ROUNDING UP CAMPUS NEWS SINCE 1900

THE BAYLOR LARIAT

FRIDAY, APRIL 4, 2008

University Ministries to become Spiritual Life

By Shannon Daily Staff writer

At the moment University Ministries is on its way to being known as the Department of

Spiritual Life.

The change comes along with an internal reorganization, mostly of job titles and job descriptions.

Additionally, all of the areas that fall under the spiritual life umbrella will be moving to what is now known as the Bobo Baptist Student Center. The center will be renovated and the name of the center will be changed to the Spiritual Life Center.

"It may seem like a move the student body has become

away from Baptist life, but it's really not," university chaplain Dr. Burt Burleson said.

With the changes, Baptist Student Ministries is really in charge of spiritual formation at Baylor, Burleson said. The BSM's role has mostly gotten larger, except for local missions.

"Baylor's denominational landscape is changing. While we still work to remain Baptist, we want that center to be a place if someone is walking by, they don't think they're not supposed to go in there because they were raised Methodist or Lutheran," Burleson said.

Burleson said over the years, the student body has become less Baptist, so the Department of Spiritual Life is trying to connect with and reach out to people from other Christian traditions.

At the moment, less than 40 percent of students are Baptist.

"What motivates the student is where they feel a connection," said Dr. Clif Mouser, director of the Baptist Student Ministries. "Students are bringing their own lens to campus. We're in the midst of a generation of change."

Director of Student Life Dr. Dub Oliver said Baylor must work to be open to students of all faiths, or of no faith, while maintaining its Baptist heritage.

"We want to be the best Baptist university period, but we have to do that in a way that embraces all of our students," Oliver said.

Burleson said University Ministries worked with the Baptist General Convention of Texas to make these reorganizational changes. The BGCT maintains a close affiliation with the university and is responsible for appointing 25 percent of the Baylor Board of Regents.

Ryan Richardson, associate director of student services for youth programs, said the BGCT

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The lounge pictured above located in the Bobo Baptist Student Center will be renovated as part of the transition from Baptist Student Ministries in conjunction with University Ministries to the Department of Spiritual Life.

On a mound of faith

Iraq War veteran Jay Fondren serves his country selflessly, earning him the honor of throwing the first pitch for Military Appreciation Day at the Baylor Ballpark

By Will Parchman Sports editor

When Jay Fondren's wheelchair crests the Baylor Ballpark mound on Saturday to throw out the first pitch for Baylor's baseball game against the University of Kansas, not everyone will know his story, one that's equal parts tragic and triumphant.

But as a soldier with scars to show, he

But as a soldier with scars to show, he remembers all too well where he was a scant three years ago.

From his earliest memories, Fondren entertained thoughts about being a soldier. He'd been a talented soccer player in high school and showed proficiency for military life upon enlisting.

After beginning his service in March 2004, he was promoted to staff sergeant as a 24-year old in October of that year and appeared on a track for higher positions.

And then disaster struck and forever altered s course.

Bombs over Baghdad

While in a convoy in 2004 near the dangerous Baghdad suburb of Sadr City, a roadside bomb skidded below the undercarriage of Fondren's Humvee and detonated. It was the day before Thanksgiving. Fondren's lower body absorbed a direct hit.

As Fondren drifted in and out of conscious-



Jeff Leslie/Lariat staff

Jay Fondren lost both legs and a thumb to a roadside bomb near Baghdad in 2004 while serving in the United States Army. Fondren's positive attitude and service led him to be chosen to throw the first pitch at Baylor Ballpark Saturday for Military Appreciation Day.

ness, his squad-mates worked feverishly to shear off his 2-year-old wedding ring and cut through his riddled and bloodied battle fatigues.

"Hang in there!" the doctors shouted.

When a chaplain approached him at the aid station, ready to read him his last rites, he waved him off.

