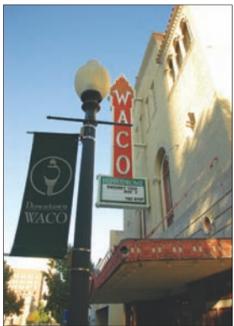


ROUNDING UP CAMPUS NEWS SINCE 1900

THE BAYLOR LARIAT

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 31, 2008

TODAY



Refresh, Revive, Rejuvenate

New entertainment venues slated to boost downtown Waco

Page 7

Election '08 Countdown
4 Days

Obama or McCain?

Students weigh in on who they will vote for and why

Page 5

Bringing Back Tradition

Age-old Baylor tradition may make comeback

Page 9

FALL BACK

Remember to set your clocks back one hour before going to bed Saturday

HOMECOMING SCHEDULE

TODAY

Pigskin Revue (1st Performance)
6:30 – 8:30 p.m.
Waco Hall

Extravaganza
6 – 11:45 p.m.
Fountain Mall

Bonfire and Pep Rally
9 – 11 p.m.
Fountain Mall

Pigskin Revue (2nd Performance)
10:30 p.m.
Waco Hall

SATURDAY

Homecoming Parade
8:30 – 10 a.m.
Downtown Waco and Baylor campus

Reunion Picnic and Class Meetings
11:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.
Floyd Casey Stadium

Snickers Touchdown Alley
Noon – 2 p.m.
Floyd Casey Stadium grounds

Homecoming Football Game
2 – 5 p.m.
Floyd Casey Stadium

Pigskin Revue (Final Performance)
7 – 9 p.m.
Waco Hall

Visit www.baylor.edu/lariat for a complete schedule of events

Eternal flame up in smoke?

Jade Ortego
Staff Writer

Fighting during the traditional lighting of the eternal flame left two hospitalized, including an officer, and several with citations from Baylor police.

"People were behaving in a way you'd see at a European soccer match," said Baylor Police Chief Jim Doak. "They created a mob mentality."

Questions remain as to whether the tradition will be abolished. The flame will not be relit this year.

Approximately 2000 students met in Waco Hall at 10 p.m. for freshman mass meeting. The group left for Fountain Mall en masse at about 11:15 p.m.

The tradition is intended to honor the Immortal Ten, 10 basketball players who died in a bus accident in 1927. Each year, a flame on the stage of Waco Hall is moved to Fountain Mall near the bonfire in a symbolic gesture of giving the protection of Baylor over to the freshman. Baylor Chamber organizes the meeting and lighting of the flame.

The fire was carried in a "smudge pot," or oil lamp, by the freshman class president, surrounded by members of chamber, who were surrounded by the freshman class. At least six officers were with the crowd.

The meeting and move went well until the group reached fountain mall, where people were waiting for them with water balloons and a slingshot.

For the last several years, upperclassmen have attempted to put out the flame. Originally, the tradition was guard the bonfire from the opposing



Christina Rey/Round Up

A student and an officer were hospitalized Wednesday night after fighting broke out at the lighting of the eternal flame ceremony in Fountain Mall.

team. It evolved into the freshman protecting the flame from the upperclassmen, but origi-

Please see **FLAME**, page 7

Baylor's annual finance report released

By Ashley Corinne Killough
Staff Writer

Baylor's annual financial statements for the fiscal year ending May 31, released Oct. 23, noted the university's 2008 bond transactions and a roughly \$10 million increase in land assets.

After Lehman Brothers Holding, Inc., the underwriter of Baylor's variable interest rate bonds, filed for bankruptcy Sept. 15, the university assigned its remarketing responsibility to JPMorgan Chase & Co. two days later, said Bob Spence, treasurer and associate vice president for financial services.

As the underwriter, Lehman Brothers bought the university's \$159.1 million of variable rate bonds in April and then remarketed them every seven days when their interest rates reset.

Lehman Brothers was the underwriter for bond transactions in 2002 and 2006, as well.

Baylor also issued \$112 million of fixed long-term bonds to refinance approximately 40% of the current outstanding bonds. All of the bonds are amortized and payable in annual installments over 30 years.

In a statement from the president's office on April 3, it was announced the market reception to the fixed long-term bonds was "exceptional," with \$600 million in requests for Baylor bonds on the first day.

"We felt that the response would be very good, but it was probably better than expected," Spence said. "We believe that the Baylor name is well known and well respected in the market, and also this was Baylor's first issuance of fixed rate long-term bonds."

According to the financial statements, the Board of Regents approved on July 25 the establishment of a commercial paper program to provide an additional financing source. This will allow the university to issue both taxable and tax-exempt notes in an aggregate principal amount not to exceed \$50 million.

Please see **REPORT**, page 13



File Photo

The Baylor Bears will face the Missouri Tigers Saturday afternoon during the homecoming game. Kick-off is at 2 p.m. at Floyd Casey Stadium and will be preceded by tailgating from 12 p.m. to 2 p.m. in the Snickers Touchdown Alley.

Clash of the quarterbacks

Daniel, Griffin travel different paths to same outcome

By Garrett Turner
Sports Writer

Two hundred seventy miles separated them during high school, but Saturday a

mere 53.3 yards will keep quarterbacks Chase Daniel and Robert Griffin apart for 60 minutes as the Baylor Bears take on the Missouri Tigers in a Big 12 quarterback showcase.

It's hard to draw any similarities between Griffin and Daniel, since their games are totally different. Where Dan-

iel's smaller stature forces him to pick defenses apart from the pocket, Griffin's athletic ability gives him the potential to make plays with his feet at any point during the game.

"They're both extremely confident guys," Jason Howell, publisher of Sic'em sports.com, a recruiting Web site, said. "They both came from

really great high school programs, programs that are known for developing quarterbacks. Chase doesn't have the athleticism like Griffin but there are not a whole lot of guys that do. It should be a pleasure to see both of them compete on the field."

Please see **GAME**, page 17

Bears For Life calls attention to lack of pregnancy support



Photo Illustration by Christina Kruse

Bears for Life members say that Baylor culture may make pregnant students feel unwelcome.

By Rebecca LaFlure and Melanie Crowson
Reporters

Leaders of Bears for Life, an anti-abortion organization at Baylor, charge that Baylor indirectly encourages abortion because of inadequate resources and an environment that can be uncomfortable for pregnant students.

Luke Womble, Bears for Life president and sophomore from Oklahoma City, OK, said Baylor culture might cause some pregnant women to feel unwelcome. He noted that he never sees any pregnant students on campus.

"Unfortunately, it's looked

down on by many as 'Oh, you got pregnant?'" Womble said. "We need to try to help the women involved so they don't feel like abortion is the only option."

Bears for Life Vice President Rachana Chhin, a Houston sophomore, pointed out that college-aged women make up the largest demographic of people who get abortions.

According to the Guttmacher Institute, a center that conducts research on sexual and reproductive health, half of all women who obtain abortions are under the age of 25.

Please see **HEALTH**, page 13



Sarah Morris/Lariat Staff

So long, farewell

The Brazos Belle is being sold for scraps after its new owners determined the beloved boat is damaged beyond the point of repair. The 22 year-old icon once cruised Waco's waters as a floating restaurant and banquet facility, but frequent flooding and economic woes have led to the demise of this former Waco landmark.

