



ROUNDING UP CAMPUS NEWS SINCE 1900

THE BAYLOR LARIAT

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 31, 2007

How can Baylor achieve 2012?

Unapproved department proposals for '07-'08 total nearly \$700 million

By Jon Schroeder
Staff writer

When the dust settled from Baylor's Dec. 15 strategic planning deadline, the university had about 60 major proposals carrying a total price tag of about \$700 million over the course of the next 10 years.

That's a "very rough" amount, said Dr. Larry Lyon, vice provost for institutional effectiveness, noting that \$700 million is only an estimate and that none of the proposals have been evaluated yet by Baylor's budget office.

"This is as much or more for direction of fundraising as it is for allocation of existing money," Lyon said.

After being submitted, each proposal must be evaluated first by the deans, then by Baylor's budget office and human resource department, he said.

This part of the evaluation process will end in February, when the University Strategic Planning Council makes recommendations to President John Lilley about which

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David Poe/
Lariat staff

BU supporters defend grant

Lilley, ambassadors lobby in Austin on behalf of students

By Melissa Limmer
Staff Writer

Baylor President John Lilley played a role other than the school's leader last week when he served as a lobbyist. Lilley was in Austin on Jan. 23 speaking with state officials and Baylor alumni regarding the Texas Tuition Equalization Grant.

While in Austin, Lilley met with legislative leaders in the Senate, members of the Senate Finance Committee, Lt. Gov. David Dewhurst, the chairman of the Senate Education Committee and a representative from the Speaker of the House's office, said James Odom, Baylor director of public affairs.

"Our main priority was the TEG. It is the most important source of state financial aid for Baylor students," Odom said.

In the 2005 legislative session the TEG received "a substantial increase" in funding of roughly 50 percent, Odom said. "The goal for this session is to sustain that increase for future years," he said.

Odom also said that about 25 percent of Baylor students receive funding from the grant.

The grant is also a priority for the Baylor Ambassadors, a student group that lobbies for educational issues.

"We go and talk to the congressional staffers, asking them to maintain the funding levels (for the grant) and stress why it is important to us that they maintain that funding," said Phoenix sophomore and Baylor Ambassador Cassidy Ford.

"TEG is a really big deal because it is only for private institutions. It makes a huge difference to the students who do receive it," Ford said.

On Feb. 8 the ambassadors will make their monthly trip to Austin where they will attend a coordinating board meeting made up of state senators and representatives. The Tuition Equalization Grant group will give a presentation at the board meeting regarding the budget for next year.

"Hopefully we will get to talk to the representatives," Ford said.

For students who wish to apply for the grant, "it is very simple," said Celeste Sheehy, associate director of processing and audit services.

All students have to do is fill out the FAFSA to be automatically considered for the grant, Sheehy said.

In order to receive the grant, students must show financial need, maintain a grade point average of 2.5 and be enrolled in at least 24 semester hours per year for undergraduate students and 18 for graduate students. Those

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12th-day enrollment figures show slight increase

By Jon Schroeder
Staff writer

This spring Baylor's 12th-day enrollment statistics are actually its 13th-day numbers. When classes were canceled Jan. 18, Baylor skipped a day, creating a sort of enrollment statistic leap year.

Enrollment also jumped — it's up 150 students from last spring, according to statistics released by Baylor's office of institutional research and testing.

Baylor has enrolled 13,169 students for the spring semester compared to 12,715 in 2005 and 13,019 in 2006.

Fall 2005 and 2006 saw 13,975

and 14,040 students enrolled, respectively.

This semester's enrollment consists of 11,005 undergraduate and 1,215 graduate students. George W. Truett Theological Seminary students total 381, and 384 students are enrolled in Baylor Law School, with one law student taking graduate hours.

In addition, 180 students are taking classes at Baylor's Academy of Health Sciences in San Antonio, and three Baylor doctoral students are enrolled at West Point.

Dr. Kathleen Morley, director of institutional research and testing, said Baylor is "making headway" toward its goals for 2012.

"It's always a step in the right

direction when we have more students," Morley said.

The department of institutional research and testing released its semiannual retention report Tuesday. The report showed retention holding steady with 94.6 percent of undergraduates returning between fall 2006 and this semester, an increase of one-tenth of a percent over the previous academic year.

Freshman retention also held at about the same level. Between fall 2005 and spring 2006, 95.1 percent of first-time freshmen returned for their second semester. Between fall 2006 and this spring, 93 percent of freshmen returned.

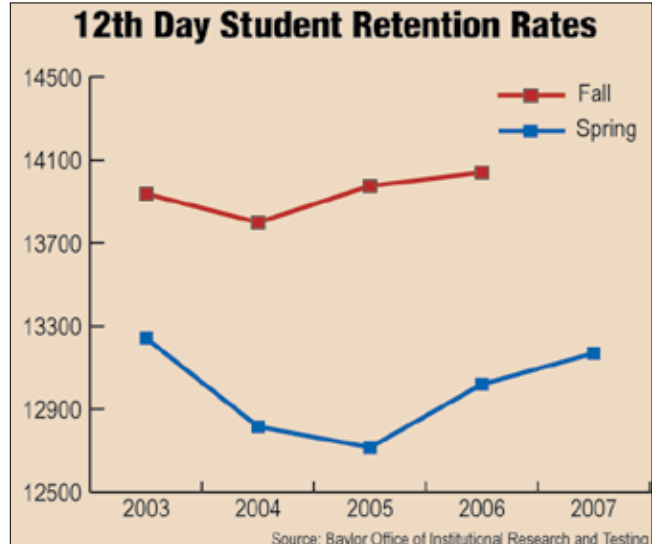
Baylor 2012's fourth impera-

tive calls for an increase in freshman retention rate "from 83 to 95 percent." However, the two statistics cannot directly be compared, since the 2012 document references the fall-to-fall retention rate, not the fall-to-spring rate released Tuesday, Morley said.

"I think our numbers are looking good," she said.

Baylor is forecasting "a pretty steady hold," said Dr. Reagan Ramsower, vice president for finance and administration. "(Baylor) 2012 did not envision enrollment growing significantly. It did not envision enrollment shrinking significantly."

Please see ENROLL, page 8



No appointment necessary at SLC

Number of ill students leads to change in Health Center policy

By Sapna Prasad
Reporter

The next time sick friends pass on their germs, an appointment with the Health Center will be readily available.

