

OPINION PAGE 2

Student government endorsements

“Under Michael Wright’s leadership, the regents will hear students’ opinions in a manner that will promote growth.”

NEWS PAGE 4

Medical mission

Students plan Kenya mission and will raise money through benefit concert Thursday

SPORTS PAGE 7

Senior pitcher walks on

Star player’s injury allows senior pitcher to walk on after four years removed from the game

Psychology research garners recognition

BU researchers find that early factors like childhood intellect can affect obesity later in life

By SARA TIRRITO
STAFF WRITER

Members of the educational psychology department recently won the 2010 Society for Applied Multivariate Research Poster Session presentation competition at the Southwestern Psychological Association Annual Conference in Dallas.

Educational psychology doctoral students Greg Ryan and Xiau Qiu worked with assistant professor of educational psychology Dr. Alex Beaujean to prepare their research project and presentation, “Cognitive Epidemiology: The Influence of Personal and Cognitive Ability in Health Outcomes.”

The team analyzed data from the National Longitudinal Study of Adolescent Health, which gathered data from thousands of subjects nationwide in their teens and again later in their lives, to determine whether personality factors and/or intelligence are predictors of obesity or being underweight.

“We were trying to flesh out what other variables might have

some impact on that,” Ryan said. “We were running that through looking at things like personality, socioeconomic status and levels of activity so we could predict levels of obesity and [being] underweight.”

The team’s results indicated that both childhood socioeconomic status and intelligence could be used to determine whether people would be obese later in life.

However, when looking at each of those factors combined with the subject’s participation in individual sports, the ability to predict the outcome became greater, Ryan said.

“We found that they each had a predictive value on obesity,” Ryan said, “but when they were run through this variable of participation in individual sports that they kind of had an amplified effect.”

Ryan said the research could potentially help individuals live healthier lives.

“If we know where people fall in certain categories, then we can try and shape services to reach them to better the health outcomes,” Ryan said. “If people can be led to [better] health outcomes, that means they aren’t as much of a burden on the health care system, but more importantly they’re living a better quality of life.”

At the competition, seven groups of students and faculty made presentations of their research and posters to various groups of judges and visitors.

SWPA program chair and SAMR treasurer Jeanne Burdsal was one judge for the competition. She said there were several criteria for judging each presentation.

“The methodology for us is a big part of it, but also how well were you able to tell what you were doing and how well did you present it,” Burdsal said. “For them it just all came together.”

Meeting other researchers and speaking to them in-person about the team’s research was beneficial, Ryan said, because it allowed the team to give deeper explanations on specific points and also allowed others to share ideas with them.

“It’s a great way to network and meet other people in your field,” Ryan said. “We’re all together smarter than we are separately.”

Beaujean said for the team to win the competition reassured him that their work was headed in the right direction.

“When your peers who have no vested interest say that it’s good, that’s always a good indication that you’re going down the right track,” Beaujean said.

Distinguished law professor gives last BU lecture



DANIEL CERNERO | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Mark Osler delivered his last lecture as a Baylor professor Monday. He will take a new position at St. Thomas Law School in the fall.

By LELA ATWOOD
REPORTER

Law professor Mark Osler gave his last lecture at Baylor Monday night before taking a new position at St. Thomas Law School in Minneapolis next fall.

The streams of conversations were silenced as Osler stood at the lecturn. He spoke of moments at Baylor that had touched his life and gave words of advice.

He started out by comparing life to the Law of Perpetuity and how lives and societies change, sometimes unexpectedly.

“The rule of perpetuity, there’s always exceptions: 80-year-old pregnant women,

things like that,” Osler said. “This law says the person who’s long gone can decide what happens. One thing, if the law doesn’t progress, our culture and society doesn’t progress and we don’t know where it’s going.”

Osler also said the world is in dire need of people of diverse professional backgrounds working together.

He told of a project where law students worked with architecture students to build an architecturally sound prison.

“No one human needs it, but the world needs it,” he said. “The world needs people who are willing to think that way. Think, ‘How can I make it better?’ Who

can I partner with?’ And yeah, maybe you don’t need it on your transcript, but the world needs it desperately.”

Nicholas Chu, president of Student Bar Association, and a second-year law student from Grapevine, said Osler’s passion makes his lectures come alive.

“There’s something about him that makes a great teacher,” said Chu.

“It’s the way he approaches teaching. He understands that we might not have that same background as him, but he’ll try to show us why we need to be passionate about that. That approach goes a long way; it really helps the class make a great class.”

Peter Pope, a third-year law student, said Osler’s passion changed the course of his life.

“I had done an internship with a defense attorney and had decided that I wanted nothing to do with criminal law at all,” he said.

“I wanted to take one of Osler’s courses because I had followed him on his blog and heard just great things. I think it was the second day of class, I was like: ‘This is what I’m supposed to do.’ He had changed my perspective on my internship, changed my perspective on the law in general.”

see **OSLER**, pg. 9

Stranded fliers await departure

RAMIT PLUSHNICK-MASTI
ASSOCIATED PRESS

HOUSTON — Gerda Wohl breaks down in tears in front of a Lufthansa official. Kristel Remes worries about how she will get the \$5,400-a-month leukemia medicine she needs to survive. Jeroen Heuvel says he will hitchhike home to the Netherlands.

Hundreds of tourists, businesspeople and visitors are stranded in Houston because of the ash cloud from the Icelandic volcano that is wreaking havoc in European airspace, canceling flights and shutting down airports there.

And as the hours and days of waiting pile up, so do the worries, bills, questions, frustrations and rumors.

At the Lufthansa ticketing counter at George Bush Intercontinental Airport on Monday, a station manager tells an expectant crowd the volcano is erupting again.

Eyes and ears strain. Fingers fly across cell phone keypads as passengers text the information along. Reality check: Meteorologists in Iceland say the volcanic eruptions are weakening and the ash is no longer rising to a height where it will endanger large commercial aircraft. European officials hope more flights will make it through on Tuesday.

But for those stranded in Houston — and across the United States — this may be little consolation.

“We are flying to Frankfurt. If you live in Frankfurt, you’re in great shape, anything beyond that you’re on your own,” the Lufthansa station manager announces.

Wohl waves boarding passes in his face. She tells him she’s been in Houston since Thursday. Wohl’s weeklong Las Vegas vacation ends on a standby list with no departure date or time.

see **PLANE**, pg. 9



ASSOCIATED PRESS

Airline passenger Gerda Wohl of Frankfurt, Germany, reacts after listening to an announcement about flight departures at George Bush Intercontinental Airport on Monday in Houston. Wohl has been stranded since Thursday. Many flights have been canceled due to the volcanic eruption in Iceland, which closed most of Europe’s airspace.

High-schoolers visit BU campus

Collegiate World Series promotes higher education with campus tour

By JOHN D. ELIZONDO
REPORTER

About 30 students, most of them from the Rio Grande Valley, visited Baylor this weekend to participate in the Baylor version of the Collegiate World Series and learn all about the admissions process and what it is like to live at Baylor.

The National Hispanic Institute worked with Baylor to bring a smaller version of the Collegiate World Series to campus.

The institute holds the statewide event every year and attracts college representatives from all over the Texas, but this was the first time it decided to create a small version of its event to be about one university.

Baylor admissions counselor

Amanda Ramirez, who is responsible for recruiting students from the Texas-Mexico border, was at the forefront of making this event exclusively for Baylor.

Ramirez, who is a Brownsville native, said she knows from experience that it is difficult to attract first-generation college students to Baylor from low socioeconomic areas.

“Bringing the kids from that area was my main focus for the event when we started thinking about who we wanted to be a part of it,” Ramirez said. “Sometimes these kids do not have the chance to come visit Baylor on their own.”