Meaning of American patriotism contested in 2008

America is facing an identity crisis. In this election year, we've had to ask ourselves a lot of questions.

Are we post-racial? Are we Christian? Are we right-of-center or are we left-leaning? Are we defined by our small towns or by our big cities? Are we still the superpower we once were?

But perhaps this race will go down as the one where we contested our own patriotism, where we divided ourselves on the meaning of America.

A month ago, Joe Biden told us the patriotic ones are those paying higher taxes. And last week, Sarah Palin said they're the ones living in the "Pro-America" pockets of the country, or what she calls "real America."

"This is where we find the

kindness and the goodness and the courage of everyday Americans. Those who are running our factories and teaching our kids and growing our food and are fighting our wars for us. Those who are protecting us in uniform. Those who are protecting the virtues of freedom," she said.

What a backhanded slap to the rest of the country. What an obvious ploy of pandering. I'd like to see her make that same speech next September at Ground Zero in New York City. Or at Veterans for Foreign Wars in Chicago. If she really means it, she can say it twice.

We've seen other questions of patriotism. Barack Obama was heavily criticized for not wearing a flag lapel pin. His wife was lambasted for being proud of

point of view

BY ASHLEY KILLOUGH

her country for the first time in her adult life. And his spiritual leader, Jeremiah Wright, became famous for preaching with anti-American rhetoric.

On the contrary, the Republican strategy has been to monopolize patriotism. One only needs to look at the convention in St. Paul, where a week of small town values, country music and "Country First" pride dominated the scene.

Despite varying definitions the world's meaning, studies

show we are a highly patriotic country.

Unlike some nations, our government doesn't force country loyalty upon us. There's no federal law mandating the Pledge of Allegiance or the flying of the flag on private property. There's no state-run media controlling our society, telling us why we should love America.

We do that on our own. We vote on our own. We celebrate national holidays our own way — with our neighbors, friends, families and associations.

Our freedoms, our rights, our idealism, our grassroots activism and our service — these are what truly set us apart. But people who voice concern are called dissenters. People who disagree with the president are deemed unpatriotic.

Yet those who speak out believe they're serving the country's interests as much as those who support the government. Despite opposing methods, both believe they're doing what's best for the country.

And there seems to be two prevailing ideas of America in this election.

One is old-school, traditional and uniform. The other is new-school, post-modern, diverse and cosmopolitan. And even within the political parties, there's division between the elite, intellectual classes and the average, blue-collar workers.

So is there one America? Can patriotism and unity coexist?

Just over seven years ago, a plane crashed in an empty field in Stoneycreek Township, Penn-

sylvania. On the plane were 40 terrified but brave people. And they happened to be from both small towns and big towns. They made a sacrifice not because of the size of their hometown or the size of their income, but on their love for family and freedom.

This country was more united after that day than it has been in a while. But it shouldn't take an act of terrorism for that sense of unity to flourish.

So what will it take? What kind of country will the next president lead?

It'll certainly be patriotic but for which America?

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

Editorial

Bike program could decrease parking problems

In an effort to alleviate parking problems and promote eco-friendly living, college campuses around the country are starting to put the pedal to the pavement.

Colleges and universities, such as the University of New England, are starting to offer bicycle programs as an alternative to driving.

Bike programs first had success overseas in Europe, particularly in Paris. In an effort to battle traffic congestion, the Vélib bike program began in July 2007. The program has 750 self-serve docking stations for the bikes and allows patrons to use the bikes for as little as 1 euro (\$1.38) a day.

The University of New England in Maine and Ripon College in Wisconsin, have established bike programs that are encouraging students, freshmen in particular, to bike to campus. Both universities offered new, free bikes to all incoming students in exchange for them leaving their vehicles at home. Ripon even offered free helmets and locks as well.

The University of New England reported that after implementing the bike program only 25 percent of incoming fresh-

men brought their vehicles to campus, in comparison to last year's 75 percent.

Both programs were created specifically to battle parking problems at both universities but also brought some perks along with it, such as helping the environment and promoting exercise. Not only do these programs better the environment, but they also could benefit college students looking to stay healthy and save money.

With a rapidly growing student body, it would be a sensible choice for Baylor to seriously consider this type of program. After all, the university has made significant strides to become more sustainable with recycling. So why not branch out and tackle the overflowing parking garages?

Here at Baylor, we have our own set of parking problems: too many students and not enough parking spots. With the threat of increasing parking sticker prices and staff and with faculty possibly having to pay to park next year, Baylor should be open to exploring different options.

By offering free bikes, Baylor could help improve the current parking problem without having to increase parking fees.



By committing to a biking program, students will save money. A student will get a free bike and save on parking and gas money, while those who do drive will not have to fight for a spot or pay more to park.

This program could see tremendous success with incoming students. By offering a free bike to incoming classes, freshmen could leave their cars at home and free up space for upper-classmen who live farther from campus. Since Baylor requires that all freshmen live on campus, a free bike makes perfect sense for those going short distances to and from the residence halls and classes.

In addition, some policies of other universities don't even allow freshmen to bring cars at all, so by offering a bike, it could

offer a better alternative than nothing.

With many bikes on campus, concerns of theft and vandalism have been raised. This is common for anyone with a bike, free or not. This threat won't lessen. Students will have to exercise the same care they would if it was their own bike. If the university provides locks along with the bikes, this would help curb theft.

A program like this would definitely require money. But this is a short-term cost for a long term investment. If enough students starting riding bikes to school, Baylor wouldn't have to build more parking garages for cars. Accommodating parking for bikes will surely be easier than cars. Or Baylor can model a program after Mercer University

in Georgia. Mercer has found ways to make the program more cost-effective.

The university asked for old bike donations and received 60 bikes. The university then fixed up and painted the bikes in school colors for use in their bike rental program. Emory University in Georgia partnered with a local bike shop that offered 50 free bikes to the university that could be rented free of charge at several locations around campus.

If Baylor can't offer all students free bikes, then the university could possibly work out a deal with local bike shops to offer discounted bikes to students who are willing to participate. This way, local bike businesses, the students and Baylor all win.

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.

A subscription to the Lariat costs \$45 for two semesters. Send check or money order to One Bear Place #97330, Waco, TX, 76798-7330 or e-mail Lariat_ads@baylor.edu. Visa, Discover and MasterCard payments may be phoned to 254-710-2662. Postmaster: Please send address changes to above address.

Young voters can make meaningful change in election, country

In February of this year, I got a call from a field coordinator of the Obama campaign, telling me that twelve staff members would soon arrive in Waco to work with our local grassroots Obama group on the upcoming Texas primary. On my way to meet them for the first time, my mind conjured grizzled political veterans who would put in their eight to ten hours each day and then retire to the local bar to wind down each evening.

But was I ever wrong. Every one of them was about my age and had either recently graduated from college or was taking a semester off, which has now turned into two, to work on the campaign. And these young

men and women worked hectic 12-hour days every day. I found that they were just like you and me. Talking to them, one could hear the passion they had for meaningful change in this country. They felt what the Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr. called "the fierce urgency of now."

