

ROUNDING UP CAMPUS NEWS SINCE 1900

THE BAYLOR LARIAT

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 1, 2007

Eternal flame to be doused at 2 a.m.

By Tessa Shockey
Reporter

To steal or not to steal, that is the question. For most Brooks residents, when it comes to the Eternal Flame there is no question. There is only the question of when to steal.

Brooks residence hall, along with upperclassmen, has made it a tradition to steal the eternal flame that freshman are entrusted to guard until the night of the bonfire. Baylor students took over after Texas A&M stopped making the trek to steal the flame, Thomasville, Ga., senior Bryan Watts said. Watts is the president of Brooks Residential College.

The eternal flame is given to the freshmen class every year at Freshmen Mass Meeting and traditionally the class had camped out all night to guard the symbol of Baylor spirit and tradition.

Now that Brooks residence hall is no more, Brooks Residential College intends to carry on the tradition of stealing the eternal flame.

This year flame-guarding vigils and steals will be cut off at 2 a.m. and the flame will retire to the Bill Daniel Student Center until 8 a.m. the following morning. This was instituted in response to minor incidents that occurred in previous years.

Tulsa, Okla., senior Andrew Morris said the decision was made after consulting the Waco Police Department, Risk Management and Baylor administration. Morris is the Homecoming chair for the Baylor Chamber of Commerce.

“We had some safety issues

last year where there were a lot of people who thought it was out of control,” Morris said. “The best way we found was to impose the 2 a.m. curfew,” Morris said. So far, most of the complaints about the curfew have come from upper classmen who worry freshmen won't get the full experience of guarding the flame, Morris said.

However, the 2 a.m. curfew has presented a challenge for Brooks residents because in the past the flame was usually stolen in the wee hours of the morning. Watts and his leadership team are still collaborating on an ideal time to extinguish or steal the flame.

“It is kind of sad that it has come to that,” Watts said. “It ruins the fun for freshmen.”

In previous years, all-nighters and “roughing it out” were part of the fun, he said.

Watts said that violence has never been encouraged and that he wants the ideals of Brooks' founder, Samuel Palmer Brooks, to be upheld in flame-stealing festivities.

“What we've told people is that sometimes things do get out of hand,” Watts said. “We talk to them ahead of time, this is the purpose (stealing the flame), and our goal is not to hurt people.”

Watts said in order to keep the focus on the tradition, more planning has gone into coordinating the theft by involving long-term residents of Brooks in leadership roles.

Paris, France senior Marc Chou, president of Chamber, said the curfew will not affect student attendance and is

Please see **FLAME**, page 4



Abbie Rosen/Lariat staff

Following tradition, Tyler freshman Jay Adcock, freshman class president, guards the flame with fellow freshman. The eternal flame is given to the freshmen every year at Freshman Mass Meeting.

CouchSurfing offers worldwide place to crash

By Katherine Farlow
Reporter

Sleeping in a foreign place on a stranger's couch may not sound appealing to all, but it is becoming more common.

It's called couch surfing – and no, it's not a new sport. It's a way to meet new people and encounter different cultures in a more intimate way.

CouchSurfing International, Inc. is a nonprofit company set up to connect individuals when traveling and help travelers experience a city. It offers travelers a free place to stay or a chance to meet someone while in a different area.

CouchSurfing was officially started three years ago and now has more than 345,000 members representing over 32,000

cities.

According to CouchSurfing.com, CouchSurfing intends to internationally network people, spread tolerance and facilitate cultural understanding.

On the Web site, members set up a profile saying whether or not they have a couch to offer or are willing to meet and show someone around their city.

CouchSurfing started after founder Casey Fenton bought a cheap ticket to Iceland.

Fenton sent out e-mails to students at a university in Iceland asking if he could stay on their couches. People responded, and after his trip, CouchSurfing began as a project.

Atlanta alumna Megan Rhinehart said CouchSurfing is set up like Facebook or Myspace. People get online and



Katharine Farlow/ Reporter

CouchSurfing International, Inc. gives travelers the ability to connect with locals in the cities they're visiting. CouchSurfing currently has more than 345,000 members representing 32,000 cities.

check out the profile of someone with whom they might consider staying.

People don't have to offer their couch, but can offer to just have coffee or show someone around their city, she said.

After staying with four different CouchSurfing hosts throughout Europe, Rhinehart said it's the best way to travel.

“It's a richer experience than the average tourist,” she said. “It's meaningful. You remember the people you meet and it shows what life is really like.”

While surfing from one couch to another, Rhinehart said, “from the time I was there, I felt like I was their friend.”

