

ROUNDING UP CAMPUS NEWS SINCE 1900

# THE BAYLOR LARIAT

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 12, 2007

## Regents increase tuition by 6.5 percent

By Grace Maalouf  
Editor in Chief

The Baylor Board of Regents voted to raise undergraduate tuition by 6.5 percent next year during a conference call Monday that would increase undergraduate tuition for 2008-09 full-time students to \$23,644 from \$22,220.

This was announced in an e-mail President John Lilley sent to faculty and staff at 5:30 p.m. Tuesday.

The general student fee will increase 6.61 percent to \$2,420. Room rates will increase by 5.99 percent, and board rates for undergraduates will rise 2.75 percent. Incoming freshmen will pay

6.09 percent more in tuition, fees, room and board than this year's freshmen class.

Graduate student tuition will go up 6.59 percent and tuition for students at George W. Truett Theological Seminary will rise by 6.43 percent. Tuition for law students will rise by 6.48 percent.

Baylor tuition has risen steadily over the past few years, including an 8 percent increase in 2006-2007, a 6.4 percent increase in 2005-2006, 9.1 percent in 2004-2005 and 6.69 percent in 2003-2004.

The board often decides tuition increases at its meeting held during Baylor Homecoming weekend, which this year is the first weekend of November.

Reagan Ramsower, vice president for finance and administration, said he requested the meeting be moved up in the year so that tuition information would be available before Baylor's early admissions deadline, which is Nov. 1.

"We wanted to come out early and let people know what the tuition would be," he said.

The board of regents recently decided to eliminate its annual September meeting, which is why the meeting took place by conference call, Ramsower said.

Lilley said in a news release that the tuition increase will help fund current operations, new initiatives, faculty hires, the improvement of campus facilities and a variety of major strategic plan-

ning proposals approved this summer.

Ramsower said new faculty hires were authorized to improve the student-faculty ratio and allow some professors to do research. He said the university needs "some faculty in certain areas because Baylor has the opportunity to excel and demonstrate world-class leadership in those disciplines."

The increase also will help pay for a raise pool for faculty and staff, Ramsower said. He said it will help cover the cost of "inflationary increases in utility," capital expenditures and travel expenses.

Ramsower said recent construction on Brooks

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## Faculty Senate focuses on involvement

Committee discusses 15-minute intervals, hiring process, tenure and promotion guidelines

By Anita Pere  
Staff writer

The Faculty Senate addressed possible 15-minute passing times between classes, a new measure requiring a criminal background check on all potential faculty members and tenure and promotion guidelines for faculty during a meeting Tuesday.

Matthew Cordon, Faculty Senate chairman, said the Faculty Senate "wants to take on a problem-solving role" this year. He noted the senate's work with the administration on the hiring process and the construction of committees.

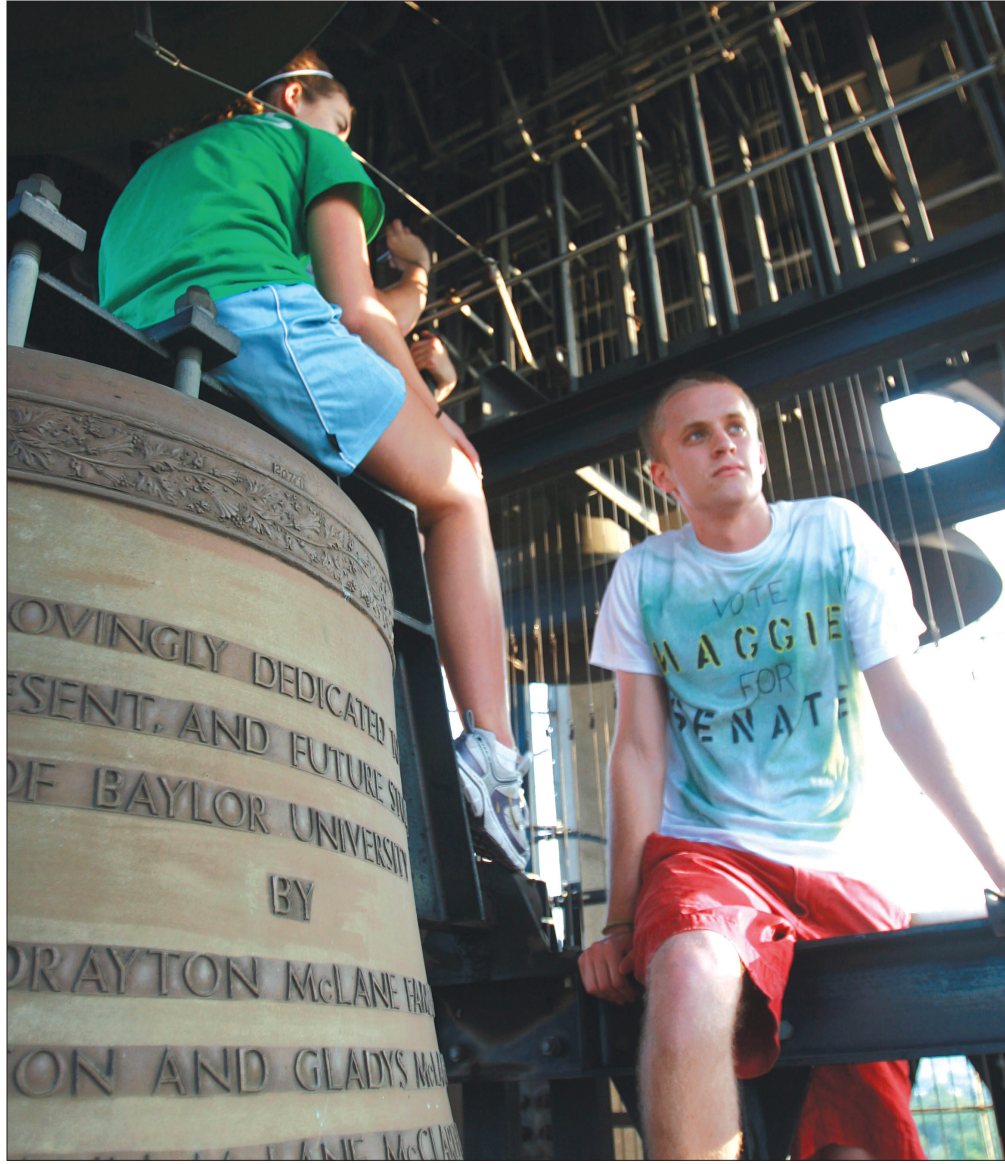
Dr. Randall O'Brien, executive vice president and provost, brought up the prospect of 15-minute intervals between classes. The 10-minute passing times "were designed when we had many thousand fewer students," O'Brien said.

