

ROUNDING UP CAMPUS NEWS SINCE 1900

THE BAYLOR LARIAT

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 22, 2008

Election '08

Main Early Voting Site:

McLennan County
Elections
Administration Office
Records Building
214 North Fourth Street,
Suite 300
Waco, Texas 76701

Branch Early Voting Sites:

Robinson City Hall
111 W. Lyndale Ave.
Robinson, TX 76706

City of Waco's
Multi-Purpose Community
1020 Elm St.
Waco, Texas 76704

Lacy Lakeview Civic
Center
503 E. Craven Ave.
Waco, Texas 76705

First Assembly of God
Church
6701 Bosque Blvd.
Waco, Texas 76710

Polling times:

Oct. 20 to Oct. 24
8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Oct. 25
7 a.m. to 7 p.m.

Oct. 26
1 p.m. to 6 p.m.

Oct. 27 to Oct. 31
7 a.m. to 7 p.m.

What to Bring:

Voter registration card
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Downtown Waco may get revamp

By Chad Shanks
Staff Writer

Waco officials presented a proposal to the Waco City Council yesterday for a community-based master plan for the development of the Greater Downtown area.

City manager Larry Groth and Greater Waco Chamber President James Vaughan requested the Council's support in securing public and private funds and the selection of consultants for their "Greater Downtown Plan."

The plan is a community-visioning project aimed at attracting half of Waco's estimated population growth over the next 40 years to live in the Greater Downtown area. The area is a designated portion of Waco covering seven square miles, stretching from Quinn Campus in East Waco to 18th Street and from Interstate 35 to Waco Drive.

"We must transform Greater Downtown into an important and sustainable place that attracts residents, visitors, and investors because it is where they want to be," Vaughan said.

Vaughan and Groth said they want the city to set the foundations for downtown growth by planning land use, transportation, economic development and attractions to accommodate 100,000 people living downtown by 2050, up drastically from the 18,000 who currently live there. In addition, they want to see downtown employment increase from the 16,000 people working there currently to 65,000 by 2050.

"We need to plan so we can



Alex Song/Lariat Staff

Austin Avenue Flats is the latest addition to the renovations of downtown Waco made by the city council. The flats are estimated to be completed by December and will feature 49 loft residences.

realize where our best opportunities are," Vaughan said. "Without a plan, I'd be very surprised to ever see 100,000 people living downtown."

The plan also called for the formation of "1,000 Friends of Waco," a group intended to

gather community input for what they want to see happen downtown.

"If the Greater Downtown vision is as big and bold as we envision, we'll need at least 1,000 citizens to help us develop this vision and implement

strategies," Vaughan said.

Vaughan and Groth also recommended bringing in a nationally recognized team of consultants with experience in city planning, to help guide the community in shaping its growth. They have already con-

tacted several firms, including Fregonese Associates, Gideon-Toal, and Kennedy-Coulter.

Councilman Randy Riggs expressed concerns about the cost of bringing in outside

Please see **REVAMP**, page 4

Reading series wraps up with author lecture

By Jacqueline Deavenport
Reporter

Ray Bradbury biographer, Sam Weller, will make a stop in Waco to discuss One Book, One Waco's Big Read, "Fahrenheit 451."

As part of a community-wide reading series, The Big Read, One Book, One Waco and the Honors Residential College will feature the biographer in a lecture from 3:30 to 4:30 p.m. Thursday in the Alexander Reading Room in the Honors Residential College. The event is free and open to everyone.

The Big Read and One Book, One Waco announced "Fahrenheit 451," as the community-wide reading selection for fall 2008. "Fahrenheit 451" recounts the story of a future society in which books are outlawed and burned by firemen.

Weller's presentation, "Burning Books? Shining Light on 'Fahrenheit 451,'" will address the life of the infamous author, Ray Bradbury, and the thoughts behind his book, "Fahrenheit 451." This is the last event in a series of community events about the novel.

"Ray Bradbury doesn't travel much these days, so the fact that we were able to get his biographer was exciting for us," Garland senior and student body president Bryan Fonville said. Fonville serves as vice chair for One Book, One Waco.

Weller, born January 31, 1967, is an American journalist and author, best known for his 2005 book "The Bradbury Chronicles: The Life of Ray Bradbury," winner of the 2005 Society of Midland Authors Award for Best Biography and a finalist for the Bram Stoker Award. Weller, born in Lake Forest, Ill., said he has been a lifelong fan of fellow Illinois native Ray Bradbury.

