able to overcome a four-point half-time deficit and grab a lead that

held up in the final minutes.

"Every good player is going to have an off night; it just comes with playing the game," Mosby said of Jackson. "Our game plan was to double down on her, and as a team effort, we did good guarding her."

After a tough road game against Texas, The Bears will have only three days of turnaround time before they head to Stillwater for another conference test.

Head Coach Kim Mulkey, who became Baylor's all-time winningest women's basketball coach earlier this season, said that Oklahoma State's speed has kept the Bears from overlooking the Cowgirls.

"We've been working on stopping their penetration," Mosby said. "They're very quick and athletic and they're a whole different team from last year."

Oklahoma State has traditionally been a Big 12 doormat when it comes to women's basketball, but not this year. After amassing just eight Big 12 wins over the last four years, including an 0-16 conference record last year, the Cowgirls are finally competing. Oklahoma State is 3-3 in conference this season, and its reached the 15-win plateau for the first time since 2002.

Oklahoma State is currently second in the Big 12 in scoring defense, third in scoring offense and second in rebounding.

Mosby said that even with a rematch with No. 6 Oklahoma University on the distant horizon, winning the final game of their brief road trip is all they have on their minds.

"This next game is very important, especially for our confidence, mainly because we're very young," Mosby said. "Two weeks ago we lost two in a row, so it's a big motivator if we can go on the road and have these two big wins under our belt."



Associated Press

Texas' Carla Cortijo tries to grab the ball away from sophomore guard Jhasmin Player during the Bears' 63-59 road victory over the Longhorns. The Bears stay on the road, as they take on an improved Oklahoma State squad Saturday.

Men's basketball hopes to break losing streak

By Daniel Youngblood
Sports editor

In the four seasons head Coach Scott Drew has been at Baylor, his teams are just 4-34 away from the Ferrell Special Events Center and have won just two games on an opponent's home court.

During this span, the Bears are also sporting a 1-26 conference regular season road record, and haven't won a Big 12 road game since beating Texas A&M University in overtime on Feb. 25, 2004.

For senior forward Tim Bush, who transferred to Baylor from Louisiana State University in December 2005, the Bears' 20-game road losing streak is far too long.

"It weighs on me a lot because I know what's important," Bush said. "If you want to play in March Madness, you have to be able to win on the road."

With a road trip to Austin for a 5 p.m. tipoff against a talented University of Texas squad on Saturday, the Bears will be hard-pressed to get that road win monkey off their collective backs any time soon. This is especially true considering the fact that the Bears have lost by 40 and 26 points in their last two games and haven't defeated the Longhorns in their last 16 tries.

But assistant Coach Matt Driscoll, who has taken on extra duties while Drew heals from an appendectomy he had Tuesday, said the Bears are more focused on their own play than they are on who they're playing.

"It was exciting to see we took our play to another level against a team as talented as Kansas (in the second half of that game), but as coaches, we expect to see that every night, every single game no matter what's on the chest of the other team," he said.

The Bears will have their work cut out for them Saturday evening.

The Longhorns (14-5, 4-1 in Big 12 play) have three players averaging more than 13 points a game, including freshman phenom Kevin Durant, who is considered by many to be one of the best players in the nation.

Durant is averaging 23.9 points, 11.1 rebounds and 1.8 blocks per game.

"I've been doing this for 18 years, and I have never seen a more talented player on tape than I have in Kevin Durant," Driscoll said.

But Durant is just one of several weapons for the Longhorns.

They also have sophomore guard A.J. Abrams, who's averaging 16.5 points a game, and freshman D.J. Augustin, who's pitching in with 13.7 points and 6.7 assists.

But as far as the Bears are concerned, the biggest advantage the Longhorns will have this weekend may just be a hostile crowd.

"On the road, it's always tough," sophomore guard Curtis Jerrells said. "You go in there, and they boo you, and if you do something good, they're still going to boo you."

"But everyone knows it's tough going on the road, especially in conference play. You just have to go and give the extra effort," he said.

While Saturday's game is yet another tough road test for the Bears, it will be a homecoming of sorts for Jerrells. The guard, who came to Baylor from Del Valle High School in Austin, said his family will be out in full force to see him play.

He said he was excited to have the support but he'd be all business come Saturday.

"My family is going to be there, but my team and I are going there to take care of business," he said.

The game will be nationally broadcast on ESPN2.