The participants of the event completed a mock admissions process where they did an application, sample SAT, sample essay and a letter of recommendation request. They also talked about financial aid and took a campus tour of Baylor.

see **COLLEGE**, pg. 9



It's time to vote for your leading Bears

Editorial

The Lariat spent Friday with those student leaders running for student body president, external vice president and internal vice president in order to help you with your impending decision. The voting begins Wednesday.

Student Body President

Michael Wright is the best option for a new student body president. As the current internal vice president, Wright was in the center of any and all dissension within Student Senate, the administration and the regents. Wright has working relationships with numerous administrators and while those relationships do not qualify him for the job, they will be of the utmost importance once President-elect Ken Starr takes his position. Baylor, now in a transitional period, will operate much differently in years to come. Wright faced the consequences of the actions made by student government members this year. His experience with our current student administration will provide powerful lessons on how passionate Baylor students are and how important it is that their voices are heard. This year student government failed to truly focus on students and their concerns because they were preoccupied with regents. Wright understands that a balance between the students and regents must be reached. Baylor students need a ca-

pable advocate and they can find that in Wright. Under Wright's leadership, the regents will hear students' opinions in a manner that will promote growth. Wright plans to continue Issue of the Week and sees the importance of presenting statistics to the board when advocating changes on behalf of the student body. Wright has played a significant role in presenting various items to the Board of Regents and was a crucial factor in the board's decision to give more one-on-one time to student body officers. Across the board, student government failed to take students' concerns into account this year. Wright is the best option to maintaining a working relationship with administrators while increasing the avenues and strength of student voices in the upcoming year. Wright's experience alone is not what qualifies him for the position but because of Starr's appointment, it is an inevitable deciding factor. Wright's ability to work with administrators will be key in working with our new president. Wright has plans to increase scholarships for students and backs the ideal that as tuition increases, upperclassmen's scholarships should too. Wright is the best choice for student body president because he will be students' advocate while professionally adjusting to

the new administration.

External Vice President

For a position that deals with external communication and political involvement, it is clear that Thousand Oaks, Calif., junior Kate Williams is the best choice. Williams is a candidate who has the experience, knowledge and drive to operate as an effective external vice president. Williams, the current communications director for student government, has experience working with each branch of student government. She was a key factor in the creation of the new communications committee within student government, a committee that has laid the groundwork for more constructive and clear communication between student government and the Baylor community. Williams worked directly with both current external vice president Emily Saultz and current student body president Jordan Hannah. She is well aware of the progress Saultz made with the Box Tops program and plans to continue following the five-year plan student government constructed. Williams' experience with the tax-free textbook legislation and her plans to find new state sponsors is a necessary quality in the next external vice president. Her professionalism is exactly

what Baylor needs in order to enact legitimate change, both in Texas and on Capitol Hill.

Internal Vice President

The role of internal vice president is perhaps the most mysterious to students. An IVP works mainly with the Student Senate and attempts to foster healthy debate on all bills and allocations before they move through the Senate. With that in mind, students' best option for their new internal vice president is Paul Baumgardner. During his tenure as a student senator, Baumgardner has worked to utilize allocation funds responsibly and efficiently. He is the current chairman of the finance committee and has worked with several campus organizations to fund events through avenues other than student government funds. Baumgardner authored the largest bill in Student Senate history at \$20,000 for last year's Diadeloso festivities. Baumgardner's stewardship is phenomenal and he has the knowledge of parliamentary procedures to properly lead the senate. Baumgardner, a proponent of transparent communication, hopes to strengthen the ties between student government and on-campus media. Through his economical consciousness, his aspirations for open communication and his leadership abilities, Baumgardner is the best choice for a new internal vice president.

Lariat Letter

Soulforce visit: positive, but demonstrates need for continued growth

First, a disclaimer: the following views are my own and don't represent the views of Baylor student government or Student Senate as a whole or those of any individuals affiliated with student government.

When I read last week's Lariat article reporting on Soulforce's visit, I was pleasantly surprised. Seeing a picture of the vice president for student life having a discussion with a member of a group that actively promotes values assailed by the Baylor administration — on the front page of the university paper, no less — was something I didn't expect to see in my time as a student. Based on Dr. Kevin Jackson's e-mail the day before Soulforce's visit, I was expecting hostility similar to the group's 2007 appearance, which resulted in the arrests of several Soulforce members and a Baylor student.

That the visit occurred without incident and in the presence of a high-level administration official speaks volumes about both parties, and each should be commended for their behavior. The visit marks a great achievement in Baylor's promotion of diversity and acceptance of conflicting beliefs, especially those at odds with traditional Christian values.

But those actions should only mark the beginning of Baylor's transformation into a university that actively promotes a Baptist worldview while treating all students, regardless of faith, values, sexual orientation, or any other intrinsic personal characteristic, equitably.

As a private institution, the Baylor administration has the undeniable and unfringeable right to promote those values it agrees with while doing everything in its power to reject and limit the impact of those it doesn't.

The fact that faith is so strongly integrated with the Baylor experience is one wonderful effect of this reality, and there are certainly other positive aspects of student life that are the direct result of Baylor's private status. This status is inseparably linked to Baylor's identity as a uniquely Christian university and is something that should remain wholly intact.

As an institution of higher learning, however, Baylor shoulders the responsibility of preparing its students to enter the world to work amongst, serve and lead its citizens — a responsibility clearly reflected in its mission statement and in multiple university documents. Implicit in that responsibility is providing students with opportunities to engage with individuals and organizations with values and goals different from their own, something the "real world" is sure to be full of. That responsibility goes beyond allowing "one-on-one conversations ... in public areas" and enacting policies that promote "meaningful dialogue" in theory but are so incredibly restrictive as to prevent that dialogue in practice (quotes from Jackson's April 5 letter).

As adults with the ability to think and reason, students should be allowed to meet with, discuss and even amicably argue with their

peers on a variety of issues. Anything less is a disservice to the university's mission of preparing its students for interaction with a world that is markedly different than the environment cultured by the administration.

Regardless of individual views or opinions, all students should be given the opportunity to meet with peers and discuss issues that are controversial, divisive and difficult — not because it's the "right" thing to do, but because it presents opportunities for incredible personal growth. Why are study abroad programs available at Baylor? Why, as students, do we have to complete courses that are sometimes completely unrelated to our academic interests? Why does Baylor as an institution "seek students from a range of backgrounds to enrich our community" (Baylor 2012, Imperative IV)? All of these things are done with the understanding that exposure to different cultures, areas of study and life experiences, respectively, are valuable to personal development. The administration's decision to actively prevent that diversity from being expressed by students is conspicuously at odds with these other programs aimed at broadening students' experiences. I can think of no greater way to promote this form of growth than giving students the chance to meet without restriction and use their resources to dialogue about and share their beliefs, regardless of whether those beliefs are religious, cultural or social in nature.

As Baylor marches onward to its goal of earning a spot among the top universities in the nation, this issue will only become more significant. Remaining true to Baylor's Baptist tradition is necessary in order to maintain the holistic integration of faith and learning that's so highly valued at this university, and the university absolutely should not endorse or promote any values other than those in accordance with Baptist ideals.

However, simply giving all students the ability to hold meetings, organize events and serve the student body via official recognition — not endorsement — by the university can only lead to a more fulfilling and meaningful interactions within the student body.

By giving students the opportunity to expose themselves to these different points of view, the administration can more effectively fulfill its mission as a university while offering its students a richer, more inclusive, and more diverse student life experience in their time at Baylor. Such interactions are integral aspects of student life at the universities Baylor is aspiring to become yet entirely absent on this campus.

I look forward to a time when student organizations with missions different from those of the university are treated no different than currently chartered organizations; at that point, the university can then truly begin preparing its students for a life of service, scholarship and leadership in an ever more diverse world.

