



ROUNDING UP CAMPUS NEWS SINCE 1900

THE BAYLOR LARIAT

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 20, 2008



Associated Press

Cuban President Fidel Castro and his brother, Minister of Defense Raul Castro, attend a Cuban Parliament session July 4, 2004, in the Palace of Conventions in Havana, Cuba. Ailing leader Castro resigned early Tuesday.

Cubans hope Raul Castro brings reform

By Anita Snow
The Associated Press

HAVANA — Now that Fidel Castro has retired, many Cubans are looking to his brother to let more people open businesses, own homes and even travel abroad. But it will probably fall to a new generation of leaders to ultimately fulfill or frustrate their dreams of prosperity.

During his 1½ years as acting president, 76-year-old Raul Castro has hinted at reform but made few major changes — a reticence many see as a sign of respect for his beloved, more doctrinaire older brother, who survived despite the efforts of 10 U.S. presidents to bring him down.

And while hoping that Raul and his likely No. 2, Carlos Lage, will advocate for change, they wonder how that will fly with Fidel, who stepped down but isn't going away.

"There has to be some change, more freedom with Raul," said Andres, 63, who like many Cubans wouldn't give his last name for fear of reprisal when talking about the Castro brothers. "The other one always nipped that off at the bud."

The resignation, announced Tuesday, should give Raul Castro the autonomy he lacked as the government's caretaker since Fidel was sidelined by intestinal surgery in July 2006.

The younger Castro raised expectations of openings in the state-controlled economy with his reported fascination with Chinese-style capitalism, calls for unspecified "structural changes," and acknowledgment that government wages averaging \$19 a month do not satisfy basic needs. He also encouraged Cubans to open a fearless and critical debate, as long as they remember that the final decisions will be made by the island's Communist leaders.

"That way we reach decisions, and I'm talking about big decisions," he told student leaders in December 2006.

Many Cubans want to hear more such talk from their next leader. Inspired by Raul, some leading Cuban cultur-

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Alcohol to be regulated at Sing

By Anita Pere
Staff writer

In the interest of student safety, All-University Sing participants will be subject to random breathalyzer tests, which will be administered by third-party police officers in Roxy Grove Hall before the show.

Students who display drunken behavior will also be required to take the test.

Michael Riemer, associate direc-

tor of student activities, and Blake Reeves, program coordinator for student activities, downplayed the tests, saying breathalyzers have been used in past years and Sing is not alone in presumed student consumption of alcohol.

"Sing doesn't have any more of an alcohol problem than any other activity associated with college students," Riemer said.

The only major change this year is the requirement of a systematic check-in for all groups when they

arrive at Roxy Grove Hall. At this time performers will be picked for random testing.

"Part of this, too, is to make sure the groups are prepared," Riemer said.

Group members sometimes arrive at different times and cannot locate the rest of their organization, causing havoc, Riemer said.

"I don't think when students are arriving it will feel much different than it did before," he said.

Houston junior Bethany Gresham, an Alpha Delta Pi Sing chairwoman, is in favor of the stepped-up efforts to discourage alcohol consumption before Sing.

"If you're intoxicated on the Waco Hall stage, you could get seriously hurt," she said.

The Sing procedures committee changed the production's guidelines because of feedback from Sing chairpersons. Riemer

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Freedom rings for local Kosovars

After independence was declared, Kosovo natives respond, remember their homeland

By Ashley Killough
Reporter

While the cheerful, upbeat Italian music danced around the restaurant, Bekim Lezi hurried to table four carrying a large tray of classic Italian cuisine. With compassionate dark brown eyes and a modest smile, he set the food on the table and politely asked his customer, "Could I get you anything else, Ma'am?"

Nine years ago, Lezi was serving people in a different kind of way. He was working at a refugee camp, helping thousands flee from his native Kosovo.

Though the dismal memories occasionally resurface, all was merry this weekend at Luigi's Italian restaurant in McGregor. Lezi and his two business partners, Jeton and Dino Haxhijaj, and their Kosovar families busied about the restaurant, taking orders and preparing food with high spirits.

They had a unique reason to celebrate: their Fourth of July came Sunday.

In an act that consumed headlines all over the world, Kosovo declared its independence from Serbia, an event awaited for centuries.

"This is a dream," Lezi said. "It's something unbelievable. So many people have lost their lives for this moment, and many people have worked so hard for this day."

While the U.S. and European Union officially recognized Kosovo's independence Monday, Europe's newest country sparked a wave of protests from states that



Luis Noble/Lariat staff

Dino Haxhijaj, Vesel Haxhijaj, Bekim Lezi and Jeton Haxhijaj stand in front of the U.S., Albanian and Italian flags Tuesday, which are on display at Luigi's Italian Restaurant in McGregor. These Kosovo natives worked with high spirits after Kosovo declared its independence from Serbia Sunday.

have separatist movements, including Russia, Greece and Spain.

Serbia especially rejects the idea of drawing new borders, for it claims Kosovo as its cultural and spiritual heartland.

"I think it's going to be a little bit hard in the beginning because we share a border with Serbia, and they say they're going to hurt our economy with blockades," Lezi said.

Though the ride may be rough in the beginning, Lezi said nothing seems impossible for Kosovo now.

"Even if we suffer, independence means more than anything," he said. "That's how a lot of good things start — with hardships."

Lezi's journey to America began in 1999, but Kosovo's journey to misery began almost a century ago.

Kosovo became a Serbian province after the collapse of the Austro-Hungarian Empire at the end of World War I. With more than 90 percent of the population, ethnic Albanians largely occupy Kosovo, and in 1974, the Yugoslav constitution granted autonomy to the province.

However, in an effort to diminish Kosovo's autonomy and promote Serbian nationalism, Yugoslav President Slobodan Milosevic of Serbia started stripping away the small Kosovo's resources in 1989.

Unemployment rates spiked for Kosovars, as Milosevic gave jobs and leadership roles to the Serbian minority. According to Lezi, since Yugoslavia was ruled by Belgrade, the Serbs living in Kosovo "got the

good life," even though Serbs represented less than 10 percent of the population.

"The worst thing happened in 1992 when (Milosevic) made 80 percent of Kosovo's employed people leave their jobs. He brought in Serbs, colonizing Kosovo and putting them in our offices and factories," Lezi said. "They just came and took everything to build up Belgrade and made people leave their jobs. You were like a slave for (Serbia)."

To put it in a more American perspective, Lezi compared Milosevic's actions to a hypothetical situation in the U.S.

"It would be like if the Ameri-

Please see KOSOVO, page 9

Obama, McCain win Wisconsin primaries

By David Espo
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Barack Obama cruised past a fading Hillary Rodham Clinton in the Wisconsin primary Tuesday night, gaining the upper hand in a Democratic presidential race for the ages.

It was Obama's ninth straight victory over the past three weeks, and left the former first lady in desperate need of a comeback in a race she long commanded as front-runner.

"The change we seek is still months and miles away," Obama told a boisterous crowd in Houston.

He cut deeply into Clinton's political bedrock in Wisconsin, splitting the support of white women in Wisconsin almost evenly with the former first lady and running well among working class voters in the blue collar battleground, according to polling place interviews.

The economy and trade were key issues in the race, and seven in 10

voters said international trade has resulted in lost jobs in Wisconsin. Fewer than one in five said trade has created more jobs than it has lost.

Clinton made no mention of her defeat, and showed no sign of surrender in an appearance in Youngstown, Ohio.

"Both Senator Obama and I would make history," the former first lady said. "But only one of us is ready on day one to be commander in chief, ready to manage our economy, and ready to defeat

the Republicans. Only one of us has spent 35 years being a doer, a fighter and a champion for those who need a voice."

In a clear sign of their standing in the race, most cable television networks abruptly cut away from coverage of Clinton's rally when Obama began to speak in Texas.

Sen. John McCain won the Republican primary with ease, dispatching former Arkansas Gov. Mike



Democratic presidential hopeful Sen. Barack Obama, D-Ill., speaks Tuesday at a rally in Houston.

