

ROUNDING UP CAMPUS NEWS SINCE 1900

THE BAYLOR LARIAT

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 19, 2008

Survey results provide insight on faith

By Sommer Ingram
Staff Writer

More than 40 years ago, the first two major surveys of American beliefs and practices were published in *American Piety*. For the first time, Americans could examine the many different facets of religion and the impact on people's lives.

Now, a team of Baylor professors picks up where this survey left off.

Do Americans really believe in Santa Claus? Does God directly speak to people? Should the Bible be taken literally, word-for-word?

These, along with other in-depth questions relating to religion, belief in the supernatural, and the voice of God, comprised the new wave of the National Baylor Religion Survey on Americans' Beliefs and Practices.

Baylor scholars from the Institute for Studies of Religion have released the results from the follow-up to their 2005 landmark study on American religious attitudes.

The results, which are compiled of mailed questionnaires from fall 2007 collected by the Gallup Organization, repre-



Shanna Taylor/Lariat Staff

Hewitt senior Sara Garrett eats during a lunch rush Thursday afternoon in Memorial Dining Hall. "Right after chapel on Monday and Wednesday is insane," Garrett said.

Please see FAITH, page 4

Dining halls work to deal with influx of diners

Editor's note- This is the second installment of the series covering campus overcrowding.

Jade Ortego
Staff Writer

The increase of hungry students on campus has prompted Baylor Dining Services to make changes in order to accommodate the extra mouths.

Still, long lines seem to linger during lunch making a sit-down meal hard to come by.

Based on totals from last week, Baylor Dining Services sales are 11 percent higher than last year, most likely due to Baylor's new freshman class, the second largest in Baylor history.

Baylor has 330 more freshmen compared to last year. The incoming class is at 3,062 students, up from 2,732 incoming freshmen last year, which translates to roughly 200 more diners per meal at Brooks Residential College, Collins Café, Memorial Food Court and Penland Food Court.

Students report some crowding and lines in dining areas, especially at Penland Food Court and the Bear Food Market at the Bill Daniel Student Center.

David Beasley, New Orleans sophomore, said that there are

lines at Penland at 5 p.m., and Thursday he had to wait the longest he's ever had to, which was several minutes.

San Antonio sophomore Dannyele Wilson said that she's been late to class after waiting 10 minutes in line at Penland. "I wanted to eat the food after I got it," she said. "Penland was not the place to be around 12 to 12:30."

Penland Food Court has a capacity of 850 people, and sometimes sees 1,800 people a night, said James Wharton, director of Penland Food Court.

"We're busy at night, especially late night," he said. Penland is the only dining hall that has a late night menu. He said he believes the increase in eating is due to the larger freshman crowd.

Both students also reported crowding in the Bill Daniel Student Center around noon. After waiting in long lines, "it's really hard to find somewhere to eat," Wilson said.

Wilson, who is employed at Java City in the Baylor Science Building, said that the lines could be attributed to understaffing.

Dining services have had to increase their staffing in order

Please see DINING, page 4

Island Party offers free music

By Courtney Webb
Reporter

Free Christian concert festival, inflatable obstacle courses, Chick-Fil-A, a great cause and so much more, all on campus for anyone to enjoy. It's Brothers Under Christ's annual Island Party, featuring the band Kutless.

Brothers Under Christ holds their annual Island Party every year to provide an entertaining evening that focuses on giving glory to God through music, food and fun. The event, which has a \$10,000 budget, will be donating 15 percent of the proceeds to Mission Waco, and 5 percent of the Chick-Fil-A proceeds will go back into the Student Life Fund.

"Student Congress helps to

cover the cost of the bands and the minor details it entails to get them here, along with anything else entertainment related," said senior Ryan Dennison, a member of Brothers Under Christ.

"This an awesome way to attract prospective students and expose Christian involvement."

Justin Farr
Vice President of Brothers Under Christ

The island party will be sponsoring many different bands, such as The 71's, a rock/classical/metal genre to Kris-

ten Warren's soft vocals, along with headliner band Kutless, an alternative Christian rock band from Portland, Ore.

"This is going to be an awesome event; Kutless is an amazing band, along with the rest of our artists performing. We are so blessed to have all these talented people come out and support such a great cause," Dennison said.

Some other performers are Baylor students, such as Grapevine senior Kristen Warren. Others are coming from Arkansas and Oregon, making this event one of the most diverse group performances for Island Party, and they are all coming just for the Waco area, said Dallas senior Justin Farr, vice president of Brothers Under Christ.

