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THE BAYLOR LARIAT

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 26, 2009

Critics: tuition relief could hurt schools

By Jay Root
The Associated Press

AUSTIN — The idea of cutting college tuition has sparked a political grassfire at the Texas capitol. Two out of three senators are for it. Students are staging rallies. And overflow crowds are expected once the legislative hearings begin.

But every populist cause has its naysayers, and in this case the critics say putting the brakes on tuition could cause a big

drop in university budgets and ultimately degrade the quality of the diplomas they give out.

The central complaint is that state lawmakers are talking a lot about delivering relief to middle-class parents but are saying precious little about how they'll keep paying for faculty salaries and fund research if tuition dollars start drying up.

"On the one hand they want to cap tuition, and on the other hand they want to starve the institution," said Kevin Hegarty,

the chief financial officer at UT Austin. "Something's got to give."

Students are planning to rally Thursday at the capitol before fanning out to lawmakers' offices to drum up support for a tuition freeze. The group has coalesced behind Senate Bill 105, which would put a moratorium on tuition increases for two years, peg future hikes to the cost of living and require that most fee hikes be approved by a majority of students.

Though 22 of 31 senators support a temporary freeze on tuition increases, some influential ones are warning of potentially severe financial fallout. Sen. Judith Zaffirini, D-Laredo, who chairs the Senate Higher Education Committee, is one of three Democrats who haven't caught the tuition moratorium fever.

"The unintended consequences of not funding higher education adequately and of not providing different sources

of revenue will be mediocrity and inadequacy and that's not acceptable," Zaffirini said. "The state has a responsibility to fund higher education at a higher level, not lower."

Direct state assistance from the Legislature for institutions of higher education has continued to decline in real terms in recent years.

At UT, the state's flagship university, annual state support for the academic budget, when adjusted for inflation,

has decreased by 1 percent since 1990, figures provided by UT show. It's a similar story at Texas A&M University, where direct assistance from state tax dollars amounted to 44 percent of the school's operating budget in 1993 but only 26 percent in 2007.

Tuition and fees, meanwhile, are rising in importance as a source of revenue growth. It represents nearly half of the

Please see TUITION, page 4

Lady Bears wreck Tech 83-53

By Joe Holloway
Sports writer

The No. 6-ranked Baylor women's basketball team won in convincing fashion Wednesday night in the Ferrell Center as the Lady Bears routed the Lady Raiders 83-53.

The win comes over a Texas Tech team (15-12, 5-8) that has had beat some big names in the Big 12 Conference this year, posting victories over the University of Texas, Texas A&M, University and Oklahoma State University. The Lady Bears (22-4, 10-3) simply proved too much for the Lady Raiders to handle, however, Wednesday. Every member of the Baylor squad saw playing time and all but two put points on the board.

"It was like drive-by shootings all night," Texas Tech head coach Kristy Curry said of Baylor's offense. "You have to give Baylor credit and I don't think there's much beyond that. If they played like they did tonight they'd be winning the league on a consistent basis. There's not much else you can do. They punched and we never ever got up."

Leading the scoring was sophomore point guard Kelli Griffin who Baylor head coach Kim Mulkey said made the difference in the game.

"I thought it started with Kelli Griffin," she said. "You can't play at the level we

want to play at without having a quarterback that runs the show. Kelli went down in there and had her hands on a lot of things and just took off and that spreads to the rest of the team. When you have a point guard that's that solid and that consistent it makes us better."

Another Lady Bear who came up big for Baylor against the Lady Raiders was senior guard Jhasmin Player.

After a first half in which the Lady Bears scored more points than they had in any other Big 12 game this year, 48, the team came out in the second half somewhat sluggish. Texas Tech trimmed the Baylor lead to 15 points until Player got a block on one end of the court, then turned around and netted two points on the opposite end. The play sparked a run by Player in which she scored 14 points in a little over five minutes.

"I was intense. That was an extremely intense situation we were in," Player said. "Someone has to pick up the slack. I was just able to knock down some good looks. I was given some good opportunities and everyone was extremely intense in that moment."

It was also a special night for junior post Danielle Wilson. The Bay Shore, N.Y. native lead the team with 13

Please see BEARS, page 4



Clint Cox/Contributor

Baylor sophomore forward Whitney Zacharison dribbles the ball against Texas Tech Lady Red Raider forward Jordan Barncastle in the first half of the Lady Bears 83-53 victory over Texas Tech Wednesday at the Ferrell Center.



