

ROUNDING UP CAMPUS NEWS SINCE 1900

# THE BAYLOR LARIAT

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 19, 2009

## Applications hit 30,000 despite shaky economy

By Ashley Corinne Killough  
Staff writer

The deepening recession and its trail of negative effects has inspired cost-cutting efforts in families and organizations across the country. But recent trends show that education may be something people are unwilling to give up.

For the first time in Baylor's history, the university passed the 30,000-mark in applications for enrollment, representing about

an 18 percent increase over the previous year.

But Baylor's high numbers aren't unique. Applications are flooding universities and colleges nationwide, causing an influx of record-breaking applicant pools.

The Dallas Morning News reported that in Texas alone, Rice University, Southern Methodist University, the University of Texas and Texas A&M University each had record numbers of freshman applicants for their fall

2009 classes.

Jennifer Carron, director of admissions services at Baylor, said this could be attributed to students applying to more schools in recent years. Because many applications can now be completed online and fewer schools require application fees, students are finding it less daunting to apply to more and more schools.

"It also appears this year that students are applying more aggressively in order to increase

their opportunities, just in case family financial concerns end up playing a larger part in their decisions than previously expected," Carron said.

Knowing the crippled economy is taking a toll on many families, Carron said admissions services worked intentionally to recruit a sizable number of applicants this year.

"We anticipate that families

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Application Stats	
2007:	
Applied: 26,514	
Accepted: 11,668	
Enrolled: 2,732	
2008:	
Applied: 25,501	
Accepted: 13,096	
Enrolled: 3,062	
2009	
Applied: 30,000	
Source: <a href="http://www.baylor.edu/irt">www.baylor.edu/irt</a>	

## New staff join office of Vice Provost

By Sommer Ingram  
Staff writer

The Office of the Vice Provost for Research and Office of Sponsored Programs recently welcomed two new staff members, Damon Crisman and Misty Schrank, to each respective office.

The Web site for the Office of the Vice Provost provides databases and other resources for locating research and scholarship funding opportunities.

When the office wants to implement a new system or expand on an existing system, Crisman, who will serve as the electronic research manager, will handle those projects.

"The primary job of the OVPR is to support the faculty by providing them the infrastructure they require to be competitive in obtaining external funding. Since proposals must be submitted in a very specific manner, finding someone skilled in this is a challenge. We got very fortunate with Misty in that she had a lot of the skills that we were looking for and the same goes for Damon," said Dr. Truell Hyde, vice provost for research. Members of the office assist faculty and staff in identifying and obtaining the necessary funding for adequate research and scholarship.

This includes holding events such as grant-writing seminars, as well as playing the role of Baylor's representative when Baylor engages in partnerships with other institutions. The Office of Sponsored Programs, a branch of the vice provost's office, is responsible for sponsored

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## This year's Sing to feature 17 acts

By Brittany McNamara  
Reporter

Countless hours of practice and toil will reveal polished performances at this year's first production of All-University Sing 6:30 p.m. today in Waco Hall.

"I think this will be one of the best years of Sing, if not the best year," said Coordinator of Student Productions Keith Frazee. "There are 17 groups that are competing for those eight precious spots in Pigskin."

Of the 17 acts this year, there are many more that deserve to go to Pigskin than will be able to go, Frazee said.

This year, acts will be performed on a brand-new stage. Waco Hall's stage hasn't been replaced since its original installation in 1929, said graduate assistant for student productions, Cheryl Mathis.

"The newness of the stage does make it slick," Frazee said. "However groups have had several runs on the stage and had the chance to get used to it."

Henderson junior and participant in Sing, Macy Phenix, said she had no idea the stage had been replaced and hardly noticed the difference. She said, however, there were a few more falls in rehearsal than usual.

For the second year, a breathalyzer test will be administered before all SING performances,

Frazee said. Due to past issues, this has become a university requirement. He said that in the past, a very small group of students made some poor choices, which now affect the entire show.

"We want to ensure that our students represent the values of Baylor University," Frazee said.

Those selected for the breathalyzer test are chosen randomly. Each entire group will not be required to undergo the test.

"We randomly select two students from each group based on a formula where we preselect two random numbers," Frazee said. "When the students check in in a single file line, the students in line according to the two numbers are breathalyzed."

This year, all acts are incredibly creative, Mathis said. Students will be pleasantly surprised with the new and fresh ideas.

"It's going to be a battle of vocals," Frazee said. "Almost every group has someone that will raise eyebrows or drop a jaw."

Sing performances will be held Thursday through Saturday this week and next.

Those interested in more information can visit [www.baylor.edu/student\\_productions](http://www.baylor.edu/student_productions).

"I'm very proud of all of the students, staff, crew and volunteers working on the show this year," Mathis said. "It will definitely be a show to remember."



File Photo

The Bill Daniel Student Center was packed with students Thursday night, Jan. 22, as tickets first went on sale for the 2009 Sing performances. This year's event will include performances from 17 groups.

## Middle East at forefront of international concerns

### Each country requires special problem-solving

By Shanna Taylor  
and Jenna DeWitt  
Reporters

The eyes of the world are on President Barack Obama as he takes on the challenge of establishing a new foreign policy in the Middle East.

The following countries are areas that require special attention:

#### Afghanistan

The ongoing conflict in Afghanistan has been at the top of Obama's agenda in the Middle East.

"Obama has talked about doubling the troops in Afghanistan but it likely would take a far greater number than that to stabilize the country," said Dr.

Mark Long, director of Middle East Studies and associate professor in the Honors College and Political Science department.

Obama has begun to execute his original plans to double the 37,000 soldiers in Afghanistan and reduce the 146,000 soldiers in Iraq. The first round of new deployments will leave in May, increasing the number of troops in Afghanistan to 55,000 by this summer according to the Washington Post.

"It's a widening war and our participation is widening. What is it that we want to accomplish? What is it that we can accomplish and at what cost?" said Dr. Marc Ellis, director and founder of the Center for Jewish Studies, who, along with writing books dealing with the Middle East,



has a history of supporting open dialogue about war.

Obama promised during his campaign to refocus resources on combating the resurgence of the Taliban.

"The primary threat to Afghanistan is from the Taliban," Long said.

NATO forces have been unable to eradicate the group in the southern region of the country, and are embroiled in what experts believe will be a long struggle.

