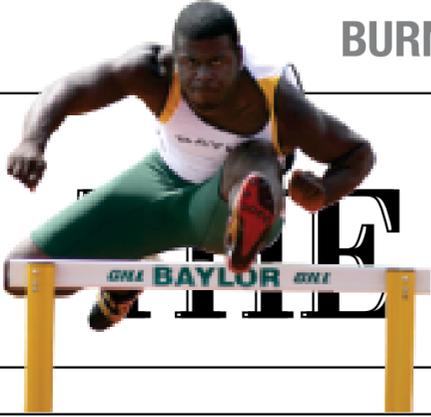


ROUNDING UP CAMPUS NEWS SINCE 1900



THE BAYLOR LARIAT

FRIDAY, APRIL 20, 2007

Too close to call: IVP comes to run-off

Fonville to take over as EVP; Plummer claims president slot

By **Kate Boswell**
Staff writer

While the positions of student body president and external vice president were all wrapped up Thursday, the winner of the internal vice president seat has not yet been decided.

The vote totals for the position of internal vice president resulted in a run-off between El

Paso junior Jen Kim and Plano junior Samer Baransi. Sikeston, Mo., junior Jeff Hay was eliminated from the race.

A shocked silence and scattered applause followed the announcement by electoral commissioner Kevin Nguyen, a Houston senior.

Nguyen said there must be a 12 percent or less difference between the vote totals to trigger a run-off.

"A run-off means an extended campaign period," Nguyen said. "Another vote needs to be held, probably on Tuesday."

Voting will be held on the Baylor Information Network again.

Baransi urged students to vote in the run-off.

"The determination of who next year's internal vice president will be is determined by who votes on Tuesday," he said. "We really need everyone to vote again."

One of the key issues of Baransi's campaign has been his push to keep the Baylor Sciences Building open 24 hours a day as a study facility.

He also has advocated for

visiting hours to remain in place or be extended in all residence halls.

Kim said she was happy she was still in the running and hoped students would show more support on Tuesday.

"I'm excited that I'm still in the race and I encourage everyone to vote again," Kim said.

Kim has advocated for transparency in student government's dealings with students and said if elected, she would set up town hall meetings with student government and the administration so students would have a venue

in which to address their concerns.

She also said she hopes to fix several of the broken emergency call boxes around campus.

Plummer said he looked forward to stepping into the position of student body president.

"I'm extremely excited about next year. This is a humbling experience," Plummer said. "I'm ready to get back to serving Baylor."

His ideas for next year included the creation of a Web site where students could see a breakdown of the student fee

and the way it was spent, as well as advocating that students be able to meet with the regents over luncheons and dinners so students could voice their concerns directly.

The office of external vice president went to Bryan Fonville. Fonville defeated Lincoln, Neb., sophomore Britney Wekesser and Whitehouse junior Kevin Giddens.

"I feel very honored and blessed to have the privilege of serving the student body, and I

Please see **VOTE**, page 8



Abbie Rosen/Lariat staff

An unstoppable force

Waxahachie senior Lee Swinford, Georgetown senior Justin Hopkins, Friendswood senior Dustin Herrea and Athens sophomore Justin Pugh pull their way to victory Thursday during the tug of war at Diadeloso. The four students were on Team Ajax and are members of Pi Kappa Alpha.

More to jobs than GPA

Some employers say experience means more than grades

By **Bethany Poller**
Reporter

The stress is palpable. The tension could be cut with a No. 2 pencil. It's that time of year again: the weeks leading up to finals packed with term papers, tests and projects.

Most students are trying to secure the grades they want, but grade point average may not be as important in the long run as some students think.

A 2005 job outlook survey performed by the National Association of Colleges and Employers found that 70 percent of hiring managers said they screen applicants based on their grade point average. As part of the survey, the association gave the participating employers a list of skills and qualities and had them rate these qualities on a scale of one to five. One meant it was the least important to employers and five meant it was the most important.

"They rated GPA of a 3.0 or better at a 3.6, meaning it is between somewhat important and fairly important," said Andrea Koncz, employment information manager for the association.

Fifty-eight percent of the employers use 3.0 as the cut-off, meaning that the employer would not call the applicant in for an interview if the GPA was lower than that.

When asked what was most important when looking at two equal candidates for a job, participants responded that the applicant's major was most important, followed by leadership positions they had held and then GPA. Extracurricular activities and volunteer work were placed below GPA.

Koncz said 267 employers responded to this survey from a variety of fields nationwide.

So why do students want good grades and how necessary are they in that post-graduation job hunt?

A lot of students work hard to keep their grades up. Most say they keep up with their work and prepare, at least a little, for tests.

"I study some," Lorena freshman Tyler Talbert said. "And I do all my assignments. It's important to at least get decent grades."

Some have more interesting ways of maintaining their GPAs.

"I keep my grades up by staying on top of my homework—literally, sleeping on top of my homework," North Richland

Please see **GPA**, page 8

Tattoos affirm beliefs for Christian students

By **Claire St. Amant**
Staff writer

Barbed wire, dancing ladies and sappy messages to mom may be the stereotypical images of tattoos, but many college students are permanently marking themselves with a different kind of inkblot.

Dr. Jerome Koch, associate professor of sociology at Texas Tech University, will present his findings on "Religiosity, Fundamentalism, Deviance, and Body Art" at 2 p.m. today in 116 Draper Academic Building.

His research includes a sample of Baylor students, as well as some from Purdue University, University of Notre Dame and Texas Tech University. Koch

and several other scholars at Texas Tech — Dr. Alden E. Roberts, Dr. Myrna L. Armstrong and Dr. Donna C. Owen — comprise the "Body Art Team."

They have published numerous articles on similar topics, including "College Students and Tattoos: The Influence of Image, Identity, Family, and Friends" in 2002 and "Correlations of Religious Belief and Practice on College Students' Tattoo-related Behavior" in 2004.

This report, however, takes a different approach than previous research.

"We really didn't ask a lot of questions about motivation this time," he said.

"We were curious about the

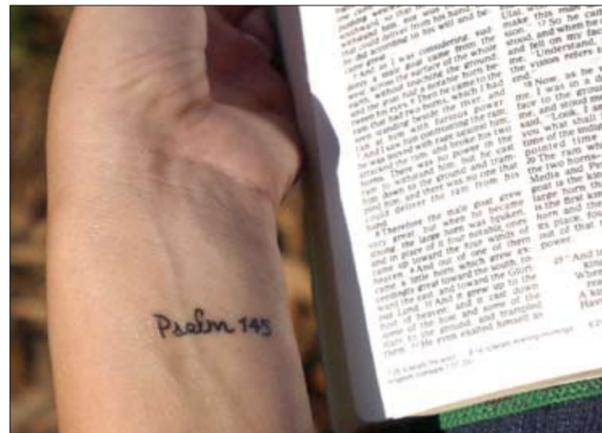
relationship between religiousness and behavior."

Koch said he found very different results at Baylor and Notre Dame than at state schools in regard to the relationship between religiosity and sexual activity and marijuana use.

"Baylor kids are quite different than students at state schools," he said.

In agreement with previous studies on body art and religiosity, Koch's research found that "neither religiosity or fundamentalism tell us much about interest in, or acquisition of, tattoos and piercings."

However, Koch said, Baylor was "unique" because almost half student tattoos are reli-



Chris Weeks/Lariat staff

A study titled "Religiosity, Fundamentalism, Deviance, and Body Art" found that nearly half of student tattoos at Baylor are religious.

gious, compared to one-fourth at other schools.

This makes Baylor "No. 1" for religious tattoos.

The report also found religious tattoos were commonly identified as "memorials, per-

manent reminders of personal faith and signs of commitment."

Alexandria, La., senior Alex Bolten has two religious tattoos.

Please see **TATS**, page 8

Landing careers harder than expected

By **Lauren Hightower**
Focus editor

The numbers are out, and things don't look good. Graduating seniors are about to find the job search much harder than they expected.

According to a recent study by Experience Inc., nearly 60 percent of college students are competing for the best entry-level jobs. And while these numbers seem far from optimistic, around 94 percent of

these students believe they will have a job within the next six months.

"I'm 99 percent sure that I'll have a job sometime in the next six months," Ty Jacobson, a Richmond senior, said.

There is some hope for graduating seniors. Experience Inc. has offered a few tips to help improve students' chances at landing a better job.

Approximately 79 percent of students say that in-person networking is an effective resource

for their job search, according to Experience Inc. Networking as soon as possible also was ranked as the second most important piece of advice offered to undergrads.

"I've gotten previous jobs almost entirely off of references," Lake Jackson senior John Nicholson said. "Even when you're hired, networking is essential for finding clients and bringing people in."

Networking can go beyond just professional relationships,

said Dr. John Boyd, director of Career Services. You can find the connections you need in the most unexpected places, including your family.

"Don't leave any stone unturned," he said. "You never know where that essential connection may be to help you."

Internships are considered even more important than networking, according to Experience Inc. Of the 2,800 students

Please see **JOBS**, page 8

Tips for job searches

1. Be pro-active.
2. Start early.
3. Research the company thoroughly.
4. Present yourself in a professional manner.
5. Utilize good communication skills.

