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STORY ON PAGE 5



ROUNDING UP CAMPUS NEWS SINCE 1900

# THE BAYLOR LARIAT

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 30, 2008

## Waco Police crack down on criminals

Jade Ortego  
Staff Writer

"Maybe it's sad to say it, but it's a game. It's fun. If we didn't love it, we wouldn't be doing it," said Waco Police Sgt. Melvin Roseborough.

Waco Police are conducting Operation Safe Streets, a felony round-up which started Monday and ends Friday.

It has produced 32 arrests as of 6 a.m. Wednesday, clearing 30 felony charges and 27 misdemeanor charges.

"The operation is targeting those individuals who are currently wanted on felony warrants held by the Waco Police Department, Federal Parole and Probation, State Parole and County Probation," Waco police spokesperson Steve Anderson said.

The round-up will not be restricted to just those arrests. Other arrests and cases have been made in previous years, Anderson said.

During this week, the Waco police have three teams on each shift working from 6 a.m. to 9 p.m. to make arrests.

Police are given packets of information to help them find their targets.

The packets include information like the person's associates, friends and relatives and vehicles they're known to drive and the cover has their picture, name and address.

"It's a starting point of where to start looking for these folks," Roseborough said.

The Waco Police sends out officers to talk to those known to associate with the wanted person in hopes of finding a lead.

"We tell (the officers) to run their friends and families through a background check, and if they have warrants, we arrests them too," Roseborough said. "The felons are our focus, but we'll make other arrests," he said.

Only two of the people arrested during this operation have had only misdemeanors, said Roseborough.

One of the reasons for the sweep is the upcoming holiday

season.

"The holiday season is a big push because a lot of these people cause problems during that time," Roseborough said. "If that person is a car burglar, we don't need to have that person breaking into cars when someone has just gone Christmas shopping," he said.

"One of the goals for Operation Safe Streets is to deliver a holiday message to these felons and get them off the street as we go into the holiday season of the year," Anderson said.

Another reason for the push is that the Waco police want to make a good end to a produc-



Photo Illustration by Christina Kruse

Waco Police made 32 arrests in Operation Safe Streets, a felony round-up that targets individuals who are currently wanted on felony warrants held.

Please see **CRIME**, page 6

## Interest rates slashed to historic low

By Martin Crutsinger  
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON - The Federal Reserve slashed a key interest rate by half a percentage point Wednesday, driving it to a level seen only once before in the last half-century, and the government finally began distributing funds from the billions in the financial rescue package.

Those efforts and others were part of a concerted drive by officials, just days before a national election, to demonstrate they are moving as quickly as possible to deal with the most serious financial crisis to hit the country since the 1930s.

"Policymakers have their foot to the accelerator and they are using every effort at their disposal to stop the slide in the economy and financial markets," said Mark Zandi, chief economist with Moody's Economy.com. "And it's not a moment too soon given the serious damage that has already been done."

Wall Street, which the previous day posted the second biggest point gain in history, was less impressed with Wednesday's activity.

The Dow Jones industrial average finished the day down 74 points, a drop analysts said partly reflected growing worries about whether the government's actions will be sufficient



Associated Press

Traders signal in the CME Group's S&P 500 futures pit in Chicago Wednesday shortly after the Federal Reserve cut interest rates by a half-point. The Dow closed down 74 points and furthered worries about how the rate cut will affect the economy.

to avert a deep and prolonged recession.

The Fed, as investors had hoped, announced a half-point

cut in the federal funds rate, the interest that banks charge each other on overnight loans, driving it down to 1 percent,

a low last seen in 2003-2004. That rate has not been lower

Please see **RATES**, page 6

## Feces used as fuel

By Chad Shanks  
Staff Writer

A Waco company recently received a \$250,000 development grant for the commercialization of its research in converting animal manure and food product waste into alternative fuel sources.

Environmental Quality Management Associates of Waco received the award from the North Texas Regional Center for Innovation and Commercialization's (RCIC) Emerging Technology Fund, a \$200 million fund started by the Texas Legislature in June 2005 to expedite the commercialization of scientific breakthroughs and innovations.

"The RCIC funding mechanism provides an opportunity for relatively small waste generators to effectively manage waste issues while simultaneously producing a value-added product. This business model will be profitable for the communities, the industry and Texas as a whole," said Larry Lehr, founder and CEO of EQMA, in an RCIC news release.

EQMA's focus is producing environmentally responsible

Please see **FUEL**, page 6

## Luncheon event aims to forecast clear economy

By Kirsten Johnson  
Reporter

As the Fed cuts interest rates even further in an attempt to soften the impact of the economic crisis on the stock market, sales are down, stocks are down and the future of the economy remains unclear.

The 2009 Economic Fore-

cast Luncheon will aim to lessen this uncertainty. Baylor's Hankamer School of Business and Greater Waco Chamber of Commerce will sponsor the event at 11:30 a.m. today in the Floyd Casey Stadium Galloway Suite.

Dr. Thomas Kelly, professor of economics and director of the Baylor Center for Busi-

ness and Economic Research, co-founded the first forecast luncheon in the late 1970s and has continually had an active leadership role each year since.

There will be an attendance of at least 200 business representatives.

These annual forecast meetings seek to inform the Waco community of the current and

future status of the economy.

"One of the missions we have is to not only provide information to investors that come into the area, but also to help develop the economy," Kelly said. "So, we do a lot of economic impact studies."

Kelly is one of three professionals who will speak on various spheres of the economy,

based upon their research and background in economics and finance.

Due to the economic events of the past months, the process of projecting a prediction for the upcoming year required continual re-evaluation.

"In preparing for this year,

Please see **ECONOMY**, page 6



Shanna Taylor/Lariat Staff

## Smashing pumpkins

Jack-o-lanterns line the front of Heritage House in North Village. Students carved the pumpkins, with everything from pi symbols and a portrait of Obama to typical Halloween creepies such as spiderwebs and ghosts as part of a decorating competition held by the residence hall.

## Grant provides low-income students with shot at college

By Sommer Ingram  
Staff Writer

Along with strengthening its reputation as a prestigious research university, Baylor continues to extend its scope of research to the realm of secondary education.

Baylor does this through GEAR UP Waco (Gaining Early Awareness and Readiness for Undergraduate Programs). Now in the third year of funding from a six year Department of Education grant, the program is a partnership between Baylor, Texas State Technical College-Waco, Waco ISD and La Vega ISD.