"I can't predict what's going to unfold in Afghanistan, but fixing Afghanistan could potentially be a much larger challenge than leaving behind a stable Iraq," Long said. "I don't think we'll see substantial progress in Afghanistan in the next three to six months."

Militant attacks from areas of Pakistan known to support

terrorists, a blossoming drug trade, an American base closure in Kyrgyzstan, financial problems in both the U.S. and throughout the Middle East and ongoing violence over political leaders have plagued recent efforts in the country.

Long said he believes one of the most important factors impacting the situation in Afghanistan is unrest in neighboring Pakistan.

"If President Obama is losing sleep about events in the Middle East, Pakistan has to be the country that's keeping him awake at night, because of the rise of anti-Americanism in the country, the lack of a stable central government, the inability of the country to control it's northwest region where it borders Afghanistan. This is a country that's nuclear capable, I think that's something that would keep the president awake at night," Long said.

#### Iraq

One of the most influential issues determining Obama's success in his first 100 days in office will be the withdrawal of U.S. forces in Iraq.

As of Feb. 16, the U.S. military death count reached 4,245, according to the Associated Press.

"It's an unstable situation that has been made more so by the United States. We shouldn't be in Iraq," Ellis said, citing both Iraqi and American deaths and financial trouble for both nations.

The Status of Forces Agreement between The Republic of Iraq and the United States, made on Nov. 17, 2008 stated, "All the United States Forces shall withdraw from all Iraqi territory no later than December 31, 2011."

All United States combat forces shall withdraw from Iraqi cities, villages and localities no later than the time at

which Iraqi Security Forces assume full responsibility for security in an Iraqi province, provided that such withdrawal is completed no later than June 30, 2009."

Long said unrealistic optimism toward Iraq is a concept of the past for the U.S.

"Our policy is not so much finding the best option, (but finding) the least bad option," Long said. "The phased withdrawal, as Obama has proposed, is the least bad option for the United States and entirely necessary. Maintaining a large visible presence in Iraq can only work against our interest at this point."

Long is not only a professor, but a former Air Force intelligence analyst and instructor at the Air Force Academy in Colorado. He is also a major in the Air Force reserves. He said

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point of view

Let coffins be borne, let cameras record

Maybe now we'll see what we have not been allowed. Meaning coffins draped in our national colors, filled with the remains of our honored dead. The military has banned media from photographing coffins arriving at Dover Air Force Base in Delaware since 1991. This, after a 1989 incident in which some TV news outlets used a split screen to juxtapose images of deceased Americans being returned home with images of President George H.W. Bush joking with reporters at a live news conference. It was a cheap shot that made the president seem insensitive to the somber ceremony and the sacrifice it commemorated. Hence, the ban.

It was an understandable reaction. Also a wrong one. Asked last week at his first news conference if he would consider overturning the ban, President Barack Obama said the matter was under review.

Consider this a vote for scrapping the ban with all deliberate speed. It is an ill-considered assault not simply on the public's right to know but on its need.

Granted, the military doesn't see it that way. It says the ban is designed to protect the privacy of military families. This has always seemed a rather flimsy excuse. You come closer to the truth, I think, in a quote that appeared recently in The Washington Post. Cal Peters, who lost a stepson in Afghanistan, and who opposes lifting the ban, told the paper Democrats want to do this "so they can publicize the negative side of the war and show the American public there is a high cost to be paid here."

Put aside the grieving stepfather's suggestion that this would be a partisan stunt. Grapple instead with his suggestion that there is something wrong in reminding people "there is a high cost to be paid" for war.

It's hard to understand why he thinks that a bad thing.

The most moral and widely supported war you can conceive is nevertheless an abomination. A less honorable war is an abomination without even the fig leaf of lofty purpose to confer nobility upon it. Which is why the Vietnam War is famously considered to have been lost, not in the jungles of south Asia but in the living rooms of North America as a nightly barrage of graphic pictures on the evening news eroded public support. And why the military has been skittish about pictures ever since.

No, it's not as if we are lacking for images of the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan. Advanced technology has shown us more of these wars than we ever saw of Vietnam. Yet paradoxically, we are at a greater remove from the fighting now than we were then. That's because there's no draft, no sense that every young man is called upon to make a stand, that every neighborhood has a son invested in this cause. Instead, the burden is borne by a few — volunteers and their families.

The rest of us are free to go shopping. We are not touched by these wars.

And we need to be.

I submit that the cost of war — whether the one everyone supports or the one no one does — is not something to be hidden from the people of a democracy. To the contrary, it is something they should never be allowed to forget. We need to know it. Otherwise, war becomes little more than a video game, death tolls just columns of numbers, and we forget to be judicious with the lives of our fellow citizens, forget to hold political and military leaders accountable for how and when and why those lives are spent.

The Obama administration has promised transparency. To continue this ban would do violence to that pledge. Let the coffins be borne from the planes and let the cameras record it and let the people see it and grow reverent and wise. Let them pause in their shopping and be touched and reminded that there is, indeed, "a high cost" to war.

