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Alumna’s Idol experience
Megan McCallon tells of life during the try-out process for the most-watched TV show

Faculty Senate set to accept new members

By CATY HIRST
STAFF WRITER

The Faculty Senate is holding elections Tuesday and Wednesday to vote for new representatives.

Dr. Dennis Myers, chair of Faculty Senate, said Senate needs new members in the School of Law, the School of Business, the College of Arts and Science, the School of Music, the School of Education and the School of Nursing.

Dr. Randy Wood, professor in the School of Education, is running for re-election. Wood believes there are many reasons to run for Faculty Senate.

“I just think Faculty Senate has a great opportunity to be the spokesperson for the faculty and to do good things on campus,” Wood said. “I think it is a good opportunity to meet faculty from all over campus and to participate in the process that helps the university grow.”

Although each school requires a certain number of representatives, Baker said no more than two representatives from each department within a school can be Faculty Senate members. He said this can make it more difficult to find representatives for each school.

The School of Law, the School of Music, the School of Education and the School of Nursing each have one opening. The School of Business has two openings and the College of Arts and Sciences has seven openings.

The Faculty Senate Constitution and Bylaws says faculty members can be nominated five weeks before spring break. Nominations are sent to the secretary of Faculty Senate and can be received by e-mail or in writing.

Dr. Erich Baker, secretary of Faculty Senate and associate professor of computer science, is in charge of arranging and run-

ning the election.

“People are nominated by their peers, or by themselves,” Baker said. “I check with the nominees and make sure they are willing to run.”

Myers said the Faculty Senate elections are not similar to Student Senate elections. Faculty Senate candidates do not advertise or promote their campaign.

“I would say [it is] moderately competitive, but it depends on the school,” Myers said about the vote. “It is just pretty low key.”

Wood said Faculty senate is time consuming but rewarding.

“It is not necessarily our opinion that we bring forward, but the opinion of our colleagues that we try to bring forward,” Wood said.

Myers said Senate members serve for three-year terms, unless they are completing the term of another Senate member.

In addition, Senate members cannot serve for more than two consecutive terms.

Terms for Senate members will begin next fall.

According to the Faculty Senate Constitution and Bylaws, “Membership on the Senate does not ensure continued faculty employment for ‘tenure-track’ faculty or lecturers.”

Each school will have its own polling place and will be open from 8 a.m. until 5 p.m., although they may be closed during lunch. Faculty members need to present their faculty IDs to be eligible to vote.

Ron Beal, professor in the School of Law, and Dr. Michael Long, professor of Russian and director of Slavic and East European Studies and interim director of Asian and African Languages, are also running for re-election. Beal is running unopposed.

A full list of nominees will be in the March 2 edition of the Lariat.

Church starts new parent workshop, enlists students

By JOHN D. ELIZONDO
REPORTER

This Saturday Baylor students will get the opportunity to help some low-income families in Waco find out how to get the financial help they may need. The First Baptist Church of Waco is holding its first parent support workshop from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. this Saturday at the First Baptist Church of Waco Activity Center off the corner of 5th Street and Webster Avenue in downtown Waco.

“We know these are tough times economically for a lot of people and especially for low-income families,” Curt Kruschwitz, college minister at First Baptist Waco, said. “Especially for single mothers that make a minimum wage salary, it could be next to impossible to get by.”

Kruschwitz said that more than 15 nonprofits and government agencies will be at the workshop.

“There are a lot of financial assistants and benefits out there for folks, so we invited all these agencies and nonprofits,” Kruschwitz said. “We hope the workshop will be a ‘one-stop shop’ for our participants to come and find the assistance and

services they need to make them more economically viable.”

Kruschwitz thinks this event will be a great success because of the community’s support and the outreach of Baylor students coming to the event to help volunteer.

Houston sophomore Rachel Tate will be volunteering and thinks this is a great opportunity to come help out the less fortunate of Waco.

“I am very excited about it. It will be a humbling experience,” Tate said. “I think it is a good way to show that our community cares about these people.”

Kruschwitz said that Tate and other Baylor students will be serving as advocates for the families and help them sign up for food stamps, health care and other available services.

Tate hopes she can provide clear answers for the people she helps.

“I want to make sure [the families’] tough questions are being answered by the agencies, and that they provide answers that the families will understand,” Tate said.

Montgomery second-year George W. Truett Seminary stu-

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The immense Andromeda galaxy, also known as Messier 31 or simply M31, is captured in full in this new image from NASA’s Wide-field Infrared Survey Explorer, or WISE. The mosaic covers an area equivalent to more than 100 full moons.

The last frontier: Knowing 100 times more

By SARA TIRRITO
STAFF WRITER

Researchers in Tucson are working on a project that will provide 100 times more data than any astronomy database has in the past, which will be made available for public use, according to an article published in the Chronicle of Higher Education. The project involves the Large Synoptic Survey Telescope, which is currently being built and is expected to begin surveying in 2014, the article stated.

“It’s doing two things that we’ve always wanted telescopes to do — collect a lot of light and get really good resolution so you can see detail,” said Dr. Dwight Russell, associate professor of physics at Baylor. “In the past, to accomplish those

two things you had to look at little pieces of the sky one at a time. With this camera and this telescope you’ll be able to do the same [things], but over a larger piece of the sky at a time.”

Russell said the data provided through the surveys and research will be useful in the classroom.

“This thing will take more data than has been taken in human history so far,” Russell said. “We can use it in education because you just have so many examples of things you can do. Another thing this particular telescope is going to do is to take the images in six different colors and you can use that information to determine properties of the stars, like their temperature. We can use that data in the classroom for students to make their

own calculations of the properties of the stars.”

Kristen Pechan, a physics graduate student and teacher’s assistant, said the new data could also add depth to astronomy classes.

“If this information is so readily available, it could make it a very dynamic classroom,” Pechan said. “In addition to the requisite astronomy stuff, the class can become more dynamic because you really see: here’s all these new developments, which will be different every semester.”

Jared Greenwald, a physics graduate student and teacher’s assistant, said more people will need to get involved in

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Bordering districts vary in votes

Doc Anderson, Jim Dunham fight to keep their respective state House seats

By LAURA REMSON
STAFF WRITER

The area surrounding the city of Waco has an unusual setup, in that it is legislated by two different Texas state House representatives. This situation is even more unusual because one representative is a Democrat and the other a Republican.

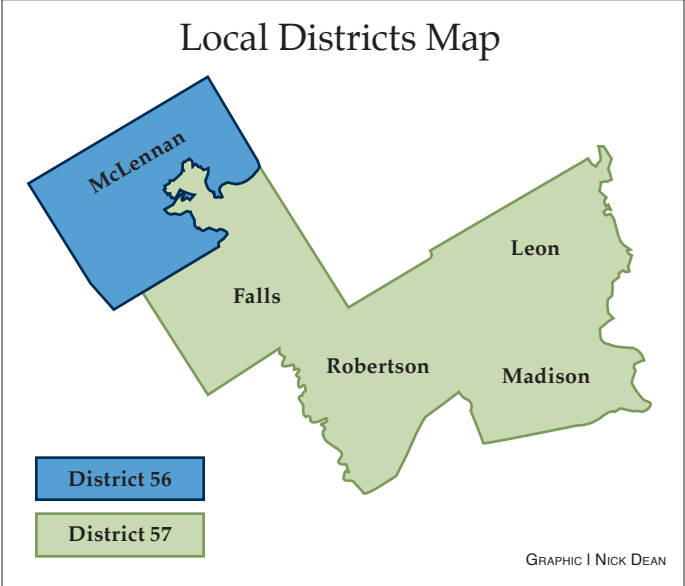
District 56 includes much of McLennan County and the western portion of the city of Waco. On the other hand, District 57

encompasses Falls, Robertson, Leon and Madison counties, as well as a small, eastern corner of McLennan county. Baylor campus lies in District 56, while Floyd Casey Stadium is in District 57.

“I think it’s really interesting how one Republican represents one county and a Democrat represents another,” said Allison Winney, president of the Baylor College Republicans.