Remembering past influences key to future success

My grandfather died four years ago, but the way he lived influences me every day. Dwight, or "Pop" as his family liked to call him, was the ultimate example of compassion and integrity.

He didn't start cooking until my grandmother died. But at 91, the "retired" school superintendent's day usually consisted of making dozens of cookies for children from the church he still faithfully attended — or visiting "old people" in nursing homes.

Sentiments shared by those who filled his funeral clearly revealed I wasn't the only one he inspired.

One must be careful when

choosing a person as a role model. With time, role models often fall short of expectations.

Pop was an exception. He wasn't flawless. But whenever anyone counted on him, he'd always find some way to help.

One lesson he taught me was the importance of staying in contact with friends, regardless of distance or time barriers. He always made an effort to keep in contact with people who were a part of his life through numerous visits and calls.

Pop also stressed the importance of expressing gratitude. He told me to remember the names of all my teachers and coaches, so that I could write

point of view

BY MATT KENNEDY



them a letter later in life.

He probably specified educators because he was a lifelong educator himself. But writing a letter to those who provide support and guidance, regardless of the field, was the main idea.

I'm disappointed with myself for not fully heeding my grandfather's advice.

In fact, I don't remember the

names of a large number of my past teachers, even those who were influential.

However, I recently made a short list of influential figures that includes teachers, coaches and a youth minister who could never be forgotten because their impact was so strong.

Now that I'm graduating, I finally realize the true value of my grandfather's request. Given the level of respect I had for the man, I can't believe I didn't act on it sooner — even though I didn't understand his reasoning at the time.

So I wrote my high school journalism teacher, Cindy Barry of Decatur High School, who

had me as a student for four years. She wrote back with some encouraging feedback about how much she appreciated my letter. It brings me great joy to know she realizes the appreciation I had for her.

And I know additional letters to my life's influences will result in more positive reactions.

My list includes Mrs. Dodson, an elementary teacher, who stressed reading, compassion and encouraging one's classmates. It includes coaches, such as Kyle Story, who showed me how to lead on and off the football field. Mrs. Rhea, another teacher, will receive a letter expressing thanks for exposing

me to books and poems I now cherish. Kevin Caffey, my youth minister, knows how highly I regard him because I've told him many times, but he will soon receive a letter too.

Up above, I hope Pop knows his legacy lives on generation unto generation. A high school and a playground now bear his name.

My hope is that some day, someone somewhere will remember me the same way. I know I will never live up to the standard he set, but it will never stop me from trying.

Matt Kennedy is a senior business journalism major from Midlothian.

Editorial

Juvenile politics must end

Over the past two weeks there have been a few actions from student government that can be summed up in one word: childish.

It started when Cuney senior Allan Marshall, the current external vice president, published a message of his endorsements for the top three student government positions. The electoral commission then received a complaint about Marshall's endorsement of Garland sophomore Bryan Fonville, Marshall's chief of staff, who ran for external vice president. Fonville knew about the message and was thus in violation of an electoral code prohibiting coalition campaigning.

In continuing with the tradition of hard work that accomplishes absolutely nothing, the electoral commission required Fonville to remove his Facebook.com group for external vice president.

Because Marshall's other endorsements, Plano junior Samer Baransi and San Antonio junior Travis Plummer, didn't know about the message until after its release, they were found not guilty. On Sunday, the court reached a verdict and allowed Fonville to have his Facebook group back because he didn't know who was charging him.

As cited in the court verdict, Lincoln, Neb., sophomore Bethany Wekesser dropped the charges against Fonville at the beginning of the electoral commission hearing. If that name sounds familiar it's because she is the sister of Britney Wekesser, another candidate for external vice president.



Houston senior and electoral commissioner Kevin Nguyen would have had to prosecute Fonville but chose not to. The court ruled that because Fonville didn't know who was initially accusing him, he deserved to have his group back.

There seems to be an underlying childishness involved in all of this. First of all, it's embarrassing that Bethany Wekesser, the sister of Britney Wekesser, complained about the endorsement in the first place. It just looks ridiculous — all of this over a Facebook group.

Second, deleting a Facebook group as a punishment? Other candidates had groups of their own; the only problem seemed to be that Marshall was endorsing Fonville. While you're at it, how about all the members of the electoral commission commit to poking Fonville every day until he learns his lesson.

Seriously, people, come on. Bethany Wekesser should have never brought the complaint to Nguyen in the first place. It's ridiculous to cause a fuss over an endorsement.

Student government needs to start giving the administration legitimate reasons as to why they should listen to the students' voice in the first place. Right now we're giving them every reason to continue what they already do so well: ignore us and run the school the way they see fit.

It's too late for this election, but if we want to be respected, if we want a say in the business of our university, we need our student government candidates to stop playing juvenile politics and start acting like adults.

For goodness sake, freakin' get over your problem with cursing

I used to have a problem with cursing. Well, perhaps I should rephrase: I used to have a problem with the notion of cursing.

For one, it was what bad men and non-Baptists did. In the movies, the bad guys were the ones cursing — either them or the non-educated folk.

If you were a good guy, you were supposed to have the ability to express your anger creatively. So you punched people out of saloons instead — but only when they deserved it. Apparently, I watched too many John Wayne flicks, which may explain my occasional temptation to call folks "pilgrim."

My movie intake ended up being swear-free because it was

selectively screened by my parents, who were not fans of bad words.

And you need to know that my parents are eerily psychic. If I even whispered a wordy-dird under my breath, my folks would just know. Dad would have a lecture ready in five minutes, plus a paddle in 10.

In retrospect, I don't know how logical this punishment was. Paddling inevitably causes one to yelp out even more choice words, thus making Dad paddle you harder, and you yelp more, and so on.

Scientists and English majors call this a "Catch-22," which is ironically about how many swats you'd get before Dad's

point of view

BY BEN HUMENIUK



arm got tired.

And when Dad's arm gets tired, then he starts wanting to curse, too. That's when Mom comes in and washes everyone's mouth out with Dial.

So in holy fear, I learned not to curse. Then I saw the movie *Boondock Saints* and became desensitized for life.

At first, I was a bit confused, and just assumed spraying a

mess of bad words was a trait of the Irish, a genetic deal like red hair and leprechaunism.

Then I heard how a guy who came to Chapel said a four-star bad word to make a point and knew all bets were off. Plus, he was from Philadelphia.

Now cursing is impossible to escape. For example, I now know *Beetle Bailey*, something I have faithfully read since I was 5 years old — is a dirty, dirty comic strip.

There's this character, a grouchy old soldier named "Sarge," who continually abuses *Beetle Bailey*, both physically and verbally. And a lot of times, he'll say nonsensical stuff like "\$#@%&."

That used to mystify me. Was he practicing code-talk? Or was it just common military practice to call someone a no good piece of "ampersand-colon-percent sign-pound symbol?"

Then it hit me that Army guys swear like sailors, which makes me hope they don't feel like copycats.

Now that I've realized the truth, I hope parents never let their kids read *Beetle Bailey* again.

It honestly hasn't been funny since the Reagan administration anyway. Those guys should obviously read my stuff more often.

Of course, being mature, I've come to terms with the four-let-

ter world I live in.

If people are going to curse, let them curse. If you think about it, words are really just a bunch of random sounds anyway.

They're only a big deal if you put meaning to them, which is why I am always unfazed when Russian-speaking people cuss me out. This actually happens more often than you might think.

So I've decided to be cool if other folks say naughty words. And for my part, I figured I'd go countercultural and try out *Leave it to Beaver* style talk.

And if you don't like that, you can go gee-whiz yourself.

Ben Humeniuk is a junior English major from Brownwood.

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THE Daily Crossword

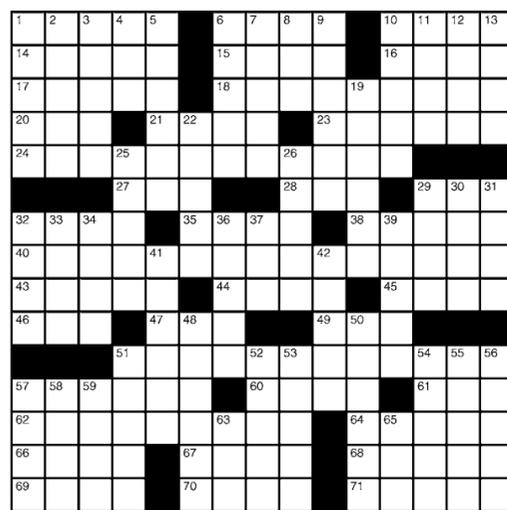
Edited by Wayne Robert Williams

ACROSS

- 1 Sword stroke
- 6 Country mail rtes.
- 10 Tramps
- 14 Musical beat
- 15 Carolina university
- 16 Restaurant acronym
- 17 Moroccan capital
- 18 Golf dream
- 20 Put into service
- 21 "Charles in Charge" star
- 23 Yeah!
- 24 Cause of an out
- 27 Nutrition label fig.
- 28 Mod. Bible
- 29 Shril bark
- 32 Rights grp.
- 35 "Design on a Dime" network
- 38 Bring out
- 40 Long-running game show
- 43 Soup sample
- 44 Big star at night
- 45 "The Simpsons" tavern
- 46 Decade divs.
- 47 Poker bullet
- 49 Grant-giving org.
- 51 Suspenseful endings
- 57 Sense
- 60 Cooking fat
- 61 Fluffy scarf
- 62 Long-time game show host
- 64 Poetic lament
- 66 Ultimatum word
- 67 "Dies ___"
- 68 Buenos ___
- 69 Spinning toys
- 70 Actress Peggy
- 71 Stylishly out-of-date
- 1 Proud step
- 2 Animal tether
- 3 Fossil resin
- 4 Whirlpool tub
- 5 Trouble spot
- 6 Punch again
- 7 Elevator stop
- 8 U.S. bill
- 9 Moves furively
- 10 Tight spots
- 11 This looks bad
- 12 Like pre-stereo sound
- 13 Gush out
- 19 The nerve!
- 22 Japanese beer brand
- 25 Lose one's cool
- 26 Monte of the 1950s

