

ROUNDING UP CAMPUS NEWS SINCE 1900

THE BAYLOR LARIAT

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 21, 2008

BAA, Baylor work through change together

By Anita Pere Staff writer

The Baylor Alumni Association is making final preparations for financial independence, which starts next month.

After the Board of Regents voted last May to end the fee-for-service relationship between the university and the BAA, the association has taken some steps of its own initiative to realize a greater level of independence.

For example, the association board voted in January to become operationally independent of the university. Bill Nesbitt, BAA president, said the university did not force the association to do this, but they are supportive of the effort.

The BAA strives to complete the pro-

cess of separate procedures as soon as possible, said John Barry, vice president of marketing and communications.

Jeff Kilgore, executive vice president of the BAA, said efforts to become more independent are not directly related to the funding halt.

"This decision actually had much less to do with termination of the services agreement but rather just the next healthy step we needed to take as an organization whose role is to both represent and communicate directly with our alumni. The two are really separate issues," Kilgore said.

He proceeded to call the lack of funding, "a distraction for everyone" with the task of procedural independence requiring attention.

With this independence, the association will move its Web site off the

university server and provide benefits to employees.

"We are committed to keeping our personnel benefits at a competitive level for our staff. As much as possible, I just don't believe good, hard-working people should have to bear the brunt of decisions that are made in best interests of an organization," Kilgore said.

Operational independence comes with a sizeable price tag. Although Kilgore didn't say how much achieving operation independence would cost, he noted great gains.

"Over the past four years our total membership revenues have continued to increase by approximately \$100,000 per year," he said. Kilgore called this "an affirming, positive message that the Baylor family is eager to preserve the independent voice and independently

organized support for Baylor that the Baylor Alumni Association has long provided."

He said the BAA's sesquicentennial fundraising campaign has been successful as well.

Barry said university officials are helping the association feel through this time of change. Representatives from different areas, such as employee benefits or information technology services, are meeting with the association each week, Barry said. He also noted that despite the association's increased level of independence, the university and the association will continue to collaborate and cooperate on issues, as the BAA exists to serve Baylor.

To avoid confusion about the relationship changes between the association and the university, Nesbitt explained

three distinct revisions: the cessation of university funding; the move towards operational independence; and the university's respect of the voice of the BAA. Part of the association's responsibility is to promote the alma mater while keeping alumni informed, Nesbitt said.

"We're not going to back away from informing alumni objectively, no matter how much heat we get," Nesbitt said.

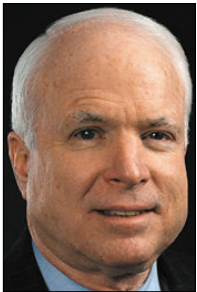
Nesbitt said he hopes the administration and regents will continue to listen to the association and respectfully accept any dissent.

Proposals concerning the relationship revisions between the association and the university are still to come. Kilgore said he feels there has been "encouraging progress" and the talks have been positive overall.

Candidate opinions on education bipartisan

By Alex Abdallah Reporter

No Child Left Behind will most likely be left behind after George Bush leaves office. Former Sen. John McCain, former Arkansas Gov. Mike Huckabee, Sen. Barack Obama, and Sen. Hillary Clinton all promise to up the standards of education for teachers and students, pre-K through college, with better programs and funding.



McCain

Dr. Tony Talbert, associate professor of social studies and qualitative research, said that the presidential candidates will respond to the public's dissatisfaction with the standardized testing mania that seems to be pervasive.

The No Child Left Behind Act is an unfunded mandate signed by President Bush in 2002 that set more standards and testing for schools to adhere to.

"No Child Left Behind is an unfunded tool used to berate schools as if they are the only part in a child's education," said Dr. Wesley Null, associate professor of curriculum and foundations of



Huckabee

education. However, it did help to uncover some of the disparities in education by breaking down how well students perform on assessments by gender and race, Null said.

No Child Left Behind is a low standard that McCain does not want to accept anymore, according to his Web site. However, he does not explain exactly how he plans to change the standard. McCain does call for competition within schools to force innovation. He wants schools to compete for the best teachers and reward them. He plans to focus federal financial support on giving parents the ability to send their children and tax dollars to the school of their choice.



Clinton



Obama

Please see CHILD, page 5



Luis Noble/Lariat staff

Sing in full swing

Pineville, La., sophomore Ben Roshto, Colleyville freshman Lauren Riddle and Waco freshman Mariel Perez walk Wednesday to All-University Sing dress rehearsal at Waco Hall. Roshto, Riddle and Perez are members of Sing Alliance.

Theater construction a possibility

New Studio One could find home in downtown Waco

By Shannon Daily Staff writer

In 1941, a theater named Studio One was constructed on Baylor's campus under the guidance of Dr. Paul Baker, the chairman of the theater department at the time.

What made the building different from the average theater was its unique construction.

Based on Baker's idea for the building, it was made to be a type of theater-in-the-round. The audience sat in the middle on swivel chairs so they were able to follow the action on six stages surrounding them.

After recent interest shown by alumnus Albert Ratcliffe, a former student of Baker's, a reconstruction of Studio One has become a possibility.

Ratcliffe originally sent a letter in May to President Lilley proposing the theater be rebuilt on Baylor's

campus, but nothing came of the offer.

In Lilley's letter of response he said, "We are in the process of doing a new campus master plan, and that plan may call for the expansion of our theatre facilities, but, should that happen, it will happen at the current location of the theatre program."

Ratcliffe was disappointed, he said, but continues to work to make the idea come to fruition.

"It's a shame not to do

it at Baylor because that's where it originated. It marked kind of a revolution in theater production," Ratcliffe said.

The possibility of constructing the theater in downtown Waco has also been proposed.

Waco Mayor Virginia DuPuy, a friend of Baker's, said she personally is interested in what could be an encouragement to the fine arts in the community, but that it's too early in the development of the idea to

know anything concrete.

Baker, also the founder of the Waco Civic Theater, said if the theater is rebuilt in his name, he would like it to be an exact replica of Studio One, with the possible addition of a children's area.

"It was one of the most beautiful buildings in the whole world," Baker said of Studio One.

Dr. Stan Denman, current chairman of the theater department, said he loved the generosity of Ratcliffe's idea.

However, he said he felt constructing a facility like a black box theater would be a better way to honor Baker's reputation for looking forward.

"To rebuild that theater would be a terrific gesture on our part to honor him, but I don't think ultimately it would fulfill the spirit of what his career was all about, and that is staying cutting edge," Denman said.

Denman said with a black box theater, "if we wanted to, and if it was



Courtesy of Texas Collection

A photo from the Texas Collection shows a play being performed at the Studio One theater. Baylor alumnus Albert Ratcliffe is in support of the theater's reconstruction in Waco.

Please see THEATER, page 5

Brooks incident under inquiry

Criminal mischief reported after swastika graffiti found

By Christina Kruse Staff writer

An incident of criminal mischief in Brooks Flats was reported last Thursday because a swastika was drawn near a student's dorm room.

The Baylor Police Department is not able to determine whether the incident should be classified as a hate crime.

"There are no leads or suspects," Baylor police chief Jim Doak said. "Basically, it's graffiti. You almost have to catch someone in the act."

According to the Federal Bureau of Investigation a hate crime is defined as a criminal offense committed against a person, property or society that is motivated by the offender's bias against a race, religion, disability, sexual orientation or ethnicity origin.

