



ROUNDING UP CAMPUS NEWS SINCE 1900

THE BAYLOR LARIAT

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 28, 2007

U.S. lagging behind in maternity leave

Planned legislation
could make pregnancies
less of strain on jobs

By Claire St. Amant
Staff writer

Lesotho, Liberia, Papua New Guinea, Swaziland and the United States have something in common: their maternity policies. The United States is the only developed country without guaranteed paid maternity leave, according to a report published Feb. 20 by McGill Institute for Health and Social Policy.

“Even Japan, which normally runs well behind the U.S. in most areas of women’s rights, provides 14 weeks of paid leave,” senior economics lecturer Judy Bowman said. Maternity policy is covered by the Family and Medical Leave Act enacted in 1993, which also permits time off for personal illness, time to care for a severely ill family member, or placement of a newly adopted or foster child in the employee’s home. Bowman described the act as “a step in the right direction,” but added not all mothers and fathers qualify. Besides requiring at least a year of previous service to the company, the

act only applies to businesses with 50 or more employees. “It’s not as good as it looks,” Bowman said. “Only about half the people in the private sector qualify for this coverage.” After the Department of Labor released a request for information on the act on Dec. 1, the American Diabetes Association, Institute for Women’s Policy Research, AARP, Service Employees International Union and several other organizations called for expansions of the act. Sen. Christopher Dodd, D-Conn., is pushing for policies granting six weeks of paid leave for family and medical reasons and has plans to

introduce federal legislation on the issue in the future. Additionally, California approved partially paid leave for family issues in 2002 under the State Disability Insurance Program and has been providing employee benefits since July 1, 2004. Bowman said she believes lowering the number of required employees from 50 to 25 is more feasible than providing paid leave and would greatly increase the number of people eligible under the act. “So many people can’t afford to take any significant period of time off that it doesn’t even help them,”

Please see CHILD, page 10



David Poe/Lariat staff

A cause for celebration

Members of St. Luke African Methodist Episcopal Church perform Tuesday at the Bledsoe Miller Recreation Center as part of the city of Waco's Black History Month Program.

Tax-free books goal of students

Groups statewide join fight to eliminate textbook taxes

By Jon Schroeder
Staff writer

Baylor students may be jumping into a growing movement to protest textbook taxes. Students have come together across the state, unifying lobbying efforts to get tax-free textbooks. Those efforts have been in support of Senate Bill 49, filed by State Sen. Judith Zaffirini, D-Laredo, and House Bill 1434, authored by Rep. Patrick Rose, D-Dripping Springs. The bill would create two 10-day tax-free periods for purchasing textbooks, one in the spring and one in the fall. The student government of the University of Texas is heading up the campaign, which has already included rallies, postcard campaigns, several student government statements of support, Facebook groups and other forms of student protest. So far, Texas, Texas A&M University, Texas Tech University and 11 other schools are on board.

A statewide “lobby day” has been planned for April 11 in Austin, when student groups will represent each of those schools before legislators. Zack Hall, chairman of Texas’ Tax Free Textbook Campaign, said the effort is an important one because it has the potential to save money for students all over Texas — \$300 for each student, according to University of Texas research. “Students need some kind of financial relief, and we’re going to take what we can get,” Hall said. “Every cent counts.” He said he would like to have a school like Baylor involved in the process. “Baylor coming on board brings a voice we want to make louder, and that’s private institutions,” Hall said. “I look forward to meeting with the student government members there and working with them.” Waco senior John Nicholson, a member of Baylor’s Student Senate, said he’s hoping Baylor students will get involved in the protest. Nicholson contacted Hall Thursday asking for information about the campaign. A Baylor resolution in support of Texas’ campaign

Please see BOOKS, page 10

Senate takes group to Student Court

By Kate Boswell
Staff writer

Student Court announced Thursday that it would hear a case involving Student Senate and the African Student Association. According to a press release, student body Attorney General Ben Collins is pressing charges against the association “for not following procedure regarding allocations

from the Student Life Fund.” A tentative court date has been set for Tuesday, said Chief Justice James Nortey, an Austin junior. The court has also imposed a gag order, which prevents the parties involved from disclosing information about the case. Nortey said the order was in place to ensure a fair trial for everyone involved. “I think everyone just wants to

preserve the integrity between Student Senate and the African Student Association,” Collins, a Yukon, Okla., sophomore, said of the gag order. Both Collins and Nortey declined to comment further on the case. The last allocation made to the African Student Association from the Student Life fund was for the Eighth annual Baylor African Student Association Cultural Extrava-

ganza, which was held Nov. 3 and 4. According to the bill requesting the funds, the association requested \$3,500 from the Student Life Fund and agreed to cover the rest of the estimated total cost of \$9,735 with funds raised by the African Student Association. The release said Student Court will discuss the case after the hearing during a press conference.



Associated Press

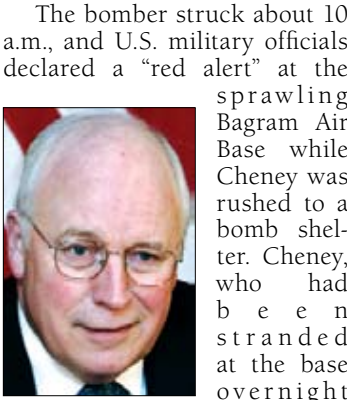
A relative of one of the Afghans killed by a suicide bomber mourns Tuesday as an Afghan police officer consoles him after the attack near Kabul.

Taliban attempts to assassinate Cheney

Bomb explodes at gate nearly one mile from vice president’s locale

By Alisa Tang
The Associated Press

BAGRAM, Afghanistan — In what the Taliban claimed was an assassination attempt, a suicide bomber attacked the main gate of a U.S. military base Tuesday within earshot of Vice President Dick Cheney. The explosion killed 23 people, including two Americans, and delivered a propaganda blow that undercut the U.S. military and the weak Afghan government it supports.



Cheney

with President Hamid Karzai in the capital before heading back to the United States via the Gulf

state of Oman. “I heard a loud boom,” Cheney told reporters aboard Air Force Two en route to Oman. “The Secret Service came in and told me there had been an attack on the main gate.” Many of the victims were said to be Afghan truck drivers waiting to get inside the base. A dozen men, many of them sobbing heavily, left the base holding stretchers bearing their loved ones wrapped in black body bags. Tears streamed down the face of one man sitting in the passenger seat of an SUV that carried another victim away. Although the bomber did not get closer than roughly a mile

to the vice president, the attack highlighted an increasingly precarious security situation posed by the resurgent Taliban. Five years after U.S.-led forces toppled their regime, Taliban-led militants have stepped up attacks. There were 139 suicide bombings last year, a fivefold increase over 2005, and a fresh wave of violence is expected this spring. The guerrillas, according to NATO officials, have the flexibility to organize an attack quickly and may have been able to plan a bombing at the base while Cheney was there after

Please see CHENEY, page 10

Baylor religion classes will surprise, open minds

It was 7:40 a.m. on the first day of classes in August 2003, and I was ready. I darted out of Kokernot toward the Tidwell Bible Building.