“I think it is good to have diversity and different opinions so everyone can be heard and that everyone can be represented they way they want to be represented.”

see DISTRICTS, pg. 8



To some, video adds personal touch

By NEELY GUTHRIE
REPORTER

Writing a stellar admissions essay may no longer be enough to get you into the college of your dreams. As technology continues to boom, universities are beginning to build social media into course curricula and admissions.

The New York Times featured an article on Monday about Tufts University including the option to post a YouTube video as a supplement to its application. Some of the videos have now gone viral on YouTube, and show applicants doing anything from dancing to swimming to flying model helicopters.

Baylor’s Dr. Gardner Campbell uses Twitter, blogging and other social media in the class-

room to enrich students’ communication with one another and in the greater realm of the Internet.

“[Twitter is] a new communication platform and we don’t understand everything that can be done with it,” Campbell said. “I kind of like that.”

Campbell said there are pros and cons of including a video with an application.

“I think it’s a great idea in terms of encouraging student creativity, to help the admissions folks get a real sense of who this person is, in terms of kind of the whole person,” Campbell said.

However, it will challenge how admissions people evaluate each student who applies since there is a stock form for the admissions essay, Campbell said.

“That means you kind of go numb after seeing the same thing over and over, but at least you think you’re comparing apples to apples,” Campbell said.

Campbell also discussed how the essay portion and the video should complement one another.

“I wouldn’t want to see movies replace books; I wouldn’t want to see books replace movies,” Campbell said. “I don’t want to see YouTube replace the written component of an application and I wouldn’t want the written component to be the only thing that’s ever considered.”

San Antonio junior Becka Bovio, a philosophy and English major, agreed that the need for a video should not overshadow an application essay.

“The idea of adding a video isn’t a bad thing, but the emphasis on writing is still extremely important for the real world, as a professional skill,” Bovio said. “It’s acceptable for the video to remain a supplement, so that the essay can maintain its value.”

Piedmont, Okla., sophomore Ted Harrison, is a film and digital media major who uses social media daily and likes the idea of a supplemental YouTube video as well.

“It makes a process that’s usually very impersonal more personal,” Harrison said. “It helps out real people. There is a part of life called society that you have to be a part of and a university would want you to represent that well.”

see SOCIAL, pg. 8

StuGov should better represent its students

Editorial

It has always been the duty of the press to hold the nation’s government accountable.

Likewise, The Lariat has a responsibility to assess the performance of student government leaders and inform students if the organization does not fulfill its role as student advocate within the university.

Unfortunately, since The Lariat’s last expression of opinion, which stated concern for students’ voices being ignored, in its Sept. 30 editorial, student government has done little to improve its relationship with the student body. The same issues of sparse communication and lack of transparency persist and have since been magnified by internal strife and the personal agendas of its leadership.

Instead of opening up to students and The Lariat, student government’s leadership has barred members from speaking with the press on many instances and dealt reactively with dis-sension within the organization.

Though an established organization, each new set of elected leaders must prove themselves. As of now, halfway through the second semester of their term, the current leadership has made little effort. Instead of voicing students’ views, student government has voiced the opinions of its isolated leadership. The way the organization handled the recent presidential announcement exhibits this.

Instead of being open with students during and following the important announcement, student government held confidential meetings and members met quietly with the new president while acting as though they, alone, were privy to certain information. They acted starstruck (no pun intended) when neutrality was called for.

It should have been the organization’s first priority to gauge student opinion on the appointment, educate students on Judge Ken Starr’s track record and meet with dissenting student groups. Students need student government to act as a trustworthy, neutral entity that acknowledges and reflects all student opinion, not only that which agrees with the university.

Not everyone was happy with Starr’s appointment. In a rare campus event, students staged a protest of the appointment outside of the Bill Daniel’s Student Center on Feb 16. This not only was healthy expression for students, but also a key opportunity for student government leaders to engage students in dialogue and convey the dissenting views to administrators.

Unfortunately, student government made no public effort to reach out to students except through a poorly written e-mail statement issued two days after the university announced Starr’s appointment.

The statement resembled a university press release, mentioning



nothing about students’ differing opinions of the new president. This vague press release sent via e-mail reflected student government’s weak voice, and the head leadership’s resolve to make the university look good, even when it means neglecting the opinions of student government representatives.

Sure, student government has made specific efforts to reach out to students. The current leadership started an “Issue of the Week” campaign to determine student opinion on topics such as parking and dining hall food.

In addition, the organization recently started “Share Your Concerns with Student Government,” a Facebook group that acts as a forum for students to express opinions and campus concerns.

These two efforts have not been overlooked. The Lariat commends student government for its willingness to gauge student opinion.

However, students have yet to receive updates about the issues the organization brings forward to the administration. If student government does not keep students informed about how it is using the student opinions it collects, students have reason to believe these are no more than surface-level attempts to appear concerned.

Not only have student government’s head officers been quiet, but current student senators have been surprisingly inactive throughout the current semester.

Senate meeting agendas have included constitutional amendments, support resolutions and the occasional allocation. If student government is actually addressing the student concerns it gathers, it is not doing so in student senate. This, too, may be the result of leadership which fails to empower.

Student government’s executive leadership should take steps to unite the organization and be more transparent with the student body. Instead of taking this opinion as negative commentary, we hope student leaders understand that constructive criticism is necessary to the functioning of any institution that has the duty of representing people.

Student government’s responsibility is not to act as a blind cheerleader for the administration, but to voice a wide range of student views.

Its leaders should worry less about framing the university in a favorable light — that is the job of marketing and communications — and more about the students they represent.

Lariat Letters

Starr’s political position must be pushed aside

H.L. Mencken once said, “Under democracy one party always devotes its chief energies to trying to prove that the other party is unfit to rule.”

Unfortunately, Mencken’s assessment of the American political climate is as true today as it was when he penned the words over 50 years ago. We are deluged by critiques of Congress being too partisan and trapped in gridlock.

However, the same groups who cry that people should put party politics aside for the health care debate ardently refuse to temporarily set aside their own opinions for the Baylor presidential pick.

In the Feb. 25 Lariat letter titled “[Ken] Starr’s political past, Baylor’s future cannot be separated,” senior Chris Clark says, “it is imprudent, therefore, to continue this separation

of one’s personal conviction from one’s public judgments.”

I overall agree with the sentiments of Mr. Clark; people cannot separate their past judgments from their current convictions. Nevertheless, I do find error with the application of his analysis.

In my previous statement, I argued that “every person has their own personal opinion,” and it was not fair for protesters to object to his political views.

Baylor cannot possibly choose a president whose beliefs fall in perfect accord with the thousands of different opinions of the student body. It is unreasonable and illogical to expect Baylor to find a person who appeases everyone’s views.

Therefore, I stand that “[Starr’s] personal positions should not play a role in deciding if he is qualified or not

to be the president of Baylor.” Baylor cannot possibly use political ideology of the student body as a litmus test for presidency.

If the protesters argued that Starr’s role in the Clinton scandals reflected a tendency to lie, act immorally, or other character flaws, their claims would have been germane. They did not. The protesters were upset that Starr did not share the same political ideology as them.

Again, I concur with Mr. Clark that “[Starr’s] judgments ... should profoundly shape his abilities to serve as Baylor’s 14th president.” But so far, none of the complaints against his judgments have gone beyond political disagreement.

Cody Orr
Sugar land sophomore

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Letters

Letters to the editor should include the writer’s name, hometown, major, graduation year, phone number and student identification number. Non-student writers should include their address. Letters that focus on an issue affecting students or faculty may be considered for a guest column at the editor’s discretion. All submissions become the property of The Baylor Lariat. The Lariat reserves the right to edit letters for grammar, length, libel and style. Letters should be e-mailed to Lariat_Letters@baylor.edu.

New university president expected to meet high goals, hopes of entire student body

The appointment of Judge Kenneth W. Starr to the long-vacant presidency of Baylor University was met last week with general approval.

Although some worry Starr brings with him politically divisive baggage from his high-profile legal work, most recognize in him a quality of accomplishment and sheer competence that we need at Baylor. Those qualities — not his past political roles — rightly invite our respect and support as he begins his presidency. Judge Starr is responsible for the future of our university — as a student, this is my concern.

He comes to Baylor during the last years of Baylor 2012, and he will shortly be called upon to make significant decisions regarding the course of the university.