The victim, who recently converted to Judaism, noticed the swastika on the wall next to the door of his room while he was on his way to class. He immediately reported the image to the resident chaplain.

"He handled it in a very mature matter," Doak said.

The victim, who chose to remain anonymous, said that he only told close friends (about his recent conversion to Judaism) and displayed his religious preference on Facebook.

"Its hard to believe that it was a coincidence," he said.

The swastika is about 6 to 8 inches in diameter, slightly larger than a softball, according to the victim.

"Its not so much hate as it is ignorance," he said.

The indentation from the pencil that the swastika was drawn with is still visible. "It just shows the immaturity of the individual," Doak said. "Hopefully they got it out of their system."

Those who are convicted of committing a hate crime are subject to expulsion from the university.

In addition to university punishment, the accused would

Please see CRIME, page 5

Baseball winds up for most promising season yet

The new leather pops on cue with tightly wound synthetic fiber whizzing deftly around capped heads. Well-cropped grass avails itself to men in cleats clad in crisp, unused uniforms.

The smell of the grass shavings mingled with the distinct odor of days-old Baylor Ballpark hot dogs can signal but one thing.

It might be two weeks late, but it's finally Baylor baseball season again, and I couldn't be more excited if Darth Vader told me he was quitting Baylor athletics.

These days are typically filled with the same mixed emotions. Turning focus to baseball

inevitably signals a switch from the less successful fall sports to Baylor's most durable program since its Big 12 inception in baseball. Winning is an expectation rather than a surprising consequence. While that paradigm seems to be slowly shifting in other corners of Baylor athletics, baseball is still chugging along that same successful track.

If you haven't yet read up on the baseball team this semester, now is the time. The team opens a nine-game home stand over the next two weeks with a series against Purdue this weekend.

The Baylor of the past few years has been one in desperate

sports take

BY WILL PARCHMAN



search of a consistent power bat and more depth at the pitching position. Both issues appear to be addressed this year. With schools switching to five-game schedules during the week, a shallow pitching staff will be exposed almost immediately, and thankfully head coach Steve Smith has addressed the problem. The likely starters this week-

end are sophomore Kendall Volz, freshman Shawn Tolleson and sophomore Willie Kempf.

Three underclassmen weekend starters that can blow just about any batter out of the box with wicked pitch command? You kidding me?

If the pitching staff isn't ready to compete for a national title this year, it won't be long in coming.

Along with that comes a maturing group of position players, the leader of which is junior shortstop Beamer Weems, the de facto clubhouse leader when it comes to talent.

Make no mistake, these guys are good. There is even talk in dark corners and smoky Waco

sports bars that this could be Smith's most talented roster ever.

"I've told them they have the potential to be the best team Baylor has ever fielded," Smith said. "But in order to do that, they must reach the College World Series and finish better than fourth (in the Big 12). That definitely puts things into perspective."

Baylor was picked third in the conference by Big 12 coaches Wednesday. Should they live up to that billing — and I have no reason to believe they won't — this team will match the 2005 College World Series Team step-for-step in accomplishments. And while you're enjoying

the No. 15 team in the country this weekend, take some time to poke around a facility consistently named among the nation's top 10 college baseball parks in the Baylor Ballpark.

The bern down the first base line is growing as a fan favorite while the Brazos River behind the back fence provides a perfect backdrop for a baseball game.

And thankfully, just like every other year, a top class facility won't be the only thing worth cheering for when Baylor baseball takes to the field. Baylor up.

Will Parchman is a senior journalism major and the sports editor for The Baylor Lariat.

Editorial

Too much focus on killers

When a gunman opened fire last Thursday in a classroom at Northern Illinois University and killed five students, his action became instant news. Concurrently, so did he. While his deadly choices are justified subjects of news stories, pieces that go in-depth into his personal life create a little too much airtime out of the tragedy.

Human nature is inherently curious about deviant behavior; what would cause someone to turn into a shooter, to kill classmates and teachers and friends?

But when the news coverage becomes dedicated to poring over the shooters' every past action and letter and relationship, the focus shifts from the true victims and gives the killers attention they often wanted when alive.

While there are many competing and contradictory theories about why Dylan Klebold and Eric Harris carried out the April 1999 shooting at Columbine High School, it is fairly well-established that they wanted the attention a great tragedy would bring.

Similarly, the shooter responsible for killing 32 people on Virginia Tech's campus last spring obviously wanted attention when he sent a package to NBC News containing videos, photos and a manifesto.

Broadcasting a killer's rantings was in poor taste, but tracing his entire life back to childhood, tracking down his grandparents and chronicling every rise and fall in mental health also toes the line of what the media's role should be.

While deciphering a killer's



motives may prove useful in preventing further shootings, the job of analyzing the psychopath belongs to law enforcement and not the news media. Furthermore, parading the killer's grieving families in front of cameras probably doesn't provide much help in this analysis.

But news outlets continue to interview girlfriends, mothers, roommates and mere acquaintances anytime a tragedy such as the one at NIU or the one at Virginia Tech occurs.

In the wake of the Virginia Tech shooting, it seemed everyone remotely

connected to the event was asked how they had known the shooter, what they had thought of him, and perhaps even more asininely, how it all made them feel.

While most Americans were shocked and saddened and probably wanted to know the details about that day, coverage of it became excessive in its nature, if not in its quantity.

Brief profiles about victims are one thing, and it's understandable that the public wants to find glitches in security or lapses in mental health treatment to explain why such things have

happened.

But for the past week, the top stories on CNN.com have consistently been exclusive interviews with the NIU shooter's mourning girlfriend. While we'd like to think CNN is broadcasting these out of the loving compassion of its heart, they come across as a gimmick for ratings.

When a tragedy like this occurs, exploiting emotional victims is easy, but sticking to the real news in the situation takes discretion. We hope most media take the high road and tone down the tears.

Letters to the editor

New Sing policy problematic

Forcing students performing in Sing to take random Breathalyzer tests violates traditional principles of privacy and personal autonomy.

Students should be able to participate in campus activities without having to affirmatively establish their sobriety.

The law gives all citizens the benefit of the doubt about guilt. Baylor should give the same courtesy to its students, especially considering the time and effort committed to the acts which comprise Sing.

There are several, more specific problems with the new policy:

First, the administration has failed to establish a need for violating students' privacy.

In the Feb. 20 *Lariat* article, "Alcohol to be regulated at Sing," the director of Sing admits that he knows of no injuries resulting from students performing under the influence of alcohol, yet he cites student safety as one of the principle reasons justifying these arbitrary searches.

While only a few individuals have ever been caught violating the alcohol policy during Sing, the university has presented no evidence of a broader problem with alcohol consumption related to this event. Randomly testing students is an invidious solution to a problem that has

yet to manifest itself.

Second, searches should be based upon reasonable suspicions, not random selections. If the Sing staff thinks that a student has been drinking or is intoxicated, the school should have every right to ask that student to perform a Breathalyzer test or leave.

This system protects student privacy while allowing the school to enforce its alcohol policy.

Third, this policy establishes a dangerous precedent for students. If the university suddenly becomes suspicious of other student drug use during Sing, will students be forced to submit urine or blood or hair samples to participate? If the

university doesn't need a reason to violate student privacy, then where does it stop? How far will they go?

Fourth, if Baylor knew it intended to conduct these tests as far back as Sing Chair meetings almost one year ago, why did they wait until the day before to announce it? Why did they choose to keep their decision a secret until the last possible minute?