As I walked through campus, with my map and schedule safely hidden between my binders, I tried to soak in everything.

I skipped up the slippery steps of the ominous building and anxiously began searching for the right room.

I soon learned that being 10 minutes early to class is never cool.

But for now, I was glad to have a variety of seats to choose from in my very first class at Baylor: Christian Heritage.

Friends back home had warned me about going to a Baptist university. "Don't let em try and convert ya," they said.

I had all my defenses prepared and repeated them over and over: "I am not Baptist. I am not Baptist."

By the way, freshman pep talks are not cool, either.

For the most part, the day went according to plan: classes, lunch and then work.

"I can handle this," I thought.

Eventually I picked up that classic college habit of rolling out of bed every morning, just hoping to make it on time. But no worries, we had assigned

point of view



BY AMANDA BRAY

seating in Christian Heritage.

As the semester wore on, I became frustrated. I didn't need to sing my song of resistance against Baylor's Baptist ways. No, it was even worse.

Some days I would gasp, others I stomped my feet in protest. Not only were they not jamming a Baptist fist down my throat, but they weren't trying to brain-

wash me in any way.

They couldn't make it easy for me just to hear the Baptist ballad and let me triumphantly march out of the room with my notions intact.

All of a sudden, I was having to think for myself.

Instead of learning how many times a church should take communion, along with the acceptable kinds of communion crackers and grape juice, I had to examine the varying beliefs. The list of complicated doctrine samong all of the denominations I learned about was endless.

As the semester skipped along, I groaned to the heavens constantly: "Just tell me what to

think already."

But alas, no divine rescue came to my poor freshman soul until the end of the fall semester.

A light came from the sky and shined brightly onto my young head. A voice came down from heaven and spoke to me about all the mysteries of the universe – even though no one around me heard it.

OK, maybe it wasn't exactly like that.

But I did realize that at some point in life I needed to figure out not only what I believe, but why.

And where better to figure this out than at Baylor? They

certainly weren't trying to brain-wash me – they were just trying to make me think.

So for all you fellow Bears who were secretly hoping that your religion classes would be like Sunday school without the doughnuts, think again.

There are no fluffy couches in Tidwell classrooms. And there are certainly no multicolored posters on the wall with all the different names for Jesus listed on them.

But there is a group of professors who refuse to tell you what to believe – no matter how hard you stomp your feet in protest.

Amanda Bray is a senior journalism major from McKinney.

Editorial

Vocation study neglects unseen side of faith

Are you now, or have you ever been a professor who chose not to share their faith in the classroom?

That's what Baylor professors may find themselves being asked in the future, according to the plans of a study in the School of Social Work to evaluate professors' "faith credentials" in the classroom.

The purpose of the study is to analyze students' feedback and use a numbered scale to represent how a professor integrates faith into the curriculum.

What's troubling about this is that the evaluations, if adopted by the university, make it tempting to create a litmus test for how professors share their faith.

It is not impossible to imagine a climate of religious McCarthyism where professors are judged on the sharing of their faith regardless of what they bring to the table academically.

This university has put itself at a perpetual crossroads where it must constantly debate the balance between faith and academics.

The two ideals are in no way conflicting. That is, until someone decides to make them conflict. That is exactly what this evaluation test threatens to do.

In the discussion of our goal to be a top-tier university, perhaps in all the concern to hold on to our Christian tradition, we have neglected to adequately think about the most fundamental principle a university operates on: academic freedom.

Over the last few years, this university has had to ask itself, "What kind of environment do we want to learn in?" and "How do we achieve a balance between academic freedom and being an institution of faith"? Such questions have no easy answers, but we would venture to guess that most students, even at a Baptist university, go to school first and foremost to learn.

"People want numbers. When you're trying to summarize big chunks of data, it's the easiest way to represent the results," Dr. James Stamey, assistant professor of statistics, said about the evaluations.

But is that the best way to represent someone's faith? People live out their faiths in different ways.

That is the beauty of faith and the whole reason we talk about vocation in church. Just like the parable states, are all called to give our talents in different ways. What works for one person may not work for another.

Just as different professors present their curriculum in different ways, Christians share their beliefs in various ways. One particular professor may use the Socratic method, while another may directly profess their views by challenging students to think critically and interpret for themselves. This is no different than how a believer lives out his faith. It can be directly vocal just as much as it can be in more subtle forms.

Baylor's hiring policy already allows for only Christians and Jews to be hired, giving priority to Baptists first, other Christians second, then Jews third.

Is it really necessary then to make sure that professors who have already been judged on this basis once be judged again?

It is not the idea that feedback is bad; feedback should always be appreciated. It is simply that forcing students to fill out a form to describe the impact of a professor's actions cannot accurately reflect what a student's experience may truly be. Oftentimes when we share our faith, the results may not be seen for years, if ever.

We shouldn't be so quick to judge someone's faith by a subjective five-minute questionnaire. In the process, we may forget to let our brothers and sisters share and live out their faith the best way they see fit.



Corrections

In Monday's issue, the entertainment page graphic about the top university Sing acts only listed seven of the eight organizations that received an invitation to perform at Pigskin.

Phi Kappa Chi's act, "The Good Samaritan," also made Pigskin.

In the Feb. 20 article "Meeting at the Intersection of Faith and Learning," the \$4,890 grant for the faculty vocation model was mentioned as being in addition to the \$1.1 million grant from Lilly Endowment.

The grant is actually part of the Lilly Endowment.

Opinion policy

The Baylor Lariat welcomes reader viewpoints through letters to the editor and guest columns.

Opinions expressed in the Lariat are not necessarily those of the Baylor administration, the Baylor Board of Regents or the Student Publications Board.

Letters to the editor should include the writer's name, major, graduation year, phone number and student identification number.

All submissions become the property of The Baylor Lariat.

The Lariat reserves the right to edit

letters for grammar, length, libel and style.

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Letters to the editor

Many to blame for El Salvador

Raquel Nunes' column Thursday about El Salvador is filled with twisted facts.

As a dual citizen of the U.S. and El Salvador, I am qualified to make some points.

There is no denying the war affected the economy, but to say that it left it "in shambles" is an exaggeration.

I am not going to deny that there is extreme poverty in El Salvador, but that's not all that exists in the country.

It is like somebody visiting the U.S. and going to their country writing about their view of Texas after spending all of their time in the most impoverished areas of East Waco.

El Salvador enjoys a growing middle class and the third strongest economy in Central America, even though it is the smallest country.

Last year, I took my American family on a trip to El Salvador and we were delighted to see the boom of affordable and quality housing taking place. We all enjoyed Salvadoran hospitality and the natural beauty of the country so much that we are going back this year.

It was surprising to hear the old Marxist rhetoric of "American imperialists" in Nunes' article.

Something she fails to mention is that the whole region was under the threat of Soviet and Cuban expansionism. Also that

the Marxist guerrillas also committed acts of terror against the population and economy.

They blew up bridges, electrical plants, buildings and killed scores of people in an effort to overthrow the government.

The behavior of the Salvadoran army was inexcusable, but they were not the only ones who committed atrocities. The communists were also to blame.