Clint Cox/Contributor

Texas Tech center Kierra Mallard guards junior Lady Bear post Danielle Wilson in the first half of Baylor's 83-53 victory over the Lady Red Raiders Wednesday at the Ferrell Center. Wilson had a double-double for the night, scoring 13 points and hauling 13 rebounds. She became the third Lady Bear this season to score more than 1,000 career points. With the win, the Lady Bears maintain sole possession of second place in the Big 12 standings.

House of Lords member reflects on political role

By Lauren Hollon
Reporter

Jill Knight, Baroness of Collingtree and a member of the House of Lords in the British Parliament, will give this year's women's history month lecture at 3:30 p.m. Tuesday, in the Mayborn Museum Complex SBC Theater.

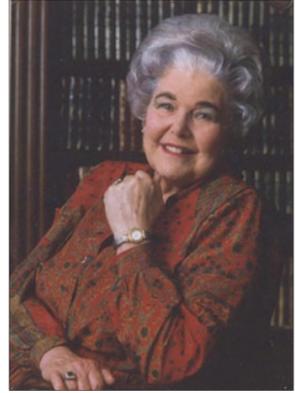
Knight was elected to the House of Commons in 1966. In 1997, Queen Elizabeth appointed her as a Life Peer, which took her from the House of Commons to the House of Lords.

The title of her lecture is "Women in Politics: A Woman in the House of Commons Who Escaped to the House of Lords."

Q: When did you first decide you wanted to enter politics?

When I was thirteen years old. I was at school, of course, and we had a very, very left wing teacher — you know that expression — and she thought we should all be turned into nice supporters of the Labor Party, the socialist party, and it had exact the reverse effect on me. She gave us a book to study that was written by the man who founded the party. I read it and thought I'd never read such rubbish in all my life. You didn't own anything — the state did, and the state gave you what you wanted. People went about dancing around and I couldn't see it being like that. I felt it was very unrealistic. I liked our king and queen that we had at the time and I decided that what this woman was trying to turn

me into was not for me and that I was on the complete other side. I told my brothers — 3 of them — that I wanted to go into politics, and they teased the life out of me. And I never mentioned it to them again. Having decided a crazy ambition like that pretty



Courtesy Photo

Jill Knight Baroness of Collingtree is the featured speaker for this year's women's history month lecture.

early, it took a long time to get there. But I did it in the end.

Q: What kind of support did you receive from your family?

When my husband asked me to marry him, I told him, "You do know that I'm going to enter Parliament, don't you?" And he patted me on the hand and said that was OK. He was very loving and assured me that whatever I did would be all right with him.

Please see MP, page 4

Federal homeowner plan aims to help 7 to 9 million

By Buddy Steele
and Farah Damani
Reporters

President Barack Obama announced a \$75 billion mortgage relief plan Feb. 18. The Homeowner Stability Initiative is aimed to help as many as seven to nine million distressed families threatened by foreclosure, stay in their homes by making it easier to refinance and adjust mortgage payments, according to an article by MSNBC. The plan was announced in Arizona, one of the states that has been most affected by the negative housing market.

Fortunately for those living in Texas, the housing market has not seen as much impact as the rest of the United States.

"Waco hasn't been hammered like the rest of the country," Waco

Community Development Center Representative Mike Stone said. "We've seen effects, but not that way. The main effect for us is the tightening of the lending rules. Texas' lending laws are a lot tighter than that, so people call them antiquated, but we haven't been hit by all of that. It kept us out of trouble."

According to Moody's Economy.com, out of roughly 52 million U.S. homeowners with a mortgage, about 13.8 million, or nearly 27 percent, owe more on their mortgage than their house is now worth.

"In the end, all of us are paying a price for this home mortgage crisis," Obama said at a high school outside Phoenix. "And all of us will pay an even steeper price if we allow this crisis to deepen."

More than one million people in the U.S. have lost their homes

in the housing crisis, and Obama said a further six million homes were at risk of foreclosure.

Due to the fact that different states have different laws concerning loans and interest rates, it is easy to spot where the housing crisis has had the most effect. California and Florida have the highest foreclosure rates out of the entire country. When this is combined with the extremely high cost of living in these places, it makes it difficult to live comfortably there.