In March, I was fortunate enough to be precinct chair-elect of the caucus for Precinct 3, which counts the majority of Baylor students among its constituents. When we began signing people in, the line of voters for the Democratic caucus wrapped around the foyer of Baylor's Weithorn Visitor Center. It was out of the door and to the end of the side-

point of view

BY RYAN YOUNG

walk. The crowd was overwhelmingly Baylor students. You can be sure that this is entirely new to American politics.

Stop to think about this moment in history. For the first time in decades, young people can not be written off as apathetic and unconcerned about the world in which we live. You and I are fortunate enough to be

members of the inaugural class of informed and involved college citizens, fighting to better our lives and the lives of our neighbors. The pundits have said for as long as I can remember that we're too busy playing video games and bar hopping to do something as simple as vote. But they were wrong this time. Sen. Obama won the Iowa primary because of the college vote. Our peers are responsible for changing the course of history in this historic presidential race.

At the same time, there are decent but misguided citizens on the fringe of the political spectrum trying to yell over the serious conversation that moder-

ate, serious Americans are having right now. You've probably received at least one of the smear e-mails that tries to persuade you to vote for or against a candidate out of fear. But this is the year that people across the country are rejecting cynicism and negativity. As an example, my brother, a pro-life church planter, voted for Sen. Obama because he recognizes that abortion should not be used as a cultural wedge issue. It should be about which candidate will reduce the number of abortions.

Did you catch the past-tense "voted?" You can put down this paper right now and go vote in the general election. Waco early

voting sites are open until 7 p.m. today. It only takes ten minutes to add yourself to the wave of college-age voters who have changed this election. On Nov. 5, I don't think the news media will be talking about "values voters" or "soccer moms." They are going to be talking about you and me and how surprised they were to see us show up at the polls. Sen. Obama was way ahead of them. That's why, from the beginning, his campaign has been powered by hope, a cute euphemism meaning college students.

Ryan Young is an '06 alumnus from Port Neches and is the volunteer public relations manager for McLennan County for Obama.

The Baylor Lariat

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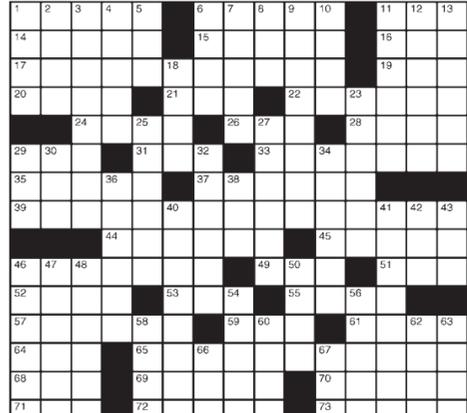
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By Allan E. Parrish
Mentor, OH

10/31/08

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

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Mock trial team takes first place

Baylor Law School proves undefeated in five-round competition

By Jillian Henderson Reporter

Baylor Law School's mock trial team won first place in the ninth annual National Trial Advocacy Competition held Saturday in East Lansing, Mich.

The competition consisted of 26 teams from around the country, from the University of Houston to the University of California, said Alex Bell, a third-year law student from Dallas.

The team's coach, Robert Little, a Baylor Law alumnus and member of the 2005 American Trial Lawyers Association National Championship team, said the students on the team started working on the competition about four weeks ago.

The Baylor team was composed of Bell, Joel Bailey, Kendall Cockrell and Tom Jacob.

The competition was held Thursday, Oct. 23, through Saturday. One competition took place Thursday night, two took

place Friday and the semi-final competition took place Saturday.

"We had a criminal case about the embezzlement of the marketing plan and recipe for jalapeno-flavored beer," Bell said.

According to a Baylor Law School press release, Baylor's team had to portray both the defense and the prosecution in the case.

"Cockrell and Jacob portrayed the defense three times in the tournament, including during the finals, while Bailey and Bell represented the prosecution, including during their semifinal win over the University of Houston team," the press release said.

Baylor's team was undefeated throughout the competition, which consisted of five rounds.

To prepare for the competition, the students had many practices and did a lot of homework.

"We had three to four practices per week, and during each practice we would work on various elements of the competition, whether it was direct examinations, cross examinations,



Courtesy Photo

Baylor Law School members won the National Trial Advocacy Competition, held Saturday in East Lansing, Mich. They defeated a team from Georgia State University to take first place.

opening statements or closing statements," Little said. "The students also researched issues with regards to the admissibility of certain testimony and various exhibits in order to prepare to make legal arguments during the rounds. Each student also put in time on their own working on their parts of the competition."

In the competition the students won all three of their preliminary rounds against three different law schools and then defeated the University of Houston Law School in the semifinals. In the final round they defeated a team from Georgia

State University.

The members of the Baylor team walked away from the competition with knowledge they could use to succeed in the courtroom and a first-place plaque in hand.

"I think it shows their future employers and co-workers that they can be trusted to handle the pressure and difficulties involved in trial law," Little said. "I think it is well established that Baylor lawyers have unique talents when it comes to advocacy in the courtroom, and each of these students has now done even more to show their abilities and talents in the courtroom."

Philosopher to discuss animals' emotions

By Jacqueline Deavenport Reporter

In celebration of Baylor Homecoming, one of the university's distinguished philosophy professors will be delving into the feelings of animals, such as baboons and squirrels.

The 2008 Philosophy Department Homecoming Lecture, sponsored by the Philosophy Club, will be at 3:30 p.m. today in 120 Morrison Hall.

Dr. Robert C. Roberts, distinguished professor of ethics, will present "How Sophisticated are the Emotions of Animals?"

This is the third annual homecoming lecture in the philosophy department. In the past there was only a reception for returning alumni, but the lecture component allows alumni once again to engage in an intellectual community with current students and faculty. This lecture is the department's main event for homecoming.

"As far as homecoming lectures go, we love to support the faculty research that has been going on in the department," Arlington junior Jonathan Rutledge said. Rutledge is vice president of the Philosophy Club.

In his lecture, Roberts will draw from a statement in Charles Darwin's book, "The Origin of Species."

"A little dose of judgement or reason often comes into play even in animals very low in the scale of nature," Darwin said in his book.

Roberts will show how Darwin's statement may be true, especially in relation to emotion. The focus of the lecture will show how animal emotions, like human emotions, have a kind of intelligence to them.

One of the puzzles Roberts will address in the lecture is the relationship between emotions and understanding.

"In order to have a sophisticated emotional life, you have to have a sophisticated understanding," said Dr. Todd Buras, assistant professor of philosophy and faculty sponsor of the Philosophy Club.

The idea is that in order for a being to feel an emotion, such as anger, the being must understand that it had been wronged, Buras said.

Roberts lecture on animal emotions is part of a larger theory of his involving human, baby, and animal emotions. "I think

that emotions are like judgments," said Roberts, "I think they have intelligence built into them."

Robert's areas of study are

"In order to have a sophisticated emotional life, you have to have a sophisticated understanding."

Dr. Todd Buras
Philosophy Club
faculty sponsor

ethics, Christian philosopher Soren Kierkegaard, emotion theory, moral psychology and epistemology. His current project, "Emotions and Virtues: an Essay in Moral Psychology," focuses on moral psychology. An article written by Roberts titled "The Sophistication of Non-human emotions will appear in a book set to be published by Cambridge University Press in 2009 titled Philosophy of Animal Minds edited by Robert Lurz.