Please see **COUCH**, page 4

Jewish Lecture series pays tribute to Rabbi Heschel

Prominent scholar, theologian honored

By Jackie Hyland
Reporter

The life and works of one of the most prominent Jewish scholars and theologians of the twentieth century, Rabbi Abraham Joshua Heschel, will be honored at 8:30 a.m. today at the Center for Jewish Studies in the Marrs McLean Science Building.

Dr. Marc Ellis, Baylor professor and director of the Center for Jewish Studies,

said he is not merely trying to host a scholarly conference on Heschel but “to take elements of Heschel's life and interests and see where they are today, placing him in motion and not just looking at him retrospectively.”

At noon today during the Center for Jewish Studies' international conference, “Honoring Heschel at 100,” keynote speaker professor Susannah Heschel, daughter of Rabbi Heschel and professor of Jewish studies at Dartmouth University, will hold a discussion with Dr. Clayborne Carson, official editor of the Martin Luther King Jr. papers.

The discussion will be held in the Piper Great Hall of George W. Truett Theological Seminary.

Heschel marched with

Martin Luther King Jr. and emphasized the importance of individuals.

“Heschel and King are important prophetic voices that still influence us today,” Dr. William Hulitt Gloer, professor at George W. Truett Theological Seminary said. “They represent the fact that one person can make a difference.”

They are example of how two people from two different traditions as individuals made a significant impact in the world.”

Dr. Randall O'Brien, executive vice president and provost, also said students should be able to take something away from the conference's speakers.

“In an age stuffed with information but starved for values, it is terribly important that we listen quietly to voices like Rabbi Heschel's, then call loudly ourselves for social justice and human rights just as he did,” O'Brien said.

Gainesville senior Adam Urrutia said Heschel's emphasis on the importance of revering God is an essential discussion for students in today's society where the fear of God has diminished.

The conference will host professors, philosophers and theologians from all over the world, including Dr. Anat Biletzki from Tel Aviv University in Israel, Dr. Admiel Kosman from Geiger College in Germany and Dr. Daniel Fainsten from Universidad Hebraica in Mexico.

Dr. John Kaag from Harvard University will also be speaking.

Cyberspace may be vulnerable to terrorists

Cyber warfare acknowledged as threat to security

By Amanda Allen
Reporter

Paying creditcard bills online, getting an X-Ray at the doctor's office. calling someone across the country: These actions seem safe because they're done every day.

But if terrorists wanted to attack the average American, tapping into these daily activities would be a good start.

As a technologically advanced

nation, America depends on cyberspace.

Everything from text messaging to using your ATM card could be interfered with if cyber warfare were to occur.

A scientific advisory board that commonly meets with the Air Force brought up the threat to cyberspace a few years ago. They have since guided the Air Force in the war fighting effort of cyber space.

Nov. 2, 2005, the Air Force set up a Cyberspace command under William T. Lord, United States secretary of the Air Force, to further research this subject.

The United States Air Force

Web site states that it intends to “deliver sovereign options” in five areas to effectively defend the nation: land, sea, air, space and cyberspace.

But do people outside the Air Force feel cyber warfare is an issue?

“I believe it is, because so much of our economy is tapped into cyberspace,” said Pattie Orr, vice president of information technology and dean of university libraries.

Dr. Pete Maurer, assistant professor and graduate director of computer science, differs slightly.

“A lot of things could be dis-

rupted, but it's hard to imagine it happening on a large scale,” he said.

Maurer explained that the security of cyberspace depends on the level of encryption and that it would be very difficult to crack some of the complicated codes.

The first step major step the Air Force took in attacking the issue was deciding to construct a Cyber Innovation Center. Construction of the state-of-the-art research park was set to begin in October this year, and the first building is to be completed in

Please see **TERROR**, page 4

We can't afford to suppress memories of genocide

Last month, I heard an Armenian talk about how his family's history was violently shattered by the Armenian genocide.

It was a unique moment listening to him.

I'll never forget the despair engraved in his face that had been passed down through generations of an oppressed and forgotten Armenian people.

That moment spoke to my heart, and from that day on I felt like I was missing something — some vital part of history that I had never known.

What was the Armenian genocide, and why had I never heard of this dark secret of humanity?

Apparently Congress knows about it, since representatives proposed a resolution to formally recognize the event in a

symbolic, nonbinding measure a couple weeks ago.

The Turks, who have denied the genocide for nearly a hundred years, are threatening to withdraw their support in the war on terror should the resolution pass.

After watching a short documentary, I learned a few facts about the genocide, and they were enough to make me sick.

In 1915, the Ottoman Empire blamed its defeat in World War I on the Christian Armenians for siding with Russia.