In addition to writing two books, Weller is the former Midwest Correspondent for Publisher's Weekly. Weller is also a regular contributor for the Chicago Tribune and the Chicago Sun-Times. He is also a contributing writer for the Chicago Public Radio program 848, and his work has appeared on the National Public Radio program All Things Considered.

Weller also lectures frequently on the life and works of Ray Bradbury, and he is a full-time faculty member of the Fiction Writing Department at Columbia College in Chicago.

"We just view this as a way Baylor at large can show its support for the surrounding community," said K. Sarah Jane Murray, associate professor and Honors College faculty master.

One Book, One Waco's vision is to bring together the diverse people of Waco in open dialogue. The mission of the organization is to

Please see **BOOK**, page 4



Christina Kruse/Lariat Staff

"When my books appear on Amazon, they are either (marked) five stars or one star, nothing in between," said former professor Dr. William Dembski to students Tuesday night at Rogers Engineering and Computer Science Building.

Professor's views test Darwinian evolution theory

By Amanda Ochoa
Reporter

A rocky past with Baylor University didn't stop former Baylor professor Dr. William A. Dembski from discussing the controversial issue of intelligent design during his lecture, organized by members of the aspiring Baylor chapter of American Scientific Affiliation.

Dembski's lecture, titled "Darwin's Unpaid Debt," focused on biological complexity, information and design as the primary keys to evolution. Dembski's view is ignored by Darwin's theory of evolution, which specifically targets natural selection as the only reason for evolution.

"Darwin's Theory cannot be the whole story to life as we

know it," Dembski said. "We need to connect the dots that structure all biological systems."

Dembski suggested in his lecture that there is a whole realm of biological complexities that Darwin didn't know about and that there has to be an intelligent design within evolution to create variation and change, giving evolution a never-ending future.

Evolution is all about borrowing information from previous evolutionary instances, which is why such complex biological structures and functions can be built, he said. But what we need to ask ourselves is: where does that information come from?

Please see **THEORY**, page 4

Science building extends hours

By Molly MacEwan
Reporter

If the Baylor Sciences Building could talk Monday night, it might have said, "It's a late night tonight."

Monday was the first late night of many for the Baylor Sciences Building. With new, extended hours the building was open until midnight. The new times are 1 p.m. to midnight on Sunday, 7 a.m. to midnight Monday through Thursday, and 7 a.m. to 10 p.m. Friday and Saturday.

According to Dr. James Karban, director of sciences facilities, the building is not open until midnight on Fridays and Saturdays because that is when the least amount of students are on campus.

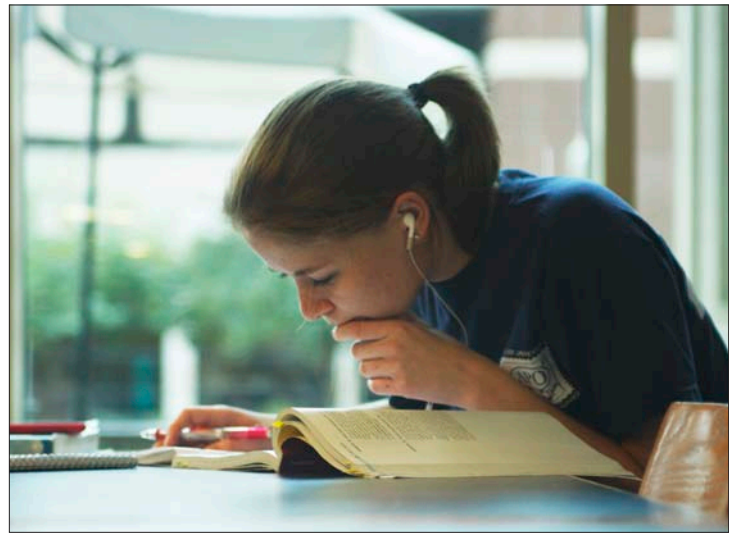
The new times are part of a pilot project that will continue throughout the fall. After 10 p.m. the building will be acces-

sible by swiping a Baylor ID card at the South entrance, the door closest to the McLane Student Life Center. The entry method, which is the same at Moody and Jones libraries, is to ensure safety by only allowing current Baylor students, faculty and staff admission to the building. The staff is asking students to be prompt about leaving at the closing times.

