



ROUNDING UP CAMPUS NEWS SINCE 1900

THE BAYLOR LARIAT

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 14, 2007

the
force
is with him

Los Angeles junior Josh Lyons can be found at every Baylor basketball home game in full costume as the Darth Baylor of the Bear Pit.



Enthusiastic fan makes his mark on BU athletics

By Brian Bateman
Reporter

When the lights turn dim in the Ferrell Special Evens Center, anticipation mounts for the upcoming battle.

A battle between good and evil, some may say.

But even as the iridescent green sticks glow throughout the arena, an odd sight can be seen through the backboards: the mask of Darth Vader cheering for the Bears.

Most would find Darth Vader's appearance undermining to the game, but for Josh Lyons, it's a show of support.

Now in his third semester as Darth Baylor, the self-proclaimed "Dark Lord of the Ferrell Center" cheers just as loud as anyone.

"He's become an iconic figure," Courtside Players Director Colin McKenzie said.

But why would someone dress like that?

"I just wanted to do something different," Lyons said. "At first when I did it, a lot of people wanted to make fun of me, but I didn't really care. I was having fun with it."

But besides fun, Lyons said he uses his costume as a tool to support friends and student-athletes.

"I have a passion, and I express that," he said. "Everyone should be who they really are."

His uniform began with a Darth Vader helmet and football pads.

He added a white basketball shirt and mixed in spikes, decals and even a light saber. What he got was instant fame.

"I walk on campus and people say, 'What's up, Darth Baylor?' and I don't even know them," Lyons said.

But there is more to the man behind the mask than his recently acquired iconic status.

Lyons is a junior from Los Angeles and spends his time at Baylor studying to become an anesthesiologist and attending sporting events.

He is the recruitment chairman of the Bear Pit, which is seated behind the goals at basketball games, and a member of Bear-

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Abbie Rosen/Lariat staff



Photo illustration by Melea Burke

The changing face of college campuses has caused the number of women participating in drinking games, such as beer pong, to increase.

Alcohol games entice women

Study reveals females more likely than men to drink for fun

By Claire St. Amant
Staff writer

Games girls play: four-square, hopscotch, jump-rope – and apparently beer pong.

According to research released Jan. 11 by Loyola Marymount University, females are more likely than males to participate in drinking games. This information stands in marked contrast to previous research, which found that men dominated recreational alcohol consumption.

The study defined drinking games as any activity "where drinking is a known part of the rules." The objective can vary from participants trying to avoid drinking a lot, to showing how much they can drink and getting others to drink large amounts. The study was careful to distinguish between drinking while playing another game, such as poker, and playing a game where the object is to drink.

Dr. Kevin Dougherty, assistant professor of sociology at Baylor, said he believes these findings are the latest manifestation of the changing role of women in society.

"In the past, deviance-related activities have been male dominated," Dougherty said. "But now women are getting involved

in these sorts of things as well."

Dougherty added that since 1980, women have outnumbered men on college campuses.

"That changed a number of things," he said. "In such a peer culture (college), both male and female students are really affected by campus customs."

Richmond sophomore Meredith Kersten said she has found women are more willing to play drinking games than men are.

"Girls get excited about the idea of a game, whereas guys can just sit around and drink a beer," she said.

Conroe senior Allison Jeter, who added that her drinking days were behind her, said in her experience, girls will initiate the game.

"In the past, if my girlfriends and I were just sitting around with nothing to do, we'd start a game because it would be something to make us laugh," she said. "It beat boredom."

Dr. Matthew Stanford, associate professor of psychology and director of the psychology doctoral program, said the increase in female participation is related to changing factors of social acceptance. He said in the past, women who were binge drinkers were looked down upon, but now it has become more acceptable and even encouraged.

"I would say females are participating in these activities now because they are receiving some type of reward or positive feed-

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President announces faculty raise

By Jon Schroeder
Staff writer

Baylor's faculty just got a boost - President John Lilley formally announced faculty salary increases at Tuesday's Faculty Senate meeting.

Salary increases for faculty for the 2007-2008 fiscal year will be based on a pool of 4.5 percent. That means an additional 4.5 percent of the value of each department's faculty salaries will be given to the department to supplement faculty salaries.

The pay increases are based on merit - the higher faculty members score on a five-point evaluation scale which measures teaching, scholarship and service, the greater pay raise they will receive, said Dr. Dianna Vitanza, Faculty Senate

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Melea Burke/Lariat staff

Baylor Medical Director Dr. Mark Schwartz and Dr. Farley Verner, a Waco infectious diseases specialist, answer questions about meningitis at a news conference Tuesday at the Health Center.

University moves to keep students free of infection

By Claire St. Amant
Staff writer

News of a confirmed case of meningococcal meningitis reached campus Monday afternoon and triggered a series of preventive and post-exposure health measures for students, faculty and staff.

Baylor held a press conference at 12:30 p.m. Tuesday at the Health Center to discuss

the danger of the illness and the preventive action taken in the last 24 hours.

Austin freshman Preston Wallace went to the emergency room Saturday night after suffering from flu-like symptoms and tested positive for meningitis, said Dr. Mark Schwartz, a neurologist and the Baylor Medical Director.

Wallace was taken to an Austin-area hospital where he was

placed in the intensive care unit, Schwartz said.

Around 1 p.m. Monday, Baylor assembled a team of medical professionals to assess the situation, he said.

"Originally, Preston's symptoms pointed to a different strand of meningitis that would not require post-exposure treatment for those exposed to him,"

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For some young entrepreneurs, future is now

By Matt Kennedy
Reporter

He went to California for an internship.

He hoped it would provide valuable experience, something that would increase his chances of working for a top company after graduation. He thought maybe down the line, in 10 or

20 years, he could start his own business.