The grant, \$11.3 million for the six years, was the only funding given to a university in Texas for GEAR UP purposes in 2006. The project is designed

to prepare low-income students for success in college starting at an early age.

"The overall thrust is to make sure students in our cohort have the core subject academic preparedness, especially in math and science," said Dr. Jewel Lockridge, project director for GEAR UP.

Students in the Waco and La Vega school districts had to qualify and meet the criteria for the grant, much of which had to do with at-risk students. The program began with sixth and seventh graders in 2006 and has followed that same group of students over the past two years.

"This is really parallel not only with the mission of Baylor, but with the community mission," Lockridge said. "We encourage students to take more rigorous academic courses

because we want them to challenge themselves and be prepared for higher education."

The Center for Astrophysics, Space Physics & Engineering Research (CASPER) is a component of GEAR UP that focuses specifically on promoting STEM careers - careers in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics.

"We are very concerned that Americans aren't majoring in these areas," said Dr. Cynthia Hernandez, educational public outreach director for CASPER. "So much of our technology is outsourced; we need to develop some of that brain power and keep it here."

Developing a strong foundation in the sciences at an early age is especially important for students in schools in areas

Please see **GRANT**, page 6

# Look to 'freegans' for example of sustainability

I have always been told by my mother and elders not to eat food off the ground or out of the trash for that matter. This was one of the first rules I learned as a child.

I then branched out. I stretched that rule and obtained the clever "three-second rule" or "ten second rule," depending on how bad I wanted that cookie before it fell to the ground.

I honestly thought that this was as far as I would go when it came down to eating something that has been "contaminated." Unfortunately, I have gone above and beyond once again and stretched my mother's rule even farther than you could imagine. I

am actually thinking about trash can diving.

That is what a grassroots sub-culture group called "freegans" is doing. They have decided to live outside the consumer society. Instead, they focus on buying less and use only what they need. One of the main ways freegans go about doing this is by salvaging food and other goods from the garbage.

This may sound bizarre if you have a mother like mine. The food the freegans eat is far from gross. It's not toxic waste by any means, it's food that grocery stores or little bagel shops throw away at the end of every day. So everything is perfectly pack-

## point of view

BY COURTNEY WEBB



aged. The seal hasn't been broken. The food just wasn't needed anymore, and so the stores and restaurants threw it out.

You would be surprised to see how many cartoons of eggs are thrown away every day by grocery stores because they have one cracked egg. "Stores throw away 2 to 3 percent of their inventory daily," theory of constraints expert Lisa Lang said

earlier this year on the Oprah Show. That is approximately \$30 billion in food, which could feed entire countries.

But it's about more than just salvaging food. Freeganism has expanded to cover all different types of simple living. Obviously, the majority is not going to set out on late-night excursions to search through bags of garbage for food, but there are other ways to reduce how much you consume.

Part of freegan lifestyle is learning to simply ask yourself, "Do I really need this?" Now, don't get me wrong, I am a minor shop-a-holic. But after researching this style of living, I've real-

ized that I don't always need new clothes or electronics. I live with what I already have.

I've also discovered less radical ways of taking part in sustainability. Through freecycle.org, I've found a way to give stuff and get stuff absolutely free. Freecycle is an organization created in order to keep unwanted belongings, such as clothes, from ending up in landfills. Instead, unwanted items can be posted on the Web site for whomever is interested to claim. So if you have a pair of jeans or a sweater you don't wear anymore, put it on freecycle.org.

The freegan lifestyle is a drastic change from the lifestyle I am

living now, but it makes perfect sense, especially as a college student when money is tight and we are in a time where resources are diminishing.

I'm thinking of adopting this way of living just because I am so frustrated with my own wasteful culture. It is truly awful how many people suffer, yet we just pick and choose and take so many things for granted.

I would much rather be known as someone who digs in the garbage for food than as someone who is wasteful and continuously purchases frivolous things.

Courtney Webb is a junior journalism major from Houston.

## Editorial

# Americans should take advantage of early voting

It's predicted that one-third of registered voters won't go to the polls on Election Day because they would have already voted. As Nov. 4 inches closer and closer, many Americans will have already cast their vote for the next president through early voting.

Early voting, which takes place in more than 30 states, with each state determining its own time frame, ends Friday in Texas.

With record numbers of people having already voted in this election, citizens should continue to turn out to polls before early voting closes.

By voting early, people can make themselves immune to last-minute campaign negativity that usually heightens as the candidates fight toward the finish line. Desperate times call for desperate measures, and candidates certainly aren't immune to slanted, or even completely false, accusations in a final attempt to win over votes.

If early voting continues to pick up steam in future elections, it would mean that candidates would have to lay all their cards on the table earlier. They would have less time to beat around the bush. Any chance of revealing harmful or negative information right before Election Day to gain votes, "October surprises," would be compromised.

Even though candidates

would have to reveal whatever scandal or dirt they have on opponents if early voting continues to increase, there's a chance that a real scandal could occur close to Election Day. This is where early voting has received criticism.

People who have already cast a ballot prior to Election Day don't have the option of changing their minds, which is a negative aspect of early voting. But according to Dan Seligson of electionline.org, a nonpartisan election reform Web site funded by the Pew Charitable Trust, a last-minute scandal wouldn't affect the attitudes of early voters.

"Probably regardless of what happens in the intervening time between when early voters cast their ballots and Election Day, they probably would vote the same way anyway," Seligson said to CNN. "They're more often than not strong partisans who know exactly how they're going to vote," he said of early voters.

Not only has early voting put pressure on candidates to be more forthcoming on their political stances, it also puts pressure on Americans to show up at polls.

Early voting has allowed ample time for Americans to vote. Instead of only having one specific date available, early voting gives Americans the option of casting a ballot weeks in advance of Election Day. Not



only is this a more convenient option, but busy Americans now have no excuse for not voting.

Polls have been open since Oct. 20 in Texas. In the first eight days of polls opening in the state, more than 2 million Texans have voted in person, Randall Dillard, a spokesman for Texas Secretary of State Hope Andrade, told the Dallas Morning News. This number exceeds the state's early voting total in the 2000 election, as reported by the Fort Worth Star-Telegram using data from the Texas secretary of state. Even in areas affected by Hurricane Ike, such as Galveston County, turnout has already exceeded that of 2004.

Not only is early voting convenient for American citizens, it also makes work easier for election workers on Election Day. Since many registered voters

will have already voted, this will eliminate some traffic on Nov. 4.

Early voting can also expose weaknesses in the election system.