This is a policy that should have been made clear to student groups long before work on this year's Sing performances began. Then, they would have had the option not to participate rather than subject themselves to random invasive tests that could

have criminal consequences.

More generally, Baylor's inconsistent policy regarding alcohol consumption by students continues to foster feelings of confusion. There is a clear and absolute prohibition against possessing or consuming alcohol on campus.

This is made clear to freshmen students in the dormitories from day one. However, there is little guidance about the legal and responsible consumption of alcohol by Baylor students off campus.

Some of Baylor's policies, like the requirement that Sing participants subject themselves to random Breathalyzer tests, suggest that Baylor is against

ANY student consumption of alcohol, on or off campus (even though a .02 BAC is allowed for "cough drops or mouthwash").

Other policies call for an intoxicated student to be expelled from sporting events or other school functions. Policies like this beg for an answer to the question of where Baylor stands on legal and responsible student drinking.

If Baylor truly disapproves of ANY alcohol consumption by students, even responsible legal drinking, then that should be made clear to students before they ever enroll.

Alex Bell
Baylor Law 2009

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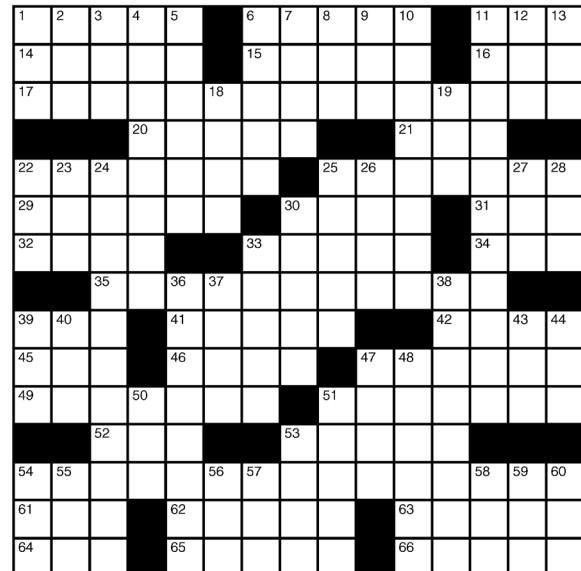
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- 53 Nary a one
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- 56 Actor Wallach
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- 59 "Little Red Book" compiler Biao
- 60 Mormon letters



By Alan P. Olschwang
Huntington Beach, CA
2/21/08

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

BEAR BRIEFS

Baylor Democrats will show *Sicko* at 7 p.m. tonight in Bennett Auditorium. This documentary discusses frustrations within the current American health care system. Everyone is welcomed. For additional information contact alex@baylor-democrats.org.

The History Department will play host to Dr. Donald Worster at 3:30 p.m. today and Friday in 100 Morrison Hall. He will give a lecture on "A Biographical Perspective on Environmental History." For more information contact the history department at 710-2667.

Bye Bye Birdie opens at 7:30 p.m. tonight in the Jones Theatre at the Hooper-Schaefer Fine Arts Center. Tickets are \$15, or \$12 with a student I.D.

Kappa Delta will hold Open Recruitment game night at 8 p.m. today in the Stacy Riddle Forum. For more information contact Laura_Glathar@baylor.edu.

The Baylor Institute for Studies of Religion will play host to Dr. Peter A. Lillback at 7 p.m. today in the SBC Theatre at the Mayborn Museum Complex. He will give the lecture, "Does Separation of Church and State Mean the Separation of God and Government?" For more information call 710-7555.

Spiritual Life is looking for students who are interested in directing Baylor's Missions Week 2008. Visit www.baylor.edu/um for an application.

The 2008-2009 Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) is now available at www.fafsa.ed.gov. Students must fill out an application each year to apply for aid.

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

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Students give support to tornado victims

By Charly Edsitty Reporter

The student activities office is lending support to students and faculty affected earlier this month by the deadly tornadoes that tore through several southern states on Feb. 5. Union University in Jackson, Tenn. was hit hard by an EF-4 tornado with wind speeds between 207 and 264 mph.

Eight students were trapped in a dormitory, but nobody was seriously harmed.

In an article on the university's Web site, one student described being lifted off the ground while trying

to seek shelter. Another student recalled her friend being thrown by the winds and knocked out.

"There were a lot of people wondering what we can do to help because there is such an immediate need," said Karin Klinger, associate director for organizations in the department of student activities. "Gift cards give the victims the ability to decide what they will need."

The gift card collection is a joint effort between the Spiritual Life Office, formerly known as University Ministries, and the Student Activities Office.

Things such as clothes, shoes, bedding, personal

toiletries, and school supplies are all in demand.

Klinger explained that the original plan was to make a trip out to the university to help in the rebuilding process, but that was politely declined. Instead, the university asked for donations.

Donors are asked to contribute at least \$25 and can drop cards off at the Student Activities Office, the McLane Student Life Center, the Harris house, Bobo Baptist Student Center and the lobby of Waco Hall.

The collection started on Monday and will continue through Friday, but Klinger said that late gift cards would be accepted.



Jeff Leslie/Lariat staff

Race against the clock

Michael Williamson, Loren Hodges, Lauren Hagans and Renae Van Wyhe wait for Pat Neff to sound the hour so they can race around Judge Baylor. The goal was to make it back to the steps before the bell stopped ringing.

Fun run gives chance to prepare for Bearathon

By Lynn Ngo Reporter

The second annual "Prepare for the Bear" 10K fun run and 5K run or walk will take place at 9 a.m. on March 1 on the Bear Trail in front of the McLane Student Life Center.

The event, organized by the fitness department, is intended to help people get in shape before the Bearathon on March 29.

Fitness graduate assistant Sarah Newton said the event is held "mainly out of interest to prepare for the Bearathon."

Assistant fitness director of

Campus Recreation Van Davis said the event was created by a fitness graduate student last year and was a success. Participants can expect to run the course on the Bear Trail.

Participants in the past have included students, faculty and staff, Davis said.

"I encourage people to come out and walk at their own pace," Davis said.

Not all who run in the "Prepare for the Bear" run in the Bearathon.

"At least half that ran it last year also did the Bearathon," she said.

Running in the Bearathon is

not a requirement for the "Prepare for the Bear" run, Davis said.

"Some people that do a lot of running or walking might want to come out. It's something to do on a Saturday morning," she said.

Davis said she advocates adding variety to fitness routines. Participating in this race can add variety into mundane routines. She encourages every student to participate in the run, even if that means having to get up early.

"The hardest part in fitness is getting there. Once you get there, it's downhill," Davis said.

"The benefits outweigh the getting up for students."

Fitness graduate assistant Mark Hudson said that the opportunity to get ready for the Bearathon is an important part of "Prepare for the Bear."

"We thought it would be a good chance for people to get out there and get some practice in," Hudson said.

Hudson said last year's turnout was a success.

"They had about 75 people turn out, both Baylor students and non-Baylor students," he said.

Awards will be given to male and female winners in each age

group.

Those interested can register at the McLane Student Life Center front desk. The deadline for pre-registration is Friday, and the fee is \$10. Race day registration begins at 8 a.m. and will cost \$15.

"We're not making any money at all," Davis said.

The event is non-profit. Fees will go to pay for water, snacks and goodie bags.

"Money that they [Student Foundation] raise goes to scholarships," Davis said.

For those interested in running the Bearathon, sign-up forms are available online.