Legislation passed that allowed Ottoman authorities to confiscate Armenian property, and the ruthless slaughter of the Armenian people soon followed.

Within months, millions were deported on foot to con-

point of view



BY ASHLEY KILLOUGH

centration camps, yet most didn't survive the long journey through the desert.

The Ottomans didn't provide the doomed Armenians with anything to keep them alive during the perilous march, and often, they brutally raped or killed them on the spot.

In the film, I saw photos of starved, brittle-boned children lying dead in the streets and on barren trails. They were forced to walk until their little bodies gave out.

I saw photos of mothers kneeling next to their dead children — some looking lifelessly into the camera, others crying out in agony as they cradled their child's limp head in their laps.

I saw photos of hundreds of bodies littered and tossed along a field, while other faceless corpses were aligned shoulder to shoulder in endless mass graves.

It's believed that in six months, 1 million people were murdered. This number is greater than the combined death tolls for the 26 worst tsunamis ever recorded.

Yet these Armenian lives were not taken by a natural disaster, or by something out of our control. They were taken by our own kind.

No matter how hard I try, my mind cannot grasp this concept.

Perhaps this is why we never studied the Armenian genocide in school; perhaps it seemed too impossible to even imagine. Or maybe some don't consider this calamity part of "Western" history, and thus deem it unimportant.

This is despicable.

The Turks are not baboons or sea lions. They are part of the same species as you and me, which means — whether you like it or not — we all have the capability to embody pure, unimaginable evil.

It's imperative that we study these atrocious scars on humanity.

Yes, it's depressing, but it's crucial that we examine what

leads people to the unexplainable mass murdering of mankind.

We must acknowledge this buried sin so that we never again let ourselves get carried away with it.

So, Google the Armenian genocide. Learn as much as you can about how humans have suffered at the hands of others.

There's something beautiful about empathizing with the souls of the past; it's an indescribable, yet strangely fulfilling experience.

We at least owe it to the few hundred survivors and to the thousands of men, women and children whose bones still lie in Armenian soil.

Ashley Killough is a junior international studies major from Plano.

Editorial

FACTS program helps BU help community

While wrapping up Domestic Violence Awareness Month, Baylor University finds its Faith and Community Technical Support program also coming to a close.

FACTS was a one-year pilot program funded by the Office on Violence Against Women, a unit of the U.S. Department of Justice. The almost \$3 million grant gave Baylor the opportunity to serve as a intermediary between the federal government and rural America by providing funding for services to victims of domestic violence.

Baylor's Institute of Studies of Religion was able to distribute the grant money to 39 rural, faith-based community organizations nationwide, giving many isolated and rural victims hope for a better life through domestic violence assistance.

With the university's support of causes such as FACTS, Baylor's mission of serving God while serving society — pro ecclesia and pro texana — is truly fulfilled.

In choosing to aid in the awareness of domestic violence, Baylor is choosing to aid a cause that affects millions of Americans every day.

One in every four women will experience domestic violence in her lifetime, according to the National Coalition Against Domestic Violence. This is a sad statistic, but its impact can be felt across every social boundary. It is an epidemic that affects individuals in every community, regardless of age, economic status, race, religion, nationality or educational background.

For these reasons, it is a difficult and trying battle for the government to win without help from intermedi-

aries like Baylor.

Small communities, especially those distanced from large cities, have trouble gaining traditional assistance unless there is an organization willing to write the grants on their behalf which are necessary to bring funding for programs to those areas. Publicizing shelters from domestic violence is a practical way to put help in the reach of those who need it.

This is how organizations such as Baylor come in and make a lasting — and for some a life-changing — impact.

The faith-based initiative by the university should not go unnoticed or unsupported by the Baylor community, because it is this type of selfless service that makes Baylor stand out from other organizations.

Using our resources to further improve the quality of life in society, especially for those underprivileged and underserved, is really something the Baylor community can be proud of.

Baylor should continue its efforts of acting as an intermediary for causes like fighting against domestic violence, issues that can many times be overlooked.

The FACTS one-year test program ended Wednesday. However, the Institute of Studies of Religion has submitted a proposal to receive funding renewal for FACTS, and if approved, the funds should be available by next spring.

The program is a testament to Baylor's dedication to serving the community. For the sake of both Baylor and the women and families the program helps, we hope the funding for its continued existence is approved.



Opinion policy

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

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

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

Letters should be e-mailed to Lariat_Letters@baylor.edu or mailed to The Baylor Lariat, One Bear Place #97330, Waco, TX 76798-7330.

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.