Associated Press

Please see WIN, page 9

\$2.3 million river walk expansion approved by Waco City Council

By Victoria Mgbemena
Staff writer

Waco City Council members voted Tuesday to approve \$2.3 million in funding for the expansion of the Lake Brazos River walk to extend through parts of the Baylor campus.

The walk currently spans five miles from Cameron Park to the

Texas Ranger Museum, running through a section of Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard and along the Suspension Bridge. Baylor has agreed to appropriate \$445,000 toward the construction of the river walk, which when finished will pass through sections of the Baylor Law School, baseball diamonds, football athletic complex and

Mayborn museum.

"The partnership between the university and the city has been in the works for along time," director of media relations Lori Fogleman said. "This will be something that will strengthen the relationship between Baylor and Waco. As the campus has developed and grown along the river, it makes sense to connect

with the city in this manner."

The section of the river walk will start at the Texas Ranger Museum and terminate at the Ferrell Center, connecting with the Brazos Trail.

"The city is working on a design similar to what is seen now along the river," said Larry Groth, city manager for the City of Waco. "The plan was devel-

oped back in the '80s to provide a walkway that would loop across to Herring Avenue. The fourth phase of the project will involve access across LaSalle to Martin Luther King Jr. Park."

Groth said that Baylor students will have greater accessibility to parts of the campus along the river and into the city.

"The river walk will be an

asset to the community and an opportunity for everyone, including students, to be able to access common venues between Franklin and I-35," Groth said. "Students will get to enjoy a scenic path and various activities through the connection to the community. Having the

Please see WACO page 9

So-called 'super' delegates not so great after all

There is nothing like a presidential election year with its Super Tuesday excitement and hours of debates, campaigning and television coverage. Everywhere we go at this time of year, we are almost forced to become politically engaged. It's all the rage now and rightfully so, but what's with all this super delegate mumbo-jumbo?

During the last presidential election I was just so satisfied with reelecting Bush that I didn't really look into the primary processes. But now all the hype has me interested in the Democratic Party's nomination process and, to be honest, I think it's pretty much a crapshoot.

Let me break it down for you: the Democratic Party holds primaries and caucuses, just like their Republican counterparts. Where the two parties differ is

in how the delegates are distributed. The Republican Party uses the winner-take-all method, while the Democratic Party doles out delegates based on the percentage of votes that each candidate wins in that particular state.

Once all the states hold their primaries or caucuses, the delegates that were won, also known as pledged delegates, attend their respective party's national convention, where a final vote is taken and a candidate is nominated to the general election ticket.

However, the Democratic Party had to go and make the process much more complicated by creating more delegates to send to its national convention. These delegates do not represent our vote for presidential candidates, as do pledged

point of view

BY RACHEL WAKEFIELD



delegates, though we did elect them. These super delegates, as they are called, consist of current and former Democratic congressmen, presidents, vice presidents and party elites.

The Democratic "unpledged" elites can vote for whomever they want come convention time and are used as barrier for candidates that may not represent the party's best interests in the general election.

For the sake of the word democracy and the Democratic Party, something needs

to change. Democracy means a government elected by the whole population, chosen by its majority vote. As far as super delegates go, they are super undemocratic.

In the national convention this year there are 4,049 total delegates and 796 of them are "super." This means 20 percent of the total voting delegates or 40 percent of the 2,025 votes a candidate needs to win the nomination comes from these super delegates.

Although Barack Obama has been winning more states and more delegates than Hillary Clinton has, before the last two sets of primaries were held he was the underdog. This is largely because of Clinton's close connections with super delegates, including her husband Bill.

Fortunately, we are seeing a

party leader emerge because of Obama's surge in momentum following Super Tuesday and the Potomac primaries.

However, there are still crucial state primaries, including Texas, that could leave the delegate count neck and neck. This means the nomination could be out of our hands and put into the hands of those super delegates who are allowed to change their vote at will until the convention takes place.

How democratic is that? Seven hundred and ninety-six "super" people may choose the Democratic nomination, instead of the close to 52 million registered Democrats that aren't so "super."

A few times in history, the concept of super delegates has been refined because it gave too much power to a few and not

enough to the majority of people. In 1968, after vice president Hubert Humphrey was nominated, the Democratic Party enacted reforms and took some power away from party elites, thus creating the numbers of delegates and super delegates doled out today.

But is it even really necessary to have them anyway? Why should one "super" person have more power to nominate a candidate than all of the Democrats at Baylor University combined?

You could argue that super delegates are more aware and politically engaged, but should that really give them the power to over rule the vote of millions of Americans? I don't think so. I think this is a mockery of our so-called democracy.

Rachel Wakefield is a senior journalism major from Kewanee, Ill.

Editorial

Drinking policies should be consistent

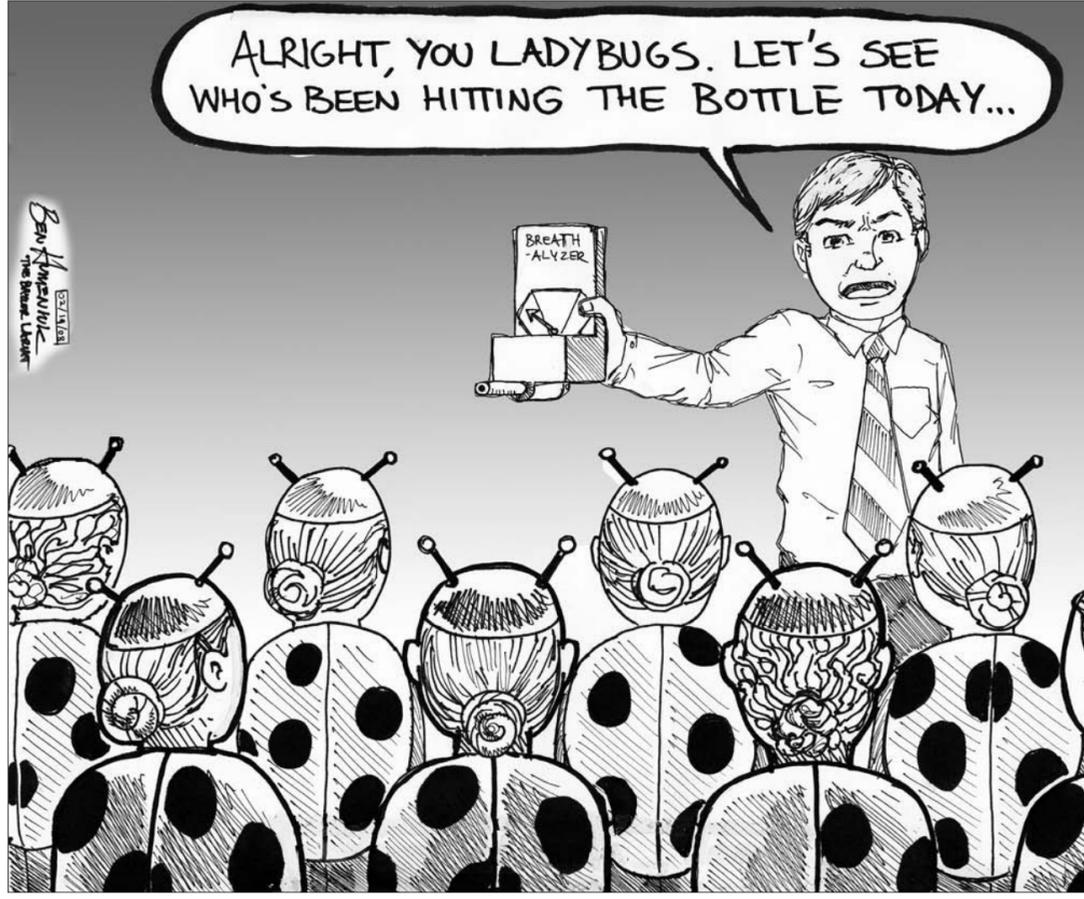
Starting Thursday with the first performance, All-University Sing participants will be randomly given Breathalyzer tests to check for alcohol consumption. If a student doesn't pass, he or she will be asked to leave, and the offending group will be warned. On the second offense the group will be disqualified.