A committee composed of students, faculty and staff have devised a new plan for 15-minute intervals.

The proposed blueprint would shave five minutes from Tuesday and Thursday classes. Monday, Wednesday and Friday classes would stay the same length but the class times would change accordingly. The plan could be installed as soon as next summer, according to a document O'Brien handed out during the meeting.

The tenure and promotion changes that were discussed aim to keep the policies together but

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Jade Hodges/Lariat staff

### The bell tolls for thee

Edmond freshman Maggie Courtney and Belton freshman Brian Longley sit on Burleson Bell. Courtney and Longley attended Lynette Geary's memorial recital at 5:30 p.m. Tuesday at the top of Pat Neff in the McLane Carillon.

## Burleson announced chaplain

Day Spring pastor selected by unanimous vote

By Shannon Daily  
Reporter

The vote was unanimous. The yearlong search for the new university chaplain is finally over. Dr. Burt L. Burleson, a 1980 Baylor graduate, has returned to his alma mater to serve as a spiritual leader to students, faculty and staff.

Throughout the selection process, the selection committee looked for several important things in the new chaplain — someone who was compassionate, creative, academic and genuine.

"A jack-of-all trades if you will," said San Antonio senior Travis Plummer, one of the student representatives of the committee.

"I feel like Dr. Burleson is qualified in numerous ways. I sincerely believe that this is the man God wanted put on campus," Plummer said.

"He was compassionate, relatable, approachable, considerate and intellectual, but not in an over you head kind of way," Plummer said.

A passion for spiritual formation, meaning to grow in the spirit and likeness of Christ, was also a must.

Dr. Dub Oliver, vice president for student life, said that this passion was exactly what they found in Burleson.

"Burt has a great deal of experience, and a focus on spiritual formation. He's a gifted pastor and he's known as someone who's very creative. That's something that's very desirable for us," Oliver said.

"He's a very warm and very genuine personality and personhood. He relates well to everyone he interacts with," Oliver said.

As of Oct. 1, Burleson will take the lead in areas such as Chapel, Christian student ministries, resident chaplains and mission opportunities for the Baylor community.

"I'm just absolutely thrilled. Having grown up in Baptist life, this is just something where I get to do the thing I love the most," Burleson said.

A father of two, Burleson has been the pastor of Day Spring Baptist Church in Waco since 1995.

"I'm still pastoring at Day Spring and I'm trying stay focused on these folks," Burleson said of his upcoming transition to his new position.

"There are a lot of things I'm looking forward to. It's a big change for me going from a fairly small



Burleson

## Drew forms foundation for successful season

By Will Parchman  
Sports editor

Scott Drew strides into the media room like any other day, his infectious smile lighting the room, his upbeat tempo adding a dimension of frivolity to what is otherwise a very serious business.

Instead of talking basketball, the Baylor head coach's immediate conversation turns to news, football, anything but the macabre.

To know Drew is to know a man who wouldn't be caught doing anything else. In a scant four years, he has built a men's basketball program

almost any Division One coach would be proud to call his own. He's managed to grow thick trees through the narrow cracks of what was once a dirty, corrupt pavement.

"The program was basically under water, and a lot of people wouldn't have taken the school into consideration be-



Drew

cause of that," Austin junior guard Curtis Jerrells said. "I think guys are coming in here and seeing that we haven't really done anything in the winning column, but we've got good guys here. They're willing to leave some of the big schools behind and pick a school like Baylor and help us come up."

Drew's emphasis on building Baylor's burgeoning men's basketball program from the inside out with "high-character guys," as he often calls them, is giving way to one of the most talented teams in the Big 12.

How did this happen? How did

Drew make a mountain out of a Texas-sized crater?

Most of the answers lie in his recruiting successes. The verbal commitment of Anthony Jones last weekend, potentially the highest-rated recruit ever to step on campus in Drew's tenure, adds to the building mystique of the program Drew is creating almost from the ground up.

"We're pretty excited," Jerrells said. "A lot of people didn't think he would come here, but he enjoyed his stay, really liked the guys, liked the

Please see DREW, page 6

## Bush plans to cut U.S. troops in Iraq by 30,000

By Matthew Lee  
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON—President Bush will tell the nation this week he plans to reduce the American troop presence in Iraq by about 30,000 by next summer, but will condition those and further cuts on continued progress, The Associated Press has learned.

In a prime time television address, probably Thursday, Bush will endorse the recommendations of his top general and top

diplomat in Iraq, following their appearance at two days of hearings in Congress, administration officials said. The White House plans to issue a written status report on the so-called "surge" on Friday, they said.