Down

- 29 Former small import car
- 30 Persistent pain
- 31 Vet's visitors
- 32 ABA member
- 33 Sorch
- 34 Fewer
- 36 Treble sign
- 37 3-way junction
- 39 "Joltin' Joe," for short
- 41 Objects from life used in education
- 42 Sub detector
- 48 ___ acid (fruit flavoring)
- 50 Make beloved
- 51 Sugar portions
- 52 Dog doggers
- 53 Rabbit relatives
- 54 Roeper's partner
- 55 First name of 54D
- 56 Go-ahead
- 57 Skeptic's retort
- 58 ___ contendere
- 59 Recipe meas.
- 63 Malay isthmus
- 65 Abandon the truth



By John Halverson Viroqua, WI

4/20/07

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

Professor-student team addresses college loan debt

By Brittany Mihalcin
Reporter

What started off as a required research paper has spiraled into something much bigger.

Camden, Ark., graduate student Aaron LeMay became interested in student debt in his higher education law class with Dr. Robert C. Cloud, professor of higher education. He was required to write a research paper on any topic pertaining to higher education and legal issues, and decided to focus on student debt.

Before starting the paper, LeMay said, "I asked Dr. Cloud if I wrote a good paper, would he help me get it published?" Cloud agreed, and the two started brainstorming.

"I was quite experienced with student loans, so I thought it would be interesting to research the topic," LeMay said. "And Dr. Cloud had already studied this topic, so we thought it would be interesting."

Together, the two men have completed a joint research study titled "Student Debt and The Future of Higher Education."

The study addresses the issues of student loans and the increasing cost of higher education. It has been accepted for publication in *The Journal of College and University Law* at Notre Dame Law School.

On March 28 LeMay gave a presentation about his research at the monthly Academic Forum,

which was sponsored by the Graduate Student Housing Community at the Quadrangle.

In his presentation, LeMay addressed the quickly growing burden of student loan debt on both undergraduate and graduate students and the rising cost of higher education.

He also explained how it is becoming nearly impossible for students to avoid repayment of loans.

He also offered a few solutions for the problem.

According to the research conducted by LeMay and Cloud, student loan debt has reached an all-time high.

Student loans may be easy to get but are proving harder to pay back.

According to the U.S. Department of Education, there are 22 million student loan borrowers. The tab totals more than \$287 billion.

LeMay says he is no stranger to debt from student loans.

He received his undergraduate degree from Ouachita Baptist University in 2002 and is finishing his master's of science in student service administration at Baylor. His wife graduated from Baylor Law School in 2005.

"We both have student debt, and we both have professional careers," LeMay said. "I know if we're facing this problem, then surely other people are facing it, too."

In his research, LeMay dis-

covered that the Federal Family Education Loan Program, which is the largest of the three loan programs available to students, has distributed \$511.93 billion over the 42-year life of the program. LeMay said that's not what's surprising.

What is, he said, is that \$196.68 billion of these loans have been distributed in the last five years.

"Students nationwide are awashed with debt with no resources to pay this debt back," Cloud said.

This is the case of Weatherford junior Suzie LeBeck.

She said she came to Baylor for the forensic science program, but then switched majors.

"I don't regret being here, and I wouldn't leave just because it's expensive," LeBeck said. "But I do have loans to pay back."

LeBeck said she doesn't have huge loans, so she's not too worried about them.

But she also realizes she is going to have to get a job quickly after graduation in order to pay off these loans.

"Until then, I guess my parents will do it," LeBeck said.

In his research, Cloud found the main reason student debt is increasing is because of the increasing cost of higher education.

Baylor students are becoming more and more familiar with increasing tuition prices.

Last fall, the Baylor Board of Regents set the tuition and fees

for the 2007-2008 school year. Tuition will increase by 8 percent next year to \$22,220 for 12 hours or more for the academic year, and the general student fee will increase about 6 percent to \$2,270 for next year.

"Higher education costs have been accelerating two or three times the rate of inflation for decades," Cloud said. "And there appears to be no immediate end to this trend."

Both LeMay and Cloud said it is important to look at what your expected salary will be compared to what your student loans will be.

"Students in the past have been cautioned to borrow no more than the equivalent of their anticipated first-year salary after graduation," Cloud said.

This is especially important to consider for students who will have careers in public service-related fields, LeMay said. He said students should look at all their options when choosing which school to attend.

"College is not the only place you can find yourself," LeMay said. He said it is a valid option to go out into the real world and try various jobs before deciding to go to college, so when students get there, they will know what they want to do.

"There is nothing wrong with going to a community college or technical school," LeMay said.

"It is sad that someone who really wants to work at a job where all they need to have is a

technical degree feels forced to get a degree from a university."

He said four-year degrees and graduate school are not for everyone, but feels torn because he believes anyone who wants to pursue higher education should have the option to do so.

While LeMay said he doesn't regret his decision to take out student loans, he worries that for some students that decision will break them and put them into bankruptcy.

In his research LeMay found that it is becoming nearly impossible to be discharged of all student loans.

He said getting student loans discharged would be similar to trying to get charges of tax evasion, fraud or embezzlement dismissed.

In 2001, the Bush administration authorized the garnishing of Social Security benefits to try and partially recover the loss due on defaulted student loans.

LeMay said he believes students will continue to borrow the money needed to pay for their education.

He said he hopes their increased earning power will ensure a desirable standard of living and the financial means to repay all loan obligations to the federal government.

Individuals that have heavy student debt face difficulties not only in paying back their loans but also paying for living expenses, LeMay said.

He also said they cannot pay

for emergencies or save for the future.

Even though some students have thousands of dollars in student loans, LeMay said, there are positive outcomes.

With the help of student loans, millions of Americans have completed college, practiced their chosen profession and enjoyed a higher quality of life.

LeMay and Cloud did come up with some recommendations to help slow down the rate of student loan debt.

They said the total amount of money a student can borrow to pursue certain degrees should be limited and linked to entry-level salaries in the student's stated major or field of study.

They also believe the government should increase student loan forgiveness programs for those who enter teaching or other low-paying service professions and offer tax incentives to businesses that have a student loan reimbursement program.

"If you know you are going to go into a field that will allow you to cover the cost of your education after you graduate, then go. Work your hardest, and do your best."

Take the loans; deal with the consequences after graduation," LeMay said.

"However, it is no longer enough to just get a college degree and hope for the best financially; you have to plan."

Florida university tests watchdog program for online piracy

By Mark K. Matthews
McClatchy Newspapers

WASHINGTON — The music industry's next weapon against online piracy is being tested at the University of Central Florida — a new front in the battle to stop college students from stealing music and movies.

School officials have confirmed that the campus is experimenting with a new watchdog program designed to prevent students from using comput-

ers to swap copyright-protected files.

Developed at the University of Florida, the "Integrity" program tracks data transfers between computers, searching for code patterns that indicate users are illegally transferring material.

Once located, the program automatically tells students they've been caught.

Depending on the school, this can lead to a range of punishments, such as a temporary

ban from the online system.

"It's like having a police car at every intersection," said Gregory Marchwinski, chief executive officer of Red Lambda, which developed the program and is now based in Longwood, Fla.

Even so, Marchwinski said the Integrity program is not a silver bullet that can stop an underground practice that has gotten more pervasive since students first traded files on Napster in the early 2000s.

"Illegal downloading is not going away," Marchwinski said. Despite technological advances with programs such as Integrity, online pirates always seem to stay one step ahead in the online cat-and-mouse game.

The result is about 1 billion illegally downloaded songs a month, said Eric Garland, CEO of BigChampagne, a California-based research firm that tracks online transfers of music.

The pace more than doubles the illegal transfers of five years

ago and about equals the legal number of 99-cent songs that industry giant iTunes should expect to sell this year, Garland said.

"It's higher than ever among young people," Garland said. Not necessarily because more users are swiping songs, but because better technology allows fewer people to download more music.

The practice is global too — anywhere with a fast Internet connection, he said.

At any moment, there are about 10 million people globally logged on to a file-sharing network such as LimeWire or BitTorrent.

The result of the online piracy has been a steady drop in compact-disc sales, industry representatives said.