Even with our significant progress to date, nearly every imperative in Baylor 2012 is, at best, at a stage of semi-completion.

Such ambitious goals as Imperative XII, to “achieve a \$2 billion endowment,” are likely beyond our grasp with only two years left. Others, however, like Imperative II which calls for the development

of a “truly residential campus” (with 50 percent of students living on campus) await the attention of our new president.

What Judge Starr and other university administrators ought to bear in mind is that the function of this university, as affirmed by its mission statement, is to serve student needs.

Granted, fulfilling Imperative II might not draw the immediate hype of a new football stadium, but it will draw Baylor closer to its commendable goal of becoming a leading academic institution. Both internal and national studies indicate that students in a residential university setting have greater satisfaction with their education, higher GPAs and better retention rates.

Or, for another reference point, consider this. Someone jokingly suggested at Judge Starr’s introduction ceremony that Baylor was on its way to becoming like Harvard and Oxford.

However, the top 10 schools in the nation boast an average campus residency rate of 86 percent. Take the top 20 schools and the number remains almost 80 percent. At Baylor, we languish in our solid, long-standing second-tier status at 38 percent.

To Baylor’s credit, 67 percent of students lived on campus in 1970. Yet years of growing enrollments along with few and late-coming additions to residential capacity have sent many of us scrambling for housing on the margins of campus.

Indeed, Baylor spent nearly \$200,000 last fall to move more of us away from campus. How does this fall within any of the objectives outlined in Baylor 2012? Quite simply, it does not.

It is time for Baylor to heed its own call and to move forward on Imperative II. This will better position Baylor to pursue its ambitious academic goals, while providing for a more enriching student experience.

If Judge Starr is looking to subdue fears of division and bring the university together, let him take up the mantle of student life and lead Baylor forward into the future it deserves. As students, we now look to Starr with high hopes and great expectations.

Christian T. Latham
Magnolia junior

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Please Recycle This Issue

Sing Reviews

By The Lariat Staff

Alpha Chi Omega

“Whatever the Weather”

The women of AXO showed their love for all kinds of weather, however unpredictable.

They probably expected their costume change and “weathery” song choices to be the stars of their act, but it was the penguins that really stole the show. The men of Zeta Zigga Zamma provided the most entertaining moments in this act. Some of the songs were creative and they had great soloists, but it seems like they just moved through different forms of weather without any sort of real transition. For all that’s wrong about it, the problem is that we really like the act. We like the penguins, the choreography is done well, and the costume change brings a new color pallet into Sing that isn’t usually there. Can it make it to the top 8? Don’t count them out just yet.



The men of Kappa Omega Tau bring children’s toys to life in their All-University Sing act “The Toys are Back in Town”

STEPHEN GREEN | ROUND UP PHOTOGRAPHER

Alpha Delta Pi

“The Cardstock Shuffle”

Every card in the deck plays in a small village town, fighting off Jokers to protect their Queens.

The opening song of ADPi’s act is probably the best opening of an act in Sing this year. It’s funny, creative and clear. That’s about where it ends, though. While they could get away with sloppy choreography when they were crayons, the white card costumes are terribly unforgiving to mistakes. The concept of the Jokers is creative and the soloists are extremely good singers, but the ending picture is similar to when the house of cards topples all over the place. Most women in the audience laughed when they realized that Robert Pattinson was the king of hearts, laughing louder when he was shredded to pieces. And maybe next year we look outside of the “Shrek” soundtracks for Sing music.

Delta Delta Delta

“C’m on and Swim”

The women give us a look at what it’s like under the sea in this aquarium act.

While the costumes and backdrop are bright and the choreography is sharp, the act follows the exact format that these women used to win first place last year, right down to the “Don’t Tap the Glass” sign that comes down at the end of the act. It happens to be the same sign that used to say, “Thanks for Shopping,” that they painted over between Pigskin and now. Yes, ladies, we noticed. We also loved the light-up umbrella jellyfish. Except for the blue costume that doesn’t look like a fish at all, is the rest of the act creative? Yes. Best specialty dance in Sing? Yes. Original concept? Not really. Worthy of Pigskin? Yes, the dancing is that good.

Kappa Chi Alpha

“New York Times”

These girls explore fun times in New York City.

KXA tried. The New York theme is overly cliché but there are so many things you could do with it. Additionally, the name “New York Times” makes us think newspaper and this act is anything but. The stand out in this act isn’t even one of the women but their male soloist whose vocals are so great that I’m sure he made some of the fraternities jealous for not having him in their act. But even he couldn’t save this act. The stage was too empty, the choreography too simple and the dancing apple being chased by an apple slicer is funny in a sort of morbid way. Their purple dresses are awesome. If only the rest of the act was.

Kappa Sigma

“Strikin’ that Texas Tea”

Drilling for oil is fun, except when dealing when the boss man.

The men of Kappa Sigma are up to it again in their act this year. Western dancing and simplistic costuming has become what they’re known for. It’s not that there’s anything wrong with their act, it just gets lost in the shuffle. Their dancing is sharp, their vocals sound good and the backdrop is good, but I forgot about it at the end of the night. The oil derrick’s great plastic bag trick was a simple, clean way of giving this act some plot. I don’t think I was the only one tempted to poke the boss man’s pillow belly to see if he cheered like the Pillsbury dough boy. The audience appreciated the costume change where the group spread “oil” on their faces. Can it make Pigskin? It can.

Pi Kappa Phi

“S.O.S.”

These boys are stranded on an island, hoping for rescue.

Being stranded on an island is not an original concept for a Sing act, but Pi Kapp does it so well that it doesn’t matter. The songs are entertaining, the opening is different from other acts in Sing this year, and the choreography in the finale is as sharp as any other guys’ group. If only the first half of the act was as sharp as the finale, then they’d be some real competition, but as it stands, they just don’t have to manpower. Pigskin bound? Maybe. It’s more interesting than some other groups.

Zeta Tau Alpha

“P.S. I Love You”

This is a heartbreaking act. The wldies of Zeta wait at home for their military man who never comes home.

The ladies of Zeta tried to go with something dramatically different than the acts that they and the other female groups have been putting on the stage for the past three or four years. While their attempt at being different is admirable, the act ends up feeling disjointed. The costumes are good, the music selection is good and as much as the choreography isn’t particularly original, it’s executed well. We just don’t know that the audience knows what to do with a serious Sing act anymore. It worked in the mid-’90s but left the audience silent and wishing for a happier ending.

Alpha Tau Omega

“A Pirate’s Life for Me”

These men live the true pirate’s life, plundering and kidnapping to their hearts’ content.

The audience seems to enjoy the pirates in this act, but we left wondering why none of the pieces fit together. The backdrop, costumes and sets work all right, but the song choices don’t seem to fit the theme. When we think pirates, we don’t think of the Gaston song from “Beauty and the Beast.” We’ll give the guys points for thanking Johnny Depp in the program. The Mr. Smee-type character steals the show for this act and he’s got the voice to prove it. The choreography seems simple and unoriginal, but if Pigskin was determined by using a crowd-pleasing song from “Glee” that doesn’t fit in any context at all, then these guys could make the cut.

Fiji

“On the Road Again”

The Fiji men go driving down the highway.

The men of Phi Gamma Delta used to rule Sing but in recent years have seen that star fade. This year, the backdrop is great, the costumes are great, the songs are great and even most of the choreography is all right, but what these guys lack is the sharpness and performance factor that the other male groups have. They just can’t compete. The lead vocalist sticks out because of how good he is. We just wish the rest of the act was as good as his voice.

Kappa Kappa Gamma

“Hey Big Spender”

Diamonds are a girl’s best friend, but these girls need to watch out for sticky-fingered strangers!

From the beginning beats of their act, Kappa gives you the feeling that they are about to do something impressive. If only the act lived up to that feeling. The costumes and choreography are both re-treads from their past years and don’t match the act. The jewelry heist in the middle seems clunky in the context of the entire act. The finale soloist is incredible and helps the women end on a high note, but the jury’s still out as to whether that note is high enough to get them a place in Pigskin this year.

Phi Kappa Chi

“Good Ol’ Rocky Trip”

These boys live the simple life of the mountains.