Six months later, he came out of California with a six-figure contract and his own company.

Ben Lamm, a 2004 finance and accounting graduate, accomplished all this before entering his senior year at Baylor.

Not everyone's story is as

dramatic as Lamm's, but many other Baylor students are finding success outside the classroom and inside the offices of businesses they started.

Many of these students have utilized the entrepreneurship program that was recently ranked 14th by **U.S. News and World Report**, and the Hankamer School of Business that

ranked 60th in the same magazine.

Mary Abrahams, assistant director of the John F. Baugh Center for Entrepreneurship, said the program's longevity, as well as the quality and diversity of its courses, are what separate it from other programs around the country.

"We had one of the first en-

trepreneurship programs in the country," Abrahams said. "We've got experience at doing what we do."

She added that the courses offered are very "experiential and hands-on" because students have the chance to work with real entrepreneurs and

Please see SUCCESS, page 5

Student government lobbying for faculty evaluations

Every semester I go through the same old motion of signing on to Bearweb and working out my schedule for the next academic term.

I look through the listings of classes and random assortment of teachers and wonder "What am I really looking at?" Other than the random whisperings of professors to avoid around campus or unofficial Web sites that rank professors, I seriously don't know what I'm getting myself into.

The student legislation for years has been pushing for publication of the faculty evaluations students complete at the end of every semester. It began

before I was ever on campus with a subcommittee of Student Congress who worked with ITS on developing software that could graphically show the results. Many of these attempts weren't met with much success, so this year we took a new plan of action.

At Student Senate, we approached the Faculty Senate chair this year. We've taken a unique approach of including the Faculty Senate in on our desire to publish parts of the evaluations. Through my interactions with numerous faculty members, it is clear how they sincerely care for students. I hope that by working with

point of view

BY TRAVIS PLUMMER



them on this project, the most agreeable and valuable result for students will be accomplished. This increase in communication should aide us in efficiently publishing information that will be beneficial to students. We are currently working on setting up a joint committee to perhaps finally bring this project to a conclusion.

Student tuition funds roughly 80 percent of our university. Now there is some debate as to what the ideal balance of funding is between tuition and endowment should be. However, 80 percent is nowhere near anyone's acceptable model.

As such, I feel students should have more say in where their tuition is spent. In a free market economy, prior to putting your money on the table as an investor you always know what you're about to invest in. I believe students should have similar rights.

Clearly, not every student is the same, and certainly not every student learns the same

way. So I feel it's important for the success of our students to understand the style of classroom in which their enrolling.

With the Web publication of specific questions, students could better select and prepare for the classroom prior to the beginning of the semester.

These questions could help students evaluate the style of class, whether it's based on lecture or discussion. It would give students more of an opportunity to succeed by selecting the style of classroom and get more bang for their buck.

I could also make the argument that voting stock is normally determined by the amount a

group funds an institution. I do believe, however, that there are some decisions students can't and shouldn't make about our university, and generally speaking, the administration is a great steward of our money.

This would, however, give students some control of their education as the primary investor. I think all parties involved would agree with me in saying the principle purpose of our institution is to help students succeed.

Student Senate is simply trying to give students all the tools we can find.

Travis Plummer is a senior biology major from San Antonio.

Editorial

Wind energy right for Baylor

Thursday marked a step in the right direction for Baylor and its energy outlook.

Once its contract is up with Reliant Energy in July 2008, Baylor will switch energy providers to WPS Energy Services Inc.

While this decision is positive for many reasons, there's more to be aware of and much more to be done about our energy practices.

WPS Energy Services Inc. stands out among other energy providers because it will allow Baylor to receive power from a Texas grid that includes electricity generated from wind.

So when students pay those hefty fees at the beginning of each new school year, they can rest assured knowing that a portion of it will go toward developing West Texas wind farms.

According to the American Wind Energy Association, Texas ranks as second out of the top 20 states for wind potential. This positions the state as a vast untapped resource in the future of developing clean energy.

It is encouraging to see Baylor taking a step toward protecting our environment and helping the Lone Star state become more green in its energy usage.

The university should be commended for taking a proactive position on the future of energy consump-



tion. We encourage other energy consumers to follow Baylor's example and do their part to contribute to the development of alternative energy by considering energy providers that use clean technologies.

When the new energy contract goes into effect, it is estimated that Baylor will save about \$2 million a year. With all this extra money floating around, it made us ask: Where's all that money going to end up?

We thought perhaps with this new energizing focus on wind power that

Baylor might be willing to use part of that \$2 million to establish a fully functional recycling center on campus.

It's clearly needed due to the sheer amount of recyclable waste generated on a college campus but unfortunately it looks like that issue is still on hold as it has been for a long time.

But once we pulled ourselves out of the potholes on campus and wiped the construction dust from our eyes, we were reminded that with all the new buildings going up around campus,

any money saved with the new contract would most likely be absorbed into the energy costs of these new structures.

Overall, Baylor might have a rainbow in the sky as far as applying funds to develop new and clean energy, but the pot of gold at the end of the beautiful stripes has yet to be found.

Our new energy contract gives us hope for the near future, but we must keep a close eye on what's in store for Baylor's long-term energy consumption.

Lesson about passion learned from when Kinky lost

Last November I drove to Austin with two other Lariat reporters to cover the gubernatorial election.

I dropped the other two reporters off at the Omni and the Driskill hotels, respectively, and then drove to the location of Kinky Friedman's election watch party: the Scholz Beer Garten.

It wasn't the typical place a candidate would pick to hold this type of event, and Kinky wasn't your typical candidate. He came dressed in his finest cowboy wear, all black and white with a large, black cowboy hat and his omnipresent cigar.