"Sir, I'm not going to die here," he said. "I told my wife before I left that I'd be back home." Fondren lost both his legs in the blast, and severe shrapnel damage to his arms caused the amputation of his right thumb. But he was

alive, and he'd return home like he promised. When Fondren's wife Anne first heard the news, she cried for 10 minutes and "automatically knew" he'd lost something, a limb or perhaps something even deeper, something harder

Please see **FONDREN**, page 4

Femur break leaves student on crutches for 3 months

By Ashley Killough Reporter

After a five-day hospital stay, Plano junior Justin Fricke was released Wednesday from Hillcrest Baptist Medical Center. Fricke suffered severe leg injuries when he was hit by a car early Saturday morning on University Parks Drive while setting up the course for Student Foundation's Bearathon.

"I turned around, and this car was coming at me so I tried to get out of the way," Fricke said. "I think it hit me into the truck we were using, which was parked, and then I was just on the ground."

Along with lacerations to his thigh, Fricke's right femur bone snapped in half. To hold his leg together, doctors had to place a metal rod in leg from his hip to his knee.

"If I hadn't seen the car, I would have been run over," Fricke said. "It hurt pretty bad at first, and then it progressively got worse."

Spring junior Emily Hinz, Fricke's girlfriend, received a call around 3 a.m. from a nurse to inform her of Fricke's injuries.

"At first I thought it was maybe a prank, but then I realized that the nurse was serious," Hinz said. "Naturally I was quite surprised and worried."

Hinz said Fricke maintained a good sense of humor while he was hospitalized, and she has full confidence in a quick recovery.

"He's a very good student. I can seem him taking as little time as possible to get back to school," Hinz said. "He can't stand without help, but he's still standing strong mentally."

Fricke will stay at his home in Plano for seven to ten days until doctors say he can return to school. While he's anxious to get back, he has to rely on crutches as his means of walking for the next three months.

"I learned how to use them yesterday, and I'm going to work on walking a little farther each day," he said.

Fricke wanted to thank his friends, fellow Student Foundation members, faculty and administration for all their support.

While this is his first broken bone, Fricke's spirits remain high.

"I want to be a doctor," he said. "And even after all this, it's still what I want to do."

Jeff Leslie/Lariat staff

Mayor Virginia Dupuy visits with city attorney Leah Hayes and Baylor Women's League treasurer Meggaen Neely before she spoke publicly on women in politics Thursday in Bennett Auditorium.

Dupuy, Hayes discuss women's success By Stephen Jablonski "It's never crossed my mind that I and Law School undergraduate Julia

Waco mayor Virginia DuPuy and city attorney Leah Hayes spoke at the Women in the Workplace presentation yesterday in the Bennett Auditorium.

With the emergence of a potential female presidential candidate, the presentation, held by the Baylor Women's League, addressed the role of women in the political field.

"The question is not if a female will become president, it has become when," Baylor Women's League president Kate Ballew said. "That's why we've decided to focus on politics this year."

Both Hayes and DuPuy stressed the importance of family, education, ambition and the accomplishments of women before them.

"It's never crossed my mind that I couldn't vote," DuPuy said. "It's never crossed my mind that I can't do something, and I'm grateful that that's the product of women before me."

DuPuy addressed her journey from being an undergraduate at Baylor University, to meeting her husband and raising her children, to becoming the first chairwoman at the Waco Chamber of Commerce, to becoming president and CEO of DuPuy Oxygen, a family owned gas and welding supply distributor, and mayor of Waco.

"," distributor, and mayor of Waco.
Hayes discussed the accomplishments and similarities in successful women, citing the first woman associate justice of the United States Supreme Court Sandra Day O'Connor, New York Senator and presidential hopeful

Hillary Clinton and Baylor graduate

and Law School undergraduate Julia Jergenson.

Hayes also stressed the importance of adaptation to everyone involved in the work environment.

"People have always talked about finding balance in the workplace. I've found that women like me, we don't worry, don't think about that; we just do," Hayes said. "Accepting the things we cannot change, and having the courage to change the things you can

is what we all need to achieve."

Hayes said that in 1990, 99 percent of all attorneys were Anglo Saxon men. By 2005, 61 percent were Anglo Saxon men, while women and minorities combined were 39 percent.