"The BYX chapter, which is

the brother fraternity to my fraternity Sigma Phi Lambda, asked me if I was interested in singing at the event, and I couldn't have been more honored do so," Warren said.

Planning for the event has been on-going since the spring of 2008 and the event will be, for the most part, similar to years past.

"There aren't any really big changes other than the bands. I would just say it is a more intimate event than the previous year," Farr said.

Island Party is common on most campuses that house a BYX chapter, and its main purpose is to celebrate the glory of God and His blessings as well as

Please see CONCERT, page 4



Courtesy Photo

Alternative Christian rock band, Kutless, will perform Friday night at the Brothers Under Christ's Island Party. The free event will feature a variety of entertainment and food, as well as performances from students.

Student Government launches new logo and Web site

By Kate Williams
Reporter

New leadership, new ideas and a new logo dominated the discussion at the Student Senate meeting Thursday evening.

Student Body President and Garland senior Bryan Fonville announced a new logo, Web site and other changes being made within student government's communication department.

"Part of the reason for change can be attributed to changes throughout the university," said Fonville. "In this kind

of context of time student government has the opportunity to change."

Student government is launching a new logo, Web site and an updated communication department in an effort to better highlight student government's activity on campus.

The new idea logo stems from the lack of identity student government shares with the student body, Fonville said.

Most students on campus do not identify programs such as Steppin' Out and the Bear Pit with student government,

even though the ideas for these programs began there, Fonville said.

"The one we were operating on before wasn't proven to be effective for communicating to an external audience," Fonville said. "We need something to communicate our affiliation with Baylor."

"We want people to be able to recognize student government as an active force on the Baylor campus," said Chelsea Saylor, Rowlette senior and Fonville's communication director.

By having a logo, student

government will be more easily identifiable with the program they financially support, Saylor said.

Fonville and his cabinet are also focusing on creating a bigger and better communication team that includes a photographer, historian, public relations committee and web designer.

The additional staff will focus on creating various communication outlets that are directed toward students.

Ideas include town hall meetings, where students can voice their concerns; a rede-

signed newsletter; and the BU tube – a remodeled "green and gold" version of YouTube that posts speeches from Student Senate meetings.

By adding the communication team members, Fonville said he hopes to reach out to students in a different way.

"Our hope is that through more effective and creative communication, student government can more accurately and efficiently voice student concerns," Fonville said.

Phoenix senior and chief of staff Caleb Gallifant said stu-

dent government is trying to engage the student body more. "If we are going to respond to student body we need to learn how engage them."

Gallifant is working with Fonville on engaging the administration, faculty, and students.

"These are the kind of changes we want to see be made this year as we are getting closer to the mid-point in 2012," said Fonville. "The needs of the student body are changing and the kind of things we need to do to reach out to students is really different."

Diversity enhances college experience for students

Baylor University trumpeted the diversity of the incoming class, and this was perplexing to me.

How would a diverse class promote a better Baylor experience?

The obvious contributions of high academic achievers are understandable because they propel Baylor's standing among the countries top universities, but the benefits of class diversity are much less obvious.

Transferring to Baylor from a small-town junior college has brought many new opportunities and opened my eyes on a

personal level to the rich tapestry that diversity offers.

It is my good fortune to have a roommate whose family is from the country of El Salvador. Prior to our meeting, I am ashamed to admit El Salvador was a total mystery.

Having my intellectual curiosity piqued about this small Latin American Country has brought to life the description of El Salvador as a land nestled between volcanoes and the Pacific Ocean. The country is bordered by Honduras and Guatemala. I was also surprised to learn that El Salvador is also home to the second

point of view



BY EMILY HAMMON

largest city in Central America, San Salvador.

Rooming with a Spanish speaker is allowing me to fulfill a goal that until now has been unattainable.

Four years of Spanish has still not allowed me to be conversant in this beautiful language.

My new roommate, Sara, has pledged to speak to me in her native tongue, so I will finally be able to carry on a conversation with a native speaker.

This unexpected gift is such a blessing and a bonus Baylor has given with its diverse incoming class.

The diversity of Baylor's fall 2008 class reflects the inclusion of 31 percent of racial or ethnic minorities students.

