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Merits of online courses
"Online lectures take away from the physical activity of getting up and going to class..."

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Tips from a pro
Trial attorney and Baylor alumnus John Hill returned to campus to discuss leadership and passion

NEWS Page 3

What's next?
Faculty Senate began discussing its role in Baylor's strategic planning process at its meeting Tuesday night

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NICK BERRYMAN | LARIAT PHOTOGRAPHER

First lady Alice Starr gives a lecture to students and teachers about public relations Tuesday in the Castellow Communications Center.

Alice Starr shares PR advice

By CARMEN GALVAN
STAFF WRITER

Messages of bold innovation and creativity were the highlights of Tuesday's Public Relations Student Society of America meeting as students and faculty gathered to hear Alice Starr, first lady of Baylor, speak about her experiences in the public relations field.

Although Starr graduated with a bachelor's degree in psychology from Skidmore College and a master's degree in college administration from the University of Miami, she has more than 30 years of experience specializing in nonprofit public relations. Starr was asked to share with students what she has learned from her experiences, which includes constantly brain-

storming for new and innovative marketing strategies and publicity techniques.

"I don't have any schooling in public relations, but I do know that you benefit when you get more and get good publicity in your local newspaper and when businesses know about you and know that they grow because you are doing something," Starr said. "You can't sit back and say, 'Woe is me. We're not popular right now.' You have to create your own publicity. You need to make an announcement with bold strategies that are overtaking. Every year you have to come up with new ideas and you have to keep at it, think of new and innovative ways to get people's attention."

Starr also shared her top pub-

lic relations tips, such as to always be positive in your message and remain positive in your response, and to always follow up with businesses and let them know they are appreciated. She advised students to be bold and to ask for sponsorship and support because everybody likes being asked and being able to help. One of Starr's strongest messages, though, was to be bold and innovative, but to focus on one simple message. Starr applauded the Baylor media relations as they repeat the Baylor message with logos, press releases and constant updates through social media.

Starr also took the opportunity to encourage students to rise up in supporting Baylor events. She asked students to attend cultural events hosted on campus as well as

art exhibits and special exhibits at the Mayborn Museum Complex, but she stressed the need for student attendance and participation at Baylor athletic events.

"We have an assignment to rise up," Starr said. "It is up to the students to do it and to spread the word." At this point, Starr asked students for suggestions on how to attract more attendance at games and one student suggested Baylor develop its own version of the Bat-Signal, from the Batman series, with an interlocking BU. Starr seemed pleased with the idea and said she would tell Karla Leeper, chief of staff to the president, because her husband is a lighting designer.

SEE **STARR**, page 4

Bush signs his book in Dallas

By JAMIE STENGLE
ASSOCIATED PRESS

DALLAS — Autograph-seekers lined up around a Texas shopping center Tuesday as former President George W. Bush officially kicked off the release of his new memoir at a bookstore about a mile from his Dallas home.

First in line were Terry and Tammy Jones of suburban Justin, who had camped out since the previous afternoon with sleeping bags and a portable DVD player. They said when they told Bush of their wait, he said he would sign their books "with admiration," shaking 53-year-old Terry Jones' hand and kissing his wife's.

"Eighteen hours for two seconds and a kiss on the hand," Tammy Jones, 52, said with a smile.

Terry Jones said they wanted to tell Bush "thank you." He said he admired Bush because "when he makes a decision, he sticks with it."

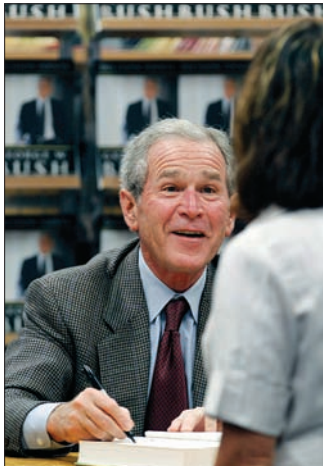
In an interview that aired Tuesday on "The Oprah Winfrey Show," Bush told the talk show host that writing the memoir "was an easy process."

"A lot of people don't think I can read, much less write," Bush joked to Winfrey.

As in the book, Bush also recounted the mistakes of his presidency, saying he still feels "sick" about the fact no weapons of mass destruction were found in Iraq. His response to Hurricane Katrina could have been quicker, he said, and he acknowledged he didn't see the financial meltdown coming.