His fans weren't the typical voters either. Some were dressed in nice cowboy cloth-

point of view

BY AARON TURNERY



ing, others in jeans and T-shirts and one dressed like a pirate with a parakeet on his shoulder.

As I sat waiting for the few quotes that would be the crux of my story the next day, I saw a woman sitting in a chair in front of a camera.

She was a news anchor for a local station. She had slipped off her high heels and was talking on a cell phone to what sounded like her sig-

nificant other. She didn't know when she would be home, it all depended on when the results came in.

I couldn't tell if she was enjoying doing her job and it was just one of those days, or if she felt this way all the time because it kept her from something she felt was more important.

I watched reporters, photographers and news crews roam the garden looking for interesting people to talk to while I ate a quick bite. I watched election returns and saw photographers running back and forth to computers while guzzling cold drinks.

It made me realize that it's much harder to make a name for yourself when you are cov-

ering the news than if you are making it.

There are the rare exceptions, the Cronkites, Murrows, Woodwards and Bernsteins.

There were at least a hundred of us there all writing down a few words and phrases from a man who had spent months running a campaign with one goal: to win.

Yet he didn't. It seems that even making a name for yourself won't guarantee success. Maybe you do have to play by the rules after all, be it political or otherwise.

But at least Kinky was doing something he felt passionate about, which is more than you can say for many Americans.

The Conference Board, a business research organiza-

tion, conducted a survey in 2005 and found that half of all Americans were not satisfied with their jobs, and only 14 percent of those who were happy said they were "very satisfied."

Some of the reporters looked dejected while covering the event. Others looked ecstatic. The ones who were ecstatic were there for the thrill of the hunt.

They are the people who couldn't live unless they were living what they were doing. They were working for their passion in life.

I hope that all of us will be that lucky.

Aaron Turney is a senior business-journalism major from Dallas.

The Baylor Lariat

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THE Daily Crossword

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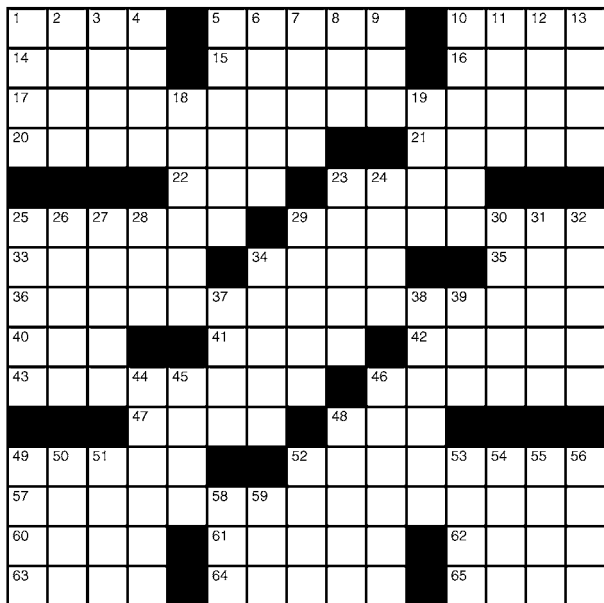
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- Greasy
- Sales spiel

- Guitarist Clapton
- Tiny feathered friend
- Ornamental rock
- Swank

DOWN

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- Chum
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- Hand warmer
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- Aground
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- Heathen
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- Wish undone
- "Platoon" director
- Jokester's query

- Ecole attendee
- Step component
- Distinguish oneself
- Congeat
- NASA event
- Unser Sr. and Jr. of auto racing
- Writer Waugh
- Bivouac beds
- Can't stand
- Put into office
- Fiat-bottomed boat
- '60s musical
- Glamour competition
- Old VHS competition
- Castle stronghold
- Poi source
- Place for a pupil
- Imprint clearly
- Public hot spring
- Hair purchase



By Linda Bushman
Chicago, IL

2/14/07

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

StuFu bill won't go to Student Court

Bearathon will still receive allocation from Student Life Fund

By Kate Boswell
Staff writer

Amidst some controversy, Student Court decided Monday it would not hear a case questioning the constitutionality of a bill allocating \$2,650 of the Student Life Fund to Student Foundation for its annual Bearathon.

According to a Student Court press release, the court found nothing unconstitutional in the bill.

"The main concern with the bill was that there was potential for the money given by the Student Life Fund to be used solely to pay for the Bearathon event," the press release said.

"(The Court) cannot make a judgment before the concern in question actually occurs."

The case was brought before the court by Student Senate member John Nicholson, who said he was concerned the allocation was in violation of Senate's bylaws because some of the funds raised from the event would go toward paying for the event's cost.

"I was basically just trying to get an injunction saying that this is how (Student Foundation members) have to spend the money," Nicholson, a Lake Jackson senior, said.

"According to what the court says, on issues of how finances are used, they're not going to make a ruling until after something has been done."

He said he was not planning to pursue the matter further.

"I've talked to (Attorney General Ben Collins) and I'm confident that he's going to enforce how the money is supposed to be spent properly," he said.

Will Simmons, a Frisco junior and the bill's author, said he was happy with the outcome.

Simmons said the money will go toward improving Bearathon.

The certified half-marathon is one of Student Foundation's most popular fundraisers, he said.

Last year's event raised \$12,000 for Student Foundation's scholarship program.

The program distributes \$2,000-scholarships to Baylor students.

"It's good that the court saw the wisdom that the senate found and that the court and the senate are on the same page," he said.

Simmons, who is also a member of Student Foundation, said the money will be put to good use.

"We're certainly excited about Bearathon and hope that the money that the senate has allocated will improve the event and make it something that Baylor can be even more proud of," he said.