Suspicion of alcohol use among student organizations has long been an unaddressed issue at Sing, and it is commendable that it's finally being dealt with. Students hold Sing in such high regard that we hope the threat of potential disqualification will be enough to deter pre-partying activities. This event is one of the most revered traditions at Baylor, and it is important to protect its integrity.

Considering the large crowds that Sing draws, it is vital that each group represents Baylor in a manner consistent with the principles of a Christian university. A Waco police department officer will be on site to administer the test as discreetly as possible.

While it isn't ideal to have students taking sobriety tests while Grandma walks down the aisle, student drinking on campus must be curtailed. We cannot afford to pretend it doesn't happen or attempt to sweep the issue under the rug.

Thankfully, Baylor has acknowledged some level of student drinking does occur despite the high standards the university aspires to. Although we would like to think that our student body is above the temptation of drinking while dancing, it is clear there needs to be a checkpoint in place. Many times, the mere presence



of the police is a sufficient deterrent to all levels of criminal activity. With a bit of luck, when students learn that a Breathalyzer test is on the table, they won't hit the bottle before taking the stage.

While this new regulation may very well keep students from drinking for a solid four days, there are 361 more to be dealt with. Even though this action is a step in the right direction, it seems to primarily be concerned with the image of Baylor over the safety of students.

We too value Baylor's image and the way our school is known in the community, but if we are only going

to address drinking as it affects our image, we will miss the point of alcohol awareness.

Sing administrators are calling for this regulation in the interest of student safety. That's great. One must wonder, however, why Baylor only now chooses to take actions addressing student drinking.

When Student Senate passed a support vote last fall for a designated driver program, the administration refrained from approving or disapproving of the initiative.

Although the program would need student involvement as well, we hope the administration for its part treats

all alcohol problems consistently and would give the program its support if created.

Even though students are on a stage roughly 9 feet off the ground and operating various lighting and curtain systems during Sing, the level of "danger" present is far less than when a student is driving under the influence.

Both examples of student drinking have been made known to the administration and yet the Sing violations received swifter action.

Let's hope the Sing regulations are the first, not the only, step in addressing the larger problem.

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. Non-student writers should include their address. 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.

Letters to the editor

Credit due not just to regents

In its decision to recognize "non-Baptist" Christian groups on Baylor's campus, the Board of Regents took a much-needed (and long-awaited) step.

Many student leaders over the past few years have effectively spearheaded the effort to present the issue to the Board and to challenge the old-fashioned and out-of-date policy.

However, there is one person who I believe deserves much of the credit, and he's the type

person who would never seek or expect it.

In 2004, when Brandon Anderson was elected Internal Vice President of Student Government, it was obvious that this issue was one of the things that he was most passionate about.

Recognizing that many students of strong, Biblical faith were barred from meeting on campus in groups merely because they were classified as "non-Baptist," Brandon worked tirelessly day in and day out for months, researching the histori-

cal motivations for the policy, meeting with students, faculty and alumni, and ultimately advocating a change himself to the Board of Regents on several occasions.

Watching Brandon passionately pursue this goal on behalf of the students was inspiring.

And though many of those current students were never able to experience the fruits of his labor, current students should be thankful for Brandon's courage to shine a light in the dark, thus effecting a process of

change that will benefit Baylor for years to come.

There are two types of students at Baylor: those who choose to merely be consumers of what the school has to offer, and then those who choose to be contributors, taking advantage of the many opportunities to serve and give back.

Brandon was a major contributor. For that, we should all be grateful.

Jeff Leach
Alum 2005

Campus plan has problems

Just a couple of thoughts on the master plan for Baylor's future.

I don't know the details of the music school, but I'd like to point out that the music school got a brand new building a few years ago, while the art school still makes do with subpar facilities.

What can we do to put the art school higher on the list of the university's priorities?

Secondly, with the cam-

pus getting larger and larger, it seems counterintuitive to create a single, large cafeteria.

When I was in school, I ate at different cafeterias throughout the week based on my schedule.

If I'd had to schlep across campus to grab lunch, it wouldn't have built community. It would've built annoyance.

Martha Hopkins
Alumna 1993

The Baylor Lariat

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THE Daily Crossword

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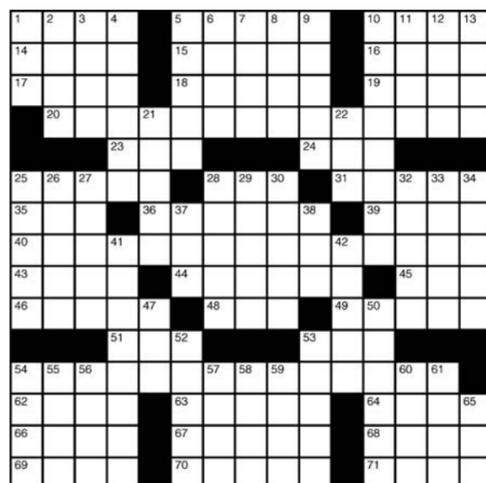
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- 18 Excuse
- 19 Seward Peninsula town
- 20 Chef's quick creations
- 23 Golfer Ernie
- 24 Shade tree
- 25 Jamaican cultist
- 28 NYC arena
- 31 Immature insect
- 35 Mind reading
- 36 Place of worship
- 39 College bigwig
- 40 Chef's brunch dilemma
- 43 Head of France
- 44 Oddball
- 45 Payable
- 46 Lulus
- 48 Slightly shifty
- 49 Tightwad
- 51 Stretch of time

DOWN

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- 3 Uris novel, "___ 18"
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- 5 Riyadh residents
- 6 Actor Lugosi
- 7 Composer Satie
- 8 Hollow cylinder
- 9 Maliciously derogatory
- 10 Not from a factory
- 11 ___ vera
- 12 "Champagne Tony" of golf
- 13 PGA pegs
- 21 "Killing Me Softly..."

singer

- 22 Off one's feed
- 25 Right-hand page
- 26 Unusually pale
- 27 Malicious ill-will
- 28 Flowing tresses
- 29 Ruin
- 30 Saxophonist Mulligan
- 32 Marsh grasses
- 33 Indistinct
- 34 Wrath
- 37 Fell trees
- 38 Inc. in the U.K.
- 41 Of the brain
- 42 Ancient writer
- 47 ___ Lanka
- 50 Hardened (to)
- 52 Don or Samuel
- 53 Musical note
- 54 Disaster org.
- 55 Actor Sharif
- 56 Poet Dove
- 57 Whiskey shot
- 58 Tours to be
- 59 Singer Young
- 60 New Rochelle college
- 61 Roger Rabbit feature
- 65 Half of a fly?



By Philip J. Anderson
Portland, OR

2/20/08

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

BEAR BRIEFS

The No. 10 Baylor women's tennis team's home opener is at 5 p.m. today when they play host to TCU. Baylor beanie hats will be given away to the first 100 fans. Matches are played at the Baylor Tennis Center and admission is free to all home matches. For more information visit www.baylor-bears.com.

Multicultural Activities will hold a Mini-Mosaic mixer at 7 p.m. today in Barfield Drawing Room in the Bill Daniel Student Center. All freshmen and transfer students are invited to come and meet members from multicultural academic and social organizations to learn how to get involved. Contact Taryn_Ozuna@baylor.edu for more information.

The Baylor University Concert Band will present its spring program at 7:30 p.m. today in Jones Concert Hall. The concert is free and open to the public. For more information, call the School of Music at 254-710-3991.

The 2008-2009 Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) is now available at www.fafsa.ed.gov. Students must fill out an application each year to apply for aid. Using accurate tax data is important to prevent delays in the process.

The Office of Academic Scholarships and Financial Aid now has scholarship opportunities available for the 2008-2009 academic year. For more information go to www.baylor.edu/finaid.

Spiritual Life is looking for students who are interested in directing Baylor's Missions Week 2008. Come by the Bobo Baptist Student Center or the Harris House, or visit www.baylor.edu/um for an application.