Women are currently 30 per-

Please see **DUPUY**, page 4

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Geeks no longer confined to subculture, stereotypes

There's no denying it: technology has become the bastion of modern civilization. It binds humanity, creating a global market that expands the horizons of all who can adapt to its hyperactive pace.

Perhaps a less world-changing but just as predominant side effect of this global boom is the establishment of new pockets of diversion that seem to surface with each new YouTube video or Facebook application. The Internet has become a cultural phenomenon that transcends language, race and even social identity.

In this byte-sized world, the limelight is constantly shifting, but one lifestyle has slowly risen into ever-increasing relevance thanks to technology, an age of "geekdom." The geek, it seems, will inherit the earth.

"Geek" devoid of context is an indefinite term, often bumping elbows with its neighbor classification: nerds. The two are often difficult to differentiate because they both focus on technology as an exciting hobby and generally shun the finer points of social interaction, but the difference is quite simple.

The nerd is generally the superior manipulator of his technological tools, often translating computing prowess into high-paying jobs at companies like Microsoft or Google. Geeks are not so productive, tending to have more eclectic interests - including elaborate, selfdesigned costuming and foam faux-weapons — on their minds.

In days past, geeks filled the shoes of wizards and warriors in the pen-and-paper game Dungeons and Dragons. They had to



rely on cumbersome responsibilities such as imagination and mathematical calculation, a burden willingly borne out of steadfast dedication to their art.

But when technology burst onto the worldwide scene, it changed the face of geekdom forever.

When the Internet was brought into the typical teenage household in the mid-1990s, technological culture emerged and geeks' interests began to occupy an increasingly large place in popular culture. Little by little, the world began believing that maybe there was more to being a geek than met the

There is still a great deal of stratification in the geek community, but more people are drawn into this fascination with the make-believe every day. In fact, I'd even venture to say that most people are now "geeks" in some form or fashion.

There are, to me, five levels of geekdom:

First up is the Gateway Geek, a new breed that contains the most casual geeks of all. These range from mothers who want to understand their kids' technological interests to the health-nut who plays games on Nintendo's Wii to exercise in a more interesting manner. Next is the Casual Geek,

which generally comprises

groups of teenage or college students who turn to technology as a cure for perennial boredom. Indicators of this tier can include an unnatural dedication to Web sites such as Facebook or YouTube or to party games like Halo or Guitar Hero.

After that comes the Community Geek, the most casual subset of old-school geekdom. These geeks deeply involve themselves with Internet message boards and games like the online smash-hit World of Warcraft, generally to escape from the stresses of reality.

Our fourth category, the Tweak Geek, includes those who code their own Web sites or play video games in order to master their every detail. Whether brushing up on their JavaScript or posting speed runs of games online, they tend

to squeeze every last ounce of life they can in order to showcase their technological apti-

Last is the Orthodox Geek, those who are well-versed in at least one programming language and can construct modifications that alter the very content of the games they play. These geeks are able to transform technology into a creative tool and truly tailor it to fit their specific needs.

I occupy the community subset - moderate geekdom, if you will. My everpresent need to fuel my creative side through immersion in another world leads me to push past the casual realm of geekdom and into a more committed position.