Chris Weeks/Lariat staff

Evacuation at Hankamer

Students and professors wait Tuesday outside of Hankamer School of Business after a false alarm sent everyone outside. The alarm went off around 3:15 p.m. and students and professors were allowed back in the building at 3:35 p.m. Bullard senior Judson Bibby said it sounded like a fire alarm but had a prerecorded message that said, "An emergency has been reported."

Al-Qaida's No. 2 calls Bush a liar

By Maamoun Youssef
The Associated Press

CAIRO — Al-Qaida's No. 2 said President Bush was an alcoholic and a lying gambler who wagered on Iraq and lost, according to a new audiotape released Tuesday.

Ayman al-Zawahri said in the tape that Bush has been forced to admit his failure in Iraq after he was "stubborn" and repeated

the "lie, which he became addicted to, that he is winning" in Iraq and Afghanistan.

"Bush suffers from an addictive personality, and was an alcoholic. I don't know his present condition ... but the one who examines his personality finds that he is addicted to two other faults: lying and gambling," al-Zawahri said in the audiotape.

Bush has acknowledged he had a problem with drinking

but gave up alcohol years ago.

The 41-minute audiotape could not immediately be authenticated but was seen by The Associated Press on a Web site commonly used by insurgent groups and carried the logo of the multimedia arm of al-Qaida, as-Sahab.

On the tape, al-Zawahri also said Bush has gone down in history as one of the world's "most notorious liars."

Off-duty officer helped to stop mall shooter

By Paul Foy
The Associated Press

SALT LAKE CITY — An off-duty police officer having an early Valentine's Day dinner with his wife was credited Tuesday with helping stop a rampage in a crowded shopping mall by an 18-year-old gunman who shot five people to death before he was killed by police.

A day after the shooting, investigators struggled to figure out why a trench-coated Sulejman Talovic opened fire on shoppers with a supremely calm

look on his face.

The teenager wanted "to kill a large number of people" and probably would have killed many more if not for the off-duty officer, Police Chief Chris Burbank said.

Ken Hammond, an off-duty officer from Ogden, north of Salt Lake City, jumped up from his seat at a restaurant after hearing gunfire and cornered the gunman, exchanging fire with him until other officers arrived, Burbank said.

"There is no question that his quick actions saved the lives of

numerous other people," the police chief said.

Police said it was not immediately clear who fired the shot that killed Talovic.

Talovic had a backpack full of ammunition, a shotgun and a .38-caliber pistol, police said.

Investigators knew little about him, except than he lived in Salt Lake City with his mother, the police chief said.

He was enrolled in numerous city schools before withdrawing in 2004, the school district said.

"I feel like I was there and did

what I had to do," Hammond told reporters.

After spotting the gunman, he told his pregnant wife to take cover in the restaurant and went to confront the suspect.

Talovic's aunt, Ajka Onerovic, emerged briefly from the family's house to say relatives had no idea why the young man attacked so many strangers. She said the family moved to Utah from Bosnia.

"He was a such a good boy. I don't know what happened," she told Salt Lake City television station KSL.

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‘Fast track’ bill up for vote

By Kate Boswell
Staff writer

Student Senate will vote Thursday on a bill that will fast track organizations through the allocation process.

Under the current system, receiving an allocation requires meeting with multiple committees and takes several weeks.

The bill would allow organizations seeking allocation of \$3,000 or less to meet with only one committee.

This new approach would make event planning easier for organizations and allow Student Senate to spend more time on other issues, said John Nicholson, a Lake Jackson senior and the bill’s author.

“I was looking for a way to make these events easier to go through,” Nicholson said. “That way Senate could spend more time advocating for students and less time dealing with the bureaucratic process.”

San Antonio senior Travis Plummer, student body internal vice president, said organizations seeking an allocation usually approach him first.

He then pairs them with a senator, who then helps them write the bill. After the bill is written, it is read once in Senate and then presented to the finance committee, which votes

Other pending legislation

A resolution supporting Texas State Senator Doc Anderson’s moratorium against Texas Utilities (TXU) to build four coal power plants in McLennan County and a total of nine power plants within 50 miles of Waco is currently delayed.

A resolution to promote a healthier Baylor campus through smoking limitations is still under debate.

The Baylor Gymnastic Team is awaiting approval to host Baylor’s first inter-university gymnastics competition.

on the financial soundness of the bill. The bill is then read a second time before the Senate and the members vote.

If the bill is passed, Senate will form the activity planning committee.

The committee handles all allocations of \$3,000 or less.

“Basically, an organization will partner with a senator or come up with an event proposal then fill out a form and meet with this committee,” Nicholson said. “If the committee feels that their event meets the criteria,

the committee can vote and recommend that a check be cut.”

The committee would include five members of Senate and three ex-officio members: two students and one faculty member, Nicholson said.

The ex-officio members would be students who have experience in planning and carrying out events. There also would be a limit on the number of years that an organization could use the activity planning committee before they have to go before the whole Senate again, he said.

All the events that will go through the committee would have to meet certain guidelines, such as being open to the entire student body.

“There’s a set of criteria that I’ve noticed in the past few years that the events that easily go through commonly have,” Nicholson said. “There are events that Student Senate and the student body generally accept to be well-executed, well-planned, good events.”

Plummer said this bill was prompted by the amount of time Senate was spending dealing with allocations.

“A lot of this started from looking at our current system and realizing that Student Senate doesn’t advocate for student issues, it just hands out money,” he said.



Associated Press

Snow day

A student walks toward her residence hall Tuesday through the South Quad of Eastern Illinois University in Charleston, Ill. after classes were canceled for inclement weather.