Baylor ramps up recycling efforts for weekend events

By Jennifer Sutton and Christina Kruse Reporters

Members of the University Sustainability Committee are expanding their efforts in order to maximize recycling during Homecoming weekend.

Recycling efforts will be made at the Homecoming football game, the post-parade float breakdown area, and at Aramark catered events.

"The Sustainability Committee is very excited to be expanding our recycling efforts to Baylor sporting events. The Homecoming Game will be a great chance for Baylor to show its alumni that the university cares about environmental stewardship and is making good progress towards that end," said Dallas senior Robert Kent, undergraduate representative to the University Sustainability Committee.

For campus recycling information, visit www.baylor.edu/sustainability

Recycling bins are available to those attending the football game this Saturday, and volunteers are available to direct recyclers to the correct bin.

"The recent efforts on the university's part are really great, and we are excited to develop new sustainability strategies over the coming months," Kent said.

This Saturday's football game will mark the sixth time the Sustainability Committee has put forth the effort to place recycling bins and volunteers.

"After 5 home games we believe we have our system down well that those who come to the games are using them (recycling containers) more and more each game," said Carl Flynn, Director of Communications & Marketing for Information Technology and University Libraries.

The football game against Oklahoma University has yielded the greatest attendance so far out of all the home football

games.

The same game also yielded the greatest amount of volunteers.

"Things went beautifully. We hope to have a similar volunteer turnout for this week and hope to have the same result," said Flynn.

For the second year in a row, volunteers will also help recycle the remains of Homecoming floats immediately after the parade Saturday morning.

"Recycling floats is one of those behind the scenes efforts that isn't public like recycling at the football games, but nonetheless makes a big difference. The fact that we are doing these behind the scenes programs also demonstrates that our commitment to sustainability isn't just skin deep," Kent said.

"It is amazing to see age-old customs being carried on, but increasingly being done so in a sustainable manner. Recycling our homecoming floats is just one of the first Baylor traditions I hope to see 'greened,'" Lindsay-Cook said.

San Angelo sophomore Austin Lindsay-Cook, Vice President of Environmental Concern Organization, said that recycling efforts are a good thing.

"The school spirit surrounding homecoming allows the Baylor family—both young and old—to come together for a weekend of bonfires, parades, and football," Lindsay-Cook said. "This year's homecoming weekend is a celebration of things old and new, including Baylor's continued journey towards sustainability. I think alumni will be excited to see the environmental progress being made at BU, and especially impressed with the support of the current student body."

Members of the Sustainability Committee agree that alumni will be generally impressed with the 'green' efforts that have been made around campus.

"We believe that when alumni return to campus and see the Baylor Renew symbols around campus and the opportunities for recycling that they will be pleased about our efforts," Flynn said.

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The Lariat asks: Which presidential candidate has your vote?



Kevin Beach



Tyler Bryan



Tyler Schexmaider



Kourtney Schropper



Sarah Richards



Justin Lavine

"I already voted for McCain. He has solid experience ... McCain is looking out for educated Americans as opposed to uneducated and poverty-stricken Americans. I have nothing against that, but Barack Obama seems to go after those people, and I don't fall into that genre of person." San Diego freshman Kevin Beach

"I'm voting for Obama because his vice president is more qualified to be president. You are essentially voting for two presidents... A lot of people, especially in the South, have an issue with Obama raising taxes. So many people in Waco are in poverty, and I don't mind him raising taxes if it's going towards the people who need it." Houston junior Tyler Bryan

"I'm voting for McCain because I stand for his values. I'm a Catholic so the importance of life is a big factor. He has a better plan than Obama overall. There are a lot of issues on the table right now, and he (McCain) has a lot of experience." Grand Prairie senior Tyler Schexmaider

"My husband and I were joking about penciling each other in our ballots because we were so unhappy with the way both parties have carried out their campaign. Their political ads were just rude... We're probably leaning towards voting more Libertarian to promote a little bit more variety." Abilene grad student Kourtney Schropper

"I have actually already voted for Obama... For students, I really like his plan for grants and loans, to make them a lot easier for us to access and make getting an education a lot better for us." Boxborough, Mass. senior Sarah Richards



"I'm voting for McCain because I like his economic policies and I feel he has more experience than Obama. Obama wants to tax the upper class more and imposes more taxes than McCain wants to." Sugar Land freshman Justin Lavine



Kristen Hendricks



Simone Orjiako

"I'm not sure who I'm voting for yet. For me, the issue of choosing a president is somebody who I would think, as a Christian, would embody living a Christ-like life. I know both men claim to be Christians, they both claim to belong to different churches, but I just don't see the fruit of that in their lives... If they're really standing for Jesus first and foremost, that would really be the one who would push me over, and I would choose them." Albuquerque junior Kristen Hendricks

"I'm going to vote for Obama because his slogan is change. I like that seeing as though our economy is in a recession... I like his policy on education as far as the \$4,000 credit he's going for because college students really need that, especially here at Baylor. I like his character. I liked the fact that Colin Powell backed him and that said a lot for his campaign." Houston senior Simone Orjiako

Preview of election night watch parties

Student Government and the Baylor Activities Council will be holding an Election Night Watch Party Tuesday from 6 p.m. until midnight in the Bill Daniel Student Center Den. The night will begin with music from the Baylor Rising Artists Network, and there will be up-to-the-minute results and analysis of the election throughout the night. Free food will be provided, courtesy of The New York Times. The College Republicans plan on attending the event.

The Society of Professional Journalists will also be hosting an election night watch party titled Bring Your Own Mug from 7 p.m. to midnight in the Bill Daniel Student Center Den. SPJ will provide coffee, popcorn and cookies.

The Baylor Democrats will be attending a watch party with the McLennan County Democratic Party Tuesday at 8 p.m. The watch party is at the Democratic headquarters located on 3400 Bosque. Baylor students are invited to attend. Food and drinks will be provided. The Waco Friends of Peace plan on attending the event.

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Iraqi proposal demands all U.S. troops go by 2011

By Robert H. Reid
The Associated Press

Baghdad — Iraq wants to eliminate any chance U.S. forces will stay here after 2011 under a proposed security pact and to expand Iraqi legal jurisdiction over U.S. troops until then, a close ally of the prime minister said Thursday.

Those demands, which were presented to U.S. officials this week, could derail the deal — delivering a diplomatic blow to Washington in the final weeks of the Bush administration.

Failure to reach an agreement before year's end could force a suspension of American military operations, and U.S. commanders have been warning Iraqi officials that could endanger security improvements.

The current draft, hammered out in months of tortuous negotiations, would have U.S. soldiers leave Iraq by Dec. 31, 2011, unless the two governments agreed to an extension for training and supporting Iraqi security forces.

But Ali al-Adeeb, a member of Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki's inner circle, said the government wants that possibility excluded by language adding finality to the end of 2011 date.

"The Iraqi side wants to remove any mention of a pos-

sible extension of U.S. troops, fearing that the existing clause might be subject to misinterpretation or could bear different interpretation," he told The Associated Press.