No stranger to harsh criticism, Bush had nothing negative to say about President Barack Obama, whom Winfrey famously supported in 2008.

"I didn't like it when people criticized me," Bush said. "And so you're not going to see me out there chirping away (at Obama).



ASSOCIATED PRESS

Former President George W. Bush signs a copy of his book "Decision Points" at a store near his Dallas home on Tuesday.

And I want our president to succeed. I love our country."

Largely out of the public view since he left office, Bush is now vigorously promoting his book, with planned appearances in Illinois and Ohio later this week and as the featured author at the Miami Book Fair International this weekend.

Among the memoir's revelations, Bush confirms the target of a 2007 Israeli airstrike was a Syrian nuclear reactor and suggests he quietly approved the action. He also reveals that Israel first asked the U.S. to bomb the site, but his administration refused.

The Syria section is just a small part of the book generating buzz for its surprising candor, while Bush's continued defense of harsh tactics used against terrorist suspects — such as waterboarding — has created an uproar in some areas, especially Europe.

Israel, one of the few places Bush remained popular throughout his term, has been far kinder.

SEE **BUSH**, page 4

Griffin recognized for season exploits

By TYLER ALLEY
SPORTS REPORTER

Sophomore quarterback Robert Griffin has been named a semifinalist for two prestigious collegiate awards: the Maxwell Award and the Davey O'Brien Award.

"It's an honor," Griffin said. "O'Brien's just for quarterbacks and Maxwell is for everyone, so whenever you become a finalist for an award like that, it's big. So I'm just honored, and I'll continue to go out and impress and make sure this team continues to win football games."

The semifinalists for the Maxwell Award, which is given to the nation's most outstanding collegiate football player, were announced Monday. Griffin is among 16 finalists for the award, with five being from the Big 12.

"Any time you have an award of that stature with anyone in your program, that's big," Griffin said. "Coach [Art] Briles congratulated me for it earlier today. I didn't know much about it. Any time you have that kind of attention coming to your university, good things happen."

The Maxwell Award has been presented since 1937, making it one of the oldest awards in college football. The award was named after legendary college player, official and sports columnist Robert "Tiny" Maxwell. The award is presented by the Maxwell Football Club.

"The Maxwell Football Club honors excellence at all levels of football," Ron Jaworski, president of the Maxwell Football Club, wrote in a message on the club's website. "From youth, through the professional ranks, [the club] is involved in promoting football 365 days a year."

The Davey O'Brien Foundation and selection committee announced Griffin among its list of 16 semifinalists on Oct. 25. The

"It's an honor ... and I'll continue to go out and impress and make sure this team continues to win football games."

Robert Griffin | Quarterback

Davey O'Brien National Quarterback Award is given to the nation's best collegiate quarterback and is named after a native Texan and sports hero.

"He was great off the field as well as on the field," said Anna Glazer, associate director of the foundation. "He had great character. He not only played professionally, but also went on to serve in the FBI."

The selection committee consists of 85 representatives, including writers, commentators and broadcasters at the regional and national level. The criteria they



DANIEL CERNERO | PHOTO EDITOR

No. 10 quarterback Robert Griffin makes a throw from the pocket against Texas on Oct. 30 at Darrell K Royal-Texas Memorial Stadium. Griffin is nominated for the Maxwell Award and the Davey O'Brien Award.

consider for the award consists of quarterback skills, academics, character, leadership and sportsmanship. However, the O'Brien Award also allows fans to participate in the voting.

"The fans are out there every weekend," Glazer said. "They should have some say and know that they can make a difference. We have the largest fan vote component of any other

[collegiate] award."

The field for both the Maxwell and the Davey O'Brien will be narrowed to three finalists on Nov. 22. Fan vote for the O'Brien Award is reset after each round.

The winners will be announced Dec. 9 on the Home Depot College Football Awards Show on ESPN.

Fans can vote for Griffin at www.voteobrien.org.

Traveling speaker, artists to stop at BU

By JADE MARDIROSIAN
STAFF WRITER

On Monday Waco Hall will play host to CROSSroads, a universitywide event sponsored by AFTERdark, featuring live music and guest speakers who will discuss Jesus' relevance in the world today.