El Salvador is enjoying a growing democracy thanks to the U.N.-guaranteed peace accords of 1992.

There is so much freedom that people like Nunes can visit El Salvador and take these human rights tours and sleep in a hammock if they want. Of course, you can also come and help our

economy grow by sleeping in one of the many hotels owned by Salvadoran entrepreneurs.

One more thing – I want to say "thank you" to the "empire" that lets people from many nations like Ms. Nunes and I study in her midst.

Carlos Colón
Master of Music, 1993

Nunes' statements mislead

Raquel Nunes departs from telling her own experiences in "U.S. imperialist adventure left El Salvador in shambles for years," and in doing so, repeats falsehoods and misleading statements.

I have read the Truth Commission Report on El Salvador, and it says nothing about the

School of the Americas. In some of the crimes analyzed by the Truth Commission, some of the perpetrators had attended some course or courses at the U.S. school, and were later identified as "graduates" of the school. This implies, with no evidence whatsoever, that the U.S. personnel who taught at the school taught or encouraged such deeds. That is a moral libel of those people.

When President Clinton signed the Defense Authorization Act for FY2001 into law, he closed the school and created, under a different section, the Western Hemisphere Institute for Security Cooperation.

WHINSEC provides professional education and training to military, police and civilians

from all the countries of the Organization of American States including the U.S., Canada and the Caribbean nations. The law specifies some of the curriculum, and also directs specific human rights training in every course, to every student.

Perhaps it is worth noting that, despite all the turmoil in Latin America in the '80s and '90s, every country in the OAS has elected civilian leadership.

Also, security forces of all these countries are now taking part in world affairs. El Salvador's forces in Iraq are helping work on civic action projects.

Lee A. Rials

Public Affairs Officer, Western Hemisphere Institute for Security Cooperation.

The Baylor Lariat

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THE Daily Crossword

Edited by Wayne Robert Williams

ACROSS

- Squalid urban area
- Neighbor of Sudan
- Jobs for Sherlock
- Misplace
- Put on cargo
- Eccentric
- Toward the mouth
- Potpourri
- Actor Williams
- How to get going?
- God of war
- Platte River tribe
- Complimentary
- Mom's mom
- Reunion grp.
- Home-run king
- Distinctive style
- Programmer's instruction
- How to proceed?
- Superman's sweetie
- Cozy abode
- Mocking reproach
- Wind dir.
- Medics
- Cook's herbs
- Track tipster
- Opera song
- How to succeed?

DOWN

- Untidy person
- Colorful parrot
- Amer. service branch
- Those who settle disputes
- Seals the deal
- Legendary football coach
- Tennis score, for short
- Grooming product
- Preacher Mather
- Mystiques
- Lob or mob finale
- QED word
- Fixes in position
- Singer Lopez
- Endure
- "It Happened One

Night"

- Synthetic fabric
- Clarinetist Shaw
- See-through material
- Public debate
- Make right
- Sahl and Drucker
- College of presidents?
- Disputed territories
- Actress Aimee
- Value system
- Thingamabob
- Lovers' meetings
- Weight unit for lorries
- French clerics
- Small nail
- Bear or Berra
- Anti-Red grp.
- Dressing gown
- Heraldic band
- Pearl Buck heroine
- English county

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By Philip J. Anderson
Portland, OR

2/28/07

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

Flag football tournament to help fund diabetes research

By Sapna Prasad
Reporter

According to statistics from the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation, 35 children are diagnosed with juvenile diabetes in the United States every day. Hoping to lend a hand to their fight, Delta Epsilon Psi will host the second annual Sugar-Free Bowl Thursday through Sunday to benefit the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation. This charity flag football tournament will be held at the fields behind the Baylor Sciences Building. “The inspiration for the first Sugar-Free Bowl came from one of our brothers in Austin who

grew up with juvenile diabetes,” said Ankit Shah, a Corpus Christi junior and member of Delta Epsilon Psi. Shah said awareness became the most important objective for the South-Asian service fraternity’s events. After hours of brainstorming, Shah and Jay Vyas, a Little Rock, Ark., senior, along with their fraternity brothers at the University of Texas at Austin, were on the road to hosting a one-of-a-kind bowl game. “The planning took a lot of time both internally and externally,” Shah said. “We had to work out the logistics of each and every detail and find a way to educate the public at large.”

Paarth Raj, service chairman of the fraternity and this year’s bowl co-chairman, said the fraternity members encountered many obstacles as they paved the road to success. “They had a lot to prove,” he said. “With anything you do, it’s always hardest the first time.” Raj said he has colossal expectations for this year’s tournament after the fraternity raised an unprecedented \$1,000 last year. He said the fraternity began planning for the four-day event at the end of the fall semester, and the planning has been a lot of work for the 20 active members of the fraternity. Anand Desai, a Fort Worth

sophomore and tournament co-chairman, said the dedication of the membership and the leadership of the fraternity is the sole reason for the fraternity’s success since its founding in 2003. Delta Epsilon Psi was awarded the Hayden Award for outstanding service for 2005-2006. “We stand by our three pillars: brotherhood, discipline and commitment to make an impact in the community,” Desai said. “We are a service fraternity and every event we host is for the benefit of juvenile diabetes research.” Kathrynne Butler, a Houston junior, said she has had the privilege of getting to know the

members of Delta Epsilon Psi through her participation in the You Got Served Tennis Tournament that the fraternity hosted earlier this semester. Butler will also be playing in this year’s flag football tournament. “There is no cure for diabetes, so fundraising is imperative to the future of the disease,” she said. When Butler was 5 years old, her sister was diagnosed with juvenile diabetes. Butler said over the last 15 years, her family has given up sodas and candy to ensure her sister’s health. She said she recalls having to help save her sister’s life when they were

younger. “The thought of losing my sister is heart-wrenching,” Butler said. “The more people know about the disease, the better we can fight for a cure.” Although other chapters of Delta Epsilon Psi host a Sugar-Free Bowl as well, the Baylor chapter is the only one that has a men’s and women’s bracket, Shah said. The winning team in each division will receive a cash prize of \$300. Shah said the Diabetes Awareness and Training Association will also be available during the tournament to provide students with more information about diabetes.