Otherwise, he said the U.S. might demand an extension "depending on their evaluation" of the security situation and the state of readiness within Iraq's army and police. U.S. officials have privately suggested 2012 is too early for Iraqi forces to be truly ready to maintain order.

The draft also gives Iraqi courts limited jurisdiction over U.S. troops, allowing them to be prosecuted by Iraqis only if they are accused of major crimes committed off post and off duty.

Al-Adeeb said the Iraqis want to add a provision for a joint U.S.-Iraqi committee to decide whether U.S. soldiers accused of such crimes were really on authorized missions.

Planning Minister Ali Baban, a Sunni, added that the Iraqis want jurisdiction over all U.S. soldiers and contractors unless they are carrying out joint military operations approved by Iraqis — a subtle but significant change to the draft that U.S. authorities may find unacceptable.

Iraqi officials have said the changes must be made in the draft agreement before it can be

approved by parliament in time for the Dec. 31 expiration of a U.N. Security Council mandate under which coalition troops operate in Iraq.

Without an agreement or a new U.N. mandate, the U.S. military would have to suspend all operations in Iraq after that.

"We are waiting for a response from the U.S. negotiators on how much they can accommodate," Foreign Minister Hoshiyar Zebari told CNN. "I think both sides here have reached the moment of truth. The time window is closing, and a decision has to be made as soon as possible."

But the Bush administration's hope to secure the deal while in office was fading with the new Iraqi demands, despite White House assurances that an agreement was still possible.

U.S. officials in Washington refused to discuss possible alternatives to securing a deal, saying they were still reviewing Iraq's proposed amendments that were received Wednesday.

"Once we have something to say on it, we will," State Department spokesman Robert Wood told reporters in Washington. "But for the moment, we're just taking our time in reviewing it to make sure that we've got a good sense of what it is the Iraqis have put forward."



Courtesy photo

Baylor Driving Club met in early October at the Ferrell Center parking lot for a group photo of all the members' vehicles. Currently, the club has more than 30 active members, Hollins said.

Baylor Driving Club not just about fast and furious cars

By Kyle McKanna
Reporter

Whether it's a weekly cruise that is neither fast nor furious, or the full-throttle drag race and auto-cross competitions they compete in on the weekends, you can be sure of two things about the Baylor Driving Club: they will be having fun, and they will be doing it in style.

"The cool thing about having a club car is any member can drive it."

Christian Brown
club president

The club holds weekly meetings at 6:15 p.m. Thursdays on top of the Dutton Avenue Office and Parking Facility. These meetings begin like any other organization, Brown said.

He discusses upcoming events, new cars in the group and collection of dues.

After Brown is done speaking, the group picks their cruise destination for that night.

For many members the cruise is the highlight of the driving club's week, Ontario, Ore., sophomore Chelsea Schaffeld said.

"I like when the group goes out after the meetings," Schaffeld said. "The first time I went, we passed a motorcycle cruise going the opposite way. It was pretty cool to see 30 motorcycles just out enjoying the night like we were."

The Baylor Driving Club isn't all about driving fast. While representing the driving club, its members are not allowed to go over the speed limit.

The weekly "cruise" is a slow stroll around Waco.

Even while competing in driving competitions, the drivers are required to wear helmets.

Though the cruise is a weekly highlight, there are members of the group who fall under the "fast car, fast driver" stereotype.

Hollins competes in both auto-cross and drag competitions.

"In auto-cross they set up a cone course for you to drive through," Hollins said. "Drag

racing is a quarter-mile, straight-away race."

Hollins was the club president for two years.

Among the things he accomplished was getting a car that everyone in the club could drive.

"The cool thing about having a club car is any member can drive it," Brown said. "We have a race-prepared 1995 Mustang. You can drag race it, you can auto-cross it; it's pretty much yours whenever you want."

Having a car anytime a member wants is only one of the advantages of being in the driving club.

"I've made a lot of friends, and I've got a great car-club family," Scottsdale, Ariz., junior Sam Gray said. "There have been many nights where we have driven six hours to save someone who has broken down."

The camaraderie and cars of the driving club will be on display during this Saturday's homecoming parade.

They plan to have its members walk alongside five of the group's top cars, including a \$100,000 Ford GT.

"What we really want people to know is that we are for everyone," Conroe senior Clay Clark said. "If you have an interest in cars you should come check us out."

For more information, contact Christian Brown at 713-819-0114 or visit the club's Web site at www.baylordrivingclub.com.



Photos by Shanna Taylor/ Lariat Staff

Trick or treat

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

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HOMECOMING

VERSUS

Saturday, November 1st

2:00 pm Kickoff

Entertainment venues flock to Waco

By Chad Shanks
Staff writer

Imagine an ideal night out on the town.

For some, that would include an elegant dinner and a movie, followed by enjoying some live music. For others, perhaps a trip to an art gallery and watching a play would suit them. Until recently, enjoying these forms of entertainment would require a trip to Austin or Dallas. But now, thanks to a communitywide effort to change the environment and perception of Waco's downtown area, Waco can offer an ideal night out without having to trek up and down Interstate 35.

Waco businesses and officials are working to bring various forms of entertainment downtown as part of comprehensive remodeling efforts. In addition to the new infrastructure, downtown Waco is receiving a new cultural identity.

"We want to change the perception of downtown Waco," Jonathan Garza of Heritage Events Waco said. "It doesn't have a lot of foot traffic. We want people to realize downtown Waco is a fun and safe place to be."

Heritage Events Waco is a local group that sponsors and promotes unique forms of downtown entertainment. It teamed with the Waco Chamber of Commerce this past summer to start "Movies in the Square," where family-friendly films such as "Shrek" and "Happy Feet" were projected on a 16-by-20

foot inflatable screen in Heritage Square at 330 Austin Ave. for the community to enjoy free of charge. The summer series attracted more than 2,500 people downtown. The fall movie series, which included "Talladega Nights," saw similar success while catering more to Baylor students and young professionals.

Heritage Events also holds "Gridiron Grills" after Baylor home football games in Heritage Square. The outdoor event caters to football fans, with four big-screen TVs and inflatable screen broadcasting additional games and ESPN analysis. They also have food and drinks available and have been named the official Baylor post-game destination. The next "Gridiron Grill" after the Nov. 15 game against Texas A&M University will feature a concert by country music star Mark McKinney.

"When I was at Baylor, the furthest downtown I ever came was for Ninfas. Now we hope these events, the new restaurants and the Hippodrome can change that," Garza said.

The initial push to revitalize downtown Waco's entertainment scene came in 2005 when Baylor alumnus and current Truett Seminary student, Scott Baker, was appointed Director of Waco Performing Arts and revived the then-dormant Hippodrome Theater.

"There's no point of reference for someone who didn't live here three years ago," Baker said. "We were the only thing open on this

block. Downtown Waco had all the signs of a ghost town but the tumbleweed."

The Hippodrome Theater opened in 1914 at 724 Austin Ave. and has been declared a Recorded Texas Historical Landmark listed in the National Registry of Historic Places, according to the Waco Convention and Visitors Bureau. Despite its historic nature, the theater has mirrored the struggles of downtown, even closing completely from 1978 to 1987.