As of today the Health Center will be implementing a new way of scheduling appointments for students. The goal is to schedule fewer appointments for routine medical needs while allowing a majority of the available appointments to open up for illnesses, injuries and emergencies, said Nancy Keating, director of nurses.

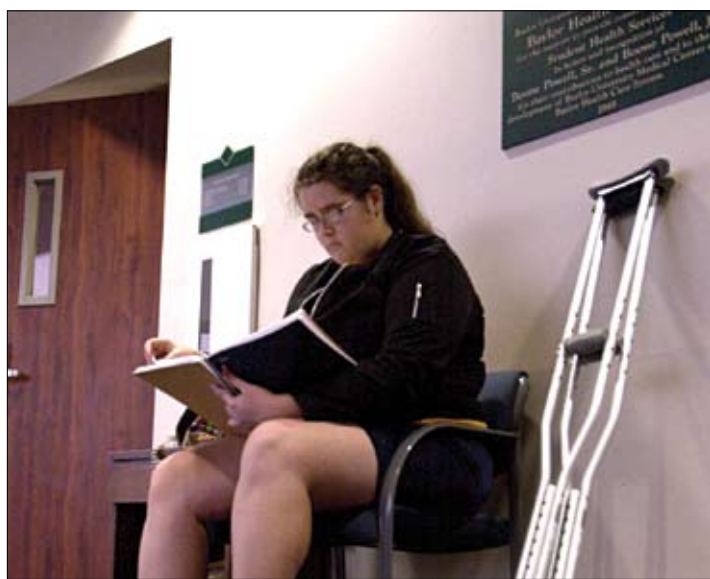
Under the new scheduling method, appointments will fall into three categories. Same-day appointments will begin at 8 a.m. every day and will be

open to students until all available spots have been filled. Emergency and urgent care appointments will be scheduled as needed throughout the day. Pre-booked appointments for routine medical needs such as physicals and well-woman exams will be scheduled for 8 to 10 a.m. Monday through Friday.

Students can pre-book routine appointments days or weeks in advance. Depending on the need of the student, appointments will be made for 15-minute and 30-minute time slots.

Keating said winter finds the needs of students overshadowing the capacity of the Health Center.

Rosemary Townsend, director of business affairs, said the Health Center decided to make some strategic changes as the demand for their services has steadily increased.



Abbie Rosen/Lariat staff

Arlington sophomore Lauren Turner, a Spanish Education major, waits at the Health Center in the McLane Student Life Center.

"There were so many ill students who could not get in when they needed to," Townsend said.

Dr. Mark Schwartz, medical director, said the Health Center's new scheduling policy is based on the effectiveness of similar programs at each university in the Big 12. Every year

the Big 12 universities meet and discuss the health care concerns of their students and talk about the best way to serve each campus, Schwartz said.

"The perfect system is not out there," Schwartz said. "Any system you go to will have

Please see HEALTH, page 8

MCC to hold dialogue discussing coal plants

By Kate Boswell
Staff writer

The award-winning documentary *Kilowatt Ours* is receiving a local angle tonight in the lecture hall of McLennan Community College. The film, which examines energy issues and renewable energy, will be followed by a panel discussion on the plans to build coal plants in McLennan County.

The event, which starts at 6 p.m., is sponsored by a McLennan Community College group called Students for Dialogue, which was founded by MCC sophomore Brent Losak.

Losak, who is also the group's president, said the idea behind the club was to offer students a forum to discuss relevant issues.

"In general, what we want to accomplish is to raise the level of discourse not only among people at MCC and people in college, but also in the Waco

community in general," Losak said. "With this specific issue, because it's so local, I think it's even more important for people in the community to get involved and be informed."

He said *Kilowatt Ours* is the latest in a film series called "Feed Your Head," which was started last semester. Other films in the series have included Robert Greenwald's *Iraq for Sale* and Brian Fleming's *The God Who Wasn't There*.

Losak said the showing of *Kilowatt Ours* is particularly relevant to students in Waco and the community as a whole due to the proposed coal plants in McLennan County.

Robert Darden, associate professor in journalism, said he believes this issue is one students should care about.

"TXU's plan to put, depending on who you believe, 17 to 19 coal plants in the state of

Please see COAL, page 8

Women get down to business at discussion

BEAR BRIEFS

Learn how to write a resume
Career Services will sponsor a Resume Writing Workshop today at 4 p.m. on the 5th floor of the Cashion Academic Center. All are welcome and pizza and door prizes will be available.

Show some spirit for softball
Baylor Athletics is looking for some spirited people who want to get involved by helping cheer on the Baylor softball team. For additional information contact Emily_Gipe@baylor.edu.

Join a Journey Group
Students interested in joining or leading a Journey Group can go at 4 p.m. today to the Bobo Baptist Student Center or send an e-mail to Journey_Groups@baylor.edu

Buddies hold meeting today
Best Buddies, an organization that pairs students with mentally disabled citizens, will hold an interest meeting from 7 to 8 p.m. today in 116 Draper Academic Building.

CHI's hold casual rush
All women interested in joining Baylor's oldest service sorority are invited to attend casual rush at 6:30 p.m. Monday in the Martin Green and Gold Gym. For additional information, visit www.baylor.edu/CHIS or contact Malan_Shiralkar@baylor.edu.

Officer Applications Due
Class officer applications are due today. If you would like to serve your fellow students, applications are available in the Student Government office in the SUB or online at www.baylor.edu/sg.

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

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Baylor Business Women hold panel discussion Thursday

By Matt Kennedy
Reporter

The founder of a highly rated real estate firm, the chief marketing officer of Brinker International, the director of a national organization and an attorney all have something in common.

They're all successful female executives and will all lead a panel discussion at the Baylor Business Women's "You're Hired" dinner at 5:30 p.m. Thursday on the fifth floor of the Cashion Academic Center.

They'll cover topics such

as the rules in a job interview, company culture, the balance of work and personal demands and the alignment of personal values for work.

First Preston Management Inc. will sponsor the dinner, as it did for last year's presentation by **Apprentice** contestant Roxanne Wilson, which was the Baylor Business Women's first event.

Last year's presentation sold out and Thursday's dinner has as well, with 300 seats reserved. However, a waiting list is available.

Nancy T. Richards, the founder and chairwoman of First Preston, has served as a member of the Baylor Business Women advisory board since

the organization began and said she is looking forward to working with the other panelists.

"Although we have taken very different career paths, the similarities in our work experiences is remarkable," Richards said.