Alex Cole
Roanoke junior

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Please Recycle This Issue

Honors students strengthen theses with travel

By LAURA REMSON
STAFF WRITER

A trip to New York, New Zealand or Paris sounds pretty incredible, but two Baylor honors students found a way to incorporate these trips into their school-work and theses.

As part of their graduation requirements, honors college students are required to write a thesis and then present it as part of Honors Week, which was last week.

Albert Beck, admissions and advisement coordinator for the honors college, explained a little about the theses process.

"As far as traveling for research purposes, I would say it's not all that common," Beck said. "Most students find adequate resources here. A lot of them will be doing projects in the lab if they are in sciences or they'll do interlibrary loaning to get most secondary sources."

Beck said the impact of on-site research is significant and often makes for the best types of theses.

"A thesis that's completed with primary sources - going directly to a person or character that's being studied - those often are going to be strong theses," Beck said. "Traveling may allow you to access archives or private collections of texts and writing that can give a new dimension to that research project, hopefully, bringing to light some things or facts that hadn't been recognized in the past. Research travel, if done well, can really provide the foundation for an excellent thesis, and that's what we see in the case here of Julie Hamilton and Avery Erratt."

New York City, Paris and Princeton

Julie Hamilton, a senior Great Texts and religion major from Fort Worth, completely changed the argument of her thesis after traveling throughout the United States and to Paris.

"My thesis primarily focuses on the 20th century French artist Georges Rouault from Paris,

France," Hamilton said. "I became interested in his art from one of my Great Texts courses about three years ago, and I'm very interested in the study of theology and aesthetics. With him I was considering what is beauty and the role of his [Rouault's] art. And as I began doing research, I realized one of the distinct qualities of his art is how thick his paintings are, and that can't be seen on a computer screen or book image."

After this realization, it became clear to Hamilton that the only way to accurately and completely study this artist was to travel to see some of his work in person.

"My first trip was to New York City in August. The Museum of Modern Art, MoMA, had some of his works, but none of them were displayed in the museum," Hamilton said. "Everything had to be done in the vault. I kind of got an experience of what that's like, what professional research is like — putting on the white gloves, handling everything in person."

After traveling to the Dallas Museum of Art and also to the Princeton University Libraries to see Rouault pieces in vaults, Hamilton realized a pattern in that the art was owned in collections in the United States but was not traditionally exhibited.

In some places, this had been the case for more than 30 years.

"This kind of prompted my inquiry of what was going on," Hamilton said.

She then began her international travel for her thesis.

"After I got funded from the Honors College and the Institute for Faith and Learning, I made appointments with the actual Rouault Foundation and his three grandchildren run this in his old studio, in his apartment," Hamilton said. "It was such a surprise. I expected to go over there and just show up to a museum and no, it was you walked into his house and it's his living room. His paintings were hung as if it was his home. His whole room was set up still with all of his oils and canvas as if he was walking in to paint that day."

Hamilton described a conversation with Rouault's granddaughter where she pointed out the correct portions of Hamilton's argument, and in turn, drastically changed the direction of Hamilton's research as a whole.

"It was very frustrating," Hamilton explained. "I had done a lot of work to get to that point and I was all ready. I thought I was going to graduate in December, but ended up completely starting over. And obviously not graduating until May, but it was like I learned about him personally through the process and I wasn't going to write something to make myself look good. I guess it was more to discover who he was and make sure he was portrayed in an accurate way. His granddaughter told me he has been misunderstood and miscategorized since he lived."

Hamilton knows and understands the value of this firsthand experience.

"Everything in my research was made possible through my trip, certainly the field research," Hamilton said. "I was pursuing a completely different argument. I had already starting writing it and was formulating my research and when I got there and talked to his granddaughter, the argument that I would have made, it sounded good, so in the case of reading it, it would have sounded solid, but it wouldn't have been true to his work. I completely set my entire argument in my chapter aside and I never used it again."

"I need to be face to face with a piece of art to understand it right," Hamilton said. "I don't work well working just with images in books. To me, it's part of a story and, in learning their story, that part of their story is added to my life and I carry it with me."

New Zealand

Bryan senior Avery Erratt learned about young children's literature author Margaret Mahy in a course with Dr. Tom Hanks, professor of English. Erratt's thesis focuses on a number of Mahy's works.



COURTESY PHOTO

Avery Erratt, shown with author Margaret Mahy in Mahy's home in New Zealand. Erratt traveled to New Zealand in order to speak with the author about her works for Erratt's thesis research.

The idea to travel hadn't crossed Erratt's mind until Hanks brought it up.

"I never thought that I would be able to go or that anyone would want to give me money to go," Erratt said. "At the beginning of last year, I wrote to Margaret Mahy to ask her if I could come and interview her and she wrote me back really quickly, which was exciting. We ended up getting the money from the English department and the College of Arts and Sciences, Honors College."

Erratt was able to visit Mahy's home in Governor's Bay and spend some time interviewing the author.

"It was pretty terrifying," Erratt said of the trip. "I've read all of her books and I'm really impressed. She has really amazing thoughts and the idea of inter-

viewing her - I mean, there were a lot of people who were really helpful to me, but just going into it was exciting and terrifying. It was really neat to talk to her because she has such an interesting and unique voice. And she has so much to say. She's a natural storyteller."

Erratt traveled to New Zealand with her mom, Tammi.

She said Tammi and Mahy knew songs in common and at one point began singing old songs at the lunch table.

"The actual interviewing was really short, but I got to talk to her a lot before and after that and get some camaraderie built up because she's 74," Erratt said. "It took a while for both of us to get really comfortable so it was really neat that we both got to do that."

Erratt is thankful for the opportunity to travel and interview

in person.

"I never thought I would get to do anything like this for my thesis project," Erratt said. "I never thought I would get to meet such amazing authors with so much to say. I guess I would take from this anything is possible. In my future studies I shouldn't limit myself to what I think is obviously possible and should strive for the more exciting, more unusual projects and research."

Erratt isn't putting her thesis to rest just yet.

"I'm actually going to be doing a little more," Erratt said. "Dr. Hanks and I talked about doing articles that relate more specifically to the interview and using that in articles. My thesis is about that but it's more influenced by her ideas without as much direct quotes. So I plan to keep working on Margaret Mahy."

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Eyes on Kenya: Medical service team prepares for trip

By NEELY GUTHRIE
REPORTER

The second annual Kenya Medical Missions team is set and heading to Kenya in approximately one month.

In that short time the member of the team are continuing to raise funds and will host a concert at 8 p.m. April 29 in Waco Hall.

The funds raised will contribute to the cost of travel and supplies.

Austin senior Audrey Campbell will be going on the trip for the second time and is looking forward to the concert.

"We decided since this project is going to be a 10-year commitment on Baylor's part, we thought we might as well hold an event that students can reproduce ... like Dia, but on a much smaller scale," Campbell said.

More information about the program will also be featured at the concert because so many people are interested. The program this year filled up quickly, so students can apply to go next summer.

This trip marks the second year of the 10-year commitment Baylor made to go to Kenya every summer in order to continue the multiple work projects in the community. Dr. Troy Abell, lecturer in anthropology and his wife, Dr. Lisa Baker, lecturer in Honors College, began the program after visiting the area and wanting to help the community realize certain goals.

"We met these people in the Nyakach plateau a number of years ago and we got to know them and decided we could be helpful," Abell said. "It doesn't have to be a 10-year commitment. It might be eight or 20—we would like to continue going there until they reach their big goals."

The community in the Nyakach plateau in Western Kenya wants to build a medical clinic, a school and a guest house where people can stay there while they get treated.

The mission trip is service oriented, but Abell said there is another reason for students to go.