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Associated Press

Festival equals food

Taiwanese people gather to buy "Yuan Xiao" rice balls for the traditional Lantern Festival in front of the Her-Shing Chinese Collation shop Tuesday in Taipei, Taiwan. Yuan Xiao rice balls are mixed with meat, bean and vegetables and cooked in broth.

Overloads or control problems may have caused elevator fire

By Christina Kruse
 Reporter

An oil fire in Draper Academic Building trapped eight students and one faculty member in an elevator on Monday, raising questions regarding elevator safety. Students and faculty evacuated Draper after the fire alarm sounded around 11:45 a.m.

The evacuation was due to a small, oil-type fire that started in the basement near the elevator area. The cause of the fire is still under investigation.

The students and faculty member were stuck between the second and third floors of Draper.

According to the Schindler Elevator Services Web site, there are two types of elevator systems: traction and hydraulic.

Older types of elevators most likely operate on a hydraulic system. A jack located below

the elevator propels the unit. A pump moves oil into the jack, causing it to raise the elevator. When an elevator descends, the oil is returned to the system's storage tank, according to the Web site.

"We suspect there was a small pinhole leak in the hydraulic hose," Leigh Ann Moffett, fire marshal for Baylor's risk management department.

Currently, elevators across campus have an emergency phone that connects directly to the Baylor police department, which is open on weekends. Baylor police will respond to a call made from the elevator, but will only extract the stranded person or persons in the case of an emergency. Baylor police would have tried to pry open the elevator doors "had there been a fire that seemed to be threatening" Baylor Police Chief Jim Doak said.

In a non-emergency, the

responding officers will contact the contracted elevator maintenance company, Schindler Elevator Services, Doak said.

On Monday, nine people were caught in one elevator, possibly exceeding the weight limit for the elevator.

"Different issues could contribute to this situation, including control problems, power shutdowns and overloads," Director of Facilities Management Don Bagby said. However, "it is unusual for elevators to be overloaded."

Janet Norden, a Spanish instructor, was stuck in an elevator in Draper almost 20 years ago on a Saturday morning. Norden was stranded for about 45 minutes between floor levels until someone in Old Main heard the alarm and decided to investigate the noise.

Norden was told that the elevator malfunctioned because of the way it was installed.

History becomes environmental

University of Kansas professor to speak on environmental biographies

By Anna Taylor
 Reporter

The thirtieth annual Charles Edmondson Historical Lectures will be held at 3:30 p.m. Thursday and Friday in Morrison Hall.

Dr. Donald E. Worster, Joyce and Elizabeth Hall Distinguished Professor of American History at the University of Kansas will present two lectures on a biographical perspective on environmental history.

"We are hoping for a good turnout this year," said Dr. Julie Sweet, associate professor of history. "I think we picked a topic that is of high interest to everyone right now."

Last year's speaker was Steven Ozment, the McLean Professor of Ancient and Modern History at Harvard University. Ozment focused on history, religion and art.

The topic of the lecture the first day will be "A Life in Nature: Environmental Biography as a New Kind of History."

Worster will talk about

nature writers in American history, such as John Muir and John Wesley Powell.

"I will be focusing on their lives and their legacy at the first lecture," Worster said. "They were both explorers of the American West."

On the second day, Worster will speak more on biographies about historical nature writers.

Friday Worster will have lunch with students from the American environmental history class, currently reading his book, called *Dust Bowl: The Southern Plains in the 1930s*, which won the Bancroft Prize. The prize is awarded yearly by Columbia University to authors of distinguished works.

"Donald Worster is an early shaper of American environmental history," said Dr. Stephen Sloan, assistant professor of history and the director of the Oral History Institute.

Worster said he was looking forward to his trip to Waco, especially for the warm weather that Texas can provide.

Sloan has used Worster's books for teaching materials in many of his classes.

"I am excited about being able to meet an amazing author. Being able to put a personality with the text that I have read is a great opportunity," Sloan said.

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Speaker explains unique American individualism

By Belinda Colunga Reporter

America's love affair with individualism started not with old Western movies, but with the philosophical and political ideals of a 17th century Englishman.

Dr. Peter Lawler, Dana Professor of Government and International Studies at Berry College in Georgia, commanded the attention of a full auditorium of students Tuesday in Morrison Hall to talk about John Locke's political thought.

After winning numerous teaching awards and writing more than 175 scholarly articles, chapters and books, Lawler was invited as guest lecturer for the Baylor Interdisciplinary Core, a program within the Honors College.

"We're the generation with most freedom to do whatever we want whenever we want," Lawler said.

Lawler expanded on how Locke's views follow with today's society on political thought.

"America is more a meritocracy than ever before," he said. "Merit defines productivity as our standard. Isn't it great to live in a meritocracy?"

Locke's view is that God gave the world to mankind to use it as they please in their own point of view, which means being free, Lawler said.

However, he gave the world to those who are productive and are willing to contribute their labor into making it better.

"God gave the world to Bill Gates," Lawler said, drawing laughter. "He didn't give the world to Socrates. All he did was talk about justice, and at the end of the day, he doesn't know what justice is," he said jokingly.

In connection with productivity, Lawler pointed out that the word God disappears with

the invention of money because the Earth revolves around it.

"All of America has become Lockeanized, which means that everything is based on contract, consent and calculation, and that is what it means to be free as possible," said Dr. Robert Miner, associate professor of philosophy in the Honors College.

The whole point of being a free individual is actually contributing to the world and being productive, following the ideas of Locke, Lawler said.

Current American views constitute freedom, pro-choice and autonomy, he said.

Since we follow a meritocracy, people want to achieve and work hard for themselves, Lawler said.

In his writing, Locke used the metaphor of an apple to illustrate this idea.

You pick what you want for yourself and you don't pick more than you need because it will spoil, Lawler said.

"Idiots are those picking apples for other people," he said.

The human body is what makes us distinct and is the line of separation to do what we choose for ourselves, he said.

People have the right to do whatever they wish with it, he said.

"As far as today's society goes and as far as this nation has left God's authority, Locke would support our idea of being an individual and coming to conclusions on our own, without influence," said Denver sophomore Courtney Smith.

As Miner said, people are bound by contracts that aren't necessarily physical. It can be a contract between parents and their children. Since they economically support their children, they deserve the same amount of support when they grow old, Lawler said.



Alex Song/Lariat staff

Bailamos

Students engage in a traditional Mexican dance Tuesday night at the BSM International Variety Show. The show featured international dances and music and talent demonstrations. A fashion show with traditional clothing from nine countries was also included.

Students test drive new tech

By Crystal Hernandez Reporter

For those who are ready to feel the future of technology, the new TestDrive table on the first floor of Moody Library gives students, faculty and staff the chance to tinker with the latest toys in technology.

Computer support specialist Carl Flynn said TestDrive is a result of technology vendors wanting to display newly released models and promote to a prime market.

The table is currently showcasing two trim-line devices: the HP 2710p Tablet and the Dell XPS M1330 Notebook.

"You see the commercials, but you don't realize how thin and light they are until you see one in person," Axtell senior Amy Heupel said of the small computers.

Although the computers are compact, Information Commons manager David Burns said "the beasts" pack a punch.

The HP tablet has a touch-screen monitor that can flip and close into a tablet and is equipped with software to decipher handwriting on the screen.

Heupel said she couldn't believe the HP could recognize her handwriting. "This machine will make taking and sharing notes so much more convenient. I want to rip it off the wall and take it with me."

Flynn said each item will be available for about 6 months, or until the next layer of technology is introduced.

Godspeed by Ben Humeniuk



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Supreme Court rejects ACLU domestic spying lawsuit

By Mark Sherman
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The Supreme Court dealt a setback Tuesday to civil rights and privacy advocates who oppose the Bush administration's warrantless wiretapping program.

The justices, without comment, turned down an appeal from the American Civil Liber-

ties Union to let it pursue a lawsuit against the program that began shortly after the Sept. 11 terror attacks.

The action underscored the difficulty of mounting a challenge to the eavesdropping, which remains classified and was confirmed by President Bush only after a newspaper article revealed its existence.