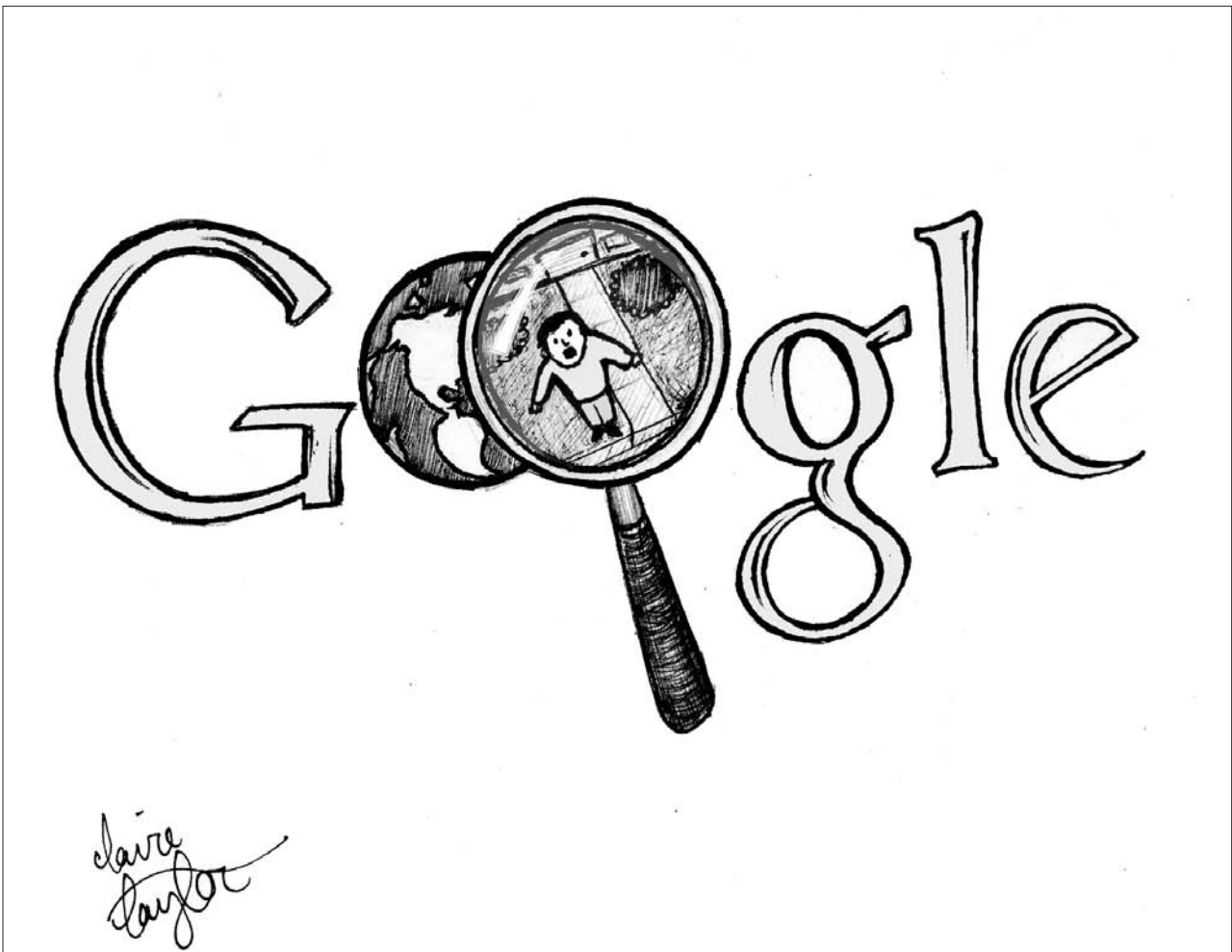
Mr. Peters thinks Americans ought not know that. I respectfully disagree.

Leonard Pitts Jr. is the winner of the 2004 Pulitzer Prize for commentary and is a columnist for the Miami Herald.



BY LEONARD PITTS

Editorial



Google, following your every step

At some point or another in the day, every one has wondered about the location of a friend, family member or a co-worker at a particular moment. A phone call might be made or a text message might be sent to inquire, but with new technology from Google these means of interaction won't even be necessary.

The Internet search engine has created a new service called Latitude that will enable mobile phone and computer users to track the location of family and friends. Through the use of GPS technology and Wi-Fi hotspots, Latitude can pinpoint your exact location and disclose it to friends who are using the same service.

This feature, as high tech as it may be, is completely unnecessary. Latitude is another product contributing to diminishing what privacy is left in today's world, and not to mention, it's taking stalking to a whole new level.

The feature was launched earlier this month and is

available in 27 countries. For now, it is compatible with most color-screen BlackBerry phones, smartphones and phones equipped with Windows Mobile 5.0 or later.

Google intends for the service to be used as a means of convenience. It has been described as a way for friends and families to keep track of each other. With Latitude, friends who are meeting for dinner can track the travel progress of others to see who has arrived and who is on their way.

Steve Lee, product manager for Google Latitude, said he believes that the service will also provide people the comfort of knowing where their loved ones are.

"My wife is on the other side of the country right now, and it would be heartwarming to see just where," Lee said in a CNET article available on CNN's Web site.

While it may be convenient, with the push of a button, to be able to know where certain people are, Latitude is taking the place of something that's already

lacking in our modern society — human interaction. Though the level of interaction is minimal in a text message or e-mail, it still requires communication from sender and receiver and vice versa. Latitude, on the other hand, requires no interaction at all.

Is it really that hard to make a phone call these days, to actually have a human conversation?

Along with human interaction, privacy would also be sacrificed.

In order to utilize this location-based social network requires a Google account. With this account, you're able to give permission and keep tabs on who can track you. You even have the option of placing privacy settings for different people on your Latitude list. This means that you can hide from specific people or you can choose to disappear altogether.

Even though privacy settings are available, this system could still be intrusive. If parents request that their children's whereabouts be

available to them via Latitude, then most likely children would have to comply. If husbands and wives wanted to use the application to constantly check up on each other's every move, imagine the questioning and probing every time a daily routine was changed. How much strain would that put on a marriage? Whatever happened to trust, to believing that people are able to tell the truth?

But then again, Google Latitude gives you the option of telling a white lie. Basically, you can manually set your Latitude position to say that you're at a certain place even if you're not there. If you can lie about where you are, then what's the point of using this software?

Google Latitude is just another medium taking up Internet space and storage on computers and cell phones. Beyond the initial curiosity that would spark interest in this service, there's nothing Latitude offers that couldn't be achieved with a single phone call.

point of view

Lack of interaction leads to disconnect

Night sets in and the lights of Trafalgar Square illuminate the pillars on the front of the National Gallery in London. A man with long, dark braids plays guitar music on the gallery's steps in a style reminiscent of Bob Marley. The speakers on either side of the guitarist carry his music across the square and the combined effect of the music and lights feels peaceful. The music stops abruptly when a man walks up to the guitarist and holds out a cardboard sign with the words, "Everything will be OK," written across it.

"What is that supposed to mean, man? That's offensive!" the guitarist says loudly.

"It's sarcastic. It's just a joke," the sign holder says in a heavy British accent, stepping back.

"You think that just because I am black. How dare you come over here with that sign? I have a right to be here, man," the guitarist says and the argument continues.

I walk away from the two men toward Trafalgar Square's fountains astonished at the guitarist's reaction. He interpreted the sign in a way the sign holder did not expect when he held up what he thought was a comical message.