A subscription to the Lariat costs \$45 for two semesters. Send check or money order to One Bear Place #97330, Waco, TX, 76798-7330 or e-mail Lariat_ads@baylor.edu. Visa, Discover and MasterCard payments may be phoned to 254-710-2662. Postmaster: Please send address changes to above address.

Get to know Student Court: It just may come in handy some day

If you were to ask a typical Baylor student what the Baylor Student Court was, they probably couldn't tell you.

After all, the Court is only six years old, and Baylor students are known for being social and busy.

However, it's in most students' best interest to know who we are and what we do.

The Baylor Student Court is composed of nine justices and two clerks. We are appointed by the student body president, confirmed by the Student Senate, and serve a term of two years. After that, our lives return to

normal.

It's amazing to me how so many students know about the student body president and the Student Senate, but that they know nothing about the Student Court.

On the national level, the Supreme Court has come to the forefront on so many issues. So what do we do?

Well, say that you get a parking citation that you ... disagree with. You can appeal the citation to us, and we hear your case. We can reject your appeal or dismiss the citation completely.

Or, say that your student

point of view



BY JOHN EISEN

organization has a dispute with another student organization. We can mediate the situation and issue a decision that both parties have to follow.

We also hear cases where a student may have a dispute against a particular organization.

And no, we don't hear cases regarding fraternities or sororities — at least not directly. The Panhellenic Council handles that.

But what most people don't realize is that if a student appeals a decision by the Panhellenic Council, we hear the case.

It's the same thing with the Interfraternity Council and the Election Commission.

So why should you care about Student Court? Because we are a group of 11 students here to serve you.

I'm amazed at the people I get to serve alongside.

I can tell you that we will listen to any case and come to a decision that is principled and solid.

You will get a fair hearing from excellent, competent, great people that really do care about other Baylor students.

So, next time you hear something about the Student Senate, or the student body president, or the internal vice president or external vice president, don't forget about the Student Court.

We don't get a lot of attention, but we are here to serve our fellow students, along with the other two branches of student

government. For more information, log on to www.baylor.edu/sg and you'll see our link.

You'll find our individual bios, more information on how we function as a court and how to get your case heard.

You can even schedule an appointment with one of us if you feel the need. There's a strong chance that you or someone you know could benefit from what we do. So take a minute and look us up.

John Eisen serves as an associate justice on the Baylor Student Court. He is a Pre-Law English major from Minneapolis-St. Paul.

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MEDIUM

10

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THE Daily Crossword

Edited by Wayne Robert Williams

ACROSS

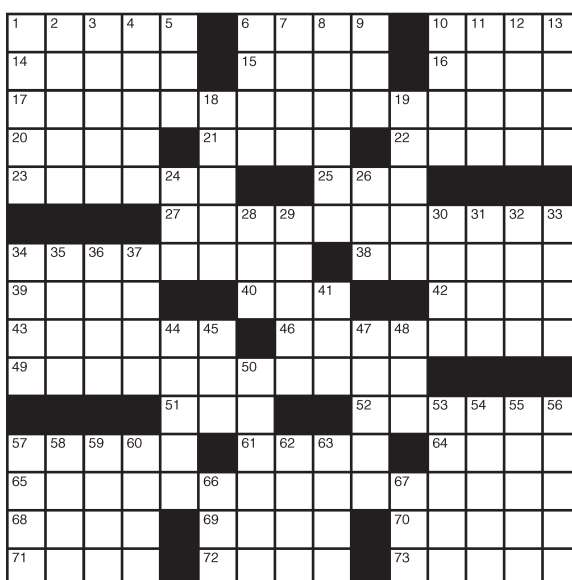
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- Extra dry
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DOWN

- Head wrap
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- Impressionist painter
- Do tailoring
- Codger
- Spanish water
- Units of magnetic flux
- Behold
- Tractor-trailer
- Stratford-___-Avon
- Lima's land
- Ooze
- Shallow-water hunter
- Legendary Brave southpaw
- Ram's partner
- Actor Erwin
- Civil War soldier, briefly
- Air current
- King of comedy
- North of Paris
- Attract a cab
- Form a vortex

- Actor Gregory
- Graphics image
- Start of a motive?
- Overwhelm with flattery
- Three in Italy
- Item of value
- Rwy. stop
- Concise concession
- QB Manning
- North American capital
- Spear
- Dough
- Sadat of Egypt
- Brooding places
- QB Manning
- PBS program
- Lobster pot
- Big budget item
- From the start
- Females of the species
- DDE's predecessor
- Barbie's ex



By Alan P. Olschwang
Huntington Beach, CA

11/1/07

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

Lady Bears volleyball pounces on Kansas

By Justin Baer
Sports writer

Teamwork. That's how Ashlie Christenson summed up the recent streak Baylor has found itself on.

