

ROUNDING UP CAMPUS NEWS SINCE 1900

THE BAYLOR LARIAT

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 29, 2008

Huckabee engages, entertains Waco

By Ashley Killough
Reporter

With a message of faith, hope and freedom, former Gov. Mike Huckabee entertained and inspired a crowd of 1,200 yesterday afternoon at the Hilton Waco hotel.

Chuck Norris and his wife accompanied Huckabee on the campaign stop to endorse their favorite candidate.

"This man has experience, youth and vision," Norris said about the former governor of Arkansas.

With people packed shoulder to shoulder and country music blasting from speakers on the stage, the energetic audience of young and old alike chanted "We like Mike!"

Greenville junior Jordan Powell, assistant to the Huckabee campaign manager, set the tone for the electric event by leading a 'Sic 'Em' with Chuck Norris on stage. Powell introduced Huckabee, describing the governor's down-to-earth qualities.

"What you see is what you get with

Mike Huckabee," Powell said.

When Huckabee took the stage, he opened with a joke. "I know that you came to see Chuck Norris," he said to a laughing audience. "But don't feel bad, I did too. Chuck Norris doesn't just draw a crowd — he shows up, and the crowd materializes."

He asked how many students weren't studying in order to come to the rally, saying jokingly, "now if Baylor is half the school that I think it is, every professor that you have will certainly say, 'If you were at that Huckabee rally, you definitely deserve extra points.'"

After the comedic opening, Huckabee started his speech, addressing his reason for remaining in the race to become the next president.

"No two television networks have the same numbers for how many delegates

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Former Ark. Gov. Mike Huckabee speaks at a campaign rally held Thursday at the Waco Hilton hotel.

David Poe/
Lariat staff

Exclusive Mike Huckabee Q&A with *The Baylor Lariat* by reporter Ashley Killough

As you know, Waco is home to Baylor, and it's the largest Baptist university in the world. What values do you share with Baylor students and why did you choose to come to Waco?

Huckabee: We try to make as many stops in Texas as possible. As far as sharing values with Baylor students, most Baylor students would have a Judeo-Christian worldview, believing that we are in fact responsible for our actions, that we have a purpose for being on the Earth, and that purpose is ultimately found by knowing who we are, why we're here, and where we're going. That means we got to be in touch with understanding who we are. We're here because God put us here. We have a purpose that he has given to each of us, and it's our responsibility to carry out that purpose. I think there would be a lot of Baylor students who would find that what I share with them is that I come from a Christian background. Not to impose it on others, but that it gives me a what I would call a "center," something from which I know who I am, what I believe, and why I believe it.

How important is Texas on March 4 for you?

Huckabee: It's very important. We know that Texas is going to be a proving ground in many ways. As the song says, "The eyes of Texas are upon you," for Tuesday the eyes of the world are upon Texas. If we win Texas, I think it changes the dynamics of this race totally. And that's why we put such a focus on winning Texas. I think people in Texas are conservative. Republicans are for sure, and as a result of that, it becomes very important that conservatives express themselves. In the sense that if Texas just goes along with sort of the conventional punditry, then they will be rendered irrelevant because there's an expectation that Senator John McCain is going to win, so what's the point? And that would just affirm that. If we win Texas, then it shows that there really is a race, that there should be a sense of choice and voice. And that's been my point to a lot of people here and in Ohio and other states. Why should you let the rest of the country make your choice for you? Shouldn't you make your own? And the people of Texas have a chance to put this entire election in a whole different perspective.

Do you see rising college tuition as a problem, and how are your policies going to affect college students?

Huckabee: It's a huge problem. With a job market that is shakier than ever, students who come out of college may end up with more debt than they could service with the jobs that are available to them. That's truly something that has to be addressed. One way is to refine avenues of providing college assistance for forms of national service. Not just the military—it could be other forms of national service that would also give students the chance to earn their way. It's not just a give away. Many

Please see **INTERVIEW**, page 5

Hillary Clinton to hold rally in Waco today

By Christina Kruse
Staff writer

Sen. Hillary Clinton, D-N.Y., is the first democratic presidential nominee to appear in Waco for the 2008 election.

She is scheduled to speak at a rally at the Waco Convention Center today. The doors open at noon. The event, which is open to the public, starts at 2 p.m. and is scheduled to last an hour.

"We expect great support," said KamyI Bazbaz, spokesperson for the Clinton campaign in Waco. "New supporters are walking into the campaign office every day."

Clinton will present a plan to pay off school loans as quickly as possible. The senator will also speak about the economy, health care and the environment.

"Hillary understands that Baylor students are crushed with the financial burden of loans," Bazbaz said.



Associated Press

Democratic presidential hopeful, Sen. Hillary Rodham Clinton, D-N.Y., speaks Thursday at the Ohio University Southern Campus Child Development Center during a campaign stop in Hanging Rock, Ohio. Clinton will make a stop at 2 p.m. today at the Waco Convention Center.

In order to reach out to Baylor students and Waco residents, the Clinton campaign opened an office on Lake Air Drive last week.

"She has made it a point to stop in Waco," Bazbaz said.

To generate buzz for the rally, the Clinton supporters have been passing out fliers and going door-to-door, but Bazbaz said word-of-mouth is working well, too.

"Friends are telling friends," he said. "Everyone is really excited."

Baylor Democrats contributed to the Clinton campaign, as well as Obama, through "phone banking," said Alexandra Neville, Boerne senior

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Early voting on the rise

By Christina Kruse
Staff writer

Voter participation in early voting for McLennan County has nearly doubled from 2004 early primary involvement.

In 2004, 1,096 votes were cast in the Democratic early voting primaries. This year, early voting yielded 5,485 Democratic votes as of Wednesday.

Also, 4,152 Republican votes were cast in this year's early primary, while 3,266 participated in 2004.

The number of early primary votes will continue to rise until the end of early voting, today at 7 p.m.

There are a total number of about 128,000 registered voters in McLennan County, relatively the same amount as those registered in 2004.

The drastic increase in Democratic participation may be attributed to the candidates' characteristics.

"This is a historical election," Waco spokesperson for the Clinton campaign KamyI Bazbaz said. "The prospect of a first woman or black president is forcing folks to ... participate."

Also in McLennan County, both Barack Obama and Hillary Clinton have opened cam-

Please see **VOTE**, page 5

Bush denies recession

By Terence Hunt
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — President Bush said Thursday the country is not recession-bound and, despite expressing concern about slowing economic growth, rejected for now any additional stimulus efforts. "We acted robustly," he said.

"We'll see the effects of this pro-growth package," Bush told reporters at a White House news conference, acknowledging that some lawmakers already are talking about a second stimulus package. "Why don't we let stimulus package 1, which seemed like a good idea at the time, have a chance to kick in?"

Bush's view of the economy was decidedly rosier than that of many economists, who say the country is nearing recession territory or may already be there. "I'm concerned about the economy," he said. "I don't think we're headed to recession. But



Associated Press

President Bush speaks Thursday during a news conference at the White House in Washington.

no question, we're in a slowdown."

The centerpiece of government efforts to brace the wobbly economy is a package Congress passed and Bush signed last month. It will rush rebates ranging from \$300 to \$1,200 to millions of people and give tax incentives to businesses.

On one issue particularly worrisome to American consumers, there are indications that paying \$4 for a

gallon of gasoline is not out of the question once the summer driving season arrives. Asked about that, Bush said "That's interesting. I hadn't heard that. ... I know it's high now."

Bush also telegraphed optimism about the U.S. dollar, which has been declining in value.

"I believe that our economy has

Please see **BUSH**, page 5

Students, Wacoans rally for a 'Clean Energy Future'

By Shannon Daily
Staff writer

Citizens from across Waco and all corners of Baylor's campus will rally today at 2 p.m. outside of the Bill Daniel Student Center to protest Dynegy's proposed coal plant in Riesel, a city only 10 miles away from Waco.