In Florida, early voting has revealed typographical and administrative errors that could have had a significant effect on Election Day. In a crucial swing state, mismatched voter registration applications could have caused 20,000 people to be turned away on Nov. 4. This is shocking, especially considering that George W. Bush won Florida by 537 votes in 2000, which gave him the state's 27 electoral votes and the election.

Ohio, another pivotal state in this election, has also experienced the same problems. Mismatched information, which could disenfranchise many voters, has prompted the state's

Republican Party to file a lawsuit against Ohio's Democratic secretary of state.

In West Virginia, problems with touch-screen voting machines also have been addressed.

To see the imperfections of the American voting system before Election Day is a benefit of early voting. With early voting, glitches with the system are exposed beforehand, leaving enough time to be repaired. Imagine if all these problems took place next Tuesday. A repeat of the chaos that ensued during the 2000 election would be very possible.

With all the benefits that come from voting early, people should get out there and vote. Not only is it their civil duty, but now that it's made more available and convenient, there's no excuse not to.

## 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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## Letters to the editor

### Involvement of entire Baylor family needed in choosing president

I am writing in regards to Bryan Fonville's column regarding the need for student involvement in the upcoming presidential search committee.

It is imperative that Baylor show that it is serious in reaching the imperatives of Baylor 2012, specifically, Imperative IX - Enhance involvement of the entire Baylor family.

One of the objectives of

Imperative IX directly talks about the need for an array of strategies for communication.

In having a direct student involvement, alumni, regents and prospective donors will understand what Baylor's student leaders are doing and the useful and meaningful input that would grow out of having direct student involvement.

If Baylor is serious in moving forward, it is pivotal that it begin to involve students more directly - specifically in choosing the

single individual that will have to rise to the challenge of bringing Baylor's vision of obtaining tier-one status to reality.

Andy Adams  
Management Information Systems and Operations Management, 2008  
President, Baylor University Chamber of Commerce

### Extend invitation to BU students

I want to revisit an issue that was presented in Friday's issue

of The Lariat.

I fully support Bryan Fonville and student government in presenting the concept of having at least two student representatives on the committee to make the crucial decision of selecting the next president of Baylor University.

After the SAT controversy and with us just a few years away from the milestone year of 2012, the selection of our next president will be one of the most important decisions made dur-

ing the coming years.

This decision will have a direct and immediate impact on current and future students at this great university.

As Fonville said, we should follow other top-tier universities, such as Princeton, Columbia and the University of Pennsylvania by allowing the student body to have a voice in this monumental decision.

I feel that it is the duty of the Baylor Board of Regents to adhere to the resolutions passed

by the alumni association, faculty senate and now student government by forming a committee that represents all parties that will be affected by the decision of the next university president: regents, faculty, staff, alumni and students.

It is the responsibility of the regents to take action now and extend an invitation to the student body of Baylor University to take our seat at the table.

David Fait  
Mechanical Engineering, 2010

## The Baylor Lariat

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## SUDOKU

THE SAUNDRY OF PUZZLES by The Mapham Group

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## THE Daily Crossword

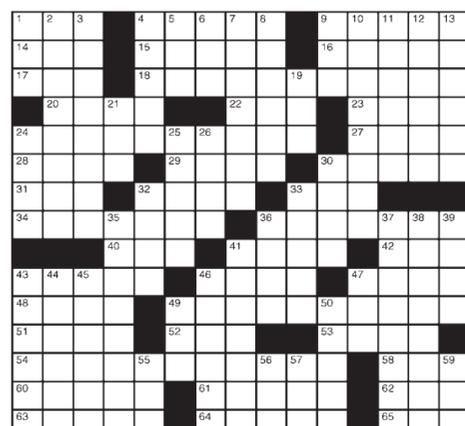
Edited by Wayne Robert Williams

### ACROSS

- 1 Young fish
- 4 Deep, unnatural sleep
- 9 Addis \_\_, Ethiopia
- 14 "Seinfeld" uncle
- 15 Texas landmark
- 16 Bob and Elizabeth
- 17 Bull markets
- 18 Start of Bernard Baruch quote
- 20 Cost of living?
- 22 Boardroom bigwig
- 23 Factual
- 24 Part 2 of quote
- 27 Olympic sled
- 28 Deposited
- 29 Piccadilly Circus statue
- 30 Chart anew
- 31 Columbus Day mo.
- 32 Lena of "Chocolat"
- 33 Former French coin
- 34 Part 3 of quote
- 36 Part 4 of quote
- 40 Pers. pension
- 41 Symbol of office
- 42 Numero \_\_
- 43 Deer sirs
- 46 "South Park" boy

### DOWN

- 1 Grippe
- 2 Censure
- 3 Park in California
- 4 Took care of
- 5 Catalonian cheer
- 6 Block of paper
- 7 Greek vowel
- 8 Cowboys' showcases
- 9 Big fuss
- 10 Keep inside
- 11 Old-fashioned warning
- 12 Caviar source
- 13 Sawing logs
- 19 Alternative to smoking?
- 21 Beatty of "Deliverance"
- 24 Coagulate
- 25 "Chicago" role
- 26 Buffalo's county
- 30 Churn up
- 32 Boat propellers
- 33 Alan Ladd classic
- 35 Take a tour
- 36 Cause to wither
- 37 Brief announcement
- 38 Early or late
- 39 Warner Bros. creation
- 41 Pierced
- 43 Forceful flowings
- 44 Hebrew month
- 45 Declare
- 46 Break away
- 47 Pint drink, perhaps
- 49 Typist's stat
- 50 Bar members, briefly
- 55 Append
- 56 Part of NATO
- 57 Jurist Fortas
- 59 Elmer, to Bugs



By Alan P. Olschwang  
Huntington Beach, CA

10/30/08

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

# Dorms decorate, welcome Missouri with tiger patties

By Alex Maxwell  
Reporter

As Baylor gears up for homecoming weekend, the residence halls were decorated to compete in a residence hall homecoming decoration competition.

For the last four homecomings, residence halls have competed against one another to display their homecoming spirit through elaborate decorations.

McAllen junior Royce Dreibelbis, Chamber homecoming publicity coordinator, led the tour of judges from hall to hall Wednesday.

Residents of each hall submitted an application in which they presented a decorating concept and how they planned to portray it.

The only rules in place were by Risk Management, so that safety could be enforced and so accidents could be prevented.

The application remains unseen by the judges in order to prevent any expectations being formed in the judges' minds, Dreibelbis said.

There were three judges that went from hall to hall and evaluated each decorated building.