Putting another "W" in the win column, the Lady Bears (14-10, 6-7) were able to go trick-or-treating with a smile on their faces after their game Wednesday night as a surging Baylor team increased its winning streak to five matches with a victory over the University of Kansas.

"We're all working together," said the Cleburne freshman, who set a new career high with 18 kills.

"We know what it takes to win, and we're all acting on it."

Even after faltering in its second game, Baylor was able to rebound and win in four games 30-19, 20-30, 30-24, 30-22. The team's fourth consecutive Big 12 victory also matches a Baylor feat not accomplished since 1999.

"A lot of little things are coming together," head coach Jim Barnes said. "We were losing matches, but now we are learning. We are a young group that is learning how to play hard for every point."

Christenson and Buda sophomore Anna Breyfogle had a match high with 18 kills, while Katie Sanders also landed in

double digits with 14 kills of her own.

Baylor dominated all aspects of the first game.

Christenson had five kills in the first game to lead the Bears. Baylor, who hit .667, also tied a single-game record for highest hitting percentage against the Jayhawks.

Kansas gave some assistance to the Lady Bears by hitting only .053 in the first game, but that was partially due to Baylor's defense. Breyfogle continued to be a dominant force at the net, contributing to the Bears' 10 blocks.

Breyfogle had two kills and a service ace early on to help the Lady Bears jump on top 10-5. Later, up 16-10, Breyfogle and Arlington sophomore Taylor Barnes tallied consecutive kills before Barnes had an emphatic block to force Kansas coach Ray Bechard to call a timeout.

However, Bechard's meeting with his players proved to no avail as the Bears pulled away with ease to cap off game one.

Whatever momentum the Lady Bears had going into the second game was quickly dismantled.

Troubled by hitting errors and poor timing, it was clearly evident that Baylor was out of sync in the second game.

"Sometimes the game just doesn't go your way," Barnes said. "There is nothing that you

can really do except try to keep your energy and your confidence up in the match."

Baylor was able to regroup and return to its winning ways in the third game.

Barnes spread the ball around effectively, yet Kansas refused to back down. Up 26-24, Barnes stepped to the service line and served the final five points for Baylor.

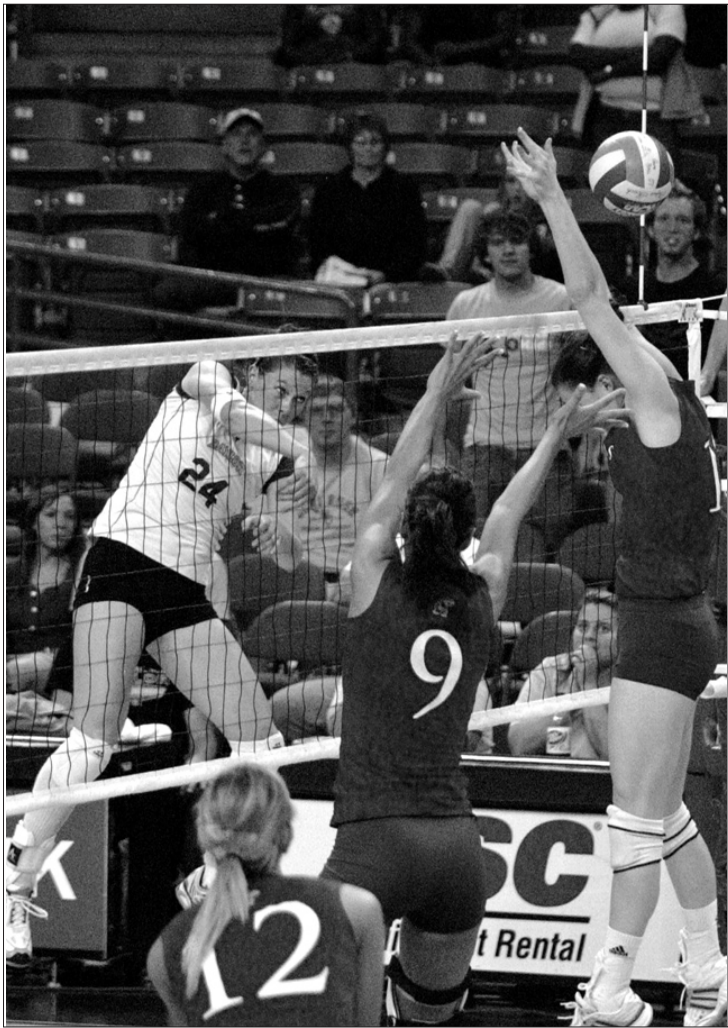
Breyfogle was lights out in the final game, getting eight kills in a game that was not competitive. With the Lady Bears' chemistry effectively displayed on the court, Barnes and Breyfogle executed plays with ease to help the Lady Bears finish off the Jayhawks on Halloween.