AFTERdark, not to be confused with Baylor's annual student talent show, is a national traveling event headlined by internationally known speaker Joe White that has stopped at more than 140 college campuses across the nation. Waco junior Brennan Bailey said he thinks Baylor is lucky to be hosting AFTERdark through the event CROSSroads.

"It's a really big deal that AFTERdark is coming to Baylor and I'm excited to see Baylor respond and come out and see what Joe has to say," Bailey said.

Along with White, Baylor football wide receiver Terrance Ganaway will also speak, and recording artist David Barnes and hip-hop recording artist Flame will perform.

Bailey said CROSSroads is a night where message and music meet, and it's designed for people of all different backgrounds and belief systems.

"It's an event with great music and a really special message that is completely designed for us being in college," Bailey said. "Joe has been called one of the top 10 influencers of the century and I

don't think this is an event people can afford to miss."

McKinney junior Rebecca Eddy worked at Kanakuk Camps this summer, where the director encouraged college students to work to bring the CROSSroads nationwide ministry to their schools. Eddy said she was excited to work to bring CROSSroads to Baylor, and believed it would be like bringing her great summer to her campus.

"Joe White speaks and gives this really interesting and conveying presentation of the gospel in a way that you wouldn't expect," Eddy said. "He carries in this really long tree onto the stage and then cuts it into a cross. It's a once-in-a-lifetime experience."

Bailey said he hopes CROSSroads will serve as a catalyst to open a dialogue and introduce new thoughts about spirituality to students.

San Antonio sophomore Dan Manuppelli heard about CROSSroads from friends at other schools and is planning to attend Monday based on their recommendations.

"It sounds like a great event to get closer to God and grow stronger with him while coming together with friends to worship," Manuppelli said.

Eddy said she hopes that students who attend CROSSroads will have a fire lit within them after the event.

SEE **EVENT**, page 4



What’s the key to a good prof? It’s definitely not a webcam

All over the country, many universities are offering online classes in place of normal lectures. Online lectures aid universities by increasing class sizes without having to fit everyone into a lecture hall, and online lectures make it possible for students to be able to take notes while sitting in bed, wearing their pajamas. However, online lectures take away from the university experience. Part of being in college is getting to know one’s professors and other students, to learn from each other and to network. Face-to-face interaction fosters a student’s education and growth while at a university, and staring at a professor on a screen cannot foster the same growth

that one could get with class discussions, where students and the professor could discuss their opinions on topics and broaden their viewpoints by listening to others. Students would also miss out on the chance of getting to know other students in the class, and friendships made in class are lost. Some professors try to create an interactive environment online by using chat rooms during the lectures where students can state their opinions. However, students act differently online than they would in a classroom, and students are more distracted when they have complete access to the Internet during lectures. Many students prefer taking online courses because it allows

for the courses to be completed at the student’s desired pace. According to the Sloan Survey of Online Learning, 4.6 million students took a college-level online course during fall 2008, up 17 percent from the year before. The online option is more cost effective for universities, and it appears that online classes will continue to increase, with universities around the country facing budget cuts. According to an article in the New York Times, the University of Florida provost said he believes that online courses are the future of higher education. However, many university classes are not conducive to online lectures. For example, in a journalism class, students benefit from reading classmates’ articles

and learning from the critiques of others. Part of journalism is about learning from the experiences of others, and staring at a professor lecture takes away from the learning environment. Baylor’s lack of online courses is a positive trait of the university. Students should engage with our talented professors and learn from their experience. Online lectures take away from the physical activity of getting up and going to class. With America’s growing weight problem, removing the physical activity of going to class for students allows them to stay in their room all day, without having to leave to attend a lecture. Students have even less of an incentive to get out of bed every day.

Terms of fanhood: Laying down rules for sports loyalty

All the explosive success of local sports teams – Baylor football, Texas Rangers baseball – has me thinking about what it means to be a fan. Or, more precisely, what qualifies us to be fans.