SPORTS BRIEFS

Softball players honored

The Amateur Softball Association announced Wednesday that softball players Chelsi Lake and Brette Reagan have been named to the initial "watch list" for the sixth annual USA Softball National Collegiate Player of the Year Award. This is the second time for Lake and the first time for Reagan to be named to the list. The list is composed of 50 athletes and will be narrowed down as the season progresses. The ASA narrows the list to 25 on April 4 and to 10 on May 9. The three finalists will be chosen May 23, with the winner being announced in 2008.

Track heads to Seattle

The men and women's track teams will travel to Seattle, to compete in the University of Washington's annual indoor meet today and Saturday. The UW Invitational, which is held at Dempsey Indoor on the Washington campus is an all-day

event for both teams. Seven top 25 teams and nearly two dozen former NCAA or Pac-10 Conference champions are slated to complete this weekend. In the Bears' first two meets of the season, four Baylor men posted NCAA qualifying times. There have been none for the women.

Lady netters face Georgia

The women's tennis team will face the University of Georgia on Sunday in Athens, Ga. The match, set to begin at 1 p.m., is the Bears' last until they travel to Madison, Wisconsin, for the National Team Indoors tournament from Feb. 2 to 4. The Bears are coming off of a sweep of the No. 64 Rice University Owls on Saturday, at Houston's indoor facility. The match was originally scheduled at the Baylor Tennis Center but moved due to weather.

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

Former Cowboys QB campaigns to bring Super Bowl to Dallas

Associated Press

DALLAS — Former Dallas Cowboys quarterback and Hall of Famer Roger Staubach was named Thursday to chair an effort to bring the Super Bowl to North Texas.

The North Texas Super Bowl XLV Bid Committee wants to bring the game to the new Cowboys stadium in Arlington in 2011, two years after the venue is scheduled to open.

Bids must be turned in to the NFL by April 2.

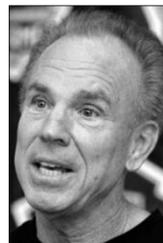
Team owners will review the bids and decide the venue in May.

"With tens of thousands of people expected to travel to the site of Super Bowl XLV, the economic impact would

be worth hundreds of millions of dollars for our region," Staubach said in a news release.

Construction started last year for the 75,000-seat, retractable-roof stadium, two years after Arlington voters approved paying for half of the original \$650 million price tag by raising sales, hotel and motel, and car-rental taxes.

Located in Arlington, the Cowboys new stadium will be adjacent to American Field in Arlington, the home of baseball's Texas Rangers.



Staubach

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ROOMIE RUMBLES

Boys in boxers living blissful life

Boy's take



BY BEN HUMENIUK

So far, I haven't had a lot of things in life turn out exactly as I expected. No one broke out into a nicely choreographed group dance at my prom. I can't find a great parking spot every time I go somewhere important. My metabolism ain't fast enough to let me live on a hamburger diet and still look lean. And when something crazy happens, I never hear intense danger music. Then again, maybe I should stop setting my expectations according to movies.

You see, that was the problem when I signed up to live in a duplex with six other men. In my mind, I had this nice little idea of a crazy bachelor pad where guys live in harmony and have ridiculous amounts of fun. We would run around in our boxer shorts and play loud music, sleep a lot and maybe do homework now and then.

But to my surprise, that's exactly what happened. That's exactly what my house is like.

It all started two semesters ago, right about when I realized I was paying way too much for my claustrophobic apartment. A couple of guys and I got together and started dreaming of irresponsibility and cheaper rent. It was a beautiful thing.

It wasn't a perfect thing, however. Finding a place to live was a challenge. We weren't sure if we could all dwell in one place or if we wanted to get neighboring apartments.

Eventually we hit up a landlord some friends recommended and met him at Burger King, where everything was finalized. We slowly made our way through the lease, because nearly every sub clause had an accompanying story.

"See where it says no pets without approval?" he'd say. "Well, let me tell you about these boys who brought an alligator to live in their bathtub..."

We also didn't all know each other. Two of my housemates got back early to do Welcome Week; one went up to the other in a meeting and said, "Dude. I think we're roommates." They ended up in Student Foundation together. They also share clothes from time to time. It's sweet, actually.

Our first real conflict came from Air Soft guns. I found out the danger one night when I kept getting shot in the posterior. As I wasn't armed, it quickly became a game of chase-and-punch.