The Leap Into a Clean Energy Future rally will focus mostly on why the coal plant shouldn't be put in Waco and how citizens are fighting it, said Scottsdale, Ariz., sophomore Paige Panter. Panter has been active with the anti-coal campaign and helped to organize this event.

"Everyone's affected by it so we're encouraging everyone to come," she said. "It's just about getting people educated."

Panter said in addition to providing information about the coal plant, she will be working with the Sierra Club to have people writing letters to present to Dynegy as a part of the Sierra Club's upcoming letter-writing campaign.

Dr. Mary Darden, a part-time lecturer in the department of journalism, has worked with Panter in collaboration with TPOWER, Texans Protecting Our Water, Environment and Resources, and the Sierra Club to get the event off the ground.

"It was a team effort. Everybody got together and we talked about having an event to talk about options for the future," Mary said.

Gummi frogs will also be passed out at the event, as a part of the "leap" theme. Mary Darden said more than two-thirds of the species of frogs have disappeared from climate change, making the frog a natural choice for the rally's mascot.

Mary Darden's husband, Robert Darden, associate professor of journalism, is one of seven speakers Panter brought in for the rally.

"I want Dynegy to either not put it there, or use one of more than a dozen alternatives that will not lead to birth

Please see **COAL**, page 5

Graphic video games not responsible for shootings

In the wake of a week that saw four tragic extremes of deseperation culminate in school shootings, people were no doubt asking, "Why?"

The most recent shooting, which occurred on Valentine's Day at Northern Illinois University, resulted in the deaths of six people, including the gunman, Steve Kazmierczak. Kazmierczak's motives are still unclear, but Florida attorney Jack Thompson appeared on FOX news not long after the tragedy with an explanation: video games drove Kazmierczak to kill. He specifically blamed the popular first-person shooter, Counter-Strike. Thompson's stance is hard-

ly new. He's popped up in the wake of every major shooting over the past few years to further his anti-gaming agenda. While many are wary enough to dismiss his ideas as baseless and biased, others are listening to him and treating video games as a stigma.

Games such as Grand Theft Auto and first-person war simulators are most often criticized because they allow players to enact violence in increasingly vibrant ways, which is thought to slowly desensitize gamers to violence. This effect is the main piece of evidence critics supply to explain how video games are corrupting the population. They

point of view

BY BRANDON NINE



also claim that these games reinforce aggressive tendencies.

Critics' arguments apply most readily to situations where games find their way into the hands of children who may not yet be mature enough to realize the consequences of acting on aggressive tendencies.

The Entertainment Software Ratings Board is a regulatory

organization that assigns ratings to video games which are determined by the amount of potentially harmful content in these titles. Games rated M for Mature are not to be sold to gamers under the age of 17, yet somehow these games get into minors' hands all the time.

Game sellers are supposed to card people who might be under 17 before allowing them to buy M-rated games, but this only happens around half the time. Even if kids are stopped from buying these violent games, parents generally step in and do so in their place without taking the time to assess the reason these games were given such a restric-

tive rating in the first place.

The solution to this problem is not to limit game developers' ability to respond to customer demand, which has shifted toward more mature themes because the average age of gamers has risen, but rather to enforce sales regulations. This would keep these games away from those not yet mature enough to digest these themes responsibly.

Video games are much like guns in that they can be dangerous if mishandled. They are not inherently corrupting, like pundits such as Thompson would have us believe. There's little to suggest that games would drive

someone such as Kazmierczak to throw his life away.

After all, Kazmierczak was a good student, according to friends and professors, and Counter-Strike was a commonly played game among students in his dormitory.

However, he had stopped taking medication two weeks prior to the shooting, which resulted in increasingly erratic behavior. Why he did this is still a mystery.

I'm not saying it's impossible that Counter-Strike influenced Kazmierczak to stop taking his medicine, but it sure is unlikely.

Brandon Nine is a senior professional writing major from Plano.

Editorial

Minimesters provide good start

Officials recently announced that Baylor will offer its first "minimester" classes this spring. The classes will give students the chance to complete an entire three-hour course in three weeks by attending class for three hours each day.

This is a welcome addition to Baylor's current course schedule offerings and students should take advantage of this opportunity.

As students, we often complain about our lack of time and money, and the addition of minimesters can help us save some of both.

Normally it would take a whole semester or summer session to complete a three-hour course, but now we can do it in three weeks and free up some much-needed time to focus on jobs, internships and the ever-important extracurricular activities that epitomize the college experience.

Not only would a minimester offer some extra free time, but it could also be the answer for students worried about graduating on schedule. These courses give students the chance to open up a slot during the regular semester for an extra course where the minimester course would have previously been scheduled.

The addition of minimesters is a great idea and a step in the right direction. With that in mind, we hope Baylor will now consider taking those benefits one step further by offering online classes as well.

In the past, the Internet has not always been viewed as a credible source of information and online



classes are sometimes considered less prestigious than other classes. But in recent years, this has begun to change. Online learning is becoming a gateway into the future of education.

For example, Ivy League schools are now offering online courses for their students. Harvard University has started an entire education initiative online, called the Harvard Extension School.

Through the program, Harvard offers 100 courses online that are open to both traditional and non-traditional students.

Other Ivy League schools, including Yale University, have also jumped on the online bandwagon.

One of Baylor's aspirations as detailed in Baylor 2012 is to achieve top-tier status as an educational institution.

If Baylor officials want to elevate our school to the same level as Ivy League schools, maybe we should follow their lead.

This is an example that exposes the myth that the Internet is not as

prestigious as the classroom.

Students will need online skills as they enter the work force and online classes will only add to their knowledge and abilities, while also providing other benefits.

If students were able to take classes online and on their own time, it would reduce stress and help to solve scheduling conflicts.

Online classes will just provide one more way for Baylor to improve its quality of education through technology.

Encounters with homeless can show us the face of Christ

I saw him standing there as I pulled up to the old coffee shop.

I pulled into the parking spot and pulled the keys out of the ignition. I could feel him watching me as I gathered my books from the passenger seat. I tried to take a little longer than usual, hoping he would go away. I looked out of the corner of my eye, and I saw him waiting for me to get out of the car.

I scooted out of the car with arms full of shuffled papers and notebooks and closed the door with my foot.

I looked up and made eye contact with the man before me. He wore a simple white T-shirt and black pants. He had no backpack or buggy full of cans, but I knew that he was home-

less. I tried to just walk away, but his question struck me.

"Ma'am, are you a good person?" he asked me.

I knew the ploy and his aim, but I felt compelled to answer him.

"Well, I guess so. Why?" I responded, trying not to drop the load of papers in my arms.

He got closer to me. I noticed that his dark eyes had something wrong with them. They moved from side to side, as if he had no control over them.

"Oh, ma'am, that's a pretty ring you have there," he said, noticing the gold cross on my ring finger. "Is that a baptism ring?"

"No sir. It's a purity ring that my dad gave me," I said.

He went on, telling me about

point of view

BY LEE ANN MARCEL



his life. I don't know if it was the truth, but I listened anyway. I knew the what that was coming; he would ask me for money.

Maybe he was playing off my Christian ring to hook me into forking over a few bucks, but little did he know that his story was for nothing, because I had no cash.

"So ma'am, if you could spare a few dollars for my daughters?" he said, bringing up the ultimate question of the entire

encounter.

I furrowed my brows and responded with sincerity, "I'm so, so sorry, sir. I don't have anything on me."

For once, I actually meant it. Something changed in him and he emitted a sort of tension towards me.

He frowned at me and said, "We can go to an ATM."

I knew that probably wasn't a great idea, so I said, "I'm sorry, I really am. I would happy to pray for you."