"I think the main thing is that our project really has two emphases—a mission or service component to provide help to people who really need it," he said "And we are doing research and helping people there who already have really smart ideas about what needs to be done to help their community."

One of the tests students conduct while in Kenya involves taking a blood sample, which they then run through a program that breaks it down for malaria or diabetes.

Senior Emilie Bouassa Semalou, who went last year, even used the research gathered through the medical testing in her senior thesis.

This helps the community in Kenya because through analyzing the data, the team from Baylor has determined what the most prevalent diseases are in the area, what the most common problems are and how they can solve them.

"We're taking a group [made up of] students, professors, nurse technicians, EMTs and we will establish a semi-permanent clinic," Campbell said. "We will be passing out medication and seeing patients most of the time. The [Kenyans] don't understand what heartburn is, or why they're getting pregnant—real basic information, but information that can save a lot of lives."

The group will also be working to put roofs on several of the huts so it can collect the runoff from rainwater in order to have clean water.

Some of the proceeds from the upcoming concert will go toward the supplies needed for this project.

San Antonio junior Emily Watters is going on the trip for the first time and is excited about the work they will do in the community.

"We'll be planting fruit trees

for the orphans and we're doing construction, besides the clinic work," she said.

Another project includes giving out donated eyeglasses. These unique glasses, invented by Joshua Silver from Oxford University, have multiple lenses, so each person can put them on and adjust the lens until they see the clearest. Then they tighten the screws and that lens stays in place.

Campbell enjoys the work they do in Kenya, but said at first she struggled with some of the medical work the group does.

But with others' help she understood ultimately why they were there.

"We talked to the pastor there because a lot of us had a personal conflict that we would be saving [Kenyans] from an illness so they could just get it again," Campbell said. "But he said giving them another day gives them the chance to know the Father and we get that in return ten-fold...They teach us so much more about that than we could teach them."



COURTESY PHOTO

Kenyan women display their artisan work, available for sale at the Baylor Sciences Building in Dr. Lisa Baker's office. The sales of these hand-woven baskets will benefit their community in the Nyakach plateau in Western Kenya. The main goals of the community consist of implementing a medical clinic and school.

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Omega Kids: Making a Difference in Africa

By EMILY UNDERWOOD
CONTRIBUTOR

After seeing children living on the streets of Kenya without a home, guidance or identification, Jenne Blackburn was inspired to create an organization that would meet their most basic needs.

"I came back from Kenya and wanted to make a difference," said Blackburn, a 2009 Baylor graduate with a degree in communications and public relations. "I felt a responsibility when I saw multiple instances coupled with a large scale of need."

Blackburn went on a mission trip to Africa in 2006 to spread the Christian faith and said she returned to America with a newfound desire to help provide homes for the children living on the streets in Africa.

In the fall of 2006, Blackburn founded Omega Kids, an

organization that helps fund a rehabilitation home for orphans and children without shelter in Kitengela, Kenya.

The rehabilitation home, known as the Liberty House, is run by Boniface Mwalimu, a Christian pastor in Kitengela, who has spoken at Baylor in the past.

Mwalimu finds children on the streets and brings them into the home to begin their rehabilitation.

"Boniface named it the Liberty House because the kids are being given liberty to start a new life, and most importantly, to find freedom in Christ," Blackburn said.

Mwalimu spiritually mentors the children, who have recently converted to the Christian faith.

"Pastor Boniface gets up at 4 a.m. to minister to the kids, to take care of their needs and to

pray with them each day," said Alvarado junior Logan Adcock, who remains in contact with Mwalimu and helps collect funds for Omega Kids.

One of the main goals of Omega Kids is to send these children to school.

"The plan is to get them in school right now," Blackburn said. "They go off to school in shifts and then come back to the land and learn things such as candle-making, farming and woodworking."

Patrick and Justin, the first two boys to successfully complete the program, are both professional carpenters now.

According to Blackburn, the young boys' successful completion of the program and their continued success is in turn a huge success for Omega Kids.

"We want help those boys pay for their school fees and food and

clothes and many things that a child needs so that their have good life," Mwalimu said wrote in an e-mail to the Lariat.

Since 2007, an annual concert has been held outside on Fountain Mall on Baylor's campus and all the proceeds go toward funding the expenses of the Liberty House.

Ticket sales from performers, such as Dave Barnes, as well as T-shirt sales and private donations have been the main financial contributions to the organization.

While the concert will no longer be held on the Baylor campus, Omega Kids is looking for a new location to hold their next concert.

"Between \$15,000 and \$30,000 is raised each year and is currently going toward helping Boniface build a well to provide water for his farmland," Adcock said.

"It has been amazing to go

over to Africa and see how the money raised here at Baylor affects the lives of so many people."

Adcock said the well will greatly benefit the Liberty House because Kenya is suffering from a severe drought.

Mwalimu said they are trusting God to provide the water they need for farming.

Participation in Omega Kids has also provided rewarding experiences for people who have never been to Africa to see the children in the Liberty House, Adcock said.

"Being able to make a difference even though you cannot physically see the benefits is still very fulfilling," Ben Smith, a Waco senior who helped organize the concerts, said.

In 2008, Mwalimu had the opportunity to come from Africa to Waco to see a concert supporting

Omega Kids and to see how the organization operated in America.

"It was rewarding to see Boniface meet people at Baylor who have served blindly for Omega Kids," Blackburn said.

Mwalimu and Blackburn have worked together, ocean lengths apart, for the past four years and Mwalimu said he has developed a good friendship with Blackburn.

"I thank the Lord for Jenne and also the Baylor guys all of them for come to Kenya and finding me with vision of street kids," Mwalimu wrote.

Omega Kids has grown into an organization that, according to Mwalimu and Blackburn, is affecting many lives.

"From the street with no direction to a job and identification, these children's lives have been transformed," Blackburn said.

Oklahoma City bombing remembered Monday

Thousands gather to commemorate 15th anniversary

By TIM TALLEY
ASSOCIATED PRESS

OKLAHOMA CITY — It's been 15 years since a terrorist's bomb destroyed the Oklahoma City federal building, killing 168 people and injuring more than 600 others.

The passage of time hasn't made mourning any easier for many victims' family members.

"Time heals nothing," said Debi Burkett Moore, whose brother, U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development worker David Burkett, was killed.

She and other family members placed flowers on an empty chair meant to honor her brother that's among a field of chairs at the Oklahoma City

National Memorial.

"It makes it a little more bearable, but it heals nothing," Moore said.

About 2,000 people gathered at the memorial Monday to honor those killed and injured in the April 19, 1995, bombing of the Alfred P. Murrah Federal Building. At the time, it was the deadliest terrorist attack on U.S. soil.

For many in attendance, a visit to the memorial is an annual rite — a way to pause and remember a loved one, former colleague, friend or neighbor who died in the attack.

Kathryn Burkett, the mother of David Burkett, said she grows sadder by his absence with each passing year.

"Why it is sadder? I don't know why," Burkett said. "You just live with it."

Other victims' family members said they, too, still feel a deep sense of grief 15 years after the bombing.

"I don't make it here every year. It's just too hard. It's just like yesterday," said Cornelius Lewis III, who wore a T-shirt and medallion that bore the portrait and nickname, "Puddin," of his late sister, Social Security Administration employee Charlotte Thomas.

"In 15 years, I would never miss it," said her mother, Bettie Lewis. "This is part of our lives. I would never miss it." Another of Thomas' brothers, Guy Lewis, said his sister's life will never be forgotten thanks to new curriculum guidelines for Oklahoma students that mandate instruction about the Oklahoma City bombing and its aftermath.

"She's going to be in the history books. Her memory is going to live forever," he said.