Members of the year-old business organization have also expressed excitement about Thursday's dinner.

"I look forward to seeing the vision of the Baylor Business Women represented to those who have shown interest in learning from successful businesswomen," said Allen sophomore Emily Stroder. "The panel discussion will be a great way for students unfamiliar with the organization to see the benefits it can provide by advising stu-

dents on issues they will face after college."

A professional woman will host every table by greeting the students as they come in and sitting with them throughout the dinner.

Dinner attendees can also submit questions to panelists on cards provided at each table or ask questions during a question-and-answer session after the panel discussion.

"The total motivation for this event is to have the students interact with these professional women," said Melanie Smith, coordinator of the Baylor Business Women steering committee. "We didn't want to just have the women speaking to us."

The free event is open to

both male and female students. The organization is only open to women for membership.

"You only need to attend this event if you are going to work with women," said Dr. Blaine McCormick, the dean's representative on the steering committee. This would pertain to nearly every future business professional.

"Understanding from a woman's perspective what it is like to be in the workforce will no doubt make the men of Baylor better employees, better managers and better executives, not to mention better boyfriends, husbands and fathers," Richards said.

For the waiting list, contact Tammy_Havens@baylor.edu.

Company slammed for slow Katrina aid

By Melinda Deslatte
The Associated Press

BATON ROUGE, La. — Nearly eight months after it was hired by the state, a consulting company in charge of dispensing billions in federal aid to people whose homes were damaged by Hurricane Katrina and Rita has received 101,000 applications but handed out fewer than 300 grants.

And now the company is getting much of the blame for the overall slow recovery of New Orleans and the rest of the Louisiana Gulf Coast.

Frustrated homeowners are bitterly criticizing Fairfax, Va.-based ICF International Inc., and state lawmakers are demanding Gov. Kathleen Blanco fire the company. But ICF is defending its handling of the aid program, saying it is a task of unprecedented proportions.

ICF was awarded a contract valued at up to \$756 million in June to run the Road Home program, a \$7.5 billion feder-

ally funded, state-administered program to compensate property owners whose houses were damaged or destroyed by the 2005 hurricanes.

"ICF should be ashamed of themselves. They should never have even attempted to take on a project like this. They were obviously not equipped to do it," said New Orleans homeowner Mark Samuels, who lives with his three children upstairs while he rebuilds his gutted home.

He is haggling with Road Home over how much aid he should receive 17 months after Katrina breached a floodwall and swamped the house with foul water. Samuels said he is contesting ICF's first offer, made Jan. 4, because it was one-third of what he expected and based on inaccurate damage figures.

Other homeowners have complained about incorrect paperwork, a labyrinthine bureaucracy, unreturned phone calls, low-ball assessments of their homes' value and the damage done, stingy grant offers and a



Mark Samuels points Aug. 10 to his inventory on temporary shelves in his New Orleans office. Samuels, president and founder of New Orleans-based Basin Street Records, thinks the blame for the ICF/Road Home morass rests with Louisiana Gov. Kathleen Blanco.

Associated Press

slow-moving process overall.

Reed Kroloff, who is dean of Tulane University's architecture school and has been deeply involved in the post-Katrina planning, said Road Home's problems are among the biggest roadblocks to New Orleans' recovery. He cited the slow pace of ICF payouts, coupled with the program's late start (10 months after Katrina) and "inexcusable delaying" by government at all levels.

ICF maintains it is ahead

of the schedule specified in its contract to run Road Home, a program it helped design before winning the bid. ICF officials also say the program is unparalleled in size and complexity.

"There's never been a project like it in the United States," said Anita Rechler, an ICF senior executive who is working on Road Home.

ICF has more than two decades of experience in government housing aid programs. ICF's work with the U.S. Depart-

ment of Housing and Urban Development, for example, totals \$23.6 million since 2001.

With complaints mounting, Blanco, a Democrat who is running for re-election, said she is displeased with the pace at which applications are being processed but is not considering firing the company. The Road Home is offering homeowners up to \$150,000 each to rebuild, fortify their homes or sell out to the state. As many as 123,000 people may be eligible.

Troops in Iraq lacking gear

By Sharon Theimer
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Hundreds of U.S. troops in Iraq and Afghanistan have experienced shortages of key protective equipment, including armored vehicles, roadside-bomb countermeasures and communications gear, a Pentagon survey released Tuesday shows.

The Defense Department Inspector General's Office polled roughly 1,100 service members and found they weren't always adequately equipped for their missions.

The troops were interviewed

in Iraq and Afghanistan last May and June.

Those surveyed reported shortcomings with vehicles outfitted with armor; "crew-served weapons," which are weapons it takes more than one person to handle, such as artillery or a large machine gun; electronic countermeasure devices, such as equipment designed to foil roadside bombs by interfering with cell-phone signals that may be used to detonate them.

There were also shortages in communication equipment.

The survey found that those not getting needed gear include troops performing untradition-

al missions such as training, reconstruction, detainee operations and explosive ordinance disposal.

In some cases, the troops went ahead with the work anyway, used informal means to get what they needed or canceled or put off operations while waiting for equipment, the report summary said.

The report found the U.S. Central Command and the Army's internal equipment controls inadequate and recommends improvements.

Only a summary of the findings were made public because much of the report is classified.

Perry proposes new disaster fund

The Associated Press

AUSTIN — Republican Gov. Rick Perry proposed Tuesday the creation of a \$50 million Disaster Contingency Fund to help state and local governments respond to public emergencies.

"As we have learned from disasters like hurricanes Katrina

and Rita, as well as recent wildfires and floods, we can never be too prepared," Perry said.

The fund would help pay to pre-position state resources before anticipated disasters, reimburse local governments for disasters that aren't declared federal disasters, provide up-front funding to some smaller

jurisdictions and pay federal matching fund obligations required for reimbursement from the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

The fund, if approved by legislators, would take effect Sept. 1 and would be distributed by the governor's emergency management division.

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Abbie Rosen/Lariat staff

Studying all the options

Molly Knox, a Lewisville sophomore, left, speaks with Karen Conners, coordinator for Baylor's Maastricht study abroad program, at the study abroad fair held Tuesday in the Barfield Drawing Room of the Bill Daniel Student Center.

Numbers whiz cites 13,000 digits of pi

By Tom Avril
The Philadelphia Inquirer (MCT)

PHILADELPHIA — Remember pi? Most of us learned the 3.14 part.

