

ROUNDING UP CAMPUS NEWS SINCE 1900

THE BAYLOR LARIAT

FRIDAY, MARCH 23, 2007

Lilley heads to India with education delegation

By Jon Schroeder
Staff writer

President John Lilley will be traveling to India this weekend as part of a group of senior U.S. government officials and U.S. college and university presidents to promote higher education in the United States.

Karen Hughes, secretary of state for public democracy and public affairs, is heading up the trip, which will last from Saturday until March 30. The group

will make stops in Mumbai and New Delhi while in India.

"Through meetings with students and leaders in higher education, government and business, the delegation will promote the quality, dynamism and diversity of U.S. higher education as well as Americans' desire to expand educational partnerships with Indians," according to a State Department news release.

Lilley said he planned to learn about the region in addi-

tion to encouraging international students to study in the U.S.

"I'm honored to have been selected for it," Lilley said. "It will be good to go there and really have an opportunity to see how that country functions."

The group also will work to reinforce relationships with India.

"The delegation will carry the message that the U.S. welcomes and values international students who want to study in the United States, and they will

highlight the importance of international education to strengthening U.S.-India ties and preparing globally competitive American students at educational institutions," the press release stated.



Lilley

Lilley said Baylor's inclusion with the delegation speaks volumes to its status in American higher education.

"The greatest satisfaction I derive from this invitation is the evidence it provides that Baylor is now recognized as a pre-eminent American university that has a role to play on the world stage," he wrote in an e-mail sent to faculty. "Throughout the trip I will have the opportunity to share the good work Baylor has been doing in multiple areas,

especially in this setting our commitment to enhance global education, our 11th Imperative of our 2012 Vision."

Some of the trip's discussions will be about a series of ongoing higher education reforms in India. In particular, the Indian government has become concerned about the number of Indians who come to America to study and never return with the benefit of education, Lilley said.

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Laurisa Lopez/Lariat staff

Mark of culture

Samanvita Gupta, a Dallas freshman, paints a henna tattoo on Ann Rajan, a Subcontinent Student Association will offer henna tattoos from noon to 5 p.m. today in the SUB.

Baylor ranks highest of peers

'Relevant' magazine says BU tops Christian colleges

By Kate Boswell
Staff writer

Relevant magazine ranked Baylor the No. 1 Christian college in the United States in its current issue.

The magazine, whose tagline is "God. Life. Progressive Culture," rated colleges on academics, student life and spiritual life. The grades in each category were averaged and the magazine then listed the top five.

Baylor president John Lilley said he is grateful that Relevant ranked Baylor so highly.

"Baylor, from its inception 162 years ago, has been trying to be a great Christian university," he said.

However, he said there was still a need to make Baylor a better place.

"It's very important that we be dissatisfied where Baylor is today," Lilley said. "Every day we work to make Baylor better."

Students agree. "I think it's amazing because there are so many Christian schools out there," said Jean Yang, a Houston sophomore who said she subscribes to Relevant.

Yang said she thought of the award as positive advertising for Baylor, especially to people in other parts of the country.

"Not a lot of people know about Baylor unless they have family friends here," she said. "It makes us more of a household name. It definitely raised my school spirit."

Other winners included, in descending order, Calvin College, Pepperdine University, Wheaton College and Biola University.

Please see SENATE, page 4

Senate OKs money for memorial, dance society

By Kate Boswell
Staff writer

Student Senate voted Thursday to allocate funds for the Katie Moseley memorial tree and the Latin Dance Society's Third Annual Salsa Congress.

It also passed a resolution recommending the Bill Daniel Student Center be expanded sooner than scheduled and a resolution thanking former Baylor president Robert B. Sloan Jr. for his contribution to Baylor. Senate also confirmed a new senator.

Senate voted unanimously to allocate \$850 to North Russell Residential Hall residents to fund a memorial tree for Moseley. Moseley, a Livingston freshman who resided in North Russell, was killed in a car crash last semester.

According to the bill, the tree will be planted outside her window in the front lawn of North Russell. The total cost of the tree, which will also have a memorial plaque, is \$2,000.

"This is one of the most important things Senate can do," Christopher Paxton, a Houston

freshman, said. "This is something lasting."

Several North Russell residents who had known Moseley came to speak at the meeting.

"She was one of those girls who truly built the community," said Suzanne Goodwin, a sophomore from The Woodlands who was the community leader on Moseley's hall.

"Her family is really excited about seeing us try to raise money for this. Just to see how much it touches her family touches us."

Senate voted 36 to 1 to allo-

cate \$2,250 to the Latin Dance Society to fund its Third Annual Salsa Congress.

The event, which is being held April 13-15, will offer dance workshops and be free and open to Baylor and the entire Waco community. In its first year, it had around 30 participants, but this year it is expected to have more than 200.

"This is an event I've personally seen grow over the years," said Thomas Herndon, a Kansas City, Kan., junior. "I'm excited to see just how it's going to grow in the future."

Steppin' Out offers chance to serve city

By Melissa Limmer
Staff writer

Sixty student organizations, totalling 3,000 individual and group volunteers will come together Saturday to step outside the Baylor Bubble and make an impact in the Waco community.

Steppin' Out will continue its tradition of service as students from groups like Delta Delta Delta and Asians for Christ come together to work on various service projects. Sites that have benefited from Steppin' Out include the Waco Family Abuse Center to the McLennan County Library.

Putting on such a massive service effort is no small task, but for a committed group of only nine student volunteers on the Steppin' Out steering committee, their hard work is well worth it, committee member and Centennial, Colo., sophomore Emily Hinkle said.

"We are very excited," Hinkle said. "We finally will get to see the result of all our hard work."

The Steppin' Out steering committee begins planning and coordinating one of Baylor's biggest campus events at the beginning of the semester and

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Courtesy photo

Steppin' Out committee members expect participation in Saturday's event to surpass last year's record number 3,000 volunteers.

Group supports Ghana by selling beaded pins

By Rafael Benavides
Reporter

Who'd think a beaded pin could save a widowed mother and her children from starvation in a rural village of West Africa?

Concerned with the dilemmas beyond our borders, the Magellan Society was started in 2000 and is made up of students working to raise awareness about issues around the world.

On Monday the members began selling colorful, beaded pins with Ashanti tribe proverbs for \$1 in the Bill Daniel Student

Center. The proceeds will help widowed women in Ghana each buy an acre of land and begin a peanut farm to sustain their families.

Today is the last day the Magellan Society will be selling its fundraiser pins in the student center, but donations will continue to be accepted.

Magellan Society president and Brenham junior Eva Studer said the Magellan Society is focusing on Ghana because she and her sister, Hana, lived in Tamale, Ghana, from 1996 to 1998 and know first-hand how

Please see PINS, page 4

Editorial

Time for gut check with Iraq policy

While politicians and citizens alike argue about the initial purpose of the Iraq war, there's no denying one thing: We're still there. So upon entering the country's fifth year of combat operations, it's time for everyone to take a comprehensive look at the costs of this war.

After considering what we've spent, what we've gained and what we've lost, our country has reached another time to decide how our forces need to be used. In order to look at every side, let's look at the positive things that happened since military action began back in 2003.

The most obvious gain is the capture and execution of Saddam Hussein. Another achievement is the laying of the foundation for a free Iraq. There's nothing more promising than a country attempting to stand on its own two feet.