James Byers | News editor

I reject the idea that we can be fans of just any team. There’s nothing I loathe more than someone who calls himself a Lakers fan because Kobe Bryant is really good, or someone who arbitrarily professes love for Duke basketball because Mike Krzyzewski is an excellent coach. No, I believe we’re all cosmically destined to root for certain teams. We don’t get to choose them; the teams choose us. I call these rules the rules of fanhood. Defining them is still a work in progress, and I’m open to suggestions, but as I see it, there are three basic rules:

1. The rule of geography

The basic element of the rule of geography is this: If a team is based in the state where you live, you can root for that team without any misgivings. If you live in Wyoming and you want to root for a professional football team, then pick the closest one. The rule of geography is easy when you’re from a state with only a few teams. I’m from Indiana, so I root for the Colts and the Pacers, unequivocally. It’s more complicated when you live in Texas and there are a billion professional teams. Ideally you should root for the teams nearest to you, but as long as the team is in your state, I won’t give you any grief. You’re only allowed to like multiple teams if you’ve lived in multiple states.

2. The rule of family

You’re allowed to like a team if your family raised you to like a certain team. If you live in Texas, and your parents brainwashed you into being a Green Bay Packers fan from birth, you’re allowed to like the Packers, however annoying that may be.

3. The rule of school

This one’s pretty obvious, but it needs to be said. If you go to a school, you’re automatically a fan. Haven’t given a thought about Baylor football before now? That’s OK. I won’t even accuse you of jumping on the bandwagon. It’s never too late to develop school spirit. But the rule of school extends to more than just your school.

If your big brother went to Florida State, you can root for Florida State.

“No, I believe we’re all cosmically destined to root for certain teams. We don’t get to choose them; the teams choose us.”

If your parents are Ohio State alumni, you can root for the Buckeyes. But keep in mind that the rule of family only covers immediate family.

If your second cousins live in New York, that is not a reason to root for the Yankees.

I’m not trying to suck the fun out of sports. I’m only trying to establish some order. Keep in mind that I’m not saying you can’t passively watch a game on television and root for a certain team.

If you’re watching the Pittsburgh Steelers play the Arizona Cardinals in the Super Bowl, or even a random college football game, by all means, pick a team to root for. That’s what makes watching games fun. Just don’t declare yourself a “fan” of that team. Fanhood is nothing to throw around.

James Byers is a senior business journalism major from Indianapolis, and the news editor for The Lariat.

Keep Christmas enthusiasm in its right place

Let me start out by saying I love Christmas. I love everything about the Christmas season — the music, the holiday scents, the atmosphere in all the department stores. I own tacky Christmas sweaters and jewelry and wear them with pride. I am a full-fledged believer in live Christmas trees, colorful Christmas socks and stockings for all my pets. What makes Christmas special is that it only comes once a year. From Thanksgiving to Christmas there is a special energy in the air, fueled by expectant children and zealous salespeople. While I clearly love Christmas, I concede that all this energy would be exhausting if it extended longer than its proper season. Cinnamon and evergreen candles lose their charm eventually, and some of those Christmas songs get



Amy Heard | Copy editor

pretty annoying after their 500th replay over three weeks. What has caused my grinch-like rant, you may ask? The first week of November I ventured into Macy’s only to be greeted by a holiday gifts display. A week later, I was accosted by Christmas trees

“While I clearly love Christmas, I concede that all this energy would be exhausting if it extended longer than its proper season.”

in Dillard’s. I escaped into the mall only to realize holiday music was being played over mall speaker system. In case you don’t remember my opening statement, I love holiday gift displays, Christmas trees and holiday music. I look forward to these accoutrements of the holiday season — I relish the joy Christmas invariably brings. Christmas, however, has a time and place. That time is AFTER Thanksgiving. Everyone (except for the people in charge at the

malls) knows that Christmas music goes on the radio the day after Thanksgiving. Only after the leftover turkey has been consumed in that last turkey sandwich can the Christmas decorations emerge from their boxes in the attic. Christmas is the best season in my book, but there is something about the anticipation fall brings that can’t be replaced. When the temperature starts to drop and Starbucks puts out its pumpkin spice lattes, you know things are looking up. School is almost out and nature takes on a different color palette. Fall is a season for sitting around, sipping coffee and doing homework outside. Texas might not get a lot of the seasonal signs that fall is here, but that is only another reason that we must strive to keep Christmas in its place. It

upsets me to see grocery aisle displays go straight from Halloween candy to Christmas lights. Turkeys need to be cooked and eaten as much as Santa needs to be fed Christmas cookies. If we don’t keep this shindig under control, pretty soon stores will skip straight from Back to School marketing to red and green oreo cookies and children will be deprived of their ghoulish costumes and coloring book cornucopias. In an age that champions diversity, let’s keep Christmas under control so we can celebrate a whole plethora of holidays, instead of blowing one so out of proportion it consumes every other season. *Amy Heard is a junior English major from San Antonio and a copy editor for the Lariat.*

Letters

Letters to the editor should include the writer’s name, hometown, major, graduation year, phone number and student identification number. Limit letters for publication to 300 words. 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.