Marc Umile has gone oh-so-much farther.

Earlier this month, Umile was certified as the North American record-holder for memorizing digits of the mathematical constant.

He spewed out 12,887 digits, to be exact — a feat that took him 3 hours and 40 minutes.

For those whose math skills are a little fuzzy, that's the ratio of a circle's circumference to its diameter.

It begins with 3.14159265 and never stops, never repeating the same pattern — a string of digits that has captivated both numbers buffs and those looking for a deeper mystical meaning.

"I was really proud of him that he did it," said his wife, Maryann. "I can't remember a phone number."

Umile, 40, wrote the numbers out by hand, a thousand at a time, then recorded them in his voice on a portable tape player.

Then, he listened — and listened. During his commute. During his lunch break. While walking down the street.

After two years, two worn-out tape players and more than 100 batteries, it sank in.

He professes not to be a math whiz.

A filing clerk for a company that handles Medicare bills, he never studied trigonometry and did not attend college.

Yet it is clear he has a passion for numbers and puzzles, not to mention a relentless determination and the ability to ignore those who thought he was a little strange.

But why pi?

Because it's there. Because he wanted to explore the limits of the mind. And because he wanted to hit one for the home team.

Upon surfing the Internet one day in 2004, he found the world-record list and saw that it was dominated by Asians and Europeans.

He decided the United States needed another representative.

"It seems like in the eastern part of the world, they really have their stuff together," Umile said. "I want to help us catch up."

Umile set the record last month at the law office of Montgomery McCracken, where attorney C. Scott Meyer was one of three witnesses.

He did not recite the numbers out loud, but typed them into the computer, 1,000 at a

time, after which the witnesses verified their accuracy by using a spreadsheet. Then he did the next thousand.

"It's just an amazing accomplishment," said Philadelphia real estate agent Warren Nelson, another of the witnesses.

The necessary forms were mailed to Germany and the performance was certified by Jan van Koningsveld, himself a top competitor in international contests of mental gymnastics, who maintains a Web site that lists pi record-holders for each continent and for the world.

Umile is far short of the world record of 43,000 that van Koningsveld cites on his list, held by Krishan Chahal of India.

He's even farther from the 67,890 digits listed by the Guinness World Records, a feat accomplished in China.

But he does hold the world record for memorizing 905 digits of "e" — another key mathematical constant — which he recited on the same day as pi.

And three months earlier, he notched another world record by doing the first 5,544 digits of the square root of two.

Umile grew up in Roxborough, Pa., where his mother still lives.

He has not told her about his numerical accomplishments, saying she'll find out when she

reads this article.

"I don't think she would be a bit surprised," he said. "She knows I have a good memory for details."

It is a handy talent. In high school, it helped him memorize scripts for school plays. And his relatives rely on Umile to remember the details of old family photos.

Memorizing pi was about more than details, however. It required a systematic approach.

Umile wrote out the digits in groups of two, three, four, six, like the stanzas in a poem.

Then he said them out loud rhythmically, in almost a sing-song tone of voice.

"Something you can almost dance to," he said. "I would listen to it endless amounts of time until I would hear it in my sleep. The more I went, the more I knew this was possible."

He failed in his initial attempt at the record, on Dec. 2 at the Masonic Temple on Broad Street, where he is a member.

Several of his fellow Masons urged him to try again, and on Dec. 16 he did it.

Once he hit 11,000, surpassing the old North American record of 10,980, Umile just kept going.

"I felt like I just landed on the moon," he said. "Quite a victory."

Senate Republican challenges Bush on war powers

By Laurie Kellman
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — A Senate Republican on Tuesday directly challenged President Bush's declaration that "I am the decision-maker" on issues of war.

"I would suggest respectfully to the president that he is not the sole decider," Sen. Arlen Specter, R-Pa., said during a hearing on Congress' war powers amid an increasingly harsh debate over Iraq war policy. "The decider is a shared and joint responsibility," Specter said.

The question of whether to use its power over the government's purse strings to force an end to the war in Iraq, and under what conditions, is among the issues faced by the newly empowered Democratic majority in Congress, and even some of the president's political allies as well.

No one challenges the notion that Congress can stop a war by canceling its funding.

In fact, Vice President Dick Cheney challenged Congress to back up its objections to Bush's plan to put 21,500 more troops in Iraq by zeroing out the war budget.

Underlying Cheney's gambit is the consensus understanding that such a drastic move is doubtful because it would be fraught with political peril.

But there are other legislative options to force the war's



Associated Press

Sen. Arlen Specter, R-Pa., listens Tuesday to testimony during the committee's hearing on Congress' constitutional power to end a war.

end, say majority Democrats and some of Bush's traditional Republican allies.

The alternatives range from capping the number of troops permitted in Iraq to cutting off funding for troop deployments beyond a certain date or setting an end date for the war.

"The Constitution makes Congress a coequal branch of government. It's time we start acting like it," said Sen. Russell Feingold, D-Wis., who presided over a hearing Tuesday on Con-

gress' war powers.

He also is pushing legislation to end the war by eventually prohibiting funding for the deployment of troops to Iraq.

His proposal, like many others designed to force an end to U.S. involvement in the bloody conflict, is far from having enough support even to come up for a vote on the Senate floor.

Closer to that threshold is a nonbinding resolution declaring that Bush's proposal to send 21,500 more troops to Baghdad and Anbar province is "not in the national interest."

The Senate could take up that measure early next month.

But some senators, complaining that the resolution is symbolic, are forwarding tougher bills.

Democratic Sen. Barbara Boxer of California, for example, is a sponsor of a bill that would call for troops to come home in 180 days and allow for a minimum number of forces to be left behind to hunt down terrorists and train Iraqi security forces.

"Read the Constitution," Boxer told her colleagues last week.

"The Congress has the power to declare war. And on multiple occasions, we used our power to end conflicts."

Congress used its war powers to cut off or put conditions on funding for the Vietnam war and conflicts in Cambodia, Somalia and Bosnia.

Under the Constitution, lawmakers have the ability to declare war and fund military operations, while the president has control of military forces.

But presidents also can veto legislation and Bush likely has enough support in Congress on Iraq to withstand any veto override attempts.

Seeking input, Senate Judiciary Chairman Patrick Leahy, D-Vt., and Specter, asked Attorney General Alberto Gonzales for the White House's views on Congress' war powers.