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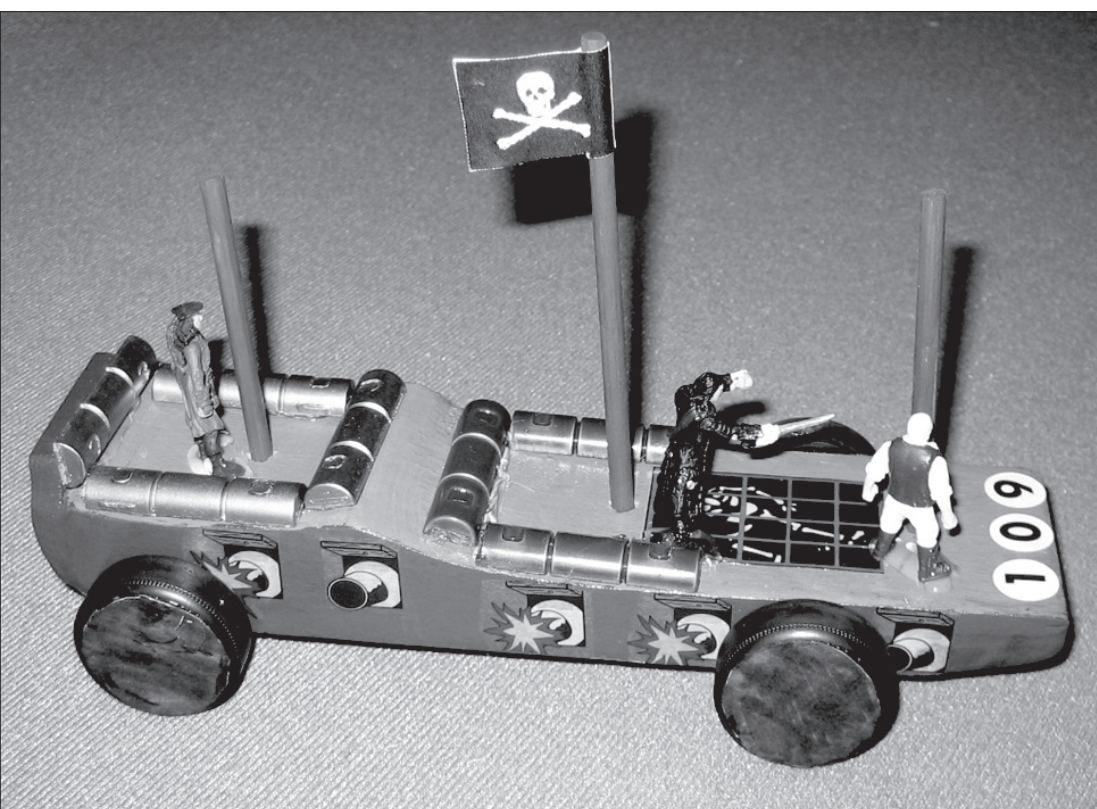
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Workshop to make tools, materials available for derby



Courtesy photograph

The Baylor American Society of Mechanical Engineers will hold a workshop this Friday to enable students to purchase materials and use machinery needed to complete their cars. The derby will be held on February 29.

By Lee Ann Marcel
Reporter

The Baylor American Society of Mechanical Engineers is holding its Pinewood Derby Workshop from 3 to 6 p.m. Friday in the Robert M. and Louise Rogers Engineering and Computer Science Building.

Professors and students will be crafting blocks of wood to form cars for the upcoming Pinewood Derby on Feb. 29.

"It's fun to do this with the students, to walk alongside them and build relationships," said Adam Ecklund, student success specialist for the Computer Science and Engineering School.

Ecklund plans on crafting a car and competing against students in the race.

"I think I will name it after a girl, like Margo or something," Ecklund joked with students.

The society will be selling kits to build the cars at the workshop on Friday for \$10.

The kit will include all necessary items such as the wood, axles and wheels.

Participants can work alone or with a team of up to four peo-

ple working on one car.

The race isn't just for engineering students; everyone is welcome to compete.

Advancement coordinator Leigh-Ann Marshall said she likes to see the women competing along with the men.

"Engineering has traditionally been a male-dominated field, but Baylor has a higher percentage of females participating in the department," she said. "It's great to see a girls' team compete. It's a wonderful reflection that women can be involved in engineering."

Friday's workshop will also give students a chance to use the engineering school's tools.

Several students will help supervise the use of tools, such as different saws, in the lab room. Paints will also be provided at the workshop.

Even if a car isn't the fastest at the competition, there is a chance it can win the "Most Creative" prize.

Last year a car was constructed to resemble the Batmobile.

The Mechanical Engineering Society will borrow 5-foot ramps from the Boy Scouts of America and set them up in the

lobby of the computer sciences building.

"Someday we hope to build our own tracks," said Fort

"I think I will name (my car) after a girl."

Adam Ecklund
Student Success Specialist

Worth junior Melanie Hawkins, the group's president.

Hawkins said that last year a professor offered extra credit to his students who beat his car in a race.

The professor lost, and the students walked away with a boost in their grades.

Hawkins said last year a group of students created a car that rocketed down the ramp.

The back of the car was hollowed out and a carbon dioxide bag was used to propel it down the ramp.

Though the car didn't technically comply with the rules of the competition, Hawkins said it still provided a lot of entertainment.

Recycling options added around campus

By Sarah Rafique
Reporter

Baylor is already three weeks into the national RecycleMania contest, and with the recently placed recycle bins in every residence hall, students are learning what and where to recycle, and are re-evaluating their recycling habits.

There are a number of places to recycle depending on whether you live on- or off-campus.

"If you live on-campus, use the new blue recycling containers in all of the on-campus residence halls," Information Technology specialist Carl Flynn said.

Public recycling containers, available for use by off-campus students, are located in the following areas: Moody Library, Bill Daniel Student Center, behind the Goebel Building and near campus buildings.

Faculty members who work in an on-campus office can also recycle in these areas, Flynn

said. "Or request a cardboard recycling container for their office area from housekeeping services."

Ninety percent of the items that most college students use can be recycled, said Toby Tull, coordinator for residential technology and housing information systems.

Recycled materials are classified by numbers. The different numbering on plastics is based on the kind of plastic used, as well as the coloration, Tull said.

For water bottles, which are the main recycled plastics, the number can usually be found on the bottom of the bottle.

"Neither glass nor Styrofoam can be recycled because the company we work with, Sunbright Recycling, is not equipped to handle these materials," Flynn said.

The only Baylor location that accepts glass is the green bin by the Goebel recycling center, Flynn said.

"That glass is taken by the Environmental Concern Orga-

nization to the Cobbs Recycling Center," he said.

Placing bins in all of the residence halls is just the first step in Baylor's recycling efforts, and there are plans to make recycling bins more accessible and convenient in the future, Tull said.

The next three phases in Baylor's recycling efforts include placing more bins in the Bill Daniel Student Center, McLane Student Life Center and libraries, Tull said.

Then they will start placing bins in every building on the Baylor campus, and finally off-campus locations like Floyd Casey Stadium and the Ferrell Center.

Currently, there are recycling bins located across campus that are "paper only" or "plastic only," Flynn said. There are plans to make everything mixed recycling by the end of this week.

Where there is a trash can, Tull said he would like to see a recycling bin right next to it.

Baylor is attempting to make

it easier to recycle, but it will still take some effort.

"I think being raised in the South, [recycling] has never been put at the forefront of our mind," Tull said. "People aren't lazy; it's a cultural thing and people don't think about it."

Some students said it's just easy to forget.