But with these achievements, there are also some heavy costs to weigh.

The first, but certainly not the most important aspect to consider, is money. To date, the U.S. has spent \$351 billion on the war in Iraq alone.

Nationalpriorities.org has broken down the different ways

in which this money could have been used. More than 19 million citizens could have received four-year scholarships to public universities. Our public schools could have hired more than 7 million teachers for one year.

While it's tempting to simply focus on the dollars and cents surrounding the war, let's not forget an even bigger issue: the rising death toll. According to an Associated Press count, 3,230 members of the U.S. military have been killed since 2003.

Just as alarming is the minimum number of civilian deaths in Iraq: more than 34,000 in 2006 alone according to a U.N. report released in January.

Every increase represents a grieving family. Somewhere there's a heartbroken mother, a child deprived of a parent or a child who's lost his best friend. The realities of war simply can't be ignored.

Yes, death is an unavoidable part of war, but does that mean we should continue recklessly without examining our situation?

Now is the time to challenge the current policies and procedures in place for the war. With a new bill asking for an additional



\$100 billion for war spending, Congress has the opportunity to deny further funds until a new plan has been drawn up.

Members of the House have attached a deadline of September 2008 to the spending bill, although it still has to be voted on and then passed in the Senate. Not to mention, President Bush has threatened to veto the additional deadline.

To continually fund a strat-

egy that only provides for an indefinite troop presence is ridiculous, and it's important to start demanding a change in tactics.

But it's not just our representatives who can make a difference — citizens should encourage a vote for immediate change.

The truth is, we as citizens haven't been asked to sacrifice much in this war, and that's a luxury the Iraqi people don't

have. They've sacrificed plenty and continue to do so on a daily basis.

Our troops were done a disservice when they were expected to go to war and sacrifice when we weren't.

So during this week as our troops enter their fifth year of combat, call or send a letter to your congressman, say a prayer for peace and remember: War costs lives along with dollars.

Opinion policy

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

Opinions expressed in the Lariat aren't 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.

Letters that focus on an issue affecting students or faculty may be considered for a guest column at the editor's discretion.

All submissions become the property of The Baylor Lariat.

The Lariat reserves the right to edit letters for grammar, length, label and style. Letters should be e-mailed to Lariat_letters@baylor.edu or mailed to The Baylor Lariat, One Bear Place #97330, Waco, TX 76798-7330.

Corrections policy

The Baylor Lariat is committed to ensuring fair and accurate reporting and will correct errors of substance on Page 2. Corrections can be submitted to the editor by sending an e-mail to Lariat_letters@baylor.edu or by calling 254-710-4099.

DH a waste of baseball's time

I'm sick of missing open shots on the basketball court. From now on, I'm only going to play when my team is on defense and I'll have someone with better shooting ability take my spot every time my team has the ball.

Pretty stupid idea, right? It's no different with a designated hitter.

In 1973, the American League decided to thumb its nose at 97 years of history and allow pitchers to sit on the bench while someone else takes their batting spot because offensive numbers were down.

What seemed like a good idea at the time has turned into one of the biggest mistakes of America's pastime.

Baseball is a thinking man's game. Managers are supposed to use strategy. In the AL, a manager never has to use a double-switch. He rarely has to decide whether to use his best pinch hitter now or save him for later in the game.

If I were managing an AL team, I'd fill my bench with the best defensive players I could find regardless of how well they hit.

National League teams need deeper benches and bullpens because there's no DH. If you're down in the bottom of the sev-



sports take

BY DAVID KAYE

enth and your pitcher comes to bat with the bases loaded, you have to make a choice whether it's more important to keep that pitcher in the game or send a pinch hitter.

It's the way it's been played since 1876. It's part of what makes baseball great.

Another great part of baseball is the mind game that goes on between pitcher and batter. There's a certain artistry that goes with painting the outside corner with strike three, one pitch after buzzing the batter just below the chin with a fastball. Only problem is that occasionally a fastball will end up on, rather than below the chin.

AL pitchers don't worry about this problem because they don't ever have to set foot in the batter's box and face that same chin music. NL pitchers have to stand in that same box and if the opposing pitcher feels like retaliating, they might catch one in the ear.

It's all part of the game. Like

fighting in hockey, bumping in NASCAR, NBA players being arrested. Wait, disregard that last part. I meant like hard fouls that prevent open lay-ups. It may not be allowed, but it's accepted as part of the game.

What about the fact that offensive numbers aren't down anymore? Batters have found ways to score more runs — and I don't mean with injections. Maybe I'm naive in thinking batters have gotten better for reasons other than steroids.

What I do know is that pitchers are at enough of a disadvantage in today's game. The least we can do is give them an easy out every time. That, or an embarrassment when they give up a home run to the opposing pitcher with a career .050 batting average.

The opposing view will say, "No one wants to see a pitcher hit." While that may be true, no one wants to see an overweight 60-year-old in a tight-fitting uniform, but we're willing to deal with it when there's an actual need for a manager.

The DH has eliminated that need. Either we eliminate the DH, or the manager in the tight uniform. Call me a purist, but I say we go with what's worked.

David Kaye is a senior journalism major from Katy.

Pitcher needs to take the bench

Nope, that poor fellow who just struck out on three pitches wasn't pulled out of the stands for a promotion. Unfortunately, that at-bat counts.

Don't know what I'm talking about? Watch a pitcher bat in a National League game and you will. If you're a fan of good baseball, you'll cringe every time you watch it.

Don't get me wrong, I love a good laugh. Watching a pitcher stand five feet off the plate and never take the bat off his shoulder definitely qualifies as funny.

There are few things more humorous than watching David Wells flail at three straight pitches before plopping his rear on the bench.

But to me, that's not what baseball should be about. When I watch a game, I want to see the best baseball players in the world compete. With pitchers batting, that's just not the case.

In 2006, NL pitchers produced a whopping .137 batting average. Some of the best hitting pitchers — Carlos Zambrano (.212), Dontrelle Willis (.222) and Jason Jennings (.219) — hit well below average.

These numbers aren't just bad, they're abysmal. Even the worst Major League position players would struggle to



sports take 2

BY DANIEL YOUNGBLOOD

struggle so badly.

That .137 batting average is just a symptom of the real problem. Most don't put any effort into becoming a more difficult out. Pitchers have never hit particularly well, but the fact that they're this bad now is only partly their fault.

In 1973, the designated hitter role arrived in the American League, and since then, it's been adopted at most amateur and minor league levels. Many pitchers are separated from position players early in their development and don't have to bat most of their careers. For them to be expected to pick up a bat when they reach the big leagues after not having used one for years is ludicrous. The product you get is far below what it could be.

While I still enjoy the NL, the quality of the lineups in the AL makes for more entertaining games because it demands better pitching.

In NL games, you're essen-

tially given two or three automatic outs a game.

What looks like huge rallies are often killed when the pitcher comes to bat. There's a reason Roger Clemens' ERA his last five years in the AL were a run and a half higher than it has been in Houston. When you can pitch around the eighth hitter to get to someone even weaker, it's easier to get outs.

Purists say NL baseball presents more strategy by forcing managers to decide whether to pull their pitchers for a chance to score runs or keep them in to shut down the other team. I would rather see pitchers do what they're paid to do and let batters do their jobs.

One of the criticisms of the DH is it creates one-dimensional players who hit without playing in the field. It's true, but DHs could play a position and look much less ridiculous than a pitcher trying to bat.

