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Better late than never

Jodi Foster's film "The Beaver," delayed by star Mel Gibson's infamous personal problems, finally debuts in Austin

SPORTS Page 5

Lucky number seven

The baseball team rides a seven-game winning streak into conference play against Texas Tech this weekend

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Will he be back?

The NCAA denies Baylor's appeal to immediately reinstate Perry Jones III after he was denied eligibility



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SXSW spectacular

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baylorlariat.wordpress.com

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"Baylor Line Camp should be kept as an experience to be had with the entire Baylor community because it is a time to develop universitywide relationships, to broaden personal horizons and to engage with a myriad of people."

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Theater production

Students can witness the power of literature in Baylor Theatre's production of "Anna in the Tropics" at 7:30 p.m. today and 2 and 7:30 p.m. Saturday in Jones Theatre.

All about India

Students can expand their horizons during Gateway to India and partake in the 17th annual Culture Show and Taste of India. The event, presented by the Indian Subcontinent Student Association and the Department of Student Activities, will begin at 6:30 p.m. Saturday in Waco Hall.

BU alumna, students speak from Japan

By SARA TIRRITO
STAFF WRITER

As 2010 Baylor alumna Jennifer Rader stood in her kitchen making Ramen noodles for lunch on March 11, her apartment building in Sendai, Japan, started to shake with the tremors of the country's most violent recorded earthquake to date. She turned off the gas to her stove and, as the shaking worsened, decided to open her door so that if the building shifted it wouldn't get stuck. But it wouldn't budge.

Forcing herself to take a breath, Rader realized the door was simply locked and ran down her stairway and out into the

cold, without shoes or a jacket.

"The ground was just rolling and like the building, just everything was shaking, and it was so loud. It's really hard to describe — the sound of the earth moving like that and the sound of all of the buildings and everything on the earth that's also shaking and rattling and roaring," Rader said. "I don't know how long it actually lasted, but it seemed to go on forever."

Rader sat in the street until the shaking subsided, but even after the earthquake ended, the succession of aftershocks haunted her. She made contact with her mom through a coworker's Skype account using 3G after the

quake ended and remained in her apartment that night. She moved to an empty classroom at MeySen Academy, where she began work in February, to spend the next night.

Although much of the port area in Sendai was destroyed by the tsunami, Rader said most of the buildings in her area were still standing despite damage to their facades and cracked streets.

Though Sendai was without electricity, water and gas, the academy was able to provide Rader and her co-workers with some food, water and a place to sleep. Soon, however, concern

SEE JAPAN, page 6



ASSOCIATED PRESS

Survivors of the earthquake and tsunami walk with their belongings in Kamaishi, Iwate Prefecture, in northern Japan on Thursday.

And away we go: Lady Bears begin title hunt at home

By MATT LARSEN
SPORTS WRITER

As a No. 1 seed for the first time in program history, the Lady Bears will enjoy the comfort of playing the first round of the NCAA Tournament in the friendly confines of the Ferrell Center at 6:40 p.m. Sunday when they take on Prairie View A&M.

Head coach Kim Mulkey just hopes her squad won't feel too comfy.

"My comfort level isn't too good," the 11th-year coach said. "The last NCAA game we hosted here we got beat."

Mulkey acknowledged the perks of avoiding airports and keeping a more normal routine, but refuses to let her team be lulled into a lackadaisical mindset. In 2002, No. 7 seed Drake surprised her No. 2 seed team in the second round at the Ferrell Center.

"It's called the NCAA playoffs," she said. "Playing at home doesn't guarantee you a win, and playing at home doesn't guarantee you anything."

And yet no one can argue that on paper, this year's team sits more poised to challenge for a national championship than any of Mulkey's past teams.

Mulkey has taken eight straight teams to the Big Dance. Since coming to Baylor in 2001, 10 of her 11 teams have qualified for the tournament.

None of those 10 earned a No. 1 seed, though, not even Mulkey's national championship squad in 2005, a No. 2 seed. The Lady Bears' potential road to the Final Four starts in Waco before taking a short jog north to Dallas for the third and fourth rounds.

Baylor travels further for most of its Big 12 road matchups than it would for the first four rounds of the tournament.

Along with a No. 1 seed comes a theoretically easier schedule, too.

In the history of the women's NCAA tourney, just one No. 1 seed has ever been upset in the first round (No. 16 seed Harvard defeated No. 1 seed Stanford 71-67 in 1998).

With Mulkey's approach, she intends to see that her first No. 1-seeded squad doesn't become the second ever to drop its first-round matchup.

"Let's look at Prairie View first, because really that's the only one I'm worried about [right now]," she said.

Not that she sees limits for this bunch.

Experience, depth and talent come in abundance.

Senior Melissa Jones, sophomore Brittney Griner and freshman Odyssey Sims were named to the seven-member State Farm Coaches' All-Region team. All three will be considered for the

SEE LADY BEARS, page 3



MATT HELLMAN | LARIAT PHOTOGRAPHER

No. 42 center Brittney Griner shoots the ball during the game against Missouri on March 2 at the Ferrell Center. The Lady Bears dominated Missouri, 84-57. They'll face No. 16 seed Prairie View A&M Sunday.

Small groups found to enhance church

By JADE MARDIROSIAN
STAFF WRITER

The influence of small groups on congregants' commitment and participation, particularly in large congregations, was the topic of a recent study conducted by Baylor researchers.

The study, which analyzed statistical data from a national survey of 78,474 individuals in 401 congregations of different denominations and religions and another survey of 1,014 individuals from one Protestant megachurch in Texas, questioned the effectiveness of small groups at promoting in-group commitment and participation.

"We found that persons involved in small groups devoted to prayer, discussion or Bible study reported a greater sense of belonging, more frequent attendance and higher rates of giving," said Dr. Kevin Dougherty, assis-

stant professor of sociology and lead researcher for the study. "The effect of small-group involvement did not differ by congregation size, however. From worshippers in the Texas megachurch, we found the benefits of being in a small group are most pronounced for those that attend small group meetings regularly."

"A Place to Belong: Small Group Involvement in Religious Congregations" details findings from the study and was co-authored by Dougherty and doctoral candidate Andrew Whitehead. The article was recently published in the journal Sociology of Religion.

Whitehead said the research also found that congregants participating in a small group are more likely to tithe 10 percent, attend services at higher rates and feel a sense of belonging to the church.



STEPHEN GREEN | ROUND UP PHOTO EDITOR

Students from First Baptist Woodway attend a home group Tuesday. A study found that people involved in small groups, much like Woodway's, are more likely to tithe and report a greater sense of belonging.

"We suggest that small groups could be a useful avenue through getting people involved and doing those things," Whitehead said. "Also, we found that there was no effect on how big church was. The effect of being in a small group is the same whether you are in a very small church or a large church."