"We had a few students hesitant to leave Monday night," Karban said.

Leaving the lights on is not the only thing that goes into the extended hours. "It seems like it would be a simple process," he said. "But there are a lot of complicated factors that determine it's success." To accommodate the change of times, new staff had to be hired. "Housekeeping adjusted their schedules,"

Please see **HOURS**, page 4



Shanna Taylor/Lariat Staff

Arlington senior Suzannah Rice studies at a table Wednesday afternoon in the Ken and Celia Carlisle Atrium in the Baylor Science Building.

BU allows enough time for campus campaigning

Okay, you got me. I had decided to never write a column about politics, but after reading an editorial in last Wednesday's Lariat, I couldn't help myself.

The article was well-written and commendable, but it bemoaned the university's policy against student organizations promoting a political candidate within four weeks of an election. It ended eloquently, claiming that, for the sake of education, we need to allow campaigning on campus and ended with a question: "If not now, when?" My answer: Pretty much the whole semester up until October 7th.

I think a little story can best explain my position: It's early September, and Joe Sic'em, a typical all-American Baylor student, wakes up and eats breakfast. His roommate is watching CNN and asks him what he thinks of the election. "Not now," says Joe. "I've got to see what the student organizations say first!" And he merrily goes along his way. He's soon stopped on campus, however, by the Rock the Vote people. They encourage him to think about what's important to him. He was also told to register if he wants to vote. Joe wouldn't have known this on his own, so he thanks her

point of view

BY ADAM AMBERG

and fills out the form for his registration card.

Shortly after that, he meets the Baylor Democrats, who tell him to vote for Obama. Then, the Baylor Republicans tell him to vote for McCain. Then, he goes to chapel, where Shane Claiborne tells him to vote for Jesus. He doesn't quite

understand Mr. Claiborne's message, but admires his dreadlocks nonetheless.

Fast-forward to late October. Joe is in a crisis! He doesn't know who to vote for! For some reason, the mean political people stopped holding his hand on the 7th, and haven't been around all month. What's he to do? I'll tell you: He drops out of college and becomes a plumber, that's what. The moral of the story? Don't expect Baylor to force you to figure out who you want to vote for.

Baylor has been hosting an endless array of political events, like the Rock the Vote campaign,

even going so far as to allow students to register to vote on campus. It seems like every day I walk into the Bill Daniel Student Center and see a table set up endorsing Obama or McCain's ideology. (My apologies, Mr. Nadar) and Baylor has even allowed a debate to be held on campus within that four-week time period, so what more do you need?

In real life, there aren't any student organizations around to feed you information about different candidates. As students, we are just going to have to learn how to do research by ourselves, to think freely and make deci-

sions based on our own beliefs, which is actually what Baylor is attempting to do.

After all, as a Christian university, maybe we're setting a good precedent in a country where many peoples' faiths are often left by the wayside in favor of politics. Perhaps it's a good thing for us to be making the statement that, while politics has its place, it's not the most important thing in life. Who knows? It might be a nice change to hear Christians talking about Jesus more than a political candidate for a while.

Adam Amberg is a senior English major from Houston.

Editorial

National standard for counting dead votes needed

Discrepancies in the American voting system have been caused for concern in the upcoming presidential election as the candidates fight in what looks to be a very tight race with the possibility of a 2000 repeat if voting margins are too close to call.

It'd be no surprise, considering the country's past experience with voter fraud - Tammany-era New York is a prime example with Boss Tweed leading the pack - that voters are once again questioning the integrity of the American voting system.

In a tight race, the parties know that every votes counts, even the dead votes. Depending on where you live, you may be able to still vote even if you're dead. Some states count dead votes and some don't. There's a lack of consistency nationwide, so there needs to be a change. If some dead votes are counted, then to make it consistent and fair, all dead votes should be counted.

Many Americans vote by absentee ballots - mainly the elderly, those working or temporarily living abroad and those in the military. Absentee ballots, which are mailed in, can allow people to vote up to 60 days before an election. For the elderly and military men and women

who vote, there's a chance that they may pass away before the Nov. 4 election day.

If they die in Oregon, Florida, California, Texas, Tennessee or the presidential battleground states of Ohio and West Virginia, their votes would still be counted. But if they die in South Dakota or Kentucky, then their votes do too.