Brandon Nine is a senior professional writing major from Car-

Editorial

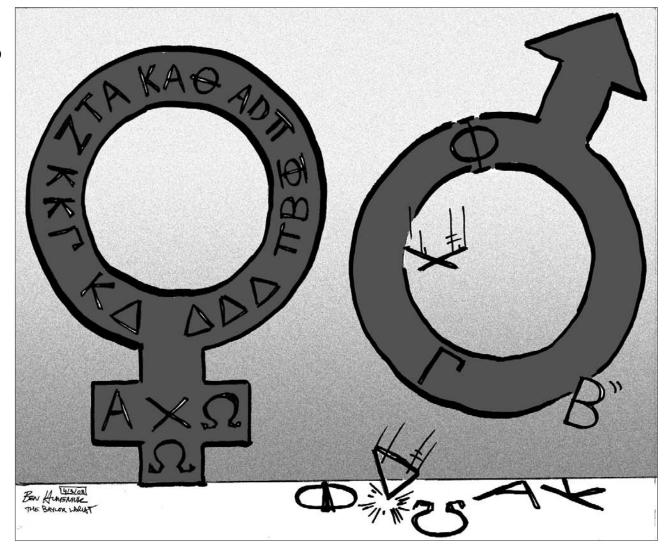
Fraternities need more support

Fraternities are meant to serve a primarily social purpose; they are not expected to function with military levels of control and discipline. But while a certain element of tomfoolery is inherent in the idea of large numbers of college-aged men gathering together, the current level of disorganization within Baylor's male Greek system is disappointing, especially compared to the successful organization of its sororities.

In an April 2 article in The Baylor Lariat, there were three specific organizations cited for floating between active and nonactive status, two that have left campus within the last few semesters and a host of other groups that have "faded" from the official fraternity scene. Surely we can do better

No one is suggesting that fraternities live up to impossible standards, but it shouldn't be too much to ask that they work harder to maintain a consistent image on campus. The same nine sororities have managed to stay afloat, despite setbacks in membership and other problems.

The difference between the male and female counterparts of the Greek system lies largely in the institutional support each receives. While the Panhellenic Council carefully governs sororities and ensures that each group is properly engaged in appropriate activities, the Interfraternity Council is far less attentive. Quality bervision and support are important factors leading to success rates of any organization, and fraternities are no exception. IFC needs to do more



to provide resources for fraternities that are struggling. To do this, they should take a page from the Panhellenic Council and enlist other fraternities in the fight to keep organizations running smoothly. A student was quoted as saying that fraternities banding together to help a declining group "would never happen," but isn't that the crux of fraternity life supporting each other as one brotherhood? Although groups are generally tight-knit amongst themselves, the

support should carry over from group to group. When one organization is unstable, it affects the entire image of fraternities. In order to combat this negative stereotype, brothers need to reach across the Greek alphabet and show a sense of solidarity with each

Additionally, attention to new fraternities should be tempered with more support for existing but struggling ones. Although it may seem easier to start up a new group rather than

put the necessary time and money into an already-troubled group, this pattern is not only a poor example to our student body, but it creates a cycle

If groups are not given adequate support at each stage of development, when troubles arise the natural instinct will be to bail-out and allow a new trat to form. The entire idea of Greek life is based on tradition and camaraderie, and when groups cycle in and out, it's hard to create either.

Opinion policy

The Baylor Lariat welcomes reader viewpoints through letters to the editor and guest col-

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Students owe it to themselves, world to learn about Iraq war

A few days ago Magnum Photos put out a video essay of war photos on the Slate magazine Web site.

The essay, for the most part, was what you'd expect -soldiers carrying guns, crashed planes, and Afghani children sitting around looking destitute. But, the transitions were a

little unexpected. Video game clips popped in and out between the guns and the planes and the children. There they were -little digital soldiers going into a little digital battle.

I was astonished at how Magnum took video games, something that seems so everyday to college students, and put it right up next to something that a large number of Baylor students seem to ignore - the war.

This generation of students that's in college right now saw the advent of war video games. A good number of them are still into things like World of Warcraft and Halo, not quite as realistic, but a war nonetheless.

We've grown up watching more wars on television and through these video games than probably any generation before us. So how can we show a real war so little respect as to not be



educated about in the least?

I know people who can rattle off every winning Sing act and Homecoming float for the past five years, but don't know the body count in Iraq has reached

This carries even more impact for people growing up in Texas with Ft. Hood, the largest Army base in the nation, right down the road.

As of April 1, 398 Texans have died in this war, meaning

we carry almost one-tenth of

I know people who can tell you the updated status of every one of their friends on Facebook, but probably wouldn't be able to tell you who General Petraeus is. Or Benazir Bhutto. Or even Gordon Brown.

They can name every team in the NCAA tournament, but are shocked when they hear American soldiers have now been in Iraq for five years.