The demographic breakdown as reported by Baylor's Institutional Research and Testing Department reports that African-Americans make up 7.9 percent,

Alaskans/American Indians 1 percent, Asian/Pacific Islanders 7.7 percent and Hispanics 12.7 percent of the minority student population.

The largest number of students not from the United States are from the countries of China, Korea and Mexico.

These statistics came to life for me at the Mosaic Mixer sponsored by the Department of Multicultural Activities.

Upon arrival, I was greeted by the Asian Club and invited to join their group.

Everyone was kind and welcoming. It was unexpected that

students were welcomed as friends and not segregated by race.

The "differences and unlike-nesses" I have encountered during my short time at Baylor have made a positive impact on my life. We have a common thread as students at Baylor University, and this is an excellent starting point.

I look forward to learning more about the unique cultures and individuals that Baylor is so proud to have.

Emily Hammon is a junior church music major from Pensacola, Fla.

Editorial

Presidential search too critical to just settle

The Baylor Board of Regents is facing the immense task of selecting a permanent president. Over the upcoming months, possibly years, board members will devote countless hours to a national presidential search. With any luck, regents will be able to agree on a Baptist — and not a Baptist who converts two days after the board selects him as president.

Becoming Baptist right after being named president cheapens Baylor's requirement that the president be a Baptist. The fact that the board unanimously elected former President John Lilley, a ruling elder at the First Presbyterian Church of the Covenant in Reno before becoming president of Baylor, makes it seem like the regents consider religious belief as nothing more than lip service. Neither regents nor presidential candidates should exploit the ease of converting denominations.

The Lariat reported that Lilley planned to start attending First Baptist Church Waco the Sunday after the board unanimously elected him Friday. A mere five days after that momentous Sunday, Lilley identified himself as a Baptist, saying "You don't move to a top-tier university, and you don't deal with the intentionality of it being a Christian university in the Baptist tradition without Baptists, as we love to do, disagreeing. But Baptists also come together." It takes some nerve to criticize a church you joined five days ago.

But the "coming together" of Baptists here at Baylor didn't happen under Lil-



ley's leadership.

Granted, the woes of Lilley's administration can't be attributed to his religion. A 2005 poll at the University of Nevada at Reno, where Lilley served as president before coming to Baylor, revealed that only 17 of 281 faculty and staff members felt the campus had a healthy morale.

Despite evidence to the contrary, Will Davis, board chairman when Lilley was elected, had glowing remarks of Lilley. "At every place of service in his career, Dr. Lilley has been known as a consensus builder. His collaborative approach involving governing boards, faculty, staff, alumni, students and friends has allowed him to lead the campuses he served through periods of dramatic growth and enhancement," Davis said. Lilley failed to unite all the Baylor families.

Davis commented in another Lariat article that the board was aware of Lilley's controversial presidency at UNR but thought he was still the best candidate.

With any luck, the best candidate this time around will already be knowledgeable about the delicate social climate of Baylor. An administrator at a private college or university would probably better understand the network of relationships that must be respected and preserved for overall university harmony.

After all, the presidency of Baylor is a much different role than the presidency of a large, public university. Unlike state universities, our board conducts meetings in private.

Also, the Baptist General Convention of Texas and the board members them-

selves elect board members. At state schools, the task of appointing regents falls on the governor.

Given differences such as these, a Baptist with deep Baylor roots (deeper than obtaining a degree from our university as Lilley did) will understand the importance of fostering and nurturing relationships between all parties with a vested interest in Baylor, from the faculty to the Baptist General Convention of Texas.

Throughout the search process, perhaps the board should take heed of an old piece of advice usually said in reference to dating and marriage: never settle. If profession of the Baptist faith is an inherent component of the presidency of Baylor University, the board shouldn't settle for anything less.

Opinion policy

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

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

Letters to the editor should include the writer's name, major, graduation year, phone number and student identification number. Non-student writers should include their address. Letters that focus on an issue affecting students or faculty may be considered for a guest column at the editor's discretion.

All submissions become the property of The Baylor Lariat. The Lariat reserves the right to edit letters for grammar, length, libel and style.

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

The Baylor Lariat is committed to ensuring fair and accurate reporting and will correct errors of substance on Page 2. Corrections can be submitted to the editor by sending an e-mail to Lariat_letters@baylor.edu or by calling 254-710-4099.

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Definition of patriotism is more green than red, white and blue

Hey fellow middle-classers, I've got some bad news. If Obama gets elected, you and I and anyone else making less than \$250,000 won't get to be patriotic anymore.