He turned away from me and muttered under his breath, "No, I can pray for myself."

I felt bad for not being able to give him anything. But I had no money, and I'm sure he didn't take Bear Bucks.

This encounter got me to

think about Jesus. He was homeless. He was a friend to the friendless and loved all the outcasts. He saw the image of God in every human and loved them.

I have been guilty of pulling up to a red light and staring blankly ahead as a man will stand looking hopefully at me. I drive right past him.

Rob Bell, pastor of Mars Hill Bible Church in Grandville, Mich., said, "How you treat the creation reflects how you feel about the creator. When a human being is mistreated, objectified or neglected, when they are treated as less than human, these actions are against God."

I once talked to a homeless man who told me something

that has stayed with me. He told me that it's strange that when people see stray animals, they feel sorry for them. They might offer the animal food or even bring it in the house.

But when people see a homeless man, they shoo him away and pretend he doesn't exist. It's true: I am apt to feel more pity for a stray dog than the man I meet at the coffee shop.

What I'm trying to say is that instead of treating these people as if they were nothing, we should take the time to listen to their stories. It makes those people feel a little more human, rather than nothing. Maybe you will catch a glimpse of Jesus inside their eyes.

Lee Ann Marcel is a senior journalism major from Richardson.

The Baylor Lariat

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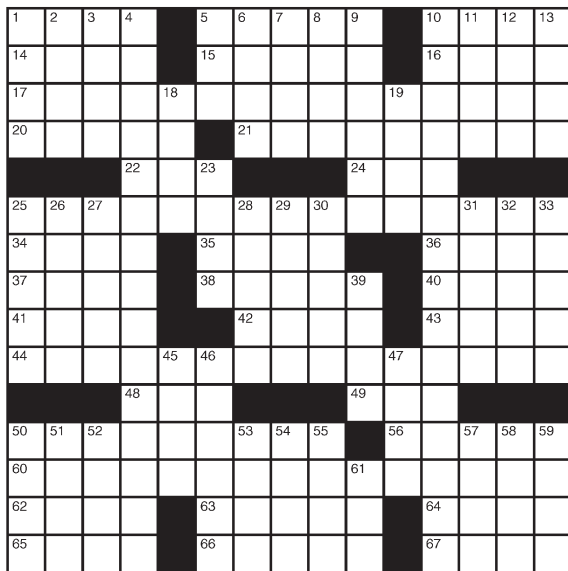
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By Randall J. Hartman
Escondito, CA

2/29/08

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

BEAR BRIEFS

The Baylor University Men's Choir will perform at 8 p.m. today in Armstrong Browning Library's McLean Foyer of Meditation. The concert is free and open to the public. For more information, call the School of Music at 710-3991.

The Baylor Percussion Group will perform at 7:30 p.m. Sunday in the Jones Concert Hall of the Glennis McCrary Music Building. The concert is free and open to the public. For more information, call the Baylor University School of Music at 710-3991.

The Cultural Awareness Team is sponsoring a Tunnel of Oppression from 6 to 10 p.m. Monday and Tuesday in the Barfield Drawing Room of the Bill Daniel Student Center. The tunnel will demonstrate life from the perspective of the oppressed. The tunnel experience takes about one hour.

Mortar Board, an honor society for seniors, is accepting applications for the 2008-2009 school year. Juniors with a 3.2 GPA or higher can apply. Applications are available in the Student Activities office or online at www3.baylor.edu/mortarboard/.

The Texas Ranger Hall of Fame and Museum needs volunteers for a children's event March 10 to 14 and March 17 to 21. Volunteers will work on activities such as fingerprinting and coloring stations during Spring Break Round Up. For more information contact Meghan Beverung at 750-8631 or meghanb@ci.waco.tx.us.

Baylor Democrats will be holding a voter information table today from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. on the first floor of the Bill Daniel Student Center.

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

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David Crowder returns to Waco

By Emily Monti Reporter

The Bible says that if a man shuts his ears to the cry of the poor, he too will cry out and not be answered.

This is the message that the David Crowder Band and Shane Claiborne said they are hoping will inspire the community to come and support those less fortunate than themselves.

In collaboration with Church Under the Bridge, University Baptist Church and Mission Waco, Crowder and Claiborne and putting on a concert to raise money for under-privileged people of the world.

At 6 p.m. Sunday at University Baptist Church on Dutton Avenue, Crowder and Claiborne will perform a concert called Cry for the Poor to benefit people in Haiti and Kenya.

"All of the money raised is a complete profit to charity," said Ben Dudley, community pastor of the church, .

During the concert there will be a time when the audience will get a chance to make donations to further help Mission Waco and the church raise money for its causes.

Dr. Jimmy Dorrell, executive director of Mission Waco, said some of the money will be used for the mission trip to Haiti over spring break.

"We are taking 20 people and we will be water well drilling, setting up a free clinic for a few days, and giving talks on how to live morally," Dorrell said. "We also raised money in order to give 50 children scholarships so that they can receive an education."

Dudley said people can also donate money to any of the causes after they buy their ticket.

Tickets will be available online until 5 p.m. today and can also be purchased at UBC



Courtesy photograph

David Crowder, of the David Crowder Band, will perform with Shane Claiborne Sunday at University Baptist Church. The Cry for the Poor concert will benefit people in Haiti and Kenya.

between 10 a.m. and 5 p.m. today.

"We are only allowed to hold 1,000 people for the event, and right now there are only about 250 tickets left, so we are definitely anticipating a sell-out," Dudley said.

Tyler senior Crystal Brewster said she got her ticket early.

"I think Crowder's music has a great message," Brewster said. "Mission Waco does a lot for the community and really shows its love through action."

Colleyville junior Tyler Mitchell will also be attending the concert. Mitchell has worked at Sky Ranch, a summer camp that sends students to do mission work in Kenya.

"Sky Ranch does great mission work to spread the word of Jesus in Kenya, and I support the event and its cause," Mitchell said.

ell said.

Dudley also said this is a great way for Waco to stand together as a city and show its support for the rest of the world.

Dudley said that Crowder, who started the church to get more students involved with ministry, thought it was a great idea to put this all together.

"It's a great way for people to hear young prophetic voices that should be heard in the church today," Dorrell said.

Claiborne also has worked with Mission Waco in the past, and decided to collaborate with Crowder and the church to put on a show.

"Anything that is important to Jesus is important to me," Mitchell said.

For more information or questions about the show call 753-4900.

Law school gives community lesson

Classes in basic law topics open to public for a day

By Jessica Belmares Reporter

Baylor Law School will be offering the Waco community tuition-free courses with People's Law School Saturday at the Sheila and Walter Umphrey Law Center.

This one-day event is designed to make the law user-friendly and to educate members of the community about their legal rights.

The third-year return of People's Law School will offer 15 courses, including three new courses offered this year: Judicial Process, Traffic Tickets and Social Security Rights and Benefits.

Check-in begins at 8:30 a.m. and the last session ends at 12:45 p.m.

"It's good that the law school is educating people in the community and teaching them how to protect and look out for their own interests," said Collinsville law student Adam Davenport.

Davenport said that, as a law student, you learn there are more intricacies involved with law than you think.

"A lot of it is very practical and easy to understand, but there are other parts of the law that are difficult," he said.

Professor of Law Patricia Wilson said she expects anybody from retirees, businesspeople, employees and employers to attend.

"We expect a cross-section of people," said Wilson.

The courses will be taught by Baylor professors, local attorneys and attorneys from as far away from El Paso. They work or practice in the specified area of law they will teach Saturday.

Students of Baylor Law also will be donating their time and efforts to the People's Law School.

"I think People's Law School is really useful for the community since it breaks things down to a practical sense and they can understand the law better," said Tyler Topper. Plainview law student and president of the Christian Legal Society.