After a disappointing year last year, Phi Chi rebounds to stellar results. While the theme isn’t original in any way, all the songs seem to be chosen because there is a state’s name in each one. The God-moment in the middle seems a bit of a stretch, but it doesn’t seem to matter because they execute everything so well. The highlight of this act is the fact that the group vocals are better than any other guys’ group and possibly any group this year. It’s also easy to like the metal washboards played mid-act. Pigskin worthy? Hands-down. Can it win? With vocals that good, possibly.

Sigma Alpha Epsilon

“Delivery Men”

These deliverymen have a package to deliver.

The uncomfortable wording that the men of SAE “have a delivery waiting for you” on the Sing program was only a preview of what happened next. This act was an obvious reference to the Saturday Night Live skit that had censors racing to the packages of Justin Timberlake and Andy Samberg. The only difference was the addition of short shorts a la “Reno 911”. The men danced with cardboard boxes. Everyone expected the rap that rounded out the piece, and luckily for SAE, the audience was forgiving. See you in a year, not at Homecoming.

Sing Alliance

“A News Sensation”

The newspaper isn’t all business, weather and sports. The comics get to play too in this act.

Quirky themes seem to fit Alliance best and they’ve never executed it as well as they did this year. The costumes are creative and original, the backdrops are the best of all the acts and the choreography is interesting. The most impressive part is that they were able to get 170 people to do it all so well. They’re the biggest group in Sing and they want the judges to know it. They got the audience involved, dancing half of the act in the aisles, and the audience loved it. If the choreography was danced as sharply as in the other acts, they would have no competition. Pigskin worthy? For sure. Can it win? It’s got a shot.

Chi Omega

“Splish Splash”

Bath time for the Chi Omega girls is a time for the rubber duckie.

Chi Omega took the theme of bath time and made it work. The GaGa inspired bubble dresses rocked, the vocalists are stellar, and the life-sized lufas are probably the best costumes in Sing this year. The choreography is simple but done cleanly and while the concept isn’t the most engaging, the audience really loves this act. Can it go to Pigskin? It sure can.

Kappa Alpha Theta

“Ring by Spring”

Some Baylor girls have a dream to find an engagement ring by springtime and these girls point out the good and bad about it.

Getting engaged is usually a serious matter, but Theta makes light of it in their act. It’s nice to see one of the sororities point out this well-know Baylor phrase. The choreography is overly simple but done well and the songs are sung well. Still, the act just doesn’t work. The salmon-colored costumes clash with the primary colored costumes and where dancing ring boxes might have sounded good on paper, it doesn’t translate to the theme of the act. Do you want to be a single lady or do you want a ring on it? The act ends and we still don’t know.

Kappa Omega Tau

“The Toys are Back in Town”

The toys come to life for a party when their kid isn’t around.

KOT has done the same act over and over for as long as we’ve been at Baylor, but this year they went with something different and the audience loved it. Their act is about as flawless as an act can be. The costumes are great, the visuals are perfect and the pull-string surprise for the cowboys make it entertaining from start to finish. Special shout out goes to the army men who ended up painted green. Baylor owes them a bottle of soap. Most creative opening in Sing? Yes. Most creative ending in Sing? Yes. Pigskin worthy? No doubt. Can it win? Maybe. It’s got some serious competition for that top spot.

Pi Beta Phi

“Sugar Rush”

As this act progresses, these ladies go into sugar overload from the ice cream, cupcakes and candy.

Pi Phi wins for best vocal opening of an act this year. More than sitting, swaying and singing, these ladies have a candy-coated surprise at the end of their opening that made the audience interested. Their dancing is as sharp as any other top group though their costumes don’t do them any favors for showing that. Does anyone really want to look like blue and green cupcakes anyway? With the lights off, the sprinkles on the cupcakes light up, giving some great visual interest. Also, they might have the best female soloists in Sing this year. Too much reliance on songs from “Hairspray”? Probably. Pigskin worthy? Absolutely. Can it win? With more flattering costumes, maybe.

Sigma Chi

“Disco Fever”

Transported back 1977, the men of Sigma Chi want everyone to catch Disco Fever.

The men and poor sparkly girl of Sigma Chi left the Sing audience with something to talk about, and it wasn’t their groovy dancing and singing skills. This act, which stole the costumes, dancing and music of Saturday Night Fever relied on only one dance move: the pelvic thrust. This was, of course, combined with other disco-era favorites, but we’re sure that there was more thrusting here than in the movie itself. John Travolta is still alive, but if he weren’t, this act would make him turn over in his grave. That said, everyone loved the Bee Gees song, when they weren’t cringing or shielding their eyes.

Sing Schedule

Today

6:30 p.m.
Waco Hall

Saturday

6:30 p.m.
Waco Hall

Awards will be announced following Saturday’s performance

McCaw addresses Senate

**Athletic director
praises student game
attendance and shares
news of athletics
expansion**

By **KATY McDOWALL**
REPORTER

Athletic director Ian McCaw brought student senators up to speed on the status of the athletic department Thursday night at the Student Senate meeting. McCaw began by discussing the Bears' 70-66 victory against the Aggies Wednesday night. "It's never a bad time to beat Texas A&M," McCaw said. McCaw said he feels blessed to have such great student support for athletics. "This past year we averaged

between 7,000 to 8,000 [students] at football, so it's great to see the fans at football games," McCaw said. "Through basketball we've been averaging 2,000 students." These numbers are higher than previous years, according to McCaw. "I've been at Baylor six years now as the director of athletics and the first couple years we were fortunate to have just a couple hundred students come to a basketball game," McCaw said. McCaw also discussed the academics of student athletes. "I represent about 450 student athletes and in addition to what they do athletically they are also very committed in the classroom," McCaw said. Last semester the 450 athletes averaged a 3.05 GPA, the highest on record, McCaw said. "We've been in the top two schools in the Big 12 every year

in terms of graduation success rate," McCaw said. "About nine out of every 10 of our students that remain at Baylor earn their degree." Student athletes devote about 20 hours a week to their sport, McCaw said. Both the men's and women's basketball teams are nationally ranked, as well as six spring sports teams. "It's really a very positive time for student athletics," McCaw said. The athletic department just finished a five-year fundraising campaign that raised \$95 million, which resulted in the new football complex, basketball practice facility and equestrian facility, McCaw said. "We'd still like to develop and on-campus track; that's something we think that we need," McCaw said.

Christian author to speak out

By **TORI LIGGETT**
REPORTER

Students have the opportunity to hear Christian author and speaker Shane Claiborne at 7 p.m. Sunday in the Barfield Drawing Room at the Bill Daniel Student Union Building. Cost of admission is \$5 and all proceeds will go directly to Mission Waco's work in expanding a health clinic in Haiti. Claiborne is known for representing a blend of radical Christianity, humor and cultural application of faith, according to Baylor News Web site. In addition to being writer of the best selling book, "Irresistible Revolution: Living as an Ordinary Radical," Claiborne also wrote an article for the Esquire magazine titled "What if Jesus Meant All That Stuff?". "I read 'Irresistible Revolution' before my senior year, and it changed the way I viewed Christianity," said Amanda Allen, learning service liaison. "It challenges

your faith and the way you look at the Bible. Claiborne explains that Christianity is messy and uncomfortable and reminds you that the core of Christianity is about relationships, not evangelism — not service to the poor, but with the poor." Claiborne attempts to approach his audiences with sincerity and cut straight to the point. "To all my nonbelieving, sort-of-believing, and used-to-be-believing friends: I feel like I should begin with a confession. I am sorry that so often the biggest obstacle to God has been Christians. Christians who have had so much to say with our mouths and so little to show with our lives. I am sorry that so often we have forgotten the Christ of our Christianity," Claiborne wrote in a column for Esquire magazine. Friends of Claiborne also say he is down-to-earth. "Shane and I have been friends for 10 or 12 years. He is very humble and very funny. With his East Texas drawl and uncanny ability to

speak prophetically for the church and at the same time to laugh and remind us not to take ourselves too seriously," said Jimmy Dorrell, Mission Waco director. "Shane is very inclusive and able to address issues that are important to our culture. He is a spokesperson for young adult singles looking for a more radical faith, a movement that is much more inclined and intentional about lifestyle and impact on the culture, a revolution based on love." Claiborne will be also speaking at 11 a.m. Sunday at Church Under the Bridge and in Monday's Chapel at Baylor. "I think it's really great that we are able to have a very well-known speaker come to Waco," said Ashley Anderson, Baylor community service intern. "It's a really cool thing for the community to get to hear him as well as Baylor students." To purchase tickets benefiting the clinic in Ferrier, Haiti, visit www.missionwaco.org/tickets.html.