From 2000 to 2005 — the latest figures available — CD sales of compact discs fell from \$13.2 billion to \$10.5 billion, according to the Recording Industry Association of America.

A Great Place to Live and Work.

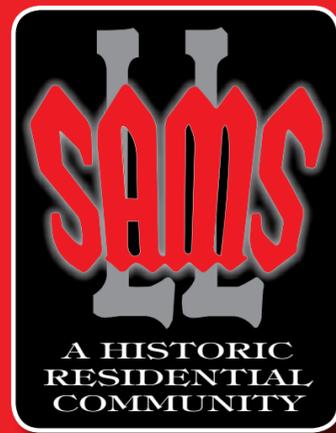
The right place in Texas™
Odessa

Odessa, Texas, located between Fort Worth and El Paso, offers very low cost-of-living combined with a wonderful quality of life and a great climate.

While the economy here is robust, it is due to much more than the oil business. Odessa's dedication to economic diversification over the last decade has really paid off. Career opportunities abound here, and now more than ever is the right time to take advantage of all that West Texas has to offer.

Visit us online to view current job postings and to apply online with participating employers.

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Earth Week aims to make BU greener

By **Kate Boswell**
Staff writer

The logo reads B(eco)me. The event is Earth Week.

From Monday to Thursday, students and faculty will gather to show Baylor ways to make the campus, and the world, greener.

"This year we got a chance to come together and try to do something and make a difference," said Kansas City, Kan., junior Thomas Herndon. "We just wanted to raise awareness and push the university to be environmentally sound."

Herndon cited a recent study that found Baylor ranked among the lowest schools in Texas in regard to green campus initiatives.

"It doesn't look good for the university and it costs us more money," he said.

"All the things that are good for the environment generally

save money as well."

Herndon said Baylor's budget was increased "about \$2 million because of rising energy costs" between the 2004-2005 and 2005-2006 academics years.

Earth Week is organized by the social responsibility committee, a group of various student government members, Baylor Democrats, the Magellan Society and the Environmental Concern Organization.

"There were quite a few students in student government and other groups who just had a heart for the environment or wanted to see Baylor step up," Herndon said.

He said the idea for Earth Week came about when he realized that Earth Day falls on a Sunday this year.

"Sunday ... is not generally a good day to do things on campus, so we decided to have our own Earth Week instead of hav-

ing just Earth Day," he said.

Earth Week is the committee's main event, but it also sponsored an initiative to pass out magnets printed with energy conservation tips to incoming freshmen.

Fair Oaks Ranch junior Alexandra Neville said, "It's stuff that pertains to students in dorms — things like keep your tires inflated and ride your bike if you can."

Neville, president of Baylor Democrats, said students who are interested in getting involved in environmental issues will have opportunities to connect with similarly minded organizations during the event.

Several groups will have booths set up from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Wednesday on Fountain Mall. Confirmed participants include the World Hunger Relief Farm, the Environmental Concern Organization, the Magellan

Society, city of Waco and Green Mountain Energy.

"(Green Mountain Energy) provides all green electricity with equivalent costs to the other electric companies," Herndon said.

Brenham sophomore and Magellan Society president Eva Studer said this event fits well with the purpose of her organization. "Magellan's purpose is to make students more globally aware and (this event) does this by doing global service and promoting global issues on campus," she said.

The social responsibility committee also will put up a display of garbage to illustrate the amount of trash thrown away daily.

"We're doing that as an awareness campaign for how much solid waste a college student produces in a year and how you can reduce it," Studer said.

EARTH WEEK SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Monday
Panel discussion: "Why should we as Christians care about our Earth? How can we help?" Speakers will include Dr. Paul Martens and Bee Moorehead from 4 to 5 p.m. in D115 Baylor Sciences Building.

Tuesday
Recycled Art Show featuring art by professors and students during Dr Pepper Hour from 2 to 4 p.m. in Barfield Drawing Room.

Wednesday
World Hunger Wednesday with booths by Christian Life Commission, Green Mountain Energy, city of Waco, World Hunger Farm, Aramark and Magellan Society from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Fountain Mall.

Thursday
Green Out — Wear your Earth Week shirt or something green. Shirts will be sold all week in the Bill Daniel Student Center, Baylor Sciences Building and at chapel.

Steppin' In
Students will collect trash on campus from 4 to 6 p.m.

A concert to close out Earth Week with performances by John Boswell Band, Denise Hearne and The Awesomes. It will be from 6 to 9 p.m. at the field behind the Baylor Sciences Building.

Additional information can be found on the Facebook event for Baylor Earth Week 2007.

International videoconference to highlight global environment issues

By **Jon Schroeder**
Staff writer

Environmentally conscious students probably have conversations about the environment on a regular basis. But with the help of a couple of Baylor students, now they'll be able to speak with students from across the globe.

The Global Environment International Videoconference will be held from 9 to 11 a.m. today in 303 Cashion Academic Building. The highlight of the event is interaction between Baylor students and other concerned students and citizens in Ecuador, Uganda and Honduras

— through live video broadcasts from each site, the groups will be able to speak to one another face to face.

Carmen Branscum, a first-year graduate student from Oklahoma City, and Tihara Vargas, a second-year graduate student from Coamo, Puerto Rico, are heading up the videoconference call.

"They can see us through the cameras in our room; we can see them as well," said Branscum, who has helped lead similar conferences before.

Branscum said the experience is a jolting one — the first time she participated in a videoconference, she said she walked

away thinking, "Dang, I just talked to someone in Kenya."

Americans for Informed Democracy (AID), the nonpartisan group helping put on the event, provides things such as tape for putting up fliers and technological know-how.

What AID does not provide is motivated students to make these global videoconferences happen.

But several Baylor student groups and outside groups, including the National Association of Social Workers, the Social Work Honor Society and World Hunger Farm, are coming together to make the event a reality.

The main topic is the global environment and creating a sustainable global environment, Branscum said. Oil dependence, global warming, hunger and poverty issues and sustainable living methods likely will be some of the specific topics brought up.

"(Interacting with people from other countries) puts a human face on environmental issues," she said.

She added that some people feel intimidated speaking with people from other countries about global issues, but everyone has an opinion to share.

Environmental studies chairwoman Dr. Susan Bratton said

other countries have unique perspectives to share with Americans.

"I think that some other countries, particularly European countries, have a better rein on environmental issues than (Americans) do," she said.

She added that American students may not have a "full perspective" on how the U.S. is viewed internationally.

"I think they see that we're contributing a great deal to science and technology, but we're very hesitant to form agreements that might make some sacrifice for us," she said.

Vargas, a member of the National Association of Social

Workers, said the goal of the videoconference is to "empower students to realize our role in conserving the environment."

To do something about America's negative effect on the environment, she said, the first step is to get informed.

"When you're informed you can make decisions that are good for yourself and good for your environment," Vargas said. "College education is about broadening your world experience. This event gives you the chance to do that firsthand, face to face."

The Global Environment International Videoconference is free and open to the public.

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TATS from page 1

toos. The first, which he got a week before coming to Baylor, is a barcode on his left wrist. The "code" is actually Nov. 14, 2001, the date Bolten became a Christian.

There is also a Scripture reference to 1 Corinthians 6:20, which reads, "You were bought at a price. Therefore honor God with your body."

Bolten said he chose the barcode because it's on everything that's been purchased.

"I absolutely don't regret it," he said. "It's an expression of my faith."

Bolten's second tattoo, which he got during his sophomore year, is a gothic cross on his right shoulder blade. He described his tattoo as "a reminder of what Jesus did on the cross for me."

Besides serving as a personal reminder, Bolten's unique markings, especially the barcode, afford him many opportunities to share his faith.

"It's a great way to have con-

versations about Jesus and what I believe," he said. "When you first see it, you wouldn't know it was Christian. People will ask me what it means and that sparks all sorts of conversations."

Jeremy Robinson, a tattoo artist at Dream Connection in Waco, said he has drawn religious tattoos for all age groups.

"People in general like to get a Jesus fish on the foot," he said. "That's a pretty popular one."

Before coming to Waco, Robinson said, he worked in Killeen

near Fort Hood.

"Religious tattoos were really common over there," he said.

Robinson attributed the popularity to the fact that many of the soldiers were heading to war.

There were a lot of crosses, Bible verses and "In memory of..." designs, he said.

Denver sophomore Emily Hinkle got her first tattoo on April 9.

The design on her wrist is a Scripture reference to Psalm 145.

"It's a constant reminder of what's most important to me," she said.

Hinkle said she chose that particular Psalm because it was "full of beautiful promises."

While Hinkle said she could see herself getting another tattoo one day, it would have to be religious in nature.

"I couldn't imagine getting a tattoo of something that I might grow out of," she said. "My religion is one of the few things that will be permanent for my entire life."

Hinkle said most of her friends were supportive of her decision, but her family felt otherwise.

"My parents weren't really very excited about it," she said.

With the tattoo located on her wrist, Hinkle added, it's easy to cover up for a job interview or other setting "where having a tattoo might not send out the right message," she said.

Overall, she said, she was happy with her choice.

"This is something that I'm going to have forever," she said.