Dougherty said small groups within a congregation serve several important functions.

SEE CHURCH, page 3

Decision on group's charter looms

By DANIEL C. HOUSTON
REPORTER

Dr. Kevin Jackson, vice president for student life, is expected to come to an official decision today on whether to grant a charter to a group promoting discussion of issues pertaining to gay and lesbian students, according to sources with knowledge of the situation.

The officers of the Sexual Identity Forum have appealed the student activities charter council's decision not to recommend granting them a charter and are anticipating Jackson will send them an official document today explaining his final decision.

SEE GROUP, page 6

Life’s little things: How laughter plays a role in enjoying everyday moments

It really is the little things in life that make the difference. It’s amazing how just a short chat and a food run with a good friend will brighten a day clouded by disappointing news.



Carmen Galvan | Asst. city editor

Or how even the shortest of naps, considered a tease by many, refreshes the mind and brings back energy that seemed to have been sucked away by the mere presence of never-ending homework.

A hug and a kiss from a loved one – just because they want you to know they care – is always an encouragement. But probably the best little thing life offers is the laughter shared among close friends and family.

Inside jokes that can be referenced by one small word or look make everyone involved break into uncontrollable laughter, and that ridiculous but barely funny incident that somehow becomes the most hilarious part of the day always seems to make life that much more enjoyable.

I find it interesting how humor takes so many different guises. It can be dry, satirical, innocent, unintentional or very intentional; the list goes on. Yet each style or sense of humor matches a person’s personality to a T, and it serves to define a person’s individuality. Even the sound of laughter contributes to an individual’s unique personality, for better or worse.

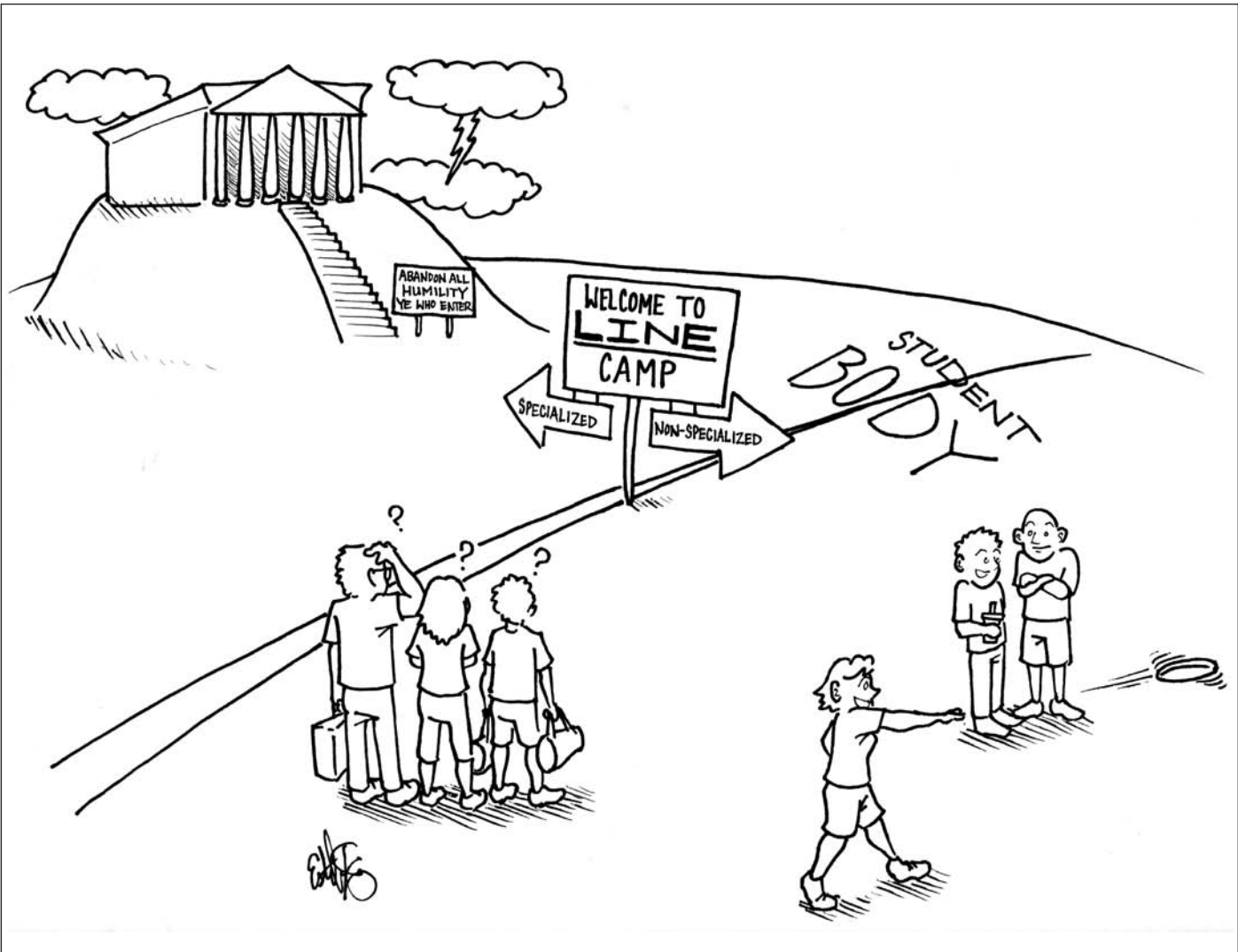
I’m sure many of us have experienced the high-pitched, incessant laughter that manages to ring in your ears long after the source is gone. We even have different laughs that resonate in different situations, like that uncomfortable and uncontrollable laughter that involuntarily bursts from us when encountered with an awkward situation. Or the belly laugh – which is sometimes combined with inadvertent snorts – that sounds only when the most ridiculous of the ridiculous has happened. But despite the varying opinions and sounds of humor, the look of laughter is quite possibly the most heartwarming and rewarding experiences of everyday life.

Watching someone suddenly break into a smile from the surprise of a joke or the unexpected humor found in a situation is a priceless enjoyment that improves both the mood of the laughter instigator and the laughter recipient. Such enjoyment may even reach new heights when you are able to catch on in the fun of laughter with them. But the smile is the best part, as you are able to watch a person transform from a sad or everyday mood into one of pure happiness through just the sparkles that seem to magically appear in his or her eyes.

Laughter is a way of bonding between strangers, breaking a tense moment or relieving the tears that sometimes flow without any sign of stopping. In a way, it is a cure-all that – when used properly – helps remedy and even heal the worst in life, be it a broken heart, a broken friendship or a broken family.

Throughout my life I have been able to give laughter my own definition. It is an outward little thing that holds one of the greatest treasures given to mankind: a happy heart and a healthy life. And that makes every day worth living just a little bit more.

Carmen Galvan is a junior public relations major from Baytown and the assistant city editor from the Lariat.