"Forty percent of foreclosures were in those two states," Stone said. "The last I heard, their housing values had depreciated by 25 percent. There were a lot of folks in those states that got some

really crazy loans, and they had clauses in their loans that if the values decreased below a certain magic number, they would reset. A lot of them are resetting right now, because their values have gone down."

Obama plans to take an existing housing incentive, put in place by former President George W. Bush, and make it even more beneficial to those who wish to purchase a home.

"Bush passed that tax credit for first-time home buyers and I've heard that they're talking about making that into a grant instead of a tax credit. So that's a good thing for home buyers. It's not something they can use at closing. But it is something that can help them once they've moved into a house," Stone said.



Gov. Perry's rejection of parts of stimulus appalling

Many Republican governors have vocally opposed the stimulus package that was passed by legislators last week, calling it costly and wasteful.

Texas governor Rick Perry has expressed opposition to the plan, and is now playing coy. He has accepted the \$16.9 billion allotted for Texas and approved the use of money intended to fund Texas infrastructure. However, he says he is going through the package line by line in an effort to reject any money with federal strings attached or that would ultimately cost Texas money.

One aspect of the package that Perry and his staff have expressed concern over is the expansion of unemployment benefits, which would be paid for by Texas tax dollars when

federal funding is depleted.

Perry hasn't, however, actually named the programs he would nix.

In a letter to President Barack Obama, Perry wrote, "I remain opposed to using these funds to expand existing government programs, burdening the state with ongoing expenditures long after the funding has dried up."

The Houston Chronicle reported that Waco Rep. Jim Dunham (D) criticized the governor for his ambivalence. He said, while he understood concern over the one-time nature of the grant, not accepting it would be like "not sending his daughter to college for two years if that's all he could afford."

If Perry is going to reject any stimulus money, it will be part or all of the \$5.8 billion allotted

point of view

BY JADE ORTEGO



for health and human services. Now more than ever Texans need assistance with Medicaid, unemployment insurance and health care, but Perry has put this money on the cutting board.

Texas ranks last when it comes to children's access to health care, and only one state, Mississippi, has more children living in poverty.

Earlier this month, Perry rejected legislation that would allow states to extend Children's

Health Insurance Program, or CHIP, to cover more families. A spokesman of the governor told the Austin-American Statesman that he saw the move as "Congress ... trying to lure cash-strapped states into expanding programs they can't afford." Clearly, "health and human services" are not a priority for our governor.

Perry also thinks additional funds for unemployment insurance is excessive.

"People living in Texas are a heck of a lot better off than the vast majority of the other ones," Perry has said. "My instinct is they'd ... rather have a good-paying job than they would unemployment insurance."

He's right about Texas being better off — Texas is at 6 percent unemployment compared to the

national average of 7.2 percent — but unemployment in Texas gradually rose through 2008, with massive job loss in December.

We may have reasonable questions about the appropriateness of social programs in a package intended to stimulate the economy. We know, however, that healthy, fed children do better in school, and are therefore more likely to grow up, go to college and contribute to the economy with innovation and by purchasing things. Even if they didn't, though, wouldn't their health still be a priority? As much as, say, highway construction? Perry's professed dedication to a child's right to life shouldn't end with their birth.

At a press conference Obama chastised Republican governors

who have criticized the bill and called their more or less genuine threats to reject the money as political posturing. "There's going to be ample time for campaigns down the road," Obama said. He's right. There's no time now for weak or non-serious conflict and procrastination when the employment rate is soaring.

There is a difference between standing by one's principles and playing politics. Expanding existing federal social programs could do nothing but help Texas. Perry is only hurting his state by rejecting any of the stimulus money, and his ideologies shouldn't be allowed to dictate the health of Texas citizens.

Jade Ortego is a senior journalism major from Sweeney.

Editorial

Lawsuit ruling proves NCAA regulations unfair for athletes

Signing a professional contract can be an ordeal for anyone, but Oklahoma State University pitcher Andrew Oliver found out just how tough it could be last year.

The Minnesota Twins organization selected Oliver to join its minor league teams when he was a senior in high school. That year, with an attorney looking over his shoulder, he signed papers that would allow him to play college baseball at Oklahoma State University, but should he turn pro, the Twins would retain first rights to him.