The officials spoke on condition of anonymity because Bush's speech is not yet finally drafted. Bush was practicing the speech and putting the final touches on it even as the U.S. commanding general, David Petraeus, and U.S. Ambassador Ryan Crocker were still presenting their arguments on Capitol Hill.

The reductions envisioned by the White House mirror those proposed by Petraeus and would leave approximately 130,000 U.S. troops on the ground by August, roughly the same level that existed before Bush ordered the buildup early this year, the officials said.

In the speech, the president will say he understands the deep concerns Americans have about U.S. involvement in Iraq and their desire to bring the troops home, they

Please see TROOPS, page 6



The Associated Press

President Bush speaks Tuesday during a meeting with Congressional leaders in the Cabinet Room of the White House in Washington.



# Project Promise grant renewed

Education program offers at-risk students chance to realize dreams

By Tessa Shockey  
Reporter

They are first-generation college students. They come from low socioeconomic families that gave them no hope of a higher education. Project Promise has given them an opportunity, and they have jumped on it.

Project Promise is a program for the enrichment of gifted students in the Waco Independent School District and is part of the University for Young People's summer program.

The Center for Community Learning and Enrichment recently renewed the Project Promise grant, which it received from the City of Waco's scholarship program. Since 1999, the City of Waco has funded the

scholarship with money from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development.

Project Promise allows these at-risk students to take classes on Baylor's campus during the summer.

The grant also covers transportation to and from the Baylor campus, meals in Penland Residence Hall cafeteria and school supplies.

"We have touched over 200 children," said Dr. Mary Witte, director of the Center for Community Learning and Enrichment. "This is what our goal of the grant is: to help these student aspire to higher education."

Witte is a senior lecturer in the curriculum and instruction department. Witte said Project Promise has taken students on tours of Texas A&M and the University of Texas as well as Baylor.

Baylor professors usually teach the classes while Baylor

students act as mentors.

Bridgeport junior Lauren Green was a mentor this summer for Project Promise.

"I had a group of middle-schoolers. There were 11 in my group, and I helped them get to their classes," Green said.

Green said the students in her mentor group expressed a desire to go to college, and many wanted to go to Baylor. "It's good for them to have exposure to college, and I think that will have a big impact," Green said.

The students come back every summer, and this fall the mentor program is going to be expanded so mentors can stay involved in their students' life.

"The plan is to start getting together once a month and keeping up with the students," Green said.

Project Promise currently has 66 students, who will stay in the program until they graduate.

So far, every child enrolled in Project Promise has gone on to some form of higher education, including community college, technical school and universities.

Three Project Promise students are currently at Baylor. Other students have gone to Brigham Young University, Texas A&M, Texas Christian University, Texas State, Texas State Technical College and the University of Texas at Arlington.

"They feel they can go on to higher education," said Dr. Susan Johnsen, principal investigator of the grant.

Zachary Gamez enrolled in the program in its pilot year as a middle-schooler. Now, he is a sophomore engineering major at Baylor. Gamez has hopes of owning his own engineering business.

"Classes with Project Promise in some ways sparked my interest (in engineering)," Gamez said.

## BEAR BRIEFS

**Baylor Activities Council** has extended its deadline for submitting applications to 5 p.m. today. For more information, contact Lizet\_Rivera@baylor.edu.

**Habitat for Humanity** will have an interest meeting at 6 p.m. today in Kayser Auditorium. For more information, visit [www.baylorhabitat.org](http://www.baylorhabitat.org).

**Baylor Neuroscience Society** will hold an interest meeting at 6 p.m. today in A235 Baylor Sciences Building. For more information, contact Allison\_Strickland@baylor.edu.

**Sigma Nu and Student Life** will present Mental Health Summit from 6 to 8 p.m. today in the Barfield Drawing Room of the Bill Daniel Student Center.

**Panhellenic open house** will be from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m. Thursday in the Stacy Riddle Forum. For more information, contact Tam\_Dunn@baylor.edu.

**Acoustic Cafe**, presented by B.R.A.N. will be held from 8 to 10 p.m. Thursday in the Bill Daniel Student Center Den. For more information, call Student Activities at 710-2371.

**The Study Abroad Photo Contest** is now accepting entries until 5 p.m. Sept. 28. Applicants must

have participated in a Baylor study abroad program. Entry forms are available in 204 Poage Library. Please send all questions or comments to Photo\_Contest@baylor.edu.

**Battle of the Bands** registration ends Oct. 1. The event is hosted by Kappa Delta. Students interested in entering should submit a demo to Student Activities and complete a registration form.

**Bring David Matthews Band** to Baylor by texting DMB to 959. Students will receive a code that can be used to text entries up to 50 times a day. Baylor will win a free concert if it has the most entries when the competition ends Oct. 15. Visit [www.attblueroom.com](http://www.attblueroom.com) to enter online. For more information, contact Kirk\_Wakefield@baylor.edu.

To submit a bear brief, e-mail [Lariat@baylor.edu](mailto:Lariat@baylor.edu).

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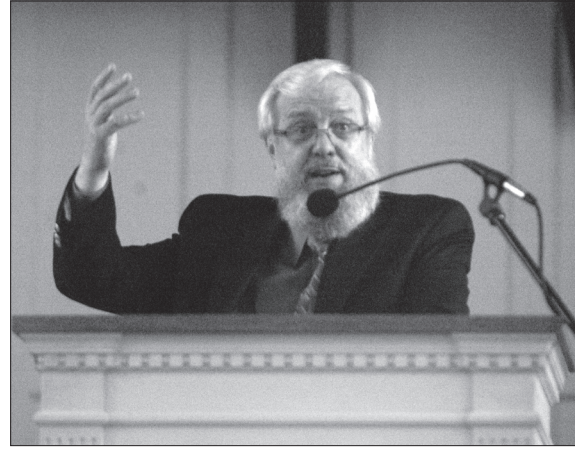
# Lecturer declares Wesleyan theology dead

By Kelli Boesel  
Reporter

Wesleyan theology is dead. Up from the ashes comes a different, historical way of looking at John Wesley.