It then turned into an arms race. One roommate talked about buying gas-powered Air Softs from his brother. Another roommate bought an Air Soft rifle (yes, they make rifles) to bring the hurt. Soon, those of us without guns knew to hide in our rooms when the others covered the TV with a towel and started blasting away.

I think the breaking point was reached one night when one of the guys and I came back and kept

stepping on little yellow pellets. It caused us to say a few dirty words. We decided to give the other guys their pellets back ... by collecting them and dumping them in their beds.

Finally, we had to talk. And we all got slightly miffed. Then we decided to stop the Air Soft battles inside the house and be friends.

I've never lived with girls (except my mom), but I imagine it would take them weeks to make up again after a lot of awkward glaring and sly, biting statements. I also imagine they wouldn't have Air Soft guns in the first place, thus negating the problem.

Because we're boys with busy lives, we don't have a lot of hard and fast rules. Trash gets taken out by whomever figures out we can't close the barrel lid anymore. The dishwasher is run by the guy who can't wedge his dirty stuff into the mess. And laundry is jungle rules: If you don't take it out of the dryer, someone throws it on the couch. Which is real awkward if girls come over and your undies are exposed.

And we're all really different. Under our roof resides an engineering major, a guy in sports sponsorship and sales, a finance student, a pre-med guy and a poli-sci dude. Three of our guys help lead worship on a regular basis. One of us is prone to yelling at the TV when the Cowboys score. One of us doesn't even know how football scoring works. Basically the only things we have in common are our gender and our belief in Christ.

Because there are a lot of us, it isn't a great place to study. Or sleep, when the guys holding a Halo tournament in the next room don't have to be in class till noon and you start at 9 a.m.

But it is a good place to be real. And to grow. Some of the best conversations about God, life and girls I've ever held have been within the walls of my house, often in the wee hours of the morning. I've also had to be called out by pretty much everyone there a couple of times. It's tough to sit down with a brother and talk about your faults, but I've come out all the better for it.

We've become workout partners. TV-watching buddies. We've opened our doors to friends and had big dinners. We've locked our doors and had boxers-only time.

Next year, however, we're breaking up the family. It wasn't what we planned, but it's kind of how things fell out. We still love hanging out and being guys, but we're going back to our small apartments, chasing that final year of college with all the strength and focus we can muster. I guess it's true when they tell you good things don't last forever.

But you know, I think that's OK. Because in the end, that was just what I expected.



Planning ahead can work wonders

By Jessica Milcetic
The Morning Call

MCT — Robin Hartung was excited when she moved out of her dorm room and into an apartment. She was finally free from the rules and restrictions of living in a dorm, no more signing in guests or dealing with annoying dorm assistants.

But apartment living wasn't all it was cracked up to be. Cleanliness was a huge issue for Hartung of Coopersburg, Pa., who is a senior at Shippensburg University. Ants began invading her new apartment as dirty dishes piled up in the sink.

Hartung eventually got so fed up with getting stuck washing pots and pans before and after every meal that she finally packed them all up and took them home.

"We had no pots or pans for the rest of the year," she said.

Almost every college student who has moved from a dorm to an apartment probably has a horror story to tell about messy roommates, unavailable landlords or complicated financial problems.

The problems may have seemed unavoidable, but with a little advanced planning, sticky roommate situations can be avoided or their effects minimized.

Sit down with your roommates before moving in and write down every single expectation and detail, advisers say. That includes making decisions about grocery shopping, cleaning, having visitors spend the night, how the bills will be paid, when and how loud you can play music and addressing any issues unique to your roommates.

"Leave nothing to chance, even if it makes you squirm to have to discuss it," April Masini of www.AskApril.com said. "Just keep telling yourself that whatever the level of discomfort is now, it's guaranteed to be 10 times worse if left to fester."

"When you're young, youth and stupidity go hand in hand," said Boyce Watkins a Syracuse University professor and author of the book *Everything You Wanted to Know About College*. "If a student wants to move off campus, prepare as best as you can in advance. You're going to pay tuition in the school of life. Life's most valuable lessons come from our most costly experiences. You're never going to learn about life if you don't live it."

10 ways to be the worst roommate in history

1 PDA in the living room? What about the kitchen? Your roommate might care, but she's just bitter because she's lonely.

2 Putting your roommate's girlfriend in your T-Mobile myFaves top five and having her ringtone set as "Secret Lover" - just like the commercial.