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Opinion

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Faculty Senate helps discern Baylor’s future

By SARA TIRRITO
STAFF WRITER

Faculty Senate began discussing its role in the university’s strategic planning process at its meeting Tuesday night.

Dr. Rosalie Beck, member of the Faculty Senate executive committee and associate professor of religion, said faculty were encouraged to be active in helping to discern what Baylor’s goals should be for the future.

“It’s very important to get involved because there needs to be a common sense that this is our goal and that we’re all willing to work for it because it’s ours,” Beck said.

The faculty’s support for the process is essential to its smooth implementation, Dr. Raymond Cannon, chair of Faculty Senate and professor of mathematics, said. “You can’t go anywhere without the

faculty. And Judge [Ken] Starr, I think, is aware of that as he says that he does not want this to be a top down sort of thing,” Cannon said. “The faculty are the people that are here long term, so you can’t have the university moving in a direction that the faculty doesn’t want to go in without severe problems, dissension, difficulties.”

Student life was another topic discussed at the meeting.

The discussion focused on helping senators know who to call to provide help for students dealing with emotional or psychological issues.

“Students don’t understand this, but we actually care about you guys,” Cannon said. “We’re actually on your side. We want the best for you, absolutely the best for you, and we want all of you to succeed, and if some of you get in trouble, we’d like to be able to help. But we’re not qualified to help, so what we’d like to do is get you to people who are qualified to help.”

Dr. Pattie Orr, vice president for information technology and dean of university libraries, also gave a presentation about malware-inhibiting software that will probably soon be implemented in the university’s Wi-Fi system.

The software, which combats dangerous software online that can steal a person’s personal information by tracking their keystrokes, is already in use in dorms and libraries on campus.

Cannon said there was a positive faculty reaction to the idea of implementing the software in the Wi-Fi system.

Dr. Todd Still, member of the Faculty Senate executive committee and associate professor of Christian scriptures at the George W. Truett Theological Seminary, said he was eager to see the software put in place.

“To the extent that we can be proactive and protective, keeping our computing free as possible of viruses and unwanted

information, this is absolutely win-win across the university,” Still said.

It was also decided at the meeting that Cannon should continue working on a policy regarding transfer credit for online courses.

The policy was previously discussed at the October Faculty Senate meeting.

“To a certain extent, this will be a long process,” Beck said, “but it’s becoming a more and more important issue simply because there are so many universities that do online credit for courses.”

Beck said there are concerns regarding whether online courses provide the same level of learning as standard courses, and that as of yet, she has not seen definitive research on the topic.

“We need to have a sense of whether real learning is taking place, and if so, how should that affect the way we receive transfer credits for online classes?” Beck said. “It [the topic] has a ton of issues that are

involved in it, but it’s also something that every level of the university is concerned about.”

Cannon said he is not advocating a specific outcome for the policy, but wants to ensure the faculty and administration can work together to devise a policy that is viable for everyone.

“What I am concerned with is that the administration and the faculty work together so that we have a policy that everybody agrees upon and one that the administration can live with, and the administration’s in charge of carrying things out so I want to make sure that they can execute the policy,” Cannon said. “It’s got to be a policy that balances academic concerns of the faculty with practical concerns of the enforcement by the administration.”

A unanimous vote was also made at the meeting, confirming that senators will now be elected through an electronic voting process.

Passion leads the way to success

By MEGHAN HENDRICKSON
STAFF WRITER

Students learned about the importance of finding their passions Monday night during a leadership lecture given by trial attorney John Hill in the Hankamer School of Business.

The lecture was the third and final lecture hosted by the Academy for Leader Development and Civic Engagement.

Hill, a Baylor alumnus and Harvard Law School graduate, said each person has unique talents, gifts and interests. Hill encouraged students to take their interests and the things they do well, and find where they fit best in the working world.