After a week studying abroad in the Netherlands with the Baylor in Maastricht program, I have witnessed how differently cultures understand and communicate. A phrase or gesture to one person can have an entirely separate meaning to another.

As I walk the streets of Maastricht, trying to decipher Dutch menus and navigate by Dutch street signs, I am constantly reminded of how insignificant I am in a world marbled with countless cultures. I learned very quickly while traveling in Europe that awareness of my surroundings and the effect of my actions on others is vital for smooth, safe interaction with other cultures.

But, awareness is not only essential in international travel. Even on Baylor's campus, where the majority of students have similar customs and modes of communication, awareness is important. Students must be able to look outside of the "Baylor Bubble" to the city of Waco. Many times, students forget that Waco encompasses more than Baylor campus and Valley Mills Drive. This narrow-minded attitude, when applied to international travel, would be a tragedy.

Imagine students coming to Maastricht intent to stay in their dormitory, never venturing out on the streets to see the city's sights or meet its inhabitants? They would deprive themselves of chances to learn and grow intellectually and culturally. Baylor students make this same mistake of depriving themselves of cultural, intellectual growth by never interacting with Waco citizens.

Jimmy Dorrell, founder of Mission Waco, describes the disconnect between Baylor students and Waco inhabitants as "two worlds in the same city." Baylor students live in a privileged world without noticing the impoverishment around them. "One in five (Waco) families lives in poverty," Dorrell said. Waco citizens have serious needs and Baylor students have numerous opportunities to reach out through programs such as Mission Waco, which gives 1,700 meals away a year and has volunteering outlets such as a children's center, teen center and homeless shelter.

Awareness of the vast diversity of the world and your reactions and interactions is the first step. Reaching out of your comfort zone and putting yourself in the place of someone who has completely dissimilar beliefs and understanding is the goal.

Claire Moncla is a sophomore professional writing major from Houston.



BY CLAIRE MONCLA

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SUDOKU

THE GAME OF PUZZLES By The Mathman Group

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THE Daily Crossword

Edited by Wayne Robert Williams

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By Adele Mann  
New York, NY

2/19/09

For today's crossword and sudoku answers, visit [www.baylor.edu/Lariat](http://www.baylor.edu/Lariat)

ACROSS  
1 Short distance  
5 Hullabaloo  
10 Some votes  
14 Seep  
15 Friend in Madrid  
16 Present starter?  
17 Start of a quip  
20 Rink slider  
21 "Havana" star  
22 Sawbuck  
24 Speech on Sun.  
25 His in Hyeres  
26 Old sailor  
30 "Barney Miller" co-star  
32 Shout of pain  
34 Part 2 of quip  
37 Suffers defeat  
41 Essential acid type  
42 Explorer Johnson  
43 "\_\_\_ Got Mail"  
44 Star in Cygnus  
45 Part 3 of quip  
47 \_\_\_ Dhabi  
49 J.H.S. subject  
50 Uncommon  
51 Mai \_\_\_ cocktail

54 SASE, e.g.  
56 Observe in secret  
58 Deviant  
61 In a chair  
66 End of quip  
68 Mythical Hun king  
69 Founder of the Ottoman dynasty  
70 Border lake  
71 Film unit  
72 Renaissance fiddle  
73 Take exception to  
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1 Disseminates  
2 Captured  
3 Stone or Pound  
4 Chic  
5 Like Snow White  
6 Hesitant syllables  
7 Qum coin  
8 Evil giants  
9 Andy of "60 Minutes"  
10 John Lennon's Ono  
11 Ludwig and Jannings  
12 "Tomorrow" singer  
13 Placards  
18 Thus far

19 Actress Jones  
23 Not by any means  
26 Large amount  
27 Wistful phrase  
28 Reposed  
29 Itchy skin problem  
31 Mirage, maybe  
33 Courting man  
35 Street crime  
36 After-shower powders  
38 Fiji's capital  
39 Even one time  
40 Parched  
46 Mouth the words  
48 Cast off  
51 Mongolian invader  
52 Wane  
53 Braided linen tape  
55 Motive  
57 Evergreen tree  
59 Eye in Aix  
60 Wee woolly one  
62 Hey!  
63 Polo of "Meet the Parents"  
64 Ireland  
65 Heroic exploit  
67 Highland negative

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# Spice things up and samba your way to Remix Brazil

By Lauren Hollon  
Reporter

The Brazilian Student Association is holding a Brazilian culture night from 6:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. today in Barfield Drawing Room.

Remix Brazil is the first of what may become an annual event, said Brazilian Student Association president Gabriel Fanini, a Rio de Janeiro, Brazil senior.

The night will include special music and videos by a digital video disc jockey, games, food, dancing and more.

Music is a very important part of Brazil's culture, said Addy Meira, a São Paulo doctoral student and the event host.

"We have our own beats that are natural to our country. It's just like the U.S. —you have your hip hop and pop," Meira said.

Among the uniquely Brazilian music styles to be featured at Remix Brazil are samba, forró, axé and the music of carnaval.

There will also be a demonstration from the Capoeira Luanda, a professional capoeira group from San Antonio.

"Each region of Brazil has its own culture. The capoeira dancing came from African descen-

dents. In their free time they invented this dance," Fanini said.

Dancers perform in the middle of a circle of spectators, who clap and sing. Capoeira uses a special instrument called a berimbau made of a wooden bow, a steel string and a hollowed gourd. It is struck with a thin stick, while the player uses a coin or stone pressed against the string to change the tone, according to [www.capoeirista.com](http://www.capoeirista.com).

There will also be authentic food and drinks, similar to what one might snack on at a typical party in Brazil. Traditional snacks called coxinhas are served at every Brazilian birthday party or get-together, Meira said.

A coxinha is a battered and fried finger food filled with chicken seasoned with garlic and onion and vegetables, such as peppers.

"I'm talking about really delicious stuff," Meira said.

Students will be able to try to score soccer goals and answer trivia questions to win prizes, from T-shirts to small Brazilian trinkets. There will be a grand prize drawing for a \$50 gift card to the steakhouse Fogo de Chão,

which has restaurants in Dallas, Austin and Houston.

Fanini said he hopes Remix Brazil will teach students about the distinctions between Brazil and Latin America.