In the three years since Baker's appointment, however, the theater has once again regained its status as a downtown staple, with the recent theatrical season proving its most successful ever. The Hippodrome averages one performance a week, bringing popular touring Broadway shows like "Hairspray" and "Chicago," with a performance of "Sweeney Todd: The Demon Barber of Fleet Street" scheduled for Monday. The theater has also played host to comedians such as Carlos Mencia, and has scheduled a performance by Brian Reagan.

In addition to movies and theater, downtown has seen a dramatic increase in live music with the August opening of Austin's on the Avenue at 719 Austin Ave. Baylor alumnus Austin Brock and Leslie Long started the venue after working together on a real estate business in Hewitt.

"Austin's has a different feel than other Waco places because of the patio and live music five nights a week," Brock said.

Austin's features live performances spanning the breadth of musical genres. Thursday nights highlight country music in its Texas Country Music Series. Other nights feature '80s cover bands that lead the crowd in raucous sing-alongs, along with local rock bands proving their talent. On the weekends, bigger bands from Dallas come to Waco to put on shows.

"We've been told our atmosphere feels a lot like downtown Fort Worth or Austin. Some of the Baylor alumni we've met have asked why they didn't have a place like this when they were in school," Long said.

Austin's on the Avenue owners are not worried about people trying to replicate their unique set-up and actually hope for more competition downtown.

"We're not worried about competition," Long said. "We want more people coming downtown and would love to help more new businesses get started to create a better atmosphere in Waco. We took a risk, but have shown that businesses like ours can work downtown."

Baylor students interested in performing arts careers have benefitted from Waco's increase in venues.

"Waco's venues for performers are very limited when compared to other places," Grapevine senior Kristen Warren said. "Places like Common Grounds, which is great for certain genres, may not be suitable for others. I'm glad to see Waco getting new venues to accommodate all

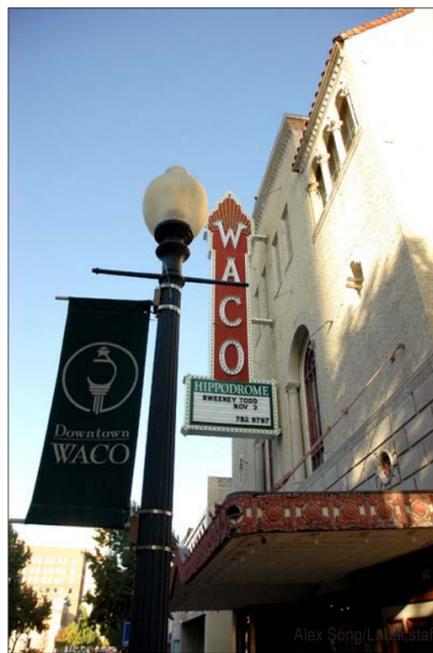
styles of music. It's important to build your local fan base and there's more opportunity for that in Waco now."

Downtown will welcome an art gallery with the opening of Croft Art Gallery at 712 Austin Ave. in September 2009. It will feature artist showcases with paintings, photography, textiles and sculptures along with events featuring live music and art films.

The Waco Chamber of Commerce is attempting to grow downtown by working with the development community to bring investors downtown and making a commitment to set the tone for the area.

"Downtown Waco has laid dormant for a long time. Today is the right time for downtown re-development," said Chris McGowen, Waco Chamber Director of Urban Development. "It's happening in cities all over the nation. People are realizing the potential for Waco. We have great assets and opportunities to build and develop."

The city is already seeing



At the Waco Hippodrome in downtown Waco, patrons can see popular Broadway shows such as "Hairspray" and "Chicago."

results from the foundation set by these new forms of downtown entertainment. Baker noted that, while putting on shows can seem disconnected, entertainment venues create tax revenue that funds schools and other local projects. Entertainment is helping to create a new era in downtown Waco.

"Three years ago, the biggest complaint heard about downtown Waco was there was nothing to do," Baker said. "Now the biggest complaint is that there won't be enough parking. That's quite a shift."

FLAME from page 1

finally it was "more of a scrimmage and not such a hateful event," said Tanner Vickers, Houston Freshman, Chamber's 2008 Freshman Mass Meeting Coordinator.

Last year, a student suffered a concussion during the event, and one dislocated her knee.

Daniel Reddin, Anchorage senior and Chamber Homecoming Chair, said he went ahead of the crowd and saw three or four groups of people in the parking lot of the business school waiting.

"I talked to them and checked

them out but all they had were water balloons, nothing harmful. They had a slingshot and I told them that was fine as long as they're not shooting directly at somebody," Reddin said.

The freshman moved into Fountain Mall and were huddled tightly together to protect the flame, said Amy Steger, Katy junior, who estimates that she arrived five minutes into the fighting.

Soon after that, another group wearing hockey masks, described by members of Chamber as being more aggressive, rushed the crowd.

"This group began pushing

into the crowd and they had items with them and they were throwing things at people. That's when things began escalating, students were getting violent, pushing and shoving," Reddin said. They were throwing raw and boiled eggs, water balloons and bottles, among other things.

Students seemed to respond to the attacks by getting violent among themselves. "People were getting mad because people were throwing eggs at them," Steger said. "Then they were looking stupid and throwing eggs at each other," Steger said.

Doak said that a student was left with a gash in head but is

unknown who or what caused it. An officer hyper-extended his thumb and the Baylor Police Department had to re-staff to cover for him.

"Students were being hit at random by other people. Multiple people were hit in the face," Doak said.

"There could have been so many arrests but we just didn't have enough officers," Doak said. All the officers were called out to help.

At about 11:50, the flame was put out in an attempt to "take away the lightning rod," Doak said. But it wasn't until 12:30 a.m. that the ambulance pulled

up and most students left, Steger said. The event was scheduled to last until 2 a.m.

Discussions are going as to whether the lighting will be attempted next year. "This year was definitely a pivotal year for this tradition without a doubt. We worked really hard to keep this from happening. This is a threatened tradition on campus and we tried our best to make that as clear as possible," said Vickers. Members of Chamber said they spoke with community leaders, coordinated with the Baylor police and sent out a mass email in attempts to prevent an aggressive sabotage.

"If [the lighting of the flame] remains, it will more than likely have heavy alterations," Vickers said.

"This has been escalating over the past several years. This was more wild and more aggressive than ever," said Reddin.

"The flame is supposed to be entirely peripheral to the stories told at Waco Hall. They're definitely losing sight of what the tradition is meant to be," Reddin said.

Doak said the department has never seen anything like this on campus. "Hooliganism reigned. It's just so sad. This is not Baylor's finest year," Doak said.

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Lady Bears back in action

By Brian Bateman
Sports Editor

The Lady Bears are back. Starting practice just two weeks ago, Baylor's women's basketball team is preparing for its first game of the season.

Last year, the Lady Bears struggled to keep enough players on the court. Several transfers from previous years, a dismissal and an injury handicapped Baylor with just nine active players. Of those, just seven saw significant playing time.

This year, it's completely different. "We've got 13 people that can just sit there and bang against each other," senior Rachel Allison said.

In the off-season, forward Jessika Bradley transferred from Baylor to San Diego State University. Other than the graduation of Angela Tisdale, it was Baylor's only loss.

With the inclusion of seven newcomers, the Lady Bears have a full roster for the first time since 2005.