Iraq plans to close borders

The Associated Press

BAGHDAD — The Iraqi commander of the Baghdad security crackdown announced Tuesday that Iraq will close its borders with Syria and Iran for 72 hours as part of the drive to end the violence that has threatened to divide the capital along sectarian lines.

Addressing the nation on behalf of Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki, Lt. Gen. Abboud Gambar said Baghdad’s nighttime curfew would be expanded by an hour.

Gambar’s announcement came hours after a suicide truck bomber struck a government warehouse in a mainly Shiite Muslim neighborhood of the capital, killing at least 15 people and wounding 27, said police and hospital officials.

A parked car bomb also exploded in another Shiite area, killing four people and wounding four.

Another official said the closing was expected within two days. The official, who spoke on condition of anonymity because he was not authorized to speak to journalists, added that the borders would only partly reopen after the 72-hour closing.

Gambar, a Shiite and a veteran of the 1991 Gulf War when he served in Saddam Hussein’s army, said security forces also plan to monitor mail, telegrams and wireless communication devices during the operation.

He said security forces would try to avoid intruding in places and added that they would do so in “cases of extreme emergencies when it is feared that these places pose a threat to the lives of citizens or if they are used for unlawful purposes.”

Students urged to cut greenhouse gas emissions

By Ida Jamshidi
Reporter

This season’s mild weather has left researchers wondering who is to blame.

An international group of scientists recently discovered that humans probably play a major role in the increasing danger of global warming.

On Feb. 2, the scientists released a 21-page report stating a 90 percent certainty that man-made greenhouse gases contribute to high temperatures.

Dr. Steven Driese, professor and chairman of the geology department, said there’s no dispute that the concentration of carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases has increased dramatically in the last 200 years.

Concerning the progression of global warming, Driese said many scientists believe the earth has reached a tipping point, “where a series of processes or events are set into motion and it’s very hard to stop.”

“Even if we stopped burning fossil fuels completely, it may be

too late to reverse what’s already happened to our atmosphere,” he said.

Dr. Susan Bratton, chairman of the environmental studies department, said she thinks most students are aware of the dangers of global warming.

She said Baylor’s increasing emphasis on developing a car-free campus is a step in the right direction.

“One of the things they (students) can do is live in or around the campus,” she said.

When the construction of

Brooks Village is complete, 700 more students will have the option to live on campus.

Colleyville freshman Jill Harris said she believes campus housing helps reduce the number of students who drive their cars to class.

In addition to leaving their cars at home when traveling short distances, students can take other actions to lower the amount of gas emissions on campus.

Turning the heat and air conditioning off when nobody’s

home and using compact fluorescent light to conserve more energy will also help, Bratton said.

Bratton also suggested that students support Baylor’s efforts in reducing greenhouse gas emissions because their tuition or academic environment could be affected.

“When Baylor pays more, the money has to come from somewhere,” she said. “If Baylor has to pay more for natural gas or electricity, that’s money that doesn’t go somewhere else.”

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SUCCESS from page 1

venture capitalists.”
Abrahams said Baylor has the ability to offer a wide range of entrepreneurship courses because the faculty is experienced in a number of different areas. Entrepreneurial finance professor Dr. Bill Petty believes faculty would not be as strong without the support they receive from the school.

“The commitment that the business school gives to entrepreneurship is a big reason the program is successful,” Petty said.

“As a position becomes available we get very aggressive in trying to find the best possible talent.”

Not every student that comes out of marketing professor Dr. Larry Chonko’s business, economics and world affairs class are entrepreneurship majors, but they all gain an introductory knowledge of the subject. Chonko is not technically part of the entrepreneurship department, but he knows what makes it successful.

“I think we have a group of faculty that really teaches well,” Chonko said.

“I think we have a history of students coming out of that program who have done very well. We also have a history of doing really good programs out in the community. You put all that together and we have a pretty active group of people on a variety of fronts.”

Just as the program contains a diverse group of courses, its students have started a diverse group of businesses. They include an apparel company, an industrial and commercial pole supply company, a business solution agency, a bath accessory company and a collegiate connection and communication company.

Do Rags Inc.

Alan Wills created Do Rags Inc. a day after he graduated in 1992. Wills and fellow entrepreneurship major Richard Dix pulled together a few thousand dollars of their graduation money to start the business. Their apartment at the time was their first office.

“Entrepreneurs have to capitalize on the opportunities they see,” Wills said. “Sometimes it’s a leap of faith, but usually it’s more of a calculated risk because it’s based on the strategies and plans that you develop along the way.”

Do Rags’ business began with the creation of a single product: a hat sold to a few distributors at an industry trade show. After that, more and more distributors from around the world were interested in the hats. From there, the product line expanded and the company achieved a greater level of success.

Along the way, Dix left the company, and the company’s headquarters moved several times before moving to the Hewitt office it has operated out of for the past 10 years.

Two aspects of Do Rags remained constant throughout the lifespan of the company: its brand name Mental and its mascot Edge, which appears on a number of the company’s products.

The company’s mission is to create products that encourage people to get committed by “living and playing with a ‘Mental Edge.’”

Products sold through retail stores account for 95 percent of the company’s business, especially at ski resort towns. The remaining percentage of Do Rags’ sales comes from products that are sold online through www.mentalgear.com.

Wills’s advice to future entrepreneurs is to “be realistic and to keep an even keel throughout the highs and lows.” He also believes strongly in the value of asking questions and listening to the advice of mentors along the way.

ReliaPOLE Solutions Inc.

Zachary Oliphant, a 2002 entrepreneurship graduate, started a company in Tomball that supplies concrete, tubular steel and fiberglass pole structures to a variety of markets across the U.S. and Mexico. These markets include areas of lighting, traffic signal, utility and wireless telecommunications.

“The pole business was an opportunity that I identified and wanted to explore further,” Oliphant said.