U.S. joins Syria, Iran in Iraq talks

By Robert Burns
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — In a diplomatic turnabout, the Bush administration will join an Iraq-sponsored “neighbors meeting” with Iran and Syria, Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice said Tuesday. It marked a change of approach by the United States, which has resisted calls by members of Congress and by a bipartisan Iraq review group to include Iran and Syria in talks designed to stabilize Iraq. The move came amid growing discontent over the war, even as President Bush rushes an additional 21,500 U.S. troops to Iraq and congressional Democrats struggle to settle on their next steps to end U.S. participation. The administration said its decision to take part in the Iraq conference did not represent a change of heart, although the White House has accused both Iran and Syria of deadly meddling in the war. “We’ve always been inclined to participate in an Iraqi-led conference,” White House counselor Dan Bartlett said. The administration in recent weeks has increased its criticism of Iran’s role in Iraq, charging it with supplying advanced technologies for the most lethal form of roadside bombs. The administration has accused Syria of harboring anti-Iraqi government forces and allowing weapons to cross its border. Rice announced U.S. support for the Iraq meeting, to be held in Baghdad next month, at a Senate hearing in which Democrats pressed her and Defense Secretary Robert Gates to explain what progress is being made in the Baghdad security crackdown and how soon U.S. troops will be coming home. “There is no end, I say, no end in sight,” exclaimed Sen. Robert Byrd, D-W. Va., the Appropriations Committee chairman. Sen. Patrick Leahy, D-Vt., asked Gates to predict how soon Iraq would be stabilized. “The honest answer to your question is: ‘I don’t know,’” Gates replied. He noted that Gen. David Petraeus had arrived in Baghdad as the new commander of U.S. forces and that Petraeus believes by early summer he will have a good idea of how the new Baghdad security plan, now getting under way, will work out. Noting recent speculation about U.S. military action to destroy neighboring Iran’s nuclear facilities, Byrd asked Gen. Peter Pace, the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, whether it was true that the Pentagon was planning airstrikes against Iran. “It is not true,” Pace replied. “Categorically?” Byrd asked. “Categorically, sir,” Pace said. Separately, Democrats’ plans to limit Bush’s war authority and force a change of course in Iraq were faltering amid party divisions over how quickly and aggressively they should act. Officials said Sen. Russ Feingold, D-Wis., and other anti-war Democrats balked Tuesday at a draft measure that had circulated in recent days with the blessing of the leadership. The proposal would have repealed the 2002 law that authorized Bush to invade Iraq, and given the White House a goal of March 2008 to remove all combat troops from the country except for those carrying out limited missions.



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College keeps crossroads of faith, science busy place

By Whitney Farr
Reporter

Although the issues of creation, evolution and faith have been hot issues in the past, some faculty and students believe the three topics can peacefully co-exist.

According to Dr. Donald Greene, a geology professor, science is a way to study and describe nature.

Because nature is God's creation and science is an avenue to describe God's creation, he said,

it doesn't make much sense for people to argue that science and faith can't coincide.

"We should be fearless in approaching our academic endeavors," instead of being hesitant about science, Greene said.

Dr. Garrett Cook, professor of anthropology, said he doesn't think there is a gap between believing in God and Jesus as savior and being an evolutionist, but he does realize there are conflicts between evolution and Genesis.

"It offends me when people

think I'm an atheist because I believe in evolution," he said.

Cook teaches a beginning anthropology class in which students are faced with the question of how humankind was created or has evolved.

Cook said many students coming into his beginning anthropology class become uneasy when he introduces evolution. He tries to put them at ease by reading some quotes from Darwin which specifically mention a creator.

With or without taking

Cook's anthropology class, students on campus seem to have a variety of opinions about the issue.

Mansfield freshman Craig Smith said many people say God used evolution to create the world, but he believes the Bible clearly states that God created everything in seven days.

"If you say his word is true, you say that it is without flaw," he said. "Baylor shouldn't even teach evolution since it is a university founded upon Christianity."

However, Cook disagreed, saying people should read the Bible more metaphorically.

"As science progresses, our interpretation of the Bible changes," he said.

Some students disagree.

"My biggest thing is people teach evolution as if it is fact instead of presenting it as a theory," said Greenville sophomore Jordan Powell said.

But Tyler sophomore Christi Campbell said after seeing the biological side of things, evolution makes sense.

"I believe that God created everything and as he was creating, he could have set evolution in motion," Campbell said.

"Maybe God looked at the fish one day and was like, 'Hey, I'll chop off these fins so now you can be a salamander.'"

A wide variety of opinions on campus makes teaching evolution very controversial.

"The challenge for us at Baylor should be finding meaningful ways to reconcile the two worlds — accepting science and religion," Cook said.

Dow Jones takes biggest hit since 9/11

By Madlen Read
The Associated Press

NEW YORK — Stocks had their worst day of trading since the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks Tuesday, hurtling the Dow Jones industrials down more than 400 points on a worldwide tide of concern that the U.S. and Chinese economies are stumbling and that share prices have become overinflated.

The steepness of the market's drop, as well as its global breadth, signaled a possible correction after a long period of stable and steadily rising stock markets that had not been shaken by such a volatile day of trading in several years. A 9 percent slide in Chinese stocks, which came a day after investors sent Shanghai's benchmark index to a record high close, set the tone for U.S. trading.

The Dow began the day falling sharply, and the decline accelerated throughout the course of the session before stocks took a huge plunge in late afternoon as

computer-driven sell programs kicked in, and also as a computer glitch caused a delay in the recording of a large number of trades. The Dow fell 546.02, or 4.3 percent, to 12,086.06 before recovering some ground in the last hour of trading to close down 416.02, or 3.29 percent, at 12,216.24, leaving it in negative territory for the year.

Because the worst of the plunge took place after 2:30 p.m., the New York Stock Exchange's trading limits were not activated. The decline was the Dow's worst since Sept. 17, 2001, the first trading day after the terror attacks, when the blue chips closed down 684.81, or 7.13 percent. The drop hit every sector across the market, and a total of \$632 billion was lost in total in U.S. stocks Tuesday, according to Standard & Poor's Corp. Riskier issues such as small-cap and technology stocks suffered some of the biggest declines, but big industrial companies, those that are often hurt the most in an economic downturn,

also were pummeled, with raw materials producers among the hardest hit. But analysts who have been expecting a pullback after a huge rally that began last October and sent the Dow to a series of record highs, were unfazed by Tuesday's drop.

"This corrective consolidation phase isn't just going to be one day, but we don't believe this is going to be a bear market," said Bob Doll, BlackRock's global chief investment officer of equities.

Some investors also tried to put Tuesday's slide into a longer-term perspective.

"All who invest should feel grateful that we've had a great run for the last 12 to 18 months," said Joel Kleinman, a Washington, D.C. attorney, adding that he has learned to not read too much into any short-term ups and downs. "This is another day in the market."

Still, traders' dwindling confidence was knocked down by

data showing that the economy may be decelerating more than anticipated. A Commerce Department report that orders for durable goods in January dropped by the largest amount in three months exacerbated jitters about the direction of the U.S. economy, just a day after former Federal Reserve Chairman Alan Greenspan said the United States may be headed for a recession.

"It looks more and more like the economy is a slow growth economy," said Michael Strauss, chief economist at Commonfund. "Moderate economic growth is good — an abrupt stop in economic growth scares people."

The market expected the government to revise its estimate of fourth-quarter GDP growth down to an annual rate of about 2.3 percent from a forecast of 3.5 percent, and grew increasingly nervous Tuesday that the figure would be lower.



Associated Press

Trader Sam Reman is shown as he talks to a reporter Tuesday at the Chicago Board of Trade, about Tuesday's drop in the Dow Jones industrials.

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Professor named Texas chairman of physics society

By Ida Jamshidi
Reporter

It's been more than 20 years since a Baylor professor has held office in the Texas Section of the American Physical Society.