However, signing with an attorney present violates the rules of the National Collegiate Athletics Association.

Under NCAA rules, players are allowed "advisers" who can help them make sense of the legal jargon of professional contracts, but they aren't allowed professional agents or lawyers to help or advise in the negotiations.

During the 2008 postseason, the NCAA punished Oliver, the Cowboys' star pitcher, for signing again with the Twins orga-

nization by suspending him for the rest of the 2008 playoffs and for his entire senior season.

Oliver took the NCAA to court twice: in the first, the NCAA reduced its suspension to roughly 70 percent of his senior season — 40 games out of a possible 56.

Then, two weeks ago, Judge Tygh Tone of Erie County, Ohio, ruled that the regulations were invalid because of the high chance of professional exploitation.

The NCAA rules and repercussions Oliver had to deal with were ridiculous. Under the NCAA rules, Oliver, then a 21-year-old, would have to negotiate with men who have 30 or more years experience drafting legal documents.

Imagine trying to determine what the legal definition of "fair compensation" would be without a lawyer present.

With these regulations, the NCAA is effectively reducing the success of those athletes pursuing a Major League Baseball career. The NCAA is supposed to be an organization

that serves both the university and athletes, but it appears more and more that it's working against the athletes.

Barring students from legal counsel infringes on personal rights, but it's pervasive throughout NCAA sports. It doesn't affect the major college sports much because the NBA and NFL drafts are conducted out of season. But since the MLB has such a long season, its draft is conducted during June — right before the College World Series.

With baseball, more than any other sport, players come from all over the world. Very few places have such strict regulations as American college athletes.

For example, an 18-year-old South American shortstop could have a lawyer present, collect a signing bonus and have his adviser set the language to give him a great chance for joining the majors. That's not a possibility for NCAA athletes.

Not allowing players to have attorneys present at a signing is in the same vein as keeping

lawyers out of final divorce proceedings.

Oliver, along with thousands of other college baseball players, might not get a chance for fast promotion and a large signing bonus, thanks to unnecessarily sticky red tape. But now, there is a chance for athletes to excel without a hampering organization looking over their shoulders.

Having won his case against the NCAA, Oliver will once again be the ace pitcher for the Cowboys, and will likely become a first-rounder in the MLB draft.

If Oliver had been suspended this season, it is likely that he wouldn't reach the top five rounds: a potential difference of \$1 million.

While having Oliver back on the mound might not prove a good situation for Baylor's batters, his victory over the NCAA will help out student-athletes as a whole, rather than the NCAA itself. Students now have a reliable fulcrum to equalize their footing when dealing with professional teams.



'A nation of cowards' needs to provide open discussion on race

It is not precisely true that Americans don't talk about race.

Race informs our discussions of everything from crime to education to who got picked for "American Idol." We talk race in the lunchroom with people who look like us, yell race at the television when irked by people who don't.

We read race in our newspapers and magazines, then write race in letters and e-mails to editors. January rolls around and we celebrate Martin Luther King Jr. February sweeps in and we observe Black History Month.

We talk about race, all right. We are just really bad at it.

As you may have guessed, the foregoing is occasioned by a speech Eric Holder, the nation's first African-American attorney general, gave last week.

In it, he characterized the United States as "a nation of cowards" when it comes to discussing our tortured racial history. There is, however, more to it than that.

A large component of my work for nearly 20 years has involved talking about, and persuading my fellow Americans to talk about, race.

After hundreds of columns, dozens of speeches and thousands of face-to-face and e-mail exchanges with Americans of all stripes, I consider myself something of an expert on the subject. And I'm here to tell you that race is like a four-car pileup on the freeway: it simultaneously attracts us and repels.

Because of this, we can't not talk about it. Yet at the same time, we can't talk about it either. At least not in any sort of

point of view

BY LENONARD PITTS JR.



honest, intelligent or sustained way, because doing so requires cross-cultural trust we do not have and takes us places we prefer not to go.

So we talk about race, but we don't. More often, we yell about race. Or talk around race. Or deliver self-righteous monologues on race. All of it tainted by a gaping ignorance of, and stubborn refusal to grapple with, the hateful, hurtful history that makes talking about race necessary in the first place.