The geography for these voters is different, but their situation is the same.

Is it fair that people's home state designates whether or not their vote will count if they die before Election Day?

American citizens are American citizens, and every citizen voting under the same condition should have their votes counted.

Not only is it unfair that each state is left to make up its own judgment about dead votes, but the system of removing dead votes is also flawed.

Voters that vote through mailed-in absentee ballots have a greater chance of getting their votes pulled if they were to die. Mailed-in votes are easier to access because they are stored in labeled envelopes that can easily be found.

As for early in-person voting done through machines with no paper ballots, it is much more likely that dead votes will



be counted because, "in most cases, those ballots are impossible to retrieve," reports The Associated Press.

This basically means that if you were killed immediately after voting early at the polls in South Dakota, your vote would probably still count. But if you were a soldier fighting in the Iraq War who mailed in your vote, but died before Election Day, it's more likely that your vote won't.

"You've got potentially two people with exactly the same situation being treated differently under the law," said John Green, director of the Bliss Institute of Applied Politics at The University of Akron in Ohio, to the Associated Press.

Sometimes it can take up to

weeks after an election before election officials find out who has died. By that time, the dead votes would have already been counted.

It's impractical to enforce the removal of dead votes, especially if not all dead votes will be removed by Election Day.

It's not to say that election officials in states where dead votes don't count aren't going to great lengths to remove ballots of voters who have died before elections. Some election officials have their staff scan obituaries on a daily basis, while others depend on statistics agencies to provide a monthly list of local deaths.

The efforts to track down and remove every dead vote are worthless and still unfair if

there's even a chance that not all will be removed.

At least 34 states and the District of Colombia allow some form of early voting for the Nov. 4 election, and experts predict nearly a third of voters will vote early, which is more than twice the number in 2000. This means there may be greater numbers of dead votes that may fall through the cracks and be counted.

The 2000 presidential election was decided by a mere 537 votes, making the importance of every vote evident. The 2008 presidential race, as close as it is, could be decided by a few votes. Seeing the unfairness of varying state laws and how it is much too difficult to remove all dead votes by Election Night, all votes should count.

Federal bailout is no long-term fix, sets unhealthy precedent

Congress recently passed a massive bailout bill, assuring the American public that it would revitalize the economy with sound changes, but on the contrary it serves to excuse unethical financial practices and set an unhealthy precedent that brought us this crisis to begin with.

To critically evaluate Congress' proposed solution, though, we must first understand the problem and how it originated. The federal government originally chartered Fannie Mae (1938) and Freddie Mac (1970), the two mortgage institutions at the heart of this current crisis, promising that it would make good on their debts by enabling access to federal funds and thus enabling Fannie and Freddie to borrow colossal amounts of money and lend at

high risk.

In the 1990s, Congress pressured mortgage lenders including, Fannie/Freddie, to further expand subprime lending. With the safeguard of federal backing, the industry readily obliged, and subprime lending soared.

This lending was more than a weakening of credit guidelines; it was an abandonment of traditional, reasonable lending practices and allowed borrowers with severely low credit to acquire mortgages they were ill-equipped to pay.

Therefore, when the economy slowed and housing prices slumped, defaults soared, leaving the industry with an overload of rapidly depreciating mortgage assets. This was the beginning of the domino effect that has led to

point of view

BY BRAD KNOTT

the panic of the last few months.

With the government playing such a large role in the origins of this mess, a solution that hopes to truly fix bad government with additional government is simply unsound.

The bailout bill takes enormous amounts of wealth from the taxpayers to save those private and corporate participants in the subprime lending fiasco, which acted with complete irresponsibility. Thus, it encourages individuals and institutions to

take imprudent risks, counting on a bailout in a worst case scenario.

Whatever happened to personal responsibility? If you make a mess, clean it up. If you can't make payments, don't buy it. Without an allowance to fail, how can we as a nation, people or economy succeed?

By manipulating the credit freeze, Wall Street was able to bring the bailout into reality. Why would bankers sell their depreciating assets for 20 cents on the dollar in the private sector when the government offered up to 80 cents for them?

The alternative to this government-run bailout is bankruptcy. Bankruptcy does not mean the companies will completely dissolve, though ownership will

shift from shareholder to creditor. More importantly, bankruptcy punishes irresponsibility and greed while preserving the portions of a business that remain profitable.