But the section's spring meeting March 23 and 24, Dr. Dwight Russell, Baylor physics professor, will make the transition from chairman-elect to chairman of the society. Dr. Charles Myles, current secretary and treasurer of the society's Texas Section and physics professor at Texas Tech University, said Russell was nominated for vice chairman in 2005 after the executive board noticed his leadership abilities.

"He did a very good job of organizing and being the conference chairman at the Texas Section American Physical Society meeting that was held at Baylor in 2004," Myles said.

That meeting was the first conference held in the new Baylor Sciences Building. As one of two candidates for the vice chairman office, Russell was elected through an online voting system by members of the Texas Section, Myles said.

Myles explained that over the course of four years the person holding the vice chairman position will transition into the offices of chairman-elect, chairman and past chairman. Other members of the executive board include a secretary/treasurer and two members at large. Last week, Russell attended a workshop in Washington, D.C., where he met with other executive board officers. The group talked to members of Congress about the importance of medical research.

Russell said one of his biggest responsibilities will be to oversee the Texas Section's 2007 fall conference, which will take place in October at Texas A&M University.

The conference will present two physics Nobel Prize recipients. About 150 students and 100 professors are expected to attend.

As chairman, Russell will present the Robert S. Hyer Award at the conference, which will recognize student research that has impacted the science community.

"It's an award that's for research mentoring, so it will go



Chris Weeks/Lariat staff

Dr. Dwight Russell, physics professor teaches a supplemental instruction session Monday in the Baylor Sciences Building.

to the adviser and the student," Russell said.

Russell's new position also poses advantages for students studying physics at Baylor.

"This is a chance for us to get reconnected with the Texas Section of the APS," Russell said. "It'll be a chance for our students to really participate."

Andreas Tziolas, a graduate assistant in the physics department, said he believes Russell is well-equipped to handle the position of Texas Section chairman.

"He has a very good way of dealing with complicated scenarios," Tziolas said.

Tziolas added that having a Texas Section officer of the American Physical Society nearby would be beneficial to students.

"We have the inside man," he said.

"The information is available to everyone, but if you have the person close to you, it's much better."

Dr. Greg Benesh, interim chairman of the physics department, said most physics professors at Baylor are members of this society.

"It's quite an honor for the department for Dr. Russell to be recognized in this way," he said.

Missouri student makes bomb threat

By Jim Salter
The Associated Press

ROLLA, Mo. — A distraught graduate student claiming to have a bomb and anthrax sparked a scare early Tuesday that shut down the University of Missouri-Rolla, officials said, but the threat turned out to be a hoax.

Preliminary tests on a white, powdery substance found on the student, whose name was not released, showed it was powdered sugar, said Lt. Col. David Boyle of the Missouri National Guard. Authorities said the student could face charges.

"Thankfully this is a false alarm," said Chancellor John Carney III.

The incident started shortly after 2:30 a.m. when police were called about a man making a threat. They arrived to find the student holding a paper bag and a knife.

He said he had planted a bomb and said he had anthrax, Interim Police Chief Mark Kears said.

When the man refused to drop the knife, a university police officer shot him with a stun gun, and the man was arrested. Police found a four-page note in which the student threatened to destroy the building, Kears said.

The Fort Leonard Wood Explosive Operations Division

was investigating the possibility that a bomb may be in the engineering building. Authorities were still checking the building Tuesday afternoon, Kears said.

"We have no hard evidence that there's anything wrong in the building, but we simply can't take a chance," Mayor William Jenks said.

Twenty-three people — eight students, a faculty member and emergency workers who responded to the call — were quarantined after the white substance was found, but later released. Ray Massey, ambulance director at Phelps County Regional Medical Center, said none showed signs of illness.

The 5,850-student technological research and engineering campus was shut down during the incident and classes were canceled for the day while officers investigated.

A Catholic grade school near campus was also closed for the day.

Classes were scheduled to resume today, a university spokeswoman said.

The man's identity and nationality were not released, although school spokesman Lance Feyh said he was an international student. The man, who was described by Jenks as depressed, was decontaminated and taken to a hospital. He was being held at the Rolla Police Department.

Bible scholar to lecture on Jesus, Judaism

By Perla Sanchez
Reporter

Dr. Ed Parish Sanders, emeritus professor of religion at Duke University, will give a lecture titled "Christianity, Judaism and Humanism" at 3:30 p.m. Thursday in Tidwell Bible Building's Miller Chapel.

Sanders, a fellow of the British Academy, received doctorates in theology from both Union Seminary and the Uni-

versity of Helsinki and was also awarded a Doctor of Letters by the University of Oxford.

Sanders is the author, co-author or editor of 13 books, in addition to his articles in encyclopedias and journals. His book *Jesus and Judaism* received the Grawemeyer Prize for the best book on religion published in the '80s. Dr. Bill Bellinger, professor and chairman of the religion department, said Sanders is a well-known New Testa-

ment scholar.

"One of our goals is to have a couple of people in from other places to give lectures each semester. We think that's a very helpful part of the educational experience for students," Bellinger said.

According to Dr. Carey C. Newman, director of academic publications, the event is part of an annual lecture series sponsored by Baylor's religion department, the Office of the

Vice Provost for Research and Baylor University Press.

"The lecture is important because it outlines the way the enlightenment has shaped religious belief in general — the character of Judaism and Christianity and the relationship between Judaism and Christianity," Newman said.

The lecture is open to Baylor and the Waco community.

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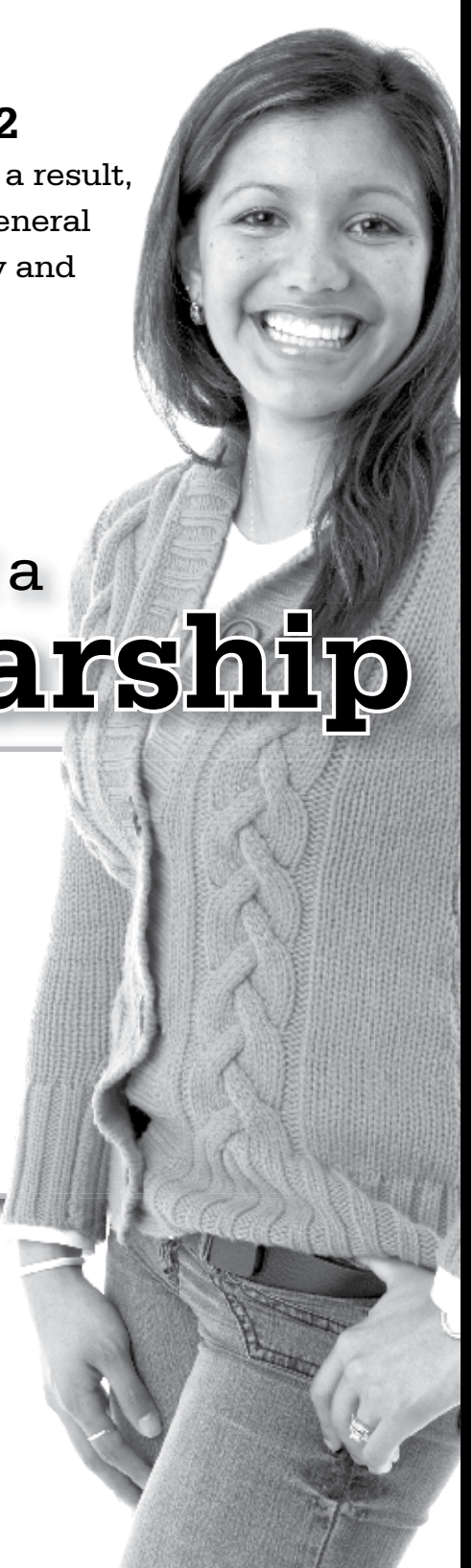
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Late homers put BU 9-7 over UTA

Baseball finishes home stand 8-1, goes to 8-4 on season

By Daniel Youngblood
Sports editor

Down 7-6 to the University of Texas at Arlington heading into the bottom of the 10th inning, the Baylor baseball team got homeruns from senior first baseman Tim Jackson and freshman third baseman Raynor Cambell to win the game 9-7 in walk-off fashion.