VOTE from page 1

can't wait to get started," Fonville said.

Fonville, who serves as chief of staff to current external vice president and Cuney senior Allan Marshall, said he hopes to work with the Waco community to bring in community members to athletic events.

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Senators — Kira Taniguchi, Cori Simpson, Mallory Driggers, Justin Farr, Ashley Sullivan, Ryan Tatum, Seth Koster

Travis Plummer - Student Body President



"This is a humbling experience. I'm ready to get back to serving Baylor."

Jen Kim - IVP candidate



"I'm excited that I'm still in the race and I encourage everyone to vote again."

Samer Baransi - IVP candidate



"The determination of who next year's internal vice president will be is determined by who votes on Tuesday. We really need everyone to vote again."

GPA from page 1

Hills sophomore Lauren Cremeens said. "But seriously, it's just a matter of doing my work."

Students' reasons for maintaining their grades vary just as much as their methods.

"I'd get kicked out of Baylor if I didn't keep my grades up," Talbert said. "But I also personally want to. If I got a 1.8, I'd feel like an idiot."

Cremeens said she has financial reasons for her efforts.

"I need to keep my scholarships," she said. "Getting good grades is to show your parents that what they're paying for is not being wasted."

Even though she likes to make good grades, Cremeens said, she is OK with lower grades as long as she did her best.

"I do my homework and stuff, but I'm not like, 'Oh my gosh, I didn't get a 4.0 this semester!'" she said.

While whether GPA affects a student's chances of getting a job is debatable, some students believe it is something employers really look at.

"GPA's important because it shows that you have learned," Talbert said. "You get grades to prove that you learned something in that class."

Other students think GPA has no bearing on job outlook.

"The GPA's of business schools are typically the lowest

of the academic departments," Waco senior Chris Tipton said. "But they tend to be the leaders of the working world."

However, most people agree that the correlation between GPA and job placement depend on the kind of job the student wants.

"Obviously, if you're going to attend more school after graduation, your GPA will make a difference," Mansfield sophomore Erica Blessingame said. "I want to go to med school so I need a high GPA to put on my applications. For others, it might not matter so much."

Different departments at Baylor have different ideas of the best qualifications for a job in that field.

In social work, for instance, certain characteristics may be more essential than a perfect GPA.

"I think what employers are looking for is a good recommendation and someone who is skillful, knowledgeable and ethical," said Dr. Diana Garland, dean of the School of Social Work. "A half a point doesn't matter."

Social work majors at Baylor are placed in the field as part of their degree requirements.

"Field placement builds on what they've learned in the classroom," Garland said.

Education majors also may be better off with some practice under their belts, Cremeens

said.

"I've been substituting for two years in a school district," she said. "That's going to look a lot better on a job application than saying I had a 4.0 at Baylor. I've got experience."

For music majors, the students' future plans determine whether their grades will matter.

"If you're going to seek a chair in the New York Philharmonic Orchestra, they don't care about your GPA," said Dr. William May, dean of the School of Music. "Most students go on to grad school. If they want to go to a prestigious school with a good reputation, GPA is important to keep the door open."

Talbert said he thinks his future employer will look more at his knowledge and mastery of certain skills.

"I want to be a translator or linguist, so as long as I know three or four languages, my grades won't matter," he said. "If I have a 2.5 GPA but can speak a language fluently, I'll feel like a success."

Even if a student's grades aren't quite as high as they should be, a Baylor education will serve them well, Cremeens said.

"If you have a degree from Baylor, it's going to look a lot better than a degree from a community college, even if you don't have a 4.0," she said.

JOBS from page 1

surveyed, 66 percent held at least one internship. Thirty-five percent believed the experience prepared them for the full-time work environment, and 23 percent believe it made their job search easier.

Having internship experience is the top piece of advice

offered to underclassmen. In addition to internships held during college, summer internships after graduation can improve chances at a job for graduating seniors.

"Sixty percent of jobs are arrived at from internships," Boyd said. "If you can acquire an international internship, so much the better. Study abroad is great,

but you're still just a tourist."

In a competitive working world, it is important to stand out. Experience Inc.'s study found that 69 percent of students apply for jobs using the standard paper resume and cover letter. However, less than 12 percent apply using portfolios, and only 26 percent have participated in a one-on-one job

shadow in their field of interest.

"Anything you can do to make yourself distinctive is sure to give you an edge," Boyd said. "Do your homework. Go above and beyond what is typically expected."

Even with these tips from the study students have their own advice to help with job applications.

"Be persistent and follow up," Jacobson said. "Keep in contact and let them know you're interested in them. You can't expect to nail the resume and magically get the job."

In addition to persistence, working knowledge of the business world can be a major step toward job success.

"Look for any kind of work

experience, whether it's an internship or a summer job," Nicholson said. "Find a professional mentor to help you learn what you need to be successful."

With the end of the semester fast approaching, seniors will be scrambling to find a job after graduation. The competition is fierce, but success could be just a few steps away.

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BU equestrian teams set for record school finishes

By Daniel Youngblood
Sports editor

In just two years as a varsity sport, the Baylor equestrian team has already taken steps toward becoming one of the nation's best programs.

The Bears participated in the Varsity Equestrian National Championships in the program's first year last year, and this time around they're hosting them.

In a competition with the nation's 12 best teams in the Hunter Seat and Western disciplines, the Baylor teams have already done several things to make head Coach Ellen White excited for the future. Heading into the final day of the three-day event, both teams are in position to post school-best finishes.

The eighth-seeded Western team, which failed to place last year, is slated to compete against third-seeded Kansas State University for fifth place Friday, while the sixth-seeded Hunter Seat team will meet eighth-seeded Fresno State University to compete for seventh place honors.

The Western team defeated Fresno State University in the first round before losing a close 5-3 decision to top-

ranked Texas A&M University and upsetting defending national champion Auburn University on Thursday.

The Hunter Seat team won its opening round match against Stephen F. Austin on Wednesday, but lost 8-0 to third-seeded University of Georgia and 6-2 to second-seeded Oklahoma State University.

White said she's pleased with both teams, but she's especially impressed with the Western squad.

"I'm so excited for our Western team," she said. "They've worked hard and pushed and have been rewarded. I'm very proud of them."

Assistant Western Coach Trista Armstrong said the Western team is peaking at the right time.

"All of our girls have worked really hard, and we've gotten to the point that all of them are really good," she said. "Each girl really deserves this success. It's not just the girls who rode today or will ride Friday, but all of our Western riders have earned this."

Freshman Western rider Allison Orosz, who won a pair of points to seal the Bears' 6-2 win over Auburn, said the way her team competed with A&M

and Auburn shows where the Baylor program is heading.

"These programs we're competing with have been going on for years, while we're just in our second year of competition," she said. "For as young as we are, our future is really bright."

And while the Hunter Seat team didn't have quite the success that the Western team has at this year's championships, White said both are on the rise. She said despite lopsided scores, she was impressed with the way her Hunter Seat team rode.

"We were in the hunt in nearly every matchup, and there were a lot of awfully close individual scores," White said. "Overall, I couldn't be more pleased. We're a young team, and we're a good team — even if the scores don't show it."

Sophomore Hunter Seat rider Cara Wilson said her team rode better than the scores indicated.

"These teams are the best in the nation, and we're competing well with them," she said.

The teams return to action at 8 a.m. today at the Heart O' Texas Fairgrounds.



Melea Burke/Lariat staff

Amanda Graber competes Thursday in the horsemanship competition in the Varsity Equestrian National Championship in Waco. The Western team defeated the defending national champion-Auburn University Thursday, and will meet Kansas State University at 8 a.m. today.

Baseball looks to build upon recent success

By Will Parchman
Sports writer

To head Coach Steve Smith, Baylor baseball is finally entering a positive stretch in conference play.

The Bears entered their series with the University of Kansas last weekend without a Big 12 road series win in two years. They finally got over that hump by taking two of three from the Jayhawks, and Smith thinks that's a huge stepping stone toward better things down the line.

"You keep that momentum going by continuing to play well," Smith said. "That's what we'll need to do this weekend. We don't have a whole lot of margin for error."

In the interim, the team doesn't have a whole lot of room to look forward. They have to deal with a 6-9 record in the Big 12 right now, and the schedule won't get any easier as the season progresses.

Part of the problem was their slow start in conference play. On either side of a series win against Texas Tech University, Baylor was swept by the University of Texas and Oklahoma State University in ugly fashion. The Bears lost the Texas series by a combined 25-7 and the Oklahoma State series 39-17.

But the team, and especially its pitching, seems to have improved since then. Baylor pitchers gave up more than six runs in a game 11 times before the Oklahoma State series ended on April 1. Since then, it hasn't happened once, and as a result, the team has won two of its last three series in conference play.

Sophomore shortstop Beamer Weems said he thinks the team has truly turned a corner.

"I think we were playing a little timid at first, and then we played some good teams where the ball just didn't go our way sometimes," said Weems, who's second on the team with a .326 batting average and first in home runs with six. "But I think we've gelled a little bit as a team and just started playing together."



David Poe/Lariat staff

First baseman Tim Jackson stretches to catch a throw from pitcher Wade Mackey during the Bears' 6-3 loss to Texas Christian University on April 10.