The judges were; Elisa Dunman, director of New Student Programs; Kat Reed, coordinator for Greek Life; and LeAnn Gardner, professor of social work.

Decorations are evaluated on a point system and those points are tabulated twice in order to avoid miscalculations.

The judges evaluated three main areas; overall theme, appeal, and originality and creativity.

The theme category was based on how well the decorations incorporate and reflect the Baylor homecoming theme and spirit.

The overall appeals are the decorations' appeal to alumni and families, how well it represents Baylor's history and traditions, and the judges' impressions.

The judges evaluate the originality and creativity of the decorations by considering their unique aspects and collaborative efforts by the residents.

Dunman, a first-time judge, said she was very impressed with the efforts put forth by the residents of each hall.

"It was a lot of fun seeing students out front of their hall showing their spirit," Dunman said.

Each hall had a different theme and there were a variety of traditions portrayed among them.

Penland Residence Hall has the roasting of the tiger over the eternal flame, and Kokernot Residence Hall portrays a representation of a tailgate party serving "tiger-burgers."

"The decoration process was a lot of fun," said Dallas freshman Daphne McGee, who helped decorate Kokernot.

Homecoming has been a tradition since 1910 and an annual event since 1934, bringing back alumni and family from many different generations.

This important part of Baylor Homecoming is taken into consideration in the judging and has its own category in judging.

"It was nice to see the homecoming theme tied in and great to see the excitement of welcoming alumni back on campus," said Reed, a returning judge.

Residence halls will remain decorated so that returning residents can see the efforts of current students.

The winner will be announced at the bonfire Friday night at Fountain Mall.



Photos by Shanna Taylor/ Lariat Staff

(top) A Baylor bear grills up some tiger patties as part of Kokernot Residence Hall's tail-gating themed homecoming display. Each residence hall decorated on the theme of 'Baylor Traditions' this week, in hopes of winning top honors in this year's homecoming competition.

(bottom) Edmund, Wash., sophomore Natalie Moore simultaneously balances on a unicycle and gets her palm read by Lihue, Hawaii junior Kassy Morishige, as part of South Russell Residence Hall's circus themed 'Tame the Tigers' homecoming presentation.

# Gay-rights activists arrested at college

The Associated Press

Waxahachie — Three members of a gay-rights group on a nationwide bus tour of faith-based universities were arrested Wednesday after going to a private campus that had banned them, officials said.

Three members of Soulforce were charged with trespassing after they tried to go to a chapel service at Southwestern Assemblies of God University, a 1,900-student Pentecostal school, according to the Waxahachie Police Department.

Their bond was to be set at an arraignment Wednesday afternoon.

The group earlier sent a letter to Southwestern Assemblies requesting a forum, but the president declined and asked Soulforce to stay off the campus, said university spokesman Ryan McElhany.

"It's not a question that's up for debate for us," McElhany said. "We love the people, but we do believe that homosexuality is a sin."

The Southwestern Assemblies handbook lists homosexuality as an offense for which a student can be expelled, but if a current student is struggling with such feelings, he or she may be referred to counseling instead, McElhany said.

Soulforce has already held forums at nearly a dozen other campuses since the Equality Ride tour began earlier this month to promote inclusion at schools it believes have policies that discriminate against gay students.

Several Soulforce members have already been arrested for trespassing at three schools in other states.

"We never want to get arrested; our goal is to spread a message of hope and fairness and to talk to students and meet them where they are," said Soulforce spokeswoman Caitlin MacIntyre.

tyre. "Three men really wanted to attend the (Southwestern Assemblies of God University) chapel service, and we would have reached more people, but the university put up boundaries."

She said more colleges welcome than reject the group. Dallas Baptist University has

*"We love the people, but we do believe that homosexuality is a sin."*

Ryan McElhany  
spokesman for  
Southwestern Assemblies  
of God University

been the most receptive during this tour because last week's forum was a daylong event in which Soulforce met with its administrators, faculty and students, MacIntyre said.

Before the Wednesday arrests, about 15 Southwestern Assemblies representatives — including administrators and student leaders — had a "low-key discussion" with the 15 or so Soulforce members, McElhany said.

Afterward, the bus remained parked in a public area near campus and some students went there throughout the day to talk to group members, he said.

The school also provided the group with drinks and snacks, he said.

Soulforce has already made a stop at Baylor, which also resulted in arrests during the spring.

Six members, including Argyle senior Sean Morrison, were arrested March 21 for criminal trespassing after they refused to stop chalking in front of Waco Hall.

Some of the statements read "I am Gay and Christian," and "Come out! God loves you just as he made you."

# Climatology expert to explore how glaciers contribute to rising sea levels

By Janna Quinn  
Reporter

A leading authority on paleoclimatology and glaciology will present a lecture at 7:30 p.m. tonight about the dangers of climate change and the effects it has on our lives.

The lecture is titled "Global Climate Change: A Paleoclimate Perspective from the World's Highest Mountains," and will be held in D110 Baylor Sciences Building.

Dr. Lonnie Thompson's lec-

ture will explore how the retreat of glaciers contributes to the rising sea level and how those glaciers threaten fresh water supplies in many of the world's most populous regions.

"Climate change is a very timely and popular topic of discussion," said Dr. Steven Driese, a professor of geology and chair of the geology department. "There is a lot of concern of how fast the change is and what the cause is."

Thompson will concentrate on climate records in glaciers and ice cores in low altitude

areas such as the Andes Mountains and the top of the Himalayas.

"When I think of the 21st century, I think of two questions," Thompson said. "How do we get along with each other and how do we get along with our planet?"

Everyone lives on this planet and depends on it for survival for water to producing crops, he said.

"Glaciers are nature's water towers," Thompson said. "They can be used for water resources and irrigation."

The glaciers of Greenland are an example, and those glaciers will play a role in what happens to the sea level, Thompson said.

"Since 1990, the sea level has been rising 3.3 millimeters per year because of the loss of glaciers," he said.

Thompson has led more than 50 expeditions in 30 years. He has conducted ice-core drilling programs in the world's polar regions, including tropical and subtropical ice fields.

In 2005, Thompson became an elected member of The

National Academy of Sciences and was awarded the John and Alice Tyler Prize for Environmental Achievement.

Thompson said he and a team were the first people to go in the tropics to interpret climate records in ice.

"(Thompson) is a major scientist who has contributed to global theory and effect, and is part of a team that researches global warming," said Dr. Zhaodong "Jordan" Feng, associate professor of geology.