"We're eager to hit someone else than ourselves," senior guard Jhasmin Player said.

Morghan Medlock, a junior transfer from the University of Southern California, will add depth to the post position. Whitney Zachariason, a forward transfer from the University of Arkansas, will also help test the front line. Since she didn't receive a full transfer waiver from Arkansas, she will have to ride the bench until Dec. 20.

"They will compete every day with Danielle (Wilson) and Rachel (Allison) and make them better, or if they don't produce, say, 'Hey, I'm here to take your spot,'" head coach Kim Mulkey said of the duo.

Perhaps the biggest boost will come from Player, who tore her ACL and missed the latter half of the season. Although not completely healthy, she has been active in practice.

"She told me it was my decision (whether to play or get a surgery)," Player said. "Time was on my side."

Mulkey plans to play her in the exhibition this Monday. That game will be against the Houston Jaguars at 7 p.m.

Although the competition doesn't count in the official statistics, the team won't be taking any plays off.

"The exhibitions are extremely important," Player said. "After the exhibition's over, we're going to be watching film the next day. She's going to pick it apart and tell you everything you've done wrong."

That would be wise of Baylor, as Stanford visits Waco on Nov. 16.

The Cardinal is the eight-time defending Pac-10 Conference champion.

Impact returners

Jhasmin Player, senior guard

One word can best describe for Player – workhorse. She was not supposed to play for two more months following a torn ACL in February. Player spent all summer rehabilitating and has practiced without a brace.

It's that dedication that alleviates the burden of Angela Tisdale's departure: that and her playmaking ability on both sides of the ball.



Player

Rachel Allison, senior post



Allison

Allison's tenacious playing style has garnered notoriety through her career. Just last year, Kim Mulkey called Allison the best defensive player in the conference. The first-team All-Big 12 and All-Defensive team pick will help anchor the front line for the Lady Bears, and her senior leadership will be vital to Baylor's success.

Melissa Jones, sophomore guard

She's not the most athletic player on the team, but she compensates with aggressive defense. In her freshman campaign, Jones made an immediate impact in rebounding.

Jones will team with Player to fill Tisdale's void. Although their playing styles vary, Jones' presence on the court could match Tisdale's.



Jones

Jessica Morrow, senior forward



Morrow

Morrow's versatility provides a plethora of options for Mulkey. At six-feet tall, Morrow has the size to be a force inside, but her elusiveness allows Mulkey a viable option at the two or three spot.

Morrow has a deadly 3-point shot, shooting 35.6 percent (37-106) and scoring 12 points per game to earn honorable mention on the All-Big 12 team.

Danielle Wilson, junior post

Every game is a block party for Wilson. Through her first two seasons, Wilson already owns Baylor's all-time blocked shots record (163), and provides an answer to potent Big 12 front lines, namely the Paris sisters from Oklahoma.

Wilson also is dangerous on offense. She scored 10.2 points per game and led Baylor in field goal percentage (.515).



Wilson

Clawing



Illustration by Claire Taylor

to the top

Mulkey adds new faces to court, bench

By Joe Holloway
Sports Writer

A new season of Baylor women's basketball is fast approaching, and with it come several new faces around the Lady Bears squad.

Of the 13 players on the team's roster, seven are either freshmen or transfer students in their first year as a Lady Bears. With last year's lone senior Angela Tisdale now graduated, head coach Kim Mulkey will return four starters from last year's squad, but the newcomers will no doubt look to have a huge impact on the team in this year's exhibitions and on into the season.

"We've made great progress in two weeks," Mulkey said. "But we've got a long way to go."

Mulkey mentioned that there was still some separation between the returning players and the newcomers, but that it should change as they become more familiar with the system.

"I remember when I was a freshman, how frustrated I would get," she said. "I thought I was better than that junior or senior, but the truth of the matter was that I didn't know what they knew."

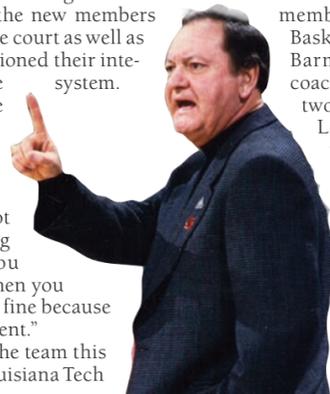
Senior guard Jhasmin Player, who herself is returning from a torn ACL and a sprained MCL, said that

the most important thing is to have chemistry with the new members of the team off the court as well as on but also mentioned their integration into the system.

"They're learning more and more every day," she said. "It's a lot of things being thrown at you every day but when you learn it they'll be fine because they have the talent."

Also joining the team this year is former Louisiana Tech

head coach Leon Barmore. A member of the Women's Basketball Hall of Fame, Barmore was Mulkey's coach in college and the two coached together at Louisiana Tech for 15 years before Mulkey came to Baylor. Mulkey said have him the team is fun and that she is totally comfortable having him sharing the coaching load.



Leon Barmore

Preseason Big 12 coaches rankings

	1	@ BU Jan. 28; @ OU Feb. 21		7	@ BU Feb. 7
<p>Just like their male counterparts, the Lady Sooners have two siblings that center the squad. Courtney and Ashley Paris will keep this squad at the top all season.</p>			<p>The Wildcats return all but one starter from last year's 22-10 squad. However, that might not be a good thing. Inconsistency followed Kansas State throughout the year.</p>		
	2	@ BU Feb. 1; @ UT Feb 28		8	@ NU Feb. 4
<p>Former Duke head coach Gail Goestenkors had trouble righting the state's flagship school last season, but by the Big 12 tournament, Texas was a tough out. That won't change this year.</p>			<p>Four starters return from a squad that was just one game over .500. Kelsey Griffin leads the squad with 15.3 points per game, but Baylor shut her down last year.</p>		
	3	@ BU Jan. 14		9	@ KU March 4
<p>The Cyclones always have great 3-point shooting, and this year won't be any different. A loss to eventual Big 12 tournament champion Texas A&M will give the squad bulletin board material for 2009.</p>			<p>Taylor McIntosh is gone, but five forwards will battle to take her place. Kansas ran a three-guard offense, but that might change this year.</p>		
	4	Not applicable		10	@ TTU Jan. 21; @ BU Feb. 25
<p>Baylor welcomes seven newcomers to its squad. If they perform well, Baylor should make a run at the conference title, if not, Bear fans will witness another season like 2008.</p>			<p>Six-foot-2 forward Dominic Seals returns for the Lady Raiders, but that's about it for Tech. A 4-12 Big 12 record probably won't get any better for this squad.</p>		
	5	@ TAMU Jan 21; @ BU March 7		11	@ CU Jan. 10
<p>The Aggies lost A'Quonesia Franklin, and with her, a good shot at the Big 12 championship. Just like Baylor, the transfers and freshmen will make or break this squad.</p>			<p>The Buffaloes finished slightly better in conference than their Texas Tech counterparts, but lost by 18 in Lubbock. These two squads are nearly interchangeable.</p>		
	6	@ BU Jan. 17; @ OSU Feb. 11		12	@ BU Feb. 14
<p>Andrea Riley averaged 24.6 points last year as a sophomore, and the 5-foot-5 guard might just increase that this year. Without help, though, the Cowgirls won't make it far in the NCAA tournament.</p>			<p>The Tigers return all five starters, and hope to build off of last season's 2-14 conference record. The good news for Missouri fans: there's only one way to go – up.</p>		

Aggie sticks once basis for rivalry

By Molly MacEwan
Reporter

Baylor men, get ready to arm yourselves with an old tradition to protect your Baylor women. The tradition of carrying axe handle sticks is trying to make a comeback. Adam Renz, a Yorba Linda senior and Baylor Chamber of Commerce member and a group of friends were talking to alumni and heard of the old tradition and decided to bring it back.