"It's very disturbing that the

president's actions will go unremarked upon by the court," said Jameel Jaffer, director of the ACLU's national security project. "In our view, it shouldn't be left to executive branch officials alone to determine the limits."

The Terrorist Surveillance Program no longer exists, although the administration has maintained it was legal.

The ACLU sued on behalf of

itself, other lawyers, reporters and scholars, arguing that the program was illegal and that they had been forced to alter how they communicate with foreigners who were likely to have been targets of the wiretapping.

A federal judge in Detroit largely agreed, but the 6th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals dismissed the suit, saying the plaintiffs could not prove their

communications had been monitored and thus could not prove they had been harmed by the program.

The government has refused to turn over information about the closely guarded program that could reveal who has been under surveillance.

ACLU officials described the situation as a "Catch-22" because the government says the

identities of people whose communications have been intercepted is secret. But only people who know they have been wiretapped can sue over the program.

The ACLU, in urging the justices to consider its case, said that because the administration voluntarily ended the warrantless wiretapping, it could easily restart it.



Associated Press

President George W. Bush and first lady Laura Bush look on as Marine honor guards lay a wreath at the Kigali Memorial Center, which documents the 1994 genocide in Kigali, Rwanda. Bush followed his visit to the memorial Tuesday with a speech urging the world to confront the bloodshed in Africa.

Bush urges world action against bloodshed in Africa

By Jennifer Loven
The Associated Press

KIGALI, Rwanda — On ground haunted by one of the worst atrocities of modern times, President Bush pleaded with the global community Tuesday for decisive action to stop grisly ethnic violence now plaguing other African nations like Kenya and Sudan.

"There is evil in the world and evil must be confronted," said Bush, shaken by his visit to a museum that tells the story of Rwanda's 1994 genocide in which more than 800,000 Tutsis and moderate Hutus were slaughtered in just 100 days by extremist Hutu militias.

Bush, who once wrote "not on my watch" in the margin of a report on the Rwanda massacre, has responded to the atrocities that have raged in Sudan's western Darfur region by imposing sanctions, applying diplomatic pressure, and training and transporting other nations' soldiers for peacekeeping. But he decided not to send U.S. troops into Sudan, and it took three years after the crisis began in 2003 to announce sanctions

against a few of people, prompting renewed criticism that his actions don't match his impassioned rhetoric on the topic.

That hasn't stopped Bush from expressing frustration at what he sees as sluggish efforts by the United Nations and other countries in Darfur. Bush has called the situation genocide, though others have not.

"If you're a problem solver, you put yourself at the mercy of the decisions of others, in this case, the United Nations," Bush said. "It is — seems very bureaucratic to me, particularly with people suffering."

At least 200,000 have been killed in the five-year campaign by militias supported by Sudan's Arab-dominated government against black African communities in Darfur for suspected rebel support. Four cease-fires have gone unheeded. And only about 9,000 of an expected 26,000-troop peacekeeping force, a joint effort by the United Nations and the African Union, have been deployed. The Sudanese government has still not agreed to non-African troops and the U.N. has not persuaded governments to supply helicopters.

Bush hoped to spur the world

into action with Rwanda's history, and also its positive example. This tiny Central African nation of lush rolling hills and rugged highlands — about the size of Maryland — was the first to commit peacekeepers to Darfur, and still has the largest contingent there.

"My message to other nations is: Join with the president and help us get this problem solved once and for all," Bush said after meetings with Rwandan President Paul Kagame.

The U.S. has spent \$600 million on peacekeeping operations in Darfur, including to train and equip peacekeepers from several nations, transport troops and equipment back and forth and operate base camps, according to the White House. On Tuesday, Bush announced that \$100 million would be made available for additional training and equipment.

Bush said Rwanda's history also should serve as a grim warning as the world now watches Kenya disintegrate, with long-simmering ethnic hatreds playing a role in bloodshed that is shockingly brutal for a country once considered among Africa's most stable.

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Softball defeats Prairie View A&M in doubleheader

By Brian Bateman
Sports writer

The softball team steamrolled Prairie View A&M University in a doubleheader Tuesday at Gettman stadium, winning game one 17-0 and game two 6-0. The Lady Bears (5-1) allowed just four hits combined on the day, while compiling 27 of their own.

"A lot of times when you play a team you should beat, overconfidence is a factor that comes into play," head coach Glenn Moore said.

That wasn't a problem for the Lady Bears, who scored 12 runs in the bottom of the first. A fielding error and two wild pitches scored Keller sophomore Kirsten Shortridge, opening the floodgates for the Lady Bears. The Lady Bears then added five more in the fifth for a 17-0, run-rule game.

"That's what we needed all week," Shortridge said. "We have a saying called 'passing the bat' and that's what we were doing."

Big 12 player of the week, junior Jordan Daniels she fol-

lowed her weekend performance with two home runs that inning en route to a 5 RBI tally.

She did an outstanding job," Moore said. "She's had a lot of pressure coming in to fill Ashley Monceaux's position."

Her two out-of-the-park hits were the first of her career.

"(She's) a senior who hasn't ever hit a homerun, not even in practice," Fort Worth junior pitcher Brittany Turner said. "And all the sudden - Bam! Bam! Bam!"

With strong offensive production, Turner started game one at pitcher and Shortridge began the second relaxed. Lorena junior Jenny Isham and Derby, Kan., freshman Shaina Brock added their services to close out the games.

"Jordan (Daniels) definitely set the tone in the first. It's really easy to pitch when you have a 10-run cushion," Turner said.

Shortridge batted 6-7 on the day and added four RBIs in both games.

Just as with every other game this season, Moore changed the lineup every few innings.

"To take the field every day not knowing if you have the starting spot makes you work that much harder," Daniels said.

Moore still hasn't finalized his lineup, he said, but a weekend tournament with three top-25 teams might force the issue.

"It's good for us to see where we are. We dropped in the polls a little bit, and this will give us a chance to prove our top 10 (pre-season) rating," he said.

Among those teams is the No. 1 University of Arizona, the squad that gave Baylor its first loss in the Women's College World Series.

"We expect them to bring their 'A' game but they better expect us to bring ours as well," Daniels said.

Prairie View (2-9) will play the University of Texas at San Antonio in Prairie View Friday at 1 p.m., while Baylor will travel to Palm Springs, Calif., tomorrow for the Palm Springs Classic.

"It's always a great competition," Turner said.



Jeff Leslie/Lariat staff

Bulverde senior Craig Morgan makes a safe slide into third base Tuesday at Gettman Stadium. The Lady Bears defeated Prairie View A&M in a doubleheader 17-0, 6-0.

Baylor loses in overtime to Oklahoma Sooners, 92-91

By Jeff Latzke
The Associated Press

NORMAN, Okla. — Tony Crocker converted a four-point play with 7.3 seconds left and Oklahoma came away with its second straight miraculous finish to beat Baylor 92-91 in overtime Tuesday night and gain crucial positioning for its NCAA tournament hopes.

Crocker was fouled by Aaron Bruce while making a 3-pointer from the left wing and then hit his free throw to put Oklahoma ahead late. Curtis Jerrells missed a pair of free throws with 1 second left that could've given the Bears the win.

Kevin Rogers got the rebound on Jerrells' second miss but was unable to put it back at the buzzer.

Blake Griffin scored a career-high 29 points and had 15 rebounds to lead Oklahoma, which squandered an eight-point lead in the final 3 minutes of regulation before overcoming a 7-0 surge by the Bears to start overtime.

The game was marked by a skirmish that resulted in the ejection of two Baylor players and an Oklahoma strength coach, and then even more excitement at the finish.

Jerrells scored 29 points and led Baylor's comeback during regulation but then couldn't come through with the Lloyd Noble Center crowd cheering loudly when he stepped to the line.

Crocker, who hit four 3-pointers and scored 17 points, gave Oklahoma a realistic chance at

the win when he hit a 3 from the right wing to cut the deficit to 89-88 with 19.7 seconds left.

Bruce hit two free throws to give Baylor a three-point lead, but then got caught under Crocker on what proved to be the game-winner.