The office of vice provost for research brings high-profile

researchers to campus to allow students and faculty to learn from and interact with the scientists.

"I hope students come away with an appreciation for how geoscientists use ice and how they can core glaciers that are miles thick," Driese said. "They can find what happened in the past so we can possibly predict what will happen in the future."

The lecture is sponsored by Baylor's geology department, the office of vice provost for research and the College of Arts and Sciences.

## BEAR BRIEFS

**Delta Tau Delta** is holding a sign-up for its Delt Dunk from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. today and Wednesday at Penland Dining Hall. Delt Dunk is a 3-on-3 basketball tournament, which will be held Nov. 8 at Russell Gymnasium. The cost to join is \$15. For additional information, contact [Trey\\_Brown@baylor.edu](mailto:Trey_Brown@baylor.edu).

**BearAware 2008** will hold a Rock Band competition from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. today in the Bill Daniel Student Center. ITS will be available to perform a security assessment of your computer. Prizes will be awarded to the winners of the competition. For additional information, contact [Carl\\_Flynn@baylor.edu](mailto:Carl_Flynn@baylor.edu).

**Senator John Cornyn** will be speaking to the McLennan County GOP Women at noon today in the Onward and Upward building at 4709 Bosque Blvd. For more information, contact [info@john-cornyn.com](mailto:info@john-cornyn.com).

**Baylor Democrats** will meet at 7 p.m. today in 349 Draper Academic Building. For more information, contact [oscar@baylor-democrats.org](mailto:oscar@baylor-democrats.org).

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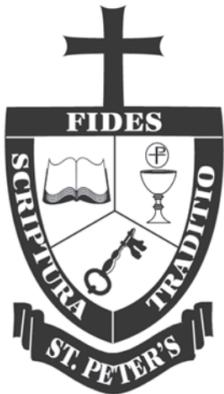


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# Disc jockeys showcase their musical stylings in Waco

By Amanda Ochoa  
Reporter

Local disc jockeys group together to bring a new music scene to Waco. A lack of exposure for these unknown musicians has left an entire electronic dance scene undiscovered, but four local DJs said they intend to take over the city one beat at a time.

"It's a DJs job to read the audience, introduce new music and to entertain," said Brian Fillmore, "DJ Rocksteady." "The beats they create or mix take a lot of thought and are meant to make the body move."

Each DJ has their preferred style and choices of genre — from indie rock, pop, hip-hop, break-beats, house to electronic.

With equipment as their instruments and music as their palette, DJs collaborate songs by timing and matching beats to create a fusion of electronic sounds. Yes, DJs are skilled musicians, Justin Horrell "DJ Decent" said.

"It's a music scene that the people of Waco will hopefully give a chance and learn to appreciate," he said.

In the past, DJs have been associated with drugs, raves and sex, but now DJs have outgrown that era. The real history of DJs isn't based on those negative affiliations, but instead through the hip-hop culture, which has progressed to other types of genres, Shay Scranton "Scantron" said.

Scranton said he recognizes the four elements of hip-hop that formed the DJ lifestyle as DJs, MCs, breaking (dancing) and graffiti. The roots of any DJ belong to the hip-hop culture, he said.

Scranton has been a DJ for 5 years. He said he wants to shake off any rave or drug affiliation with DJs, and hopes to make it all about the music. "As a DJ I want the people in Waco to know that a positive message can be portrayed through DJs and their music they just need the opportunity to prove themselves," he said.

Horrell, no stranger to the music world, is an established drummer and guitarist for local bands Yay for Squares and American History Project. Horrell said he found himself captured by the Bboy lifestyle (a lifestyle influenced by hip-hop and break dancing), and began experimenting with turntables. He said he was drawn to break-beats, scratching and also began to realize his passion for break dancing.

The DJ-electronic music scene has high potential for growth in Waco, he said.

"Waco is not used to seeing a DJ behind decks," Horrell said. "We are trying to open the DJ scene, no market for this type of music has been established in Waco and now the local DJs are grouping together to create such a market."

Horrell, Fillmore and Scranton have recently grouped together to form "The Waco City DJs." The trio are resident DJs at Treff's Bar and Grill.

"Scantron Sundays is one of the best gigs I could ask for," Fillmore said. "We have learned to read each other as individual DJs and learned to blend our styles and music together. We try to create a never-ending mix of beats and songs. It's a time of great music and dancing."

The three DJs line up on Treff's stage every Sunday night,



Sarah Morris/Lariat staff

Brian Fillmore, "DJ Rocksteady," matches beats at "Scantron Sunday" at Treff's Bar and Grill.

Scranton and Fillmore take both sides of the stage with a modern approach with CD decks, while Horrell takes the center stage with an old-school approach with his turntables.

"Our music contains many different styles and sounds," Scranton said. "If our tracks contained 40 different styles,

then that brings in 40 different kinds of people together to enjoy a fusion of music. It's a family-building situation."

Fillmore said he considers the Waco electronic and DJ scene small but growing. Fillmore has been a DJ for 8 years. Last year, only one local venue featured DJs, he said, but now more ven-

ues are opening their doors to local DJs.

ues are opening their doors to local DJs.

"In present day, mainstream music, rock bands, rappers, R&B artists, pop stars all turn to remixes as a fresh electronic sound to their songs," Fillmore said. "DJs are needed in the music industry and hopefully Waco will grasp that aspect."

Horrell, a "scratch" DJ since 2000, said he recognizes new opportunities among local venues such as Common Grounds and local art shows as a new way to showcase music and as a renewed faith within local talent.

Horrell and Scranton, featured DJs at Common Grounds Dance Party, said they praised Jill Mashburn, owner of Common Grounds, for breaking the expected acoustic scene and giving them a chance to spin electronic music. More than a hundred people showed up at the Dance Party in September, and by the end of the night everyone seemed to be feeling the beats and started dancing, Horrell and Scranton said.

"Shay and Justin both have a way of bringing their audience into the music," Mashburn said.

Mashburn said she acknowledges DJs as musicians. They create an overall product that requires a musical ear to blend the music and a musical eye to read the audience, she said.

Mashburn plans on holding a monthly dance party at Common Grounds featuring "Scantron," "DJ Rocksteady" and "DJ Decent." It will create a completely different musical atmosphere, she said.

Common Grounds is great to "give us exposure," Horrell said. "In return, we will expose new music and a look into a dif-

ferent culture that people might just love — sharing is something beautiful," he said. "As a DJ you have the chance to share your passion."