"She is just doing so awesome," Breyfogle said of her teammate Barnes. "She is doing better and better every game. I am so glad I am here to even play with her."

Baylor now enters a tough stretch of formidable opponents, starting with an away game Friday at the University of Missouri to face the Lady Tigers' team.

But Jim Barnes believes the confidence accumulated during the recent stretch can help the Lady Bears efforts in their quest to earn an NCAA Tournament bid.

"We are playing well," he said. "I think we need to take advantage of this time."



Laurisa Lopez/Lariat staff

Cleburne freshman Ashlie Christenson (24), gets the game point kill Wednesday in the Lady Bears' fifth straight victory over the University of Kansas.

BEAR BRIEFS

Asbury Seminary representative Josh Bell will have a table from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. today in the foyer of Tidwell Bible Building to discuss seminary opportunities.

Extravaganza is at 6 p.m. Friday at Fountain Mall. A carnival atmosphere will take over, complete with inflatable games, hot air balloons, a Ferris wheel, a giant slide and alumni reunion tents. The event will be free and is come-and-go. For information, visit www.baylor.edu/homecoming.

Build the Bonfire, a freshman tradition, at 7 p.m. today at Fountain Mall. All freshmen are encouraged to come out and enjoy free food, music and fellowship as they build the bonfire and continue to guard the Eternal Flame.

Pep Rally and Bonfire begin at 9 p.m. Friday at Fountain Mall. Come support the Baylor Bear football team as they get pumped up for their game against the Texas Tech Red Raiders!

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Stephanie Jeter/Lariat staff

This is why I'm hot

Burleson sophomore Carrie Moore (dark fairy), Washington sophomore Doug Wise (ladies' man) and Burleson sophomore Natalie Berrios (doll) head off to a costume party and then trick-or-treating Wednesday.

Rotary gives twist on study abroad

Scholarship recipients have chance to speak, study overseas

By Shannon Daily
Reporter

Rotary Ambassadorial scholarship recipient Corbett Parker will speak Friday about Rotary International and the scholarships it offers.

He will also speak on his experience in his host country of the Netherlands and the university he attended there.

The organization selects a number of students each year to send abroad on a \$23,000 scholarship to attend school, serve the community and give speeches at the Rotary clubs in the area they're sent to.

There are about 1,200 recipients of the scholarship each year, a representative of the Waco Rotary Club said.

In the past, students from

Baylor have visited Italy, England and Northern Ireland, among other places, said Elizabeth Vardaman, associate dean for special programs in the College of Arts and Sciences.

"I would think a Baylor student applicant would be a very competitive, serious applicant," Vardaman said.

Parker agreed, saying, "Baylor students are absolutely qualified for this."

The application process for each club is different. With the Waco club, applicants must fill out a preliminary application, due Feb. 1, which is followed by an interview with that specific club.

That Waco club will then select its two candidates to fill out an official application and interview with leaders within the district.

This is the final step before the scholarship winners are chosen.

The interviews are very in tune with what's going on

in the world, Corbett said, as the scholars are representing America.

"An ideal time to apply is in your junior year. But a senior is welcome to apply, as are graduate students," Vardaman said.

The scholars are required to give 15 speeches while they're abroad, as well as completing one large service project, or several small projects.

Scholars usually give speeches about where they're from, Parker said. He said aside from speaking on Texas, he spoke on legal professions, education and foreign policy.

"It's a great way to develop your public speaking," he said.

Parker also said scholars were able to give speeches while visiting other areas around their assigned university.

"It's the best way on the earth to travel," he said.

The Rotary allows its scholars to spend their year abroad in any of 168 countries in which there are Rotary clubs.

The scholars choose the five countries they would like to go to the most, and then they are assigned a specific country, based on where other scholars are placed.

According to the Rotary International Web site, the goal is to spread the scholars evenly throughout the world.

"Rotary's trying to get students and scholars to step outside of their comfort zones. They want you to go to Indonesia," Parker said.

While scholarship recipients are in their host country, they are treated very well, Parker said.

"You have an assigned host Rotarian. This is the best thing about the rotary scholarship," he said. "When the scholars go over there, they're treated better than the own Rotarian's children."

The Ambassadorial scholarship, Parker said, is also a great way to network professionally.