SARAH GROMAN | LARIAT PHOTOGRAPHER

Snow still standing

Two days after the record 3.1 inches of snowfall hit Baylor campus, releasing students, faculty and staff from class and regular operations at 2 p.m., Houston freshman Grace Coles and Arlington junior Drew Kelly discover a snow fort still standing behind George W. Truett Seminary.

HPV Fact #8:

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Baylor ‘Idol’ talks of Hollywood experience

By JAMES BYERS
REPORTER

Megan McCallon, 2006 Baylor alumna, wanted an unbiased opinion about her singing talent. Who better to ask than Simon Cowell?

So, McCallon, 26, decided to try out for the most popular television show in America, a show she hardly ever watched, “American Idol.”

“I’ve always had family and friends tell me that I’m talented, but I needed someone whose phone number I didn’t have in my phone book if they gave me a negative response,” said McCallon in a telephone interview from Houston.

“So I thought, ‘I’ll see what Simon says.’ When I do watch the show, I always agree with what he says.”

Thus began McCallon’s “American Idol” experience, an unusual journey that started with an encounter with Neil Patrick Harris and ended, like so many others, in tears.

The road to Hollywood began last summer in Dallas when McCallon passed several initial auditions before appearing in front of judges Cowell, Kara DioGuardi, Randy Jackson and celebrity guest judge and “How I Met Your Mother” star Neil Patrick Harris (the episode was filmed on Aug. 24 and aired on Feb. 2).

McCallon sang Norah Jones’ “The Nearness of You” in an audition that was not televised.

“I was so nervous,” McCallon said. “Large masses of people don’t intimidate me, but one-on-one in a room with someone, singing, that freaks me out.”

As it turned out, impressing Cowell wasn’t a problem. He was the first judge to voice an opinion after she finished singing.

“Yes, for the voice,” Cowell said.

“At that point, I thought, ‘Okay! I can go home now,’” McCallon said.

DioGuardi was next, and she

agreed with Cowell. But Harris, on the other hand, was skeptical.

“He was afraid that I’d be overshadowed by the other contestants, that I wasn’t flashy enough for the show,” said McCallon. “I’m not flashy, so I agreed with him there.”

Harris voted no—“And I loved Doogie Howser!” McCallon said. “I was so disappointed!”—but Jackson had the final say, and his positive vote gave McCallon the coveted golden ticket, propelling her to Hollywood.

For McCallon, one of 31 contestants in Dallas to receive a ticket, it was the confirmation she needed to continue her pursuit of a career as a singer-songwriter.

As a student at Baylor, McCallon was always playing in front of a crowd. She performed at After Dark three times and at All-University Sing and Pigskin Revue with Kappa Kappa Gamma.

McCallon won Baylor Religious Hour’s “Baylor Icon” competition as a freshman in 2002. To her peers she was known as “Chapel Girl” for leading worship at Chapel. Sometimes she would even sneak into Waco Hall late at night to play the piano and write music.

“My time at Baylor really prepared me for choosing this career in general,” she said. “When you perform four times a week, you get pretty comfortable standing on stage with a guitar in your hands.”

Mike Reimer, associate director of Student Activities for campus programming, first met McCallon in 2002 when he was producing After Dark for the first time.

“She’s got a great voice,” Reimer said. “She has a lot of confidence in her musical abilities, and she writes all her own stuff.”

Ryan Richardson, associate chaplain and director of worship, recalled being moved by McCallon’s rendition of “Sweet Little Jesus Boy” at a Christmas chapel.

“She began to sing, and it just transformed the room,” Richard-

son said. “Vocally, she took it to a different place. It’s one of those things I wish the people of ‘American Idol’ could have seen.”

After graduating in 2006, McCallon moved to Austin and worked as an assistant manager at Dominican Joe Coffee Shop while continuing to write and perform music. Two years later she moved to Houston, where she now has a job in retail and leads worship at several churches.

In August of 2009, she released her self-produced debut album “June Bug,” which is available on iTunes and Amazon.com. In fact, part of her motivation to try out for “American Idol” was to promote the new album, which she says is influenced by artists such as Carole King, Patty Griffin and Carly Simon.

“I knew that whether I won or not, it would be great promotion for the album,” she said. “This is a great way to get my name out there.”

In early January, McCallon traveled to Los Angeles for the Hollywood round of ‘American Idol’. Her first task was to pass another individual audition in front of the judges, with Ellen DeGeneres taking the place of Harris.

McCallon, a big fan of DeGeneres, became so unnerved when Ellen smiled at her that she nearly forgot which song she was singing. She regrouped and performed Patty Griffin’s “Up to the Mountain (MLK Song)” with her guitar in another performance that wasn’t televised.

“I really wish that audition had aired, because it went so well,” said McCallon. “I was the first girl to use a guitar, and I thought surely they would show me, but they didn’t.”

The judges, impressed, advanced her.

“Finally, someone who knows how to use their guitar and sing,” Jackson said of McCallon’s performance.

Though none of her friends and family saw the audition,



Alumna Megan McCallon, a contestant on this season of “American Idol” is shown on the cover of her August 2009 album, “June Bug.” McCallon made it to the Hollywood round of the Fox show.

McCallon reassured her anxious followers on Facebook that she passed.

Next came the group round, when contestants perform a choreographed song as a team. The producers of the show convinced McCallon’s group to perform Gwen Stefani’s “The Sweet Escape.” Unfortunately, McCallon’s journey was about to come to an end.

“Bad time to try and do the hardest song,” said McCallon. “I was with a great group of girls; we just chose the wrong song.”

McCallon said that from the moment her group took the stage, everything went wrong. The sound technicians forced the group members to rearrange their stage positions, throwing off the choreography they had worked hard to memorize.

The result was, in McCallon’s words, “a disaster.”

“The judges were making faces the whole time and throwing their arms around, like, ‘This is horrible,’” she said. “By the time we finished, we all knew we were in trouble.”

Then came a bigger shock: of the four group members, McCallon was the only one kicked off the show. Cue the tears.

“The moment that I knew we hadn’t done well, it started welling up inside,” McCallon said. “A lot of it was frustration in not understanding exactly why I got sent home, frustration and embarrassment. I forgot the choreography, but all of us did.”

In an even sadder twist, the only part of the group audition that was televised was a shot of McCallon crying. In retrospect, McCallon said her television cameo, which aired Feb. 10, was a blessing because it saved her from breaking the news to fans.

“But I’m glad they didn’t show any more of me crying than they did, because I’m not a pretty crier,” she said.

Though disappointed that she did not appear more on television, McCallon said her experience on “American Idol” is paying dividends. Already, she’s seen an increase in her Myspace.com page hits and iTunes sales. Friends she hasn’t spoken with in years have contacted her to offer their congratulations.

And the positive feedback from the judges about her singing talent, if not her choreography, has convinced her to continue seeking a career as a musician.

“The whole time I was in the competition, there was never anything negative said toward my talent or my singing,” she said. “I felt like I could leave with my head high, confident in what I want to do with my life.”