Specialty BU line camps neglect community found in general sessions

Editorial

year of college classes begins.

While the camps have been successful in creating these bonds and have undoubtedly sparked lifelong friendships among its participants, the new specialty camp offers a potentially negative impact for participating students.

In this case, it is not a negative experience that should be anticipated; rather, it is what the students will miss out on that should be of concern.

College is often considered the transition period between childhood dreams and the reality of the work force, and part of this transition includes challenging students – both academically and socially – to test new ideas and established opinions in order to gain a better grasp on their identity.

Baylor encourages such a perspective in its mission statement, saying that “the university remains dedicated to the traditional responsibilities of higher education dissemination of knowledge,

transmission of culture, search for new knowledge, and application of knowledge — while recognizing the global proportions these responsibilities have assumed.”

Baylor hopes to develop responsible and informed citizens and leaders who are sensitive to the varying needs of society in an ethnically and culturally diverse community environment.

Programs such as Baylor Line Camp, Welcome Week and University 1000 all encourage such a mission, but the key to success for these programs is the diversity established by including students from varying majors, interests and backgrounds.

By offering an exclusive program that only includes those of a particular character or mindset, such as honors or engineering, students grow accustomed to a new comfort zone before even being introduced to the diversity Baylor offers.

Such specialty programs are conducive to developing strong bonds between a small group of individuals, but the pros do not outweigh the cons here.

Becoming a part of a limited social environment, however, inhibits the university and its many programs’ mission to challenge students in all aspects of life in order to create better understanding and preparedness for a society of diverse people and beliefs.

Baylor’s residential communities, which cater to the academic concentrations and personal interests of students, are beneficial to students in developing a core group of peers with whom to engage on a daily basis.

Baylor Line Camp should be kept as an experience to be had with the entire Baylor community because it is a time to develop universitywide relationships, to broaden personal horizons and to engage with a myriad of people.

The university should rethink the long-term effects of its specialty programs and the contradictory message it sends to students who are prompted to engage in developing and challenging new ideas with individuals while also being encouraged to remain within a specific group that shares a similar way of thinking.

Needed: Your Two Cents

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Protection of radical group highlights America’s commitment to true freedom

When I think of the rights that are unique to American citizens, one of the first things that comes to my mind is the right to free speech. Since the birth of the United States, citizens have been able to share their thoughts without restriction from the government, excepting of course the Sedition Act put into effect in 1918 that was quickly shot down in 1920 after the end of World War I.

Free speech is one of those unalienable rights for citizens of the United States, but sometimes the ability to say whatever we want does more harm than good. In Topeka, Kan., Westboro Baptist Church is famous for its picketing congregants who protest against gays outside military funerals.

Westboro Baptist believes that the wars in Afghanistan and Iraq are punishments from God as a consequence of American’s acceptance of homosexuality.

While military families mourn the untimely loss of their loved



Molly Packer | Reporter

ones, church members stand across the street holding signs that say “Pray for More Dead Soldiers” and “USA = Fag Nation.”

Situations like these are so ironic because citizens have the ability to protest only because soldiers go out and defend American rights in wars like the ones we are in right now. Most American citizens are against the audacity of the Westboro Baptist Church and

would readily lessen the rights of these congregants to protest outside of military funerals.

But if the Westboro churchgoers could not picket outside of funerals, what kind of rights would that take away from other citizens?

The tough truth of the matter is that free speech is a right to all American citizens, no matter how annoying or politically incorrect they choose to be.

Albert Snyder, a father of a deceased Marine, sued Westboro Baptist Church after they protested outside his 20-year-old son’s funeral.

When the case went to the Supreme Court, the church’s free speech was protected with a vote of 8-1.

My question is how far is too far when it comes to free speech? It would be easy for me to say the government should not allow anyone to dishonor in any fashion the soldiers that fight to protect us.

It seems to me to be inappropriate to state thoughts and ideas in a time and place as sensitive as a funeral.

Is there any realistic way the government could regulate what free speech is and is not?

Practically, it would be a waste of time for the government to rule against certain forms of speech and condone others.

If rights to any form of free speech were taken away, whether it be protesting homosexuality outside a funeral or the publishing of The Baylor Lariat, the basic ideas that set America apart from any other nation in the world would be tarnished.

So even though I believe it is completely uncalled for and grossly unpatriotic, I think that the Westboro Baptist Church protesters have the right to protest at military funerals.

Molly Packer is a freshman journalism major from Cincinnati and a reporter for the Lariat.

theBaylor Lariat |STAFF LIST

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Opinion

The Baylor Lariat welcomes reader viewpoints through letters to the editor and guest columns. Opinions expressed in the Lariat are not necessarily those of the Baylor administration, the Baylor Board of Regents or the Student Publications Board.

Sales competition and career fair: a dynamic duo

By MOLLY PACKER
REPORTER

Eight Baylor students used their spring break to develop their careers by attending the 13th Annual National Collegiate Sales Competition hosted by Kennesaw State University in Kennesaw, Ga. While two of the eight Baylor students competed, all of the eight students had the opportunity to refine their selling, interviewing and networking skills by attending a career fair at the competition with 35 national corporations, includ-

ing Verizon, Xerox and FedEx. Colleyville senior Will May and Irving senior Chris Cude competed for the title of one of four top salespeople at the competition. May and Cude were given a product to sell in a one-on-one call to real business executives in a role-play situation. The executives participating in the role-play judged the competitors and eventually chose the top seller at the competition. Baylor did not take the top spot in this year's competition.

““One man told me that the worst person at the competition was a better salesperson than the best salesperson in his company.”

Hanna Kroening | Baylor Professional Sales team member

Fort Collins, Colo., junior Hannah Kroening, a member of Baylor's Professional Sales team, did not participate in the competition this year but traveled to Georgia to encourage May and Cude and participate in the career fair. “I didn't really compete in

hopes that next year I'll be able to know what it takes to do well,” Kroening said. “I spent my time talking up Baylor and the sales team and looking for internships for myself.” Baylor students met with top executives of the 35 corporate

sponsors. “It was good for me just getting a chance to talk to the companies and have face time,” Highlands Ranch, Colo., senior Ben Kessler said. “It was so nice to finally get a chance to talk to companies about interviews and jobs.” Austin senior Dave Games said he also appreciated the benefits of the career fair. “The career fair and networking involved was nice because it was so targeted towards professional sales,” he said.

Kroening said another benefit of the competition was learning how to adapt to people and their situations. The role-playing aspect of the competition required students to sell different benefits of a product to different people. The competition drew some of the most talented students from 60 schools nationwide. “One man told me that the worst person at the competition was a better salesperson than the best salesperson in his company,” Kroening said.