It was the second straight dramatic finish for Oklahoma, which got a 28-foot 3-pointer from David Godbold with 1.4 seconds left to knock off Texas Tech in its last game.

The victory vaulted the Sooners (18-8, 6-5 Big 12) past Baylor into a tie for fourth-place with Texas A&M in the Big 12 standings.

Austin Johnson scored 19 points for Oklahoma. Rogers scored 18 points, Tweety Carter scored 17 and Henry Dugat added 13 for Baylor (17-8, 5-6).



Associated Press

Out of reach

New York Knicks' Nate Robinson tips the ball away from Washington Wizards' Antawn Jamison's hands during the second half of an NBA game Tuesday in Washington. The Knicks won 113-100 in overtime.

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Baseball to start season after two-week delay

By Justin Baer
Sports writer

At this point last year, the No. 15 Baylor baseball team was already seven games into the season.

So after having to anxiously await the first pitch of the season for an extra two weeks as opposed to the norm, the Bears will finally be able to take the field this weekend when they play host to the Purdue University Boilermakers for a weekend series.

Last year, the NCAA committee passed a universal starting date for baseball's opening day beginning this year. The rule pushed back opening day to aid northern schools that have to battle wintry weather. But for schools in the south, the delayed start only makes players that much more antsy to get on the diamond.

"Everyone is excited just to get going, especially with some of the preseason recognition we have gotten," sophomore out-

fielder Aaron Miller said. "We are just ready to prove what we have got in the paper and bring it on to the field."

Some of that preseason recognition includes senior closer Nick Cassavechia and junior shortstop Beamer Weems being named Preseason All-American by PingBaseball.com. Meanwhile, Weems and sophomore second baseman Raynor Campbell were recently named Preseason All-Big 12 Conference by Baseball America.

Campbell was also an integral part of one of the biggest offseason moves for the Bears. Campbell, who was named to the 2007 Louisville Slugger Freshman All-American Team as a third baseman last year, switched spots with fellow classmate and former second baseman Shaver Hansen.

The two, along with Miller, Dustin Dickerson, Shawn Tolleson, Willie Kempf and Kendal Volz headlined the No. 1 recruiting class in the nation last year. And as Miller said, last

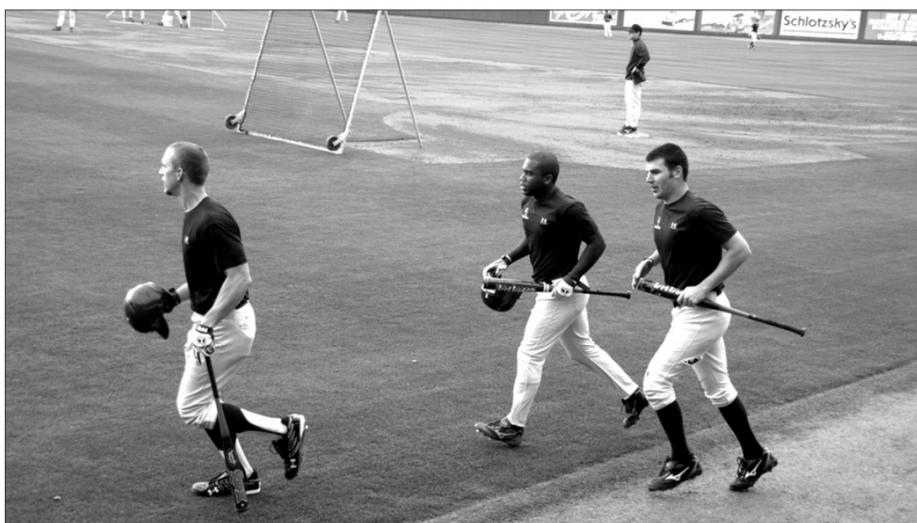
year's freshmen have had time to adjust to college baseball. Now is the time to prove that they were worth the ranking.

"Coming in last year we didn't really know what to expect," the Channelview native said. "The grind of the season, the traveling, that all rolled down into one. Now we are more in the leadership role where the younger guys are looking up to us and looking to take us where we need to go."

The Bears as a whole have not had this much preseason hype since the 2005 season in which they made a trip to the College World Series. Losing only two starters from last season's 35-27 team, Baylor returns an abundance of talent.

"We have a blend of all ages on the team with a lot of experience," Weems said. "We have some pitching, some hitting and some defense. If we put that all together at the right time we can win some games."

Along with the new rule changes, the Bears will now play



Luis Noble/Lariat staff

Players of the baseball team practice at the Baylor Ballpark yesterday. Baseball starts its season Friday, facing the Purdue University Boilermakers for a weekend series.

five games a week. And while many teams around the country view this as a hindrance for their team, it will actually be an advantage for Baylor's deep pitching staff.

"We really have a great staff," said Miller, who could see some time on the mound as well this season. "I think a lot of people are really underrating the pitchers we have."

Led by sophomores Volz

and Kempf and redshirt freshman Shawn Tolleson, the Bears' pitching staff is expected to be one of the greater assets of this year's team.

Tolleson was one of the nation's top prospects coming out of high school, but after tearing a ligament in his elbow during his senior season of high school, the 6-foot-2, 225 pound, Allen native underwent Tommy John surgery.

But according to Weems, who has had to face Tolleson in practice, the right-hander is back to normal.

"He had to go through rehab all last season," Weems said. "He was in there everyday working hard. He is definitely doing a lot better; he has some good stuff."

The Bears first pitch of the season is set for 6:30 p.m. Friday at the Baylor Ballpark.

Kidd back in Dallas after 8-player trade with New Jersey

By Schuyler Dixon
The Associated Press

DALLAS — Jason Kidd is a member of the Dallas Mavericks. Again. Finally. The long-discussed, once-scuttled and ultimately reconfigured deal to bring Kidd from New Jersey back to the team that drafted him was finalized Tuesday. He was reintroduced in Dallas 14 years after the Mavericks made him the No. 2 pick.

Back then, Kidd was supposed to help turn around one of the worst franchises in sports. Now, as one of the league's best point guards, he's seen as a crucial piece in the Mavs' pursuit of a championship.

"There's no bigger reward

than to have that championship trophy in your hand," said Kidd, who lost in the NBA finals twice with the Nets. "That's why I'm here. Because Dallas has its eye on that prize."

The eight-player deal, in the making since before the All-Star break and talked about a lot longer than that, sends Kidd, forward Malik Allen and guard Antoine Wright to Dallas.

The primary piece headed to New Jersey is point guard Devin Harris. The others are center DeSagana Diop, swingman Maurice Ager, forward Trenton Hassell and retired forward Keith Van Horn. New Jersey also gets two first-round draft picks and \$3 million.

Van Horn and Hassell re-

place Jerry Stackhouse and Deven Cuban in an original trade proposal.

Stackhouse's presence in the deal was muddled by plans to get him back to Dallas — within the rules, although in a way the league frowned upon — and George used his veto power to block his involvement.

"It's been the most amazing, interesting trade we've ever done, and we've done some doozies here," Mavericks owner Mark Cuban said. "I've never seen anything like it, but all's well that ends well. We got the right guys."

Kidd wasn't the answer in Dallas a decade ago, and he was shipped to Phoenix after 2½ seasons. Five years later he was



Kidd

Kidd started talking trade a year ago, when he almost went to the Los Angeles Lakers.

"He's a once-in-a-lifetime type of guy to play with and coach," Nets coach Lawrence Frank said. "He's had an unbelievable impact on everyone in this organization and we wish

traded to the Nets, who went to back-to-back NBA finals in 2002-03.

New Jersey hasn't made a long playoff run since, and

him nothing but the best."

Cuban, who was a Mavericks season ticket holder the last time Kidd was in Dallas, is essentially gambling that the 1½ seasons he'll have Kidd is worth more than the 4½ seasons left with Harris running the offense. Kidd, of course, is a proven commodity, but he turns 35 next month and is a decade older than Harris.

"In any business there's lulls," Cuban said. "Everybody was waiting for the postseason to start. You can't just say, 'OK, turn it on in the postseason.' I think Jason ... being that iconic All-Star will spark a lot of people."