Thiana Lucca said she hopes misconceptions will be cleared up at the event. Lucca is a seminary student from Santos, Brazil, and the vice president of the Brazilian Student Association.

"People usually have a wrong idea or even no idea of Brazil. What we want to do is show a little bit about what Brazil is and what our culture is," Lucca said.

According to Fanini, Brazil is incredibly diverse. It has the largest population of Italians living outside Italy, and the second largest population of Germans living outside Germany.

São Paulo has the largest population of Japanese outside Japan, Meira said. Most southern Brazilians come from European heritage, while northeast Brazil has a lot of Africans and southeast Brazil is has a broad mix.

"We've been colonized by so many people," Meira said. "We're a blending culture. You can find all the colors of the rainbow there. We don't have distinctions of race."

# Wacoans to visit Austin Capitol, take a look at state legislature

By Brittany Hardy  
Staff Writer

Today is the last day to register for "Waco Day in Austin," a trip for Waco citizens to visit the Capitol.

"Waco Day in Austin" will take place on Tuesday, Feb. 24 and will consist of time spent at the State Capitol, recognition of Waco Delegation in the House and Senate, lunch at the University of Texas Club, and discussion with Sen. Kip Averitt and Reps. Jim Dunham and Charles "Doc" Anderson and four honored speakers.

The charter buses will leave for Austin at 8 a.m. from the Chamber building at 101 S. Third St. and return to Waco about 5:30 p.m., according to the Greater Waco Chamber of Commerce Web site. All Waco citizens are invited. The cost is \$60, and covers the lunch and transportation expenses.

In order to register, participants should call Virginia Ferguson, the Community Development Coordinator for Greater Waco Chamber of Commerce, today, at (254)757-5633. Ferguson is the main contact person for the event and one of the coordinators.

"The event is an opportunity for the business commu-

nity to speak not only with our state representatives, but with different districts across the state about issues that are relevant and important to people in Waco. When bills come up, those representatives will have met with us and know about our needs in McLennan County," Ferguson said.

The event was organized by the Legislative and Governmental Affairs Committee and the Greater Waco Chamber of Commerce Legislative Committee and takes place every two years when the Texas Legislature meets. Time Warner is the main sponsor of this event.

"It's been a tradition for a while. I've only been with the chamber for a couple years, but we have always tried to have a relationship with the legislature. It's an information-sharing trip; that's all it is," said Kenneth Hampton, the Senior Vice President of Community Development for the Greater Waco Chamber of Commerce.

The purpose of the trip is to educate members of the Waco community about what is going on within the Texas Legislature.

"It is important for the Waco community to be informed about what is happening in the legislature. A lot of communities

do this," Hampton said. "It is important that they understand what's happening in their community if they want to reshape it."

The Legislative and Governmental Affairs Committee represents local business interests and works to advance community goals with local state and federal governmental officials, according to the Greater Waco Chamber of Commerce Web site.

"The turn-out has been pretty good in the past," Hampton said. "Anywhere from 50 to 70 people."

The four speakers who were chosen to speak at the event this year are Robert Wood, director of Local Government Assistance and Economic Development; Larry Temple, executive director of the Workforce Commission; Robert Scott, commissioner of education; and Amadeo Saenz, executive director of the Texas Department of Transportation.

"The purpose of the speakers is for the benefits of the citizens and community leaders. The speakers relay updates on things in Texas and how they affect McLennan County," Ferguson said.

More information can be found at [www.waco-chamber.com/legislativega.php](http://www.waco-chamber.com/legislativega.php).



Associated Press

Facebook founder and CEO Mark Zuckerberg poses at Facebook headquarters in Palo Alto, Calif., Feb. 5, 2007. In an about-face following a torrent of online protests, Facebook is backing off a change in its user policies while it figures how best to resolve questions like who controls the information shared on the social networking site.

## Facebook backtracks privacy policies

By Barbara Ortutay  
The Associated Press

NEW YORK — In an about-face following a torrent of online protests, Facebook is backing off a change in its user policies while it figures how best to resolve questions like who controls the information shared on the social networking site.

The site, which boasts 175 million users from around the world, had quietly updated its terms of use — its governing document — a couple of weeks ago. The changes sparked an uproar after popular consumer rights advocacy blog Consumerist.com pointed them out Sunday, in a post titled "Facebook's New Terms Of Service: 'We Can Do Anything We Want With Your Content. Forever.'"

Facebook has since sought to reassure its users — tens of thousands of whom had joined protest groups on the site — that this is not the case. And on Wednesday morning, users who logged on to Facebook were greeted by a message saying that the site is reverting to its previous terms of use policies while it resolves the

issues raised.

Facebook spelled out, in plain English rather than the legalese that prompted the protests, that it "doesn't claim rights to any of your photos or other content. We need a license in order to help you share information with your friends, but we don't claim to own your information."

Tens of thousands of users joined protest groups on Facebook, saying the new terms grant the site the ability to control their information forever, even after they cancel their accounts.

This prompted a clarification from Mark Zuckerberg, Facebook's founder, who told users in a blog post Monday that "on Facebook, people own their information and control who they share it with."

Zuckerberg, who started Facebook while still in college, also acknowledged that a "lot of the language in our terms is overly formal and protective of the rights we need to provide this service to you."

But this wasn't enough to quell user protests, and the site also created a group called

"Facebook Bill of Rights and Responsibilities," designed to let users give input on Facebook's terms of use. It also apologized for what it called "the confusion around these issues."

"We never intended to claim ownership over people's content even though that's what it seems like to many people," read a post from Facebook on the bill of rights page.

The latest controversy was not the first between the rapidly growing site and its users over its five-year history.

In late 2007, a tracking tool called "Beacon" caught users off-guard by broadcasting information about their shopping habits and activities at other Web sites. After initially defending the practice, Facebook ultimately allowed users to turn Beacon off. A redesign of the site last year also prompted thousands to protest, but in that case Facebook kept its new look.

Palo Alto, Calif.-based Facebook is privately held. Microsoft Corp. bought a 1.6 percent stake in the company in 2007 for \$240 million as part of a broader advertising partnership.

## BEAR BRIEFS

**The history department** will hold a Black History Month lecture from 5 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. today at Kayser Auditorium in the Hankamer School of Business. Dr. Manisha Sinha will speak about "Allies for Emancipation? Lincoln and Black Abolitionists."