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COUCH from page 1

It's free to couch surf, but Rhinehart said she tried to give a small gift to her hosts when she could. The people she met while surfing want to come to the United States as well, she said.

"I would want to host someone in the same way as in Europe," she said. "I'd rather have someone stay with me than pay for a hotel."

Rhinehart said you have to take risks and trust people, but use judgment when it comes to safety.

"Most people are on CouchSurfing because they love people and are hospitable," she said. "I only had good experiences."

News of couch surfing is spreading by word of mouth.

Rhinehart heard of couch surfing from a friend in Alaska, while Billings, Mont., alumnus Scott McBride heard of couch surfing while teaching in Thailand.

A friend living in his apartment complex told him about it, McBride said.

"If you're a person that likes to meet people and experience different cultures, there's no better avenue to go down than couch surfing," McBride said.

On CouchSurfing's Web site, users have references describing how their encounter was.

This helps others who look at their profile to feel secure about staying with this stranger, McBride said.

"The only con is it takes effort to get your profile established to show people you're legit and not crazy," he said.

His first couch surfing encounter was in Perth, Australia. He said he was greeted with wine and cheese for a two-night stay at a couple's house.

During his stay in Perth, McBride's host couple left him alone in the house when they left for work.

To be willing to let someone a person has never met stay in his or her home, takes a certain type of person, McBride said. People must have a huge level of trust.

"You're letting them have access to your house, and they

could do anything they wanted," McBride said.

Unable to leave enough time to find hosts prevented McBride from surfing during the rest of his travels, but he has since been a host himself in Montana.

McBride said he's hosted people twice, both traveling from France who wanted to see the West.

"There's no better way to meet foreign people," McBride said.

One of the people he hosted was interested in American Indians and the cowboys of the Old West, McBride said.

He took his guest to a festival in Billings, Mont. that he himself had never seen before.

He said it was "good for me to see them in their element and see a different view of American

Indians."

Being from Montana, McBride said, he's used to seeing American Indian, and by hosting someone from another country he was able to appreciate more of his own culture.

Hosting people in his house opened up the doors for him to visit them in France, he said.

"I think people should do it because you get to open up your home," McBride said.

He said the experience might seem uncomfortable at first, but someone won't regret what he or she may gain from it.

Crystal Murphy, CouchSurfing country ambassador for the United States, said "couch surfers are made up of people that are like-minded, who love people, love traveling and tend to get along really well."

This is a way to meet adventurous people and see a different side of a city, Murphy said.

Murphy said she has had more than 70 successful hosting experiences and has surfed in more than 15 places in the United States.

"It's a great experience," Murphy said. "I have had unusual experiences, but that's going to happen; none of them were bad."

CouchSurfing is extremely safe, she said and there is a safety team to help if a problem arises.

To ensure safety, members are given different ways to gage

safety on another member's profile, Murphy said.

Members are first connected through references posted on the Web site.

After staying with or hosting someone, a member can leave a reference on his or her profile saying how the experience was for future surfers to see.

The member can also rank their level of trust and friend status.

Additionally, a couch surfer who is already "vouched" may vouch for members. Vouching is done on a basis of high levels of trust.

One other way to prove your safety is verification. A member's name and address are checked for verification by their credit card.

CouchSurfing "encourages global and cultural understanding," Murphy said. "It's not just for a free place to stay."

Murphy said CouchSurfing also plans events throughout the year.

During the Thai Collective in December 2007, volunteers will travel to Thailand to work and reach out to the community to increase awareness of CouchSurfing.

Houston senior Kate De Para is currently in Italy and plans to surf while in Amsterdam, she said.

"What's nice about the thing is that you can pick and choose the age and gender of the couch holder and also know what they're into by checking out their interests in their profile," De Para said.

It also offers a chance to contact a person to meet up for coffee in a city you aren't familiar with, she said.

Valley Mills senior Eli Harris lived abroad in France for a year and said when he traveled he met people on the train and they would offer him a place to stay.

Although he didn't use CouchSurfing.com, Harris formed friendships and would stay on a friend of a friend's couch during his travels.

"I would do it based on your own discretion," Harris said. "If it seems strange, I probably wouldn't do it."