FUN TIMES

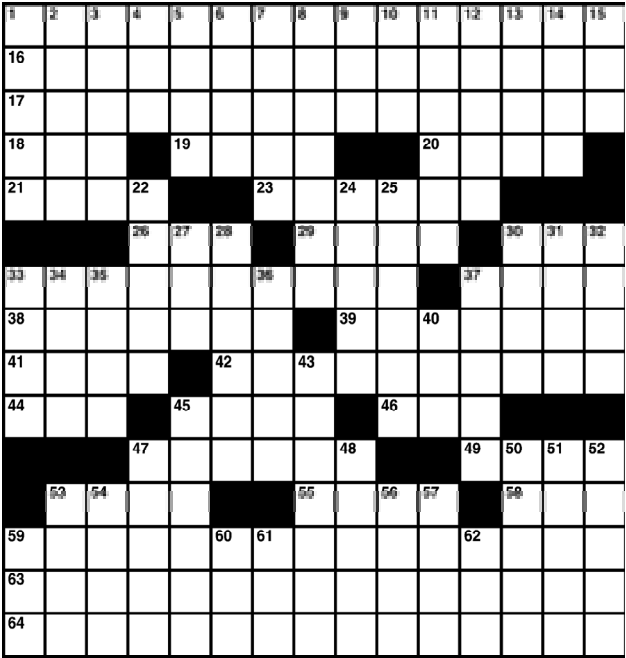
Answers at www.baylorlariat.com ——— McClatchy-Tribune

Across

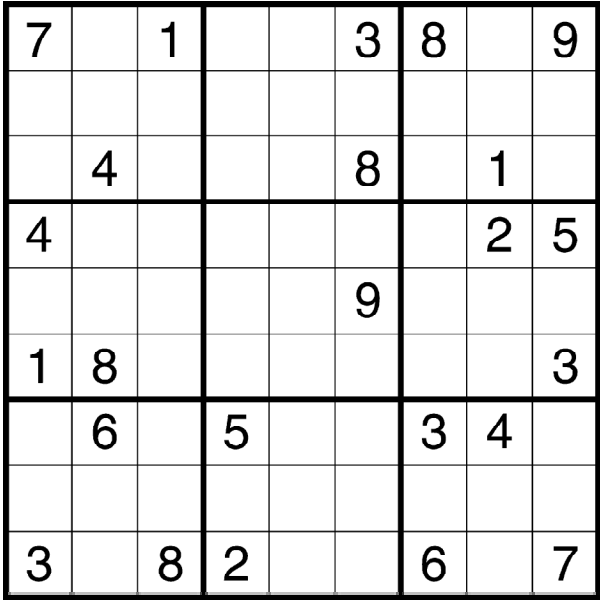
- 1 Medieval castle feature
- 16 Harding’s Laddie Boy, for one
- 17 Health club option
- 18 Freeze
- 19 Indicates
- 20 Asian holidays
- 21 Univ. awards
- 23 Risked
- 26 Actor Harris et al.
- 29 Three-time A.L. MVP
- 30 Help a checker
- 33 Gamblers’ mecca
- 37 Composer Bartók
- 38 Barhopping
- 39 Some specials
- 41 Uproar
- 42 Gadget largely pooh-poohed by men until the 20th century
- 44 Dubbed period
- 45 Russian pancake
- 46 Oldest child in the comic strip “Baby Blues”
- 47 Under-the-sink item
- 49 Marquis de ____
- 53 Open end?
- 55 “Do or do not. There is no try” speaker
- 58 Miss out?
- 59 With “The,” 1958 Hudson/Stack movie about a former WWI ace
- 63 Longtime pal
- 64 Christianity dominates it

Down

- 1 Tasty
- 2 See 40-Down
- 3 Not std.
- 4 They precede mis
- 5 Fusses
- 6 Turner, for one
- 7 Really cracks up
- 8 Launch of 1962



- 9 1-800-CALL-____: rival of 1-800-COLLECT
- 10 Cash add-on
- 11 Violent, probably
- 12 Bawled
- 13 Frowned-upon contraction
- 14 Views
- 15 Commit a faux pas
- 22 Tiff
- 24 City that inspired van Gogh
- 25 Dean of horror
- 27 ____ gratias
- 28 Glares
- 30 Sugar source
- 31 Pollster Gallup
- 32 Razor cut, maybe
- 33 Dust unit
- 34 Words before before
- 35 Zilch
- 36 Anchor position
- 37 Highland hillsides
- 40 With 2-Down, like a bikini
- 43 Next Christmas
- 45 Dirndl part
- 47 Gérard Larcher is its current president
- 48 Stevens who sang “Pink Shoe Laces” (1959)
- 50 Certain Arabian Peninsula native
- 51 Car battery pioneer
- 52 “Barnaby Jones” star
- 53 Account
- 54 Traffic regs., e.g.
- 56 Twain’s jumping frog
- 57 Like contrarians
- 59 Auto club service
- 60 Plaza abbr.
- 61 Vandal
- 62 Choke or joke



Object: Each row, column and 3-by-3 box (in bold borders) contains every digit, 1 to 9.

There’s no wrong answer to this multiple choice question.



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SARAH GROMAN | LARIAT STAFF

LaceDaris Dunn double pumps before making a reverse layup Wednesday night against Texas A&M University. Dunn, who leads the Bears with 19.1 points per game, and Baylor travel to Norman, Okla., to take on the Sooners Saturday at 12:45 p.m.

Bears grinding for top four seed

By JUSTIN BAER
SPORTS EDITOR

Even with excitement of Wednesday night's down-to-the-wire, 70-66 victory against rival Texas A&M still reverberating throughout campus, head coach Scott Drew and his squad are locked in on Saturday's trip to Norman, Okla., to face the Sooners.

That's because the Bears are in the midst of a heated finale to the Big 12 Conference season. With three games remaining, Baylor is tied for fourth place in the conference standings, along with the University of Texas and Texas A&M. The three (8-5 in conference play) are one game behind the University of Missouri. Kansas stands at No. 1 in the Big 12 and is also No. 1 in the country. Kansas State is second in the Big 12 and ranked No. 6 in the NCAA.

"If we can continue to play well, we can rally behind this as a big win," Baylor senior Josh Lomers said in a Thursday press conference. "We can keep that fight with us the next few games. It's only one game, we have to focus on all the rest of the games we have left, or this one won't matter."

Baylor has a rigid schedule forthcoming, including two consecutive road trips. Now the Bears are zoned in on one of the coveted top four spots in the Big 12 Tournament.

"The good thing about a conference race like this and the standings as close as they are, the players know the importance of every game and do a good job making sure they are focused," Drew said. "Down the stretch (games) are more important than ever."

If Baylor can finish within the top four spots, it will earn a

first-round bye, a discernible advantage, as no team lower than a four seed has won a tournament championship. Last season, the Bears fatigued through four games in four days on their miraculous journey to the tournament championship.

In the final game against a high-octane Mizzou team, the run's taxing results were obvious as the game progressed. Baylor was outscored 36-27 in the second half.

"(They) probably were not the ideal team to play on a fourth game in four days," Drew said. "Everybody wants to finish as high as we can finish. I think everyone is geared and focused on that."

For its last three matches, Baylor is pitted against teams it has already defeated (Oklahoma, Texas Tech and Texas).

However none of the Bears are overlooking the difficulty of

taking down teams on the road, as they will have to do when they take on the Sooners and Red Raiders.

"Back-to-back road games are extremely tough from the standpoint of travel, playing in hostile arenas—that's as tough as it gets," Drew said. "The good thing is we like challenges."

Meanwhile, the Longhorns travel to the Ferrell Center March 6 in Baylor's final regular season game. With Wednesday's win, Baylor (21-6) has refused to suffer consecutive losses this entire season. Lomers credits the team's determination to fix mistakes made in previous games.

"Nobody likes to lose, but sometimes it's more useful than a win," Lomers said. "It really allows guys to focus down and get better at their games. I think one of the big things is this team has the ability to focus down, learn and get better after a loss."

For Becker, Baylor prepared him for professional tennis

By JEREMY JOSEPH
REPORTER

As a crowd of 23,000 people rooted for tennis legend Andre Aggasi after he had just lost his final match of his career, one man could not help but feel mad.

"I wasn't really happy at that moment; I was more in shock. I felt kind of mad that I was the one who beat him," Benjamin Becker said.

Becker had just done something that would make him the answer to the trivia question "Who ended Andre Aggasi's career?" Becker, then the 112th-ranked player in the world, served an ace on the final point to upset Aggasi 7-5, 6-7 (4), 6-4, 7-5.

"It wasn't easy. I was a nobody. I looked up to Agassi; he was one of my idols. It's nice looking back now and it was a great experience," Becker said. "It's up there in my most memorable experiences. That atmosphere can't be topped."