**Bob Willard** will give a lecture entitled Recollecting Lincoln at 4:30 p.m. today at Meadows Recital Hall in the Glennis McCrary Music Building. The lecture is held in conjunction with the Poage Library's Bicentennial celebration of Abraham Lincoln.

**The School of Music** is holding a Master class with So percussion at 12:15 p.m. to 1:30 p.m. today at the Jones Concert Hall in the Glennis McCrary Music Building. The event is free of charge and open to the public.

**Jeffrey Powers and Vincent DeVries** will be performing 5:30 p.m. today at Recital Hall II located in Waco Hall. This event is free of charge and open to the public.

To submit a bear brief, e-mail [Lariat@baylor.edu](mailto:Lariat@baylor.edu).

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# Modern musical twist on classic story comes to Waco

By Caley Carmichael  
Reporter

Close your eyes, click your shoes and make your way over to the Hippodrome Theatre's Emerald City for this Saturday's production of "Oz, the Musical."

Writer, director and choreographer Todrick D. Hall, 22, has revamped "The Wonderful Wizard of Oz" by L. Frank Baum for modern audiences. The production also stars American Idol finalist Diana DeGarmo, 21, as Dorothy.

"It's the same basic plot," Hall said. "There is a girl named Dorothy, but instead of her being an innocent little girl, she is a rebellious teenager. She causes problems just like a typical teenager and she just wants to get away. She learns more than anything else that there really is no place like home and she comes back to her family in the end."

Diana DeGarmo will bring her own personal touch to the role of Dorothy.

"I'm a little more of a spunkier Dorothy," DeGarmo said. "I have a lot of my own personality in there where I am sweet and all, but don't mess with Dorothy because she will bite back."

Hall said he also added char-

acters to the original story line; three Doo-Wop girls appear in every scene to help narrate the story.

"I had total free reign to do with the story what I wanted so I wrote 14 songs, songs I think that I would like to hear," he said. "I redesigned the story and put some new twists in it."

Hall said he added other modern modifications, such as the wicked witch flying on a vacuum cleaner instead of a broom and the inclusion of modern day technology such as cell phones and the Internet within the musical.

"The whole story has been updated as if the 'Wizard of Oz' happened today, in 2009," Hall said.

Bradley D. Gale, 22, who plays the Tinman in the musical said he has always had a passion for music.

"I have always loved music, it has always been a part of me," Gale said. "Being able to do it professionally and full time like I am right now is so enriching. When you can make a living doing what you love to do, there is nothing better for you."

DeGarmo was runner-up in the 2004 season of "American Idol." She said it has had a



Courtesy Photo  
American Idol runner-up, Diana DeGarmo stars in "Oz, the Musical," coming Saturday to the Waco Hippodrome Theatre.

huge impact on her young music career.

"It was definitely a really big launching pad," DeGarmo said. "It did so many wonderful things for me career wise. I have been fortunate enough to take

that ball and keep that ball rolling for five years."

Hall set in motion his music profession at an early age.

"I started singing when I was 8 years old in gospel church and I started taking dance since

I was 8 years old as well," Hall said. "I have always had a passion for theater arts."

According to ozthemusical.com., Hall spent his younger years doing gigs such as opening for Neil Young, theme park per-

formances, debuting as a cruise ship featured vocalist, as well as many other musical endeavors. Hall said he performed in Oprah Winfrey's "The Color Purple," a Broadway production starting American Idol's Fantasia Barrino.

"Since I was 16 years old, I decided that I wanted to put on a 'Wizard of Oz' play but I quickly learned that I couldn't because of the rights," he said. "I decided to rewrite the story and base my musical off of the book and not the movie."

DeGarmo said anyone who follows the red-brick sidewalk downtown to the Hippodrome will not be disappointed.

Performances of "Oz, the Musical" will be held at 4:30 and 7 p.m. Saturday at the Hippodrome Theatre.

Tickets are \$5 and are available through the Hippodrome box office at 752-9806.

"The great thing about this musical is that it's for our generation, for the 'American Idol' generation, but I honestly think that anyone of any age can come and have a good time," she said. "All of the jokes are hysterical. The music is contemporary, but we still tell the story of the 'Wizard of Oz,' which everyone loves."

# Common Grounds mixes it up with pop bands

By Lincoln Faulkner  
Contributor

CommonsGroundswill serve up a hot cup of indie-pop bands Saturday, including Mechanical Boy, The Canvas Waiting, Magnolia Sons and Windsor Drive.

The show starts at 8 p.m. and tickets cost \$5.

Headlining band Mechanical Boy began in 2004 as a mash up of the best parts of different broken up Houston bands, guitarist Michael Regino said.

Regino said the band, including vocalist Tim Anderson, bassist Chris Applegate, keyboardist Jason Castle and drummer Matt Wheeler wanted to make fresh, energetic pop music and tour.

"We just wanted to do something that felt good in our own minds," he said. "We were going to write what we wanted to write and we didn't want to try and get signed. The main point was to start a band and get on the road."

The band compares to bands like Franz Ferdinand, The Killers and O.K. Go, but with older influences like The Police and Queen and a lot more energy, Regino said.

"We're kind of one of those 'dancy-funky' indie rock bands," he said. "We've got a really heavy groove."

Though the band draws upon older sounds, younger audiences can enjoy their different style of music and appreciate it more as they grow older, Regino said.

Regino said "She Does" is one of the band's more popular live songs.

"It's sexy," he said. "It's straightforward and easier for people to comprehend what is going on as far as the instrumentation."

Originally the song was supposed to be pretty and slow, but



Courtesy Photo  
From left: Jason Castle, Matt Wheeler, Tim Anderson, Michael Regino, Chris Applegate make up the indie-pop band Mechanical Boy.

was re-imagined into a groovier jam, Regino said.

"It's just a feel good song that gets people going," he said. "Every time we have played it it's brought the house down!"

The Canvas Waiting will also perform with some songs that include college experiences students may relate to.

Vocalist Nathan Medina began the band in 2004 during his senior year of high school in Houston.

Since then, the band has put out one album "In Search of Beginnings" in 2005 and endured some member changes, Medina said. Current members include guitarist Eric Salzman, bassist Colby Hill and drummer Josh Rodgers.