At least, that's what his running mate, Sen. Joe Biden, told ABC's Kate Snow on Good Morning America Thursday:

BIDEN: "We want to take money and put it back in the pocket of middle-class people."

SNOW: "Anybody making over \$250,000--?"

BIDEN: "Is going to pay more."

SNOW: "Is going to pay more."

BIDEN: "You got it. It's time to

be patriotic, Kate. Time to jump in. Time to be part of the deal. Time to help get America out of the rut."

So congratulations, members of the upper class. Way to go, Silicon Valley. As if you haven't done enough for America with your innovative accomplishments and your gadgety glory, now you get to be more patriotic, too.

Thank you so much for loving your country, helping us normal folks break the bonds of oppression we face in this wretched economy. While we'll reap the benefits of your loyalty, you'll save the day — you'll "rut" out America.

However, for all you teachers,

point of view



BY ASHLEY KILLOUGH

government workers and average incomers, things don't look so great for your patriotic status — you're actually receiving a tax break.

And in an Obamerica, unless you're dicing out some serious cash to the government, you just don't love your country as much as you think. But keep up the good work.

And to those of you who have

served in the military but aren't making enough money, I guess you won't be considered patriotic anymore, either. Sorry, ya'll. Thanks anyway.

A few words of advice for those of us who will have to adjust: don't try and get away with wearing lapel pins and flying the flag outside your home — that's only fake patriotism. Unless you're wearing that pin on an Aramani suit or flying that flag outside a mansion, you're nothing but a wannabe.

Saying the pledge of allegiance and singing the national anthem won't count either. If you truly want pay tribute to the flag, the IRS better be feeling the love.

And celebrate Independence Day with fireworks, barbeque and country music? Forget it. You have to be a card-carrying member of the 250K-club to truly party Biden-style on the Fourth.

But wait. Mr. Obama said in a June 30th speech that "true patriotism cannot be forced or legislated with a mere set of government programs. Instead, it must reside in the hearts of our people, and cultivated in the heart of our culture, and nurtured in the hearts of our children."

Hm. That sounds more familiar. Perhaps Obama should have a chat with his weepster before the next time he gets all excited, calling for hard-working Americans

to beef up their country loyalty with their hard-earned money. But I have a hunch he won't.

It's good to know that patriotism is more green than red, white and blue.

I was thinking about pursuing a career in journalism, writing important stories to keep my fellow Americans informed and my government accountable.

But if Joe Biden says I can be patriotic by earning more money, only to have it taken away, then by golly forget newspapers — I'm going into investment banking!

Ashley Killough is a senior international studies and journalism major from Plano and a staff writer for The Baylor Lariat.

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THE SAUNDRAL OF PUZZLES By The Mapham Group

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THE Daily Crossword

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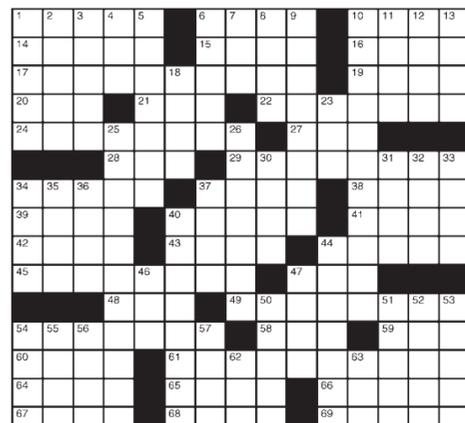
ACROSS

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- 5 Egocentric
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- 25 B, literally
- 26 Brussels ___
- 30 Harangue
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- 51 Party invitee
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- 63 Shade



By Arlan and Linda Bushman
Chicago, IL
9/19/08

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

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Students transfer with help of council

By Janna Quinn
Reporter

Transfer students can adjust to a new semester at a new school with the help of Baylor Transfer Council.

Eleven transfers were inducted into the council Tuesday.

The organization was chartered in 1995 and is made up of only transfer students. Baylor Transfer Council helps students transition more easily into university life through the common bond they all share.

"BTC is a group designed for transfer students to basically feel part of a small group community," said Keane Tarbell, associate director for new student programs and adviser for the transfer council.

Tarbell said he feels that transfers are a unique group, because unlike freshman, this is not their first time in college. The council's aim is to connect them with other transfers.