The DH allows great offensive players to prolong their careers. Without it, baseball junkies like myself wouldn't have gotten to see Paul Molitor, Eddie Murray or Edgar Martinez play as long. That would have been a shame.

Daniel Youngblood is a senior journalism major from Fort Worth.

Letters to the editor

Show Christ's love to sinners

What should be the Christian's response when he is confronted by someone advocating homosexual behavior?

Jesus loved and ministered to sinners — a group which comprises every single one of us — but he did not condone sin. He had to come because our sin separated us from God.

Even while I was in that sinful and unrepentant state, He

sent his Son to earth to live a perfect life and pay the righteous penalty my sins deserved.

However, neither in Christ's ministering to those sinners nor in his Holy Spirit's calling me to his salvation did he ignore sin. Though forgiven, I continue to sin and battle my sin nature. Still he loves me, and still he calls us to repentance.

In calling others to repentance, we should be careful to obey Matthew 7:3-5. We should

first notice and remove the logs in our own eyes before we try to remove the specks from our brothers' eyes.

We cannot honestly condemn homosexual behavior without also condemning adultery, premarital sex, pornography and a host of other sexual sins. Along with these others, homosexual behavior is a sin.

Homosexual behavior is contrary to God's design (Gen. 1:27-28) and is therefore unnatural

(Rom. 1:26-27: "...their women exchanged the natural function for that which is unnatural, and in the same way also the men abandoned the natural function of the woman and burned in their desire toward one another, men with men committing indecent acts and receiving in their own persons the due penalty of their error.")

According to God's word, homosexual activity is sinful and an abomination (Lev. 18:22:

"You shall not lie with a male as one lies with a female; it is an abomination." See also Lev. 20:13, Rom. 1:26-27, 1 Cor. 6:9, 1 Tim. 1:9-10). Contrary to the arguments of some, the Bible does not restrict this prohibition by applying it only to cult prostitution or promiscuity, but condemns the act itself without contextualization or limitation.

We do not condemn sodomy out of fear or hatred. Rather, we call it and treat it as sin because

our faith in God's revealed word requires us to do so.

Nevertheless, we do not hate those who engage in this lifestyle, but love them with the love of Christ — unconditionally — praying for them that they would realize their folly, repent and confess their sins and submit themselves to the lordship of Christ and his word.

Brad Pierce History 2004 Law 2007

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3x3 grid for a sudoku puzzle with numbers 3, 2, 1, 9, 4, 4, 1, 6, 8, 4, 7, 3, 2, 7, 3, 9, 2, 5, 4, 1.

HARD # 21
Fill in the grid so that every row, every column and every 3X3 box contains the digits 1 through 9 with no repeats.

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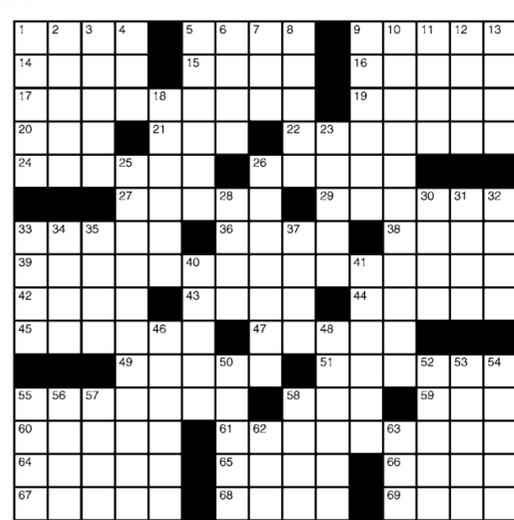
THE Daily Crossword

Edited by Wayne Robert Williams

- ACROSS
1 Papa's mate
5 Laugh heartily
9 Model T's descendant
14 Visa alternative
15 Toledo's lake
16 Sound
17 Commander of Apollo 13
19 Just right
20 Lennon's love
21 Singer McGraw
22 Stalemate
24 Gangster's gat
26 Dutch genre painter
27 In what way?
29 Choice morsel
33 Hump on slopes
36 To a distance
38 Switch ending?
39 Good title for this puzzle?
42 Fringe benefit
43 Appear to be
44 Examine for value
45 Call it a go
47 Notational sign in music
49 Jump for joy
51 Ill will
55 Sea cow

- 58 Atmosphere
59 "Norma ___"
60 Aphorism
61 First pilot to fly solo around the world
64 Come of age
65 Lupino and Tarbell
66 Narrow margin
67 Get under way
68 Sound unit
69 Teeny
DOWN
1 Field of study
2 Protein acid
3 In-box items
4 Rose of Guns N' Roses
5 Comment on
6 Provo neighbor
7 Feel unwell
8 Kindled anew
9 Taiwan's capital
10 "To Fly and Fight" author
11 Caesar's last day
12 Narrow inlets
13 Pineapple brand
18 Annette of "Smallville"
23 French measure
25 First pilot to travel

- faster than sound
26 Most lenient
28 Rational
30 JFK and RFK
31 Farm Belt state
32 Kingfisher relative
33 Atlas contents
34 SSS designation
35 Lake Michigan port city
37 Lamerter's words
40 Matter of contention
41 Pet songbird
46 Breadth
48 Dolphins QB, once
50 John L. or Jerry Lee
52 Zagreb native
53 Caravan stop
54 Give it another go
55 "Total Recall" planet
56 Door to get ore?
57 California valley
58 Greenspan or Ladd
62 Altar vow
63 ___ Beta Kappa



By James E. Buell Edgewater, FL 3/23/07

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

Organization helps fight cancer, '80s style

By Star De La Cruz
Reporter

In the process of looking for a philanthropy event, Kappa Delta Chi thought of a fun way to get students involved to raise money for the American Cancer Society.

The sorority will hold an '80s Dance-Off party at 7 p.m. today in the Barfield Drawing Room of the Bill Daniel Student Center.

Amanda Frail, a San Antonio sophomore and committee member, said they decided on an '80s theme because the sorority was founded in 1987 and "we were born in the '80s."

"Even though students are not required to dress up in '80s attire, we encourage them to," Frail said.

She added "the '80s trend is coming back in style, so it shouldn't be hard to find clothes."

Sapora Bradley, an El Paso junior and committee member, said there are not many dances offered on campus.

She said the idea had been evolving since the beginning of the school year, but once it was set it was "hard to get approved and find sponsorship" since the sorority is a small organization on campus.

"There is a \$300 cash prize for the best couple, plus professional massages," she said.

"There are also two \$100 cash rewards and a prize pack for the best individual dancers — one female and male and a \$50 prize for best dressed," she said.

Wendy Valdes, an El Paso junior and committee member, said these winners will also receive "really nice, big trophies."

This will be the sorority's first year holding this event.

"We're really excited about the event, and we want to do something good for the community and for Baylor so we hope the students will support the

fundraiser and come to have a good time," Valdes said.

Valdes said the goal is to raise \$1,000 through tickets and T-shirts designed by the sorority.

She said tickets and T-shirts will be sold at the door, but it's preferable to buy them before the event so that they make sure enough food is available. Pizza, drinks and snacks will be provided.

Frail said there will be door prizes for those who bought a \$5 ticket.

Valdes said some of the door prizes include gift certificates from various restaurants, and two \$50 gift certificates, one

to Best Buy and another to the Baylor bookstore.