The band's upcoming album, "A Season's Change," expresses how the band felt their youth diminish during the transitional period of college years to adulthood, Medina said. The song "River Hymn" echoes upon the band's time at Texas State, he said.

"We lived in San Marcos and

spent a lot of time at the rivers," Medina said. "It reflects on the nostalgia of the good years that we had in college and being young and naive."

Writing in a way to connect to the audience, the band's music allows insight into who they are, giving the listener a personal view of the band, Medina said.

"As specific as some of the songs may be in their content, I feel like a lot of the stuff I write about is very universal," he said. "Ideally when you listen to our music it's something you can attach your own experiences to."

Medina said the songwriting on their sophomore album has matured since their debut.

"When we wrote that last record we were just getting out of high school and starting college," he said. "I think that this record is a little bit more personal than the last record."

Louisiana quartet Magnolia Sons will add their mix of pop rock and alternative country sounds to the set.

Formally known as Tuesday's

Debut, the band began in 2004, vocalist and guitarist William Ferguson said.

Current members include bassist Darrell Miller Jr., drummer Austin Aguirre and guitarist and keyboardist Kevin Lambert.

The band changed to their "catchier" name, which they derived from their home state's flower, in 2008 to be more cohesive with their mixed musical styles, Ferguson said.

"For a long time 90's rock has been a huge staple of mine," he said. "Basically it has the pop elements but then the songwriting is really good as well. Bands even a little later than that or earlier like The Replacements are a huge influence of mine and also classic rock elements like Fleetwood Mac."

Ferguson said on their 2008 album "Jails Everywhere" he has been exploring love and the joy of being in a relationship when writing as opposed to past songs written about breakups.

"I'm trying to write songs that are actually positive in nature and not so nasty," he said.

Ferguson also said he felt the songwriting has matured when writing about the "day-to-day" experiences like "jobs that suck" and "being poor and not having any money."

"I'm not trying to write about lofty things; tangible and concrete is what I'm going for," he said. "Instead of trying too hard I just take what I've been living and write about that."

He said the song "Whalden County" is the story of his cousin's struggles to support a family told through the eyes of his child.

Though it was an intense time in his life, sharing the experience on stage "feels good" he said.

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# 44th president bringing court skills to Washington

By Julie Sessions  
and Ben Powell  
Reporters

He shoots. He scores. He lands a 3-pointer — and the highly coveted position of 44th president of the United States of America.

Many Americans associate President Barack Obama with an eloquent speaking ability, a fascinating multi-cultural background, and a keen ability to connect with today's youth. But what a lot of people may not know about the new commander-in-chief is that outside the Oval Office, he has another remarkable talent up his sleeves that takes to hardwood floors and a nylon net; ball skills and a sweet jump shot.

"His basketball is a reflection of how he does things," former teammate Alan Lum said. "In basketball, it takes teamwork. In golf, you are by yourself. It's you against the world."

Lum, who now coaches the women's basketball team at Punahou High School in Honolulu, Hawaii, played on the same basketball team as Obama when the two were high school students at Punahou. He says Obama played small forward and was a leader on the scout team.

"He wants to be a playmaker; he's not passive. When he plays he's very focused and passionate," Lum said. "He's not going to do things halfway."

In his time at Punahou, Obama helped lead the men's team to the state final. After graduation in 1979, he went on to play Division III ball at Occidental College in Los Angeles, for two years before transferring to Columbia University to finish his undergraduate education. While he never joined the men's team at Columbia, he did lead Occidental in scoring in 1979 and has since demonstrated his persistent love for the sport by playing pickup games whenever he has the time.

Pickup games that, famously, are still being played today. In May 2008, then-Illinois

Senator Obama gave a speech and held a political rally at the University of North Carolina in Chapel Hill, NC. Feeling on his "A"-game, he made an unexpected 10 p.m. phone call that night to the coach of the university's men's basketball team and inquired about getting the team together for an improvised pick-up game the next morning. At 7 a.m. sharp the next day, every single member of the Tar Heels' men's team showed up to the Smith Center for a true, once-in-a-lifetime opportunity: the chance to shoot hoops with the next potential president of the world's strongest country.

"(President) Obama is a very good basketball player. He is in remarkable condition for someone traveling as much as he did during his campaign," said Steve Kirshner, director of athletic communication for UNC. "I was there that morning watching the game, and he is a good player and teammate. He appreciated a pass and got no special favors from the team. He went down that court like one of the guys and really enjoyed it."

For those who have avidly followed Obama's basketball career over the years, the big question now is if, or when, the new president will start playing pickup games on 1600 Pennsylvania Ave..

In a January article from the New York Times, the president was described as having spoken "wistfully about the prospect of playing basketball on the White House grounds." While some may find it hard to imagine a political figure with that much power shooting hoops with foreign diplomats or the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court, the possibility might be more realistic than we all think.

Former Baylor University President Robert B. Sloan Jr. once played in a regular pickup game of his own in his time as a religion professor at Baylor. He understands firsthand the many benefits basketball specifically can provide high-profile individuals like President Obama.

"I think the relaxation aspect and ability to build relationships with those he works around is something Obama enjoys and will continue to enjoy about the game," the current president of Houston Baptist University said. "As president, it's easy to feel like you are given preferential treatment because of your office, but on the court, things get leveled out. I'm sure that's what he finds fun about basketball, because it's a way for him to be a normal person and be out of the spotlight for a bit."