Vickie Lykins and her sister, Angela Richerson, placed a rose, an American flag and a colorful purple ribbon on the chair honoring their mother, Norma "Jean"

Johnson, a former Defense Security Service worker who was killed.

"This is our mother's favorite color," Lykins said as she solemnly secured the ribbon to the chair. Lykins said she misses her mother "very much" but preferred to keep her feelings about the bombing anniversary and her mother's death to herself.

"There's a lot of things we could say. But we won't," she said.

During a ceremony for bombing victims and survivors, U.S. Homeland Security Secretary Janet Napolitano said the city's spirit in the wake of the tragedy served as an example to the nation.

Napolitano also said the bombing anniversary was a reminder of "the continued need for vigilance against the violent ideologies that led to this attack, so that we can recognize their signs in our communities and

stand together to defeat them."

"We cannot put a glass dome over our country. We cannot guarantee there will not be another attack. No one can," Napolitano said. "But we are a strong and resilient country. And we can resolve that even a successful attack will not defeat our way of life."

Across Oklahoma City, people observed 168 seconds of silence to honor the dead. Some dabbed away tears as the ceremony closed with family members reading a roll call of those who died.

"What defines us as a nation, as a people and as communities is not what we have suffered, but how we have risen above it, how we've overcome," Napolitano said. "We can resolve that the Oklahoma Standard becomes the national standard."

Attending the ceremony was Charlie Hangar, the Oklahoma Highway Patrol trooper who stopped bomber Timothy

McVeigh on Interstate 35 the day of the blast because his 1977 Mercury Marquis did not have a license plate.

Hangar, now the Noble County sheriff, read the memorial's mission statement at the start of the service. U.S. Rep. Mary Fallin, R-Okla., the state's lieutenant governor at the time of the bombing, read a congressional resolution commemorating the anniversary.

Prosecutors said McVeigh's plot was an attempt to avenge the deaths of nearly 80 people in the government siege at the Branch Davidian compound in Waco exactly two years earlier.

McVeigh was convicted on federal murder charges and executed in 2001.

McVeigh's Army buddy, Terry Nichols, was convicted on federal and state bombing-related charges and is serving multiple life sentences at a federal prison in Colorado.

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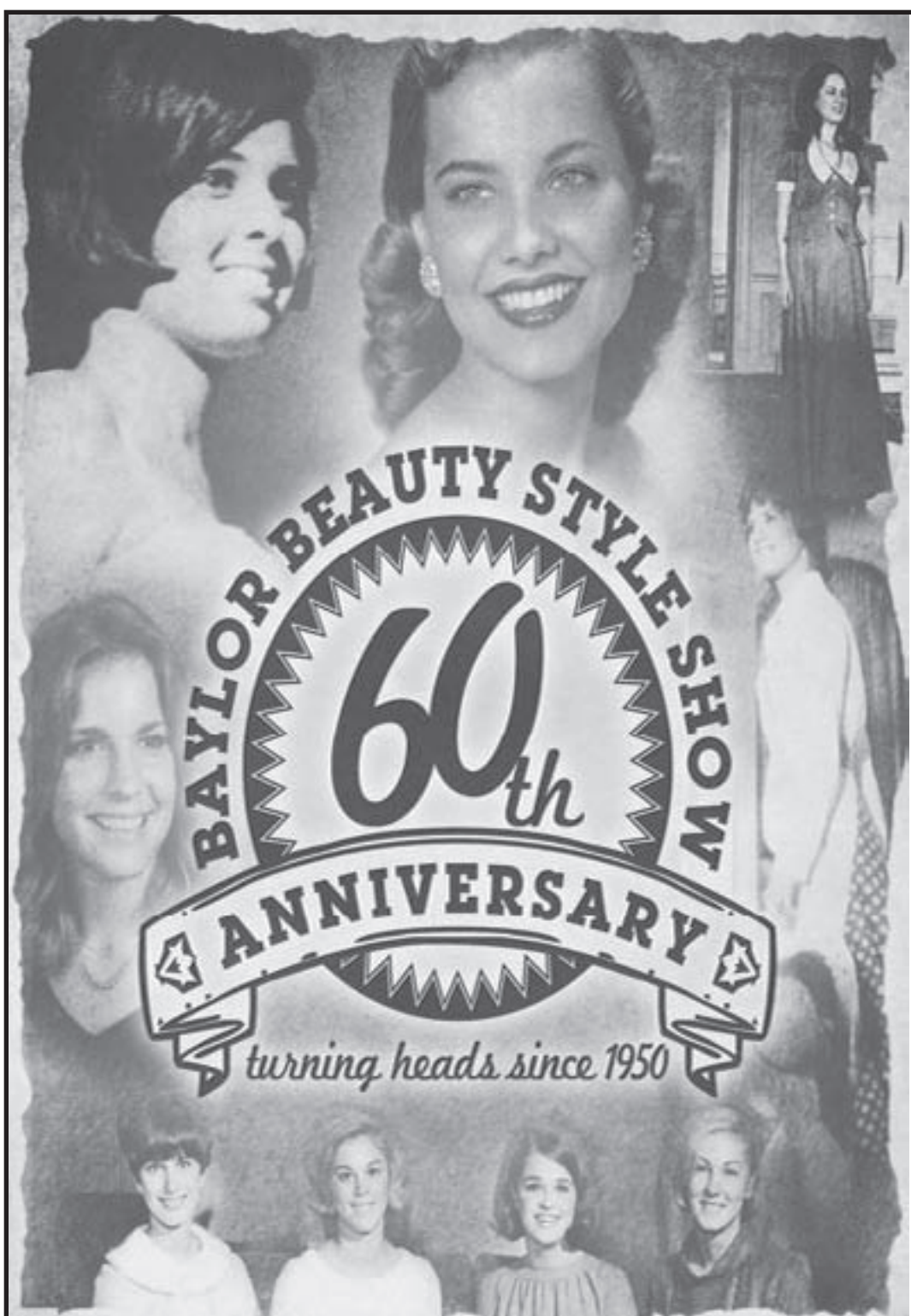
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Black Glasses to showcase films at Hippodrome

By JAMES BYERS
REPORTER

The 11th annual Black Glasses Student Film Festival has moved from the Baylor campus to the Waco Hippodrome.

Fifteen short student films will be screened beginning at 7 p.m. Friday. Tickets are \$5 for adults and \$3 for students.

The three-hour festival, which includes an intermission, will be followed by a reception next door at the Hippodrome annex.

"The film festival is designed to give students a sense that what they do in class is not just projects that no one will ever see,"

said Brian Elliott, senior lecturer of film and digital media. "If they aspire to do great work, we will help support them by showing their work."

Dr. James Kendrick, assistant professor of film and digital media, said awareness for the festival has increased because of the venue change from the Castellaw Communications Center to the Hippodrome.

"By showcasing it like this, we give students a venue for their work to be seen, appreciated and responded to," he said. "And by having it on campus, it kept the larger community out."

Elliott said showcasing the

films at the Hippodrome gives the festival the feel of a real premiere.

"Students get a sense that there's more prestige, that there's more at stake for what they're doing," said Elliott. "But there won't exactly be a red carpet."

Film and digital media faculty members selected the 15 films, including dramas, comedies and documentaries, which will be shown at Black Glasses. Most of the films are 10 to 20 minutes or less. A trailer for director of film and digital media Chris Hansen's film "Endings" will also be shown, along with Baylor alumnus B.K. Garceau's film "One

Day," a festival award winner in 2009.

Several winners will be crowned immediately after the films are screened Friday. Prizes will be awarded for best picture, best editing and best cinematography, as determined by film and digital media faculty. Audience members will also vote for their own favorite film. Winners will receive trophies and Best Buy gift cards.

Many of the student films were made for class, but other students submitted films they made in their free time.