“Where they connect you will find opportunities, and in those opportunities, you will be able to lead,” Hill said.

Hill used One Book One Waco, the Waco community program he helped create while he was a student at Baylor in the fall of 2003, as an example to identify five key ingredients to successful and lasting leadership:

1. Find your vision. Know where you’re going and have an end goal in mind.
2. Figure out the next steps. You have to

be willing to be flexible as you go, recognize you’re not going to know all the steps.

3. Humility is crucial to leadership. Remind yourself each day why you did it on the first day, and you won’t focus on yourself as much.
4. There’s got to be some creativity. Very few ideas are completely original.
5. Perseverance. With any kind of leadership, one thing you can expect to face is opposition.

Austin sophomore Julian Hunter, a member of the academy, said Hill seemed to speak directly to his heart.

“He gave me so much courage and confidence to go out and make a difference,” Hunter said. “He said to take your interests and the things you’re good at, and find where they connect. I’m always trying to find things I’m good at and not what I like. I’ve got to do what God wants me to do, not what other people want me to do. I’ve got to keep seeking God.”

Hill provided advice on pursuing passions throughout the lecture.

“Identify the things you’re passionate about and explore them — then identify the things you’re good at and practice them,” Hill said. “It’s not about finding the

perfect opportunity. If you will jump into your passions, you’ll find it goes a long way.”

Cypress senior Saralyn Salisbury, founder and president of the Baylor chapter of International Justice Mission, is a Fellow candidate of the academy, an award given to students in the academy who pursue and meet a series of curricular and co-curricular requirements.

“When I came to Baylor I never thought I would start an organization, but the passion kept nagging at me and I finally pursued it,” Salisbury said. “Persevere. In pursuing my passion, doors have been opened.”

Ramona Curtis, director of the Academy for Leader Development and Civic Engagement since 2005, worked with Hill and his classmate when they were pursuing the idea of One Book One Waco.

She said membership in the academy is by application. The leadership lecture series is open to all Baylor students and will host four lectures this spring.

“It is always nice to have an alumnus come back and share their experiences with those who are primarily first-year students,” Curtis said. “It’s an opportunity to



NICK BERRYMAN | LARIAT PHOTOGRAPHER

Trial attorney John Hill focused his lecture on the importance of passion in the workplace during the last session of the Leadership Lecture Series on Monday in Kayser Auditorium.

hear about what we should be doing now to cultivate those gifts we’ve been given so that we may move forth in the world. Our students are living out their passion in this program.”

Hill hopes Baylor students will see the change they can make in the world and follow after their passions in leadership.

“Once you begin to see the world as a place that is bigger than you and begin to appreciate there are real needs and opportunities out there, it’s pretty hard not to do something about them,” Hill said. “If you just stay focused on yourself, it’s not as meaningful and not as satisfying a way to live your life.”

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14 Slangy assents
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22 Knife holder
25 Budgetary concern
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STARR from Page 1

Starr asked students to also get involved with the Waco community. “We want the people of Waco to know that we really care,” Starr said. “We have Steppin’ Out days and the things that you are doing in the community, but there will be other projects that we hope you will really consider to help out with. There is so much going on and we invite the community to join us and they do come. It’s a give and take, and so that means we need to give back.” Not only did Starr share her wisdom with students, but with the faculty present at the event as well. “It always helps us to interact with people who have done this in the real world,” said Maxey Parrish, senior lecturer of journalism and media arts. “The good thing about the faculty here is they all have real-world experience, but it doesn’t hurt to

hear from those with experience; it’s very positive.” Both Parrish and the president of Public Relations Student Society of America, Moyock, N.C., senior Ashley Morris, said they were honored to feature Starr as a guest speaker for the meeting. “It’s a great honor for her to share her knowledge with us,” Morris said. “She is such a giving woman and she helps so many causes. She is really nice and we were pleased to have her speak.” Parrish agreed and was glad Starr made time to speak with members of the organization. “We are honored to have her here, really and truly,” Parrish said. “She has a busy schedule in her own right and as the wife of the president of Baylor, there are other events they could attend, so we are very grateful that she made time for us tonight.”