It is true that, without the bailout, more bankruptcies and worsening credit conditions are likely for a time. But talk of a total international economic collapse is scare mongering. If a troubled institution fails, a profitable opportunity will be introduced for someone else to seize. While it may take time to fully rebound, it will eventually - that is the beauty of a free-market economy.

The bailout is hardly structured to be a successful long-term response to the economic crisis. This is especially true con-

sidering the large sums of money and special dealings that reward lobbyists and their clients, along with conditions that will allow further government involvement in the financial systems.

Simply put, none of this had to happen in the first place. Rather than fixing the problems by eliminating the policies that created the crisis, the government has, if anything, covered for, enabled and even rewarded the practices that led to the downturn.

Someone has to pay for the government's incompetent legislation and overextension of the affected financial institutions. The bill should not be, and does not need to be, handed as it has been, to the US taxpayer.

Brad Knott is a senior history major from Raleigh, N.C.

The Baylor Lariat

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THE SAUNAN OF PUZZLES By The Mapham Group

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THE Daily Crossword

Edited by Wayne Robert Williams

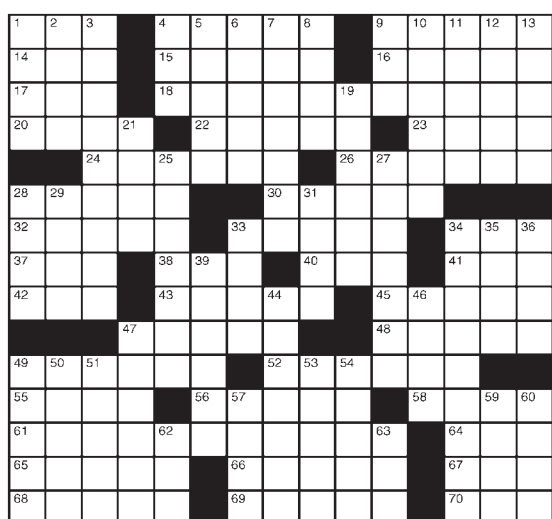
ACROSS

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9 Glorify oneself
14 Aussie non-flier
15 Turkish bigwigs
16 Tedium
17 Shatner novel "___ War"
18 Denim item
20 Skater's jump
22 Gladden
23 ___ mater
24 Horizontal beams
26 Lymphoid organ
28 Geological period
30 Complete
32 Dissonance
33 Insertion symbol
34 Lively dance
37 Oui's opposite
38 Tallahassee inst.
40 It's c-c-c-cold!
41 Shoshone
42 N.Y. winter hrs.
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45 Bummer!
47 Senegalese language

DOWN

1 Physics start?
2 NYSE rival
3 Jumpin' hot spot
4 ___ Mahal
5 S-shaped moldings
6 Commandment verb
7 Game with four jokers
8 Part of P.A.
9 Actress Arthur
10 Available if needed
11 Twistable joint
12 "Guys and Dolls" song

13 Mythical giant
19 King's comic
21 Lane in Metropolis
25 Likelikable northern waterways
27 Benefactors
28 Actress Baxter
29 Animal displays
31 Planets
33 G.P.A., slangily
34 Portly planes?
35 Romance lang.
36 Tierney of films
39 "No Exit" playwright
44 Grocery section
46 Arizona tribe
47 Company catchphrase
49 Prized trinket
50 Stage a coup
51 Simple weapon
53 Minnows and worms
54 Early Peruvian
57 Member of the "Love Train" soul group
59 Fuzzy fruit
60 Aspiring D.A.'s exam
62 Leary's drug
63 Paul Anka's "___ Beso"



By Barry Silk
McLean, VA

10/22/08

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

Groups' haunted house spooks Waco for charity

By Ashley Erikson
and Arielle Cayia
Reporters

Take a walk through strobe lights and mazes, steer past figures with gruesome makeup and masks and seek out a way to the next room of this haunted house, sponsored by two greek organizations tonight from 8 p.m. to midnight.

Phi Gamma Delta, or the Fijis, and Delta Delta Delta are sponsoring Fright Nights, which ends tonight at Eastland Lakes Complex, in support of Waco YoungLife.