I'm not saying that everyone should stop what they're doing and become experts on the issues we face today, but we should at least know the

This ring true for our generation for reasons beyond just generally being a good citizen.

If you're a part of generation MI, there's a good chance that someone you knew growing up is in the military. They might even be in a group already fighting in the Middle East.

We owe it to those people to be knowledgeable about what we're sending them to fight for.

Someone in the military once told me that soldiers are only carrying out a war the American public sends them to fight, and right now that public

The thing is, within this generation, I'm not sure we know enough to give an educated answer and put our support on one side or the other.

So maybe next time you decide to check Facebook, take a look at what's going on in the world instead.

Shannon Daily is a senior journalism major from Houston and a staff writer for The Baylor Lariat.

The Baylor Lariat

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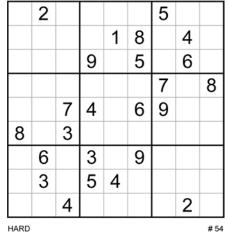
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Newsroom: 710-3407 710-6357 Sports: Entertainment: 710-7228 710-4099 Editor Lariat@baylor.edu

THE Daily Crossword Edited by Wayne Robert Williams

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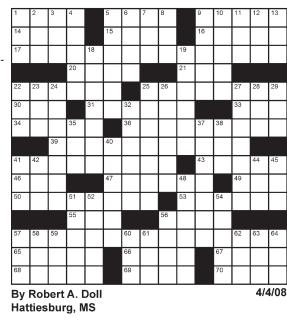
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For today's crossword and sudoku answers, visit www.baylor.edu/Lariat

Martin Unplugs Friday at Zoo

Belinda Colunga Reporter

For anyone looking for a place to hang on Friday night, Cameron Park Zoo is the spot to enjoy a full package of enter-

Martin Hall's annual event, Martin Unplugged, will feature Silsbee freshman Tommy Read and his band Judas Feet, at 5 p.m. Friday at Cameron Park

The event also includes a formal dinner and VIP tour to benefit Alive Campaign for Suicide Prevention.

Although Martin Hall organizes this event every year as an end-of-the-year party, this will be the biggest Martin Unplugged in history, said Andi Nakasone, a junior from Okinawa, Japan and a member of the Alive Campaign.

"It's for a good cause. It's off-campus and something different, and we hope that will be a big draw," he said.

Judas Feet, the band that won Kappa Delta's Battle of the Bands in October, plays "harmonious and roots-feel" music, which is ideal for an evening at the zoo, Read said.

Dinner will be served at 6:30 p.m., so people will enjoy their food while also enjoying the harmonious sound of "Judas Feet." The menu is made up of special Cherry Laurel salad, chicken spaghetti, delicious rolls and famous butter rum cake for dessert.The music is a mixture of blues and folk, but not exactly country.

The band will perform two different sets and the first will begin around 6:30 p.m.

"We as a band will take any opportunity to play a show, and we're even more excited about taking a show that's helping people out," Read said.
"We worked really hard to put everything together, and I think everything will fall into place, so I encourage everyone

Students will not only get a taste of this music, but will also get an exclusive VIP tour of the zoo after the event.

The Cherry Laurel, which caters to several different events statewide, will provide dinner.

Dinner will be served at 6:30 p.m., so people will enjoy their food while also enjoying the harmonious sound of "Judas Feet.'

The menu is made up of special Cherry Laurel salad, chicken spaghetti, rolls and butter rum cake for dessert.

All the profits made that night will go directly to Alive Campaign for their bike ride to Alaska on May 15, their documentary video, and to help donate money to other nonprofit organizations with the

"We hope to tell people our story: how a few hopefuls can truly make a difference, and we hope to raise much-needed funds for the bike trip to Alaska that will be taking place this summer," El Paso junior Justin Brown said.

The event costs \$35 for individuals and \$60 for couples. Purchase tickets at the front desk of Martin Hall.