We play games instead. Many

African-Americans lie in wait to cry "Got'cha!" when some hapless white person inadvertently says some questionable thing, as though innocent ignorance were indistinguishable from actual malice. As when a white analyst on TV's Golf Channel said something dumb about Tiger Woods and the Rev. Al Sharpton demanded her head, telling a reporter, "What she said is racist. Whether she's a racist ... is immaterial."

We play games. Many white Americans go about with fingers in ears singing "la la la" at the top of their lungs rather than hear inconvenient truths that challenge their fantasies of how we have overcome.

You can bring them a thousand anecdotes, you can bury them in studies from universities, think tanks and the federal

government itself, documenting continuing racial bias in housing, employment, education, criminal justice, and they will still tell you all that stuff ended yesterday.

This is what I have repeatedly seen. And small wonder, if you are black, you stop trying to have substantive discussions about race with white people: they refuse to listen.

Small wonder, if you are white, you stop speaking freely about race with black people: every little thing is racism with them.

And small wonder, in recent years, the discussion on race has come to be dominated by loud, intolerant voices using the reach they are afforded by the Internet and the intellectual cover they are provided by conservative extremism to promulgate a neo-

racism more raw than anything the mainstream has seen in years. Small wonder the Southern Poverty Law Center reports the number of hate groups in this country has risen over 40 percent since 2000.

We live in an era where the bad people among us are feeling emboldened by the silence and compassion fatigue of the good ones. But after all we've been through, after all we have done and suffered to bring about change, we cannot afford silence or fatigue, cannot afford to turn the conversation over to the voices of loud intolerance.

So thank Eric Holder for the reminder. If good people do not lead this discussion, the bad ones happily will.

Leonard Pitts Jr. is a columnist for the Miami Herald.

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.

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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.

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Fill in the grid so that every row, every column and every 3X3 box contains the digits 1 through 9 with no repeats.

The Daily Crossword

- ACROSS
- 1 Ready and willing companion
- 5 ___ d'Isere, France
- 8 Cows and bulls
- 14 Stalemate
- 15 Actress/director Lupino
- 16 Overseas
- 17 Start of a quip
- 19 Hogs the mirror
- 20 Bedazzlement
- 21 Golfer Ernie
- 22 Also
- 23 Wacky
- 25 Republican symbol
- 29 Part 2 of quip
- 31 Cover crop
- 32 Depleted
- 35 Brown shades
- 36 Swab brand
- 37 Tippy vessel
- 38 10 of calendars
- 39 False appearance
- 40 Singer Vallee
- 41 Kin partner
- 42 Wrinkles
- 43 Tavern brew
- 44 Part 3 of quip

- 46 Good fortune!
- 48 Paradise
- 52 Tracy's Trueheart
- 53 As easy as ___
- 54 Cape ___, MA
- 55 Neville and Burr
- 58 End of quip
- 60 One with fair hair
- 61 Winner's letter
- 62 Selfsame
- 63 Senior
- 64 End hunger
- 65 Martial ___
- DOWN
- 1 Ike's opponent
- 2 Ivy League school
- 3 Bathes
- 4 Woolly female
- 5 Bluish purple
- 6 Citrus drinks
- 7 Vegas intro
- 8 Lacking a lid
- 9 Exceedingly sudden
- 10 Actress Van Devere
- 11 Jones or Sawyer
- 12 Track circuit
- 13 Newspaper honchos

- 18 Mean explicitly
- 22 Bases of columns
- 24 Bedevil
- 25 Demanded with force
- 26 Sean of "The Lord of the Rings"
- 27 Racket
- 28 Uses a keyboard
- 30 Stars in Bordeaux
- 32 Scrawny individual
- 33 Sao ___, Brazil
- 34 Brought to a close
- 36 Capital of Ecuador
- 39 Computer snag
- 41 Israel's parliament
- 44 Overturns
- 45 Group in a group
- 47 Rock
- 49 Trimmer
- 50 Nonreacting
- 51 Gibb and Warhol
- 53 On the Aegean
- 55 Bart's grandpa
- 56 To a man
- 57 Actor Steiger
- 58 ___ had it!
- 59 Gardner of "On the Beach"



By Ed Voile Gillette, WY 2/26/09

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

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Professor recognized as outstanding fellow

By Sommer Ingram
Staff Writer

Dr. James Ellor admits to being a closet historian.