Oliphant works with a wide range of customers.

“I deal with both businesses and consumers,” Oliphant said. “One morning I may have a meeting with the CEO of a bil-

lion-dollar business and that afternoon I may be selling a couple of poles to someone locally.”

ReliaPOLE has a new facility opening in March and is currently in the process of expanding its operations abroad. ReliaPOLE plans on adding business partners in India and China.

Oliphant advises early entrepreneurs to try to learn something from everyone you meet, not just business owners.

“It is important to absorb and learn from each person you deal with, including the people you don’t like or people who do business poorly,” Oliphant said. “You can often learn as much from the bad business people as you can from the good ones.”

Campus Collect Inc.

Campus Collect is an online

service space that unites existing organizations. It combines all the information gained from mailbox fliers, street chalking, e-mails and posters.

Then it filters the information according to the user’s exact interests. Communication and other features Collect offers are tailored to the idea of simplistic connectivity.

BUCollect, the Baylor version of Campus Collect, launched in January and gained 800 members in its first five days. Baylor is currently the only school the company partners with, but it is planning a nationwide launch in the summer.

“We provide the framework that members of organizations use to fit their own specifications,” said Half Moon Bay, Calif., senior David Grubbs.

The basic idea of the compa-

ny came from a project Grubbs conducted in Chonko’s business, economics and world affairs class. Since then, Grubbs added two of his friends – San Antonio senior David Berchermann and Burleson senior Robby Mullens – as business partners, went through five different business plans, and changed the concept of the company almost completely.

It is often difficult for students to devote an adequate amount of time to their school and organization commitments. Imagine adding the time constraints of starting a business to those commitments.

Depending on their workload, the members of Campus Collect work between 40 to 80 hours per week. Berchermann is a member of a fraternity and the cycling team, along with

Grubbs. Mullens is a cheerleader and is in a fraternity.

“It’s really easy to get burned out because our schedules are so intense,” Grubbs said. “It has taken a lot of focus, but somehow we’ve been able to find a balance between work, life and school.”

Mullens uses observations gained from all the organizations he is involved in.

“I’ve seen how organizations work, what their shortfalls are, and how they can be much more efficient,” Mullens said. “Our business can capitalize on that information.”

All three members of Campus Collect are considered entrepreneurs, but Berchermann is the only entrepreneurship major.


“I was attracted to the freedom entrepreneurs have because you’re not bound by a

strict set of rules,” Berchermann said. “Your success is determined by your own motivation, and I think all three of us are very motivated.”

Currently, there is no formal support system for students who want to start a business while at Baylor. Grubbs said a few professors have been instrumental in guiding them through the process, but he said he would love to have more support from the business school and the university.

“I think if Baylor helps support emerging businesses that involve students in the business school it would go a long way to help make the school even better,” Grubbs said.

“What Baylor does to help us now lets us grow faster, and what we can give back will help them later on.”



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Abbie Rosen/Lariat staff

Junior guard Aaron Bruce drives by Oklahoma's Tony Crocker during the Bears' 68-64 loss to the Sooners Saturday. Bruce sprained his left ankle in the second half of the contest and will miss at least two games.

Bruce's injury hits team when it's down

By Will Parchman
Sports writer

The last thing the struggling Baylor men's basketball team needs is an injury to its star player.

Now that the Bears will be without guard Aaron Bruce for at least a week, it's a reality head Coach Scott Drew is having to face.

After Bruce hobbled off the court in the second half of Baylor's 68-64 loss to the University of Oklahoma on Saturday, Drew announced Bruce sustained a high ankle sprain and will be out at least a week.

Drew said he wouldn't know more about the ankle until the X-rays are available.

Sophomore guard Henry Dugat, who is already averaging over 26 minutes and 10 points per game, will take Bruce's place in the starting line up.

"We've got to carry the load right now and step up," said guard Curtis Jerrells. "We've

got a lot of talented guys on this team."

Since averaging an NCAA freshman-best 18.2 points per game as a true freshman two years ago, Bruce has served as one of the leaders on a young team in desperate need of development and leadership.

Even though some of his numbers dipped this season, most notably his points per game, Drew acknowledged that Bruce is still one of the guys that makes the offense run.

Bruce is currently second on the team in minutes per game, leads in assists and remains Baylor's most prolific free-throw and three-point shooter.

"It will definitely affect us from the standpoint that not only is he a great player, but he's one of the leaders of the team," Drew said.

"Especially during crunch time, you feel more comfortable when he's on the court."

Forward Kevin Rogers, Baylor's most consistent post player

this season, said life without Bruce in the line up will take some adjustments.

Dugat's field goal percentage from inside the arc is markedly better than Bruce's, but Drew said Bruce's intangibles make him so valuable.

"It's going to be hard for us," Rogers said. "Aaron brings so much to the game defensively and offensively."

"We're going to have to find ways to work around his absence and try to find ways to get wins."

Bruce's injury compounds an already frustrating season for the Bears, who have suffered a slew of injuries this year.

Baylor lost freshman forward Penny Thiam for the year to a torn anterior cruciate ligament in the fourth game of the season.

Experienced senior forward Patrick Fields sprained his MCL in a pre-season exhibition game on Nov. 4 and didn't return until Dec. 22.

Starting center Mamadou Diene has been dealing with tendonitis troubles in his knee all year.

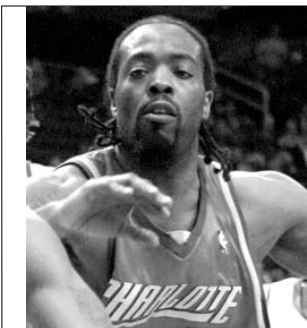
Diene hasn't been at 100 percent for almost the entire season, which has hampered both his minutes and his play on the court.