University of Texas to discuss raising tuition for medical students

ASSOCIATED PRESS

AUSTIN — Bracing for potentially big cuts in the state budget, University of Texas System regents are gearing up to raise tuition for medical students. The regents scheduled a telephone meeting today to vote on a plan for tuition increases ranging from 6.4 percent for students at UT Southwestern in Dallas to 16 per-

cent at UT Health Science Center in Houston. State lawmakers are facing a projected budget shortfall of at least \$15 billion over the next two years. Early drafts of the state budget have included steep cuts in higher education. Although state lawmakers are several weeks away from finalizing a budget, university leaders must

act sooner in order to plan and get tuition rates printed in school catalogues. In a letter to regents, UT Southwestern President Dr. Daniel Podolsky said the tuition increases are necessary to offset budget cuts "in order to stay competitive with other medical institutions" and continue providing "superior instruction to students." Current tuition for medical

students at UT Southwestern is \$15,640 per year and would go up to \$16,640 under the proposed change, an increase of 6.4 percent. Similar increases are proposed for UT Medical Branch in Galveston and UT Health Science Center in San Antonio. The Houston campus gets the biggest bump from \$12,509 to \$14,509. Nursing, dental and other health science students would also

see increases. According to system officials, the increases would still leave the cost of attending those medical schools still well below tuition rates at other top programs such as the University of Illinois (\$35,000) and the University of Michigan (\$28,118). But some state lawmakers worry about tuition increases in Texas and whether the UT System's move

Friday is just a first shot at raising rates for all students later. “I know that the regents are very sensitive to lawmakers who have expressed ... the importance of holding tuition costs down. But the fact is, if we are going to strive for excellence, the money has to come from somewhere,” said Sen. Judith Zaffirini, D-Laredo, chairwoman of the Senate Higher Education Committee.

LADY BEARS from Page 1

All-American squad, and Sims is the only freshman in the country to receive All-Region honors. Griner comes within a tenth of a point of leading the Big 12 in scoring, at 22.6 points per game, and Jones sits second nationally in assist to turnover ratio (3.1). Sims leads the conference in 3-point field goal percentage at .456. As for depth, Mulkey frequently touts the strength of bench players like Jordan Madden and Brooklyn Pope who each average more than 15 minutes a game. The Lady Bears have also avoided big injuries, unlike last year when a stress reactor in Jones' knee significantly limited her team's outside threat. Then comes experience. As a senior, Jones is making her

fourth trip to the postseason and most of the key contributors were around last year when Baylor advanced to the semifinals before falling to No. 1 seed Connecticut. “There is no substitute for having a team on the floor that has NCAA [tournament] experience,” Mulkey said. Jones had essentially the same to say about her coach, who was named one of four finalists for the Naismith Women's College Coach of the Year. “She's been to every game you can think of, as far as even playing herself,” Jones said. “Her personality and how intense she is, we feed off that. It's something this team needs to keep going.” Spurred on by its coach's pas-

sion, Baylor will first look to go through a Prairie View team that won the SWAC Tournament in coach Toyelle Wilson's first year at the helm. The Panthers (21-11) feature a trio of scoring threats in freshman Siarra Soliz, senior Dominique Smith and sophomore Latia Williams. They average 13.0, 12.1 and 10.1 a contest. As for shutting down the trio, Griner expects to stay with the mindset that has landed her second in the country in blocked shots, at 148. “I'm just trying to be as big as I can in the paint,” she said. “They may not drive but I can just try to intimidate them from coming in. I take that little quick step up and make them stay out.”



MATT HELLMAN | LARIAT PHOTOGRAPHER

No. 32 forward Brooklyn Pope shoots the ball during the game against Missouri on March 2 at the Ferrell Center.

CHURCH from Page 1

longing to a small group in a big church is more important than belonging to a small group in a small church. By forging relational ties and connecting newcomers with the actively committed, small groups represent a potent source of vitality in congregations big and small.” According to the 2001 national survey used to conduct the study, 21 percent of adult worshippers were in a small group devoted to prayer, discussion or Bible study. Dougherty said the study focused on this type of small group because it is highly beneficial for individuals and congregations. In the Texas megachurch survey used, 90 percent of respondents were in a small group. Dougherty offered several pieces of advice for people involved in small groups at churches with large congregations.

“Attend small-group meetings regularly. Make friends. Tackle life's challenges together. Invite others. And watch God work in you and in your church,” he said. Whitehead said he believes small groups can be beneficial to those involved and also the greater congregation. “Those looking to join a small group would be helped by learning what the congregation is about and what the people are like and then seeing where [the church] is going. Small groups would be a good way to get in and learn,” Whitehead said. “For congregations, if they are looking to get people involved and facilitate interaction and get them attending and giving at high levels, then instituting some sort of a small group ministry would be helpful to the church.”

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Local stars can shine in Waco’s Got Talent

By **BONNIE BERGER**
REPORTER

Mission Waco’s Jubilee Theatre is hosting Waco’s Got Talent, a communitywide event showcasing local talent through Saturday.

The show, centered on celebrating up-and-coming performers, has an admission fee of \$6.

“I needed an event that would get the community invested and get a pool of talent that we could call on for future shows and events,” said Jubilee Theatre director Stephen Walker-Webb. “What better way to do this than to open up a citywide talent search?”

Seventeen acts must compete over three days to win a \$500 first place cash prize.

There is a heavy emphasis on audience participation, as spectators will vote their favorite acts to advance through the competition.

“The audience has an invested interest to return each night to see if the people they voted for will advance to the next round,” Walker-Webb said.

Forty-eight groups auditioned for a chance to perform at the

event in newly renovated theater. Through much discussion and compromise, the committee chose 17 groups to perform, Walker-Webb said.

“I’ve heard many people say ‘We just want the opportunity to perform or help the community,’” Walker-Webb said. “There isn’t a lot of competitive spirit yet. Right now everyone is just excited about the space and what the theater can do for this community.”

Volunteers and committee members helped prepare for the event by donating their time to coordinate the show. They also designed and produced fliers and posters publicizing the event.

“It was a lot of guerilla work on the ground,” Walker-Webb said. “There was a lot of word-of-mouth advertising. ... I went all over the city handing out fliers. But there’s been an overwhelming response.”

Formerly a participant in Mission Waco’s youth program, Walker-Webb returned to work with the theater after finishing his undergraduate degree at the University of North Texas, Mission Waco co-founder Jimmy Dorrell said.



Jubilee Theatre is located at 1305 North 15th Street.

“In his year in between [returning to graduate school], we told him to make this your Apollo Theater,” Dorrell said. “Come back to Waco and reinvest in everything you grew up in. [Walker-Webb] is

the glue around this thing. ... He really made it happen.”

Aside from coordinating events and future performances, Walker-Webb volunteers every Wednesday and Thursday to use theater therapy with inner-city youth.