"Myself and a few other members were talking with (the Fiji's) alumni and they said they used to do 'Fright Nights' years ago, so we're bringing it back this year to raise money for our philanthropy," said Andrew Crawford, Shreveport, La., senior and coordinator of Fright Nights.

The Fijis work with YoungLife, a non-denominational Christian outreach program. The Tri-Deltas were eager to

do something fun for a good cause, said Bianca Arceo, Houston senior and vice president of chapter development for the Tri-Deltas.

"The boys did the construction and we helped with decorating mostly," Arceo said.

Despite the greeks' jam-packed schedules, between Pigskin practices and float decorating, the two groups were able to come together to complete the haunted house on time, Arceo said.

"The girls were genuinely excited," Arceo said. "We've never done anything with the Fijis, and the girls thought this would be fun."

Moving away from the T-shirts and donation bucket near the entrance, students can keep warm by drinking a cup of hot chocolate. While standing by the exit, laughs and sighs of relief can be heard among the screams.

"I was impressed," Austin junior Troy Brown said. "I kind of thought it was going to be for

little kids."

Despite the lack of external decoration, strange characters wander around the parking lot and grassy area outside, never breaking character. The minimalism shouldn't keep anyone from expecting to be frightened inside the house.

"It was the scariest thing I've done in a long time, but afterward, when some of the actors came outside, it was fun to try and break them," Katy junior Amy Steger said, turning toward one of the actors by the hot chocolate dispenser.

"Michael Myers, stab anybody lately?" she said.

Gripping his butcher knife, the tall masked figure only nodded in response.

Rachael Chambers, Dallas senior and Tri-Delta philanthropy chair, dresses like the character Samara Morgan in "The Ring" and walks around in the haunted house.

"It's so much fun," Chambers said. "It's really good Halloween spirit, and it helps the local



Christina Kruse/Lariat Staff

A man participates in the Phi Gamma Delta and the Tri-Delta's haunted house held at Eastland Lakes Club House this week. Admission was free but donations were collected for YoungLife in the Waco Community.

community."

Chambers was dressed in a white, lace baby-doll dress, hair teased and rings of black makeup around her eyes.

The Tri-Deltas and the Fijis aren't the only ones excited about Fright Nights.

"Baylor wants to make this an annual event," Chambers said.

After the turnout Monday and positive feedback, the Fijis also hope to make this haunted house a regular event, Crawford said.

"It was really well put-togeth-

er with great special effects," LaFayette, Ind., sophomore Pam Swan said. "I can't wait to see what they have next year."

Because of the suspenseful, graphic nature of the haunted house, it has a PG-13 rating, Crawford said.



Courtesy photo by Paul Cho

Michael Do (center), Plano senior and Taekwondo club member, scored for Baylor with a punch to opponent's chest Saturday at the Fort Worth International Taekwondo Championships.

Taekwondo hits big, winning 14 medals

By Kyle McKanna
Reporter

The Baylor Club Taekwondo team had an excellent showing Saturday at the Ft. Worth International Taekwondo Championships.

The team won 14 total medals at the event, which featured sparring and forms competitions for the different divisions.

"About 15 people from the team made the trip to Ft. Worth," Dallas freshman Terry Pak said. "Only eight competed."

Those who participated squared off against competitors from the top schools in the nation and Mexico. The Bears held their own against the stiff competition, earning four gold, seven silver and three bronze medals.

"We did really good," Richardson senior and taekwondo president Paul Cho said. "Each competitor can get a total of two medals max, and we got 14. It was nice."

Pak said the event went well for the team, but individually, he wished he would have done better.

"I was kind of disappointed because I had got gold the last two years," he said. "This year I got silver."

Pak finished second in both sparring and forms. Sparring is a point-based, single-elimination fighting competition. Competitors receive points for a crisp blow to the trunk, chest arms or a blow to the head. Three of Bay-

lor's four golds came in sparring competitions.

Forms are a judged event where competitors perform a routine and have their form graded on a 10-point scale. Competitors perform individually, and the person with the best average score from the judges wins in that division.

Plano senior Michael Do earned one of the team's sparring golds in his division.

"I hurt my foot in the second round, but was able to hang in there and get the win," he said. "I got silver in forms, but I lost the gold to a guy from Baylor (Daniel Aum), so it's all good."

Baylor Taekwondo has seen a rise in popularity since being admitted to the list of club sports.

Cho, who has been the president for all four years of the club's existence, said he encouraged anyone with an interest to come check it out.