There will also be a blanket and concert tickets as prizes.

Bradley said there will be a '90s hour where they will play music from the '90s, but decorations and attire will be in the '80s trend.

"It's a chance to cool down after spring break, and it's for a good cause," Bradley said. "Plus it will be lots of fun."

Frail said she can't wait to see how it all comes together because they have been planning the event for a long time.

"I also want to see everyone enjoying themselves."

'Battle' to help local youth

By Katie Vinson
Reporter

Get your mosh pits in order and rock on, Waco.

The Mission Waco FOCUS mentor program is hosting a battle of the bands benefit concert from 6 p.m. to 1 a.m. today and Saturday at the Mission Waco Jubilee Theater.

The Mission Waco FOCUS program has collaborated with Making Collaborations for Youth Count (MCYC) to match up adult mentors with local children of incarcerated parents. The main goal of the concert is to find at least 10 mentors for the program.

"There are over 200 children citywide that are on the waiting list," Raul Salinas, Mission Waco mentoring program director, said. "It's sad when you think about the more than 14,000 students at Baylor, 400 students at Truett and 100 churches citywide."

The concert will begin with 16 bands competing tonight and Saturday. The winners will be determined at the final round on April 7.

One of the four judges, Eric "E-Rock" Engelsing, a local actor and former intern of 102.5 The Bear, said he's very excited to be the celebrity judge.

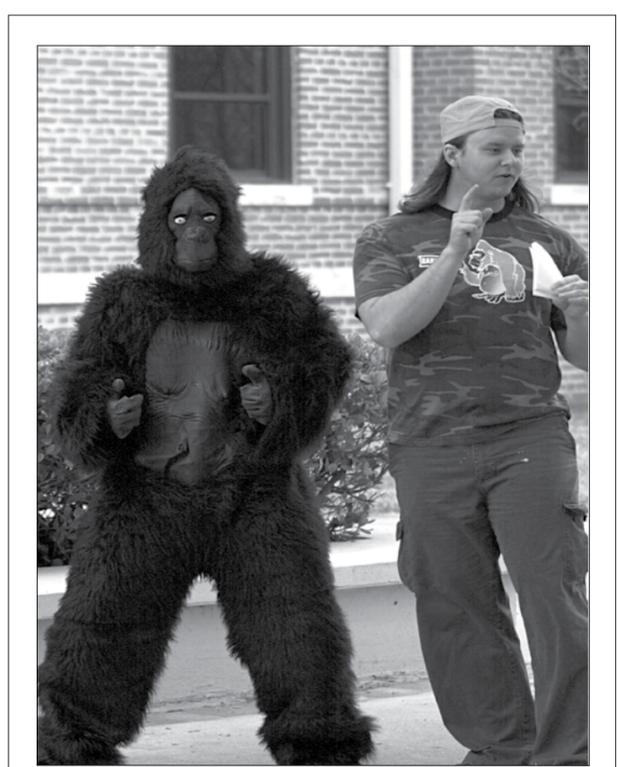
"This is my first time to judge a battle of the bands concert," Engelsing said. "When they asked me to be the celebrity judge, I laughed. I don't consider myself a celebrity."

Local bands competing include 40 Mile Road, Hymn Six, Amarant and The Restored.

"Rock has always been music that has defied the status quo," Salinas said. "Through music, we are able to build a relationship."

The Mission Waco Jubilee Theater is located at 1315 N. 15th St. General admission is \$6, or \$5 with a college ID.

Those who purchase their tickets tonight after 7 p.m. will be given a chance to win \$50. The money collected from ticket sales will go toward prizes for the winning bands.



Chris Weeks/Lariat staff

Monkeying around

Fort Worth senior Cody Lee (right) and Mr. Tinky talk to students Thursday in Burlison Quadrangle to promote the Guerrilla Troupe performances tonight and Saturday night after "The Shape of Things" performance in Jones Theater.

'March' event brings Waco students to BU

By Perla Sanchez
Reporter

High school students will be seen all over campus today as they participate in March to College Day. Organized by the National Society of Collegiate Scholars, the event will include all five local high schools. McLennan Community College and Texas State Technical College will also participate.

"The purpose of the day is to promote higher education," said Fallon Rice, a Sugar Land sophomore and vice president of planning for college success.

Rice said she organized the event to help students in Waco see the importance of pursuing their goals.

The day will start off with a tour of Baylor's campus, followed by lunch at Fountain Mall and a step performance by various greek organizations. Baylor students will serve as volunteers and assist with campus tours.

Although the event is mainly for visiting high school students, all Baylor students are invited at 1:15 p.m. to the Barfield Drawing Room of the Bill Daniel Student Center, where a surprise guest will be announced.

Following the surprise guest, two Baylor alumni and former Minnesota Viking football players, Allen Rice and Alfred Anderson, will make an appearance.

According to the National Society of Collegiate Scholars Web site, the men will speak with the students about the importance of higher education, setting goals and pursuing passions.

"We really just want to inspire those students and encourage them to achieve their dreams," said Laura Kresta, a Shiner senior and National Society of Collegiate Scholars president. "Some students don't actually know how to go about doing that"

The students will then have a reflection time where they will be asked to write down their goals.

A panel of Baylor students from diverse backgrounds will speak to the students and answer any questions they might have.

"I think it's going to give them a great preview of college life from a social and academic perspective," said Lisa Asher, Baylor Line associate editor and National Society of Collegiate Scholars adviser.

Lawmakers torn over foster care privatization

By Liz Austin Peterson
The Associated Press

AUSTIN — The deaths of three children in foster homes run by private agencies have lawmakers questioning where to draw the line on outsourcing the care of Texas' abused and neglected youngsters.

A Senate committee wrestled with the issue for more than four hours on Thursday as senators discussed a bill that would scale back a privatization plan they approved two years ago.

"I've gone back and forth and questioned and I have such mixed emotions," said Sen. Jane Nelson, a Republican from Lewisville who chairs the Senate Health and Human Services Committee.

While private groups already recruit and manage about 80 percent of Texas foster homes, state employees have traditionally been responsible for tasks such as developing case plans for children or conducting fam-

ily visits. In 2005, however, the Legislature approved a landmark Child Protective Services reform bill directing the state to hand over those responsibilities to the private groups over a five-year period.

The deaths of 6-year-old Katherine Frances, 3-year-old Sierra Odom and 1-year-old Christian Nieto of head injuries over the past year and a half prompted lawmakers to reconsider whether they were willing to give those groups so much responsibility.

A compromise Nelson unveiled on Thursday would scale back the privatization experiment to a small pilot and would keep state caseworkers involved in decisions about placements and service plans.

Her bill also calls for stricter supervision of foster homes and the hiring of specialists to monitor foster care placement agencies for possible safety problems.

F. Scott McCown, a for-

mer judge turned advocate for abused children, applauded the decision to slow the privatization and keep state caseworkers involved.

But he said the state should also end an effort to let private companies recruit and manage all foster homes by 2009.

Some foster families prefer to work directly with the state, he said, and they might quit if they had to move to a private firm. Also, many of the children in state-run foster homes have extreme health issues that private groups can't or won't accommodate.

"In 24 months, private providers aren't just going to be signing contracts right and left to take all these kids," he said.

But representatives from several private foster care agencies said Nelson's new proposal doesn't go far enough.

They said their caseworkers should be allowed to work with biological families because they're the ones coordinating

school, doctors' appointments and therapy.