“They come in and a lot of kids are afraid to process the things they’re experiencing,” he said. “If I can give you a character, a costume or a mask, then you can out these intense feelings. It gives you the courage to confront them in your own life.”

Theatrically addressing deep-rooted personal issues gives kids confidence and access to those emotions, he said.

“With theater therapy, it’s a direct way of giving back,” he said. “I can look at the children and see where I was, see my hopes and my dreams.”

His investments encompass more than psychological aspects, as he teaches his classes practical skills, like the importance of positive self-representation and confidence.

“I teach them how to be articulate and to speak well, to sell themselves,” he said. “Performance is all about presentation. ... At the same time, I try to make it fun and theatrical.”

Bringing new visions to the theater, Walker-Webb said he aspires to give the theater back to the community.

“I want the audience to have a great time and become invested in their theater so they’ll come back for future shows,” he said. “I want them to know that when you purchase a ticket, it’s not just a show. It’s investing in the community.”

Committee members and volunteers echo Walker-Webb’s sentiments and anticipate a positive outcome.

“We don’t have a lot of events where the community can get involved with each other,” said Waco’s Got Talent committee member Ramad Carter. “Hopefully it will make people realize we can come together and really enjoy each other. This is a seed that is planted and I hope a lot more trees come from it.”

For more information, contact the Jubilee Theatre at 254-753-4900.

Jodie Foster calls ‘The Beaver’ biggest struggle of personal career

By **REBECCA KEEGAN**
LOS ANGELES TIMES

AUSTIN – Calling the film “the biggest struggle of my professional career,” Jodie Foster introduced “The Beaver,” her drama starring the troubled Mel Gibson as a depressed father who reinvents himself with the help of a hand puppet, to its first public audience at the South by Southwest Film Conference and Festival on Wednesday night in Austin.

“All sorts of stuff happened after the film was finished that threw our release into a crazy pattern,” Foster told the sold-out audience of 1,200 people at the Paramount Theater, alluding to the very public and sordid domestic violence case between Gibson and his ex-girlfriend, a situation that delayed the release of “The Beaver,” filmed in 2009. “I have no regrets about him being in the film.”

Foster, who directed and co-starred in the film, prefaced the

screening by saying: “This is not a comedy.” But “The Beaver” drew many laughs from the SXSW audience, most for intentionally funny scenes, as when Gibson showers and irons a shirt with the puppet on his hand, but at least once for a scene that was unintentionally evocative of the star’s personal problems — when his character carries of box of liquor bottles.

“The Beaver” shifts to a much darker tone in one scene that drew gasps from the crowd.

“What was beautiful about the script was that it has equal levels of lightness and darkness,” said Foster, a longtime friend of Gibson’s who plays his wife in the film. “It was hard to figure out when you go from one to the other.”

SXSW audiences are famously enthusiastic, but before the film, many expressed reservations about Gibson, whose public struggles began when he was pulled over for driving under the influence of alcohol in 2006 and delivered an

anti-Semitic tirade. His problems escalated when a series of racist and threatening voice mails he had left his ex-girlfriend were made public last summer, and continued last week when he pleaded no contest to charges of domestic battery related to a January 2010 altercation. Gibson, 55, was sentenced to three years’ probation and ordered to stay away from ex-girlfriend Oksana Grigorieva.

“I’m Jewish, so that was something I really was weighing before coming out,” said Lainey Melnick, a commissioner for emergency services in Austin and a volunteer at the festival. “I used to love his work, but now it’s difficult for me to separate the two. I do think he’s a fabulous actor. In a way I’m sort of glad he’s not here so I don’t have to deal with that.”

After the film ended, Melnick was crying. “It was really beautiful,” she said. “I could put all that aside and was watching the story.”

Sandy Schwartz, an Austinite

who was serving as a volunteer usher for the night, said she would never pay for a ticket to a Gibson movie. “He’s just generally not a nice person,” Schwartz said. “Why do people continue to support him?”

But after the credits rolled, Schwartz’s position had softened. She seemed to credit Gibson with making the same kind of transformation as his character in the film, although the actor has made no public statement of remorse about the threatening voice mails or domestic battery case, and his attorney has repeatedly maintained Gibson’s innocence. “I thought maybe this was his story,” Schwartz said. “Maybe there’s redemption and hope for him.”

Prior to the screening, some exhibitors expressed concern.

“You’ve got this very high-concept movie with a star who has had some real issues in the last year,” said Tom Stephenson, CEO of Rave Motion Pictures, which owns

about 1,000 movie screens in 20 states. “People are worried about that combination. But if the movie gets really good early reviews or word of mouth, people might go see it in spite of the controversy.”

Last month, Summit Entertainment postponed the release of the film from March until May 20. Gibson is featured prominently in the trailer and the poster.

“In the campaign, he is kind of poking fun at himself,” said Mark Young, a professor at the University of Southern California’s Marshall School of Business. “He’s drawing attention to himself. I know I have messed up, I’m still here, I’m still an actor. You could argue that ‘The Beaver’ is a way for Mel to express himself behind a mask.”

“If I was a studio exec, I would be very cautious about using Mel right now,” Young said. “Jodie Foster is a charming-enough and well-respected-enough person that she alone could do the launch of this film.”

That seemed to be Summit’s strategy in SXSW, where Foster attended a cocktail party before the screening. She had flown in Wednesday from the Paris set of the Roman Polanski film “Carnage” and was wearing sunglasses even at night due to what she said was an illness. Gibson did not attend SXSW, but actor Anton Yelchin, who plays his son in the film, and screenwriter Kyle Killen took the stage with Foster after the screening for a Q&A.

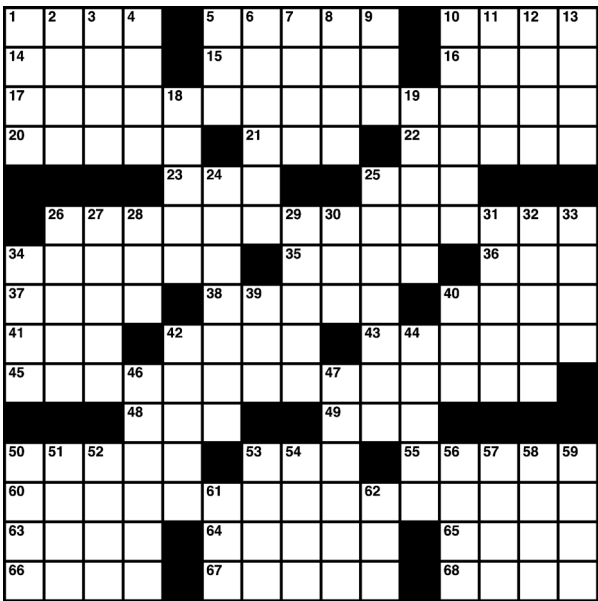
Foster admitted to being nervous before the screening.