Woodlands junior Hannah Brooks, "Lady Lux," is a newcomer to the DJ scene. She said she was inspired by hip-hop and intrigued by electronic music to invest in DJ equipment to pursue her interest in learning how to be DJ.

"As a female and a student at Baylor, I usually get a shocked expression when I proclaim my passion for electronic music," Brookssaid. "But local DJs opened



Check out the online audio slideshow and video of the DJs at [baylor.edu/lariat](http://baylor.edu/lariat).

my eyes to a variety of music and genres, and introduced me to a music scene I didn't even know existed in Waco."

Brooks said she hopes Waco and Baylor events will give more opportunity for DJ exposure.

"Not many people are familiar with the scene or culture of electronic music, especially Baylor students," she said. "With an open-mind, I am sure they would learn to love and appreciate it."

DJs consider themselves musicians because they train to count beats, match tempos and work with all types of styles and effects to form a precise blend of sounds, Scranton said. It is a form of art that inspires people to get up and move to the beat, he said.

## 'Suns' offers different side to Snow Patrol

By Brianna McClane  
Contributor

My first mistake — listening to "Eyes Open" while preparing for the release of Snow Patrol's new album. My second mistake — expecting Snow Patrol's new album, "A Hundred Million Suns," to sound like "Eyes."

### ALBUMREVIEW

One thing Snow Patrol fans know is that none of their albums sound the same. It isn't fair to compare "Suns" to any of the band's previous work.

The first time I listened to the album, I was disappointed. I found myself longing for the old days of "Its Beginning to Get to Me." The second time, I liked a few of the songs. The third time, I understood.

The album resembles older Coldplay, with meaningful lyrics and mellow chords. It's a calmer version of "Eyes," with a

purpose.

In an interview with MTV, frontman Gary Lightbody said "Suns" is supposed to be different. Instead of focusing on relationships ending, the lyrics revolve around a relationship in progress.

That is exactly what the album does. Unlike their previous albums, "Suns" doesn't focus on strong beats and buildups that end in crescendos that make

your blood boil. It's a softer album focused on lyrics and crescendos that resemble waves rather than plane crashes. The upbeat lyrics are a refreshing change from the usual heart wrench found in Snow Patrol's songs.

"The Planets Bend Between Us" contains the line used for the album's title. The music

seems to weave itself around the lyrics that tell of a love that will be shouted from Ireland to America.

It's understandable why the band chose a line from this song as the album's title. It's the epitome of a love song, complete with promises that are impossible to keep.

Of course, that's exactly the kind of love song a girl likes to hear.

### Standout Tracks

- "The Planets Bend Between Us"
- "Lightning Strikes"

The first single from the album is "Take Back the City." Why the band chose this song as their single, I don't know.

While it makes you want to dance, it's robotic repetitiveness makes it forgettable.

"The Golden Floor" is ethereal and otherworldly, with constant beats underlining the melody. The lyrics tell of princesses and peasants and "a sleeping plan-

et with a molten core," which makes the fantasy experience complete.

"Please Just Take These Photos from My Hands" tells of encountering memories of a failed relationship. This song echoes older Snow Patrol but with a harder rock-base. Pull out your air guitar for this one because you'll find yourself singing and dancing.

The last song, "Lightning Strikes," is intimidating but a worthwhile 16 minutes. The song is broken into three parts that speak of the fear, risk and companionship that result from relationships. I didn't even notice the song's length, instead I was drawn to the beat surrounding lyrics, to which I could relate.

Snow Patrol has turned out another great lyrical album, but don't expect the forceful tunes of the past. Instead, this is the perfect album for being in love on a cloudy fall day.

Grade: B+

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# Bears to finish season against Texas

By Joe Holloway  
Sports writer

The Baylor soccer team will travel Friday to Austin, where they will take on the No. 12-ranked University of Texas Longhorns, who look to build on consecutive road victories over the University of Kansas and No. 20 University of Missouri.

Baylor, who typically travels to play the same two teams Texas does, but in reverse order over the same weekend, posted close losses to those same two teams. The Bears fell to the Tigers 2-0 Friday evening and dropped a 1-0 game to the Jayhawks on Sunday afternoon.

"I was really pleased with the way we played this weekend and kind of the way we traveled," head coach Marci Jobson said. "It was a big focus for us to

play well on the road. We came out strong against Missouri, and created some chances.

Kansas scored an unbelievable set piece goal that no one could have done anything about.

It was about 30 yards out. It was a bomb. We had a lot of chances in that game, too."

Junior forward Katie White said that other than Kansas' "unbelievable" goal, the team played the Jayhawks, who broke the top-25 rankings earlier in the year, extremely well.

"It was an awesome shot," she said. "It was a good game other than that."

According to Jobson, Missouri had a physical game while Kansas was more possession-oriented. She said she was pleased with how her team handled both styles of play.

"I just thought they played

really well and very competitive in both games," she said. "You can't ask for anything more than for your team to play hard, with passion and with heart, and they played with those things. Both teams are talented. I'd pay to play these types of teams."

When the Bears meet the Longhorns in the last game of the season, they will be faced with another team that is possession-oriented.

"We just really need to go at them," White said. "We're a pretty good defensive team. I think we just do that better naturally, but we really need to go after them."

Jobson said that she is looking forward to the Texas game as an opportunity to head into the offseason on a positive note.

"Texas is another great challenge," she said. "I want these girls to finish their race strong."

I want them to be competitive in this game, give themselves a chance to win the game and really go after Texas."

Despite Texas' No. 12 ranking and string of recent victories, Jobson is optimistic about her team's chances. Judging from the number of close games, an upset is certainly never out of the question, especially now that Jobson says her team is no longer intimidated by facing highly ranked opponents.

"If the ball went our way at Oklahoma and we didn't give up the one goal at the end to Tech, we'd be in the tournament right now," she said, referring to two of Baylor's closest heartbreaking losses this season. "They've gotten over being afraid of teams and I think they're going to go after it and they're looking forward to finishing their season strong."



Christina Kruse/Lariat Staff

Baylor midfielder Hannah Dismuke (9) beats Oklahoma defender Kelsey Kraft (16) to the ball in the Lady Bears 1-0 win over Oklahoma on Oct. 19. Baylor travels to Austin Friday to play the No. 12-ranked Texas Longhorns.



Josh Harrell/Iowa State Daily

Baylor's Allison King, left, digs the ball during a match against Iowa State University on Wednesday, Oct. 29, 2008, at Hilton Coliseum. The Bears won the first game, but then lost three consecutive games.