Dr. William J. Abraham, an Albert Cook Outler professor of Wesley studies and Altshuler distinguished professor at Perkins School of Theology at Southern Methodist University, spoke Tuesday in Miller Chapel on the death of Wesleyan theology and the rebirth of John Wesley as a spiritual father to millions.

Wesley was the founder of the Methodist denomination and Albertson said an "outpouring of interest in Wesleyan theology" was brought on by Albert Cook Outler when he published Wesley's original works in single volume form. Since then, Wesleyan



Dr. William J. Abraham lectures Tuesday in Miller Chapel on the death of traditional Wesleyan theology.

Laurisa Lopez/Lariat staff

"background music" of studying Wesley.

By changing the way Wesley is studied, you see the man had a "deep, robust vision of God," Abraham said. By looking at Wesley's doctrine of perfection, we see there is more to salvation than God forgiving us.

Abraham said he thinks that we need to look at Wesley, as a saint, father and great evangelist. He said Wesley enabled people to find God for themselves and come to their own understanding of God.

"We have used Wesley to our own ends and projected into Wesley what we have loved in life," Abraham said.

More than 100 faculty and students gathered to hear Abraham. Burleson senior, Galan Hughes, said he came to the lecture because of interest in the topic.

theology has grown into more of a personal doctrine than a church doctrine, he said.

"There are as many John Wesleys as there are students of Wesley," Abraham said.

Albertson said he thinks the broadening and personalizing of

Wesleyan theology has ultimately led to its death within the Methodist church.

Abraham said he sees the death of Wesleyan theology as a chance to celebrate a life well lived and find the real historical Wesley. We need to rethink the

## Freshman Class Officer Results

- President**  
Jay Adcock, Tyler
- Vice President**  
Emily Saultz, Amarillo
- Secretary/Treasurer**  
Abby Byrd, Omaha, Neb.
- Senators**  
Logan Snow, Houston
- Katie Jo Baumgardner, Louisburg, Kan.
- Will "Ace" Fuller, Corpus Christi
- Maggie Courtney, Edmond, Okla.
- Brandon Baker, San Antonio
- Keely Terrell, Waco
- Sarah Beth Haigler, San Antonio
- Becka Bovio, San Antonio
- Tyler Walton, San Antonio
- Michael Wright, Houston
- Virtuous Filler, Katy
- Michael Home, hometown unknown
- Matthew Moore, Ruston, La.

# Bin Laden lauds hijacker in new video

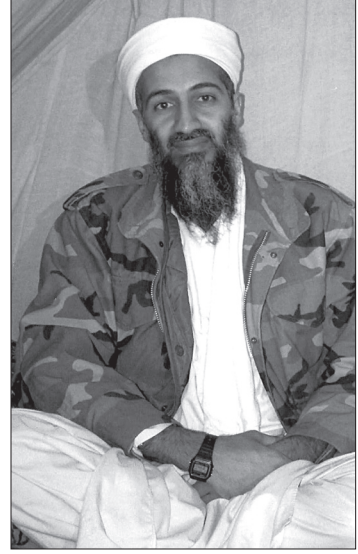
By Lee Keath  
The Associated Press

CAIRO, Egypt — Osama bin Laden urged sympathizers to join the "caravan" of martyrs as he praised one of the Sept. 11 suicide hijackers in a new video that emerged Tuesday to mark the sixth anniversary of the attacks on the World Trade Center and Pentagon.

Al-Qaida traditionally issues a video every year on the anniversary, with the last testament of one of the 19 hijackers involved in the Sept. 11, 2001 attacks. This year's video showed hijacker Waleed al-Shehri addressing the camera and warning the U.S.: "We shall come at you from your front and back, your right and left."

The new message, which AP Television News obtained from the IntelCenter monitoring group in suburban Washington, came days after the world got its first current look at bin Laden in nearly three years, with the release of a video Saturday in which the terror leader addressed the American people.

Later in the day it appeared on militant Web sites, with a note from al-Qaiada's media production wing al-Sahab saying it



Associated Press

This undated photo shows al-Qaida leader Osama bin Laden in Afghanistan. Bin Laden addressed Americans on the sixth anniversary of the Sept. 11 attacks with a new video.

was intentionally sent to television stations before being placed on the Internet.

It begins with an audiotape introduction by bin Laden. While his voice is heard, the video shows a still image of him, raising his finger. In the image, bin Laden has the same dyed-black

beard and the same clothes — a white robe and cap and beige cloak — that he had in Saturday's video.

But it was not known if the audiotape was recently made. In the past, al-Qaida has used footage and audio of bin Laden taped long ago for release later.

In the tape, bin Laden praised al-Shehri, saying he "recognized the truth" that Arab rulers were "vassals" of the West and had "abandoned the balance of (Islamic) revelation."

"It is true that this young man was little in years, but the faith in his heart was big," he said.

"So there is a huge difference between the path of the kings, presidents and hypocritical Ulama (Islamic scholars) and the path of these noble young men," like al-Shehri, bin Laden said. "The farmers' lot is to spoil and enjoy themselves whereas the latter's lot is to destroy themselves for Allah's Word to be Supreme."