Boxer and Feingold are in effect proposing putting conditions on troop funding and deployment in an effort to end the war in some way other than zeroing out the budget.

But some lawmakers and scholars insist war management is the president's job.

"In an ongoing operation, you've got to defer to the commander in chief," said Sen. John Warner, R-Va., ranking Republican on the Senate Armed Services Committee.

But the veteran senator and former Navy secretary said he understands the debate over Congress' ability to check the executive branch.

"Once Congress raises an army, it's his to command," said Robert Turner, a law professor at the University of Virginia.

She was to testify Tuesday before the Senate Judiciary Committee.

Fair gives away presents, opens doors for futures

By Nathan McCoy
Reporter

Students will have the chance to meet faculty and win prizes at the fifth annual Academic Success Fair today. Hosted by Campus Living and Learning, the fair will take place from 5 to 6:30 p.m. at the Barfield Drawing Room in the Bill Daniel Student Center.

Representatives from 32 academic departments, clubs and support programs will gather to assist students with their academic endeavors, said Jennifer Perkins, graduate assistant for academic initiatives and marketing.

"The fair provides at least a little interaction with faculty outside the classroom that could pay dividends in the future," Perkins said. "You can add one more professor you've talked to personally."

Students will be able to "make important personal contact" with faculty, staff and fellow students while they visit the booths and collect information in the trade-show-style setting, Perkins said.

Students at the fair can register to win prizes by gathering one signature from an academic department, a student support program and an academic club.

Two grand prize winners will receive free textbooks on loan for a semester from Baylor Bookstore, worth about \$300.

Prizes also will include massages, computer printers, dinner certificates, movie passes and Baylor apparel.

The first 500 participants to register will automatically receive a coupon for free ice cream from Season's Creamery in North Village.

"Students who attend are bound to walk away with a prize of some sort in addition to lots

of great information relevant to their academic needs," said Terri Garrett, director for Campus Living and Learning.

The fair will be an easy way for students to get help with their educational choices, said Rishi Sriram, associate director for housing administration and academic initiatives.

"No one's trying to sell you anything," Sriram said. "Everyone's just trying to see how they can help you."

Michelle Misko, graduate assistant for resident learning, said the fair will "support the mission of Baylor by getting students involved outside the classroom."

The fair will also be a great tool to help students become better acquainted with faculty and staff in a smaller setting outside the classroom, she said.

Last year's Academic Success Fair attracted 325 students. The total attendance has grown every year the fair has taken place, and this year 500 students are expected to attend, Misko said.

Lauren Webb, a Crowley freshman, said she found out about the Academic Success Fair from fliers in her dorms and from an e-mail sent by her community leader.

Webb said she plans to talk to business professors and "work on (her) networking" at the fair.

Freshmen aren't the only students who can benefit from the fair, Perkins said. Juniors and seniors can talk to Career Services for more information about applying for future jobs, or they could receive more information about getting involved with an academic organization, Perkins said.

"Anyone can get extra help with their major," she said. "If you haven't ever been to the fair, I would go."

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Bush's new spy chief could face 'ethical entanglements'

By Ted Bridis
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — President Bush's choice for the nation's next spy chief would give up his \$2 million-a-year job at one of Washington's premier consulting firms for a position that provides him with considerable influence over lucrative, secret government contracts.

Retired Vice Adm. Mike McConnell could face an unusually daunting challenge avoiding ethical entanglements over his decade-long work as a senior vice president for Booz Allen Hamilton Inc., the consulting giant with sales of \$3.7 billion worldwide, according to an As-

sociated Press review of McConnell's personal finances and business deals.

McConnell has worked as a consultant with some of the same senior U.S. military and intelligence officials he would supervise as director of national intelligence.

In May, for example, McConnell and other company executives met privately in San



McConnell

Antonio with Major Gen. Craig Koziol, a top Air Force intelligence chief in charge of cyber warfare, according to records obtained by the AP under the Freedom of Information Act. The company bid months later on a related contract from the Air Intelligence Agency, part of the U.S. intelligence community that McConnell would oversee as the national director.

More than half Booz Allen Hamilton's sales come from such U.S. government contracts. McConnell's closest colleagues at the company anticipate intense scrutiny over its future relationship with him as the overseer of the nation's 16 spy agencies.

"I will never be able to go in

and see him in his office," said Richard Wilhelm, another Booz Allen Hamilton senior vice president who has worked with McConnell for more than 30 years. "He's said, 'Unfortunately, I'll not be able to talk to you guys anymore.' We'll have to be very careful."

McConnell's Senate confirmation hearing is set for Thursday. An Intelligence Committee member, Sen. Ron Wyden, D-Ore., said he already has urged McConnell to be prepared to discuss his work as a consultant and its implications on the job of chief over all U.S. intelligence agencies.

Those agencies rely heavily on work by outside consultants,

who often are hired under contracts kept secret for national security reasons.

"I'm going to bring it up," Wyden said. "I made it clear that I was going to be asking questions about issues relating to his work with contractors."

Efforts to reach McConnell through the White House and through Booz Allen Hamilton were unsuccessful.

The White House promised that McConnell will divest any financial holdings in Booz Allen Hamilton if he is confirmed as intelligence chief.

In addition to his \$1,999,840 salary, McConnell owns \$1 million to \$5 million in company stock, plus up to \$1.15 million

more in other investment funds owned through the company, according to financial records he submitted to the White House.

McConnell will earn \$186,600 annually as director of national intelligence.

Booz Allen Hamilton and the intelligence director's office separately said each will vigorously enforce ethics rules related to McConnell and the company.

In a statement, the agency pledged to refer potential business conflicts to ethics officers inside federal agencies.

A Booz Allen Hamilton spokesman, George Farrar, said the company will establish contracting firewalls to avoid conflicts with McConnell.

Reporter testifies against Libby

By Michael J. Sniffen
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Reporter Judith Miller testified Tuesday that former vice presidential aide I. Lewis "Scooter" Libby identified a CIA operative to her on two occasions on dates earlier than he has told investigators the first heard the information from another reporter.

Miller, the former *New York Times* reporter who spent 85 days in jail trying to avoid revealing these conversations, said Libby identified the wife of a prominent Iraq war critic as a CIA employee in face-to-face meetings on June 23 and July 8, 2003.

Libby, then Vice President Dick Cheney's chief of staff, told the FBI and a grand jury that he thought he was hearing Valerie Plame's CIA job for the first time from NBC's Tim Russert on July 10, 2003.