SHUTTER (PG-13) 12:35 2:40 5:00 7:30 9:50

NEVER BACK DOWN (PG-13) 12:50 7:10

SUPERHERO MOVIE (PG-13) 12:30 2:30 4:55 7:05 9:10

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SUPERSAVER 6 410 N. Valley Mills Dr. 772-1511

JUMPER (PG-13) 12:40 2:50 5:15 7:20 9:25



Pitcher Kirsten Shortridge reaches for the ball during a game against Texas A&M University March 26. Baylor lost 8-0.

Student Senate allots funds for tournament

By Sommer Ingram Staff writer

Student Senate voted Thursday night to allocate funds to members of Delta Epsilon Psi to put on their third annual Sugar-

The Sugarfree Bowl is a flag football tournament that serves a charity fundraising event.

"One thing this event does is bring lots of students together," said Sugar Land senior Nish Shah, president of the frater-

He said the fraternity gets many requests for the spring "It's a big thing that lots of

people look forward to. Lots of people put their hearts and souls into this tournament," Shah said.

All proceeds from the event will go to the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation.

"The reason that our proceeds go to this foundation is because we had a fraternity member in another chapter that passed away from juvenile diabetes,' Shah said. "It's something that affects million of people, but we have been touched by it as a brotherhood, and it kind of brings the issue a little closer to

The senate members voted unanimously put their support behind the fraternity and the

"This is a really awesome event," Kansas City, Kan., senior Thomas Herndon said. "It's one of the bigger sports tournaments that gets puts on here on campus. It's for an amazing cause, and we're really excited about it."

The Sugarfree Bowl will commence April 18 on the rugby fields adjacent to the Baylor Sciences Building.

Second conference win may be 'stepping stone'

Sports writer

If ever there was a time when the Lady Bears (19-12, 2-5) needed an epic win, it was Wednesday night at McCombs Field in Austin against the University of Texas. Sophomore catcher Courtney Oberg delivered just that when she laced a two strike, two out double in the top of the seventh inning to propel the Lady Bears to a 5-4 victory

The Longhorns rallied from a 3-1 deficit in the bottom of the sixth inning to regain a 4-3 lead heading into the final inning. In the seventh, Nicole Wesley reached on a fielder's choice and Brette Reagan drew her second walk of the game. The two advanced on a double steal, setting the stage for Oberg's hero-

"That inning started off great," Oberg said. "I was just trying to go up there and hit that ball hard. I think at that point, it wasn't much as about nerves as we have nothing to lose at this point. We haven't been getting the breaks we wanted, so you just wanted to give everything you have.

The win is just the second conference victory for a struggling Lady Bears team. Baylor fell out of the Top 25 for the first time in nearly five years earlier this week, so as Kirsten Short-ridge said, Wednesday night's game serves as a stepping-stone for a Baylor turnaround.

"The win was a good step, but we are still not there," said Shortridge, who picked up the start in the circle for Baylor. "It was just an awesome feeling. Hopefully it will get us back in the swing of things.

Shortridge pitched 6 1/3 innings, giving up three earned runs on six hits.

Freshman Shaina Brock, who earned second win of the season, came in relief in the sixth inning and allowed one Longhorn run that tied the game.

But after the Lady Bears regained the lead, Shortridge reentered the game in the bottom

of the seventh, retiring three of the four batters she faced, barring any Texas comeback.

I just wanted to go out there and fight," said Shortridge, who also finished the evening 2-for-3 at the plate with an RBI. "That's all I can do - is just trust and

believe in everyone around me." Even with the victory, the Lady Bears remain in the bottom tier of the conference stand-

Yet head coach Glenn Moore and the Lady Bears are not frantic because there are still 11 Big 12 games remaining, and as often seen in college athletics, anything is possible.

This win is huge because we have been trying to turn things around," Oberg said. "This is the win we were looking for that puts us back on the right track. We are better than this, and this is where we finally showed people how good we can be." The Lady Bears continue the

action this weekend as they play host to the University of Kansas at 4 p.m. this Saturday.