"It remains for us to do our part. So I tell every young man among the youth of Islam: It is your duty to join the caravan (of martyrs) until the sufficiency is complete and the march to aid the High and Omnipotent continues," he said.

## GRAND OPENING

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## Meet the Author

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4:00-5:30 pm.

**Baylor University bookstore**

Baylor professor and author Greg Garrett signs his newest book, *The Gospel according to Hollywood* at Baylor University bookstore on September 13th, 2007 from 4:00-5:30 pm. Garrett explores the spiritual elements in dozens of classic and recent films, including *Pulp Fiction*, *The Matrix*, the Harry Potter series, *Spider-Man*, *Jaws*, and *The Godfather*, just to name a few. It is sure to fascinate movie buffs everywhere! The store is located at Baylor University Parking Facility, 1201 South 5th Street, Waco, TX 76706. Don't miss it!

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# Smith grabs touchdown, new beginning at BU

By Brian Bateman  
Sports writer

All week long, Baylor students cram formulas and definitions into their brains. When the weekend finally arrives, the books sit on the desk and the games come out.

But for some, the weekend is where learning begins.

Meet Ernest Smith, a sophomore who is learning his role as a Baylor wide receiver.

"He's a student of the game," former high school head coach Jabar Juluke said, adding, "a very intelligent young man on the field."

A New Orleans native, Smith has had to adapt to life's audibles just as he does on the field.

Smith started his football career at Edna Karr High School playing quarterback, finding himself third-string in his sophomore season.

Analyzing the situation, Smith approached Juluke and asked to move to wide receiver. Agreeing, Juluke said his athleticism could be better used there.

"You get to dominate one-on-one with somebody. I want to win everytime against that defensive back," Smith said.

Rivals.com, a major recruiting Web site agreed, naming

Smith a three-star receiver and the nation's No. 40 wide receiver in the 2006 class.

"He had all the physical tools," Juluke said. "He was an important part of our offense."

With 185 pounds on his 6-foot-3 frame and the ability to run a 4.5-second 40-yard dash, Smith joined Juluke on the recruiting trail, traveling all over the Southeastern Conference.

With offers from the University of Alabama, the University of Mississippi and Auburn University, Smith looked to stay at home with the regional conference.

"My dad loved (Louisiana State University) and we loved to see LSU and Auburn play," Smith said.

In the fall of 2005, everything was going well for Smith. It was his senior year, college scouts were following him and after two years of injury, he was finally a starting wide receiver.

But Hurricane Katrina had other plans.

Blowing into New Orleans two years ago last month, the storm severely damaged the city but spared his school. A separated roof, mildewed chairs and shattered windows were all that needed replacing.

"We're on the west ring, so we

didn't get any water, just wind damage," Juluke said.

But while the school was in tact, the football team would take a blow when Smith moved to Tyler.

"It was devastating losing him. We had huge expectations for him, as he did for himself," Juluke said.

But it was chance that brought him to Tyler, not choice.

"My dad was in the Superdome and the bus took him to Tyler," Smith said.

"I wanted to play wherever my dad was. He did everything he could to get me on the field as quickly as possible," Smith said.

And that meant playing football every Friday at Trinity Mother Francis Rose stadium. Playing for John Tyler High School, he helped the Lions make the playoffs for the first time in five years.

After returning to New Orleans for the spring, Smith flipped his decision to join the SEC and become a member of the Big 12 instead. Without the ability to send videos to interested schools, he narrowed his choice to two.

"I was looking at the University of Alabama at Birmingham and Baylor," he said. "Adrian Johnson, my teammate at John

Tyler, was looking at Baylor. (Former Baylor) coach (Chris) Lancaster came and talked to my dad, showed a lot of love."

Waco then became his third residence in two years.

Smith played limited minutes last year behind Trent Shelton and Dominique Zeigler, running plays in all but two games.

But with Baylor's best receiving duo transplanted to the NFL, Smith and the rest of the receiving corps are getting a chance to grow. With height to spare, Smith's growth will be in weight.

"Ernest came up and game me a hug and said, 'Thanks for believing in me,'" offensive coordinator Lee Hays said. "I'd like to take credit for that, but it wasn't me. That was Blake (Szymanski's) call."

Smith is averaging 14.7 yards per catch, including a 19-yard touchdown against Rice. On first-and-goal, Szymanski threw a fade, but Smith didn't pull it in. On second down, Szymanski ran the same play.

With his second-chance score, Smith had his first collegiate touchdown, adding six points to the Bears' win.

"I want to win. If you don't want to, then there's something wrong with you," Smith said.



Jade Hodges/Lariat staff

Sophomore wide receiver Ernest Smith leaps to make a reception in the first quarter Saturday in a 42-17 win over the Rice University Owls. Smith's father was displaced from his home in 2005 following Hurricane Katrina.

# Texas-Oklahoma rivalry takes bloody turn over T-shirt dispute

The Associated Press

OKLAHOMA CITY — To hear Oklahoma football fans tell it, some things just aren't done in the heart of Sooner Nation, and one of them is to walk into a bar wearing a Texas Longhorns T-shirt.

That's exactly what touched off a bloody skirmish that left a Texas-shirt-wearing fan nearly castrated and an Oklahoma fan facing aggravated assault charges that could put him in prison for up to five years.

The shocking case has set off a raging debate in this football-crazed region about the extreme passions behind a bitter rivalry. Some legal observers have even questioned whether this case

could ever truly have an impartial jury.

"I've actually heard callers on talk radio say that this guy deserved what he got for wearing a Texas T-shirt into a bar in the middle of Sooner country," said Irven Box, an attorney in this city 20 miles from Oklahoma's campus in Norman.