"It's a different experience. You're (transfers) not coming in with the unknown experience of the first-time college feel," League City senior Megan Ruppert said. "You already have knowledge of what's happening," Ruppert has been a mem-

ber of the council since 2006.

Sugar Land senior Lynsey Freeman, Baylor Transfer Council president, said it was difficult transferring to a new place. "I didn't know anybody," she said. "It seemed like everyone else around me had already made their connections and knew people."

Hampton, Iowa, junior Jenalee Schwab said she also found it hard to meet people.

Many people already had friends from Welcome Week and Baylor Line Camp, she said.

"The worst part was the distance from home," she said. "In BTC, I met other people from other states that I could talk to and relate to."

Lake Jackson sophomore Jessica Ebach said she feels it is important to know people who relate to her experience.

"It helps because you're around students who have gone through the same thing, so they can help with any problems you might have," she said.

Ebach transferred from University of Texas this fall and was inducted on Tuesday.

The organization allows transfer students, who choose to join, to get to know each other, Freeman said.

"It's a small, close-knit group

of people," she said.

Many Baylor traditions that are typically designed for freshman, such as University 1000 and Freshman Mass Meeting, are now catering to transfer students.

The council now encourages members to attend the Mass Meeting, and to keep in mind that it is for all new students, Tarbell said.

University 1000, in which new students meet with a faculty member for six weeks, is

"I enjoy the character and camaraderie of the group."

Keane Tarbell
Associate Director

open to transfer students this year. For transfer students it is called BU1000 and has the goal to introduce them to Baylor rather than college.

The council is composed of the outreach, service and social committees. Outreach committee plans mixers and finds ways to introduce new transfer students to the council. Service

committee looks for opportunities to give back to Baylor and Waco, and social committee plans events for current members to bond through, like tailgating at football games and end-of-semester banquets.

This year, the council is making some additions. "We are implementing family systems, similar to those in the greek organizations, in order to forge connections that might not have been made otherwise," Freeman said.

The reason is to promote fellowship among the members, Freeman said.

"I just want transfers to feel like they have somewhere to go to," said Woodlands junior Lynsey Loveless, a new member who transferred from Blinn College in Brenham.

"BTC has become like a second home to me," Freeman said. "I hope it becomes like that to other transfers, like a safe haven."

Tarbell said he enjoys the dynamics of the council members.

"I enjoy the character and camaraderie of the group," Tarbell said. "I love how real and raw and open the conversation can be. Everyone is hungry to learn from each other."



Shanna Taylor/Lariat Staff

Who you looking at?

'Mama' snacks on Fountain Mall while League City junior Rebecca Mersinger looks on. The Baylor Riding Association brought several horses to campus Thursday afternoon to generate interest in the club.

BEAR BRIEFS

Student productions will open auditions for After Dark in the Campus Programming Center of the Bill Daniel Student Center. Auditions are Sep. 29 and Sept. 30. For more information, please visit http://www.baylor.edu/student_productions.

Alpha Chi Omega is hosting Frisbee Fling, a two-day Ultimate Frisbee Tournament starting 4 p.m. Friday and lasting until 6 p.m. Saturday in the Baylor Sciences Building Fields.

CONTACT US

The Guerrilla Improv Comedy Troupe will be presenting an improv comedy show at 11 p.m. tonight in room 126 of the Hooper-Schaefer Fine Arts Center.

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Crime Blotter

The following incidences occurred on or around the Baylor campus.

Narcotics

An extended territory arrest, possession of a controlled substance, occurred at the 1300 block of S. University Parks Drive, at 12:30 a.m. Thursday. This case has been cleared by arrest.

Possession of marijuana under 2 oz. occurred at 12th and Daughtrey Street at 1:30 p.m. Monday. This case has been cleared by arrest.

Theft

A theft over \$50 but under \$500 reportedly occurring at the Robinson Tower, was reported on Monday. This case has been suspended.

Harassment

Phone harassment reportedly occurred at Alexander Hall between 11:35 p.m. on Sunday and 1:00 a.m. on Monday. This case has been suspended.

Criminal Mischief

Reportedly occurred at lot 3 located at Baylor and Eighth Street sometime between 3:20 p.m. and 3:36 p.m. Tuesday. This case has been referred to Judicial Affairs.

Automobile Accident

An accident with failure to stop and identify reportedly occurred at the intramural field located at 2200 S. University Parks Drive sometime between 10:00 p.m. and 11:00 p.m. Wednesday. This case has been suspended.