"I'm always amazed by the artistry that students display in

their films," Kendrick said. "I've been very impressed this year, as I am every year."

Corsicana senior James Cole made an animated short film, "White Cat," featuring a dog, a cat and a rabbit with evil intentions.

"I'm trying to challenge the American conventions of cartoons," he said. "I guess I'm trying to shock people in a way. I just want to challenge people's perceptions of cartoons."

Because of time limitations, all of the films must be relatively short. Elliott said telling a compelling story in such a short amount of time can be challenging.

"A lot of our students come here having seen Hollywood movies all their lives, and they want to tell a huge blockbuster movie," said Elliott. "Learning how to tell a story in 10 or 15 minutes, and how to tell it well, that's a very difficult thing to do."

Fortunately for students working on a tight budget, they have access to the department of communication studies' technology, including high-definition cameras and professional editing software.

"Our students are very innovative and clever," said Kendrick. "They find ways to make things happen."

'Kick-Ass' proves to be fun but inconsistent experience

By JAMES BLAKE EWING
REPORTER

"Kick-Ass" is, at its simplest, a spoof of the superhero genre. However, the film's attempt to also be a serious superhero film makes for an uneven, albeit fun, experience.

Dave Lizewski (Aaron Johnson) wonders what many a comic nerd might wonder: Why hasn't anyone tried being a superhero before? Being a comic geek himself, Lizewski decides to don a scuba suit and a mask and fight crime under the name Kick-Ass.

Real life has a way of being not as cool as the comic books. However, that doesn't stop father-daughter duo Hit-Girl (Chloe Moretz) and Big Daddy (Nicolas Cage) from being the perfect crime fighting team, bent on taking down drug lord Frank D'Amico (Mark Strong).

And it's in this setup that the film runs into its first contradiction. The film states simply that anyone who tried to be a superhero in real life wouldn't last a day. And the film establishes this by having Kick-Ass take an absolute beating on his first day. However, the Hit-Girl and Big Daddy characters have all the finesse, grace and agility of gunmen in a John Woo film. The film bends its own thesis in order to justify their existence.

Perhaps this isn't a surprise given that Hit-Man and Big Daddy are essentially the Batman and Robin duo. Likewise, Kick-Ass is essentially Spider-Man, and even has his own Mary Jane.

The film plays with these roles a bit, but it still doesn't excuse the fact that they've essentially taken elements of other superhero movies and slapped them into one film without adding a sense

of originality.

What separates this from the other numerous superhero films is its tone. The film is first and foremost a comedy, prodding fun at the self-importance of these crazy people who masquerade as superheroes. It also plays with audience expectations by subverting the genre to comedic ends. The results are funny, but not often as hilarious as they could be.

This is because, for all the jokes the film contains, it still wants to be as serious, dramatic and dark as the superhero films it's making fun of. There's a scene late in the film that has the same tone and style as a similar sequence in "The Dark Knight." And scenes like that subdue the chuckles a bit. It's hard to know how to react when one moment the film wants us to laugh as Kick-Ass takes a beating and the



McCLATCHY TRIBUNE

Kick-Ass (Aaron Johnson) and Hit-Girl (Chloe Grace Moretz) try their hand at being real-life superheroes in the film "Kick-Ass."

next moment it wants viewers to believe he is heroic.

It also doesn't help that the action sequences shift in and out of styles. In one scene the action is slick and tight but in the next scene it's erratic and almost incoherent.

However, the last act of the film is a superb extended action sequence that this summer will be hard pressed to top. It's fast, fun and filled with finesse.

It's when the film hits those highs that it's at its best. Despite how uneven and contradictory

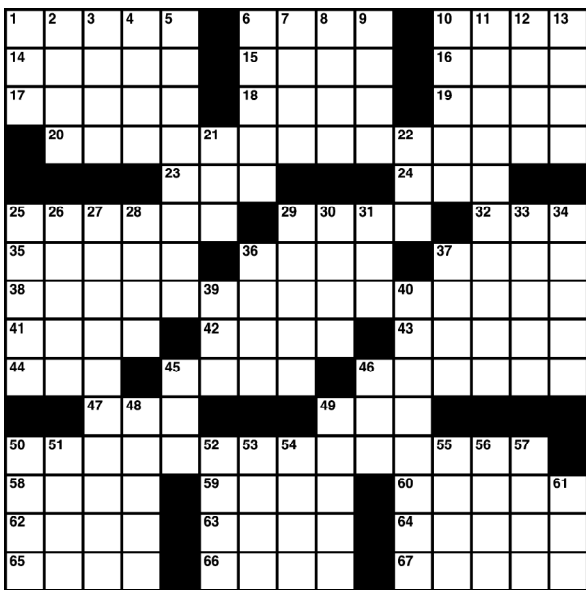
the picture is, it's a blast to watch. You may not know what to think of it by the end, but chances are if you're a fan of comics or action you'll have a great time with "Kick-Ass."

Grade: B

FUN TIMES

Find answers at www.baylorlariat.com

McClatchy-Tribune



Across

1 Indian region known for its tea
6 Etta of old comics
10 Winery vessels
14 "The Lord of the Rings" hero
15 Trendsetting
16 Words after laugh or whoop
17 Lisa of "The Cosby Show"
18 Popular depilatory
19 Frozen breakfast brand
20 RIGHT
23 Stephen of "The Cry-ing Game"
24 Charged particle
25 Polar bear's domain
29 Nonpaying train rider, perhaps
32 Balloon-breaking sound
35 Irritant "in your side"
36 Verdi's title princess
37 Brett Favre's number

38 RIGHT
41 Thor's father
42 Mideast bigwig
43 __, meenie ...
44 Anatomical egg holder
45 Maxwell Smart's nemesis
46 Make plump
47 That boat
49 Ending for refuse
50 RIGHT
58 Comedian Roseanne
59 "One giant leap for mankind" site
60 Figure of speech
62 Colored part of the eye
63 Feel concern
64 Chutzpah
65 Use a keyboard
66 Help badly?
67 Prepare to be knighted
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1 Langley or Laughlin: Abbr.

2 Sellout signs
3 PlayStation maker
4 Yemen port
5 Ramada, for one
6 Land of Obama's father
7 Cheese in red wax
8 "Yay, tomorrow's Saturday!"
9 Neophyte
10 Mission __, California
11 How banks are usually robbed
12 Port pullers
13 Dog in a primer
21 Japanese information technology giant
22 Brazilian hot spot
25 One of the Musketees
26 Valerie Harper role
27 "FoxTrot" or "Dilbert"
28 Suffix with cyclo or jumbo
29 Old sound systems

30 Febreze target
31 Ingot
33 Bellybutton type
34 Fuss over oneself
36 Bullets and such
37 Worry
39 Affirmative vote
40 Vulnerable spot in a chain
45 Barbie's guy
46 Christmas tree choice
48 Trigger, e.g.
49 Three trios
50 More than 51-Down
51 Not even 50-Down
52 Village People disco hit
53 Ancient kingdom near the Dead Sea
54 "Look out, golfers!"
55 Snake-and-fruit story setting
56 Blaze
57 "Slithy" thing in "Jabberwocky"
61 Filmmaker Gibson



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ASSOCIATED PRESS

Cleveland Cavaliers' LeBron James, right, drives past Chicago Bulls' Luol Deng in Game 2 in the first round of the NBA basketball playoffs Monday night. James scored 40 points to lead Cleveland to a 112-102 win.

James' late surge pushes Cavs by Bulls

By TOM WITHERS
ASSOCIATED PRESS

LeBron James scored 40 points and took over in the fourth quarter as the Cleveland Cavaliers maintained home-court advantage by beating the Chicago Bulls 112-102 on Monday night to take a 2-0 lead in the Eastern Conference playoffs.