Bruce's injury will leave the Bears shorthanded, at the very least against the University of Missouri tonight in Columbia, Mo., and the University of Texas on Saturday in Waco.

Beyond that, Drew said, the team will have to wait and see about Bruce's status.

Drew remained optimistic that Bruce's ankle injury could give way to solid performances from the rest of the team in his absence.

"Whenever a player goes down with an injury, it gives someone else a chance to step in," Drew said. "And Henry (Dugat) has been great for us all year, so hopefully we'll be able to pick up the slack."



Melvin Ely

Spurs trade for Ely

The Associated Press

SAN ANTONIO — The San Antonio Spurs traded forward Eric Williams and a draft pick to the Charlotte Bobcats for forward-center Melvin Ely in an exchange of veteran backups.

The Spurs said Tuesday that the draft pick is a second-round selection in 2009.

The 6-foot-10 Ely has averaged 2.9 points and 1.6 rebounds in 24 games for Charlotte this season. Ely is in his fifth NBA season, including two seasons with the Los Angeles Clippers.

Ely, who had asked to be traded in late December, had played little in Charlotte after signing a one-year, \$3 million qualifying offer before the start of training camp.

The 6-8 Williams has averaged 2.6 points in 16 games this season, his 12th in the NBA.

The Spurs aquired Williams last in year in a trade with the Toronto Raptors involving center Rasho Nesterovic.

The Bobcats will be the seventh team for Williams, and his sixth in four seasons.

Late rally helps Bears beat TSU, avoid 0-4 start

By Daniel Youngblood
Sports editor

It took the Baylor baseball team a while to heat up on a cold Tuesday night, but behind a five-run seventh inning and a four-run eighth, the Bears defeated the Texas State University Bobcats 10-4.

On a night when the temperature was in the mid to high 30s and the wind was blowing in hard from centerfield, the hitters for both teams struggled for much of the night.

Senior first baseman Tim Jackson, who broke the game open with a three-run, pinch-hit double in the seventh inning, said the players had to change their approach because of the weather.

"On nights like this, you got to get on top of balls, hit line drives and play a smaller game," he said. "It's just not a day for the long ball, so it's a different mindset."

"It's mentally draining trying to play these games," he said.

Making his first collegiate start, freshman pitcher Kendall Volz set the tone for the evening, giving head Coach Steve Smith five strong innings.

After being roughed up for three runs on six hits in 1 2/3 innings of relief work Friday, Volz allowed just one run on two hits and a walk on Tuesday.

Volz, who threw 62 pitches through five innings, said the weather didn't change his approach.

He said his goal was to pound the strike zone.

"I just went out there and tried to get outs," Volz said.

"I need to keep working on location, because my defense had to bail me out several times."

Smith said he was very pleased with the way Volz pitched.

"He threw really well. That's what I had seen out of him (in practice)," Smith said. "He did exactly what I'd hoped he'd do by getting us past the fifth inning."

The Bears gave Volz a 1-0 lead in the bottom of the third inning.

Catcher Matt Sodolak led off the inning with a double off the left field wall.

And after center fielder Chase Gerdes moved him to third with a sacrifice bunt, freshman first baseman Dustin Dickerson drove him home with a two-out single up the middle.

Texas State struck back with a run in the fifth inning off Volz and another in sixth off sophomore pitcher Jake Weghorst to take a 2-1 lead.

The offense exploded in the seventh. The first three batters reached base, and Jackson was called on to pinch hit for freshman designated hitter Kenton Gedwed.

After working the count full, Jackson got an inside fastball. He pulled the ball past a diving third baseman, down the left field line all the way to the wall.

Last season Jackson had 31 RBIs and hit .373 with runners in scoring position. He is six for seven for his career with the



David Poe/Lariat staff

Senior center fielder Chase Gerdes lays down a sacrifice bunt during the third inning in Baylor's win against Texas State University Tuesday night in Waco. The Bears are now 1-3 on the season.

bases loaded.

Smith said he's a good guy to have up with the game on the line.

"He was very good last year, and he's been a very good clutch hitter," Smith said.

"He seems to always give you good at bats when you need them most."

The Bears added two more runs in the seventh and had another big inning in the eighth.

The first three batters walked

and the fourth was hit by a pitch to score a run. Two hits and sacrifice fly later, the Bears were sitting on a 10-2 lead going into the ninth.

Junior reliever Tim Matthews finished the game, allowing two unearned runs on two hits and two errors.

If there was one problem for the Bears, it was strikeouts. The Bears struck out 12 times, and had nine of those come from freshmen. Smith said that's not unusual for a team as young as

his is.

"This year we've got a lot of young hitters in bit spots and some look like they're still trying to get their legs under them," Smith said.

"They just got to get adjusted to the game,"

With the win, the Bears avoided 0-4 start since 1940.

Baylor returns to action at 6:30 p.m. on Friday, when they play the first of a three-game set with Stephen F. Austin University.

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Texas Ranger Museum hosts Valentine's Day event



Chis Weeks/Lariat staff

The Texas Ranger Museum's Sweets and Sweethearts Valentine's Day Open House will be held from 7 to 11 p.m. today. The event is an effort to reintroduce the museum to the public after recent renovations and to reach a different crowd than the usual visitors — college students and couples. Live music, chocolates and coffee will be available.

By Sapna Prasad
Reporter

Your sweetheart is on the way to pick you up, and you're dressed in a killer new outfit. The evening is a complete surprise, but imagine your astonishment when your date shows up at your doorstep and says, "We're going to the Texas Ranger Museum, baby!"

With the event being held there today, it's a better idea than you might think.