"We are there working with the families and the children day in and day out," said Kurt Senske, chief executive of Lutheran Social Services of the South, which cares for about 1,300 foster children in 600 foster homes.

"It's natural that we're going to have the most understanding of what they need," he said.

The committee also discussed creating a bill of rights for foster children, including the right to live in a safe and comfortable home, to attend their choice of religious services and to not be unnecessarily or excessively medicated.

BEAR BRIEFS

Comedy troupe show

The Guerrilla Comedy Troupe will hold the Guerrillalodeon Comedy Troupe Show at 9:30 p.m. and 11 p.m. today and Saturday in Jones Theater, in the Hooper-Shaefer Fine Arts Building. A group of Baylor students will perform different improvisation games for a live audience.

Baylor's next top models

If you have been aspiring to model, then come at 4 p.m. Monday to 209 Mary-Gibbs Jones Family Consumer Sciences Building. Volunteer requirements are on the Facebook Group "Baylor's Next Top Models."

Race for the Cure

The Susan G. Komen Central Texas Race for the Cure will begin at 8 a.m. March 31 at Heritage Square. The deadline for online registration is Sunday. Register at www.komen-centraltexas.org. The cost is \$20 per runner.

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

POLICE BLOTTER

Burglary

A burglary of a habitation reportedly occurred Monday at the Baylor Plaza I apartments sometime between 5:30 p.m. March 8 and 5:30 p.m. March 18.

A burglary of a habitation reportedly occurred Monday at 1920 S. 2nd St. sometime between March 12 and March 18.

Criminal Mischief

Criminal mischief reportedly occurred sometime between 7:15 a.m. and noon Wednesday at the Robinson Tower parking lot.

Theft

A theft more than \$50 under \$500 reportedly occurred sometime between 3 and 3:15 p.m. Wednesday at Morrison Constitution Hall.

A theft under \$50 reportedly occurred sometime between 11 a.m. Tuesday and 12:30 a.m. Wednesday at an unknown location.

A theft more than \$50 under \$500 reportedly occurred sometime between 3:20 and 4:10 p.m. Tuesday at Morrison Constitution Hall.

A bicycle theft reportedly occurred between 2 and 3 p.m. Monday at the Carroll Library bike rack.

A theft under \$50 reportedly occurred sometime between 10 p.m. and midnight Monday at the McLane Student Life Center basketball courts.

Compiled from reports at www.baylor.edu/dps.

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SENATE from page 1

nothing big or controversial, just thanking him."

Senate voted unanimously on a resolution asking that the expansion of the Bill Daniel Student Center be started soon.

Copies of the bill will be sent to the Baylor Board of Regents and other university officials.

According to the bill, in a survey administered over the Baylor Information Network, 30 percent of students listed the expansion as one of their top three most desired improvements.

"It would be an amazing opportunity to increase student life together," Brent Wilkins, a Crawford senior, said of the expansion.

In other news, Senate voted

to confirm El Paso senior Denise Dorado as a member of Senate.

Dorado said she was looking forward to her new position.

"I'm really looking forward to finding out what Senate can do for the student body," she said. "I want to research and find out what's important to students and how we can help in our time in Senate."

PINS from page 1

the people live.

"We are here to raise awareness about people around the world. In this case, we chose Ghana," Studer added.

The society has different fundraisers each semester. This semester, they have embarked on a project called Ghanaian Rural Integrated - Northern Empowerment Association.

The Northern Empowerment association is a Ghana-based organization that "helps the northern area by giving out loans to buy an acre of land, a bag of peanut seed and a goat for each woman, along with people to show them how to cultivate the land," Studer said.

The Canadian International Development Agency will be matching the society's earnings so that every \$1 raised will actually count as \$3 going toward its

cause.

"As a club, the Magellan Society likes to work with grassroots organizations that don't have a lot of overhead cost, but that allow the monies to be tangible," said Hana Studer, a Brenham senior who helped begin the fundraiser on campus.

In 2004, the Magellan Society was able to send money and baby clothes to an orphanage in El Salvador.

That summer, the society took six students and a professor to the actual orphanage they helped support.

Oklahoma senior Melissa Nathias went on the 2004 summer trip to El Salvador.

"We visited three different organizations and went to rural schools," she said.

"The thing that I was moved by was how far U.S. resources will go in El Salvador. It was heart-warming to see how much a small amount of people could

make such an incredible impact in a developing nation."

Hana said, "I hope that we can really encourage people at Baylor that there are people and families in Ghana, especially women, that really struggle to feed themselves and their families."

Eva said, "We want to grab people's attention and hopefully give them something for their donation. We are trying to spread the word about the Magellan Society and its mission and the situation in Ghana."

Named after Ferdinand Magellan, the first person to circumnavigate the world, the Magellan Society is a service organization on campus whose mission is to "circumnavigate the world through our services and people," Eva said.

The society will sell its pins and give out information about the project in the student center until 2 p.m. today.



Associated Press

Democratic presidential hopeful John Edwards will continue his presidential campaign following the announcement that his wife Elizabeth's cancer has returned.

Edwards family will continue campaign

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Democrat John Edwards said Thursday that his presidential campaign "goes on strongly" in the face of a repeat cancer diagnosis for his wife, Elizabeth, a somber development that thrust his White House bid into uncharted territory.

The couple revealed that Elizabeth Edwards' breast cancer had spread to her bone dur-

ing a news conference designed to reassure the public about the prognosis for her health and his candidacy.

Mrs. Edwards' breast cancer was diagnosed the day after John Kerry and John Edwards lost the 2004 election.

She was treated with surgery and several months of radiation and chemotherapy.

"Getting these results was not a good day for us," John Edwards allowed.

HELP from page 1

meets at least once a week until the week of Steppin' Out. Each member spends his own time working in a small office in the Bill Daniel Student Center they share with Baylor Buddies.

For the members of the committee, the rewards they will reap on Saturday make all their work well worth it, Hinkle said.

"It is so neat to hear all the testimonies from all of the work sites," Hinkle said.

Hinkle said she decided to join the committee after a rewarding experience with Steppin' Out her freshman year.

"I had such a fun time, and it was really neat to talk to the homeowner and see how it (Steppin' Out) impacted her life," she said.

Beaumont senior and public relations chairman Andrew

Ginakis echoed Hinkle's sentiment.

He joined the committee after three years of participating in Steppin' Out.

"It is so much more than yard clean-up," he said. "It mobilizes people. ...We all have a responsibility to take care of the people around us."

Ginakis said the committee's goal this year for Steppin' Out is to encourage students to not only help the community by painting and cleaning, but to have students "talk to people in the community they are serving."

The committee already met one of its goals for this semester by signing up about 3,000 students.

Ginakis said this is around the same number that took part in Steppin' Out last semester, which was the largest group ever.

Missy Davis, graduate assistant for community service, and Karin Klingler, assistant director for student organization development, sponsor the steering committee.

"I love working with this committee," Davis said. "One of the outstanding characteristics of one of them is that they are all 100 percent committed to getting students involved in the committee."

Davis also said the group has been working hard and that they "hit the ground running this semester" because Steppin' Out is a week earlier than usual.

One of the 69 sites students will be working at will be the Waco Family Abuse Center.

Dinah Husbands, assistant director for Waco Family Abuse Center and volunteer coordinator, said she has worked with Steppin' Out all 11 years she has worked for the center.