James added eight rebounds and eight assists for the Cavs, who led 96-93 with 4:30 left before the league's soon-to-be-two-time MVP decided to dominate. He dropped a 3-pointer over Joakim Noah that he capped with a quick dance move and wink toward Chicago's bench, made two free throws, a layup and two jumpers, scoring 11 straight as Cleveland opened a 107-98 lead with 1:36 left.

Noah, who criticized Cleveland's lack of downtown activity between Games 1 and 2, had 25 points and 13 rebounds. Derrick

Rose added 23 points.

James spent the first 3:26 of the fourth on the bench getting rest. When he returned to the court, the Cavs were clinging to an 85-82 lead over the Bulls, who were giving top-seeded Cleveland all it could handle and were intent on evening the best-of-seven series.

With the Cavs up three points, James then pulled up for his 3-pointer over Noah, who had criticized Cleveland's superstar for dancing on the court in a game earlier this season. James, though, gave a little shoulder shake after his basket and then capped his personal outburst with a jumper over Kirk Hinrich just before the 24-second clock expired.

"In Game 1, I was very hesitant and trying to feel out the defense too much," said James, who went 16 of 23 from the field. "They were giving me the jump shot and I just wasn't taking it. I

watched a lot of film from Game 1 and knew as soon as I caught it they would back up, and I could get an opportunity to shoot a jumper."

The Bulls were more physical than they were in Game 1, but couldn't stop James. He delivered one of those did-he-really-do-that dunks in the first quarter, a soaring slam over Chicago's James Johnson. The dunk shook the backboard, not the Bulls.

They trailed by 10 points early in the second quarter, but worked their way back with extra effort, especially on the offensive glass.

Noah grabbed four of Chicago's eight offensive rebounds in the first half, resulting in 13 second-chance points. Anthony Parker's 3-pointer put the Cavs up 50-44, but with O'Neal on the bench after picking up his third personal, Noah scored six straight points as the Bulls pulled within 52-50 at halftime.

From the lab to the circle

Four years removed from competition, McFarlin walks on to Baylor softball team

By MATT LARSEN
SPORTS WRITER

Most college seniors spend their last few weeks before graduation hunting for a job, hopefully doing something they love. However, during her waning weeks as a Bear, Whitehouse senior Courtney McFarlin gets to return to something she loves — playing softball.

"It's a great way to end my senior year here, to be on the Baylor softball team," the right-hander said. "It's great to be back out here on the diamond and enjoying it."

After sophomore Whitney Canion went inactive for the remainder of the season with a stress reaction in her forearm, head coach Glenn Moore made the decision to hold open tryouts for the third pitching spot on his roster, and McFarlin fit the bill.

"She definitely fits the mold of what we were looking for," Moore said. "Our expectations were not that we would have an All-American pitcher here on campus, but that we would have somebody that could come in and save pitches for Courtney Repka and still give us a chance to win ballgames."

McFarlin took the mound for the first time as a Lady Bear on April 12 against Oklahoma Christian University, pitching 5.1 innings and giving up three runs on seven hits in her college debut.

Though the senior took the loss, none of the three Eagle's runs were earned, keeping her ERA at 0.00 after her first outing.

"Really our defense let us down, and our offense let us down," Moore said. "Going the five innings that she threw and staying around the plate and in the zone, I don't think I could have asked for anything more from her."

McFarlin lettered in softball all four years of high school, earning two-time District 17-4A Defensive MVP honors her junior and senior year.

She was named 2006 first-team



COURTESY PHOTO | BAYLOR PHOTOGRAPHY

Senior Courtney McFarlin delivers a pitch April 12 against Oklahoma Christian University. McFarlin joined the squad after Whitney Canion was sidelined for the rest of the season with an arm injury.

All-East Texas after leading her team to a runner-up district finish during her senior year of high school.

Having not thrown in a game near the competitive level as Monday in nearly four years though even a nutrition sciences major had to deal with the issue of getting back in shape.

"My legs weren't quite in shape," she said. "Coach has been great working with me getting my pitches back in the groove."

Still, McFarlin found her throwing motion without too much searching.

"It's like riding a bike," she said. "You don't really lose your pitching."

Her teammates appreciate her quick return to form as well as her willingness to contribute to the

team's goals, no matter her role.

"She came in and answered a cry for help," senior catcher Courtney Nietsen said. "She is doing everything she can to make this team successful, whether that means she is throwing batting practice, or coming in and throwing very solid innings [in] her first Division I game."

As for her role the rest of the season, Moore anticipates using her primarily in batting practice and the remaining non-conference games against the University of Houston.

Nevertheless, the 10th-year coach knows better than to rule out a change of mind.

"You never know. She is a part of our bullpen now," he said. "If we feel there is a place to use her, we'll throw her in there."



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Women's basketball coach Kim Mulkey speaks to a crowd at the Ferrell Center Monday evening. The Bears and Lady Bears were honored by Mayor Virginia DuPuy (far right) and the city of Waco for their historic tournament runs.

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OSLER from pg.1

Brian Harrison, a third-year law student, said Osler's background as a law prosecutor helps his classroom teaching style. "Because he's a former federal prosecutor, you see his life experience come through in his teaching," Harrison, who is a researcher for Osler, said. "You also see demonstrations of effective techniques he's used in the courtroom in the classroom. It's more than theoretical; it's practical." Dr. Hulitt Gloer, a seminary professor who team-taught with Osler, said Osler lives out his faith professionally and personally. "He embodies walking, doing justice, loving mercy," Gloer, who worked with Osler for eight years, said. "And he's not afraid to let his faith enter into his practice. In his classroom his faith is very important and it's a determining factor in the decisions he makes in his life, and he believes that it must be the case in his practicing law does as well."

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PLANE from pg.1

"It's not fair that people who arrived yesterday or today are first on the airplane," said Wohl. Down the corridor, a similar scene plays out at KLM's counter. "The flight will only be to Amsterdam and you will be responsible for the rest. There will be no connecting flights," a KLM official tells the crowd. For some, this is fine — they will rent a car, get on a train or even, they say, call their wives to drive them the 620 miles home. For others, it's useless, like a group trying to get home to Turkey who don't have visas for Holland. Meanwhile, in front of a Starbucks, tourists become allies in a quest for food and lodging. Virginia Jorion from Brussels has bought her 8 and 9-year-old children T-shirts emblazoned with the quote "Houston We Have a Problem" in the hopes of getting attention from the airlines. Remes, who's worried about her leukemia medication, spent a night in a sleeping bag in the train terminal. The group forced the airlines to hand over some pillows and blankets after making protest signs Sunday. The two dozen or so passengers can't afford a hotel. Some have even run out of money to buy food. Jeroen Huevel is worried if he spends too much money he will not have enough, once he arrives in Europe, to make it home to Enschede, Netherlands. Marlene McClinton, a spokeswoman with the Houston Airport System, said cots and food will be available Monday night. And the Wildwood United Methodist Church in Magnolia, Texas — about 20 miles from the airport — is offering to take in dozens of stranded passengers, said Rev. Rustie Moore. The church has classrooms, a kitchen and showers, she said, and parishioners are willing to pick up the passengers from the airport. "We want to make sure that they're taken of and that they're shown hospitality and that's what we're about," Moore said. "We would like to demonstrate that in something bigger than words."