EVENT from Page 1

“I know a lot of students here are Christians and sometimes we get a little bit comfortable here in our Christian circle,” Eddy said. “I hope this really encourages and challenges students to live their life for Christ and realize exactly what he did for us on the cross.” Manuppelli encouraged stu-

“It’s an event with great music and a really special message that is completely designed for us being in college. Joe has been called one of the top ten influencers of the century and I don’t think this is an event people can afford to miss.”

Brennan Bailey | Waco junior

dents who are looking to strengthen their relationship with God to attend. “It’s going to be a lot of fun and certainly something to remember for the rest of students’ college lives,” he said. “I really hope that many people attend.” The free event begins at 8 p.m. Monday at Waco Hall.

BUSH from Page 1

Israeli media have focused on the book’s warm praise for ex-Prime Minister Ariel Sharon, his support for Israel’s tough crackdown on Palestinian militants in the last decade and his animosity toward the late Palestinian leader, Yasser Arafat. More than 2,000 copies of “Decision Points” sold by the time Bush left the Dallas store at 11 a.m. Tuesday, said David Drake, a spokesman for the Random House Inc. imprint Crown Publishers. The former president was able to sign copies for 1,300 customers and provided signed bookplates for 500 others, said Drake, who added that the remainder of the crowd he estimated at 2,500 received instructions for getting a bookplate later. Holly McKnight, a legally blind 36-year-old from Arlington who visited the Dallas event, said she was thrilled the audio book — read by Bush — was available the same day as the print edition. McKnight said she told Bush, “Thank you for all you do. You are prayed for,” as he signed her book. “Keep it up. It works,” he responded. Adrienne Cantwell, 57, of Coppell, had stood in line with her 18-year-old daughter since Monday night. Cantwell said she and her husband both served in the Air Force and their son also has served in the military. “He might send us to hard places, but he still cared about what happened to us and he supported us,” she said of Bush. “He gave us what we needed.” Amber Fletcher, a 23-year-old student at Texas Woman’s University, said she was eager to read the memoir. “Everybody plays the blame game and I just want to know his side of the story,” said Fletcher, who wore a T-shirt bearing a smiling Bush giving a thumbs up and the phrase “Miss Me Yet?” She stopped to have her picture snapped with about five protesters who held signs, including one reading “Torture is illegal,” at the corner of the shopping center.

Gun smuggling program criticized

By ALICIA A. CALDWELL
ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON — A federal campaign to stop the smuggling of high-powered guns to Mexico is too narrowly focused on small-time gun runners and not the larger organizations suspected of arming Mexico’s increasingly violent drug cartels, the Justice Department’s inspector general said Tuesday. For the last six years, agents from the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives working on Operation Gunrunner have focused most of their efforts on one- and two-person cases at the behest of supervisors who urge them to close cases quickly and move on, the report said. “Agents we interviewed told us

that after investigating the lower-ranking members of a firearms trafficking ring, cases often close and are referred for prosecution,” the report said. “These agents stated that they believe this practice limited their ability to pursue higher level cases and resulted in cases being opened and closed quickly, with less regard to the significance or outcome of the cases.” More than 80 percent of the 1,015 cases sent to federal prosecutors between 2004 and 2009 had one or two defendants, the report said. Mexican drug cartels have turned increasingly to high-powered guns to fight each other and the Mexican government over lucrative drug and human smuggling from Mexico into the United States. More than 28,000 people have been killed

across the country since President Felipe Calderon launched a nationwide offensive against the drug gangs shortly after taking office in 2006. Authorities in both countries say guns smuggled from the U.S. — bought largely in Texas and Arizona — are the largest supply of weapons used by the cartels. The ATF does not release estimates of how many guns seized by Mexican authorities are traced back to the U.S. because the numbers have become too politicized. Tuesday’s report comes as U.S. officials are making a high-profile effort at the border to stop guns and cash from being smuggled to the cartels. Southbound checkpoints along the Mexican border are now routine,

though smuggled guns are rarely found. During a nine-month period in 2009 U.S. officials found only 93 guns being smuggled across border checkpoints. The Justice Department inspector general also criticized ATF for not sharing strategic intelligence that could help other federal authorities target larger trafficking groups. The largest communication problem, the report said, exists between ATF, a Justice Department component, and Immigration and Customs Enforcement, a Homeland Security Department agency. Despite promises by ATF and ICE to work closely, the investigators found that information about ongoing gun smuggling cases is not routinely shared and criticized both agencies’ information sharing.



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