"I was really proud of the way our guys hung in there and battled back," head Coach Steve Smith said. "We had some good at-bats in the end and we were fortunate enough to hit some balls square up in the air on a night when the ball would travel."

After junior reliever Tim Matthews gave up a single and a sacrifice bunt to start the top of the 10th inning, senior closer Nick Cassavechia gave up a double to left center field to give the Mavericks a 7-6 lead.

Facing UTA's closer P.J. Burns, Jackson led off the Bears' half of the inning with a 1-1 homerun over the left field wall

to tie the game at seven.

After freshman right fielder Aaron Miller walked, Campbell took a 1-1 delivery out of the park to give the Bears the win.

Cambell had three hits and four RBIs for the game.

"It felt great," Campbell said of his first collegiate homerun. "I couldn't stop smiling rounding the bases. That was the first walk-off hit of my career and it came at a big time."

The Bears jumped out of the gate quickly. They scored a pair of runs in each of the first two innings and another in the fifth.

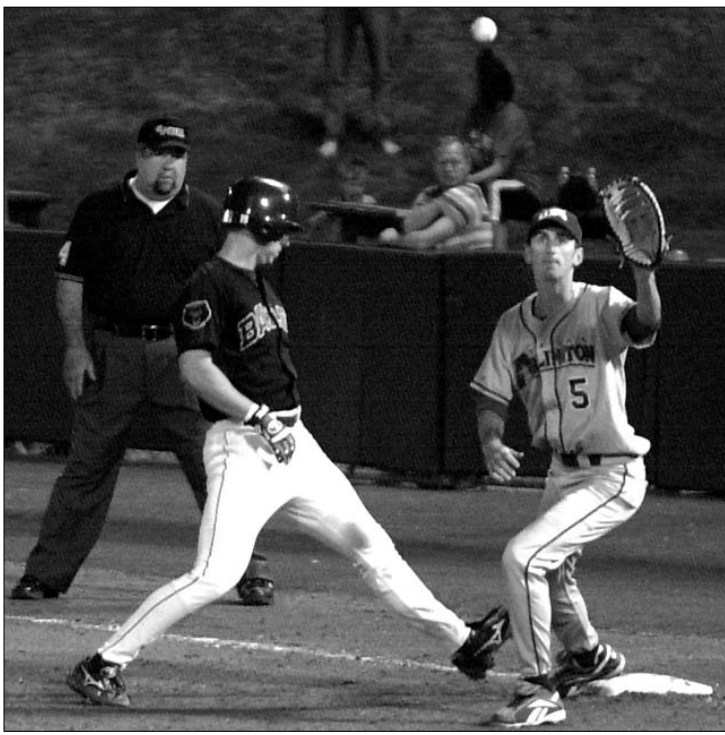
Freshman pitcher Wade Mackey, making his first career start, gave Smith five scoreless innings before turning the game over to the bullpen.

Mackey said his curveball and slider were working well for him and allowed him to keep the UTA hitters off balance.

He allowed no runs on two hits in five innings, striking out five.

After freshman pitcher William Draper pitched a scoreless sixth inning, the Mavericks broke through with six runs — only one earned — to take a 6-5 lead in the top of the seventh.

Draper gave up a single and a



Melea Burke/Lariat staff

Two homeruns in the 10th inning helped Baylor win 9-7 against the University of Texas at Austin on Tuesday after being down 7-6 earlier in the inning. The Bears are now 8-4 on the season.

walk to start the seventh, when Smith made the call to bring in senior pitcher Jake Weghorst, who walked the first batter he faced to load the bases.

On the next pitch, Weghorst got a hard ground ball right back to him and threw home to start a home-to-first double play.

The throw was mishandled by freshman catcher Gregg Glime, giving UTA its first two runs.

After another error and a fielder's choice, UTA's Ben Burum hit a home run over the high wall in center field to give the Mavericks their first lead of the game at 7-6.

The Bears added a run in the bottom of the eighth to tie, and after a scoreless ninth, the game went to extra innings.

With the win, the Bears go to 8-4 on the season and finish their home stand 8-1.

Softball adds pair of SFA wins to streak

By Brian Bateman
Reporter

The Baylor softball team continued its home winning streak with two wins over Stephen F. Austin University Tuesday evening.

In their second and third meeting this year, Baylor (17-4) beat the Ladyjacks (3-12) in game one 7-1 and 6-2 in the second game.

After traveling from Columbus, Ga., and arriving in Waco at 2 a.m. yesterday, head Coach Glenn Moore found ways to motivate the team.

"We played pretty flat against Houston," he said. "I challenged them to be ready to play."

The Lady Bears took the challenge, but not before giving up early leads in both games.

Ladyjack Sydney Davis put the first points of the day on the board with an RBI single, but Baylor took the lead with three runs in the bottom of the first.

That would be all pitcher Brittany Turner would need, as she earned the win with only two allowed hits.

Moore was worried that Turner, who has only pitched in four games this season, might be rusty, he said.

"I'm pretty happy with her pitching," Moore said. "Her changeup was good today. That's her bread and butter."

After Turner's victory, senior Ashley Monceaux took over the pitching duties for the second game, struggling early but finishing strong.

"I was feeling a little off target and a little off speed," Monceaux said.

She watched Baylor fall behind 2-0 in the second after giving up a 2-RBI single to outfielder Kendal Harper.

As in the last game, the Bears fought right back. After sophomore third-baseman Brette Reagan reached first, freshman Courtney Oberg hit a 2-run homer to left field, tying the game.

"Brette did a great job getting on base," Oberg said. "I just tried to hit the ball and got it over the wall."

Baylor then put space between its competition in the bottom of the third with four hits, three runs and a Ladyjack error. The freshmen twins from Baton Rouge — Tiffany and Nicole Wesley — reached first and second, leading to a Monceaux RBI double, scoring Tiffany Wesley. Nicole Wesley scored on Chelsi Lake's sacrifice fly, and Monceaux came across the plate on Brette Reagan's single.

"When one (person) gets a hit, it's contagious," Monceaux said.

The rally came to an end when catcher Kim Daley tagged Oberg out at the plate, but Baylor scored three, taking the lead for good 5-2. Shortstop Kelsey Sage added an insurance run in the fifth when her hit to center field allowed Reagan to score from third.