"I'm all for recycling if I can remember to do it, but it's an inconvenience," San Antonio junior Amanda Brown said. "We never recycled as I was growing up, so I was never in the habit."

The recycling bins are there, and students are encouraged to change their recycling habits and use them.

"We have to remind people, just toss it in," Tull said. "Recycling really doesn't require effort."

For a campus map listing all of the areas where students and faculty can recycle, or more information on items that can or cannot be recycled, visit Baylor's sustainability Web site at www.baylor.edu/sustainability.

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CHILD from page 1

enough to cover all of the costs of many private schools.

According to Talbert, this is a free market philosophy that will cause failing schools to close down and others to open up, expand and thrive.

"McCain's proposal is highly controversial," Null said, "There are real questions about what it would do to communities on racial, economic and religious lines."

According to Null, McCain's proposal could keep teachers from working in places where they are needed the most, such as inner cities and rural areas.

Huckabee believes No Child Left Behind has value but wants to create a more clear distinction between federal and state roles in education, allowing states to set their own benchmarks.

Huckabee places emphasis on music and arts in the school, what he refers to as "weapons of mass instruction." On the education policy page of his Web site, Huckabee notes that he himself plays the bass guitar in his band "Capitol Offense."

"No Child Left Behind is driven by economics and therefore the subjects that dominate are math and science," Null said.

These subjects are directly tied to business. According to Null, a correction is in order to reemphasize the arts for well-rounded students.

"Well-rounded education is difficult to test," Talbert said.

This could be why social studies, science and the arts have been underfunded in years past.

Huckabee believes that the future economy depends on a creative generation in order for the U.S. to continue to compete

in the global economy. He wants "our children to be so creative that they think outside the cardboard factory."

The Democratic candidates' plans for education are similar to each other, and much more detailed than McCain or Huckabee's proposals.

Clinton also plans to end No Child Left Behind. She will offer pre-kindergarten to all four-year-olds and have programs to help new parents with parenting skills. She also wants to improve childcare programs, such as HeadStart.

Clinton's education plan covers every possible topic from bettering special-needs programs to creating "green schools" that reduce energy costs and eliminate environmental hazards.

Many programs to reach out to "at risk" youth to help them succeed in college and the workforce are proposed.

Talbert believes this will help to fund the students who most need those enrichment resources and allow those children access to leadership and development.

Both Clinton and Obama spotlight college education. They both hope to simplify the financial aid process, increase the Pell Grant, and better community colleges.

Clinton also plans to create a graduation fund to increase college graduation rates, increase AmeriCorps students' college scholarships and create college tax credit.

Selective colleges will be more accessible to low-income students and college costs would be kept down. Clinton will require colleges to post assessments of themselves online.

Clinton backs up her ideas with specific dollar amounts she plans to spend.

Obama's plan for education is just as substantial as Clinton's plan.

Along with the extended education plans that he shares with Clinton, Obama wants to create American Opportunity Tax Credit, making the first \$4,000 of a college education free for low income students, and covering two-thirds the cost of tuition at the average public college or university.

Obama does not want to end the No Child Left Behind program, but wants to fund it and improve student-progress assessments.

Unlike McCain, he wants to use No Child Left Behind to support schools that are failing, not punish them.

While Huckabee pushes for stronger music and arts, Obama wants a strong focus on math and science.

Under Obama, states will receive grants to create voluntary zero five preschools, to improve HeadStart, after school programs, and summer programs.

Obama wants to improve teachers' education with scholarships to fund their graduate schooling and create mentoring programs among experienced teachers and new recruits.

According to Null, the current No Child Left Behind plan treats teachers like hired help that can be replaced. There is no sense of teaching as the real profession that it is.

Districts will be allowed to reward mentors and rural or inner city teachers with pay increases. He will also pay teachers for the time they spend in common planning and collaboration.

"Educating kids is much more complex than running a corporation," Null said.



Alex Song/Lariat staff

Better safe than sorry

Emergency training took place outside of Russell Gymnasium Wednesday, where students learned safety and emergency procedures.

THEATER from page 1

appropriate, we could set up the same type of situation with seats in the center and the stage all the way around. But if it wasn't appropriate, we could move the stage and move the seats, and have a proscenium setting or a thrust setting."

In 1962 Baker staged a Pulitzer Prize-winning Eugene O'Neill play titled "A Long Day's Journey Into Night" at Studio One.

O'Neill's widow allowed Baker to produce the play on the grounds that absolutely none of the content be changed - including the alcoholism, drug addictions and profanity the play depicts.

For a theater at a Baptist university in the '60s, this proved to be an issue and the play was shut down.

Stories of why the play was closed aren't consistent. The

basic idea seems to be that someone somewhere down the line didn't think the play was appropriate, so after viewing the play himself, President Abner McCall decided to shut the production down.

Baker and several other faculty members, including his wife Kitty, left to work at Trinity University in San Antonio a short while after the production was closed.

"If you want to shut something down like this because of the language, then you might as well shut down the Bible department," Ratcliffe said.

Denman said now if the theater puts on a production that approaches controversy, they try to let their audiences know ahead of time.

"Baylor's a different place now, and you know, we try to respect and honor those people and learn from the lessons we've had and things like that," he said. "I think the real danger

there was, for whatever reason, not predicting what the real response was going to be, and not preparing people for it."

The mission statement of the theater department now reads: "Sometimes a search for deeper and more difficult answers involving mature themes requires that we journey into morally 'murky waters' that can be troubling for Christians seeking to transcend a carnal nature and model their behaviors on Jesus' teachings."

Last semester's performance of "The Shape of Things" is an example of this. The play was close to an R rating by Baylor standards, Denman said, due to intense language, sexual situations and sexual manipulation.

"If as a Christian university we're not handling that kind of subject matter, and we're not ready for it, then there's something wrong, and we should be ready for it," Denman said.

Godspeed by Ben Humeniuk



CRIME from page 1

be tried in a court of law.

If the accused were found guilty of Class A misdemeanor, the criminal would be fined up to \$4,000 and must spend up to a year in jail.

According to the Texas

Penal Code, section 12.47, the criminal must spend an additional 180 days in jail because the nature of the crime was based on prejudice.

According to Annual Security Reports released by the university for 2004-2006, no incidents of hate crime were reported.

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Waco Hippodrome brings Broadway to town with 'Evita'

By Jade Ortego
Reporter

Tickets are almost sold out for Friday's performance of *Evita*, one of a series of Broadway shows to come to the Waco Hippodrome Theatre.

This Broadway musical was written by Andrew Lloyd Webber, who also wrote *The Phantom of the Opera* and *Jesus Christ Superstar*. *Evita* has won seven Tony Awards and scored a No. 1 Single in the United Kingdom for its most recognizable song, "Don't Cry For Me, Argentina."

A film adaptation, starring Madonna and Antonio Banderas, was made in 1996.

Evita chronicles the adult life of Eva Perón, the former first lady of Argentina.

The production's heroine was known as a champion of the rights of the working class. She was born out of wedlock into an impoverished family and gained fame through acting in radio and film. She then married Juan Perón, who became the president of the country. Eva almost ran as his vice president, but was pressed not to by Argentine upper-class and the military.

"It is the story of a woman rising from nothing to a role of historic importance," said cast member Andrew Start.

A central character in *Evita* is Marxist revolutionary Che Guevara. His role is as narrator and throughout the show he comes out of the crowd to sing about context of the scene and then

blends back in.

"His character is a voice of the people," said Scott Baker, executive director of the Hippodrome. "He is 'everyman' and he ties all the stories together."