Waco community joins

clean-up effort

This Saturday, thousands

of volunteers will take part

in the Don't Mess with Texas

Trash Off, the state's largest

be leading the community-

wide efforts to work on vari-

ous clean up and restoration

projects throughout the city.

Keep Waco Beautiful will

one-day clean-up event.

By Victoria Mgbemena

Baylor Lariat Online Exclusives

State gymnastics meet to be held at Baylor

By Kate Thomas

The Baylor Gymnastics Club will hold the Texas Gymnastics Conference State Meet this Saturday.

According to one member, this is the first non-intramural event to happen in the Student Life Center. Seven other major Texas universities are competing. The club worked hard and

"raised the bar" for the event, the club president said. To do it, the team raised

\$12,000 for equipment, payment to judges, awards, concessions, T-shirts, sweat pants and expenses. They are also charging \$25 per athlete to The event is free to stu-

dents and faculty. The team will sell concessions, T-shirts and sweatpants.

ISSA holds Gateway to India Culture Show

By Jade Ortego

The Indian Subcontinent Student Association will hold the 13th annual Gateway to India Culture Show at 6:30 p.m. Saturday in Waco Hall.

It begins with a flag ceremony showcasing the flags of countries representing ISSA's membership. This will be followed by six musical acts and a short skit. 'It's a good way for Baylor

students to submerse themselves in Indian culture," Chicago sophomore and performer Ann Rajan said. Following the performances, Developments in Literacy

representative Zeba Shah will speak about how DIL helps children in Pakistan get an education. Guests can stay to enjoy Indian appetizers, dessert,

hot chai and live sitar music.

Keep Texas Beautiful is a grassroots organization that focuses on litter prevention, beautification, and waste pre-

vention, and is itself an affiliate of a nationwide organiza-The event falls on the same day as Baylor's campus-wide

community service effort, Steppin' Out. Find the compete text of

these stories at www.baylor. edu/lariat

Considering Abortion?

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6:30 p.m. **Baylor Ballpark**

2:00 p.m.

SYNTURIONS

Spring Football

4:00 p.m.







Godspeed by Ben Humeniuk



FONDREN from page 1

So when she first saw Fondren in Walter Reed Hospital in Washington D.C., the only thing she could think to do

"When I first saw him, I didn't want his parents in the

room. I wanted to be alone," she said. "I wanted to express whatever emotions I wanted, without having to be the tough army wife."

The residual effects were devastating. Along with the loss of his legs and previously dominant thumb, he suffered nerve damage in his left arm and still carries deep scars on both arms and his torso, and now has a lower back condi-

Fondren spent nine months rehabilitating at Walter Reed. While there, he met a 20-year old soldier fraught with depression over his war wounds.

Fondren fed him advice and encouragement, advising him to start small and sit up during television commercials to hasten the recuperation process.

One day, while in the hallway, Fondren ran into the 20-year old's mother and sister. They were elated at the young man's progress. His attitude had changed completely.

But why hadn't Fondren submitted to the same kind of malaise? What kept him from becoming another mental casualty of war?

"Faith, it's absolutely faith," he said. "I immediately knew that God was in control and that it was going to be okay and I didn't have to worry about it. They say that the key to crisis control is Christ control.'

A rocky transition

Fondren's transition to the working world wasn't easy. After coming out of a threeweek coma on Dec. 12, 2004, he was frail and had lost a tremendous amount of weight.

Right after he returned home to Killeen, his wife was actually able to lift him out of his wheelchair and into their

Above all, Fondren's first priority after his release from the hospital was to get back in the rhythm of everyday life.

He had 60 days to out-process from the military, but after that was finished in October of 2005, his life was consumed with uncertainty.

For one, life around the house had changed consider-

ably.
"My wife has had to pick up a lot of responsibilities, like doing stuff around the house," Fondren said. "You want to be able to help, and not being able to do that... it's a little frustrating." Fondren was offered a job

at the Waco bureau of the Veterans Affairs Office upon his return, but he hadn't yet made up his mind. He entertained thoughts

of returning to school or just retiring at 25. Then Anne decided for him.