An accident with failure to stop and identify reportedly occurred at lot 37, the Speight Plaza Parking Garage, sometime between 3:20 p.m. and 5:45 p.m. Wednesday. This case has been suspended.

Information compiled from the Baylor Police Department crime log.

For the full report of the crime log visit www.baylor.edu/

By Joe Holloway
Sports Writer

When Baylor (2-1) takes on the University of Connecticut (3-0) Friday night under the lights of Rentschler Field and the cameras of ESPN 2, the Bears put their two-game win streak on the line against a very capable Huskies team.

After putting together consecutive 40-plus point games against Northwestern State University and Washington State University, should the Bears be worried?

Possibly. "It's very inspiring and challenging," head coach Art Briles said of the challenge. "I like it and our team will like it. We are anxious and ready to get on the road and face the world."

After the season opening loss to No. 18 Wake Forest University, Baylor found out that it couldn't quite keep up with the top-25 crowd.

The lopsided win over Northwestern State showed the Bears were better than any non-BCS conference team and the victory over the Pac-10's Washington State proved that they're better than some of the lesser teams from BCS conferences.

A win over the Huskies, who received 13 votes in the Associated Press Top 25 rankings, would be a huge step for the Bears before heading into conference play.

But huge steps are never easy to come by, and this will definitely be the case against Connecticut partly because of the Huskies defense and partly because it's the first trip for the young squad.

"It's pretty fun because you get to see all the guys that have never flown before getting nervous," senior defensive tackle Vincent Rhodes said. "Once we get there we really get a chance to see who the real fans are."

The Huskies biggest threat comes in the form of their 5-foot-10-inch, 208-pound junior running back Donald Brown.

In three games this year, Brown put together 566 yards



Alex Song/Lariat staff

Jordan Lake (21) leads the defense back onto the field after finishing the first quarter Aug. 28 against Wake Forest. Tonight's 7:30 p.m. game against Connecticut will be the first road test for the Bears.

with eight touchdowns on 79 carries and is coming off two consecutive 200-plus yard efforts against Temple University and the University of Virginia.

"He is an extremely gifted back," Briles said. "The thing that I see on tape when I watch him is that he has great balance, good vision and explosive. His lateral movement is very good. He is going to be a guy that our defense will be anxious to get on the field with because it will be a good test for us."

Coincidentally, Brown's biggest game on the ground came in Connecticut's closest game, a 12-9 win over Temple, when he railed off 214 yards.

The key for the Owls was limiting the damage done by those runs as they limited the Huskies to just one touchdown.

The Bears, who only gave up 77 yards rushing to Washington State, will have to do the same.

The Bears will also have to

keep an eye on Connecticut's senior quarterback Tyler Lorenzen.

While his 394 yards and single touchdown aren't quite the same as Baylor freshman quarterback Robert Griffin's 548 yards and four touchdowns, behind Brown, Lorenzen has the second most rushing yards on the team and averages about 50 yards per game on the ground.

Griffin certainly won't be the best dual-threat quarterback on the field, but the Bears will need to keep an eye on him nonetheless.

Speaking of Griffin, he and sophomore running back Jay Finley may find it hard to repeat their combined 336-yard Washington State performances against Connecticut.

The Huskies rank No. 13 in rushing defense, only giving up an average 66.3 yards per game on the ground.

If Connecticut can put a lock on the Bears' running game, it

could mean that Griffin, who has shown flashes of passing greatness, will have to go to the air more often than he has in the first three games of the season.

But passing against the Huskies is no sure thing either.

The huskies have the No. 27 pass defense in the nation as well, giving up only 162.7 yards per game through the air.

The Huskies have plenty of experience with senior Dahn Deleston and junior Robert Vaughn as safeties and senior Darius Butler as cornerback.

Look for Griffin to pick on sophomore corner Jasper Howard, the youngest player of the squad.

Another key for Baylor will be for freshman kicker Ben Parks to nail all extra points and field goals the rest of the team can put him in position to make.

After struggling in the first two games of the season, Parks improved against Washington State.