Nets president Rod Thorn saw the same problem on New

Jersey's end. He said as the Nets struggled this season, Kidd lost some of the intensity that defines him as a player, making the trade imperative.

Thorn said he first noticed it in December, an indirect reference to an incident in which Kidd sat out a game against the New York Knicks with a migraine, a move some considered a one-day walkout to force a trade.

"Over the course of time it became very evident that his heart wasn't in it," Thorn said. "The kind of player he is, if his heart's not in it then he's not the same player, and it became evident to me that his heart wasn't in it anymore. It just wasn't going to work."

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Baylor Theatre to bring 'Birdie' to life Thursday night

By Emily Monti
Reporter

The Baylor Theatre department will premiere its performance of *Bye-Bye Birdie* at 7:30 p.m. Thursday in Jones Theatre.

This light-hearted comedy takes place in the 1960s and will be directed by Lisa Denman.

Conrad Birdie, played by Arlington junior Clayton Ellis, is a well-known rock star who has just gotten drafted to go to war.

Birdie's friend, Albert Peterson, decides that he can get rich if he can get Conrad to go on the Ed Sullivan show to kiss one of his biggest fans.

As the story continues, Peterson must face different obstacles in his attempt to make his dreams come true.

"It's ironic and exciting that I

am playing Conrad in this performance," Ellis said. "I actually played Hugo in *Bye Bye Birdie* in middle school, and that was my first main role in the theater."

Ellis said getting into the role of Conrad was easy with the help of Denman as the director.

"There is no specific class that tells us how we are supposed to act," Ellis said. "Actors have the responsibility of researching their own roles, but our director has been wonderful about telling us what she wants from us."

Sugar Land junior Emmie Rothenbach, who plays Nancy, said the music, costumes and direction helped her get into character.

She said the direction of this performance isn't entirely focused on realism.

"This is supposed to be a cute and funny show," Rothenbach

said. "The direction we receive allows us to have fun on and off the stage."

But for this performance, actors are on the stage every day of the week for about four hours every night.

"It's tiring, but we're doing what we love to do, and none of us would rather be anywhere else," Ellis said.

Ellis and Rothenbach said that theater will always be a part of their lives, despite the demanding schedule.

"This is all about balance," Rothenbach said. "We have to know our schedules and be responsible for finding time to make it work."

Rothenbach's roommate, Houston junior Mollie Gallipeau, said she would be exhausted with that kind of schedule.

"As a former theater major, I

remember the long hours and hard work that went into performances," Gallipeau said. "I admire (their) ability to stay on top of everything."

Rothenbach said that although theater majors aren't required to audition, normally everyone does.

"There really isn't anyone who doesn't audition, but when you get cast — then congratulations to you," Ellis said.

After the casting until opening night, days are filled with rehearsals and making the performance ready for an audience.

"We all worked hard on this production and hope that everyone who comes out enjoys the show and has a good time," Rothenbach said.

For more information about the performance or to purchase tickets, call 710-1865.



Jeff Leslie/Lariat staff

Cast members of Baylor Theatre's *Bye Bye Birdie* production rehearse Monday night for the opening of the show Thursday.

Plenty of magic, but no new tricks for 'Spiderwick'

By Stephen Jablonski
Reporter

The *Spiderwick Chronicles* is what was expected: a movie made to ride on the coattails of *Harry Potter's* success, guaranteed to take money from kids needing a magic fix to hold them over until *Potter's* next big adventure. Kids need magic. And they need it bad.

MOVIE REVIEW

Following this law of the fantasy genre, I began to think magic movies based off children's books are a lot like Happy Meals.

Like a well-crafted fast food fix (two all beef patties, special sauce, lettuce, cheese, pickles, onions on a sesame seed bun), the genre thrives off of a good formula. Those that adhere to the formula do the best at the box office. A relatable kid, high-concept plot and special effects (in McDonald's case, the cheap plastic toy) are essential.

It may be tough to stomach a movie that crams that all down your throat, but man, does *The Spiderwick Chronicles* have a cool



Courtesy of Paramount Pictures

Freddie Highmore (*Charlie and the Chocolate Factory*, *Finding Neverland*) stars as Jared in the latest kids' book-to-film release, *The Spiderwick Chronicles*.

cheap plastic toy.

The creatures are diverse, colorful, life-like and odd. If the movie was just an hour and a half of a professional voice actor reading from a mythical bestiary and flashing a horde of weird-looking creatures on-screen, I wouldn't have groaned half as much as I did.

The creatures are charming enough: Hogsqueal (Seth Rogen) and Thimbletack (Martin Short)

are engaging allies in the fight against the evil ogre Mulgarath (Nick Nolte). But the fantasy is ruined when a real-life human talks.

Maybe the cheap toy trick will work in *Spiderwick's* favor. If kids can't tolerate the plot, they'll ignore it. No meal, just give them the toy and they'll be on their way.

But for anyone who isn't younger than 13 years old, it's

very difficult not to listen. It becomes exceedingly difficult to ignore the SUV-driving, single parent, family-conflict sub-plot: it nags at you until the very last mouthful (a portion that's very hard to stomach).

Maybe the filmmakers were trying to make it relatable, but normally people want to escape the bad family dynamic; not ensconce themselves in it.

The movie definitely gave the formula a stab though: enter cute kid Freddie Highmore, of *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory*, as the aggressive Jared Grace. In fact, Freddie enters twice. Playing a dismissible minor role as pacifist twin brother Simon Grace as well, Highmore's adorable mug saturates the screen.

Alongside Hightower are *Weeds'* Mary-Louise Parker, playing the overworked, over-exaggerated single-mother Helen Grace, and a sword-wielding sister, Mallory (Sarah Bolger). That's right: sword-wielding. Imagine that — a fencer wound up in the heart of the world's mythological conflict.

As far as the soundtrack: Didn't I hear that score in *Casper*? Sure, I last saw *Casper*

when I was 7 years old, but I could've sworn I'd heard this lick before. I wouldn't be surprised considering James Horner was the composer for both movies. It just emphasizes the rehashed model, really.

Not only that, but it became increasingly difficult to ignore how blatantly the music was trying to supplement the acting. It was about as subtle as a *Full House* music cue.

The major failing is the fault of ultimately every book adaptation: pacing.

Introducing an entire fantastical world behind reality just five minutes after the SUV pulled up carrying the angst-filled family is a lot to handle.

It's even more difficult to believe that the work of a mature adult scientist was entirely memorized by a pre-teenage punk kid in a four-hour time span. The movie allows too many opportunities to break believability — for an adult at least.

For a 12-year-old *Spiderwick* fan, I'm sure the effects are enough to feed the craving. For anyone else, it's not that easy to stomach.

Grade: C

CONCERT CONNECTION

DALLAS

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Thursday @ 7 p.m.
House of Blues

Cobra Starship
Thursday @ 6:30 p.m.
HOB - Cambridge Room

Bob Dylan
Friday @ 6 p.m.
House of Blues

G. Love & the Special Sauce
Friday @ 10 p.m.
House of Blues

Bob Dylan
Saturday @ 7 p.m.
House of Blues

The Black Lips
Sunday @ 8:30 p.m.
The Loft

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BROTHERS
MANAGEMENT

WACO from page 1

river walk close to commercial areas will make it attractive for people to travel and enjoy the various businesses nearby.”

McKinney sophomore Taylor Eastman said that the decision to expand the river walk will provide students with added opportunities to get off campus.

“I think the river walk would help break students out of the Baylor Bubble,” Eastman said. “It could also increase exercise and physical activity, and provide an appealing option apart from the Bear Trail. Students could save their gas and not worry about parking.”

Houston senior Sonia Kakade would like to see other alternatives for providing easier access for travelers instead of an extended river walk.

“I wonder if it would be more cost-effective for the university to add additional bus routes,” Kakade said. “I think extending access into town would be more convenient for students.”

A \$2.3 million dollar contract will be signed with Knife

River Corporation for the entirety of the project, projected for completion next April.

The Texas Department of Transportation is providing \$2.2 million dollars, while the \$123,000 will come from Tax Increment Financing.