Smith has had trouble keeping his entire roster healthy this season, and he got a bit of a break when the team's tilt with the University of Texas at Arlington was rained out Tuesday. That gave Smith a full week to rest up his roster, and he thinks it really helped.

"Really the last couple weeks, we've benefited from the way the schedule has fallen," Smith said. "With the advantage of that, hopefully guys like Raynor Campbell and Beamer and Aaron (Miller) will benefit from a few extra days."

The team begins a three-game series with the University of Missouri at 6:30 p.m. today. The last time the Tigers traveled to Waco, they disrupted Baylor's shot at an outright Big 12 title in 2005. Instead, the Bears had to settle for the title of co-champions with the University of Nebraska, the only time in Big 12 history that's happened.

Smith said the team isn't focused on history as much as Missouri's dangerous bats.

"They've always been big and physical," Smith said. "They've always been a great hitting club."

Senior pitcher Jeff Mandel, one of the few remaining team members present for the 2005 Missouri series, put this one in perspective.

"It's a whole different team. Everybody's got to do what they need to do this weekend," Mandel said. "We're not in the same position, but at the same time we're getting back on track."

Mavs prepare for familiar foe

By Jaime Aron
The Associated Press

DALLAS — Watching from a tunnel as the Dallas Mavericks played in the NBA finals last season, Don Nelson had to feel like a proud father.

In many ways, he was — with his son running the front office, close friends he'd hired coaching the team and guys he'd molded such as Dirk Nowitzki and Josh Howard leading the way on the floor. Nellie will have an even closer look at the Mavs at the start of this postseason. He'll be coaching against them.

Now guiding the Golden State Warriors, Nelson's club snagged the final spot in the Western Conference playoffs on the final day of the season. As luck would have it, their first-round foe is the Mavericks, who are coming off a 67-win season that tied the sixth-most in league history. So put aside the relationships. Nelson's goal starting Sunday night in Dallas will be to destroy the monster of a club he created.

"It's going to be a good old-fashioned family feud," said Donnie Nelson, the Mavericks' presi-

dent of basketball operations and the son of the Warriors' coach. "I'm sure when Nellie comes down, we'll get the kids together and hang out and have a good meal. Then the next day we'll try to rip each other's throats out."

Mavericks coach Avery Johnson's relationship with Don Nelson dates to the 1993-94 season, when they were together in Golden State. Nelson made Johnson a full-time starting point guard for the first time in his career that season and was rewarded with a trip to the playoffs. This is the Warriors' first time back since then.

Reunited as player and coach in Dallas a few years ago, they later hatched a succession plan. Johnson was to eventually replace Nelson as coach of the Mavericks. Eventually came much sooner than expected, with Johnson taking over in March 2005 after only 64 games. He got Dallas into the NBA finals last year, his first full season in charge.

Because Nelson was around last season as a consultant, he's still very familiar with the Mavericks. And because he's still a heck of a coach, Golden State

went 3-0 against Dallas this season. The Warriors spoiled the game when the Mavs dropped a banner honoring their Western Conference title and later ended a 17-game winning streak.

So Nellie's return for the first round is about more than nostalgia. It could be a tough start for the Mavericks in their bid to win the title they lost in heart-breaking fashion last summer.

"I think it's great for the NBA," Johnson said. "He and I have had a long history together ... (but) the teams are going to decide it."

Postseason reunions are becoming common for the Mavericks. Two years ago, it was Steve Nash in the second round. Last year, it was Michael Finley in the second round and Nash in the conference finals. So Nowitzki isn't too worked up about seeing his old coach.

"It doesn't matter who we play against," he said. "Every team in the playoffs is good and presents problems. Obviously we know Nellie's style is up and down and it's all about matchup problems. He's got a great lineup to do that. We just have to be solid. Nothing new."

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Women's tennis tops Toads, 7-0

By Ida Jamshidi
Reporter

The No. 14 Baylor women's tennis team defeated No. 36 Texas Christian University on Wednesday, 7-0, capturing its 10th straight win.

The Bears kicked off the match by winning two of the three doubles matches and taking a 1-0 lead over the Horned Frogs.

The doubles team of senior Zuzana Cerna and freshman Lenka Broosova was the first off the court, needing less than 35 minutes to defeat TCU's Nina Munch-Soegaard and Anna Sydorska 8-1.

Baylor's Zuzana Zemenova and Iva Mihaylova clenched the doubles point for the Bears with their win over Karine Ionesco and Andrea Morgado.

The only doubles loss for the Bears came from the freshman and senior duo of Zuzana Chmelarova and Klara Zrustova.

In singles action, No. 43 Cerna and No. 18 Zemenova won the first two matches in straight sets, followed by Chmelarova, who clenched the match for the Bears.

The last three Bears, No. 89 Broosova, Zrustova and Mihaylova, also won their singles matches in straight sets to complete the sweep.

The women's team has moved 11 spots higher in the rankings since its winning streak began.

Head Coach Joey Scrivano attributes this jump in the rankings to the improvement of the team's newest additions.

"The freshmen are no longer playing like freshmen," he said. "At the beginning of the season they were playing undisciplined, which isn't the typical Baylor way of playing."

Zemenova, top seed for the Bears, said her match was closer than the score made it seem.

"I started really good, and all of a sudden, I started losing games," Zemenova said after her 6-3, 6-2 victory. "I was fighting and trying to do the right things, and that's how I won."

Zemenova suffered an ankle injury at the start of the season, but she said her game has improved since then.

"I feel like I'm playing so much better," she said. "I'm looking forward to the biggest matches of the season. And not just me, everybody is excited."

Cerna agreed that the most important matches of the season were still to come.

"We focus our practice toward the NCAA tournament, so all of us should keep playing better and better," she said.

The Bears will play their last



Chris Weeks/Lariat staff

Junior netter Zuzana Zemenova hits a forehand during the women's tennis teams' 7-0 victory over Texas Christian University on Wednesday.

home match of the year against Iowa State University at noon on Saturday. Looking ahead to the match, Cerna said she was confident about playing Iowa State.

"We just need to take care of business and try to get the most out of the match," she said.

Despite last year's 6-1 win over Iowa State, Scrivano said that each match is different.

"Yeah, we've done well against them in the past, but that's the past," Scrivano said. "We've got to be ready."

After playing Iowa State, the women's team will travel to Kansas City, Kan., on Thursday for the Big 12 Championships. Last year, the Bears won the Big 12 title by defeating the University of Texas in the finals.

Women's golf takes 3rd at tournament

By Justin Baer
Sports Writer

The Lady Bears matched their best finish in Big 12 Tournament play since the 2005 tournament in Austin when they finished third Wednesday afternoon at the Ridgewood Country Club in Waco.

Baylor posted a three-day total of 918 (54-over par), just two strokes behind the No. 9-ranked Oklahoma State University Cowgirls. The Lady Bears finished seven strokes behind the No. 14-ranked Texas A&M University Aggies, who took their second-straight Big 12 Championship.

Starting the day tied for 36th place in the standings, senior Anna Rehnholm had a huge final day for Baylor, shooting an even par to leap up to 15th place (232) on the leader board.

Rehnholm, who finished third overall last year at the Big 12 Tournament, had a drop-off from last year's tournament but helped the Lady Bears pull away from the pack in the final round and almost steal second place from the Cowgirls.

"I wanted to get off to a good start and I did," Rehnholm said of her play Wednesday. "I just played better golf today. It was way better today than the previous days."

And although Rehnholm said she's happy with the third-place finish, she said she knows the team could have done even better.

"Third place is always good," she said. "But we had a chance to win the tournament, and we kind of gave it away."

Head Coach Sylvia Ferdon said she was delighted with her team's results, especially after finishing sixth last year in the Big 12 Tournament.

"I am really pleased," said the Baylor coach of 13 years. "Anytime you are in that last group

with a chance to win a golf tournament — that is where we are trying to position ourselves."

Ferdon said the team's third-place finish was a total team effort, with four of the women finishing within two strokes of each other.

"The good part was every player contributed," Ferdon said. "We needed every player and they all came through. We played at the level of two teams that have been ranked in the top 25. That absolutely fortifies us for regionals."

Freshman Hannah Burke shot a 76 on the day to finish the tournament 14-over-par (230), earning her eighth-place honors and marking the highest finish for a Baylor player in the tournament. Burke's eighth-place finish is also the best in the program's history for the Big 12 Tournament.

"We hung in there well, but it just wasn't good enough to get second," Burke said. "I will take eighth place the way I was stroking the ball. I wasn't really happy with my game this week. I didn't have everything going my way."

Allison Martin finished one stroke behind Burke, shooting a 74 on the day as the senior finished her Big 12 career with a 12th-place finish.

Meanwhile, freshman Natalie Hocott put up a 77 Wednesday, ending the tournament tied with Rehnholm for 15th place.

With the conference tournament played, Ferdon said, the team is planning on receiving a bid to the NCAA Regional in Ann Arbor, Mich., on May 10 to 12.



Rehnholm

Track to host second meet of outdoor season

By Will Parchman
Sports writer

The Baylor men's 4x400-meter team has been in some elite company this year.