"They have been doing great. We get great groups here," she said.

She also described the students who volunteer as being consistently responsible, on time and constantly working. Students will be cleaning at the shelter, changing air filters and working at the center's Second Chance thrift store. Husbands said that as a nonprofit organization, the center relies on volunteers like Baylor students to keep the center up and running.

Approximately 1,500 students will be working on various projects in conjunction with Keep Waco Beautiful.

Board member Sherri Street said Keep Waco Beautiful has worked with Steppin' Out "since the beginning."

"It has been great; (students) work hard and seem to have a lot of fun doing it," she said.

The students will be working on projects from a Brazos River clean-up, tire recycling and painting homes with seven neighborhood associations.

Street said the students' work lasts beyond Saturday; they bring the neighborhoods together and give the residents an excuse to be out and meet their neighbors.

"It gives them ownership of their own neighborhood," she said.

After a hard day of work, Ginakis said students will be able to "celebrate a day of service" at a carnival celebration open to students, faculty and the Waco community at Fountain Mall.

Ginakis also added that the committee is looking for more members to help organize Steppin' Out for next semester. Applications are available online on the student activities Web site.

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INDIA from page 1

"It's a chance for us to talk with each other and share ideas."

Lilley will speak Monday to a group of prominent business figures in Mumbai.

He will also introduce Hughes.

Grace Bhalla, a Mumbai, India, junior who moved to the United States when she was 17, said the educational partnership sounds like a good idea, but that there is "a lot more you could do" to further a relationship between the two countries.

She said she's not one of the students that the Indian government is concerned about — she'll be returning to India with skills she has acquired here.

"There's not very many people that do what I did," she said, noting that most Indian students who come to America have already completed their undergraduate studies.

Bhalla said she'll be rejoining her family in India after she completes her education in the United States. Still, she said, the Indian education system is not bad, just different from America's.

Besides Ambassador Hughes, the delegation also includes Thomas A. Farrell, Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for academic programs; Johnson & Wales University President John J. Bowen; University of Washington President Mark A. Emmert; Oakton Community College President Margaret B. Lee; North Carolina State University Chancellor James L. Oblinger and Kalamazoo College President Eileen Wilson-Oyelaran.

This is the second delegation which pairs educational leaders with political ones since the January 2006 U.S. University Presidents Summit on International Education, at which a commitment to greater partnership was announced.

Lilley participated in that delegation as well.

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Softball takes pair of 6-1 victories

By Will Parchman
Sports writer

The Baylor softball team won a decisive doubleheader on Thursday night against Oklahoma Baptist University at Gettman Stadium.

The Lady Bears beat the Bison 6-1 in both contests, improving their home record to 19-1 this season.

Starting pitcher Kirsten Shortridge looked shaky early on in the first game, giving up one run on two hits in the first inning. The Lady Bears collected a run in the second and third inning to take a one-run lead.

Shortridge settled down to retire the side in the second and third innings and struck out five batters before being pulled in the top of the fifth inning. Sophomore Brittany Turner replaced her and closed out the game, conceding one hit and no runs

over 2 1/3 innings of work.

Right fielder Nicole Wesley and Ashley Monceaux stole the show in the night's first game. Wesley went 4-4, and Monceaux crushed a two-run home run over the right field fence to drive in Wesley for her second run of the game and give the Lady Bears a 4-1 lead. Wesley struck again in the next inning, driving in two runs off a two-out double to cap the scoring.

Head Coach Glenn Moore couldn't say enough about Wesley's night on the plate.

"There's an expectation there from her that she's going to have nights like these," Moore said. "That's why she's a winner; we just expect her to be successful every night."

Wesley said it was just a matter of focusing and relying on her teammates.

"I came out here ready to hit the ball," she said. "I was really

seeing the ball well, and I was just doing my job. That's what I came to Baylor to do - to get on base, and that's what I did."

Baylor starting pitcher Lisa Ferguson, who Moore said was playing sick, started the second game much like Shortridge began the first: poorly. After putting runners on second and third base in the top of the first inning, she threw a wild pitch to bring a run home.

But once again, the Lady Bears answered. Wesley scored her third run of the night off an error in the first inning to square the game at one.

Nicole's twin Tiffany finally got in the stat column in the second inning, doubling to bring in a run. On the very next at-bat, Nicole doubled to bring in another two runs, stretching Baylor's lead to 4-1. A pair of runs in the third put Baylor's burgeoning lead at 6-1.

Ferguson found her stride in the circle just as Shortridge did, striking out four batters and allowing one run in three innings. Ashley Monceaux came on in relief in the fourth inning and threw four scoreless innings en route to the Lady Bears' second win of the evening.

Monceaux said even though this isn't the best team they'll face all year, wins like these can be the foundation of a successful season.

"We went into this game thinking they're just as good as anyone, and we just need to play our game and build our confidence," Monceaux said. "So we'll take these two wins, but we'll also know we built our confidence up a little bit."

Baylor will begin its Big 12 conference slate this weekend at Gettman Stadium with the University of Nebraska on Saturday and Sunday.



David Poel/Lariat Staff

Freshman outfielder Nicole Wesley slides into second base during the Lady Bears' first of two 6-1 victories on Thursday. With the wins, Baylor is 27-10 on the season and 19-1 at home.

BU to host Dr Pepper Invitational

Team preps for season's first outdoor meet

By Lequalan McDonald
Reporter

Oh to live the life of a track athlete. To run and jump. To be recognized state, country and worldwide if you are the fastest or can jump the highest.

But for those who can't, you can see the Baylor track team Saturday in its first outdoor meet of the season. The Bears will be hosting the Dr Pepper Invitational all day Saturday at the Hart-Patterson Track & Field Complex.

The last time Baylor was in action was the NCAA Indoor Championship on March 9 and 10.

Heading into that meet, Baylor men had posted top times in several events including the 4x400 meters relay and the 200 meters dash, some being the fastest in the country. In the indoor championships, they won the 4x400 meters relay and placed in the top five in the 400-meters run and the 200-meters dash.

"I was not disappointed as we came in seventh after placing eighth last year," head Coach Todd Harbour said. "We also had nine guys who made All-American, three of them twice making it 12 in total. And the Ladies finished fifth."

Returning from spring break signals that it's time for a change for track athletes. They move from inside to outside and after being away for every indoor



Baylor Photography

The Baylor 4x400 team poses after taking first at the NCAA Indoor Championship on March 9. Behind Coach Clyde Hart, Baylor's 400-meter runners have become the face of the Baylor track and field program.

meet, the Bears will host a pair of indoor meets: The Dr Pepper Invitational Saturday and the Michael Johnson Classic on April 21.

"It's going to be a lot of fun," freshman LeJerald Betters said of the outdoor season. "We are national champions (4x400 meter relay) and we have a lot to strive for. We ran the fastest time in the 4x400 meter relay at the (indoor) championships, beating everyone by two seconds."

Sophomore sprinter Courtney Smith said his team is prepared to take on anyone who opposes them.

"It doesn't matter who comes," Thomas said. "We are going to show up, compete, and win."

But to Harbour, it is nothing but a tune-up for what comes later in the season.

"It's a small meet, a good opener to get your outdoor legs up under you," Harbour said. "You get to see events that we don't see on the inside and that's exciting. Plus the season is just

starting for some athletes like the discus and javelin throwers."

Harbour said this is the beginning of a building process for his athletes.