“For me it’s a very personal film,” Foster told the audience in Austin. “It has to do with all of my struggles and what I think about obsessively and where I am at this particular point in my life. We’ve all had these struggles and life is full of these — half-comedy and half-tragedy — and the only way to get through it is to know you’re not alone. Connection is the one thing that makes life bearable.”

FUN TIMES

Find answers at www.baylorlariat.com

McClatchy-Tribune



Across

- 1 Bingo call
- 5 Gordon __: Michael Douglas’s “Wall Street” role
- 10 One may require stitches
- 14 German import
- 15 Slangy negative
- 16 Control
- 17 See 53-Down
- 20 Fairy tale ender
- 21 Amazement
- 22 Early surgery aid
- 23 Talking with one’s hands?: Abbr.
- 25 Ante-
- 26 See 53-Down
- 34 Washington’s Grand __ Dam
- 35 Fierce anger
- 36 Carnival city
- 37 Old, in Oberhausen
- 38 “Good heavens!”
- 40 Humdinger
- 41 Relieve (of)

- 42 Pencil remnant
- 43 Legal-sized fish
- 45 See 53-Down
- 48 Neighbor of Nev.
- 49 Reggae singer
- Kamoze
- 50 Big name in food service
- 53 Brine-cured delicacy
- 55 Remove forcibly
- 60 See 53-Down
- 63 Andy Taylor’s son
- 64 Submit taxes, nowadays
- 65 Kong’s kin
- 66 Guam, for one: Abbr.
- 67 ‘50s experiment, briefly
- 68 Longings
- Down**
- 1 Cake with a kick
- 2 Horse racing surface
- 3 Cut, perhaps
- 4 Nick at __
- 5 Dogfaces, briefly

- 6 Yoga instruction
- 7 Had no doubts about
- 8 Leafy vegetable
- 9 Santana’s “__ Como Va”
- 10 Irritates, with “on”
- 11 One may have an agt.
- 12 Fruit used to flavor gin
- 13 Bavarian mister
- 18 Really peeved
- 19 Fogg’s creator
- 24 Honeybunch
- 25 What might be used when a bomb is hurled on a field?
- 26 Port closing?
- 27 Show up
- 28 Flamenco exclamation
- 29 Bedouins, e.g.
- 30 “Really cool!”
- 31 Break out, as violence
- 32 Ticks off

- 33 Organized string of gigs
- 34 Atkins diet taboo
- 39 Pistol
- 40 Island welcome
- 42 Old Detroit brewery name
- 44 Lakeshore natives
- 46 World Cup sport
- 47 Digital dots
- 50 Used a 39-Down
- 51 “Gadzooks!”
- 52 Swizzle
- 53 Clue for 17-, 26-, 45- and 60-Across
- 54 Haggard’s “__ from Muskogee”
- 56 See-through, in comics
- 57 Meerscham or brier
- 58 Genesis locale
- 59 Subtraction word
- 61 Half a devious laugh
- 62 Living in Ariz., maybe

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		7	8			3	6	
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			9		8			7
	1							
	3				7	9		
	2		3	1				4

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Freshman
Winterville, NC



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Hoops news

One team hears from the NCAA while another needs its fans for a postseason, homecourt advantage

NCAA denies

Jones III’s appeal

On Thursday, the NCAA Division I Committee on Student-Athlete Reinstatement denied Baylor’s appeal to immediately reinstate freshman Perry Jones III, who was declared ineligible on March 9. Baylor sought outside counsel from Bond, Schoeneck & King and presented its appeal on Wednesday. The ruling came Thursday.

Jones must sit out the first five games of next season and repay the improper benefits he received to a charity of his choice. He was declared ineligible both because of loans his mother received from his high school club basketball coach and funds that coach gave Jones to travel to San Diego to see a preseason professional football game. Baylor athletics director Ian McCaw said he was displeased at the news.

“We continue to believe that Perry Jones III and the Baylor’s men’s basketball team received a disparate outcome in relation to other recent high-profile cases,” McCaw said. Jones was Baylor’s second-leading scorer at 13.9 points per game this season.

Grab your Lady Bears tournament tickets

Fans hoping to see Baylor women’s basketball carve its path to the 2011 final four can see the Lady Bears play No. 16 seed Prairie View A&M at 6:40 p.m. Sunday at the Ferrell Center. Students can buy tickets for Sunday as well as Tuesday’s second-round game for \$15 each.

Baseball starts Big 12 play against Tech



Junior Trent Blank awaits the signal before delivering a pitch in Baylor’s Feb. 20 win over Oral Roberts. Blank is expected to start Sunday’s game against Texas Tech as the Bears open conference play this weekend.

BU looks to beat Raiders’ young arms

By Krista Pirtle
Sports Writer

The No. 14 Bears (12-5) baseball team is riding a seven-game winning streak as it opens conference play with a three game series against Texas Tech (12-6) this weekend in Waco.

The action starts at 6:30 p.m. today, continues at 3 p.m. Saturday and concludes with a 1 p.m. Sunday game.

“I think they’d be far less confident if we were on a seven-game losing streak,” head coach Steve Smith said. “I think they all realize that yesterday is yesterday and every game is just so different, you have to be ready to play.”

Those yesterdays are full of great moments for Baylor – sophomore Max Muncy’s walk-off grand slam against Rice on March 6, junior Logan Verrett’s 14 strikeouts on the mound last Friday against Louisiana Tech and senior Chris Slater’s walk-off single against Florida International Tuesday to

give Smith his 600th career win. Slater said Baylor is coming into the opening weekend of conference play with great momentum.

“You know, momentum is huge in baseball,” Slater said. “Just having some success in the past to build on is very big, so hopefully we will continue. I think we’re playing good team baseball and winning in different ways.”

Baylor’s No. 14 ranking by Baseball America is the highest since being ranked No. 9 in April 2009. It was never ranked last year.

For Texas Tech, the question arises as to how it will play in Waco, this being its first road trip of the season. They have never won a conference-opening series on the road.

The first game of the series will feature Verrett on the mound for the Bears while rookie freshman David Paiz will make his first career start for the Raiders.

Verrett is coming off of his complete game where he threw to one batter over the minimum, striking out 14 and allowing only one hit. For the season as a whole, Verrett has pitched and started four games, accumulating a 2.55 ERA with 30 strikeouts and only six walks.

The second matchup will have sophomore Josh Turley pitch-

ing for Baylor and freshman Trey Masek for the Raiders.

Masek has already started to get comfortable on the rubber, holding the lowest ERA for the regular rotation of Red Raiders pitchers at 2.37 in six games and notching 15 strikeouts and seven walks on the season.

Turley has a 4.22 ERA, and this game will be his fourth start on the season.

The final matchup between these two teams will have two juniors starting on the mound, Trent Blank for Baylor and Robbie Kilcrease, who underwent season-ending Tommy John surgery last season, for the Red Raiders.