"The stories of the tradition are all a bit fuzzy," Renz said. "From what we understand, the Baylor men would make a stick and carry it around while they guarded campus. If a girl walked through a barricade and was not with a Baylor man, she had to kiss one of the boys to show she wasn't with an Aggie."

Bob Barkley, a 1978 alumnus and former yell leader, remembers a similar story.

"As freshmen, we set up barricades at each of the main entrances and took turns standing watch," he said. "It was tradition back then for the Aggies to try and come on campus to pull pranks, usually to paint Judge Baylor."

Aggies weren't the only foe to freshmen.

"We had two enemies, though: the Aggies and the upperclassmen," he said.

Barkley had an upperclassman steal his stick and run off. Fortunately, he added, he had a fast friend who was able to overtake the thief and get it back.

David Crockett, class of 1978 alumnus and also a former yell leader, remembers in detail the work that went into making an Aggie stick.

"You had to devote a lot of time if you wanted it to be nice," he said. "I spent two days of concentrated effort making mine."

Crockett started at an old hardware store.

"It was a four-foot stick that you had to sand down. Then I stained it and put the really nice decals and stickers on it. We put some polyurethane on it after that. To finish the job, we bought 3.25-inch leather to put around the handle and make a strap."

Barkley added that he used green and gold electrical tape.

"You had your class year on it, too, but really, it was your own creative license," he said.

Once made, the stick was put in the dorm room to wait for homecoming. Here, the facts get blurrier. Some say the stick was just for the Aggie game. David



Courtesy Photo

In this photo from 1969, a Baylor Bear, name unknown, sits atop the statue of Judge Baylor, armed with his Aggie stick.

Bass, a 1979 alumnus, however, remembers his stick being called a "Froggy stick."

"It was an Aggie stick when we played Texas A&M, a Froggy stick when we played TCU, and a Pony stick when we played SMU," he said.

Crockett said the Aggies were never very interested in coming

on campus Friday night before the homecoming game.

"And it was for sure that the Horned Frogs weren't going to come up," he said. "I really think the major reason for the sticks and guarding campus was to kiss a girl."

The stick would be carried around while guarding campus,

to the pep rally and sometimes even sneaked into the game.

"We used to wave the sticks wild around the bonfire," Bass said.

The origin of the tradition is hazy as well. One possible beginning for the Aggie sticks may have been a fight at a football game between Baylor and Texas A&M University students.

An article in the San Antonio Express-News, written by Mark Wangrin, told the story, giving the Baylor side and the Aggie side of the conflict. On the afternoon of Oct. 30, 1926, according to the Baylor account, six women riding in a Ford car on the field carried signs painted with the scores of big Baylor victories in the Southwest Conference in front of the Texas A&M University cheering section.

The article also cites the Aggie version. It states that the Corps of Cadets thought the women were men in drag mocking the Aggies. Also, they accused Baylor of violating a 1924 agreement between the schools' spirit groups. They said the car had nearly run over some Aggie players in the previous game. Frank Wood, a Baylor yell leader at the time, denied the agreement.

The article goes on to say, somewhere in between versions, one of the Baylor women was knocked off the car by an Aggie and the Baylor men then stormed the field, and a riot broke out. In the midst of the chaos, Charles Milo Sessums of the Corps, a senior at the time, was hit with blunt force and died the following morning at Providence Sani-

tarium in Waco.

One account from a statement issued by then-Aggie seniors said that the 1,500 Baylor fans were armed with clubs, sticks and iron rods. A different account assumed the event was premeditated because Baylor had two-by-fours stored in two trunks.

The Bears denied the charges and said the likely weapon was a piece of fence or a broken chair.

The article states that on Dec. 8, Baylor president S.P. Brooks and Texas A&M President T.O. Walton co-signed an agreement that voided all athletic contracts between the schools. They would not play again until 1931.

Wangrin ends with the acknowledgement that the tale has faded. One reason, he states, is that not soon after, on Jan. 22, 1927, 10 Baylor basketball players were killed, now known as the Immortal 10.

Whether this story had any impact on the beginning of the Aggie stick tradition is unknown. Also up in the air is the reason it was abandoned.

"My guess is that it died out when universities as a whole became more concerned with hazing," said Amarillo senior Cole Casper.

There is no doubt that the tradition is a symbol of pride with alumni though.

"After I left Baylor, I lost my Aggie stick," Crockett said. "That was one of the most emotional events of my life. But remembering it now brings back great memories of my time as a Baylor Bear."

Regent visits Student Senate

By Amanda Ochoa
Reporter

For the first time in two years, a member of Baylor's Board of Regents, Dr. Howard K. Batson, paid the Student Senate a visit at their meeting Thursday night.

He answered senate members' questions regarding increased tuition rates, donor discouragement, scholarship issues and especially targeted the University's Presidential Search Committee.

Student Body Internal Vice President Parker Short said Howard's attendance at the meeting as very important because it showed just how much a member of the board of regents truly cared about the students.

Members of the senate asked Batson questions, which focused primarily on last week's passed bill, which asked the Board of Regents to consider adding an inclusive search committee made up not only of faculty, staff and alumni, but also of students.

"I don't think it's a bad idea to have students on the advi-

sory board for the presidential search," Batson said. "They can bring up many different topics and ideas to the table most regents wouldn't even think of."

Right before the senate meeting Short, Student Body President Bryan Fonville and Student Body External Vice President Nicole Yeakley had the chance to address the Board of Regents. They addressed issues such as scholarships and increased tuition. They also introduced the Student Senate's bill in hopes that Baylor Regents will consider adding the inclusive committee as part of the presidential search.

"We always are appreciative of any opportunities we are given to speak to the board," Fonville said. "It's our chance to really get our voices, as students, heard."

While increased tuition is not escapable, Howards said, due to increasing scholarship money, the chance to redeem the university's trust factor and gain more donors to invest in the school, relies on the next president.

"Our president has to be a

leader," Batson said. "They have to be approachable, inspirational and humorous."

Whoever he or she is, that person needs to be the face of Baylor, somebody that donors can trust, he said.

"We think an inclusive search committee is what is best for the Baylor family, especially at this point in time," Fonville said.

Student Senate is trying to approach this presidential search differently than the last search, which had an advisory board made up of alumni and faculty who were only able to voice their opinions, but could not vote. The vote was left up only to the Board of Regents, which led to Lilley's term as president.

Student Senate believes it is important to allow students, faculty and alumni to be a part of that voting committee to bring Baylor back as a unified university, Fonville said, although they realize the ultimate decision is still up to the board.

The senate will not know if the bill passed until the regents make the information public.

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