Five government officials, including ex-White House press secretary Ari Fleischer, also have testified that they discussed Plame and her CIA job with Libby before July 10.

Earlier Tuesday, the jury saw notes Libby took on or about June 12 that indicated Cheney himself told Libby then that the war critic's wife worked at the CIA.

The discrepancy over when Libby learned about Plame is a major element in the charges on which he is being tried. He is not accused of leaking her name but rather of perjury and obstruction of the investigation into how her name leaked.

Libby now says his memory failed him when he spoke with Russert and other reporters.

Miller became a heroine to many press groups when she went to jail rather than discussing conversations with a source whose identity she had agreed not to reveal. She since left the *Times* for freelancing amid a controversy over her reporting techniques. Her appearance at the trial filled the courtroom seats for the first time and drew several retired reporters.

Miller testified that on June 23, 2003, in Libby's office the topic of war critic Joseph Wilson arose. An ex-ambassador, Wilson had publicly questioned President Bush's justification for the Iraq war.

Wilson said he was sent to Niger in 2002 to answer questions from Cheney about reports Iraq was trying to buy uranium for nuclear weapons there.

He said he debunked the story and his report should have reached Cheney long before Bush repeated the uranium story in his January 2003 State of the Union address.

Miller recalled that Libby told her that the CIA, not Cheney, sent Wilson to Niger and Wilson's wife worked in the "bureau."

She initially thought he meant the FBI, but "through the context of the discussion, I quickly determined it to be the CIA," she testified.

Miller also discussed a second meeting with Libby, at a local hotel restaurant on July 8, 2003.

She said Libby mentioned that Wilson's wife worked for the CIA division specializing in weapons of mass destruction.

Insight comes from all directions.



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Sting, Police reunite to open at Grammys

Associated Press

NEW YORK — The Police will reunite to perform at this year's Grammy ceremony, the Recording Academy announced Tuesday.

The award-winning group, which won five Grammys and turned out hits such as "Roxanne" and "Every Breath You Take," will open the event — 23 years after breaking up.

The band — singer Sting, drummer Stewart Copeland and guitarist Andy Summers — fused reggae with pop and rock and last performed together in 2003 when they were inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame.

Sting fanned speculation of a Police reunion and tour when he told the Television Critics Association earlier

this month that he and his former bandmates were "talking about" doing something to commemorate their 30th anniversary.

After the band split in 1984, he went on to more success as a solo artist and put out dreamy singles such as "Fields of Gold" and "Desert Rose."

His latest album, a collection of 16th-century classical music called *Songs From the Labyrinth*, was released in October.

Copeland examined his life in The Police in his music documentary *Everyone Stares: The Police Inside Out*, which premiered at last year's Sundance Film Festival.

CBS will air the 49th annual Grammy Awards ceremony live from Los Angeles on Feb. 11.



Associated Press

Though the band split up in 1984, The Police announced this week they'll be making a special performance at the 49th annual Grammy Awards Ceremony on Feb. 11th.

The Shins stir up indie rock genre with stylistic shift

By Tamara Parker
Contributor

Although it is less immediately pleasing than the band's last album, *Chutes Too Narrow*, The Shins' new release boasts singer-songwriter James Mercer's ever-growing talent and a new versatility that can be appreciated by wider audiences.

ALBUM REVIEW

The Shins, which began as a side project for Mercer, is now a household name — and not just to the indie-rock crowd, as some may think.

Being featured on the soundtrack for the movie *Garden State* certainly helped jumpstart the band's career. So did cameo tracks on the hit television show *Scrubs*, another Zach Braff set-up.

In fact, Braff has been a large contributor to the band's success, with Natalie Portman's quote in *Garden State*, "You gotta hear this one song. It'll change your life, I swear," in reference to "New Slang" from their album *Oh, Inverted World*.

Needless to say, its record sales skyrocketed. But its latest release, *Wincing the Night Away*, strays slightly from its other works. Songs like "Sea Legs" and "Pam Berry" add more of a retro beat that's different from the signature whimsical sounds found on the other two albums.

From a personal standpoint, I love the new twist, but for those die-hard fans who may not be open to change, there's a chance you will be less than impressed.

On most tracks of the long-awaited album, guitar melody is washed aside by keyboards and miscellaneous sounds.

The most disappointing part



Courtesy photo

Wincing the Night Away, The Shins' newest album, was released Jan. 23rd.

is that Mercer's polished and agile voice is often doubled or echoed, which leaves fans crying for more soft and untouched vocals.

Also, the addition of darker lyrics like, "So when they tap our mundane heads to zombie-walk in our stead, this town seems hardly worth our time, and we'll no longer memorize or rhyme," from the song "Phantom Limb," manage to add a subtle change in atmosphere compared to previous albums.

However, there are still the fundamental tunes The Shins are known for on tracks such as "Girl Sailor" and "A Comet Appears" to keep loyal supporters content.

Not to worry — The Shins are still The Shins, just a new variation.

The album — with 11 tracks in all — is, indeed, a good CD and enjoyable to pop in while studying for your next exam or while taking a Sunday drive.

But don't expect the sound you hear to be like the rest, because this album is definitely a new angle for The Shins.

Grade: B+

Pillow fighting as sport to debut in Austin

By Anna M. Tinsley
McClatchy Newspapers

Don't pull hair, try to gouge anyone's eyes or be rude. And never, ever hide a brick inside a pillow. Just fight like a girl.

Those are the rules of the expanding Pillow Fight League — a new Canadian-born "sport" that founders hope is on its way around the United States.

"It's real women having fights with pillows, having fun," said Stacey P. Case, the 39-year-old Canadian drummer who created the league. "Anything goes."

This is not your traditional slumber-party pillow fight.

These women train every week, learning to take each other down using chokeholds and leg drops — with pillows, of course.

"This has nothing to do with a slumber party," Case said.

And it's coming to Austin as soon as March.

Case dreamed up the idea years ago while on tour with his band, Tijuana Bibles. Wanting to see if anyone was interested, he put an ad in the paper.

"The PFL wants you! Women 19-35, smart, cute, athletic with a mean streak."

Thirty women answered; five showed up.

The league now boasts 25 members, Canadian women who hold down jobs as secretaries, accountants and writers and who pillow-fight on the side.

They have characters, costumes and stage names.

There's the apron-wearing Betty Clock'er, the beer-drinking Boozy Suzy, the aggressive waitress Polly Esther, even the pillow-fight world champion, Champain, a tough talker who ranks *The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy* among her favorite reading material.