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*MY BEST FRIEND'S GIRL (R) 12:40 3:05 5:20 7:35 9:55

*IGOR (PG) 12:35 2:55 5:15 7:45 9:50
*GHOST TOWN (PG-13) 1:10 3:25 5:40 7:55 10:15
BANGKOK DANGEROUS (R) 12:45 3:10 5:30 7:50 10:00
THE HOUSE BUNNY (PG-13) 12:20 2:30 5:00 7:15 9:40
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KUNG FU PANDA (PG) 12:40 2:45 5:00 7:25 9:40
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DINING from page 1

to accommodate the large influx of students.

"Beyond the routine hiring for this fall, we have also been proactive in adding some extra staff," said Brett Perlowski, director of Baylor Dining Services.

Similarly, Chili's Too, in Dutton Parking Garage, hired more people and increased the numbers in their student worker program.

Chili's Too staff didn't anticipate the added business, "but we've already fixed that problem," said Ursula Castillo, director of Chili's Too. "Sales have

"Beyond the routine hiring for this fall, we have also been proactive in adding some extra staff."

Brett Perlowski
Director of Baylor Dining Services

increased quite a bit with the new students coming in," she said.

Monday, Wednesday and Friday are the busiest days in the dining halls, Wharton said.

Perlowski elaborated: "Wednesday at 12 p.m. continues to be the busiest meal period for the week in most dining facilities, but with the multiple locations, to-go options and proper planning, we are able to maintain a good flow in and out of our residential locations."

Perlowski said that he personally hasn't gotten any complaints about crowding.

CONCERT from page 1

share that with the campus and community, Island Party promoters posted on Web site.

This year, free food will not be offered, but Chick-Fil-A stepped in to help.

"Thankfully Chick-Fil-A has volunteered to sell food at the event, but if you buy a T-shirt you receive a \$1-off coupon towards your Chick-Fil-A purchase, which is helpful," Dennison said.

The music isn't the only form of entertainment available at The Island Party. Games and additional food choices will be offered.

"Bungee basketball, inflatables, popcorn, cotton candy and all of this contributes to our goal: giving back to the community with help of the students," Dennison said.

Warren is enthusiastic about being apart of an even that is helping Mission Waco.

"It's my favorite place to volunteer in the area and I just love what Mission Waco stands for and can't imagine partnering with anyone else," Warren said.

The Island Party is one of many events during Baylor University's Fall Premiere, which is an opportunity for potential students and their parents to tour the campus, meet faculty, staff and students.

"This an awesome way to attract prospective students and expose Christian involvement with the student body and community," Farr said.

Brothers Under Christ has not pin-pointed an amount they want to raise, but are expected to raise a sizeable donation.

"Anything is awesome, Mission Waco and us (Brothers Under Christ) will be happy with \$100 to \$1000; every bit helps," Dennison said.

The Island Party is from 5 p.m. to midnight tonight at Fountain Mall. Admission is free and it is open to the public.



Alex Song/Lariat Staff

So long sweet summer

The steeples of Draper Academic Building, Burleson Hall and Old Main are silhouetted Thursday against one of the last summer sunsets. The first day of fall begins Sept. 22, together with the fall equinox.

FAITH from page 1

sent a national sample of 1,648 English-speaking Americans aged 18 and older. The John M. Templeton Foundation provided funding.

The initial results of the survey were presented at a press conference for Texas media Sept. 9 in the Kronzer Courtroom of the Baylor Law School. The team of researchers formally announced the results during a briefing in Washington, D.C. at 9:45 a.m. Thursday.

Results were embargoed until that time.

"We are confident in saying we have a national random sample not skewed in any way and that represents a good cross section of the country," said Dr. Carson Mencken, professor of sociology and research director for the institute.

The first wave of the study was conducted in 2005, and included questions that dealt with controversial books, such as the Da Vinci Code, whether Americans are truly losing their religion, and how often Americans pray.

"Our mission is to ask deeper questions," said Dr. Christopher Bader, assistant professor of sociology and director of the Baylor Surveys of Religion. "We take every question you'd see on any other survey and push it up several more levels."

The results of the most recent study were published in "What Americans Really Believe," written by Dr. Rodney Stark, Distinguished Professor of the social sciences and co-director of ISR.

The book will be available in stores Sept. 19.

"We have so many chapters in this book we think are impor-

tant stories that we'll be able to tell over the next year," said Dr. Byron Johnson, professor of sociology and co-director of the Institute for Studies of Religion.

Participants in the study had to identify what religious denomination they could most accurately identify themselves as, as well as the name of their current place of worship.

The questionnaire included questions about the strictness and structure of the church, and spiritual experiences.