For more information on couch surfing, visit www.couchsurfing.com

Honoring Heschel at 100
An international conference hosted by the Center for Jewish Studies

Today's Schedule

8:45 a.m. at the Center for Jewish Studies — Seminar Room

- On Ineffable Communities: Wittgenstein and Heschel by Anat Bilezki, Tikun Olam in the Post-Holocaust Interfaith Dialogue by Ana Banasiak, and Heschel's Monotheism by Robert Erlewine

10:45 a.m. at the Center for Jewish Studies — Seminar Room

- Who is Man: A Reflection on Abraham Joshua Heschel by Michael Ermarth and Heschel's Immanence by Gregory Kaplan

Noon at the George W. Truett Theological Seminary — Great Hall

- Lunch with Clayborne Carson and Susannah Heschel, Prophetic Voices: How One Person Can Make a Difference, and The Legacies of Martin Luther King, Jr. and Abraham Joshua Heschel

1:30 p.m. at the Center for Jewish Studies — Seminar Room

- Facing Perplexities With Fear: The Politics of Anxiety in Heschel's Late Writings by Martin Kayka, Reading Aggadic Myth with Heschel: Listening to

the Silence as a Response to Mystery by Adriel Kosman, and Heschel on the Gift of Life and the Gift of Death by Jason Rickman

3:30 p.m. at the Center for Jewish Studies — Heschel Room

- Martin Luther King's Legacy by Clayborne Carson

5:00 p.m. at the Center for Jewish Studies — Seminar Room

- Remembering Heschel: Psychological Perspectives by Al Dueck, Julia Langdal, and David Goodman

7:30 p.m. at the Center for Jewish Studies — Seminar Room

- Praying With My Legs: Abraham Joshua Heschel and the Search for a Meaningful Existence, a documentary by Steve Brand

For Friday's schedule see the online program at www.baylor.edu/jewish_studies. All sessions are open to the public, except meals and those interested in attending closed presentations can contact Dr. Marc Ellis at Marc_Ellis@baylor.edu.

TERROR from page 1

October of 2009.

The research will take place in at Bossier Parish Community College in Bossier City, La., until construction is complete.

Bossier has allotted \$50 million for the construction, while the state of Louisiana has approved another \$50 million.

The center will foster a collaboration of research and technology development in the cyberspace industry.

Craig Spohn, director of the innovation center located near Barksdale Air Force Base, said the center will go through three phases.

The first phase will offer 64 acres for research and development and as the center expands Spohn said they will capture another 200 acres.

Spohn said research is being

done by defense contractors, various agencies, laboratory researchers and other institutional researchers.

"We would absolutely welcome Baylor students interested — anyone who could demonstrate capabilities to support the war fighting in cyberspace.

"Not just students, but research faculty and tenured professors. We would definitely look to Baylor and Waco to be a supporter of the research opportunities in cyberspace," Spohn said.

Computer science, electrical engineering, physics and even those with liberal arts degrees are fields that this type of work would draw from.

"We're going to need management and business people who can do the actual writing along with people who can do the mathematics, physics and engineering side of it," Spohn

said.

The Cyber Innovation Center will offer a multitude of new jobs. In the next five to 10 years, Spohn said they're expecting about 10,000 employees, but that they would reach that number starting off small. They expect 500 to 600 in the next few years.

Because cyber warfare is such a new issue, captain Bob Shipp, assistant professor of aerospace studies, said most of his students probably wouldn't know about the cyber command because it's so new to the Air Force.

"I would expect the general population of the U.S. to have a very limited view of how cyberspace and the electromagnetic spectrum concerns them. But once they do understand, there will be a clear respect for the need to develop cyber command," Spohn said.

FLAME from page 1

intended to make the tradition fun and safe for everyone.

"Every year the involvement has been very high," Chou said. "People enjoy it so much; people keep talking about it, and it is passed down from one generation to the next."

Orange County, Calif., junior Adam Renz said Chamber "eggs on" the competition.

"We're all for it, that's a tra-

dition, we want it to happen," Renz said. "Our job isn't to protect the flame; just to make sure no one gets hurt."

Stealing the flame has been a bonding time and bragging right for Brooks residents.

"The purpose is to unite the community of Brooks and give competition to freshmen," Watts said. "It's been a tradition since 1987."

"In the past when Brooks gathers to steal the flame, it is not just the current community,

but also the old guys," Kunming, China, junior Cris Smith said.

Smith lived in Brooks Residence Hall his freshman year.

However, Chou said it is not just Brooks residents that have been stealing the flame.

Groups of upperclassmen have organized themselves and made it their mission to squelch it

"If I hadn't been in Chamber, I would have tried to put it out," Chou said.

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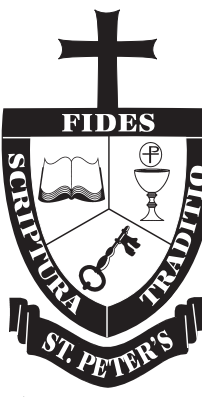
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