"We don't have to be ready until May, but it is the first time for some like Brittney Devereaux to compete this year. That's how we are approaching this meet," Harbour said.

Thomas said Baylor's runners of the 100 meters and 200 are not to be overlooked this year, adding more to the mix than just a dominating 4x400 meter relay team and giving fans more to cheer for.

"People should come because we are going to put on a good show," said Thomas. "It will be worth the money."

"Not only do we have the 4x400 meter relay team that we are known for, we also brought in some sprinters and have the best 4x100 meter relay team we ever had. It will be exciting," he said.

Football searches for leaders, plugs holes during spring drills

By Daniel Youngblood
Sports editor

After finishing the 2006 football season on a four-game losing streak and dropping those games by an average of 28 points, the Baylor football team is ready put that behind them and look to the future.

The Bears began spring drills Tuesday, and freshman linebacker Joe Pawelek said the players are excited to be out of the weight room and back on the field.

"We're here to play football," he said. "Lifting weights is good and everything, but it's good to be back out here."

Head Coach Guy Morriss said he's enjoyed seeing his players get some reps so far, but he knows he and his new-look Bears have work to do.

Baylor lost several impact players from last year's squad to graduation, and Morriss said

much of this spring will be spent finding players to replace them. He said solidifying the play at quarterback, offensive tackle, receiver and cornerback were his four biggest priorities.

"Inexperience and depth are our two biggest concerns right now," Morriss said.

Perhaps the most intriguing question Morriss will try to answer this spring is who will replace record-setting quarterback Shawn Bell.

Morriss said it's a four-way race between freshman incumbent Blake Szymanski, senior transfer Michael Machen, junior college transfer John Weed and junior walk-on Ryan Roberts.

Weed said any of the candidates could win the job.

"As of right now, the competition is completely wide open," he said. "Everybody has to come out here and work and get reps, and the guy that executes the offense and does the right things

on the field is the man."

Morriss said Szymanski is taking the first team snaps now, but it's anyone's job to win.

"It's really too early to tell," he said. "We're keeping everything basic right now and they're handling it well. It will be interesting down the road when we get some pads on them and the rush starts coming at them."

Quarterback is just one of several offensive positions that Morriss would like to see improve this spring.

"The guys that were here last year and played a little bit have good recall of the system," he said. "There's a lot of detail stuff we're throwing at them now. We got to get that mastered so we can take the next step in this offense and go to the next level with it."

The Bears have 12 more spring practices leading up to the annual spring game on April 12 at Floyd Casey Stadium.

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Bush: We found the weapons of mass destruction.




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Saddam's sons are killed in a U.S. raid in Mosul.

Oct. 7, 2004
Duelfer Report: Iraq did not have weapons of mass destruction.



Facts, photos from The Associated Press

Oct. 15, 2005
Iraqis vote to ratify draft constitution.

June 15, 2006
Number of U.S. troops killed in Iraq reaches 2,500.

Dec. 30, 2006
Saddam executed by hanging.



March 8
Democratic leaders proposed legislation that would bring troops out of Iraq by August 2008.

Behind the war

Explaining why we're in Iraq

By Jon Schroeder
Staff writer

In a desert of Shiites, ummahs and the Mahdi, it's easy to get confused. So come along to Iraq, the easy way, as the *Lariat* explains the war for everyone to understand. The United States invaded Iraq four years ago Monday, and more than 45 months after President George W. Bush famously declared in his "mission accomplished" speech that "major combat operations in Iraq have ended," the U.S. military maintains a presence there. Let's find out why.

Iraq's History

"The single most important thing to understand about Iraq is that it was an artificial state which tried to embrace three nations," said Dr. Mark Long, a Baylor Interdisciplinary Core assistant professor, author of *Saddam's War of Words* and a former Air Force intelligence analyst in the Middle East. Those three "nations," the Sunnis, Shiites and Kurds, still comprise Iraq's population today.

For a time, the nation resided under the power of a monarch, but it became a republic before Saddam Hussein came to power in 1979.

Saddam ushered in the most stable period of Iraq's history, although not necessarily the kindest for its people.

Causes

One of the most debated issues in the Iraq war has been its cause. Why did we invade Iraq?

"For bureaucratic reasons we settled on one issue, weapons of mass destruction, because it was the one reason everyone could agree on," said Deputy Defense Secretary Paul Wolfowitz, according to May 2003 CNN transcripts.

But many other reasons have been cited for the war as well.

Fareed Zakaria, a critic of Bush who wrote most of *Newsweek's* articles about the Iraqi foreign policy, wrote in 2002 that "at some point the world will have to deal with Saddam, nuclear-armed and dangerous. Why not now, when he is weak?" Zakaria later rescinded this claim, since it was based on the apparently false premise that Saddam was acquiring weapons of mass destruction.

"Done right, an invasion would be the single best path to reform the Arab world," he wrote.

Other critics of the war have been quick to cite the U.S. need for oil as a cause of the war, and in 2005 Bush said the U.S. must prevent Iraq oil fields from falling under the control of extremists.

The Bush administration has consistently invoked three causes: the "imminent threat" of weapons of mass destruction, links to terrorism through al-Qaida and the abuse of Iraqis by their own government.

Ideology and civil war

Currently, the Iraqi population is about 60 percent Shiite Muslims and about 35 percent Sunni Muslims. Kurds comprise about half of Iraq's Sunni Muslims, but they make up only a small minority of Shiite Muslims.

Sunni insurgent and foreign forces in Iraq include al-Qaida, Ba'ath loyalists and the Islamic Army in Iraq. The main Shiite force is the Mahdi army.

"Iraq is now a failed state that is disintegrating along various ethnic lines," Long said, adding that each of the three major population segments of Iraq have different views and motivations regarding the continuing U.S. presence there.

The Sunni Muslims, who mostly reside in the central part of Iraq, are now the most anti-American group in the country, with 88 percent of them approving of attacks on U.S. troops in the region, according to The Brookings Institution. The Sunnis were removed from power with the fall of Saddam, himself a Sunni, and most now look toward regaining their former status.

The Kurds, who live mostly in northern Iraq, are the most favorable toward the United States. They hope for eventual independence and look to Americans as "potential guarantors," Long said. Only 16 percent favor attacks on U.S. troops.

The Shiites, who live mostly in southern Iraq where most of Iraq's oil is located, are split on the issue. Forty-one percent favor attacks on U.S. troops, but since they have come into power with the fall of the old government, their differences are more ideological. They fear U.S. imperialism and believe America is too secular.