They've dominated every college competition in which they've been entered, never losing to a collegiate opponent. In fact, their only second-place finish all year came to the USA National Team during the indoor season.

But their opponents at the North Texas Classic last weekend were a familiar cut above.

The Baylor men butted up against the Waco All-Stars on Saturday, which featured former Baylor stars and Olympic gold medalists Jeremy Wariner and Darold Williamson.

While the two come out to practice with the team every week, they proved to be the only real competition Baylor's 4x400-meter team has had since the outdoor season began.

Head Coach Todd Harbour said running with them in competition is always a learning experience, considering what the two have already accomplished.

"We're the indoor defending champs (in the men's 4x400), so we feel like we can take that outdoor title as well," Harbour said. "The 4x400 is definitely our signature event, so we want to do well in that."

Baylor dropped the race by almost three-tenths of a second as the world's No. 1 400-meter



Senior sprinter Quentin Iglehart-Summers gets ready for a race during Baylor's Dr Pepper Invitational on March 24. The Baylor track and field squad will hold the Michael Johnson Classic on Saturday.

Baylor Photography

runner, Wariner, pulled away in the anchor leg.

But Baylor led the star-studded four-person team by about 10 meters at one point, and Big Pine Key, Fla. sophomore R.J. Anderson said a performance like that can go a long way toward preparing the team for a run at the NCAA Championships.

"It's the ultimate honor to run with Olympic gold medalists, and just to have them out here with us is really neat," Anderson said. "I think in the right conditions in the right competition it would be a showdown between (the two relay teams)."

The track team hasn't run at a meet in ideal conditions since the Stanford Invitational in late

March, and that was especially true last weekend.

Denton was in the throes of an arctic storm system last weekend, which produced temperatures well below April averages. As the runners cleared the last turn, they faced a 41-mile per hour headwind, which acted like a brick wall.

Anderson said running through it was "the most intense thing I've ever done in my life." Conditions like those, Harbour said, are what make tournaments with clear weather so much easier to run.

"We've had bad conditions the last two weeks, so we're ready for a good weekend. We need it bad," Harbour said. "We got some good out of (the North

Texas Classic), but we're at the mercy of the weather sometimes. It's that time of year."

As Baylor track and field gears up for the annual Michael Johnson Classic at the Hart-Paterson Track and Field Complex this Saturday, they've got some encouraging performances in their back pocket.

A number of them came at the North Texas Classic last weekend, and one of those came from Carla Grace.

Grace clocked a 23.79 mark in the 200-meters, notching the fastest time of the season and grabbing an all-important bid to the regional qualifying meet later this season. The winners of the Midwest Regional Qualifier, held in Ames, Iowa, in late May, will earn an automatic bid to the NCAA Championships.

"I've been trying to get a regional qualifying time all year and I finally had a good race," Grace said. "Everything went well; I had a good start and I was just happy with the performance."

As for this weekend, Harbour is optimistic that their strong past at the event will translate into a number of regional qualifying times on the track.

"It's a great meet," Harbour said. "We've had a lot of tradition at this meet, and have always got great times here. It's really our last tune-up competition, so we need to run well and have a good one to set ourselves up for the Big 12 meet."

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Courtesy photo

Augustana, a popular band among college students, will perform Sunday at mtvU's Campus Invasion Music Festival at The Backyard in Austin.

Music meets activism at festival

MtvU brings bands to college towns to raise awareness for Darfur

By Whitney Farr
Reporter

This weekend in Austin, mtvU is waging war against rebels in Darfur — with Shiny Toy Guns.

This Sunday, mtvU, MTV's 24-hour college network, hosts Campus Invasion Music Festival '07, an all-day music festival in three of the nation's largest college towns. The event is designed to generate awareness of the ongoing genocide in Darfur

and raise cash to help put an end to the bloodshed in the region.

"College students, music and activism have long been a formula for social change and Campus Invasion '07 will harness this combination to continue fighting the genocide in Darfur," Stephen Friedman, general manager of mtvU, said.

The music festival at The Backyard in Austin will feature performances from The Shins, The Academy Is, Shiny Toy Guns, The Rapture and Ronnie Day.

Partnering with big-time bands on the college music scene, such as Dashboard Con-

fessional and Augustana, along with the Save Darfur Coalition, the festivals will be an amplification of mtvU's two-and-a-half-year, student-driven, Emmy-winning Sudan campaign, according to mtvU.

"Many of the earliest and most active members of the Save Darfur Coalition have been college students," said David Rubenstein, executive director of the Save Darfur Coalition.

Each of the mtvU Campus Invasion Music Festivals will spotlight two stages, more than six hours of live music and games, giveaways and other attractions.

"Doors" to the outdoor am-

phitheater open at 3 p.m. and the bands will begin at 3:30 p.m.

Discount tickets are available for students in advance for \$15 at mtvu.com. The proceeds from the shows will benefit the Save Darfur Coalition. MtvU has long worked toward raising awareness of the ongoing genocide in Darfur by working with Amnesty International and running documentaries and public service announcements about the situation.

Last year mtvU sent three student journalists to the region to create an award-winning documentary and send regular news reports back to mtvU.

Switchfoot comes to campus for BYX Island Party

By Sapna Prasad
Reporter

Shipwrecked with Switchfoot.

The Dove Award-winning band will headline for Beta Upsilon Chi's 8th annual Island Party today. Beginning at 5 p.m. at Fountain Mall, the event will feature performances from the John Boswell Band, Faith Dies Last, Kingsfall and Reeve Oliver.

Justin Farr, vice president of Beta Upsilon Chi, is in charge of organizing this year's Island Party.

Farr said he's excited about the opportunity to have Switch-

foot perform at Baylor.

"We can reach people who wouldn't come to other events with Christian artists, because of Switchfoot's popularity," Farr said.

Trent Weaver, a DeKalb senior, contacted Switchfoot's agents through a company he worked for previously.

Weaver said it took more than a month of negotiations before the band agreed to play at Baylor.

He said the fraternity was looking for a way to expand its impact on the student population.

"Switchfoot has a very popular sound. Even though they're

a Christian band, Island Party will be reaching a new audience because they are more mainstream," Weaver said.

Whitney Petty, an Austin sophomore, said she has been eagerly awaiting the band's arrival. She heard that BYX was trying to book the band through her involvement in Student Government.

"I really enjoyed their first album," Petty said. "It's really great that they're coming here because it's on their national Web site. That's great exposure for us."

Weaver is in charge of the logistics of Island Party. Since planning began in November

he has been contacting various vendors, signing contracts and taking care of other intricacies.

Weaver said there will be plenty of games, popcorn, snow cones and a ferris wheel. Food is free for anyone who purchases an Island Party shirt for \$10.

Farr said the winners of Shipwrecked Battle of the Bands also will perform throughout the evening. He said eight bands competed and three were selected through audience voting and a panel of judges.

Farr said the large amount of interest has helped BYX choose some high-quality bands.

"I think it's going to be an all-around good concert because

all three bands have distinct sounds," he said.

Farr added that the John Boswell Band has an acoustic sound, while the other two bands are more up-beat.

Weaver said members from every BYX chapter in Texas will be in Waco for the concert. He said church groups and other organizations from 20 states will also be in attendance.

Weaver said the fraternity is very excited about the event and encourages students to bring their friends and family.

"It's open to everyone. My family is driving down five hours to be here for Island Party," Weaver said.

Orchestral, choral concert to feature almost 300 musicians

By Allie Cook
Entertainment editor

The Baylor Symphony Orchestra and the Choral Union will perform the annual President's Concert at 7:30 p.m. Saturday in Jones Concert Hall.

The Choral Union is a combined choir of the Baylor A Cappella Choir and the Concert Choir. The Schola Cantorum, a semi-professional choir out of Fort Worth, will also join the Baylor performers. Stephen

Heyde, director of orchestral activities, will conduct the entire performance.

Dr. William May, dean of the School of Music, said this performance will be unique from other School of Music events for several reasons.

"It's a performance of Gustav Mahler's second symphony, which is nicknamed the Resurrection Symphony because of the spiritual significance that Mahler himself attached to the piece," May said. "It's unusual as

a symphony in many ways."

First of all, most symphonies have five major sections — or movements — but this one has four, May said.

Another distinguishing aspect is the size of the orchestra required to perform this particular symphony, May said. About 300 musicians will participate in this event, making it one of the largest events of the school year for the School of Music.

"The other thing, of course, that means a lot to us at Baylor

is the theme of the resurrection that goes through the whole piece," May said.

One of the most exciting parts about this concert for Baylor students is that Sunday the performers will perform the piece a second time at 8 p.m. in Bass Hall, a historic, million-dollar performance hall in Fort Worth.

The President's Concert is an annual tradition that aims to honor the president of the university.

"I'm excited about getting to perform because it's such a rare piece and such a big effort, involving so many people," said Alyssa Wellborn, a sophomore from Waco who plays viola in the Baylor Symphony.

Tickets for the concert in Jones Concert Hall cost \$5 and will be available at the door.

For the performance in Fort Worth at Bass Hall, tickets can be purchased for \$27 and \$40 at the door or at www.basshall.com.