“They’ve got some really good position players back,” Smith said. “It’s interesting going into this weekend looking at who they’re projecting to start with a couple of freshmen getting their first start. There’s not a whole lot you can know, but they have adequate offense. They have young arms that are good arms, but they’re just young.”

Verrett said beating any Big 12 opponent is no easy task.

“They’re going to be tough,” Verrett said. “It’s opening weekend of Big 12 play so they’ll be up to it for sure. We just hope we get a good fan base here [that will] get us riled up to play.”

Golf teams reach midway point of spring season

By Daniel Wallace
Reporter

Both the men’s and women’s golf teams are in the middle of their seasons, each in different situations but both working toward a postseason appearance.

Men remain optimistic

In a tournament where Baylor played against 13 of the top 50 golf teams in the nation, the Bears finished 14th of 15. The team finished at 48-over-par (305-301-306=912) at the Southern Highlands tournament in Las Vegas, No. 2 Oklahoma State took the title shooting 1-under-par 863.

The three-day contest ended Sunday and left the Bears with mixed feelings.

“It was definitely disappoint-

ing,” head coach Greg Priest said. “It was a lot stronger field [than the previous tournament] and we definitely wanted to play better.”

Baylor could not seem to ride the momentum they had coming off a tournament win in Charleston, S.C., the previous week.

Although sophomore Ryan O’Rear said the Southern Highlands tournament “just didn’t play very well,” the team is refusing to be pessimistic.

Despite the outcome of the tournament, O’Rear said the team actually did some things better than in Charleston.

“I felt like we really fought hard when we needed to here. In Charleston, we were never really in a position to fight but here we were. And we got it together the last nine holes,” O’Rear said.

The last nine holes saw the

Bears jump out of the last place spot when the team finally found its rhythm. Priest said he was proud of his team for the way it competed and never gave up in the back nine.

Priest added the team is still where he would like for them to be at this point in the season.

“We control our own destination ... “If we control what we’re doing, we’ll be fine,” he said.

The team will look for more of that control on Sunday in Ball Ground, Ga., where it will begin with a one-day match play tournament against Illinois.

Women on NCAA regional bid bubble after UNLV tournament

Consistency and improvement have defined the Baylor women’s golf team this season.

The team is playing well enough to keep its NCAA regionals bid alive, after finishing seventh out of 15 at the UNLV Spring Invitational in Boulder City, Nev. on March 9.

In its final round, Baylor shot 3-over-291, bettering the score of the previous day by 16 strokes.

The team finished at 35-over-par (301-307-291=899). No. 25 Pepperdine finished 20-under-par 844 to take the cake.

In the final round, junior Chelsey Cothran shot a career-low 3-under-69, highlighted by an eagle. She tied with freshman Kaylin Terry at 8-over-par 224.

Coach Sylvia Ferdon was satisfied in the effort of her team.

“They kept that feeling of confidence up,” Ferdon said. “The last day was great. They were believing in themselves, and it was fun to

watch them play that well.”

The recent play of the team has Ferdon saying Baylor has put itself on the bubble for the NCAA regionals.

Part of that recent success has been the play of Terry. The coaching staff has decided to enter her in the remainder of Baylor’s tournaments, as she has proven herself worthy of consistently competing in tournaments.

Cothran said she has been impressed with Terry’s play as well.

“She is doing really well; she is getting to know the team and how things roll. She has calmed down a lot and is playing like she did in high school,” Cothran said.

The Lady Bears will host Kent State on Tuesday at the Ridgewood Golf Course in Waco, the only tournament they play in Waco this season.

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Special day at zoo highlights sustainability

BY LEIGH ANN HENRY
REPORTER

St. Patrick's Day was greener than usual as hundreds of patrons flocked to Cameron Park Zoo for animals, beautiful weather and a sustainability-themed event.

The zoo sponsored "It's Easy Being Green," an event dedicated to education of wildlife conservation and sustainable practices.

Connie Kassner, education curator at Cameron Park Zoo, said one reason the day was so busy was because many surrounding areas are celebrating spring break.

Throughout the day, zookeepers at various exhibits gave presentations about current issues wildlife face in the area.

An orangutan training session at 9:30 a.m. kicked off the day as a zookeeper educated patrons on the precarious plight of orangutans. Orangutan habitats are being destroyed for creation of palm oil plantations. Palm oil is typically

used in food products, especially for baking.

The zookeepers asked consumers be more aware of the products they buy and try to choose products that use palm oil harvested from safer plantations.

Some additional events included tiger enrichment, coral reef conservation, otter enrichment, water conservation and reptile conservation.

Several organizations were on hand to show support for going green, including the Baylor sustainability department.

Smith Getterman, sustainability coordinator at Baylor, set up a table at the zoo's entryway with the help of two students.

"We're happy to get involved with the Waco community and share what Baylor is doing to care for creation," Longview junior Sydney Joseph said.

The table had two jars of M&M's, one completely full and the other less than a quarter full,



Customers at the Cameron Park Zoo enjoy the bison exhibit Thursday. The zoo hosted "It's Easy Being Green," a sustainability-themed event.

which was symbolic of how much trash sits in landfills versus how much is actually recycled. As people came into the zoo, they were encouraged to try and guess the

number of M&M's in the jar. In return for their participation they were given a free T-shirt.

"We're here spreading the mission of Baylor sustainability and

getting people excited to care for creation," Getterman said.

Hillcrest Professional Development School is one of the zoo's adopt-a-school partners and was also invited to represent and partner with the Waco's solid waste department.

Paula Miller, instructional specialist at Hillcrest Professional Development School, chaperoned 41 fifth-grade students on a field trip.

Collectively, the students said they had built a roller coaster out of toilet paper tubes and tape. Then they successfully demonstrated it for passersby. The school project was meant to be a fun way to demonstrate the power of recycling to students.

The students also made posters to raise awareness for the devastation in Japan caused by the recent earthquake and tsunami.

They did not accept donations, but directed people to websites where they could do so.

Green Mountain Energy Com-

pany, an electricity provider using renewable energy, educated people about renewable energy and signed up new customers.

Lydia Miller, DFW Retail & Event Market Manager for Green Mountain, said the zoo invited the company to participate because it will be donating a solar panel installation to help provide electricity to the zoo.

Keep Waco Beautiful, a non-profit organization founded in 1979, had a table where members demonstrated fun ideas for kids to make crafts out of household items instead of throwing them away.

One idea they showed was a rain stick constructed from a paper towel tube and construction paper.

Sherri Street, executive director of Keep Waco Beautiful, said the organization is responsible for lighting the suspension bridge, building Indian Springs Park and many other beautification efforts around Waco.