Though a professor of gerontology, the study of the aging process in individuals typically 65 years or older, in the School of Social Work, Ellor says his passion for the field stems from his love of history.

"I've talked to Holocaust survivors, met the first woman on Omaha Beach during the Normandy Invasion in World War II," he said. "You read about this stuff all the time but I get to meet people who were there, people who remember, and it's fascinating."

The Association for Gerontology in Higher Education has named Ellor to be a fellow of the association based on his contributions to teaching, publication, leadership in administration, and involvement in the development of new programs in his field.

low specifically for his leadership and prolific contributions in the area of aging and religion/spirituality and his many contributions and leadership to AGHE," said Dr. Margaret Perkinson, chair of the committee that selected the fellows.

Ellor left today to attend the association's leadership conference in San Antonio, where he will be presented with his award and also attend various meetings and present his work.

"Essentially being a fellow means someone has determined that I work at the top end of the field," Ellor said. "And I feel very honored. The importance of the need in this field can be seen if you just look at your grandparents or your parents as they get older and may need your support."

A major theme at the conference will be economic security for the older population.

"A lot of older people's retirement packages are now 40 percent thinner because of the economy," Ellor said. "But many are too frail to go back to work

and then go bankrupt. The conference will address socioeconomic issues that our economy has brought upon us."

Currently Ellor is trying to obtain funding for research involving the process of grief in people with Alzheimer's and dementia diseases.

"We're trying to document how they grieve loss and how to work with them through behavioral methods other than medication," he said.

"Sometimes they will become agitated and anxious because everyone around them is sad but they don't understand why. At that point, we give them the medication to mask their agitation. Surely we can produce some behavioral interventions that produce the same results," Ellor said.

Ellor is also working on a project involving the study of post-traumatic stress disorder and links throughout generations of the family.

He has also worked with Dr. Dennis Myers, associate dean of the School of Social Work,



Shanna Taylor/Lariat Staff

Dr. James Ellor, a professor in the School of Social Work, sits in his office Wednesday afternoon. Ellor was chosen as an outstanding fellow by the Association for Gerontology in Higher Education.

on a research project aiming to understand the needs and predispositions of Baby Boomers in the context of church congregations.

"Dr. Ellor is nationally known for his work, and has a deep

commitment to gerontological research, particularly in the area of aging and spirituality," Myers said. "His scholarship in these areas resonates with the mission of the Baylor School of Social Work," Myers said.

BEAR BRIEFS

Indian Subcontinent Student Association will hold a dandiya night, including a dance-off from 8 p.m. to 10 p.m. today in the Barfield Drawing Room of the Bill Daniel Student Center. The entry fee is \$5. The winner will receive one-fourth of the total earnings, and the rest of the proceeds will go to development in literacy in Pakistan. For additional information, contact Gayatri_Ravi@baylor.edu.

All-University Sing tickets are still on sale. Tickets are available for tonight at the Bill Daniel Student Center ticket office. Performances will be at 6:30 p.m. today, Friday and Saturday at Waco Hall.

Sign up for Kappa Delta's Annual Shamrock will be from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. today, March 3 and March 4. All proceeds will benefit Prevent Child Abuse America. For additional information, contact Alicia_Autrey@baylor.edu or Stephanie_Martinez@baylor.edu.

The Baylor University Jazz Ensemble will perform at 7:30 p.m. Friday at the Jones Concert Hall in the Glennis McCrary Music Building. The concert is free of charge and open to the public. For more information, call the School of Music at 710-3991.

The Academy for Teaching and Learning will present Alan Levine, Vice President of the New Media Consortium, at 3:30 p.m. Friday in D110 Baylor Sciences Building. He will make a presentation titled "NMS101: An Introduction to the New Media Consortium," and will discuss the resources for new media and new technologies available through Baylor's participation in the New Media Consortium.

To submit a bear brief, e-mail Lariat@baylor.edu.

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Pulse allows students to showcase research

By Jenna DeWitt
Reporter

Whether it's being hunched over computer keyboards, library books or experiment results, students put hours of work into their research.

Despite long hours of hard work, these papers usually end up in two places: the student's hard drive and the professor's office. The Pulse undergraduate research magazine has been working to change that.

The Pulse publishes student academic writing every semester. A spring edition is published in print and online and accepts work from any field. The fall edition, published only online, focuses on one specific department.