"We have people ranging from first-timers to nationally ranked competitors," he said. "To be in the club you just have to be interested."

Baylor's next event will be the Texas A&M Open on Nov. 15. They said they hope to use this event and others to prepare for the Nationals event in Rhode Island next semester.

"Nationals are our big goal," Cho said. "We hope to take about 10 people this year."

The cost of the trip makes competing difficult, but many on the team are hoping to make it.

By Janna Quinn
Reporter

Nationally syndicated columnist Ruben Navarrette Jr. will discuss the importance of taking risks and setting goals in order for students to find their passion, during a lecture at 7 p.m. today in Barfield Drawing Room.

Navarrette is part of the Washington Post Writers Group, and has appeared in 200 papers, such as The Chicago Tribune and The San Francisco Chronicle.

His book, "A Darker Shade of Crimson: Odyssey of a Harvard Chicano," shares experiences that students can relate to as they try to find their way after graduation.

Navarrette is appearing as part of Hispanic Heritage Month.

Tickets are \$15 and are available at the ticket booth in the Bill Daniel Student Center.

Q: As a syndicated columnist, what do you mostly write about?

A: I write about politics, about Obama and McCain and issues that come up in the election, how we feel about paying taxes and giving our taxes away to others and also immigration and the war in Iraq.

Aside from politics, I will write about whatever is in the news. Sometimes I'll also come across books and lectures of interesting people that I then

want to interview and write about.

Q: Why is it important for students and young adults to read your columns?

A: Because they are unpredictable and brave, and they don't serve on any constituency. The problem with most columns is that they divide into two camps: the red and the blue. Obama and McCain.

I consume a lot of media, and I rarely find columnists who are fair. The reasons columnists can be successful is because it's unpredictable.

There are so many people out there that are partisan and boring and predictable.

In my column, I try to be fair and address both sides.

If I find something to criticize or praise, I'll do it, regardless if it's for the Republicans or the Democrats.

Q: What kind of reactions do you receive from readers of your column?

A: The most common response I get is, "I am so disappointed in you today." It's because I try to be fair and address both sides of the issue.

Readers will read everyday, but sometimes they are disappointed.

I get this from both Democrats and Republicans. They say, "I thought I had you figured out (as a Democrat or Republican),

but this week I disagree with you." They're a little surprised when I change course.

Q: What is your advice to young journalists about dealing with these reactions from readers?

A: I think the problem is that people expect to be liked and adored, and you're not always going to be.

People don't normally want to think through what they believe. They just say it. If you try to press them on it, they don't want to be challenged.

You just have to understand that people are criticizing you, but they don't really know you.

It's not like the readers are your mother. You don't have to internalize what they say. They don't know you. They're just reacting to you.

Often times, they're not even reading you carefully. They read into your column what they want to read into it.

Q: What is the hardest part of being a journalist and the most rewarding?

A: I think that in this day and age, it's saying things that have already been said because we have so much media out there.

It's fighting for people's time, when we don't have a lot of time these days.

The challenge is to write things that are worthy and don't waste people's time. It's also chal-

lenging to keep current, because you have to keep up with what's happening through the television, radio and Internet.

The most rewarding part is occasionally, you get somebody who says your article helped them think through something.

Remember, you're not in the persuasion business; that's what lawyers do. You're in the provoking business.

I don't care if you agree with me over the subject matter, but the important thing is to get them to think about it.

I think it's most rewarding when I hear, "If I read you, there's a chance I'll disagree, but I read you because you challenge me and make me think about what I believe." It's always very satisfying to hear that.

Q: Who is your role model for your writing?

A: One of my favorite columnists, for sheer thinking without writing, David Brooks from The New York Times is a very good role model in terms of unpredictability.

He isn't afraid to praise or criticize Democrats and Republicans when necessary. He takes a lot of criticism.

To be a true columnist, you have to get more than your fair amount of hate mail.

With Brooks, he'll sometimes just think through stuff in such a way he can flush it out and present it and put it down on paper.

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San Antonio junior Alexandria Hernal paints a henna tattoo on Woodlands freshman Sarah Nicholson Tuesday afternoon in the Bill Daniel Student Center. Hernal, a third year member of Indian Subcontinent Student Association says the group sells the tattoos in order to raise money for the charity, Development in Literacy.

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