Baylor stays at home for the weekend, meeting Louisiana Tech University in a double-header at 2 p.m. Friday and 1 p.m. Saturday.

Starcrossed Bears not giving up on season

By Justin Baer
Sports Writer

Sitting on a 3-11 record in conference play, most teams would throw in the towel for the rest of the season. With a post-season tournament bid a big stretch for the Baylor basketball team, and its next two games against teams "on the bubble" for an NCAA tournament bid, it would be understandable for the Bears to start preparing for next year.

But head Coach Scott Drew's team believes even though the season's almost over, there is

still much to prove.

With the exception of a 40-point loss to Oklahoma in Norman, Okla., and a 26-point home loss to Kansas, the Bears have been in each Big 12 game until the final minutes.

Despite the Bears not being able to pull out many wins in their close games, head Coach Scott Drew said their losses aren't due to a lack of effort or focus.

Junior guard Aaron Bruce said his team continues to work hard every game because it still has much to fight for.

"We're really concerned about

finishing the season strong and continuing with the work we set in motion, and that is progressing," Bruce said. "Getting a post-season berth is definitely still our goal."

"I think the strength of our team is that we genuinely believe we can still do that."

When the Bears travel to Lubbock tonight to face Texas Tech University, they know Bob Knight and his crew will be hungry for a victory — not only to avenge the 73-70 loss they were handed in Waco in January but also because a loss to Baylor could diminish their hopes of a

trip to the big dance.

Still, Drew wants people to realize his Bears are just as hungry for a win, if not more. He said they aren't happy merely playing spoiler.

"They have a lot to play for, but we are more concerned for ourselves right now," Drew pointed out. "We want to make sure we finish this season in a manner that makes us proud."

He said the Bears aren't nearly as worried about what lies ahead next season as they are about finishing this season off with a statement to the rest of the country.

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Courtesy photo

Cale Grady trains for the MMA Fight with Luis Suarez, the head boxing coach at Ironhorse Gym.

Boxing tournament debuts in Waco

By Kris Firth
Contributor

For the first time in Waco history, a Mixed Martial Arts tournament, also known as Ultimate Fighting Championship fighting, will be held Friday at El Rancho Nigh Club. The doors open at 6 p.m., and the first fight begins at 6:30 p.m.

Fighters from San Antonio, College Station, Austin and Waco will compete in a tournament hosted by Ring Rulers, a sub-company of Ring Media Group, said Cisco Terrazas, a coordinator for the event.

Ring Media Group is a professional boxing promotion

company that also started Waco's Ironhorse Boxing Club at Ironhorse Gym. Its goal with this event, Terrazas said, is to give amateur fighters the chance to compete on a similar level as professional fighting.

"We saw that guys new to (Mixed Martial Arts) were going pro too fast since there weren't enough amateur fights," Terrazas said.

"Too many fighters were getting hurt by professional martial artists."

Unlike professional tournaments, which consist of three five-minute rounds, amateur tournaments have three three-minute rounds, Terrazas said.

While this Ring Rulers event will feature amateur fighters, the caliber of technique and skill is on the level of professionals, said Roy Silbas, an Ironhorse Gym Mixed Martial Arts coach and professional fighter.

Silbas currently trains Cale Grady, one of the headliner fighters for Friday's event.

"I've seen Cale's skills increase dramatically," Silbas said. "He's pushed through a lot of pain and injuries."

Grady has been training for more than a year at Ironhorse Gym under the guidance of Silbas and Luis Suarez, the head boxing coach. This will be his second official fight. A visitor

to the gym can expect to find Grady hitting a suspended punching bag to work on his boxing technique, which is crucial for the upright Mixed Martial Arts fighting, Silbas said.

"I do this because I love fighting legally," Grady said. "I'll do it until I make it to the top."

The Ring Rulers Universal Fighting Championship/Mixed Martial Arts event will be held Friday at El Rancho, located at 2315 Robinson Rd.

Tickets will be sold at the door for \$20 and can also be purchased at Ironhorse Gym or online at www.ringrulers.com.

Attendees must be at least 18 years old.

UPCOMING ARTS

Matt Wertz in Dallas

Soulful rocker Matt Wert will perform live at the Gypsy Tea Room at 7 p.m. Thursday and Friday. He'll be playing songs from his most recent album, *Everything In Between*, and other popular hits. The Gypsy Tea Room is located at 2548 Elm Street in Deep Ellum.

Deryl Dodd in Gatesville

Deryl Dodd will perform Saturday. His most recent release, *Full Circle*, represents his Texas roots, family values and faith. His music combines "the best of the Texas roadhouse tradition," according to Mike Farley from the Michael J. Media Group. The Horseshoe is located at 1216 Hwy. 36.

Green River Ordinance at Common Grounds

The band Green River Ordinance will perform in the Backyard at Common Grounds at 9 p.m. Saturday. The show is part of an Omega Kids post-party. Booths with information about Invisible Children, the Freedom Center in Iraq, University Baptist Church and Woodway Baptist Church will also be available. The post-party is free at 1123 S. 8th St.

Fine dining any time of day

By Rebecca Lilley
Contributor

For a pleasant, elegant dining experience, check out Amelia's on the Avenue.

RESTAURANT REVIEW

Amelia's is located on Austin Avenue between 16th and 17th streets, but don't be alarmed when you don't see it at first. The restaurant is inside a gift and antique store, Sironia, which makes it a popular restaurant for shoppers.

When you walk in, you'll most likely be seated by Jake Black, the owner of Amelia's. Jake and his wife, Karen, opened the restaurant several years ago.

Jake manages the restaurant business while Karen handles the kitchen.

The restaurant features white tablecloths, white cloth napkins and the waiters wear white tuxedo shirts and magenta bowties, giving the restaurant a classy feel. The food is served on mismatched china plates, and the assorted silverware was purchased by Karen at estate sales.

If you decide to go to Amelia's for lunch, be prepared for a wait, but the food is certainly

worth it. The menu includes everything from quiche to hamburger steak. The most popular items are Amelia's Trio and the Sironia Trio.

Amelia's Trio includes a scoop of chicken salad, a scoop of vermicelli salad and is served with fresh fruit and carrot cake muffins. The chicken salad is made with cranberries, walnuts and large chunks of chicken.

The Sironia Trio comes with half a chicken or tuna salad sandwich, a small spinach salad and a cup of the soup of the day. Soups range from a cold cherry soup to chicken gumbo.

Guys, don't be deceived. Amelia's doesn't just serve "chick food."

Included in the menu is Amelia's Favorite Chicken, which is a grilled chicken plate served with your choice of two sides. Side options include green beans, mashed potatoes, watermelon and corn.

Make sure to save room for dessert. Amelia's offers a wide variety of made-from-scratch, mouth-watering sweets. Amelia's Dream, a chocolate pudding with whipped topping, is the most popular.

If you're not a chocolate fan, try the strawberry cake or the bread pudding served with rum raisin sauce, which is excellent

with one of Amelia's cappuccinos.