JAPAN from Page 1

over the nearby nuclear power plant forced the group to leave. The academy provided them with a bus and they headed for Misawa Air Base, where the group had been told they could stay. The 200-mile trip took about 11 hours on the country's back roads, many of which had been damaged in the earthquake.

The teachers had about two hours to prepare for the trip. After a quick dinner, Rader returned to her apartment and packed a carry-on bag, backpack and purse with her necessities and her laptop — her "window to the world."

"It was kind of tough to make that decision to leave and to leave all of my stuff behind," Rader said. "But then again, after the earthquake, it kind of put things in perspective for me."

At the air base, the group was welcomed with warm cots made up on the racquetball courts, their first showers in days and an unlimited supply of water, which had become a precious ration for the group in Sendai.

"We weren't drinking very much. We were kind of nervous about how long we would even have water so we were kind of conserving as much as we could," Rader said. "I've never been so dry in my life — all of my skin was so dry. I'm still kind of dehydrated. I've been trying to drink a lot, but my lips were chapped, my face was ridiculously dry, I've been having dehydration headaches. It's really an ordeal."

The group was provided with lunch and dinner their first day at the base, but has since had to pay for other food from the yen they had with them, which the base exchanged into dollars.

Although much of the group's time has been occupied only with sitting and waiting, Rader said they were also able to help to the base with packaging donated supplies to Sendai.

"It's kind of like we were meant to come here because people at the base were talking about how they really had no idea how they were going to get the stuff down to Sendai because they didn't have a contact in Sendai," Rader said, "but we sort of became their contact and they've been sending stuff down to our school so that they can give it to the people."

When the group was told that

Wednesday would be their last night at the base because space was needed for professional relief workers, the academy again came to the group's aid, offering to pay for a couple of nights' stay in a nearby hotel.

In the meantime, many of the teachers are trying to find flights home, a process made difficult by limited flights and skyrocketing ticket prices.

"I heard from one of the other teachers, she was trying to get to Chicago and a flight to Chicago one-way was going to cost \$4,300, which is absolutely ridiculous," Rader said.

Rader was able to book a flight that will take her to Honolulu, then Phoenix and finally to Dallas. She will be leaving Japan early Sunday morning.

To help Rader raise the money she needs to get home, her family set up a PayPal account: Jennifer-JapanFund@gmail.com. Any extra money that Rader doesn't need for her ticket will be donated to Japan.

Although Rader is currently focused on getting home, she hopes to be able to return to her job at MeySen Academy, where she is a teacher in a program called Friends Club. The program is focused on teaching English to students in first through sixth grade. The semester would have started in April but will probably be postponed, Rader said.

"Once the school is up and running again, I'd like to try to come back because I really love Japan and I [believe in] what's going on at the school, but right now it's so important for me to just go try to be with my family," Rader said. "To just be with them and show them that I am OK, that everything's going to be fine. I think that's what's really important to me."

Still, many of her co-workers hope to return to Sendai to help with relief efforts, Rader said.

"I think that God is kind of working through us no matter what we've chosen to do," Rader said. "The people who are going home will be in a better position to tell people at home about what's going on here and hopefully get interest and help from home, while people here are able to really do whatever they can here to help people."

Baylor also had six students studying abroad in Japan at the

time of the earthquake and tsunami. Half of the students are attending Seinan Gakuin University in Fukuoka City and are still in Japan.

The other half of the students were attending Hosei University in Tokyo, but have since had to return to the United States "because of the unpredictable nature of the situation there," said Lori Fogleman, director of media communications. They were scheduled to arrive Thursday. Hosei University was on semester break until April but has been closed indefinitely, she said.

Katy sophomore Samuel Goetsch was in Tokyo working at the time of the earthquake. Moments after punching in his time card, his building began to shake, and Goetsch had to duck under a table to shield himself from falling shelves and books. After a few aftershocks, he and his co-workers headed outside, where they stood

amid crowds of people waiting for the shaking to subside. Goetsch's shift was canceled for the day, but when he returned to Shinjuku Station to catch a train home, he found that no trains were running. Instead of staying overnight at the station, Goetsch decided to trek approximately nine miles back to his apartment. It took him about two and a half hours.

"I wasn't alone either. Hundreds and hundreds of people were walking too," Goetsch wrote in an e-mail to the Lariat. "Roads were heavily congested, so rather than taking a taxi or bus, it was much faster to just walk home."

Goetsch said he did not lose water, electricity, gas or Internet service throughout the ordeal, though cell lines were busy for the first several hours on the day of the earthquake and power outages were scheduled in Kanto and Tokaido for Tuesday. Most businesses were able to open again the

day following the quake, he said.

"No buildings toppled in Tokyo, no apocalypse," Goetsch said. "I was amazed at how calm, collected and civilized the Japanese people were, despite the major earthquake that had just occurred hours before."

The absence of riots and looting in Japan came as no shock to Rader, who said order has been maintained despite the situation.

"That comes from the Japanese people themselves, the people of Japan — that's just how they're built," Rader said.

"They wouldn't, for the most part, even think about rioting or looting. It's ingrained in the culture and the people: That's just not something that you do. Even in a horrible disaster, that's just not what you do."

Belton junior Brian Tucker was in Fukuoka at the time of the disasters but did not realize anything had happened at the time.

"As I am in the far south, my concern for my safety was not the earthquake, but the radiation issues that came about because of it," Tucker wrote in an e-mail to the Lariat. "My personal experience of the earthquake was not actually knowing about it until Americans asked me if I was alive, because the Japanese government has been trying to tone down the severity of what has been going on for a while."

Tucker and his family, who were with him in Japan, had a difficult time deciding whether they should remain there or seek refuge in another country. The evacuation of many of his fellow students made Tucker more wary of the situation.

"About half of my study abroad program, the Europeans, have all been evacuated," Tucker said, "so that makes me worry that there might be more of a serious issue than is being told."

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"[Jackson] hasn't officially communicated the decision," Lori Fogleman, director of media communications, said in an interview Thursday. "It is my understanding that that will be [released by] the end of the day tomorrow, or somewhere around that point."

Alvarado senior Samantha Jones, president of the Sexual Identity Forum, expects the charter to be denied based on a March 4 meeting she had with Jackson in which, she said, he expressed his intention to deny the group's request for a charter because the issues were too complex for a student organization to hold an appropriate forum about them.

"He is trying to do the best thing by the students and communicating through the proper channels," Fogleman said, adding that

Jackson will not confirm the decision or the reasoning behind it before he sends the official document to the organization today.

Jones, who has already announced on the Sexual Identity Forum's website that the charter has been denied, said she does not believe the administration has given the organization the opportunity to live up to its stated goal of serving as a discussion group, not an advocacy group.

"I feel that every student that comes to this group is being oppressed and discriminated against," Jones said, "because they are not being provided another forum to come and talk about it."

More information can be found online as this story develops at www.baylorlariat.com.