# BU drops road match at ISU

Bears on track for 1st postseason bid since 2001

By Kyle McKanna  
Reporter

The Baylor volleyball team dropped an important Big 12 match against Iowa State University Wednesday night at the Hilton Coliseum in Ames, Iowa.

The Bears (14-8, 6-6) jumped out to a one-set lead but Iowa State (15-8, 7-5) rallied back and took the match 3-1 (21-25, 26-24, 25-18, 26-24).

"We were really steady in the first game," junior Taylor Barnes said. "In the second game they fired back."

The Cyclones used runs of 7-0 and 6-0 to take a lead in the

second set, and held off a Baylor rally when consecutive Diane Kieger kills gave ISU the 26-24 victory. Finishing sets proved to be a problem for the Bears all night long.

"We had too many errors," head coach Jim Barnes said. "The game ended on plays we normally could make, but we didn't make them."

Junior Katie Sanders led the Bears in kills with 11, while junior Anna Breyfogle and freshman Briana Tolbert had 10 each.

Freshman Allison King recorded a team-high 18 digs and extended her streak of matches with 10 or more digs to 17.

Barnes, who led the team with 46 set assists, was pleased with the Bears overall effort.

"We fought back toward the end, but we couldn't finish the match," she said.

Though the loss moved the Bears a game back of the Cyclones in the Big 12 standings and in to fifth place, they are still in the hunt for the NCAA Tournament.

"Typically the top six teams in the Big 12 make the tournament," Taylor Barnes said. "We haven't made the tournament since 2001, so it would be a huge accomplishment."

Coach Barnes and his team will look to bounce back in their next game Sunday, when they travel to Norman to take on the University of Oklahoma.

The Sooners are coming off a big win against the University of Texas and are also hoping to earn a spot in the NCAA Tournament.

"We've got to regroup," he said. "We need to play at our highest level to have a chance for the tournament."

# Philadelphia jumps from worst to first with 4-3 victory over Rays

By Ben Walker  
The Associated Press

PHILADELPHIA — From losingest team to longest game, the Philadelphia Phillies are World Series champions.

Strange as that sounds. Strange as it was. Brad Lidge and the Phillies finished off the Tampa Bay Rays 4-3 in a three-inning sprint Wednesday night to win a suspended Game 5 nearly 50 hours after it started.

Left in limbo by a two-day rainstorm, the Phillies seasawed to their first championship since 1980. Pedro Feliz singled home the go-ahead run in the seventh and Lidge closed out his perfect season to deliver the title Philly craved for so long.

"It's over," Phillies shortstop

Jimmy Rollins said. "It's over, man."

Bundled in parkas and blankets, fans returned in force to Citizens Bank Park and saw the city claim its first major sports championship in 25 years. No more references needed to those sad-sack Phillies teams in the past and their 10,000-plus losses.

It was among the most bizarre endings in baseball history, a best-of-seven series turned into a best-of-3½ showdown when play resumed in the bottom of the sixth inning tied at 2.

Two Rays relievers warmed up to start, and there was a pinch-hitter before a single pitch. "God Bless America" was sung rather than the national anthem and the seventh-inning stretch came quickly.

Despite low TV ratings and minus the majors' most glamorous teams, fans will always remember how this one wrapped up. And for the first time in a long while, kids saw a World Series champion crowned before bedtime.

While former NL MVPs Ryan Howard and Rollins drive the Phillies, it was others who won it on this chilly night and sent the young Rays home.

Tied at 3, Pat Burrell led off the seventh with a drive off the center-field wall against J.P. Howell. Chad Bradford relieved and one out later Feliz singled home pinch-runner Eric Bruntlett.

Rocco Baldelli's solo home run off Ryan Madson, who relieved Cole Hamels when the game resumed, made it 3-all in the top of the seventh. The Rays

almost got more, but All-Star second baseman Chase Utley alertly bluffed a throw to first on a grounder over the bag and instead threw out Jason Bartlett at the plate.

Pinch-hitter Geoff Jenkins, the first batter Wednesday night, doubled and later scored on Jayson Werth's bloop single.

In all, there were six new pitchers, three pinch-hitters and two pinch-runners when play restarted.

Manager Charlie Manuel, whose NL East champions clinched a playoff spot in the final week, guided the Phillies' second overall championship in six World Series tries.

Once known as a city of champions, Philadelphia sports fell on hard times after Julius Erving and Moses Malone led the Sixers

to the 1983 title.

Since then, the Phillies, Eagles, Sixers and Flyers made it to the championship game or round — seven times, in total — and lost all of them.

The city became so starved for a crown that it was ready to throw a parade down Broad Street for a horse. But local colt Smarty Jones lost, too, in his bid for the Triple Crown.

"People enjoy being associated with winning and a world championship is the ultimate," Mike Schmidt, MVP of the Phillies' other championship, wrote in an e-mail to The Associated Press this week. "It unites a town behind one team."

Cheesesteaks, on the house.

Tampa Bay did itself proud, too, until this final week. Baseball's best success story this sea-

son, the worst-to-first Rays played like the downtrodden Devil Rays from the past decade.

Even so, the gap between the Phils and Rays wasn't enormous. Had Evan Longoria's late, long drive off Jamie Moyer in Game 3 not been blown back by the wind, the teams might still be playing.

This game was suspended Monday night a batter after Carlos Pena's tying, two-out single in the Rays' sixth. By then, the field had become a quagmire, with the foul lines washed out, home plate turned into a puddle and every ball an adventure.

A shaky forecast led to a rainy Game 5. Shane Victorino hit a two-run single off Scott Kazmir in the first, and the Rays scored in the fourth on Pena's double and Longoria's single.

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**FUEL** from page 1

ways to process waste products. They developed a process to convert food product waste and manure from cows, chickens and turkeys into ethanol.

Through an enzymatic process, they convert the carbohydrates in the waste products to sugars and then add yeast to turn the sugars into alcohol, which is distilled to produce 99 percent pure ethanol.

The ethanol is then sold to fuel distributors.

"There are other companies working on similar research," EQMA co-owner Norm Burgess said. "But we are further along into commercializing it and getting it out of the lab and into the market."

Burgess added that human waste would not work as well because human digestive systems process carbohydrates better, leaving nothing for them

to work with.

Burgess also notes that automotive manufacturers are designing new engines with the capability to run on 85-percent ethanol.

But, since corn is the standard input for most ethanol manufacturers and the price of corn has made ethanol production so expensive that it's no longer worthwhile, EQMA hopes to benefit by using disposable wastes to produce a cheaper form of this fuel.