According to police, 32-year-old Texas fan Brian Christopher Thomas walked into Henry Hudson's Pub on June 17 wearing a Longhorns T-shirt and quickly became the focus of football "trash talk" from another regular, 53-year-old Oklahoma fan Allen Michael Beckett.

Thomas told police that when he decided to leave and went to the bar to pay his tab, Beck-

ett grabbed him in the crotch, pulled him to the ground and wouldn't let go, even as bar patrons tried to break it up.

When the two men were separated, Thomas looked down and realized the extent of his injuries.

"He could see both of his testicles hanging on the outside of his body," said Thomas' attorney, Carl Hughes. "He was wearing a pair of white shorts, which made it that much worse."

It took more than 60 stitches to close the wound, and police interviewed Thomas at a nearby hospital emergency room.

Beckett's attorney, Billy Bock, concedes that his client commented about Thomas' shirt, but said it was just good-natured

ribbing and that he apologized to Thomas when it appeared to upset the Texas fan. Later, Bock said Thomas approached his client at the bar and threatened him.

"My client is a little man, and this guy (Thomas) is 30 to 40 pounds bigger than him," Bock said. "He's bigger, stronger, younger and probably faster, and he aggressively leaned in and touched my client and threatened to beat him up. ... My guy was defending himself and just took control of the situation."

Thomas' attorney disputes Beckett's version.

"That's total malarkey," Hughes said. "My client never said a word to him. He got up to pay and when he paid and left a

tip, the guy grabbed him."

Beckett, a 53-year-old church deacon, federal auditor and former Army combat veteran, has pleaded not guilty.

His next court appearance comes Oct. 4, two days before the Sooners and Horns tangle in their annual football game at the Cotton Bowl in Dallas.

Thomas, who once lived in Houston and became a Texas fan during the heyday of star running back Earl Campbell, is still recovering from his injuries but has returned to work as a meat cutter at a Sam's Club warehouse store.

Like Beckett and Thomas, many fans of the two college squads never attended either university, but have come to

identify so closely with these teams that they attach banners to their cars, wear team colors on game day and even have programmed their car horns to play school fight songs.

Dallas police Sgt. Andy Harvey, a 12-year veteran of the force, said it's not uncommon for fights to break out between fans of the two schools.

"People are passionate about their teams and their universities, and that's a good thing," he said, "but when you mix a real passionate sports fan and then get a little alcohol in there, sometimes it's not a good mix."

Assistant District Attorney Scott Rowland said the rivalry will have no bearing on the way the case is prosecuted.



Are you the

BU faculty, alumni go off-Broadway

By Rea Corbin Reporter

Past and present members of the Baylor theatre department are about to step off-Broadway and into The Coffee Trees.

Dr. Marion Castleberry, associate professor of theatre arts, will be directing the Arthur Giron play, The Coffee Trees.

Five Baylor alumni and one professor will be participating in the production.

This is the second time in recent years Baylor has been involved with an off-Broadway production, said Sherry Ward, audience development director.

In March 2006, Castleberry also directed Horton Foote's The Traveling Lady at the Ensemble Studio Theatre in New York City. The production was nominated for the Drama Desk award for Outstanding Revival of a Play.

Dr. Stan Denman, directing chairman, said this "distinguished" nomination opened up more doors for Baylor Theatre's continued professional work.

Castleberry's association with the Ensemble Studio Theatre

was the biggest influence on this project," Denman said.

Not only did the theater support The Traveling Lady, it also held a reading of The Coffee Trees, sparking interest in the play.

One person interested was Eric Parness, managing director of the Resonance Ensemble Theatre.

Castleberry said the theater is a new company "dedicated to performing classical works and new works that have been inspired by those works."

Parness wanted to put on The Coffee Trees along with The Cherry Orchard by Anton Chekhov, which was the inspiration for Giron's play. The theme of The Cherry Orchard carries through to The Coffee Trees. Both plays examine the effects of a changing society on a collection of



Castleberry

people. In The Coffee Trees, a Guatemalan family struggles to find a place on a post-war coffee plantation, rather than the Russian countryside.

Assistant professor Stephen Pounders is participating in both productions. When he is not playing Manny in The Coffee Trees, he is the stage manager for The Cherry Orchard.

"This role is keeping me just as busy as The Coffee Trees, but it's fascinating to watch both plays in progress," Pounders said.

Pounders acts regularly in the Dallas and Fort Worth areas, and according to Denman "has a bit of a following in Dallas."

Castleberry and Giron have known each other for more than 15 years, Castleberry said, but working together on an off-Broadway production was a new step.

Giron also wrote Flight, which was put on by Baylor theatre students in 2004. Baylor alumnus Steven Day, now Castleberry's assistant director, directed Flight at Baylor.

Acting in the play with Pounders is Baylor alumna Elizabeth Davis, who plays Barbara. Baylor alumni Stew Awalt, Sarah Brown and Bobby Bradley are stage manager, prop designer and lighting designer, respectively. In the past, Pounders has taught classes for all the alumni in the production except Day.

"It's important to recognize that they are now colleagues, not students," Pounders said. "It's actually not a difficult transition to make. I'm usually humbled to see how far my students have surpassed anything I might have taught them."

Castleberry sees work on this level as rewarding "not only for us, but for our students and the university as a whole."

Performances like The Coffee Trees and The Traveling Lady enhance the reputation of the Baylor theatre department on a national level, Denman said.

"It takes a high caliber of faculty to be able to put on a production in New York City and still compete with professionals," Denman said.

The Coffee Trees opens Sept. 28 at Theatre Row's Beckett Theatre in Manhattan.