The road ahead

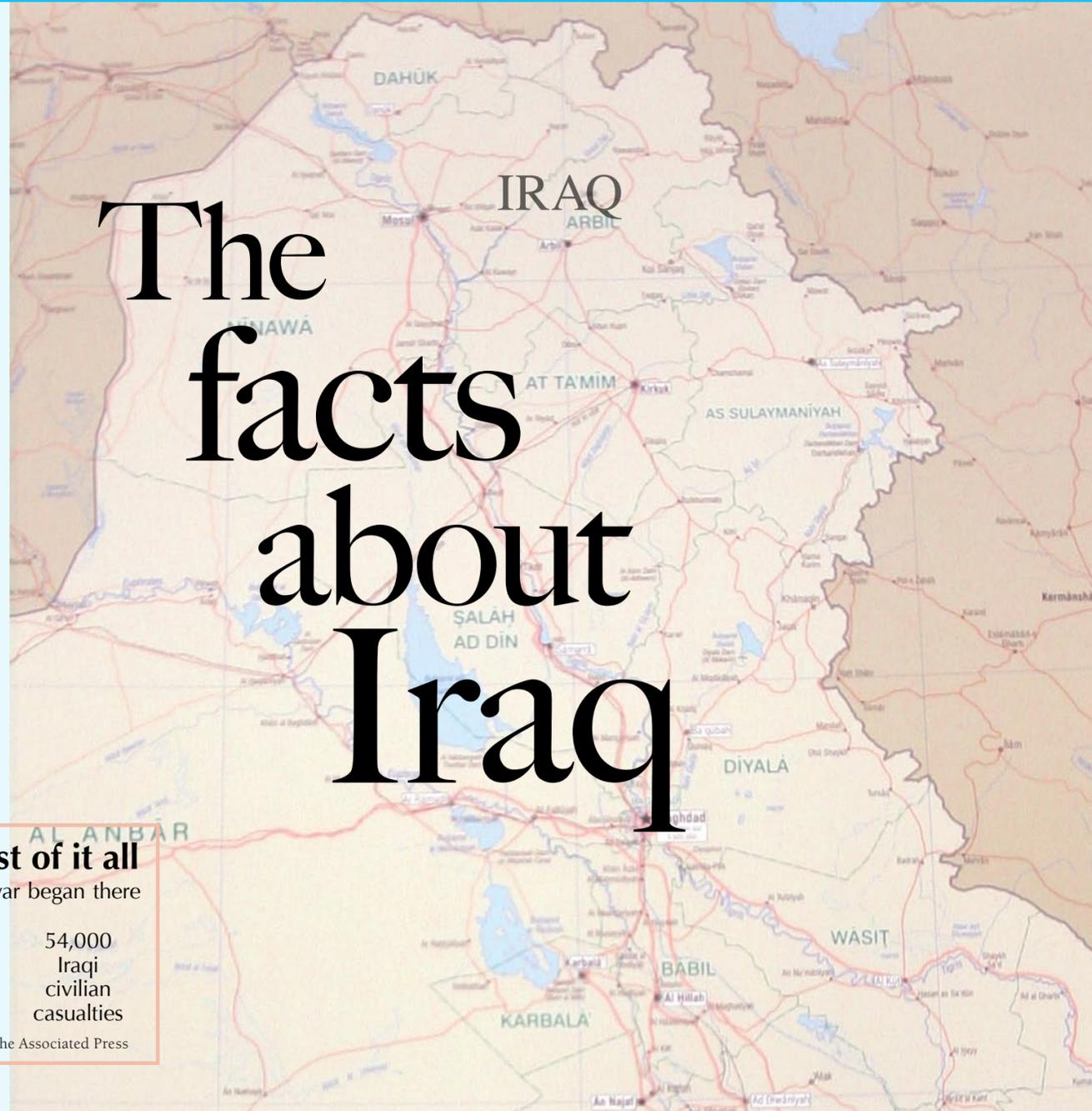
While some rebuilding objectives have been accomplished, many others remain: unemployment in non-Kurdish Iraq remains close to 50 percent, violence is largely sectarian, and both Sunnis and Shiites have offered opinions publicly that the U.S. has betrayed their respective causes. Zakaria and other critics of the war have called the Kurdish region of Iraq the "one unambiguous success story of the Iraq war."

Monday, on the war's four-year anniversary, Bush spoke about the United States' accomplishments in the Middle East and about the work still remaining in Iraq: "Today the world is rid of Saddam Hussein, and a tyrant has been held to account for his crimes by his own people."

"Nearly 12 million Iraqis have voted in free elections under a democratic constitution that they wrote for themselves...the Baghdad security plan is still in its early stages, and success will take months, not days or weeks," Bush said.

"Yet those on the ground are seeing some hopeful signs."

Sources: "Think Progress" timeline of the Iraq war, *USA Today*, *Newsweek*, MSNBC video, the *Boston Globe*, Johns Hopkins, the *Dallas Morning News*, BBC News, CIA documentation.



The cost of it all

Since the war began there have been:

3,230 American military casualties	54,000 Iraqi civilian casualties
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Estimates from the Associated Press



Left: Thousands of protesters march Sunday in Minneapolis in hopes of ending the war in Iraq. Above: An Iraqi child squats by a U.S. soldier on patrol in Baghdad Monday.

Effects of war hit close to home

By Jon Schroeder
Staff writer

Thousands of miles away from the Baylor Bubble, Iraq has found a way to penetrate it — through students who have served in the military, the professors who teach them and through their taxes.

The war has taken shots at American pocketbooks in more ways than one. Besides affecting gas prices, the effort has carried a total price tag of \$351 billion so far. That means the average taxpayer has spent \$2,610 toward the war in Iraq.

Sean Farrelo, a Houston sophomore who hasn't served in the armed forces, said he's not sure what America's motivation was in entering Iraq.

"I don't know if we should have gone in, but I don't think we can just bail out now," he said. "I'd pay \$2,600 for low gas prices at this point. We can't leave now."

David Kaye, a Katy senior,

served in the Middle East for a year.

He said he's surprised the average American has paid so little.

"I believe it's worth it. But I can see how someone who hasn't seen it first hand might not feel that way," Kaye said.

Before he'd gone overseas, Kaye said he had a "typical" view of Muslims.

"You see the radicals and just all the craziness on TV, and subconsciously you start to think that all Muslims are like that. But after getting to know some of them, it makes you realize that they're no different than anyone else."

"It makes you realize that there's a lot bigger world outside where you came from. It makes you realize how lucky you are," he said.

Dr. Mark Long, an assistant professor in the Baylor Interdisciplinary Core has also served as an Air Force intelligence analyst in the Middle

East, said the conflict in Iraq transcends borders.

He said demonstrations in the United States against the war "lack the intensity and the numbers" that protests had during the Vietnam conflict, but the effect it may have on Americans could still be a problem.

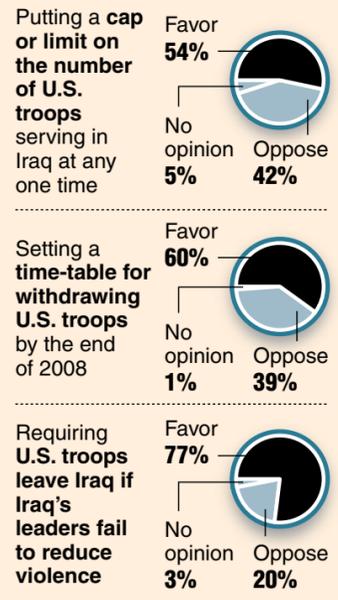
"My greatest concern about al-Qaida and the war in Iraq is that Islamic extremists are using it to validate their own perverse ideology, arguing that the United States is simply pursuing its own imperialistic aims," Long said.

"Things are not going well in Iraq, but the United States is faring even more poorly in the battle for hearts and minds in Arab and Islamic publics. This larger and less-visible war is a clash of meta-narratives, and the outcome is far from certain," he said.

"But this is the battle we must recognize and the war we must win."

Views on Iraq

How Americans feel about Congress doing the following:



Note: May not total 100 percent due to rounding
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Source: Gallup poll of 1,010 adults, March 2-4, 2007; margin of error: +/- 3 percentage points