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The forgotten 25th



Wrecking ball may demolish fond memories

By Bryan Smith
Contributor

At 1106 N. 25th St., a piece of Waco's history sits forgotten. The skeletal remains of what was once proclaimed the most modern theater of its time is all that is left of the 25th Street Theatre.

With a past as colorful and compelling as the city in which it is located, the now abandoned building patiently awaits its fate. Slated for demolition in 2003, the city has yet to take action, so it would seem the theater is saved from the wrecking ball - for now.

Built in 1944 by Interstate Theaters, a theater chain headquartered in Dallas, the theater was designed to bring a downtown feel to what was then the edge of town. Constructed with enough seating to comfortably fit 780 theatergoers, the one-screen cinema soon became Waco's first deluxe neighborhood theater.

On Nov. 29, 1945, the 25th Street Theatre opened its doors to the citizens of Waco for the first time.

Boasting central air-conditioning and state-of-the-art sound equipment, the theater quickly became a success. On opening night, excited Wacoans

filled the theater's seating to capacity, eager to see the new, hit musical *Thrill of a Romance* starring Van Johnson and Esther Williams.

Attracted by the neon marquee like moths to a flame, patrons flocked from all over the rapidly growing city to visit the 25th Street Theatre. Surrounded by walls adorned with massive art-deco murals depicting ancient Roman charioteers, high school sweethearts and families could see the most current, full-length feature films for a mere 40 cents admission, Monday through Friday.

"I can't even remember how many movies I saw there as a child," Waco native Linton Miller said.

His experience is not atypical. The theater played nightly to packed houses, showing such films as *Abbott & Costello Go to Mars* and Walt Disney's *Peter Pan*. To this day, the 25th Street Theatre's screening of *Old Yeller* holds Waco's record for greatest movie attendance.

San Antonio resident Gerald Lyon, whose family lived in Waco from 1951 to 1954, recalled the thrill he felt as a young boy visiting the 25th Street Theatre with his brother every weekend for the Saturday afternoon matinee.

"I remember seeing *Hondo* and *Charge at Feather River* in 3-D there," Lyon said.

Open for nearly 37 years, the 25th Street Theatre enjoyed a successful run until it finally closed its doors in the summer of 1982. The last movie shown was Walt Disney's *Bambi*.

For four years the theater stood empty and unused until it was finally purchased by experienced club owners Richard Keiffer and Richard Olsen. "Big Richard" and "Little Richard," as they were better known, saw potential in the old movie house and quickly converted it into a progressive dance club.

Reopened on Labor Day 1986, the newly named 25th Street Club instantly became a haven for the bored and misunderstood youths of Waco and the surrounding areas.

"The '80s were the best, especially when 25th was open," self-proclaimed "club kid" Melanie Kirby Riojas said. "Me and my sister used to sneak to Waco to go, and many times my dad would come looking for us in an old cowboy hat, some rough clothes and old lawn mowing cowboy boots. How can anyone forget that?"

Laser lights hoisted high above the dance floor and a 32-foot screen dis-

playing colorful images, referred to by many clubgoers as the "sexy lady" and "flying UFO Martian," created an atmosphere at the 25th Street Club that was hard to find anywhere else and even harder to forget.

"The club was phenomenal," said former club employee and cinematic preservationist Jake Vanek. "The regulars were like my family."

The club experienced its zenith from 1986 to 1990. Every Sunday evening the local television station KXXV featured the 25th Street Club and its clientele on an American Bandstand-style music and dance television show aptly titled *25th Dimension*. Once again, people were lining up outside the building on North 25th Street.

The club welcomed anyone and everyone, and for many became a safe place for letting loose and freely expressing themselves without the fear of judgment and ridicule. "I would not be here today if that club had not been available to me as a teen and young adult," former club regular Kenna Davis said.

In 1992, the good times came to an end. As crime in the area escalated, the club experienced a sharp decline in patronage. Olsen and Keiffer tried

to stay open for as long as they could, but finally they were forced to close the doors to 25th Street Club for the last time and relocate to Dallas.

Although the two men found success in Dallas by transforming the historical Arcadia Theatre into one of the city's most famous nightclubs, it was always their dream to see the resurrection of the once great 25th Street Club. Tragically, this was not to be. On Nov. 23, 1993, Olsen was murdered inside the Arcadia.

Since then, much time has passed and the building remains untouched. Still standing but in desperate need of attention, large portions of the theater's exterior plaster has fallen away, exposing raw, red brick. Continued rainstorms on a leaky roof have caused extensive water damage, destroying the once beautiful murals and most of the carpet.

Many have talked of restoration, but as of yet nothing has been done.

So the building remains in a state of limbo. Poised between the elusive wrecking ball promised by the city and the off-chance a millionaire with a penchant for civic restoration projects will take notice, the theater waits, uncertain of its destiny.

Waco proves faithfulness to other historical landmarks

Heritage Square

From bartering to celebrating, the Square was the place to be in historical Waco. The Square served as the political, social and market center for the city.

No matter how important the Square may have been, time and the elements caused the demise of this monumental area. On May 11, 1953, a tornado struck downtown Waco, killing 114 people and destroying many homes and downtown businesses.

After the tornado ripped through the Square, many buildings were left in ruins and the Square lost its dominance. In 1969, the Brazos Project funded the demolition of 199 Waco buildings, including those on the Square.

However, the Square was not forgotten. Keep Waco Beautiful was dissatisfied with a parking lot in place of this once irreplaceable interaction. In 2001 a commemorative gathering was constructed in its place reminding citizens of the good ol' days in Waco.

www.wacocvb.com



Suspension Bridge

Whether you were dared to jump off of it or you took a midnight stroll on it with your true love, the Waco Suspension Bridge is a memorable structure.

In the mid-1800s times were rough in the Waco area. As Americans began to move west, the opportunity of a bridge over the Brazos River presented itself. This bridge would bring more business through Waco.

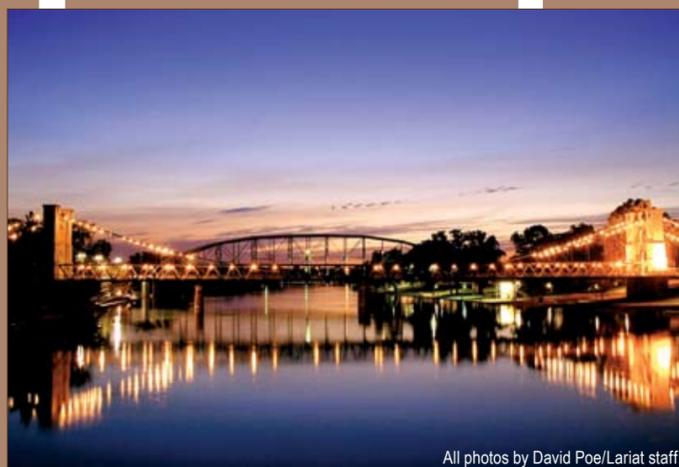
The renowned New York firm of John A. Roebling Co. was retained for the feat. This same firm created the suspension span bridge concept and later oversaw the building of the Brooklyn Bridge.

The construction of the bridge included 2.7 million bricks and \$135,000. This 475-foot structure was completed in January 1870 and was the first bridge across the Brazos.

The new bridge was a success. Waco even began charging a toll for each person and each head of cattle to cross the bridge, which lasted until 1889.

During the 1953 tornado that destroyed many homes and businesses in Waco, the bridge held strong. To this day, the Suspension Bridge remains a key element of downtown Waco.

www.alicobuilding.com/heritage/SuspensionBridge.php



Waco Hippodrome

Yet another historical theater finds its home in Waco. The Hippodrome, located at 724 Austin Ave., opened for business on Feb. 7, 1914.

Everything from road shows, vaudeville tours, movies and local talent performed on this stage. The Hippodrome also hosted such renowned stars as Elvis Presley, John Wayne and Ann Margret.

In 1978, the Hippodrome closed in need of repair. However, Wacoans weren't ready to see the memories end at this historical theater. Between 1981 and 1986, the Waco community raised \$2.4 million in private and public funds to restore the Hippodrome to its original grandeur as a live performance hall.

After this impressive community effort, the theater was reopened on Feb. 26, 1987. The theater is now owned and operated by the Waco Performing Arts Company and supplies Waco with Broadway-style musicals, musicians, comedians, plays and other performances.

www.wacohippodrome.org/



ALICO Building

The ALICO building remains a monumental historical success for Waco, a prominent part of the Waco skyline and a "welcome home" sign to many Wacoans.

This 22-story Amicable Life Insurance Company building was once the tallest skyscraper in Texas and the tallest west of the Mississippi River and south of the Mason-Dixon Line.

How was Waco chosen as the home of Texas' first skyscraper? Artemas Roberts, the ALICO building founder, projected Waco as a commercial giant back in 1910.

In the wake of the 1953 tornado, the ALICO tower became Waco's crisis center. The building had its own generator, therefore it was the only building in downtown Waco with electricity.

In 1982 the ALICO tower won a badge of honor when the Texas State Historical Commission designated it as a historical landmark.

www.alicobuilding.com