This week, the journal's staff will make their final selections for the spring 2009 issue. The staff will announce their decisions in the coming weeks, said the publication's faculty adviser,

Dr. Susan Colon.

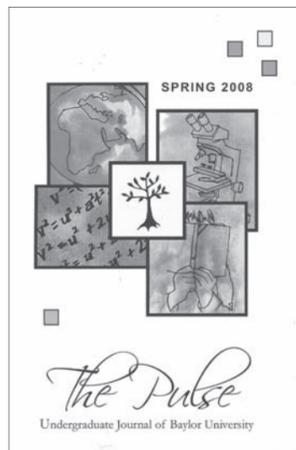
With room for only five papers to be accepted and a record 51 submissions this year, the competition is intense for contributors, said staff members.

After the five papers are chosen, editors and writers collaborate to make the submissions the best they can possibly be. The final versions are sent to a committee of the Phi Beta Kappa honor society.

The committee then selects the top entry for the Wallace Daniel Award for Undergraduate Writing. This award includes a \$200 cash prize and the opportunity for the winner to present his or her research as an academic lecture.

This year's lecture will be held April 27 in conjunction with the release of the spring edition of The Pulse.

Colon said the publication exists to serve students. "Their work can have a wider audience," she said.



Courtesy Photo

Last year's cover of Pulse published undergraduate research papers.

"Otherwise they just write their paper, turn it in to their professor, get a grade, put it away and nobody ever sees. I

think that is really unfortunate, especially when there is undergraduate work being done that does expand the boundaries of knowledge in their fields."

The president of the publication, Sugarland senior John Bridges, said he has seen the positive results of the journal's growth over its first five years.

"As The Pulse gains an even better reputation people are eager to submit and we are so happy about that," he said. "It really does enrich the undergraduate community and give students the recognition they deserve."

Bridges said he believes publishing undergraduate research is an important part of Baylor's vision to become a top-tier research university.

"The Pulse has a place in that and will highlight the research that undergraduates do."

The publication is sponsored and financially supported by the Office of the Provost and the

Honors College, but neither staff nor contributors are required to be in the program.

"It is cross-campus. Because it's from the Honors College, people think that it's just going to be humanities papers," said Little Rock, Ark., junior Andrej Pogribny, the publication's chief editor. "We try to spread it around in every discipline and not just within Great Texts," he said.

Last fall, The Pulse was presented at a nationwide convention of honors colleges in San Antonio.

"Our program is a model for a lot of other schools around the nation," Bridges said.

Public relations officer and Temple junior Molly MacEwan said she is grateful that the publication is gaining recognition. "From a PR standpoint it confirms all the hard work you have put in. It's so amazing how smart Baylor students are," she said.

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TUITION from page 1

revenue used to fund UT's core budget, for example. The cost of education per semester at UT, counting tuition and fees, rose 57 percent, from \$2,721 in 2003 to \$4,266 in 2008.

Facing an ever-higher financial burden, students and parents alike have begun to push back.

"It's time for a change," said Andy Jones, spokesman for the University Democrats at UT Austin. "Nobody should be priced out of higher education. This is the civil rights issue of our generation."

It's also a hot-button political issue. Jones' group has teamed up with the rival UT College Republicans and others to launch a publicity campaign they're calling "Tuition Relief Now!"

The group is behind Thursday's rally, and backing the Senate bill.

The bill would reverse a decision the Legislature made in 2003. Facing a historic \$10 billion shortfall, lawmakers that year allowed universities to raise tuition on their own. Sen. Tommy Williams, R-The Woodlands, said he regrets ever going along with tuition deregulation.

"It was a big mistake, and I've been trying to put the genie back in the bottle ever since," Williams said. A conservative,



Associated Press

Gavin Keirans, University Park Undergraduate Association president, talks at a rally in front of the Old Main building on Penn State's campus in State College, Pa., Feb. 9. The rally was held to bring attention to the fact that Penn State and the other three state-related schools were cut from Gov. Ed Rendell's proposed student aid.

Williams has found common ground with liberals who want to re-regulate college tuition.

Williams called tuition the "crack cocaine for higher education" and said universities wouldn't stop raising it even if the state gives them more money.

"It's like they're addicted to it," he said. "The can't get themselves off these tuition increases, so we're going to have to do an intervention."