"About mid-February (2006), my wife looked at me and she goes, 'I can't stand you being in the house anymore," he said. You've got to get out'.'

So on the urging of his wife and a desire to get into the workforce, Fondren joined the VA office in March of 2006.

He currently works to get discharged or injured veterans due compensation for their battle injuries. It's a job for which everybody says Fondren is perfectly suited.

'He'll do whatever it takes," said Ralph Calhoon, who works with Fondren at the Waco VA office. "He's been there, done that, knows what they're going through. If he works one of their claims, he'll do everything he can to get that thing done in a timely manner. If they're entitled to anything, he's going to make sure they get it.'

Fondren said that having been in the shoes of the people for whom he's working has helped him relate to the veterans he serves in a much more personal manner.

"I like working for the VA. It's a rewarding job for me," Fondren said. "When I was in active duty I was serving my country, and this is like a continuation of that."

Throwing the pitch

When Fondren was first approached about throwing out the first pitch for Military Appreciation Day Saturday at Baylor Ballpark, he was thrilled.

'It fell in my lap," Fondren said. "I said 'yeah, I'd like to do it. It'll be fun."

Fondren recently joined

the Baylor Heart of the Order Club, baseball's booster club, for a tour around the Baylor Ballpark facilities, and sat in on a chat from head coach Steve Smith and some of the Śmith mused over the cur-

rent state of the team, some strategies he's explored and inside information on his clubhouse tactics.

It was kind of interesting

to get in on that conversation, Fondren said. "They asked how does he pick his pitchers and how does he pitch (against other teams).

As Fondren throws out the first pitch in a wheelchair he never wanted and with injuries he never hoped to sustain, he'll do so with an attitude more befitting a conquering general than a soldier that's lost both

Even with all that's happened in the past, Fondren is resolute in his mission of looking only forward and accepting his current station in life.

And right now, it's a place he's happy to be.

"I always get choked up about that stuff a little bit," Fondren said, referencing a Baylor crowd Saturday that will assuredly give him a warm reception. "I'm just hoping I don't bounce it. I'm going to have to throw left handed. I've been working a little bit on it. I was thinking, 'I'm in a wheelchair, so I'm a few feet shorter than a pitcher now.' I've got to throw left handed with my offhand, and that got a little bit damaged too. So I've got to put a little extra torque on it."

DUPUY from page 1

cent of the state bar.

"This is the largest growth to occur in a hundred years," Hayes said. "In the past six years, the number of women has been increasing by averages of about 4.7 percent. By 2035, women will become 50 percent of the state bar.'

Hayes said the workplace has a tendency to generalize with catchphrases like "diversity," and lose focus on what is trying to be accomplished.

"Diversity can mean a lot o things," Hayes said. "You have to recognize that you have to accept differences. The best thing you can do is to take those differences, and make them into strengths."

LIFE from page 1

not only gave their blessing, but were intimately involved in this process. "It's going to be a line to

walk. We want to make sure to maintain a tie to Texas Baptists, but we also want the larger umbrella of spiritual life to be seen," Burleson said. "I would say it's the one thing we didn't do right in this process is sit down and talk to students.'

Since Burleson's appointment to the position of chaplain last fall, they've been working to address the spiritual formation of Baylor students and faculty, Oliver said. Right now, the department is in a period of transition, working to bring all of the different areas it encompasses under one roof.

"We have a significant role with regard to the spiritual life of the entire campus, not just with the students. For instance, we hope to start a contemplative service in the

fall that targets faculty," Burleson said.

When University Ministries moves to the student center, the Harris House, the current location of University Ministries staff, will be torn down and the area will be used for green space.

"There was a 'perfect storm,' a new chaplain and our building, The Harris House, being knocked down. So, being in the same space at the Bobo is symbolic of another level of working together," Burleson

While the name change has technically already happened, it will officially debut in August when students return for the fall semester.

Mouser's current position director of Baptist Student Ministries is now posted in the employment section of the BGCT Web site, and is also listed to include the responsibilities of spiritual formation

Reporter Heather Fogt contributed to this article.



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