Tyler said some of its members from the Christian Legal Society will be volunteering Saturday. He said they had talked about partnering with the People's Law School.

"It's something we really care about and wanted to help with," Tyler said.

Participants were able to register for three courses that will last approximately an hour each, with 40 to 45 minutes of lecture and the remaining time for questions.

Registration for courses ended yesterday but walk-ins will be accepted Saturday before courses begin.

"The 2008 People's Law School will not answer every question for every specific situation, but it can help you get a grasp on some fundamentals that may help you in your day-to-day personal and business life," said Wilson.

Some of the most popular courses include employment, estate and family law.

Employment law will include topics about hiring and firing employees, anti-discrimination laws and unemployment rights.

Family law topics include divorce and child support.

Wills and estate planning will include topics such as requirements of a valid will and basic estate planning.

"People's Law School is a really generous thing for the law school to do, and I hope the community chooses to attend," said Shreveport, La., law student Bradley Thomas.

For more information including a list of courses People's Law School will offer, visit law.baylor.edu and click the People's Law School link.

Student Senate allots money for concert

By Sommer Ingram Staff writer

Student Senate allocated \$3,610 to the Martin Leadership team of Martin Residence Hall to put on a concert series, Martin Unplugged. The series is in its seventh year at Baylor, and will showcase Judas Feet featuring Tommy Read. The event will be

April 4 at Cameron Zoo Park.

"We will provide a unique experience for the student body with a great set up," said Jonathan Stoops, resident hall director for Martin Residence Hall. "The zoo is one of the nicest things in Waco but it is also one of the most overlooked things by Baylor students."

All proceeds from the event

will go to the Alive campaign, a campaign formed to bring awareness to suicide and suicide prevention.

"The Alive campaign is unique among charitable organizations," Stoops said. "We go through suicide awareness as a leadership team so we know how serious of an issue it is. The Alive campaign is an extremely

valuable cause."

The senate passed a support resolution for Union University in Jackson, Tenn., whose students and faculty members were victims of a tornado earlier this month.

The support resolution extends sympathy and support to the members of the university.

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Jeff Leslie/Lariat staff

Larping's a lark

James Whatley, a Dallas junior, spars against his High Fantasy Society fellow, Cypress senior Ariel Cisne. HFS practices with medieval weapons in preparation for larping, the act of simulating historical battle techniques and weaponry. HFS is part of Ampguard, an international organization devoted to medieval weapon simulation.

Broken pipe damages SLC offices

Belinda Colunga
Reporter

After a broken pipe flooded the office of the dean for Student Learning and Engagement in the McLane Student Life Center, staff had to clear out wet furniture and computers and bring in the fans.

A pipe above the office broke during the middle of the night Wednesday resulting in a flooded office and other damages, said Jim Broaddus, assistant dean for Student Learning and Engagement.

"We're all mystified," said Jeff Walter, assistant direct for Student Life Facilities, in reference to what could have gone wrong with the pipes. But he said he was certain that the dialectic union, a connector that fits on the end of the pipes, failed.

The connector allows two

metals to be together, which in this case connects copper and steel tubes, Walter said.

"You can't have both metals touching each other and last," he said.

The pipe began to leak soon after it failed. The leaking may have started at about 7:15 a.m., and was discovered by 7:45 a.m., soon enough to save much of the equipment, Walter said.

As soon as the flood was discovered, Target Restoration was called in to repair the dialectic union, he said.

"Fortunately, because it was found pretty quickly the damage was minor," Dr. Frank Shushok, dean for Student Learning, said.

Broaddus, whose office was also affected and located right next door to where the pipe broke, said the water required removing some furniture and computers.

"We had the equipment removed, but not much," Broaddus said. "A few wet books, a wet computer and wet furniture."

Broaddus said that much of it is dried off now, but the equipment still remains out in the hall.

Fans and dehumidifiers, provided by Target Restoration, occupied the office in order to dry much of the furniture and carpet. The fans also serve to remove moisture out of the air, he said.

"You stepped on the carpet, and you could see water come out," Broaddus said.

However, the damage reached more than just a few books and computers.

"Water looks for a way down," Broaddus said, referring to the damaged offices below that were also occupied by fans.

While most of the damage happened in the second floor,

water seeped down into the offices occupied by Dr. Dub Oliver, vice president for student life, and Dr. Elizabeth D. Palacios, dean for student development.

Oliver said there were minor damages in his office, but Palacios did have to relocate because of the severity of the damages.

Regardless, Oliver's had to conduct his meetings out of the office due to the noisy fans, but other than that, he's still able to work in there, he said.

Depending on how fast the water dries Palacios and Oliver should be situated back in today, Oliver said. Since most of the damage was upstairs, it will take longer to get the furniture and equipment back in.

As soon as the moulding is replaced around the walls, Shushok said he hopes everything will be back in order by the middle of next week.

Super computer debuts at Baylor

Jade Ortego
Reporter

Baylor is now home to one of the biggest research computers in Texas.

Baylor recently purchased a new \$1.25 million research computer, a High Performance Computing (HPC) cluster named "Kodiak."

"This is really a huge step for Baylor," said Pattie Orr, vice president for information technology and dean of university libraries.

Kodiak is 35 times faster than the research computer it will be replacing.

That computer, "Fozzie," has 64 processors and Kodiak has 1024.

Fozzie was Baylor's first HPC cluster.

It was purchased in 2003, "when Baylor started to get serious about research," said Mike Hutcheson, academic and research computing systems manager in the Electronic Library.

"Systems like this play a just as important part in research as a science lab used to," Hutcheson said.

Kodiak was purchased in December and is being configured now to begin use in the spring.

Kodiak will be used for parallel computing applications that require many processors and grid computing.

It will facilitate research in the areas of particle physics, biochemistry and astrophysics.

"Kodiak can tackle real problems, problems you can publish," physics professor Walter Wilcox said.

Kodiak uses 128 compute nodes with 16 gigabytes of RAM and 72 gigabytes of local storage in each.

An HPC takes large computer-intensive problems, like a weather prediction model or a protein-folding simulation, and splits them up into smaller sub-problems and processes them

simultaneously.

This makes the process yield quicker results than when running on a regular computer system.

Rather than requiring professors to purchase equipment, such as this computer, themselves, Baylor can now provide it for several professors to share.

"Before, people working on tenure couldn't afford to come here and do their research," said Carl Bel, senior analyst and programmer.

Bell said the hope is that Baylor will be able to approach prospective faculty with this purchase, Bell said.

"There are people that we flat cannot talk to without this kind of equipment," said Dr. Truell Hyde, vice provost for research.

Kodiak also motivated High Performance Computing Across Texas, or HiPCAT, a consortium of Texas institutions that use advanced computers to enhance research and development, to offer membership to Baylor.

The group allows universities to share resources and provide opportunities for researchers to collaborate.

"Now we can play with the big boys," said Tim Logan, director of the Electronic Library.

HiPCAT members include Rice University, Texas A&M University and the University of Texas.

"You have to 'ante-up' to play," Orr said. "Kodiak is that ante."

Given the nature of computer development, Kodiak will be comparatively obsolete soon.

"The next step is to ask: How do you keep this current?" Hyde said.

Twice yearly a list of the top 500 supercomputers in the world is compiled.

"If we would have had this resource last summer, we would have been on the Top 500," Hutcheson said.

Considering advancements in the field, Baylor won't be on the list this year either, he said.

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BUSH from page 1

got the fundamentals in place for us to ... grow and continue growing, more robustly hopefully than we're growing now," he said. "So we're still for a strong dollar."

Bush also used his news conference to press Congress to give telecommunications companies legal immunity for helping the government eavesdrop after the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks.