BEARS from page 1

rebounds and accounted for 13 points as well. In addition to having a good night on the floor, though, she also reached a milestone with a little more than six minutes into the game when she scored her 1000th career point on a jumper in the paint.

"I think anytime a player reaches 1000 points it's a spe-

cial milestone," she said. "But it's just one game. You've got to continue playing."

Mulkey said it was good to have the win after her team played well but suffered a tough loss to No. 2 Oklahoma on Saturday.

"When you lose, sometimes the best medicine is just let me get back out on the court," she said. "I thought they played that way. This team responded."

MP from page 1

Some men wouldn't have liked it much but he helped me a whole lot.

Q: Were many women involved in politics in Britain in 1956 when you were first elected to a political office?

It was fairly rare. There were more women in the local government arrangement and local councils. I went into politics to learn my trade on the local council and there were more women in that.

Q: What about women in government on the national level?

There were very few women in Parliament. I suppose there would have been about 20 out of about 635 men. I know there were only 12 women Conservatives in the house at that time, and I don't know about the other party, the Labor Party.

Q: What is the distinction between the House of Commons and the House of Lords?

The House of Commons has the power to make legislation because they're elected by the people. The House of Lords is not elected; members are appointed.

In the end if there are disagreements between the two houses, we defer to the House of Commons. We're there to advise and guide them. If they don't agree, well, they're the elected representatives and we're not.

Q: What are the advantages to being a member of the House of Lords?

Well, there are many, many advantages. First of all the House of Lords is a much more erudite place. People are there because of their long experience or knowledge. We get the experts from an awful lot of fields. We get the top generals and admirals, top industrialists, academicians, doctors ... It's a chamber of enormous experience. We can't have a debate in the Lords which doesn't have at least six top experts in their fields. The Commons doesn't have that level of experience. When people want to watch a debate, they'll watch the House of Lords, because of the presence of so many experts.

Secondly, you can make your mark on the legislation as long as you watch carefully, work hard and check laws as they go through. There are lots of points you can achieve. It's a very busy life if you're an MP (Member of Parliament) and have constituents, which we (in the House of

Lords) haven't. Without constituents you're freer to work on a wider basis.

Q: Is it hard at times to be a woman in a male-majority Parliament?

Well, you have to stand up and think, "Well, I'm a Member of Parliament just the same as they are." I didn't find that part of it difficult at all. Members of the House of Commons are elected, and so the women had to be elected just like the men. You stand your ground, you make your points, you make your speeches, you do your work and people then recognize you for what you are: you're an MP like the rest of them. In those days you had to be better than a man to get into politics; it was very difficult.

Q: Apart from being able to move from the House of Commons to the House of Lords, what other benefits did you gain from being named a Life Peer?

It's a huge honor. I mean, it's said that every Englishman would like to be a lord and it's a wonderful thing really to be in the House of Lords, which is the most beautiful legislative chamber in the world. You get to love the traditions, how they came

to be and why they should still be there. It's a huge honor. You also never have any trouble booking tables at a restaurant if you're a baroness.

Q: Have you had to make many sacrifices in order to be a politician?

Yes, of course, you have to do that because I could see all my friends doing lots of things like amateur dramatics and tennis and serving as chairs of things, but if you really want something you don't mind making sacrifices. I did the utmost to make sure my children and husband didn't suffer in any way. I didn't enter Parliament until my sons were teenagers, but we of course had a very good housekeeper when they were younger. It is a hugely rewarding job to do because you can help improve a law or help your constituents. There's a lot of job satisfaction ... Not all the time, of course. There are times when you're in despair because you haven't managed to carry what you think is a sensible point. It's I suppose, like doing any job that you really badly want to do, like being a doctor or something. There are always sacrifices to be made, but if you don't do it you'll regret it. Certainly, along the way you've got to recognize that you've got to make sacrifices.

HOUSING from page 1

will help protect their jobs.

She says that new home buyers will be getting back twice as much as they are putting down now.

"Now all that needs to happen is for the banks to give out more loans to people, and then things will go back to being nor-

mal," she said.

Students are beginning to realize the toll it will take on their lives also.

"I really hope there is an end to the things going on with loans and housing," Tyler sophomore Kyle Harropp said. "If things stay the way they are, it will make it really hard for our generation to own homes and start families."

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