CONCERTCONNECTION

WACO

Green River Ordinance Thursday @ 8 p.m. Common Grounds

David Allan Coe Saturday @ 7 p.m. Hog Creek Ice House

AUSTIN

Spoon Thursday @ 8 p.m. La Zona Rosa

Paolo Nutini Friday @ 8:30 p.m. Stubb's

Robert Earl Keen Friday @ 10 p.m. The Parish

Blonde Redhead Saturday @ 9 p.m. Emo's

The White Stripes Sunday @ 7 p.m. Stubb's

DALLAS

The Killers Thursday @ 8 p.m. Nokia Theatre

Wilco Friday @ 7:30 p.m. Palladium Ballroom

The National / St. Vincent Friday @ 8 p.m. Granada Theatre

Common Saturday @ 8 p.m. House of Blues

Clay Walker Saturday @ 10:30 p.m. Billy Bob's

Arctic Monkeys Sunday @ 7:30 p.m. Palladium Ballroom

Muse Sunday @ 8 p.m. Nokia Theatre

Stephen Marley Sunday @ 8 p.m. Granada Theatre

Are some pop culture crimes too heinous to forgive and forget?

By Aaron Sagers McClatchy Newspapers

I am an incredibly forgiving person. In fact, I fancy myself a benevolent and kind-hearted media consumer willing to absolve the career sins of celebs and pop-makers. Up to a point.

But when I'm in a movie theater and Vince Gill is strumming a guitar, shilling for Fruit Of The Loom undies alongside a grown man dressed as an apple, smiting is more on my mind than forgiveness.

Honestly, I'm willing to entertain the notion that Vince is hamming it up in the "Daddy Was The Apple Of My Eye" song

when he sings, "No castle in the South of France/but what we had were underpants" (at least, I really want to believe he's just being funny). But still, even if this is just a paycheck job for Gill, what has the Okie sacrificed in his pop-culture cred?

When an actor, musician, author or any entertainer delivers a heaping helping of schlock — regardless of whether it's just for the cash or a serious artistic endeavor — they trade in some of their worth and relevancy.

And if they sin enough in the public's collective all-seeing, all-judging eyes, our love for them will dry up, as will their careers.

Of course, everyone makes mistakes. Kelly Clarkson's new album, the hit-less My December, hasn't met with a lot of warm fuzzies from the public, yet she's got enough credit built up from "American Idol" and the "Since U Been Gone"-spawning album "Breakaway" that she could still bounce back next time she comes out of the recording studio.

Listeners could forgive her and her career will likely survive.

Audiences will also feel forgiving towards esteemed and revered pop that has shifted downwards in quality over the years.

For instance, several laugh-lite episodes of The Simpsons are easily ignored after nearly two decades of quality.

Beyond their work, our pop figures must also obtain forgiveness from the public for personal transgressions before their career can recover and thrive once more.

While I'd say it looks bad for Britney Spears, Lindsay Lohan and other celebutards who burn bridges faster than they can shoot a Jager-bomb, hope still springs for them.

After all, Hugh Grant is more of a lovable fop after his divine date, and Robert Downey, Jr., triumphantly rose from the ashes

without snorting them first.

But like I said, there are limits. Perhaps it's my Catholic upbringing, but I believe in forgiving, but not quite forgetting.

No matter how good he may be in Hairspray, John Travolta has been absolved for his crimes against pop so many times that, according to Kentucky state law, execution is legally allowed if he appears in a Wild Hogs sequel.

Finally, for those entertainers whose pop-culture crimes are so reprehensible but who have potential for career redemption, penance is in order to earn forgiveness.

For instance, Scott Baio and the Coreys followed Hulk Hogan

back into the popular consciousness with reality-TV shows after serving time for ... well, who has time to add up their entertainment crimes?

Which makes me wonder, is it time to lift the long-standing probation on the newly-reformed Van Halen — again? Can 3:10 to Yuma wipe clean Russell Crowe's lousy streak? Will the world ever forgive Dennis Rodman for being himself?

I don't know, but I do know someone should tell Garth Brooks we're finally ready to forget In The Life Of Chris Gaines as long as he doesn't sell tight-whities with a dude dressed as a bunch of grapes.

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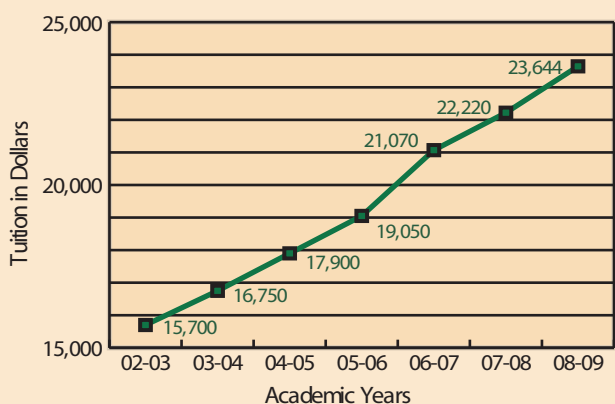
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**Baylor Tuition Increases**

Notice: Tuition numbers represent tuition paid by full-time students taking 12-18 credit hours



**TUITION from page 1**

Village was not a cause of the rise in tuition, since that construction is basically paid for by its residents.

The ongoing rises in tuition can be attributed partly to increases in utility bills as the university expands, but also to inflation and faculty and staff raises, Ramsower said.

Student reactions to news of the tuition increase were mixed.

"I think it's okay, because they have a plan with the eventual goal of Baylor 2012," said

Waco senior Zain Lalani.

But Tyler senior Danielle Stevens said she "shouldn't be paying Ivy-League prices for a good education."