He continued a near-daily effort to prod lawmakers into passing his version of a law to make it easier for the government to conduct domestic eavesdropping on suspected terrorists' phone calls and e-mails. He says the country is in more danger now that a temporary surveillance law has expired.

The president and Congress are in a showdown over Bush's demand on the immunity issue.

Bush said the companies

helped the government after being told "that their assistance was legal and vital to national security." "Allowing these lawsuits to proceed would be unfair," he said.

More important, Bush added, "the litigation process could lead to the disclosure of information about how we conduct surveillance and it would give al-Qaida and others a roadmap as to how to avoid the surveillance."

The Senate passed its version of the surveillance bill earlier this month, and it provides retroactive legal protection for telecommunications companies that wiretapped U.S. phone and computer lines at the government's request and without court permission. The House version, approved in October, does not include telecom immunity.

Telecom companies face around 40 lawsuits for their alleged role in wiretapping their American customers.

CLINTON from page 1

and Baylor Democrats president.

Thursday morning, Clinton made an appearance in Ohio and stopped in Beaumont later that day. After she is finished today in Waco, the presidential hopeful will be speaking in San Antonio.

As of Wednesday, nearly 10,000 McLennan County voters had participated in early voting for the primary. Of those 10,000, the democratic primary yielded 5,485. Early primary voting began on the 19th and ends today.

"She is a woman that I have looked up to since I was a child,"

said Rebecca LaFleur, Katy senior and Clinton supporter.

Clinton isn't the only candidate campaigning in Waco. Republican presidential candidate Mike Huckabee, former governor of Arkansas, spoke at the Hilton Thursday, and there are reports that Sen. John McCain, R-Ariz., will hold a town hall meeting Monday.

LaFleur said she was not surprised at Clinton's scheduled rally. "I was wondering when she was going to come," she said.

Even though Obama has not appeared in Waco, LaFleur is unsure as to whether Clinton's appearance will generate new support.

"A lot of people have already made up their minds," she said.

VOTE from page 1

paign offices.

Republican presidential nominee candidate Mike Huckabee made an appearance Thursday and Sen. John McCain is also scheduled to stop in Waco.

"There are lots of candidates on the ballot, not just presidential candidates," McLennan County elections administrator

Kathy E. Van Wolfe said.

The ballot will also contain the names of those who are running for senate, district judge, and county chairpersons.

In addition, the McLennan County voting system has gone from paper ballots in 2004 to electronic for this year's elections.

McLennan County was mandated by the state to make switch from paper to electronic voting, Van Wolfe said.

INTERVIEW from page 1

things I found is that it's not just the tuition, but the cost of college textbooks is really out of sight. College is an important investment to make, but it is one that is increasingly challenging for many, many students.

Based on your appearance on SNL and reputation for having a good sense of humor, what motivates you every day to have a positive attitude?

Huckabee: I think a lot of it is my own background and past. It was not easy for me, and I never had it handed to me. I appreciate life and every minute of it, and I feel incredibly blessed to live the life I live. I think if you look back and see where you come from, you can really appreciate, more so than ever, where you are. I consider every day a gift from God, and I have a responsibility to use that gift in a way that's going to maximize it.

You said in your book that we have moved from a "society with a shared, confident sense of right to a society of relativism and moral decay." How do you plan to bring back the values that will recharge America's moral status? And what values are those?

Huckabee: One of the things sometimes people forget is that freedom only operates in the context of responsible, moral choices. The degree to which we are self-governing is the

degree to which we don't need a whole lot of external government. The need for additional government is commensurate with our own unwillingness to control ourselves. For example, if everybody in business practiced ethical business practices, you would need virtually no regulation at all, none. A pound would be a pound, an ounce would be an ounce, and a gallon would be a gallon. And nobody would need any form of government regulating them. Regulation is the result of somebody cheating and saying, "Well, we've got to make it so we have a way to punish the cheaters." The more laws we have are an indictment on our lack of moral rights. That's why I think sometimes when people try to act as if a democracy in a government like ours can operate in a moral vacuum, the truth is it cannot — it will collapse within itself. Our Founding Fathers understood that very clearly, that tyranny is ultimately the result of lawlessness.

I think a lot of students want to know what your favorite Chuck Norris joke is.

Huckabee: The one I like the best is that Chuck Norris doesn't do push ups, he just pushes the earth down. Oh, and also my plan for border security — two words: Chuck Norris.

What's (Chuck Norris's) favorite?

Chuck Norris: My favorite one was, "They wanted to put Chuck Norris on Mt. Rushmore, but the granite wasn't tough enough for his beard."

COAL from page 1

defects or not lead to autism for the people living right up next to it," Robert said.

Robert said he'll be giving his personal opinion on the subject, backing his thoughts up with current research.

"I don't want to be able to get up and see this kind of Dante's inferno flame out my window," he said.

Robert said he was originally spurred to increase his involve-

ment in the activist community when TXU Energy made plans to fast-track a large number of their proposed coal plants, four of which would have been in the immediate McLennan county area.

"They'll be dumping dirty, dirty coal and pumping arsenic and mercury into the air. It's my town and my air, and I had no choice but to join them," Robert said.

The potential for this kind of ring of fire around Waco led to an unprecedented level of activism from people who

had never been active before, he said.

"The citizens told one of the most powerful organizations in the world no," Robert said. "Finally (TXU) backed down, and here comes along Dynege and they put want to put up a bigger (coal plant) even closer."

The technology the plant would use hasn't been improved since the 1800s, he said.

"So here we go again. I would much rather be in bed," he said.

Other speakers for the rally include Waco County Commissioner Joe Mashek; Tom Smith

from Public Citizen, a non-profit public interest group founded by Ralph Nader; a spokesperson from TPOWER; Emily Stone from the Sierra Club and a representative from Baylor's Environmental Concern Organization.

10-year-old environmental activist Micah Osler will also speak.

"He's hilarious," Panter said. "He's just such a precocious, cute, little boy, and he's interested in all of this."

Panter said Osler will present facts on why the Dynege plant wouldn't be good for the area.