COLLEGE from pg.1

"We tailored everything to Baylor so they were learning about our admissions process and what we were looking for and how we could help them get here," Ramirez said. "What they should do their senior year of high school, how they should prepare for scholarships, looking for grants, how to fill out the FAFSA application." Ramirez also said students who participated were selected because the university knew the students would be admissible to Baylor, be at the top of their class and be looking forward to college. Jonathan Cantu, participant and junior at La Joya High School said he worried about the affordability of Baylor and its seven-hour distance from his hometown, but the experience changed his mindset. "I learned that there are many different ways to pay for college such as grants and scholarships, plus Baylor is a very close campus and that is really nice," Cantu said. "Before I didn't see Baylor as somewhere I could go, but now it is at the top of my list." Cantu said the best part of the weekend was being able to live on campus with a college student and to see first-hand what a day is like and what to expect in the future. San Antonio sophomore Cindy Lopez was one of the host students and said she enjoyed showing a future college student what the experience is all about. "Hosting a student was really fun and we were able to talk to her about Baylor in a less academic sense," Lopez said. "It was great to share the college atmosphere with her that she would normally would not get on a campus tour." Overall Ramirez said the weekend was a success and she hopes that the university would be able to host this event next year. "Doing an event such as this — we hope that this would be the pioneer for working with other national organizations and being able to do a more multicultural event," Ramirez said.

Bangkok poised for another demonstration

By THANYARAT DOKSONE
ASSOCIATED PRESS

BANGKOK — Soldiers in full combat gear garrisoned the Thai capital's central business district Tuesday as thousands of anti-government protesters nearby threatened to disrupt Bangkok with a major rally. More offices closed and at least one hotel reportedly shut down temporarily in face of another possible eruption of violence and a dramatic drop in tourist arrivals. Leaders of the so-called "Red Shirt" protesters said they would stage an "important" demonstration today but did not disclose their specific plans. Prime Minister Abhisit Vejjajiva — speaking on government-run television channels — said he would not set a date for protesters to be forced out of their encampment at a busy intersection in the heart of Bangkok's shopping and hotel district. The demonstrators have camped out on the streets of the Thai capital since March 12. The Red Shirt protesters, formally known as the United Front for Democracy against Dictatorship, initially were camped in a historic district of Bangkok. A failed April 10 attempt by security forces to flush protesters from that neighborhood erupted into the worst political violence Thailand has seen in 18 years, leaving 25 dead and more than 800 wounded. "Let's not draw a deadline (to remove the Red Shirts)," Abhisit said. "I do realize Thais are troubled, that everyone wants it to be quick ... But there are many factors they have to take into account." The protesters consist mainly of poor rural supporters of former Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra and pro-democracy activists who opposed the military coup that ousted him in 2006. They want Abhisit to dissolve Parliament immediately and call new elections. They believe Abhisit's gov-

ernment is illegitimate because it came to power through a parliamentary vote after disputed court rulings ousted two elected, pro-Thaksin administrations. The conflict has been characterized by some as class warfare, pitting the country's vast rural poor against an elite that has traditionally held power. Armed troops initially moved before dawn Monday to block entry to Silom Road in the heart of the central business district, patrolling some of the city's most famous bar strips just off the main street. "I'm worried about the force allocation pattern here. It looks greater than necessary for just guarding the Silom area," said a protest leader, Nattawut Saikua. "They are making it into a killing field." Demonstrators braced for battle by stockpiling paving stones. After a tense face-off early Monday, the troops pulled back almost halfway down the road's 1.5-mile (2.5-kilometer) length to protect a key target of the protesters, the headquarters of the Bangkok Bank, which was barricaded by razor wire. The Red Shirts claim Bangkok Bank has close ties to the government, and have protested in front of the building previously on a smaller scale. Many of the demonstrators also pulled back, but piled rudimentary weapons at the intersection where the road begins. Buapeuan Puisuwan, a jewelry craftsman who works in the Silom area, held a 2-feet (0.6-meter) long bamboo rod tightly in his right hand. His eyes were locked on a pedestrian bridge on the other side of the road where security forces stood. About 100 bamboo poles, some sharpened, were distributed to protesters standing at one of the entrances leading to their main stage. "I'm sure the soldiers will storm in. We don't really have anything to fight against them," Buapeuan acknowledged. "I know a bamboo pole can't handle whatever they have, but I'll stick

with it anyway." Tensions were also heightened a day earlier, when the rival, establishment-backed, "Yellow Shirt" protest movement vowed to take action unless the government deals with the crisis. The group occupied Bangkok's airports for a week in 2008 to protest a Thaksin-allied government. They retreated after Abhisit became prime minister, but many fear their return if he is forced out. "The situation at the moment is even more difficult to solve than before April 10 because deaths and injuries have occurred. The government and the protesters have confronted one another more often. Another round of crackdown is still possible," said Prinya Thewanaruemitkul from the law faculty of Bangkok's Thammasat University. During the earlier street battles, the military lost a senior officer and suffered scores of other casualties among its troops, who were mostly equipped for riot control rather than lethal combat. The majority of the dead, however, were civilians. The government accused "terrorists" armed with guns and other weapons of orchestrating the earlier violence and says weapons were stolen from the military that have not been returned. Army Spokesman Sansern Kaewkamnerd said Monday that the officers deployed on Silom Road "have the right to carry weapons to protect themselves, and (I) believe the society finds it acceptable." The virtual occupation of key areas of Bangkok by the Red Shirts has hit Thailand's lucrative tourist industry hard. "All (hotels) are in bad shape as there are no tourists coming to the country," The Nation newspaper quoted Prakrit Chinamouphong, president of the Thai Hotels Association, as saying. The newspaper said The Holiday Inn Bangkok closed down temporarily and others were expected to follow.

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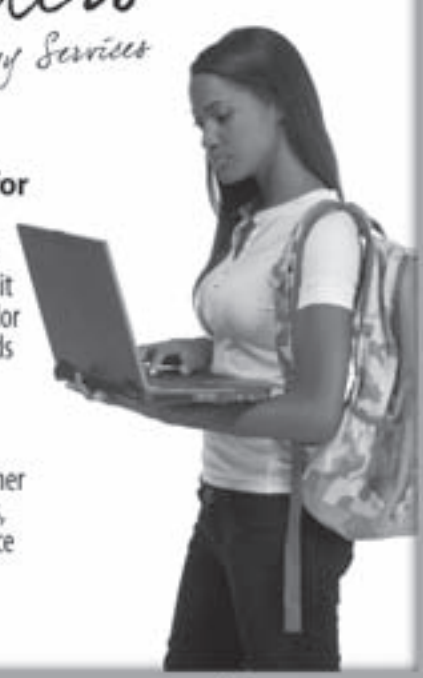
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| 2021 S. 22nd | - | 4B/2B | - | \$1,800 |
| 106 Garden | - | 4B/4B | - | \$1,800 |
| 204 Garden | - | 4B/4B | - | \$1,800 |
| 2614 S. 2nd | - | 4B/4B | - | \$1,800 |
| 2616 S. 2nd | - | 4B/4B | - | \$1,800 |
| 2616 S. 3rd | - | 4B/4B | - | \$1,800 |
| 2721 S. 3rd | - | 3B/1B | - | \$1,295 |
| 2401 S. 16th | - | 3B/2B | - | \$1,350 |
| Oxford Park | - | 4B/4B | - | \$2,250 |
| Oxford Park | - | 3B/3.5B | - | \$1,850 |
| Twenty Twenty | - | 4B/4.5B | - | \$2,380 |

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| Casa Blanca III #203 | - | 2B/1B | - | \$550 |
| Timberwood #2202 | - | 2B/2B | - | \$1,200 |
| Castleberry # 6 | - | 3B/3B | - | \$1,650 |
| Castleberry # 1 | - | 3B/3B | - | \$1,650 |

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| | | | | |
|--------------|---|--------------------|---|---------|
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| 1717 S. 17th | - | 4 bedrooms/4 baths | - | \$1,250 |
| 1907 S. 5th | - | 1 bedroom/1 bath | - | \$595 |
| 2014 S. 8th | - | 4B/4B | - | \$1,800 |
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