"If I decide to do graduate work, I will think about transferring schools," she said.

Ramsower said it's "always important for a university to be very sensitive to the amount it charges to students." He added that students themselves are usually very sensitive to this amount.

"I believe that Baylor provides an education and a value that is greater than our cost," Ramsower said.

**VOTE from page 1**

church to a campus like Baylor's," Burleson said.

Despite the change, Burleson is confident in his decision. "I experienced a great sense of confirmation. A kind of joy around the whole process," he said of his appointment.

The university was filled by interim chaplain Dr. Byron Weathersbee from 2005 until this past June.

Weathersbee now works as a full-time lecturer in the health and human performance department.

The previous chaplain, Dr. Todd Lake who served from 1999 to 2005 before taking a position at Belmont University as vice president for Spiritual Development.

Each person who goes in that role has a different set of gifts and strengths, Oliver said. "There's great appreciation for everything that Dr. Weathersbee, and Dr. Lake before him, brought to the position," Oliver said.

"I'm just thankful that the Lord has led in this and that Burt has agreed to join with us - it's going to be great," Oliver said.

**TROOPS from page 1**

Bush will say that after hearing from Petraeus and Crocker, he has decided on a way forward that will reduce the number of troops but not abandon Iraq, they said.

The address will stake out a conciliatory tone toward Congress but Bush will place more conditions on the pace of reductions to the pre-buildup

level of 130,000 than Petraeus did.

At the White House Tuesday afternoon, Bush met with House and Senate lawmakers of both parties and he publicly pledged to consider their input. "It's very important before I make up my mind that I consult with leaders of the House and the Senate," he said.

Bush will also adopt Petraeus' call for more time to determine the timing and scale of withdrawals below the 130,000 mark and offer to report to

Congress in March about such plans, one official said.

White House press secretary Tony Snow said Petraeus and Crocker had presented compelling arguments about "what appears to be trend lines that are pointing to success" and that "if you've got something that is succeeding, you want more of it."

He denied, however, that he was offering a preview of what Bush would tell the nation. "Whether the president agrees or disagrees, we're going to

**SENATE from page 1**

make the procedures of each separate. President John Lilley officially requested the formation of a committee for tenure and promotions recommendations, according to the 2007-2008 Tenure and Promotion Policy and Procedures Revision Process official document.

The suggestions of past university tenure committees were considered.

The senate hopes to revamp the hiring process in order for "Baylor University to become more competitive, responsive and efficient in the faculty job market," as quoted from the 2007-2008 Statement of Intent.

Jaffus Hardrick, assistant vice provost, and Charlie Beckenhauer, general counsel, addressed the senate about the approved concept concerning running criminal background checks on all potential faculty starting next spring. This drew some faculty debate over priva-

cy issues and risk management.

"Homeland security is saying now that universities are very vulnerable," said Hardrick.

The Faculty Senate has many goals for this year, including establishing a committee to evaluate administration members and a committee to examine issues pertaining to class lecturers. The senate also plans to take on a leadership role in the United Way campaign and strengthen the bond between the senate and other representational groups on campus, O'Brien said.

**DREW from page 1**

coaches. When people come up, we make them feel at home. I think that he's comfortable with us, and he really liked us."

Jones, a 6-foot-9 senior forward from Houston Yates High School, is currently Rivals.com's No. 46 ranked player nationally and the eighth-best small forward. A four-star prospect, Jones verbally decommitted from Texas A&M University in the spring.

Jerrells can understand Jones' decision to choose Baylor even if many outsiders can't. Once a sought-after recruit himself, Jerrells was a piece of Drew's foundational recruiting class in 2005. Drew had just five scholarship players the year

before, and Jerrells jumped on an opportunity to play for an upbeat coach he saw doing big things.

Alongside Jerrells in that class was Dallas-area forward Kevin Rogers and Houston-area guard Henry Dugat. Drew said that class helped the program in more ways than one.

"That class really got our name out across the state that they're not only great players but high-character players," Drew said. "They covered three major areas, and lot of people across the state raised some eyebrows."

Jerrells, Rogers and Dugat represent three of the biggest recruiting hot beds in the state, giving Drew a distinct advantage when it comes to spreading the word about Baylor's program.

"Players recruit players," Drew said. "Once you have a good player come into your program, that attracts the next player. You start with the founda-

tion, and the more and more players you get, the more you can build."

If Jerrells, Rogers and Dugat represent Drew's foundation, the rest of his house is beginning to resemble a four-story mansion.

Baylor freshman LaceDarius Dunn and sophomore Tweety Carter, the leading scorer in U.S. high school basketball history, were both Rivals Top-50 recruits. Sophomore center Josh Lomers was a Top-100 recruit.

HoopScoopOnline.com declared junior center Mamadou Diene would have ranked as one of the top 40 high school players in 2004 had he played in the U.S. Both Dugat and Rogers were consensus Top-100 recruits in 2005.

Guard Aaron Bruce, the team's lone senior starter, was the best freshman scorer in the country three years ago.

There is little question that talent-wise, the Bears are as good as they've been in a long time. There is even talk that Baylor might have the best collection of guards in the entire conference.

Drew's final frontier, though, seems to be actually winning games. Baylor has finished next to last in the Big 12 the last two years despite the talent Drew has gathered.

If he can get over that hump, the method to Drew's highly controlled madness could become crystal clear much sooner than nearly anyone anticipated when he arrived.

"I feel like I came to this school because I wanted to be a part of something good, something new," Jerrells said. "It's a challenge and we're all ready for it, and some of the other guys we've got who have committed are thinking the same thing."

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