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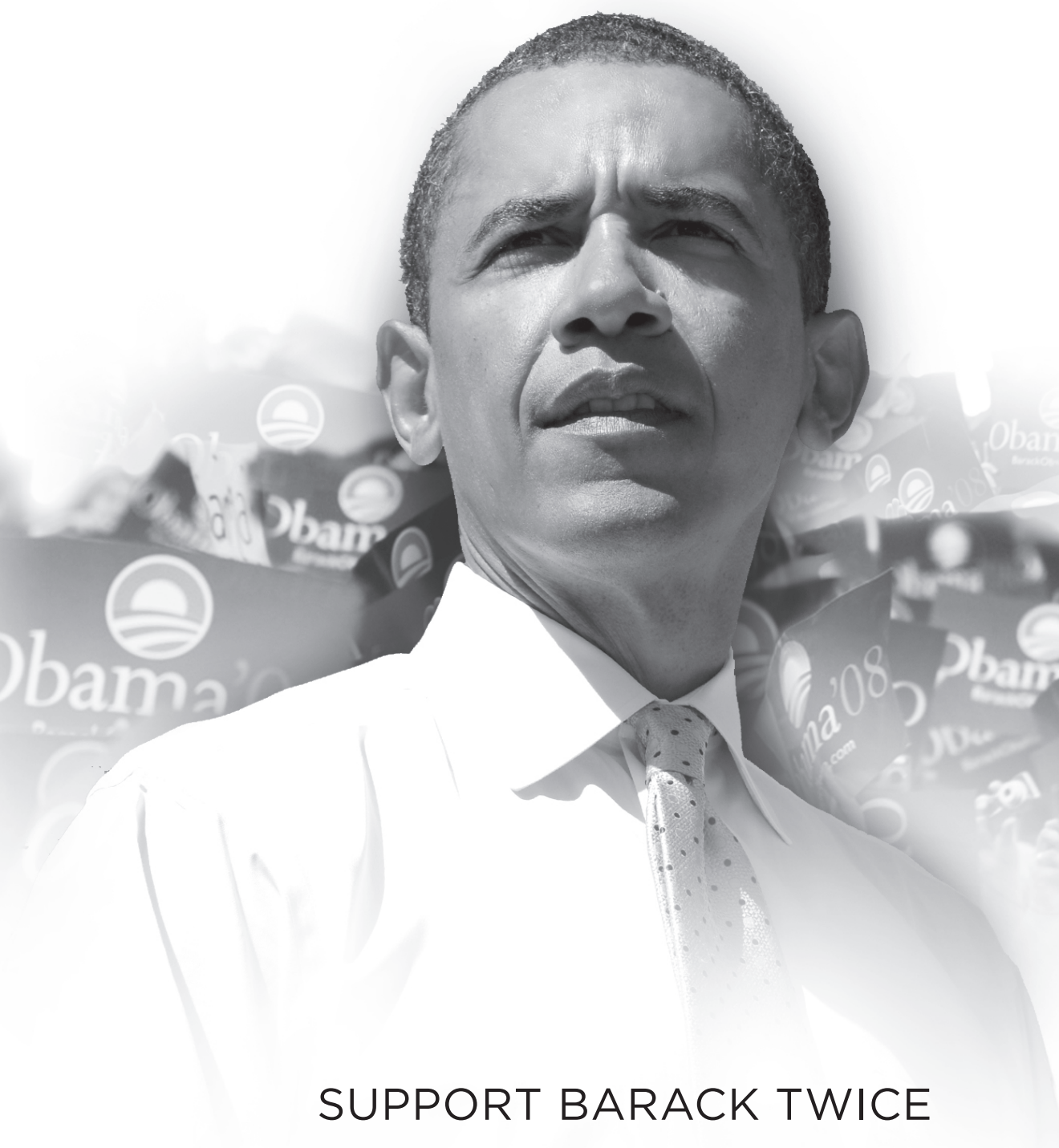
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Luis Noble/Lariat staff

Sacramento, Calif., sophomore Jessika Bradley hustles to the opposing basket of the University of Colorado. Baylor defeated the Buffaloes 76-62 Wednesday night at the Ferrell Center.

Lady Bears to face Aggies

By Justin Baer
Sports writer

Baylor has its first of two opportunities to clinch at least a share of the Big 12 Championship when the No. 8 Lady Bears (24-3, 12-2) travel to College Station on Saturday to take on the No. 18 Texas A&M University Aggies in a game of significant magnitude for both teams.

The Aggies were selected in the preseason to win the conference in the Big 12 Women's Basketball Coaches Poll.

But after a stint in January that saw A&M lose three out of four games, the Aggies slipped to fourth place in the standings, and are currently battling for a first-round bye in the Big 12 Tournament.

"When you are playing a team who is fighting for a fourth seed, that's hard," head coach Kim Mulkey said. "They are playing their last two games on their home floor, and they are pulling out all their stops to get people out there. It's going to be difficult, we know that. But we are going to go out there and give them our best effort."

In the two teams' previous meeting Jan. 12, the Lady Bears trailed throughout the duration of the game until senior guard Angela Tisdale hit her first

3-pointer of the day with 38 seconds to play giving Baylor a one-point advantage.

The Lady Bears were able to hold on for a 59-56 victory, but it will likely take another strong performance from Tisdale to notch a victory on the road against a guard-laden Aggie team.

"We just know they will harass you," the Austin native said. "They have good, quick guards that will do anything for you not to penetrate. We just have to be smart and take care of the ball."

Even more pressure lies on the shoulders of Tisdale this time around against the Aggies.

With Bay City junior Jhasmin Player out for the season with a torn anterior cruciate ligament and Humble junior Jessica Morrow questionable for Saturday's matinee after she suffered a heel injury in Wednesday night's game, the role Tisdale will have to play against the Aggies becomes even more pertinent.

Tisdale's options at guard are the inexperienced yet talented freshmen duo of Kelli Griffin and Melissa Jones.

Griffin is coming off of a season-high game in which she recorded 11 points. An even bigger concern the Houston native will face is preventing

Takia Starks, a 2007 All-Big 12 First Team selection, from man-handling the Lady Bears' back-court.

The 5-foot-8 Houston junior has averaged 14.2 points per game in her five appearances against Baylor, but with the Lady Bears' shallow depth at the guard position, Starks is salivating at the chance to delay Baylor's Big 12 Championship hopes.

But Mulkey said if the Lady Bears are unable to capture their second Big 12 Championship, the only excuse Baylor will have is not being as talented as the other team on the floor — not outthusted.

"I don't know if we'll win the Big 12 Championship," Mulkey said. "But I have preached it to them before; they have put themselves in a position a lot of people would like to be in. Now let's go play as hard as we can and see if we can't play better than the opponent that night."

Tip-off for Saturday's game is set for 1 p.m. and will be televised nationally on Fox Sports Net. Free bus transportation will also be provided to College Station.

Buses will leave Waco at 10 a.m. For more information contact Cheryl Ervi at (254) 710-4214.

Equestrian team captures double victory at home

By Brian Bateman
Sports writer

With a month until the Big 12 Invitational and just six weeks until the national championship, the Baylor equestrian team faces two final competitions before post-season play begins.

Riding a two-game winning streak, the Lady Bears play host to a former Baylor rider and her University of Tennessee at Martin team at 10 a.m. Saturday, at the Willis Family Equestrian Center.

"It'll be exciting to show against her team," senior western rider Ashleigh Carlson said.

Brenna Buris, Tennessee-Martin's head coach, was the co-captain of the first Baylor equestrian team, but left for the volunteer state in 2007.

"Icoached her for three years," assistant Baylor coach Trista Armstrong said. "She knows the drill. She knows what I do."

Baylor's last performance was composed of two back-to-

back competitions with Kansas State University and Fresno State University. The Feb. 22, match up gave the Lady Bears a tight, 10-8 victory. Well-rested horses gave Baylor the edge they needed, but the next day would be different.

"On Friday they came out breathing fire, and we showed the same horses on Saturday, only they didn't come out the same," coach White said. "On Saturday they were like, 'are you kidding me?'"

The Lady Bears pulled through with a 9-5 victory over Fresno State, but the competition went against the Lady Bears' trends.

"We had been strong on jumping, but I thought we were weaker on jumping this week-end and stronger on our flat work," head coach Ellen White said.

Baylor did receive points from Heather Healy, who has five fence points on the year, and Nicole Brown, who has eight.

Junior Shelby White, coach White's daughter and also an

English rider, also commented on their recent performance.

"I think our English for the past few competitions has been in a slump," she said. She added that strong talent on the team should be able to pull to reverse their slump.

The Lady Bears will travel to Texas Christian University March 8, to finish out the regular season. Baylor will need a strong showing as they prepare for the Big 12 Invitational in Manhattan, Kan., March 28.

"Kansas State has a strong team this year," Armstrong said. "I think they're even with (Oklahoma State University) and (Texas) A&M (University)."

The team lost twice to the Aggies, twice to the Cowboys and split the year's record with the Wildcats. The tournament will be held in Manhattan, Kan., this year, which is an advantage for the Lady Bears, Armstrong said.

They know the horses there from the previous competition and will be well versed in their habits, she said.

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Softball finishes Palm Springs Classic, 4-2

By Will Parchman
Sports editor

The second the ball rolled off Jenny Isham's hand into the black of night, she knew something was wrong.

After the Baylor softball team won its first two games at the Palm Springs Classic last weekend, Isham, a McLennan County Community College transfer, entered the circle to pitch Saturday night against defending champion University of Arizona.

By the end of the first inning, Isham had given up three home runs, including one to the lead-off hitter.