To show location, the production uses black and white historic photographs. Start said the show uses a lot of contrast between dark and light to imply poverty and class distinction.

"It is pretty somber, but has very strong emotion," he said. "There is a lot of passion. It is very South American ... with lots of love, rage and sadness."

Friendswood junior Melissa Limmer, public relations intern at the Hippodrome, said she is "really excited about the quality of a Broadway production."

It should be very well-produced, she said.

Less scenery is used than on a movie set, so much is left to your imagination. Therefore the play is "a much more engaging experience than the movie," Baker said.

The performance is almost entirely sung, and this tour is choreographed by Larry Fuller, who did the dance numbers for the original 1979 production of *Evita*.

"I think this is a fun, different opportunity," Limmer said. "Most people won't get the chance to see a Broadway show, especially on a student budget."

Tickets for the 7:30 p.m. show are on sale at www.waco-performingarts.org and range from \$23 to \$47.

Bangkok Royal offers tasty Thai treats

By Caroline Korsawe
Copy editor

Bangkok Royal entices diners with authentic Thai food.

Just a few blocks away from campus, you can find what used to be the only Thai cuisine in Waco, Bangkok Royal.

RESTAURANT REVIEW

The sky-blue sign enabled people to easily spot the family-owned and operated restaurant, located at 1021 S. University Parks Drive. However, if you wish to visit the restaurant now, you have to find the sky-blue sign a little further down the road.

On the eve of Valentine's Day, the restaurant moved to 215 S. University Parks Drive, in the downtown warehouse area. Though the location has changed, the food has not.

Bangkok's authentic food offers something for every taste and comparably attracts vegetarians and epicures of meat or seafood. You will not, however, become an admirer if you dislike the traditional and inimitable Thai spices. Upon request, spices can be adjusted to every dish, ranging from mild or medium to hot or very hot.

The customer can choose between a lunch or dinner menu, depending on the time of day.

Other than Sundays, when the restaurant is closed, the lunch special is effective from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. daily. Going

at lunch might be the best deal for students, with meals ranging between \$5.95 and \$6.95.

The special is served with your choice of entrée, as well as an egg roll, steamed jasmine rice and the soup of the day or a salad. For \$1.50, each meal can be refined with shrimp. The entrée offers large portions, ensuring a fair price-performance ratio.

If you choose to visit Bangkok Royal for dinner, you can come as early as 5 p.m. and choose between meals starting at \$8.95 up to \$15.95.

Unless you go when the doors initially open, you will encounter a restaurant teeming with customers. Although Bangkok is popular among students, professors and coaches who relish the restaurant's vicinity, it offers a good location for local business people as well.

While every dish is exceptional, there are a few signature dishes worth recommending for first-timers who have adventurous taste buds. One of my favorite appetizers is Bangkok's spring rolls. What makes these rolls so exceptional is their crispy fried roll, which cracks irresistibly when you bite into it.

After you dip the roll in the homemade sweet and sour sauce, you will experience a sensation similar to falling in love. The rolls are stuffed with ground chicken, bean thread noodles and vegetables. They are served in a bowl, garnished in a circle around cut carrots and cabbage.



Alex Song/Lariat staff

Bangkok Royal serves authentic traditional Thai dishes to customers from its new location downtown at 215 S. University Parks Drive.

To take your experience one step further, try the Pad Thai. Prior to having your first bite, you will be surrounded by the aroma of unique spices the dish exudes that make it one-of-a-kind. The sweet smell of the most popular noodle dish will stimulate your palate.

The dish is served on stir-fried rice noodles and blended with chicken, egg, tofu, bean sprouts and topped with ground peanuts. If you order Pad Thai for dinner, two shrimp are added to the meal.

The arrangement of the food on the plate is a treat and conveys the love with which the cook confectioned the dish.

Besides its food, the restaurant offers amicable service and strives for complete satisfaction of its customers. Bangkok has a personable atmosphere that caters to a semi-casual crowd.

Even if you are as thirsty as a camel in the desert, the servers will come for the sixth time and fill up your glass.

Servers are open to conversations and will quickly learn the appetite of returning customers.

After just one visit, Bangkok Royal has become one of my favorite restaurants in Waco, tempting me to make a visit at least once a week.

Grade: A-

Forget sweets, take a fast from Facebook

By Jenee Osterheldt
McClatchy Newspapers

People give up a lot of things for Lent. Sweets, caffeine, alcohol — all that's pretty typical.

But online networking? That's new. And, I imagine, really hard.

Kristin Sullivan, 25, is doing just that by giving up Facebook. And a week into her fast, she feels good about it. She's even cutting back the time she spends online in general.

"I have noticed that I am getting more done," she says. "It's refreshing, because you can really get sucked into the whole social networking world, and now my friends have to call me

and I call them."

Refraining from online chatting is teaching Kristin the value of real conversations.

"We live such fast-paced lives that it takes away from having more meaningful connections. I would much rather meet for coffee and get face to face time with people, but we try to cram so much in our lives that we end up abbreviating so much of what we do and how we talk to people. I get tired of electronic forms of communication."

Still, social networking is popular. According to some counts, there are more than 50 popular networking sites; MySpace and Facebook are the two most used. In a recent study,

the Pew Research Center for the People and the Press found that two-thirds of Americans age 18 to 29 say they use social networking sites.

She says, giving it up for 40 days seems like it's going to be easy. Now that she's actually talking to her friends more, the only thing she really misses is the online photo albums. In the end, she hopes her Internet cut-back will stick.

Right this minute there's probably someone starting a new account.

I confess I'm a MySpace, Facebook, GChat and AIM junkie. So I don't see myself having the courage to do what Sullivan has done.

Sullivan worries that our need to do everything so fast is causing us to lose touch with one another and lose out on the ability to take time and enjoy life.

"Our attention span is shrinking," she said. "I don't know if everyone realizes that the time they spend online could be spent doing things they think they don't have time for, like writing a letter, cooking a meal or reading a book. I am learning to value my time and value more authentic modes of communication, and I want to encourage people to do the same. Everyone thinks they are so busy, but really they are online doing things like Facebook."

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Softball to face top universities after shut out

By Will Parchman
Sports editor

Jordan Daniels surprised just about everybody but herself last weekend. After hitting the first home run of her career on Friday, the senior first baseman clubbed two more on Sunday and was named the Big 12 Player of the Week Wednesday.

"They always say that once you hit your first one, the other ones come a lot easier," said Daniels, who's accounted for all five of Baylor's home runs through its first six games. "After I got the first one away I wasn't expecting any more to come that quickly, but I'm just seeing the ball well and swinging hard."

Head coach Glenn Moore said it was an important psychological milestone for Daniels to pass to finally open up her offense. With the loss of slugging first baseman Ashley Monceaux, Moore was curious as to where the replacement power would come from. At least for now, he's found his answer.

"For her personally I think once she saw the ball go over the fence she realized that she could do it," said Moore, who's coached the Lady Bears to a 5-1 start. "The stars are lined up for her right now."

Daniels is currently second on the team with a .611 batting average and leads the team with an eye-popping 1.556 slugging percentage, almost a full percentage point above anybody else on the team.

For now, Daniels and Baylor will travel to the Palm Springs Classic in Palm Springs, Calif., which begins today and goes through Sunday. The field is saturated with quality opponents and features notable programs like the Universities of Arizona, Oregon and Cal State Fullerton. Even the team Moore thought would be the easiest match-up — San Diego State University — is

9-2 this year.