That was in 2006. Now Becker is the 40th-ranked player in the world and holds one singles title as the winner of the UNICEF Open in 2009.

Becker, who was born in Merzig, Germany, began playing tennis at the age of seven; he turned his childhood sport into a college scholarship at Baylor.

Coach Matt Knoll saw a different Benajmin Becker when Becker came in than when Becker left Baylor.

"Benni was lost when he came here. He hated tennis; he didn't want to play anymore. He really came here as an alternative to tennis. He saw college tennis environment as a way of getting away from being a tennis player to try and focus on school," Knoll said.

Becker grew to love his teammates and that began to change him into a man wanting to play tennis.

"What really captured him when he got here was the team environment. He grew to love his teammates, the university, and the program and that kind of helped him to find his reason for wanting to train, wanting to play and wanting to be passionate about tennis again," Knoll said.

He played from 2001 to 2005

and, in 2004, led Baylor to its only NCAA championship and also to four Big-12 championships.

"Winning the NCAA championship was the most memorable moment I have in my career. We worked not only that year but previous years to get to that goal," Becker said.

Becker credits Knoll and Baylor in preparing him for professional tennis.

"Baylor helped me mostly by getting me physically and mentally stronger. I made the most out of the professional training there. We really worked hard physically and as I got stronger my tennis developed. Coach really helped me develop my game

"I wasn't really happy at that moment; I was more in shock."

Benjamin Becker
Former Baylor tennis player.

so I could hit stronger and play longer," Becker said.

Becker was also the 2004 singles champion and was named to the Big 12 10th-Anniversary team, which was selected in the 2005-2006 season.

Becker still loves Baylor and the tennis program; he continues to help the program by giving advice and helping current players on the tennis team. Senior Denes Lukacs spent some time in the summer with Becker.

"It was fantastic and a great opportunity for me to practice with a guy who is so high class and a top 50 player in the world, at least," Lukacs said. "I experienced how he practiced and how committed he was to work. There were a couple guys saying he was not the hardest worker in college, but when I went there we practiced six or seven hours a day. It was at least five hours of tennis and two hours of conditioning. It was a really intense five or six days that I spent there."

Becker is currently playing in the Delray Beach International Tennis Championships in Delray Beach, Fla.



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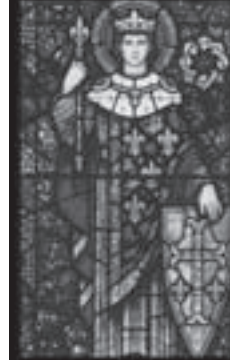


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Sports take: Bears' success irrelevant come March

It's that time of year again.

With March on the horizon, any college sports fan knows that along with St. Patrick's Day and spring break, the third month of

the year brings March Madness.

This year, Baylor basketball fans are hoping to once again see green long after St. Patty's Day.

In the 2007-2008 season, the Bears landed their first NCAA Tournament bid since 1988 but fell to Purdue University in the first round.

Though last season's late effort failed to land them a spot in the Big Dance, Baylor men's basketball fought its way to the NIT finals with something left to prove.

Now the next step for the

Bears is no secret to anyone: They hope to not only make the NCAA tournament, but also stick around awhile.

Though currently included in virtually everyone's NCAA tournament teams list, the Bears still have a question mark beside their name about exactly where they fit in the tournament picture.

As of this week, CBSports.com's Jerry Palm appears to be Baylor's biggest fan among bracketology experts, predicting a No. 4 seed. Meanwhile Joe Lunardi of ESPN.com and FOXSports.com/Bracketology 101 see the Bears as more of a middle-of-the-pack threat, giving them an eighth seed.

But to be dancing come mid-March, the Bears cannot overlook the importance of a strong finish in conference play and the conference tournament.

After putting away the Texas A&M University Aggies 70-66 Wednesday night, the Bears currently sit tied for fourth in the conference with the University of Texas and Texas A&M at 8-5 in

the Big 12 (21-6 overall).

Baylor's next three matchups include road trips to the University of Oklahoma and Texas Tech. After sure-handedly defeating both at home, the Bears have good chances to build momentum from the road victories before they head home in a rematch against the University of Texas to close out the regular season.

These games pack a little more weight than first meets the eye, as the Bears are still fighting to finish in the top four spots in the Big 12 heading into the conference tournament.

In doing so, Baylor could capture the much coveted first round bye.

Having split decisions with the Aggies but carrying a better overall record, the Bears gain the edge there. However, the finale against the Longhorns still carries big pretences as the Bears took the first matchup in Austin, but Texas managed one more win in non-conference play.

Thus, the Longhorns can squeeze into the fourth spot by

stealing a win away from Baylor at home.

First-round byes aside, what the Bears really need to play deep into March is momentum.

When March Madness comes around, you can forget records, forget tiebreakers and forget home court advantage.

In a few weeks when the Bears step onto the plane heading for whatever regional destination they are invited to (knock on wood), they might as well leave the binder filled with rankings, records and stats at home.

The team it is on paper, the team it is now and even the team it will be the week before the NCAA Tournament will no longer matter.

All that matters come March Madness is what you do when you step on the court, and arguably the most valuable thing that you can bring to that court is momentum.

Matt Larsen is a sophomore journalism major from Katy and a sports writer for the Baylor Lariat.



SARAH GROMAN | LARIAT STAFF

Quincy Acy drives the lane during Wednesday night's 70-66 victory against Texas A&M University.

No-named defense excelling for Team USA

By MARK WHICKER
McCLATCHY NEWS

Don't ask these guys to compare this to the playoffs. They're ignorant. And blissful.

Jack Johnson? His next NHL postseason game will be his first for the Kings. Erik Johnson plays for St. Louis. He wouldn't know either.

Ryan Suter, 11 playoff games. Tim Gleason, 18. That's more than half of the seven-man Team USA defense corps, the guys who put the pins back in the grenades, the guys whose mistakes, this week, will resound through the hockey world and not just into the San Fernando Valley, if they ever make any.

On Wednesday, the Americans spent enough time in the Switzerland zone to learn ski jumping. They got there because

Johnson and Johnson and Suter and Gleason and the rest of the soft-sold U.S. defense refused to hiccup, and were so consistent that goalie Ryan Miller will be playing in the semifinals Friday with essentially four days rest.

Yes, the U.S. is still around, thanks to a 2-0 victory over Switzerland and stubborn goalie Jonas Hiller, who returns to the Ducks' wars next week on a personal high.

"He was phenomenal," U.S. coach Ron Wilson said of Hiller. "He played the way we expected. We had to tell our guys they were playing fine."

"I tried to get into his head a little bit," said Bobby Ryan, Hiller's Ducks teammate. "He gets in the zone, though. I thought I saw a smile behind the mask at one point, but I wasn't sure."

After two periods, the U.S.

had 32 shots and the Swiss eight. Although it was 1-0 until Zach Parise's empty-netter, there was no desperate Swiss rally that Miller had to handle. Not that they weren't desperate. They just never had the puck.

"I've really been pleased with our young defensemen," Wilson said. "They haven't been in big games like this."

Some have.

Brian Rafalski won Stanley Cups in Detroit and New Jersey, Brooks Orpik did in Pittsburgh, and Ryan Whitney got to the Finals in Pittsburgh.

But this, everyone said, was why the U.S. would be a nice but fleeting story in this tournament. It had no headline defenseman. No Pronger, no Niedermayer, no Lidstrom. Not even a Weber or Doughty.

"We didn't just pick stars,"

Wilson said. "Some guys, you have to twist their arms to get them to go into the shooting lane."

They team wasn't often forechecked, but it had to deal with an old-style, neutral-zone jam that is designed to create three-on-twos. Young NHL players haven't seen much of that.

"We had to simplify our game and not get frustrated," Erik Johnson said. "The first five or 10 minutes of the game you can play with the puck and play skilled hockey. Then the ice just goes to hell and you really have to chip the puck out and make really smart, easy chips off the glass."

"I knew we had a good D corps. I think it's underrated. But we're gonna look pretty (darn) good if (Miller) keeps this up."



ASSOCIATED PRESS

Switzerland goalie Jonas Hiller sprawls in the goal after missing a shot in the second period of a men's quarterfinal round ice hockey game Wednesday against USA at the Vancouver 2010 Olympics in Vancouver, British Columbia.