During a match, they step on the mat, grab a standard double-stuffed queen-size pillow (no feather pillows allowed) and have five minutes to win or lose.

The fighters are monitored by referees, and they can do anything — chokeholds, leg drops, clotheslines, pinning opponents to the mat — as long as the pillow is used at the point of

contact.

For Sarah Bellum, who wears glasses and a librarian hairdo, smothering is the only way to go.

"If I can wrap the pillow around their face, I try to do that," said Bellum, a self-described 24-year-old geek who declined to give her real name.

The PFL, formed in March, has put on half a dozen shows in Canada. Last weekend, the league had its U.S. debut at Galapagos Art Space, a bar in Brooklyn, N.Y.

Now PFL organizers hope to bring their show to Austin in March, during the South by Southwest film and music festival. But they're still trying to find a place to perform, Case said.

"Imagine calling someone, saying you're the commissioner of the Pillow Fight League in Canada and you want to put a fight on there in Austin," Case said.

"People on the other end of the phone usually laugh at me."

And with South by Southwest drawing closer, clubs are

booking acts and hotel rooms are being snapped up.

"I have been calling and e-mailing Austin for the last two months, and no one has been taking us seriously," said Case, who directed episodes for the Web site NakedNews.com.

"Now, because of (the New York shows), people are taking us seriously."

Some Texans say they won't be disappointed if the league never makes it to Texas.

Beth Anne Shelton said the league plays to men's fantasies, with some of the women fighting in fishnet stockings and short shorts.

"You think you've heard everything, but this is truly ridiculous," said Shelton, a sociology professor and director of women's studies at the University of Texas at Arlington.

"There are ways to have fun that don't set back women's efforts to be taken seriously. I would hope it dies a quiet death."

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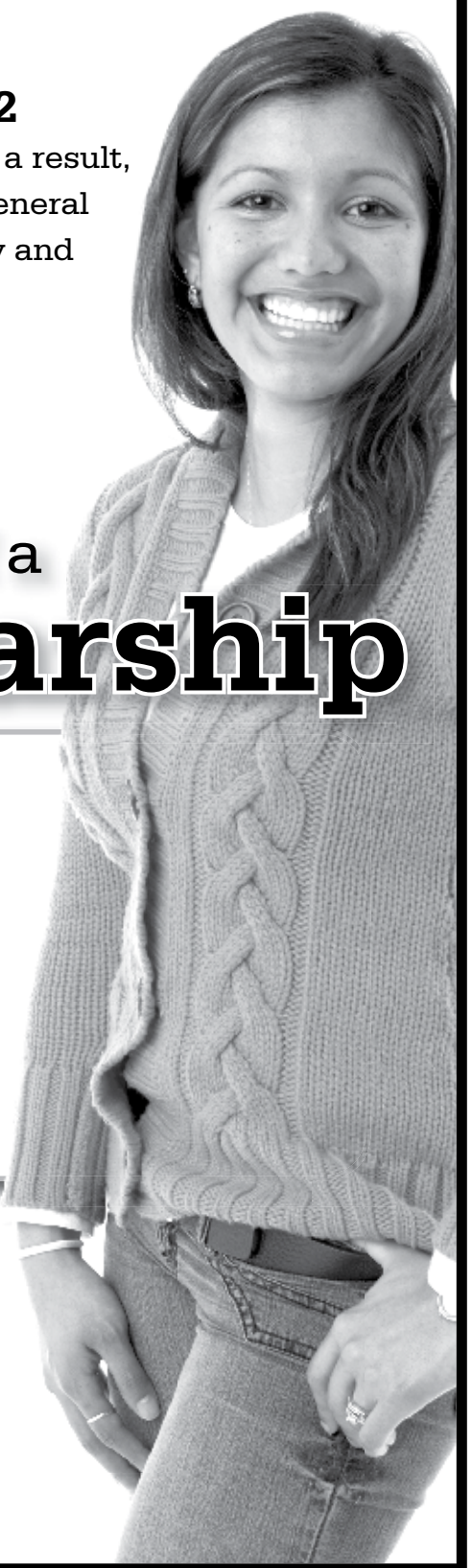
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VISION from page 1

proposals to approve. Accepted proposals will be announced in the summer.

The university's goal is to create an "open, transparent, strategic planning process," Lyon said. "We go out and seek money to fund our plans," he said.

"We allocate money based on our plans. We don't do it in a haphazard way. We don't do it in a secretive way. It's above-board. It's clearly participatory, and all these, of course, move against the backdrop of the mission and vision.

"All these strategic plans move us closer to the vision of 2012."

The history department has submitted three separate strategic proposals.

History is one of few departments with strategic proposals that could directly impact a broad range of Baylor's population: faculty, staff, undergradu-

ates, graduates and doctoral students.

Dr. Michael Parrish, a professor of history and chairman of the history department's strategic planning committee, said even with \$700 million in proposals, Baylor might not be doing enough to move ahead in the rankings.

"You might as well ask, why isn't it more?" he said. "These top universities are not sitting still. They are racing ahead."

As Baylor tries to catch up and become a top-tier university with Baylor 2012, Parrish said time is short.

"It's five years away. Time's a-wasting."

In what he says could be a "dramatic enhancement" of the history department, three separate strategic proposals have been under consideration since Dec. 15.

The doctoral, departmental and building proposals could each bring more personnel, money and facilities to the his-

tory department. The building proposal, a joint effort of the history and religion departments, could also bring some much-needed extra space to the religion department, Parrish said.

The first proposal calls for the creation of a doctorate program in history. Only a few universities have a "strong focus" on American religious history, Parrish said, pointing to Yale University, Duke University and the University of Notre Dame as examples.

"Our faculty merit a doctoral program in the same area," he said.

If the doctoral proposal is accepted, doctoral graduates would be equipped to teach in the "growing field" of religious studies. Parrish said a great demand for such teachers exists among smaller schools, particularly those with religious affiliations.

"A new doctoral program at Baylor would make the history

department here prominent and influential very quickly," he said.

The history department already has a master's program, which Parrish said would be maintained after the establishment of a doctorate program.

The second history department strategic proposal, which Parrish called the "departmental" proposal, calls for the hiring of 10 new faculty members, adding one each year for the next 10 years. In addition, the proposal asks for an additional \$100,000 next year for library resources, an amount which would increase yearly over the next decade.