Competing, not necessarily winning, is what Moore said he'll be looking for this weekend. He said that as long as the Lady Bears put in solid performances in every game and take the necessary steps toward maturation, he won't have much to complain about.

"The stars are lined up for (Daniels) right now."

Glenn Moore
Softball head coach

"The outcome is not what I'm going to be focused on," Moore said. "I'm a very competitive person and I always want to win, but this is a process with this team and we've got to get this team better before we get to the Big 12."

After losing one of four games in the Gettnerman Classic last weekend, the Lady Bears rebounded Tuesday to post consecutive shutout victories over Prairie View A&M University. The team put together a combined 23-0 score and made strides in improving on the basepaths, which Moore said was one of his keys after a sometimes lackluster weekend.

"The second game helped us polish up on some of the mistakes we made this weekend," Moore said.

Daniels said the team was able to correct quite a few of its mistakes and has placed a healthy emphasis on moving forward to this weekend.

"Coach Moore tells us all the time — and we say it to ourselves — to focus on Baylor softball," Daniels said. "While we acknowledge that it's a bigger weekend, we're just focusing on Baylor softball and what we need to do."



Luis Noble/Lariat staff

Freshman Taylor Ormond hits a forehand against TCU Anna Sydorska Wednesday at the Baylor Tennis Center. While Ormond lost her match 6-2, 2-6, 4-6, overall the team won 6-1.

Women's tennis prevails at home against TCU, 6-1

By Brian Bateman
Sports writer

The women's tennis team won their fourth-straight victory Wednesday night, defeating TCU 6-1.

The threat of thunderstorms caused the match to begin 30 minutes early. Singles play began first instead of the usual doubles.

The No. 8 Lady Bears (6-1) came out swinging early, winning four of six first sets, but

the No. 33 Horned Frogs (2-2) fought back, forcing four triple-set matches.

"TCU has a great team, and we have to give a lot of credit to them," said head coach Joey Scrivano.

Poznan, Poland, freshman Karolina Filipiak gave the Lady Bears their first points of the night with her 6-3, 6-3 victory over Idunn Hertzburg, but the match of the night came on court five. TCU's Katariina Tuohimaa nearly finished Tucepi,

Croatia, freshman Jelena Stanivuk in two sets.

Scrivano gave Stanivuk a strategy session, and the freshman excelled. Down 5-2 in the second, Tuohimaa allowed Stanivuk to rattle out nine straight games.

"I needed to play my serve a little bit better," Stanivuk said. "I started to play her forehand because I was playing my strengths to her weakness."

She would complete the third set winning 11 of the final 12

games of the match.

"She really focused on getting her first serve in," Scrivano said. "I think that helped get her back on track. Fortunately her opponent slacked up a little bit and that let her back in."

On court one, No. 66 Nina Munch-Soegaard gave No. 24 Kosice, Slovakia, senior Zuzana Zemenova a tough game, taking the first set and staying tight with the Lady bear throughout.

"I don't think she's been playing her best tennis (lately)," Scrivano said, speaking of her 6-3, 6-2 loss against the University of Miami, Sunday.

Even though she's been struggling, Scrivano did give her credit for improving during the week.

"The difference between this match and the Miami match is that she was struggling in both but found a way to pull through."

However, Zemenova's victory qualified Baylor for the win when she ended Munch-Soegaard's rally, 4-6, 6-3, 6-4.

"I think she played pretty well," Zemenova said. "I was struggling, trying to find rhythm."

The Lady Bears held a 5-1 lead going into doubles play. After dropping the third-seeded match and winning the top, junior Jana Bielikova and Filipiak ended the night with a 8-6 victory.

TCU will play host to the College of William and Mary Sunday in Fort Worth. Baylor will welcome the Tribe the day before at 11 a.m. in Waco.

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Swinging back

Despite losing key starters, the Lady Bears are looking to defend their title and prove this team can succeed on its own merits

• By Justin Baer •
Sports writer

The 2007 Lady Bears softball team exceeded all imaginable expectations set during the preseason.

A Big 12 Conference Championship and a College World Series appearance didn't seem feasible when Baylor opened up last year against the University of Southern Mississippi. But somehow, some way, head coach Glenn Moore was able to lead his team to the most successful season in Baylor softball history.

Despite that success, this year's team has monumental obstacles to overcome in order to duplicate last year's success.

The loss of four starters — Ashley Monceaux, Chelsi Lake, Lisa Ferguson and Miriam Romero — has many believing the 2008 season will be a rebuilding process. But Moore has other plans.

"What you have to do in these situations is enjoy the fact that those kids have raised the bar so high," said Moore, who has a career record of 442-180 (.711) as a head coach. "We know we have recruited talent and we have talent in here. Hopefully the Brette Reagans and the Courtney Obergs can step it up and fill in some of those roles. But I think we do have more players filling their roles because they have brought their game to another level."

Monceaux, a 2007 NFCA All-American selection, and Lake combined for 30 home runs and 121 RBIs last season en route to Baylor's 51-16 record. The Lady Bears finished their season in Oklahoma City at the Women's College World Series for the first time in school history. The eventual National Champions, the University of Arizona, eliminated

them in nine innings.

"You want to say we were disappointed, but it just pumped us even more," Keller sophomore Kirsten Shortridge said. "We have that much more reason to go back and finish business."

And although Shortridge acknowledged the success of the former players, she also recognizes that this is a completely different team capable of going beyond last year's success.

"I am not taking anything away from them because they are awesome athletes and they contributed a lot to this program," Shortridge said. "But I think we lost more of individual players rather than now, we have a solid one through nine lineup, and we have a lot of depth in our positions."

Even with the departure of Monceaux and Lake, the Lady Bears

have an ample supply of power. Magnolia junior third baseman Brette Reagan, the only two-time All-American in school history, and College Station catcher Courtney Oberg will provide a sufficient amount of pop. Meanwhile, Tomball senior first baseman/designated player Jordan Daniels has surprised Baylor fans so far in the early season, being the source of all five Lady Bear home runs in the first six games.

But as much as the long ball woos the crowd, Coach Moore is known for his speedy style of play. The Lady Bears have led the Big 12 in stolen bases the last five seasons. And to compensate for the loss of Monceaux and Lake, Moore said, the Lady Bears will take advantage of the team's speed even more this season. "We've built this program on a speed basis," Moore said. "I think we know how to execute it as well as anybody. This team has more ability to play that game than any team I have ever had."

Baton Rouge, La., sophomores and twin sisters Tiffany and Nicole Wesley are the igniting point when it comes to team speed.

The

two outfielders combined for 63 stolen bases last season, more than three Big 12 teams last season.

"It's definitely going to be up to the slappers up in the front to get on to leave our 3-4-5 (hitters) to bring them in," Reagan said. "We have got pretty good speed on this team. We are excited to use that."

But as many people know, the one thing that can lead a team to Oklahoma City in June is a dominant pitcher. That's where Shortridge comes in. The 2006 Gatorade National Player of the Year finished last year 17-6 with a 2.14 ERA and 125 strikeouts. But with Baylor's all-time winningest pitcher Ferguson graduating, the role of the ace of the staff has been handed down to the 5-foot-11 right-hander.

Several critics have questioned Shortridge's mental toughness. But according to her, big-game situations are what the First-team All-Big 12 selection thrives on.

"I get a thrill out of pressure," Shortridge said. "I really enjoy big games. When I am practicing out there every day, that's the only thing on my mind. I trust my defense and that's all I need mentally to be able

to know I'll be alright."