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SPACE

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the field to effectively handle the amount of information expected from this research.

“Hopefully we don’t get flooded to the point where there’s too much information,” Greenwald said. “There’s only so many researchers, there’s only so many people interested in the field, so there’s going to be a huge amount of data that’s just sitting there for a while. Unless we can get more people interested, it’s just going to be sitting on the shelves collecting dust, so to speak.”

However, Russell said he believes the vast amount of information is part of the reason that it is being made available to the public.

“It is so much information that they feel like there’s enough for everyone and that science will benefit much more by making it available because there’s no way they could possibly learn everything there is to know from it,” Russell said.

Greenwald said the speed with which the data will be made available will be helpful in personal research.

“The information is going to be given for free 60 seconds after, and that’s amazing,” Greenwald said. “That’s nice to be able to get stuff instantaneously to compare with your own data if you’re doing research.”

Russell said the quick release of data will allow students to study new developments with-

out delay.

“As the groups are studying data in a new way, we will be part of that,” Russell said. “We won’t be learning about it five years later— we’ll be learning about it as they do it.”

Though the first information available from the LSST surveys won’t be available until 2014, Russell said there is some similar research, which students can participate in now, at galaxyzoo.org.

“If [students would] like to get involved with astronomy research of this type, the galaxy classification project called Galaxy Zoo will let you participate in classifying new galaxies by going to this Web site,” Russell said. “The goal of this having people participate is to classify these galaxies; if other things are discovered, great, but it’s very focused in its goal.”

Russell said he is participating on the site and would like to incorporate it into his classes so that the students can take part in real science.

“I’m doing it and I’m thinking of adding it to the class as an class activity,” Russell said. “The classroom always seems removed from the real data in astronomy, but in this situation they are looking at actual images and their input is contributing to the classification, so they’re really doing science in this project instead of doing exercises.”

DISTRICTS

from pg. 1

District 56 Race

The incumbent in this election is Republican Charles “Doc” Anderson. He has been a veterinarian in Waco since 1981 and can often be spotted wearing his famous cowboy hat.

Currently, Anderson is serving his third term as the state representative for District 56. He has been appointed to the statewide Agricultural Policy Council, the multinational Energy Council and the National Conference of State Legislatures Committee on Agriculture, Energy, and the Environment. Anderson serves on the Community College Caucus, Rural Caucus, Veteran Caucus, Clean Air Caucus, Republican Caucus and Texas Conservative Coalition.

According to a Dec. 3 press release, Anderson is consistently considered one of the most conservative legislators in Texas.

“The next session of the Texas Legislature will deal with many serious issues facing our state and our region,” Anderson said in the press release. “I am excited about the opportunity to continue to play a leadership role in the Texas House and to ensure that the interests of our special part of Texas continue to receive the attention they deserve.”

During his time as representa-

tive, he has secured funding for the Waco skate park and TSTC, as well as fought the controversial voter ID legislation.

More recently, however, there has been some controversy in Anderson’s career. On Feb. 4, the U.S. Internal Revenue Service filed a second federal tax lien against Anderson. A lien gives the federal government a legal claim to a person’s property as security or payment for any outstanding tax debt.

Anderson’s first lien on Dec. 21 was filed for \$58,122, for unpaid personal taxes in 2003, 2006 and 2007. His second, filed Jan. 25, was for \$11,522. In a statement, Anderson responded by saying that this was due to a dispute with the IRS, which he has since resolved.

Fighting for his shot at this seat in the Texas House is John Mabry, a Democrat and attorney in Waco at Dunnam & Dunnam, a law office where current District 57 Representative Jim Dunnam works.

Mabry is a two-time Baylor graduate, receiving his undergraduate BA in 1992 and a Juris Doctor degree in 1995. He held the District 56 seat from 2003-2005, before he was succeeded by Anderson. This is the first time that Mabry will be running for this seat since then. Mabry said he looks forward to working

with Dunnam on the state level if he wins.

“In the 78th Legislature, when he and I both served together, we did a very good job of serving the needs of McLennan County residents,” Mabry said.

“We worked very hard to protect the gains that we had made in protecting Lake Waco and furthering educational issues which are obviously important as a foundation for our community.”

Mabry worries about the recent federal tax liens against Anderson.

“I think that the people of McLennan County and District 56 deserve better representation,” Mabry said.

“His almost 12-year history of not paying his taxes shows that he is either extremely careless or incompetent in managing his own and business financial affairs.

“That indicates that he is likewise unqualified to handle our financial affairs on the county and state level.”

District 57 Race

Democrat Jim Dunnam is the incumbent in this race. He has been in the Texas House of Representatives since 1996 and served as the Democratic House leader for the last four terms.

He serves as the chairman of the Select Committee on Federal

Economic Stabilization, which is working to ensure that spending from stimulus dollars is accounted for and transparently used.

In the seven sessions he has held this office, legislation passed included bills to improve emergency services to rural areas, protect local drinking water, ensure smaller class sizes for elementary students, strengthen laws against drunkdriving and clean up Texas’ troubled charter schools.

During the campaign, Dunnam is going to focus on improving local schools and public safety, encouraging job growth and economic development, increasing access to affordable health care, and protecting the environment.

“I’m not going to be making elaborate promises,” Dunnam said in a Jan. 4 news release.

“If re-elected, I will continue to do what I’ve done for the past seven sessions — represent the views of my constituents in Austin and worked to improve our community and our state.”

Competing against Dunnam is Republican candidate Marva Beck. She is the Leon County Republican Chairman.

State GOP spokesman Bryan Preston told the Houston Chronicle that Beck is a very formidable candidate, who has many ties to the Waco and area community.

PARENTS

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dent Blakeley Winslow will also be an advocate during the event. He hopes to make the process easy and have the families feeling better about their situation once they leave.

“My goal is for [the families] to at least apply for benefits before they leave and know that there is aid out there to help them in the community,” Winslow said. “I want to help them not be intimidated by the process and make sure that no one gets confused or is unable to find what they are looking for.”

Kruschwitz said that along with serving as advocates, some students will also be helping out with child care at the event while the parents are out visiting the booths.

Some students of the Baylor School of Social Work will help sign up participants for benefits and students of the Spanish department will help translate for Spanish-speaking participants.

Tate, Winslow and Kruschwitz all encourage more Baylor students to come help out with Saturday’s event.

“I have been financially blessed in my life and I think a lot of other Baylor students fit into that category, so this is a good opportunity to understand someone who has lived a different lifestyle and to really get into their world,” Tate said.

Any Baylor students interested in helping out with the workshop should call 254-752-3000.

SOCIAL

from pg. 1

Tufts University may have paved the way for universities to have a more well-rounded application process and in turn gained a more accurate perspective of who a student is before granting or denying him or her admission.

Texas Christian University dean of admissions, Ray Brown, plans to revamp TCU’s application to incorporate social media.

“It really is something that we’ve considered doing for about a year now and I would guess that we’ll pull the trigger on that

this summer,” Brown said.

Brown also said they would be keeping the writing portion because selective schools need it, but that they are planning to redo the essay questions that have gotten a little stale.

“At the very least [a video] offers greater insight into the student, which is why we’d probably have a link to a YouTube video,” Brown said. “we always want to know more, not less.”

Currently, Baylor does not offer the video option.

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BEAR BRIEFS

Men’s Basketball

The No. 24 Baylor men’s basketball team travels to Norman, Okla., Saturday to take on the Oklahoma Sooners at the Llyod Noble Center at 12:47 p.m. The game will be televised on the Big 12 Network (rebranded ESPN Plus), live in Central Texas on CWTX/The CW (Time Warner 165/Grande Channel 15) and KBTX. It will also be available on ESPN Full Court (pay-per-view) and ESPN360.com. The Baylor men’s basketball team come off a win over Texas

A&M 70-66 Wednesday, with LaceDarius Dunn leading the Bears with 23 points.

Women’s Basketball

The No. 17 Lady Bears will play Kansas on Sunday at the Ferrell Center. The Lady Bears come off of a 65-63 win over Texas A&M, where Griner had 22 points and a season-high 21 rebounds.

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

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