Amelia's has been serving lunch for several years, but last summer, the Blacks decided to try their hand at dinner. Amelia's is open on Friday and Saturday nights from 5 to 9 p.m.

At night, Amelia's is upgraded from a casual lunch café to an upscale, fine-dining restaurant. The white tablecloths are replaced with black, and Amelia's boasts live jazz music.

A guitar plays on the outdoor patio when weather permits and in the dining room the rest of the time.

While the meals may be pricier at night, the food is wonderful. Along with ribeye and tenderloin steaks, customers can choose a spicy shrimp pasta dish or grilled chicken served with raspberry chipotle sauce, among others.

Amelia's has large rooms that can be reserved for parties and other events. It also offers a special party menu, and arrangements can be made for special desserts.

Amelia's is a fun place to eat with a group of friends or even when ordering food to-go. Though it's a little pricier than many college students' budgets allow, the food makes every penny worth it.




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THANK YOU FOR A GREAT SHOW!

CHENEY from page 1

hearing news reports on Monday that he was delayed by bad weather. The Taliban have attacked in the area north of the capital in the past even though people living in the Bagram area have not been supportive of the guerrillas.

Col. Tom Collins, the top spokesman for the NATO force, said the Taliban had a cell in Kabul that could have traveled the 30 miles north to Bagram.

Asked if the Taliban was trying to send a message with the attack, Cheney said: "I think they clearly try to find ways to question the authority of the central government. Striking at Bagram with a suicide bomber, I suppose, is one way to do that. But it shouldn't affect our behavior at all."

Cheney was the highest-ranking U.S. official to stay overnight in either the Afghanistan or Iraq war zones.

President Bush was not awakened to be told about the attack, but received an update early Tuesday morning.

White House press secretary Tony Snow said Bush's first reaction was to ask if Cheney was OK.

A message posted on a Web site used by militants said "a mujahid (holy warrior) ... carried out a suicide attack in front of the second gate of the Bagram

Air Base. ... The target was Bush's vice president, Dick Cheney."

A purported Taliban spokesman, Qari Yousef Ahmadi, said Cheney was the target of the attack carried out by an Afghan named Mullah Abdul Rahim.

"We knew that Dick Cheney would be staying inside the base," Ahmadi told The Associated Press by telephone from an undisclosed location. "The attacker was trying to reach Cheney."

But it appeared unlikely the bomber would have been able to reach the vice president, who was in a "very safe and secure place" roughly a mile from the blast site, said U.S. spokesman Lt. Col. David Accetta.

The bomber, Accetta said, never tried to get by any U.S.-manned security checkpoints and instead walked into a group of Afghans outside the base and detonated himself.

"To characterize this as a direct attempt on the life of the vice president is absurd," Accetta said.

Cheney's trip to Afghanistan, on the heels of a four-hour visit Monday to Pakistan, had not been announced in advance. Snow said he did not know whether publicity about Cheney's overnight stay at the base helped invite the attack, after the planned meeting Monday with Karzai was postponed.

Even though reaching the

front gate of the U.S. base could have been achieved with relative ease, the idea of getting through U.S. security to attack Cheney was "far-fetched," in the words of Maj. William Mitchell, a U.S. spokesman.

Nevertheless, Seth Jones, an Afghan expert at the RAND Corp. think tank, said the attack was a "stark reminder of the deteriorating security environment" in Afghanistan and was a propaganda boost for the Taliban.

"The attack also demonstrates the strength of the suicide network the Taliban and al-Qaida have in place," Jones said.

"To execute such an attack on such short notice requires a well-developed network of suicide bombers and handlers that can react quickly."

Husain Haqqani, director of the Center for International Relations at Boston University and a former adviser to three Pakistani prime ministers, said the attack "does not reflect well on the Afghan government's ability to maintain security."

The bombing sends the message that the Taliban threat "is greater than the U.S. has considered it," he said.

Karzai's office said 23 people were killed, including 20 Afghan workers waiting outside the base. Twenty other people were injured, it said.



David Poe/Lariat staff

Making the invisible visible

San Diego senior Brice Crozier addresses the audience Tuesday at a showing of the documentary *Invisible Children* as part of the charity's nationwide tour.

CHILD from page 1

she said.

Dr. Mia Moody-Hall, journalism lecturer, opted to use her vacation days after the birth of her son in spring 2005 instead of the Family and Medical Leave Act. Moody-Hall was able to take four weeks off with pay versus taking up to 12 weeks off without pay in conjunction with the act.

"Baylor was really nice about it," she said. "You worry about getting someone to fill in for your classes, but professors have it easier than most as far as maternity options are concerned."

She cited the option of planning a pregnancy around summer vacation or winter break, but also recognized births can

be unpredictable. Moody-Hall, whose own child was born five weeks early, said professors do worry about how they can maintain their professional life while expanding their family.

Global accounting and auditing firm Ernst and Young has developed a comprehensive program to support expectant and working mothers.

Holly Humphrey, assistant director of public relations for the firm, said it is committed to women's issues. Through the Working Mom's Network, which launched in the United States in June 2006, all the firm's mothers are connected to "provide support, resources, networking and mentoring opportunities," according to the company Web site.

Humphrey said the firm realized many women needed more support beyond an excused leave of absence from work.

She said the firm has spent a lot of time developing ways to encourage women to return to work after a period of maternity leave.

"Ernst and Young's culture is a people-first culture," she said. "We don't have products that we're selling, so our company's success depends on the quality of our people."

While a number of young women work for the company, Humphrey said that after having children, many were choosing not to return.

"We want to help women meet both their personal and professional goals," she said.

BOOKS from page 1

paign and others like it will go into first reading Thursday at the weekly Student Senate meeting.

Since it's an issue he believes warrants immediate discussion, Nicholson said he'll push to take the resolution into its second reading at the same meeting so that it can be voted upon immediately.

"Really, it's not a pressing issue," said Travis Plummer, student body internal vice president and a San Antonio junior.

He added that Baylor's student government has not often lobbied for student interests, but that Student Senate will be representing students' interests through this issue.

"Every little bit helps," Plummer said.

"I don't think the state Legislature should ever essentially fine students for getting an education."

A Baylor Facebook group already exists to coordinate communication for students interested in the protest, titled, "I'm Broke & Sick of Ramen Noodles...so Hell Yeah I'm For Tax Free Textbooks."

Similar to a 1,000-member global group of the same name, the aim of the group is to provide information for interested students.

Nicholson said plans for a Baylor postcard campaign are also in the works, which will call for Waco's legislative representatives to support the bill.

"Education is always a great investment by the state," he said. "(Tax-free textbooks) are a really simple way for the state to sponsor education."

Anne Richards, manager of the Baylor Bookstore, said the bill could encourage students to buy needed books.

"On a \$700 purchase, that's a lot of money," she said, referring to Texas' sales tax.

The statewide sales tax is 6.25 percent, but local taxing jurisdictions can raise that number by up to an additional 2 percent. Waco's rate is 8.25 percent.

Taxes on a \$700 book purchase is nearly \$60.

If students get a tax break, she said, "I think it's going to take a little of the sting away."

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