EQMA worked with The Hankamer School of Business to develop a business plan to help secure investors.

"We had to prove to the grant committee and our investors that (EQMA) is a viable option for a new business. We showed our lab work and Baylor helped with research to develop a business plan to see if it's viable economically," Burgess said.

EQMA also aims to assist agricultural businesses by

providing an environmentally friendly source for waste disposal. They work with local dairy farmers who cannot afford disposal fees for their wastes by taking their waste to use in research and development.

Co-founder and owner Steven Stone claims problems, such as the lawsuit filed by the city of Waco against dairies in Erath, Hamilton and Bosque counties in 2004 over pollution in the city's drinking water caused by excessive bovine fecal matter, will no longer be an issue thanks to EQMA.

"We've had problems with waste polluting Waco's water, and there have been other places with similar problems, but no one knew how to fix it. No one knew how to handle the waste from these large agricultural entities, but we now feel like we have the answer. We can fix the problem and keep them in business," Stone said.

EQMA purchased land

approximately 20 miles west of Waco in McGregor to build their first plant.

The plant will be relatively small and only provide 10 to 15 new jobs, but will serve as a demonstration plant to assist in their goal of eventually building plants in every region of the country.

They hope to have it running by mid-2009.

EQMA is also considering several new ideas, including converting waste material from slaughterhouses into ethanol and processing algae into an oil that can be converted into biodiesel.

"We're converting into ethanol today, but we don't know what's going to happen in the next 10 years. Whatever happens, we can make a difference in the environment regardless if it's ethanol or something else. Our ultimate goal is to help people manage these issues and stay in business," Stone said.

**GRANT** from page 1

with high levels of poverty.

"In the Waco district, 90 percent of those students are economically disadvantaged, and less than 20 percent are prepared to go to college," Hernandez said. "So it's about more than just giving them a book; we have to take them out to experience science and connect them to things maybe they thought they couldn't do before."

Because a lot of science involves complicated terminology, a key to getting children hooked on science is simplifying these concepts.

ing these concepts.

"It's all about breaking science into manageable pieces," Hernandez said. "Take the term quantum mechanics — when you break it down, it's simply a way to measure things. You just have to remove the scary intimidation factor and show the kids that they can understand science."

As part of GEAR UP's mission, CASPER puts on an annual physics circus for students. Before the circus, CASPER gives out an attitude assessment as well as a content assessment. This data collected from this assessment is what drives

which areas of instruction will be focused on.

Then, they develop a kit with science materials for the teachers, who attend training on how to better develop their teaching methods.

"After training, the teachers go back to the classroom and teach with their kits, and at the circus they demonstrate all of the content in the kit," Hernandez said. "The kids work in cooperative groups to make experiments, and then we test them again over the content and attitude about science. Most people learn by seeing a visual, so if they can understand a

concept visually, they can then apply it to the abstract."

The GEAR UP partnership puts on other events, such as Marsh Madness and Project STOMP, which involve instructional learning field trips for the students.

"We need to diversify our campus. Baylor is right here for these kids, and for most, isn't affordable. But if they can make good grades, they can make it here," Hernandez said. "The days of a teacher telling her students that half of the class will fail are over. We want every child to succeed. We just need to raise our expectations."

**ECONOMY** from page 1

it has been one of the most difficult forecasts I've made because there have been so many changes," Kelly said. "Every time I pick up the Wall Street Journal, somebody is saying something different."

Another featured speaker comments on how the latest economic concerns will influence this year's luncheon.

"Given the current situation, I anticipate most of the discussion will be about the financial

crisis. It has resulted in a more challenging economy," said Ray Perryman, founder and president of The Perryman Group and former Baylor economics professor.

The Perryman Group is an economic and financial analysis firm that is headquartered in Waco. Perryman will share a forecast for the U.S. and Texas economies.

"I am expecting positive growth for the next year in all major U.S. indicators, but at fairly modest rates with some prob-

lems in the first half of the year," he said. "Texas will fare somewhat better, but will also lag in recent performance levels."

Joe Rodriguez, Jr., the managing director of Invesco Real Estate in San Antonio, will present an outlook for financial markets.

The question concerning the local community is to what extent Waco and Texas will be affected if the national situation continues to deteriorate, according to the economic department's Web site.

**CRIME** from page 1

tive year.

The Waco Police Department has made measured progress and crime at this time is down compared to last year, Anderson said.

"We've been making a lot of arrests and making a lot of cases. We're trying to get out there and finish out the year real strong," Roseborough said.

The officers said that they try to remember that there is a victim for every arrest warrant.

"This is the extra little push to get these people go before the public and answer for their crimes," Roseborough said.

The Waco Police Department has the aid of the F.B.I., the U.S. Marshal's office and the Texas Department of Criminal Justice.

The Waco Police Department has had to go into other cities in their pursuit this week, and they've had the aid of local agencies as well, said Roseborough.

"There's been a lot of cooperation at the local, county, state and federal level," Roseborough said.

**RATES** from page 1

since 1958 when Dwight Eisenhower was president.

Reducing the rate as low as zero cannot be ruled out, some analysts said, but they cautioned that reducing rates that far carried some risks, including that if the credit crisis suddenly worsened, the Fed would have used up its ammunition.

Analysts also noted that just lowering rates cannot serve as a panacea to overcome a credit crisis.

While the goal is to encourage banks to begin lending again, financial institutions are skittish about extending new loans given the huge losses they have racked up in bad mortgages.

Meanwhile, the administration announced that the spigot had been opened on

the \$700 billion fund created by Congress Oct. 3 to rescue the U.S. financial system.

Treasury issued a report showing checks had been disbursed for \$125 billion in payments to nine major banks, including Bank of America, Citigroup, JPMorgan Chase, Goldman Sachs and Morgan Stanley.

The goal is to bolster their balance sheets so they will resume more normal lending.

And the administration was nearing an agreement on a plan to help around 3 million homeowners avoid foreclosure, according to sources who had been briefed on the matter.

The program would be the most aggressive effort yet to limit damages from the severe housing slump.

Besides cutting interest rates, the Fed announced it was extending credit lines worth \$30 billion each to the central banks of Brazil, Mexico, South Korea and Singapore in an effort to bolster financial markets in those countries and relieve investors' anxieties.

It brought to 14 the number of central banks that the Fed has entered into so-called swap arrangements for currency as a way to pump more liquidity into global credit markets, part of an effort that the Bank of England estimated has resulted in \$5 trillion in support being put forward by governments worldwide.

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