Also included in the departmental proposal is an "excellence fund," a million-dollar endowment to be used to bring in visiting lecturers, cover travel costs for faculty researchers, graduate research and other discretionary spending.

Increased undergraduate scholarships and stipends and

graduate student fellowships are also part of the departmental proposal.

The third proposal, the largest submitted by the history department, calls for the construction of a new facility and the renovation of Tidwell Bible Building.

The new building would be placed between Tidwell Bible Building and James Street. After its construction, the history and religion departments would each partially move over, allowing for renovation of the Tidwell Bible Building.

"Our students deserve more," Parrish said. Quoting from the departmental proposal, he said, "No top-tier university is without an excellent history department."

Jen Kim, an El Paso junior, said Baylor has much to gain from increasing funding to its liberal arts departments. The fastest and easiest way to improve a college is to fund the liberal arts programs, she said,

specifically citing the philosophy department.

Kim said she believes Baylor has the potential to improve greatly, but that it's easier to improve one small segment of the college — like the history department — than to improve the whole university at once. However, funding a particular department can affect the college's level of prestige as a whole, she said.

Kim pointed to New York University, which dramatically boosted its image after pumping funds into the philosophy department and making a name for itself in a particular area of study.

"In my opinion, we already have a lot of prestige in the academic world, but we could gain prestige by increasing funding to specific liberal arts programs," she said. "It's beneficial to the students.

"If we support our liberal arts programs, we can only get stronger."

HEALTH from page 1

a few problems of its own."

Over the past year, the Health Center has surveyed 10 percent of the students who come through the Health Center, Townsend said.

"Through the quality-control survey, which is voluntary and anonymous, we have a good handle on the student satisfaction of our numerous services," Townsend said.

The implementation of any new policy will have to be tweaked based on its overall efficiency.

Kassie Light, an Arcadia, Calif., freshman, said she hasn't had any problems scheduling an appointment with the Health Center since she's been at Baylor.

"I've been here regularly these past two weeks," Light said. "It's great because it's on campus and the doctors are great."

Students will still need to bring their insurance information with them each time they visit the Health Center. Students can make appointments by calling the Health Center at (254) 710-1010.

COAL from page 1

Texas using 1950s technology impacts Baylor students more than any other single group because four of those plants, including two of the biggest, are in breathing distance of the campus," he said.

"The kids that come after you, if these folks win, are going to be facing a very bleak four years at Baylor breathing this stuff."

Losak said this event will feature a discussion panel after the movie. The panel will include Keep Waco Green president Mary Darden as well as a representative from T-Power, a grassroots organization.

"We invited TXU, but they bailed on us last week and said that due to impending litigation, they were not going to show up," Losak said. "We got the same response from Texans for Affordable and Reliable Power."

Losak said Students for Dialogue had also invited the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality to send a representative, but it decided to set up an information booth at the event rather than join in on the discussion.

In lieu of a pro-coal-plant representative, Brooks Wilson and David Davenport, both economics instructors at MCC, have agreed to appear on the panel and give an economic perspective on the issue.

After the panel, the debate will be opened up for general discussion, which will be moderated by Students for Dialogue's adviser, Melody Flowers.

Losak said he hopes community members

as well as students attend the event.

"I think it's not only the right, but the responsibility of the community to demand that an issue be presented to them fully and from all sides when it involves the health of the community at present and also in the long term," Losak said.

He said Baylor students are also welcome and that according to the group's charter, students from other universities can join Students for Dialogue as honorary members, though they are not allowed to vote.

Baylor Democrats vice president Justin Mueller said he and other club members will be attending the event as a group.

Mueller said the coal plant issue is an important one.

"To me, it's a matter of public health," Mueller, a San Antonio junior, said. "The bottom line can't be what is the cheapest, quickest way to get energy."

Losak said he agrees. "Five or 10 generations from now, when we're all gone, the people who are living at that time are not really going to care how much money we made, what kind of jobs we did, whether we were Democrats or Republicans or any different sort of religious or ethnic classification," he said.

"What they're going to care about is whether they can breathe the air that won't make them sick or possibly kill them, whether they can drink water that won't make them sick or possibly kill them and whether they have enough food to eat that will keep them healthy."

ENROLL from page 1

For three years in a row the number of admissions applications received by Baylor has increased. Since Baylor is not attempting to increase the size of each new freshman class, that means the acceptance rate has decreased, Ramsower said.

Although the retention rate held steady this spring, he said the fall opening of the Paul L. Foster Success Center in the Sid Richardson Science Building should be a factor in increasing retention rate. Ramsower said by uniting six departments under one roof, its resources for career counseling, advisement, job searches and tutoring could help students graduate.

He said Baylor has an "active"

program now, as professors are encouraged to refer students for tutoring.

The Texas B-On-Time Loan program, which "forgives" student loans to students who graduate in four years, is another tool that is being used to improve its retention rate for undergraduates. Graduation rates are generally measured in six years in national publications which rate schools, Ramsower said, but Baylor encourages students to graduate in four. This program encourages students to graduate on time.

"We're doing everything we can to get people to graduate in four years," Ramsower said. "We're definitely in the business of graduating people, not enrolling them."

GRANT from page 1

not eligible for the grant are students who receive athletic scholarships and seminary students.

Until recently, students could receive a maximum grant of \$3,444 per year. However, Sheehy said a new provision enacted in the 2005-2006 academic year

allows students to receive 150 percent of the grant, or \$5,166.

Waco sophomore Christy Davis is one of the many students who benefits from the Tuition Equalization Grant.

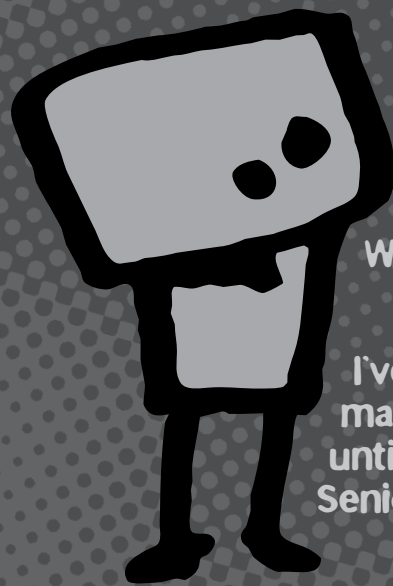
"If I didn't have financial aid, I wouldn't be at Baylor. I am very thankful for the grant," Davis said.

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