The university will be working with the city in the upcoming stages of the project to begin construction.

“As soon as the council approves the funding it will take about a month to begin construction,” Groth said. “The project has already been designed and will depend on the contractor for how the construction will proceed.”

Fogleman said that the features of the river walk would provide distinctiveness.

“This is something that will bring the banks of the Brazos to Baylor,” Fogleman said.

The lighted river walk will be constructed using concrete and will span about 4,000 feet.

Sections running through campus will have memorial light posts and benches like those featured around central areas of campus.

SING from page 1

and Reeves both said Sing chairpersons provide feedback after the event, and the Sing procedures committee use it to modify Sing procedures.

Sing chairpersons met with Reeves last semester to discuss possible alterations. Gresham and Kenosha, Wis. senior Luke Carlson, a Kappa Omega Tau Sing chairman, attended the meeting and thought most chairpersons supported the arrival procedures and random breathalyzer tests.

Gresham said he thinks the new measures will be enacted fairly.

Those asked to take a breathalyzer test will do so in private, away from other performers, Gresham said.

The first offense for an intoxication infraction will be a denial of participation in that evening's performance for the intoxicated individual.

Any second offense within the same Greek group will

result in the act being pulled from further production.

Carlson said he has not discussed in-depth the possible repercussions with his fraternity brothers because “we’re not going to have a problem,” he said.

Carlson said he is supportive of the breathalyzer testing, but he said he doesn’t “think it was really necessary.”

Sing takes a zero-tolerance stance against alcohol, as outlined by the university.

“University policy says students aren’t allowed on campus under the influence of alcohol,” Riemer said.

For disciplinary action, a performer must blow a .02 blood alcohol content. This allows limited leeway for a student who had a cough drop or a small dose of similar medicines.

Riemer said students have sustained injuries performing in Sing, such as sprained ankles, but to his knowledge none of the incidents were related to alcohol.

CUBA from page 1

al figures have called recently for dropping onerous visa requirements and other limits on their freedoms, a message that resonates with ordinary Cubans.

“This is what we needed. I hope to God people have more freedom – the freedom to have opinions and always speak their minds,” 37-year-old Lydis Perez said after dropping her son off at school. “People talk in the hall-

ways or the back rooms. ... There’s a lot of fear.”

Fidel Castro, however, insisted in his resignation letter Tuesday that he won’t disappear – or stay quiet if he sees his revolution going astray.

“This is not my farewell to you,” he wrote. “My only wish is to fight as a soldier in the battle of ideas. I shall continue to write under the title, ‘Reflections of Comrade Fidel.’ It will be another weapon you can count on. Perhaps my voice will be heard.”

KOSOVO from page 1

can government came and took everything from Texas to make New York better,” he said. “Do you think Texas people would be happy?”

Milosevic’s rise to power was followed by a decade defined by civil war, rape, genocide and ethnic cleansing in Yugoslavia.

“(The Serbs) would kill families, rape wives, burn everything and kill animals. If someone had a well, they would fill it with dead animals. They tried to make the place so bad that you never wanted to go back,” an emotional Lezi said. “They were barbarians. They even cut open some woman’s stomach with her child inside.”

According to a Human Rights Watch report, rape was used by Serbian and Yugoslav forces as a weapon of ethnic cleansing. The atrocity served as an “instrument to terrorize the civilian population, extort money from families, and push people to flee their homes,” and it “furthered the goal of forcing ethnic Albanians from Kosovo.”

As a mechanical engineering student in Kosovo, Lezi only had a few exams left to graduate before NATO air strikes and forced expulsions by the Serbs ignited an exodus of biblical proportions in 1999. Within months, hundreds of thousands of Kosovars left their homeland in search of safety.

“Kosovo was like a vacuum,” Lezi said. “There was no one there, and it was all empty. Everybody had to leave.”

While the young Lezi was working at a refugee camp, setting up tents and helping his people get settled, the U.S. Embassy offered him and his fellow students a way out.

“I actually didn’t want to go, because I didn’t know if my family was still alive,” Lezi said. “But we didn’t think the war was going to end for a long time, and winter was about to come. Nobody wanted to stay in the tents during winter.”

He arrived at Fort Dix, a U.S. army base in New Jersey, by himself in 1999. Fort Dix was the temporary home for thousands of ethnic Albanians while they waited to find homes in America. The Good Shepherd Episcopal Church brought Lezi to Dallas under their sponsorship, where he worked in an Italian restaurant and got his citizenship in 2004.

Lezi and his wife married in 2001 in Kosovo but were separated for three years until he got his citizenship. They now live together with their two children.

Last January, Lezi and his two business partners opened Luigi’s in McGregor. Lezi said they serve Italian food because it’s more popular in America than Albanian food.

“People are very friendly here, very good people,” Lezi said. “We haven’t had any problems in the year that we’ve lived here. We already have several regular customers, and we love getting to know them.”

While Lezi’s family is delighted for their newly declared country, they deeply wish they could be in Kosovo with their families, taking part in the euphoric celebrations that have consumed the nation.

Barlet Gojani, a junior from Gjakova, Kosovo, also deeply longs to be home right now.

“I’m so excited. I stayed up all night Saturday on the phone with my family,” he said.

Soon after Gojani’s family was forced to leave Kosovo and live in Albania, Gojani moved to Tyler at

WIN from page 1

Huckabee and edging closer to the 1,191 delegates he needs to clinch the GOP nomination at the party convention in St. Paul, Minn. next summer.

In scarcely veiled criticism of Obama, the Republican nominee-in-waiting said, “I will fight every moment of every day in this campaign to make sure that Americans are not deceived by an eloquent but empty call for

change.”

McCain’s nomination has been assured since Super Tuesday three weeks ago, as first one then another of his former rivals has dropped out and the party establishment has closed ranks behind him.

Not so in the Democratic race, where Obama and Clinton campaign seven days a week, he the strongest black presidential candidate in history, she bidding to become the first woman to sit in the White House.



SOURCE: ESRI AP

the age of 14 to live with a missionary couple. With the support of his guardians, he was able to get scholarships and attend Baylor.

According to Gojani, the recently declared independence gives Kosovars a stronger sense of identity.

“We couldn’t say we’re from Kosovo because Kosovo was never a legally recognized country. People would never say they were from Serbia, since we didn’t want to be associated with the country, so all citizens of Kosovo say they’re Albanian,” Gojani said.

Gojani is a double major in biology and business administration, and he hopes to intern with his mother, an ophthalmologist in Kosovo, when he graduates.

His father was heavily involved in politics during the 80s, helping the Kosovo Liberation Army with medical supplies and leading movements within the Democratic League of Kosovo. Gojani himself had the opportunity to meet and talk with Kosovo’s president, Fatmir Sejdiu, last summer.

Xhemile Baca, Baylor 2007 graduate from Kosovo, has been waiting for this moment since her house was burned to the ground by the Serbian army in 1999, forcing her family to flee.

“This is the happiest day any Albanian Kosovar will ever have in their lives,” she said. “We are the most blessed generation to have been part of this day. We thank God and especially the United States of America for being there for us.”

According to Lezi, Baca’s gratitude for the U.S. is shared by millions across Kosovo and Albania.

“We pray and thank the U.S. every day and night, because the

U.S. is the one who worked harder than anyone to help us,” Lezi said with a smile.

Watching the American flag being abused and set aflame in other countries is a common sight in the media. But the Stars and Stripes were held equally high with the Albanian flag Sunday in the jubilant streets of Kosovo.

“We love America because it worked very, very hard for us and for this moment,” Lezi said. “I hope they will always be our biggest ally.”

Lezi and his family and friends closed the restaurant to go to Dallas Monday and celebrate with other Kosovar friends.

Kosovo’s future may be rough at first, but its independence has opened a chapter of optimistic faith shared by millions.

“I hope Kosovo brings peace, freedom, love and harmony for everyone,” Lezi said.

A nation that didn’t have its own country now rings loud the bell of freedom. Kosovo may be small, but its pride is felt all over the world, even at an Italian restaurant in the downtown of a small, Southern city.

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