3 Bring home a lonely, homeless cat knowing your roommate is deathly allergic - eh, breathing isn't important and she has an inhaler.

4 Leave your dishes in the sink long enough for them to grow mold and draw flies.

5 Steal your roommate's toilet paper off the roll. Surprise!

6 Read *Cosmo's* romance tips aloud as your roommate gets picked up for an awkward start to a first date.

7 Feed your roommate's dog unusual substances just for fun - the little guy is so cute.

8 Never buy food, but eat everyone else's in the house and offer some to your boyfriend as well.

9 Borrow your roommate's clothes, stain them permanently, wash them in an attempt to remove the permanent stains, shrink them in the dryer and then return the clothing without mentioning the slight alterations.

10 Forget to pay bills that are in your roommate's name. Therefore, his credit is ruined and he can't get approved for a student loan the next semester and is forced to drop out of Baylor.

Roommates may serve as buffer for depression

The No. 1 reason students visit the Baylor counseling services is for depression, said Dr. Jim Marsh, director of Baylor Counseling Services.

The most protective and preventive factor to mental illness is the perception of social support, Marsh said.

Therefore, students who feel they can talk to their roommates may have more protection from depression.

Drama, stress, dishes make life fun

There I was, stumbling through a steamy jungle in search of my soul mate. Through the trees, I could catch glimpses of his chocolate brown eyes, dark wavy hair and a jaw line that most men would kill for. He turned and caught my eye through a sparkling waterfall. An image of stunning perfection. My dream guy.

Suddenly my jungle falls apart. The leaves disappear and the sound of the rushing waterfall is replaced by the loud clattering of high heels stomping across the wooden floor as one of my roommates arrives home from another crazy night.

I should have known it was a dream. The house was too quiet, my dream guy too perfect. And let's face it: No college boy is that great. However, many times roommates aren't that great either.

From the pranks, shenanigans, gossip, yelling and secrets to the scandals, loud noises, drama, dirty dishes, thunderous laughter and strong opinions of six girls under one roof, living with roommates can be a little overwhelming.

Some days I wish we are all shy, quiet and antisocial. But where would

the fun be in that? Instead, I am entertained daily: There is always something going on, someone to talk to and plenty of drama to make me laugh or stress me out.

One of my biggest pet peeves with a house full of roommates is a lesson most people learn as toddlers: If you make a mess, clean it up.

Our trash is always overflowing. Dishes spill out of the sink. Moldy cheese and curdled milk make it hard to breathe with the refrigerator open and every countertop and table is covered with a myriad of Diet Coke cans and empty glasses.

To be sure, these decorations add character to the house but also succeed in giving me gray hairs. I'm not kidding.

As roommates, we all deal with confrontation and conflict in different ways. Some of us get absurdly defensive while others are extremely sensitive. Still others act detached and unfriendly when conflict arises.

Some of my roommates are good at holding grudges and some are like me unable to stay angry if my life depended on it.

Girl's Take

BY JILL AUXIER

But one thing we all have in common is that sometimes we just need some space. A lot of space.

Every once in a while there comes a time when we have to get away from each other and from the house. We find refuge in different places, but having your own space is crucial to overcoming controversies. Once we've had time to cool off and think rationally, things generally work themselves out.

One controversial topic in our house is politics. We've recently implemented a "no talking politics in the house" rule. This rule is necessary to prevent irrational and out-of-hand arguments which can result in name-calling, hair-pulling or worse. One of my roommates is a die-hard conservative Republican. Another is an antiwar hippie. When they get

together, the resulting political conversation can end in bad news.

Having roommates can be bitter-sweet. There are the trials that come from living with other imperfect young women but also the moments where life couldn't be better.

We love our front porch. It's where we bond. We learn more about each other as we discuss our days, lives and boy troubles. It's an escape from the drama of the house and a place to be just friends.

But we are also more than friends. We have an unimaginable bond that no one would suspect. We know what one another is thinking. When we have a secret crush we hadn't planned on telling anyone, one of the other roommates always figures it out. When someone is struggling, we're always there to help out by listening, offering advice, watching sappy movies or drinking Dr Pepper floats.

Roommates make college memorable. When times are good, they're great; when times are bad, they can be just as unforgettable. But it's definitely an experience that every college student should have.

At least for a year anyway.