Behind Shortridge is McLennan Community College transfer Jenny Isham. The Lorena High School graduate finished last year with a 0.74 ERA with a 29-6 record and 285 strikeouts for the Highlassies, placing her on the NJCAA Division-1 All-American team.

Moore said that Fort Worth junior Brittany Turner was also a pleasant surprise during fall ball and has finally lived up to the potential he first saw in her when he recruited her out of Brewer High School.

As stacked and talented as this year's team seems to be, a repeat as Big 12 Champions will not be a simple task.

"You're coming into the season defending that title," Moore said. "You have that target on your back. I think that's fun; it's definitely better to be on this side of this side of it than on the other side when you're trying to climb that mountain."

And as fun as the chase for another Big 12 title might be, teams like Texas A&M University, which was eliminated from the Women's College World Series by the Lady Bears, and the University of Oklahoma are itching to dethrone Baylor.

"It's just another year in the Big 12," Moore said. "Welcome back."



Shortridge



Daniels



Reagan



Jeff Leslie/Lariat staff

Schedule

Dates listed through March. For full schedule, visit baylorbears.com.

Date	Opponent	Location	Time (CST)
2/21	Oregon	Palm Springs, Calif.	10 p.m.
2/22	Massachusetts	Palm Springs, Calif.	3 p.m.
	Arizona	Palm Springs, Calif.	8 p.m.
2/23	UCLA	Palm Springs, Calif.	2:30 p.m.
	Cal State-Fullerton	Palm Springs, Calif.	5 p.m.
2/24	San Diego State	Palm Springs, Calif.	11 a.m.
3/01	Louisiana -Monroe	Waco	2 p.m.
	Louisiana-Monroe	Waco	4 p.m.
3/02	Louisiana-Monroe	Waco	1 p.m.
3/04	Texas-San Antonio	San Antonio	6:30 p.m.
3/06	Illinois-Chicago	Clearwater, Fla.	3:30 p.m.
	USA Softball	Clearwater, Fla.	7:30 p.m.
3/07	Michigan State	Clearwater, Fla.	3:30 p.m.
	Coastal Carolina	Clearwater, Fla.	6 p.m.
3/08	Hofstra	Clearwater, Fla.	3:30 p.m.
	East Tennessee	Clearwater, Fla.	6 p.m.
3/12	Liberty	Clearwater, Fla.	12 p.m.
	UCF	Clearwater, Fla.	4 p.m.
3/18	Oklahoma Christian	Waco	3 p.m.
	Oklahoma Christian	Waco	5 p.m.
3/19	Texas A&M	College Station	6:30 p.m.
3/21	Iowa State	Waco	6:30 p.m.
3/22	Iowa State	Waco	12 p.m.
3/25	Texas State	Waco	6:30 p.m.
3/26	Texas A&M	Waco	6:30 p.m.
3/29	Oklahoma State	Stillwater, Okla.	2 p.m.
3/30	Oklahoma State	Stillwater, Okla.	12 p.m.

Big 12 Predictions

- OU** A talented freshmen class joins an OU team that returns seven starters, including three All-Americans. The Sooners are coming off their second-highest winning percentage (55-8) in school history. Senior and former Temple Junior College standout Lauren Eckerman returns to the circle after tallying 37 wins (fourth in the nation) last season. The First Team All-Big 12 pitcher's battery mate, Susan Ogden, has quite a resume herself. The Sherman senior earned 2007 Second Team All-American after posting a .381 batting average. If the Sooners avoid injuries, a trip 30 minutes up north in June is highly probable.
- ATM** Texas A&M returns do-everything players Amanda Scarborough and Megan Gibson, making them a Big 12 threat by default. The two seniors are eager to go back to Oklahoma City after being defeated in the World Series by conference rival Baylor. But other than them, Jamie Hinshaw is the only returning player who hit above .300 for the team last season. To be a contender in a talent-heavy Big 12, someone will have to step up at the plate. In the circle, Scarborough and Gibson have things covered. The two combined for 390 strikeouts and 18 shutouts last season, forming one of the most potent pitching staffs in the nation.
- BU** Coming off its first College World Series appearance, a key question for Glenn Moore is how bad the loss of Ashley Monceaux, Lisa Ferguson and Chelsi Lake will hurt Baylor. If pitcher Kirsten Shortridge can return to the form that helped her earn the 2006 Gatorade National High School Player of the Year, look out, Big 12. Brette Reagan has proven she can supply offensive spark, but the Bears will need another big bat. There's a good possibility Taylor Marcum will be counted on to bring in a lot of runners.
- T** There's no doubt that Cat Osterman helped turn the University of Texas Longhorns into a national powerhouse during her tenure. But the three-time USA Softball Collegiate Player of the Year is two years departed from the program, and the team is still rebuilding its pitching staff. The girls down south are still a threat to make an impact in the Big 12 without Osterman. Meagan Denney has inherited the circle, but pitcher Brittany Barnhill, a highly touted freshman out of Justin Northwest, could make an impact during her inaugural season.
- M** Missouri took a big bite in its roster from graduation, losing six starters, including the top three hitters from 2007. But as seen before, if a team has a dominating pitcher, it can go a long way. The Lady Tigers have that with senior Jen Bruck. The St. Peters, Mo., right-hander came on strong in Big 12 conference play, tallying a 1.45 ERA and an 11-4 record. Bruck is also one of the top returning hitters from 2007, but it will take more than just her to earn a trip back to the NCAA Regionals.

- N** Nebraska lost half of last year's rotation that combined for the ninth lowest ERA in the nation with the departure of Ashley DeBuhr. But Nebraska does return ace Molly Hill, who posted the lowest ERA (1.05) last season during Big 12 play. The young Cornhuskers are without a senior on the roster for the first time in their 33-year program history. A lot of pressure will be on Hill to lead Nebraska on the mound, but even more lies on the shoulders of the incoming freshmen to provide run support.
- KU** Kansas has always had a good but not great team. The Jayhawks return eight starters from last season's squad that finished seventh in the Big 12. After missing the NCAA Tournament in 2007, the Jayhawks will need some luck and big-time play from junior Stevie Crisosto in order to make a trip back. With a team that only has two seniors, the Jayhawks have a bright future ahead. But as far as this season goes, Kansas will have a hard time competing with the conference elite.
- T** After losing all seven games played at home last season, Texas Tech's Lady Raiders hope for better luck during their 17 games in Lubbock this season. They had an improbable run to the Big 12 Tournament Championship, and will look to carry over the momentum gained in the 2007 postseason to this year. Sophomore Ashly Jacobs returns in the circle for the Raiders after a phenomenal start to her collegiate career last season. Senior slugger Jennifer Corkin will be relied on heavily to top her team-leading power numbers from last year.
- OS** Oklahoma State brought in one of the premiere recruiting classes during the offseason and the Cowgirls will rely on freshmen Amanda Crabtree and Sarah Odom to anchor the pitching staff. In the field, as many as three freshmen could start. While the Cowgirls have a promising future, the fans in Stillwater may be witnesses to quite a few growing pains throughout the season.
- IS** If Iowa State fans thought last year's 24-40 season was long, just wait for this year. Other than sophomore Alex Johnson, Iowa State does not have anyone returning that hit above .250 last year. The Cyclones' roster is loaded with underclassmen, and while the team could feature glimpses of success, the Cyclones have a long way to go to become a contender in the Big 12.