The Texas Ranger Museum's Sweets and Sweethearts Valentine's Day Open House will be held from 7 to 11 p.m. today.

Delicious chocolates, fancy wines and top quality coffee are only a few of the surprises the museum has in store for the event.

Guests are invited to come listen to live music and view the museum's latest renovations.

Rachel Barnett, collections assistant at the museum, said the evening is the first of a series of events the museum will host in an effort to reintroduce itself to the public.

"It's time to say thank you to the public for supporting us for all these years."

Rachel Barnett,
Collections assistant at
The Texas Ranger Museum

"We don't get a lot of couples or college students into the museum," Barnett said.

"We want to reintroduce the museum to new crowds."

Barnett said many older visitors and school children frequent the museum but they want to get the community more involved with its operations.

"We've been around for almost 40 years," Barnett said.

"It's time to say thank you to the public for supporting us for all these years."

Wiseman House Chocolates will offer samples of several delicious treats: four different kinds of truffles, almond toffee and mocha crunch. Mocha crunch is a mix of crushed coffee beans and

mocha chocolate, said Wiseman director Jayson Berryhill.

Berryhill said guests will take their taste buds for a ride with the Wild Woman truffle, Milk Rufus, Sipping Chocolate and First Kiss, which is a Valentine's special.

"All the names of our chocolates have a special significance," Berryhill said.

The Milk Rufus was named after a 100-year-old photographer who lived in the actual Wiseman House, Berryhill said.

Barnett said Starbucks will also be on hand with the season's best coffees.

Cheese and fruit platters will also be available.

The Klaras/Warren Jazz Collaboration and 2C's and D Cellists will set the mood by providing live entertainment throughout the evening.

Advance tickets cost \$15 per couple or \$8 per person. Tickets will be available at the door for \$10.

For more information or to purchase tickets, call (254) 750-8631.

Ambiance of 135 Prime woos diners

By Gretchen Blackburn
Contributor

Thick steaks paired with swanky Sinatra-esque flair makes 135 Prime in Hewitt a new dining experience you won't want to miss.

RESTAURANT REVIEW

Tucked away in the Westrock Center Marketplace Shopping Center on Hewitt Drive, the intimate restaurant dims its lights at 5 p.m. and creates a throw-back, old Hollywood environment.

The music swoons, and with dishes named after classic movie stars, diners will surely get into the scene.

My date and I arrived around seven and reluctantly put our names down for seating, despite the hour-long wait. For a new restaurant in the Waco area — it opened Jan. 2 — that's impressive in itself.

After a long wait in the lounge, we were seated at a small booth with high, richly-covered suede seatbacks. We hungrily selected Cooper Cakes — plump crab cakes with green chili cilantro sauce — as an appetizer. We thought we'd be waiting for our food just as long as we waited for a table, but to our surprise, our appetizer quickly made its appearance. We were left to fight over the remains of the flaky and spicy crab.

I was impressed by the quality of the fish, which I later dis-

covered is flown in from Hawaii. Keeping with the seafood theme, I ordered Salmon Garbo from the Hollywood menu. My date chose the aptly named 8 oz. Monroe Fillet.

The menu was fit for meat-lovers, complete with Australian lamb, Kobe beef, veal and duck — not to mention the selection of salmon, lobster, prawns and Hawaiian fish-of-the-day.

The meal was accompanied by Caesar salads, but we both found ourselves shuffling the room-temperature romaine leaves aimlessly on our plates.

Our disappointment was quenched when we saw our dinner arrive. My salmon was acutely seared and flaky on the inside. Topped with crab, tomatoes and capers and lightly ac-

cented with butter, it wasn't the healthiest salmon I've had.

But it was most definitely worth the extra calories.

My date's eyes widened at the sight of his steak, which was honestly one of the thickest I've ever seen. He cut into the medium-well meat and shared a couple bites with me. The steak was fresh, and it wasn't oiled down with butter in an effort to soften the meat.

We both agreed dinner was worth the pricey tab, a little more than \$100.

All in all, if you're looking for intimate Hollywood-style dining, 135 Prime is a superb choice.

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saying that Faculty Senate does not consider the Engaged Learning Groups acceptable for degree credit. The reason for the resolution was that the learning groups, like University 1100, have not gone through the proper approval process in some academic units. The Curriculum Committee in Arts and Sciences has approved "the concept of the Engaged Learning Groups" but has not seen curriculum plans for two of the three classes, Vitanza said.

Hogue could not be reached for additional comment after the conclusion of Tuesday's Faculty Senate meeting.

"There are some questions about whether or not the proper process has been followed for approval from certain areas for those to count," Vitanza said. "There are just issues that need to be looked at and need to be resolved."

to provides antibodies that are around 80 percent effective at post-exposure treatment of the disease.

Verner also added that while a vaccination is available and recommended for all students entering college, it's not effective against every strand of meningitis, including meningococcal.

Schwartz said Wallace had been vaccinated for meningitis, even though it's not required by Baylor.

"We don't require students to have the vaccination because it's not entirely effective," he said.

Verner categorized the illness as "sporadic," with 2,500 to 3,000 annual cases of the meningococcal strand nationwide.

Although it can be fatal, Verner said people in close contact with a confirmed case are still at a very low risk for infection.

"It's a devastating, life-threatening illness, but just because you were in the same building, campus or dorm, it doesn't mean your risk is actually higher than any other day," he said.

berly Barry, director and agent at Eminent Models and Talent Agency. "But you can't just have good looks on the outside; you have to be good on the inside as well."

Lyons even got several athletes to sign his Bear Pit jersey, including junior guard Aaron Bruce and record-setting quarterback Shawn Bell.

On Saturday, when the University of Texas comes to the Ferrell Center, Darth Baylor will be there cheering as he always does.

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