"We're both really good about talking things out, and the first thing she said to me was 'I threw three fastballs,'" junior pitcher Brittany Turner said. "She knew she messed up."

The final score was an ugly 12-0 loss for Baylor, a game that ended through the mercy rule in the fifth inning. Isham's stat line was just as ugly: four batters faced, three home runs surrendered and a lot of reasons to move on.

"You can't forget about it completely, but I knew that in that game, my pitches weren't moving," said Isham, who went on to pitch six solid innings in a win against the University of Cal State Fullerton the next day. "It wasn't because I'm a bad pitcher, it's just that night I really didn't have it. Knowing that, it allows you to recover from it."

Just as Isham rebounded, so did the rest of the team.

The Lady Bears finished the tournament with a 4-2 record, improving their overall record to 9-3.

Moore told the team before the tournament that team-wide improvement, not necessarily getting wins, was priority No. 1 over the six games in four days.

"We put Isham out there in the toughest setting and on the most visible stage she had ever been in, and quite honestly she didn't perform that well," head coach Glenn Moore said. "But as an all-inclusive weekend, it was very productive. I was very pleased with the weekend overall."

Moore didn't discuss that Arizona aberration with the team too much, focusing instead on the upcoming spate of games. Isham said that approach allowed the team to move on and complete what Moore called a "successful weekend."

As a result, Turner said the team is in a good place entering a three-game series with the University of Louisiana-Monroe (6-8) this weekend.

"I think we really did grow. We found out what we were made of," Turner said. "We had a bad game but we were able to bounce back positively, so I really do think it was a good time of growth for us."

One of the issues Moore will be facing this weekend — as he said he likely will all year — is that of power production.

While Jordan Daniels has provided five home runs and Brette Reagan has hit two more, Moore said he's "still concerned about our power. We need one or two more hitters to step up to really blow some games open."

The Lady Bears are built for speed, not necessarily power, consistently placing in the top 10 in the nation in stolen bases and hustle stats.

But with the confidence Moore said the team possesses, even without a balanced offensive attack at times he said games like Arizona should fade as quickly as they came.

"I keep saying that the confidence this team has is pretty remarkable," Moore said. "While we know we're not where Arizona is right now, it seems to be the thought of the team that we're not far away and we'll have time to recover before we'll see them again."



Alex Song/Lariat staff

Boerne sophomore Josh Lomers fights for the ball against Kansas State's Luis Colon Saturday at the Ferrell Center. Baylor beat the Wildcats, 92-86.

Win over Colorado assures Bears 4th spot in Big 12

By Will Parchman
Sports editor

While the Bears' most recent 68-57 win against the hapless University of Colorado Buffaloes Wednesday won't help their strength of schedule much, the timing couldn't have been much better.

It helped further break up the congestion in the middle of the Big 12 men's basketball standings, mostly in favor of Baylor.

So with the University of Missouri (15-13, 5-8) coming to town 3 p.m. Saturday to take on Baylor at the Ferrell Center, the Bears have another chance to distance themselves from the pack.

"We know it's going to be an up-and-down game," sophomore guard Twenty Carter said. "We're going to be prepared for it and get ready. Don't look past Missouri because they're a pretty good team, and they're going to come in and play hard."

Both the University of Oklahoma and Texas Tech University lost Wednesday to drop each of their Big 12 records to 6-7. Baylor and Texas A&M University's wins Wednesday lifted both schools to 7-6, which puts Baylor in possession of fourth place with its head-to-head tie-breaker over the Aggies. The two schools play for the second time on Wednesday in Waco for

a game that's setting up to be a potential make-or-break post-season situation for either team.

Head coach Scott Drew said the Bears aren't letting that fact distract them from the task at hand this weekend. The Tigers don't consistently beat themselves and currently lead the league in turnover margin and are second in the conference in assists.

"I think with our team we've showed we can play with anybody," said Drew, who's guided the Bears to their most Big 12 wins ever this year. "This year with not having a loss over 10 points we're right there in our losses — and with our wins we don't blow a lot of people out. Give credit to the Big 12 for great parity this year."

Ever since a crushing overtime loss to Oklahoma on Feb. 19 when Curtis Jerrells missed two potential game-winning free throws at the buzzer, Baylor is 2-0, including a win over then-No. 24 Kansas State University last weekend. A five-overtime loss on Jan. 23 started Baylor's original skid when it lost six of seven games.

Now, things around the Baylor locker room couldn't be much different.

"It's definitely different," said forward Kevin Rogers, who recorded 24 points and 11 rebounds Wednesday for his

fourth double-double in a row. "I think guys are definitely playing with a bigger sense of urgency now, knowing that any slip-up in a game could definitely change some things."

For Carter, the buzz around the Baylor basketball program and the team's blossoming post-season hopes are exactly why the McDonald's All-American chose Baylor.

"It was always knowing that we were going to turn it around and get it together at some point here at Baylor and do some great things," Carter said.

Missouri's offense couldn't be much different than the one the Bears faced in Boulder, Colo. Wednesday.

While Colorado often chewed up the entire shot clock with its deliberate offense, Missouri employs former University of Arkansas head coach Nolan Richardson's '40 minutes of hell' philosophy.

The offense places emphasis on constant movement and offensive quickness. It makes for full-court traps, hounding defensive full-court pressure and pushing the pace at all times. Lucky for the Bears, that's their forte as well.

"Missouri (is) a much more up-and-down team," Drew said. "We like to go up and down so it should be an exciting game for our fans and our players."

Men's golf finishes 6th at All-American Intercollegiate

By Joe Holloway
Reporter

The men's golf team is heading into its current break in action with one title and one sixth-place finish under its belt.

In their first competition of 2008, the Bears took first place in the Rice Intercollegiate. Abilene junior Bill Allcorn said though it wasn't the strongest field of competition, it was certainly important to start the year off right.

"It was a good starting point for us," he said. "Hopefully we will get better and better each week."

Head coach Greg Priest agreed, stating that they were fortunate to have the early win.

"It's always good to start your spring season off with a win," he said. "It was a good win."

The Bears faced a somewhat stiffer field in the All-American Intercollegiate.

After two days, they appeared to be in good shape but hit a season-high 310 on a windy third day of competition to drop to sixth overall.

"We just played very poor that last day," Priest said. "We've just got to bounce back and go tee it up again and see what happens."

Allcorn said that he hopes the mediocre showing inspires the team to do better down the road and focus during the upcoming break.

"It puts a little motivation in

us to take these next two weeks before our next tournament to really practice and grind hard," he said.

The Bears will now focus on the Border Olympics tournament to be held on March 14 in Laredo.

"We have to put (the All-American Intercollegiate) behind us and get ready for Laredo," Priest said.

According to Priest, the team has peaked too early in the past but that this year he hopes to use the early tournaments as building blocks.

"We seem to keep getting better," he said. "Hopefully by the time we get to Arizona State we are rolling on all cylinders and getting ready for the conference

tournament."

The Big 12 tournament, scheduled for April 25-27, should prove to be a tight competition. However, Allcorn remains optimistic.

"Everyone is really good in the Big 12 this year," he said. "If we can keep building up to the Big 12 Tournament, and (keep) doing well, we will be all right."

Jacksboro sophomore Colton Williams, who gave Baylor its highest individual finish in the All-American Intercollegiate, also said that he felt the Bears have a good shot at competing.

"If we really learn to finish tournaments off, I think we can be a strong team," he said. "I feel like we can compete with anybody."

Williams also cited depth as an attribute lacking in previous teams that is present this year.


"We have a lot of good players," he said. "Any one of our guys you can put in the number one spot or the number two spot and they will do a good job."

The Bears will be relying on every one of them throughout the year, including Williams himself.