The study found that 20 percent of the population has heard God speak to them, 16 percent believe they have received a miraculous physical healing, and 55 percent believe they have been protected from harm by a guardian angel.

Women, blacks and Republicans are more likely to have spiritual experiences.

"I was groping in the dark with these questions because no one's ever done this," Stark said. "But these figures absolutely knocked me down."

It is widely believed among the media that Bible believers are a naive and superstitious people.

The Baylor survey found that belief in traditional Christian values actually decreases the tendency to be superstitious, as measured by beliefs in the paranormal and occult. The religion survey was also the first to ever ask about a belief in Santa Claus.

"An argument out there says that these beliefs are the same as religion," Bader said. "They think that believing in UFOs is as crazy as believing in the divinity of Jesus. But we have been able to discount the fact that Christians will believe anything."

The researchers also assessed the attitudes of various churches to issues in the general culture.

Fifty-two percent of the population said their place of worship would forbid abortion, while 32 percent said their church would merely discourage it.

Only 44 percent of the population said their church would forbid homosexual behavior, and 38 percent of church members said their church would forbid premarital sex.

"Our mission is to ask deeper questions. We take every question you'd see on any other survey and push it up several more levels."

Christopher Bader
Assistant professor of sociology and director of the Baylor Surveys of Religion

Despite the myth that the Atheist population is growing, the study found that the percentage of Atheists living in America hasn't changed from 4 percent of the population over the past 60 years.

Fifty-six percent of Americans who claim to be irreligious actually pray.

Megachurches, which are congregations comprised of more than 1,000 members, were also addressed in the study.

"None of the things we all believe about megachurches are true," Stark said. "The images we all get in our heads of a symphony orchestra accompanying the choir each Sunday with a bunch of hoopla and a great collection of a big theatre audience — all

wrong."

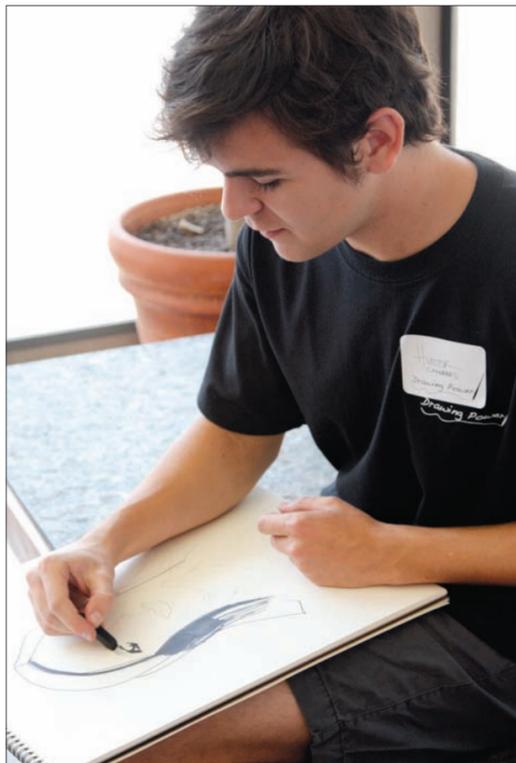
It is a widely-held belief that one must worship in a small congregation in order to have an intimate relationship with God, but the study shows that mega-church members actually display a higher level of personal commitment by attending services, tithing, and attending a Bible study group.

People in megachurches also participate in more outreach activities and witness to others more: 83 percent of the mega-church population had shared their faith with a friend within the past month, compared to 52 percent in small churches.

"I was amazed at how connected these people at megachurches are," Mencken said. "I've heard stories that a church service there is like going to a football game. But the survey reveals that these people are very much networked into the church through friends."

The team will continue their research until 2018 and will come out with new studies every other year. The gap between myths surrounding the religious attitudes of Americans and what Americans really believe is continuously shrinking as these Baylor professors persist in their research.

"We wanted to make sure we weren't creating something only conservatives would respond to, or something unreligious people would be so annoyed by that they'd throw it away," Bader said. "But no matter where people fell on the spectrum, they wanted to tell us about it. We are confident that we have a snapshot of what religion looks like in the United States, and that for years to come we will be able to decipher trends and patterns that we can't see now."



Christina Kruse/Lariat Staff

Drawing from inspiration

Nacogdoches junior Hunter Chambers draws caricatures at the Drawing Power Exhibit opening reception Thursday in the W.R. Poage Legislative Library.

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