"Colton has definitely been one of our top performers," Priest said. "For us to play well as a team, he is going to have to play very well."

Priest also cited Allcorn as an important piece of the puzzle.

"Bill's a very steady player," he said. "That's what we need him to continue to do."



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Seay, Dutton crank Christian tunes at Common Grounds

By Billy Collins
Contributor

A Common Grounds face-lift came with perfect timing, leaving some to believe the local coffee shop was actually part of Baylor 2012 ... if only that were the case.

SHOWREVIEW

Its revamping has attracted many musical artists to the Baylor Bubble, including a Wednesday night show featuring the Robbie Seay Band and Dutton, whose front men are both Baylor alumni and have close ties to University Baptist Church.

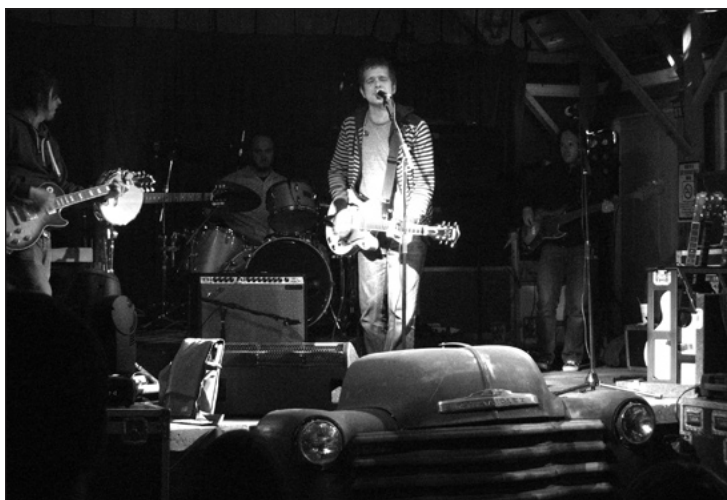
Jill Paquette also joined the crew on the cold Waco night. But temperatures in the low 50s didn't seem to hinder a full-house crowd from showing up. As she took to the stage solo, Paquette made a remark about

the beauty of Texas weather. Well, it was "beautiful to a Canadian," she said.

Coffee house gigs don't always turn out the best vocal performances, but Paquette, a singer/songwriter from Houston, British Columbia, was an obvious exception.

In her mixture of songs about small towns, confusing college relationships and getting old, she maintained excellent vocal control, providing the perfect melody to her guitar's harmony. Paquette sprinkled her set with anecdotes that showed off her dry sense of humor and ended with the chorus from "Tis So Sweet to Trust in Jesus."

Logan Walter and his band of four, Dutton, took the stage next. Walter braved the cold in a T-shirt claiming, "This Is Not Here," while other band members performed in black-rimmed glasses, looking like something straight out of Weezer, adding



Courtesy photo
The Robbie Seay Band performed its signature mellow Christian music Thursday night at Common Grounds, along with local band Dutton.

to the indie atmosphere at the show.

The band promoted its latest album, *The Surface*, which is an interesting experiment of musical creativity and the band's

strong Christian faith. A heavy bass line grounded their songs and allowed all instruments to be heard through the coffee shop's smaller sound equipment.

Janet's 'Discipline' dons fun, futuristic feel

By Amanda Robison
Entertainment editor

Janet Jackson is back in control, and her *Discipline* is paying off with a solid album.

Miss Jackson may have been stuck in a slump for the last few albums, but *Discipline* brings back some unadulterated classic Janet, reminiscent of her glory days in the late '80s and early '90s.

ALBUMREVIEW

Discipline is a pure pop and R&B mix, produced by Janet's boyfriend, music mogul Jermaine Dupri.

It takes her music to a new level — the future.

Despite heavy resemblance to earlier-era Janet material, the album is focused on the future, from the overarching concept to the actual musical production.

The album begins with Janet having to provide "I.D." (by voice recognition) to enter the futuristic world of *Discipline*, which comes complete with a robotic maid/assistant of sorts (think *The Jetsons'* Rosie), who appears multiple times throughout the album.

"I.D." is the first of nine "interludes" on *Discipline*, which may



deceive some when they realize the list of 22 tracks only contains 13 actual songs.

But those 13 songs make up for the silly interludes, which don't really add much to the album except to expand on the futuristic undertones, as Janet mainly converses with her robot, which even garnered a name — Kyoko.

The first single, "Feedback" kicks off the musical portion of *Discipline* with bang, as a drumline and synthesized bass pound "sounds of the future" into your ears and continue into the upbeat "Luv," which has a happier feel.

Janet gets on a roll — literally — with the happy feeling as it continues into "Rollercoaster."

The happy-go-lucky song works for Janet, while not crossing the line into cheesy-land,

Stand-Out Tracks:

"Rollercoaster," "Luv" and "The 1"

but carefully caressing the edge with a dance beat clapping along behind her sweet harmonies.

The cheerful mood continues through "Rock with U" and "2Nite," which are both solid tracks with well-produced vocals and plenty of background effects to keep the listener from boredom.

But the next track, "Can't B Good," (which isn't terrible) becomes symbolic as it signifies the start to the slower selection of songs that that may bring on the boredom.

Slow songs are definitely not Janet's forte, as demonstrated in the overly-cheesy "Greatest X."

This mid-album lull lasts until the 15th track, when it gets "So Much Betta," as Kyoko and Janet seem to duet, while singing, "I'm what you've been missing."

Rapper Missy Elliott joins Jackson for "The 1," which combines clanging symbols with synthesized vocals to equal a completely danceable track, then continues into the softer

song, "What's Ur Name."

The album's namesake doesn't make an appearance until the end of the album, at track 20.

"Discipline" is a smooth, down-tempo track, with a decidedly slow drawl and some PG-13 S&M undertones.

Janet even channels Michael on a few tracks, like her quick quips of "Come on" on "2Nite" that sound eerily like the other Jackson thriller.

The only downfall of the album is the overkill with the interludes, which become a distraction from the actual music.

Overall, Janet really knocked the ball out of the park on this album, with consistently good tracks, all of which could be released as successful singles on the pop or R&B charts.

If you're looking for some futuristic feel-good tracks with plenty of pop substance and soft, synthesized vocals, or you just need a new dose of classic Janet — *Discipline* is the album for you.

Grade: A

MOVIE MINUTE

New releases for Feb. 29

The Other Boleyn Girl
Starring: Natalie Portman, Scarlett Johansson, Eric Bana
Two sisters contend for the affection of King Henry VIII.

Semi-Pro
Starring: Will Ferrell, Woody Harrel, André Benjamin
Jackie Moon, the owner-coach-player of the American Basketball Association's Flint Michigan Tropics, rallies his teammates to make their NBA dreams come true.

Source: IMDb, The Internet Movie Database

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JUMPER (PG-13) 12:20 2:35 3:00 5:00 7:20 9:00 9:30	*VANTAGE POINT (PG-13) 12:30 2:25 4:35 7:05 9:25
27 DRESSES (PG-13) 4:10 9:35	*SEMI-PRO (R) 12:20 2:35 4:45 7:00 9:15
ALVIN AND THE CHIPMUNKS (PG) 1:00 7:15	*THE OTHER BOLEYN GIRL (PG-13) 1:10 4:05 6:50 9:20
*BE KIND, REWIND (PG-13) 12:35 3:10 5:30 7:50 10:10	DEFINITELY, MAYBE (PG-13) 12:40 4:15 7:10 9:55
*WITLESS PROTECTION (PG-13) 12:45 2:55 5:25 7:40 10:00	STEP UP 2 (PG-13) 12:25 2:45 5:10 7:25 9:40
*CHARLIE BARTLETT (R) 12:55 3:05 5:20 7:35 9:50	WELCOME HOME ROSCO JENKINS (PG-13) 12:50 4:55 7:35 10:05

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