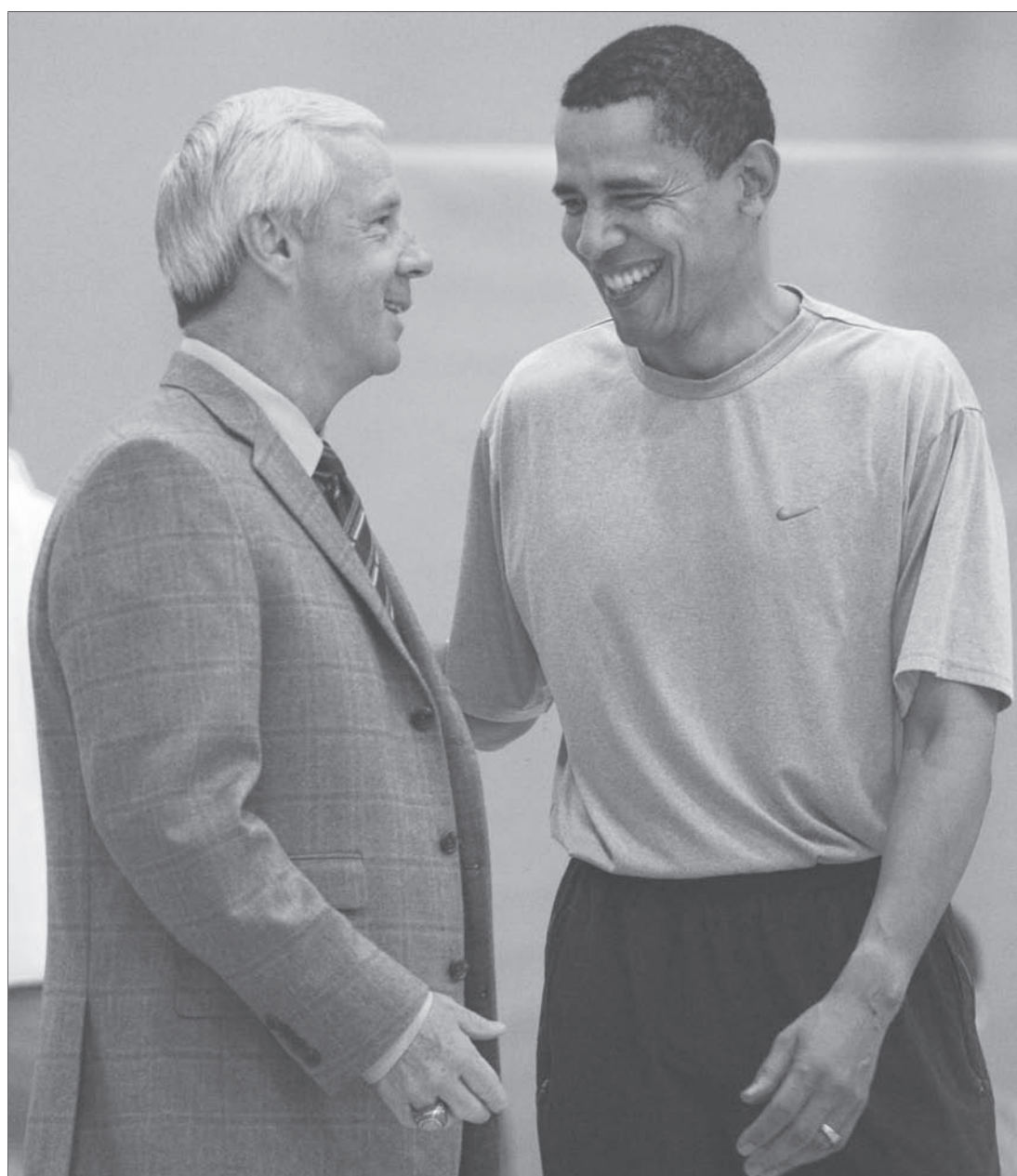
For Sloan and many other fans of the sport, basketball provides a unique blend of competitiveness and camaraderie that traditional sports such as tennis and golf eliminate.

"Basketball gives you the chance for fun, bragging rights, provides a lot of camaraderie, and facilitates personal relationships," Sloan said. "It also uncovers an aspect of personality that sometimes we keep hidden."

A personality aspect that, according to Sloan, can teach the public a lot about how a certain individual responds to pressure and demand, on, and off, the court.

"Whether it's in a recreational context of sports or a game of charades, or a committee meeting where a tough decision is being made, people's personalities stay pretty consistent," he said. "Once we start competing in sports, our normal 'polite social-setting facade' kind of drifts away, and you learn a lot about who likes the pressure and competition and who doesn't. You discover what kind of leader they can be."

Historically, presidents have been known to bring their own favorite sport to the White House along with their unique leadership capabilities. For Dwight D. Eisenhower, it was installing a putting green and bringing to his presidential term a dynamic, military sense of leadership style. George H.W. Bush installed a small outdoor basketball court in 1991 and a horseshoe pit next to the existing swimming pool in 1993.



President Barack Obama meets with UNC head basketball coach Roy Williams, left, during a stop at the Dean Smith Center in Chapel Hill, N.C. His pickup game with the Tar Heels was a spur of the moment decision.

Often described as a more commanding and articulate person in private than in news conferences, his ability to stay active through numerous sports was a major part of his personal development as president from 1989-1993.

And when Bill Clinton took office in 1993, his presidency was marked by a fun, charismatic personality and a choice recreational activity that

reflected it. An avid runner, he installed a jogging track on the White House grounds in 1993.

With the unique athletic personalities and leadership capabilities that have defined these and other historical presidencies, it's no wonder that many Americans are anxious to see how President Obama's love for basketball will in come to shape his time in office. Athletic image is a quality Obama certainly

does not lack, and millions will be watching as one of America's most popular sports weighs in on the 44th presidency and this charismatic leader for the next four to eight years.

One thing's for certain though; if political reactions to photographs of Mass. Sen. John Kerry windsurfing are a precedent, this king of the hardwood court should probably stay far away from windsurfing.

## Hurricane warning for Lady netters

No. 15 Miami visits Baylor this weekend

By Joe Holloway  
Sports writer

The No. 4-ranked Baylor women's tennis team will play host to No. 15 University of Miami, at 1 p.m. Saturday at the Baylor Tennis Center.

The match will be the first the Lady Bears have played in Waco since holding two rounds of the National Indoors Qualifier. Baylor beat Princeton University 5-0 on Jan. 31 and downed Virginia Tech 5-2 on Feb. 1 to advance to the National Indoor Championships in Madison, Wis.

The Lady Bears scraped by No. 11 University of North Carolina in the first round of the championships on Feb. 13, but the 4-3 win over the Tar Heels was the last Baylor would get at the vigorous tournament.

"I'm proud of the way some

of our players competed today," Head coach Joey Scrivano said after the North Carolina match. "Thankfully we played mentally tough enough at certain positions to get the team a win. However we need a total team effort day in and day out if we plan our doing anything this season. We have to bring a higher level of intensity and focus to the court tomorrow vs. Notre Dame."

That higher level of intensity and focus proved to be absent against the No. 14 Irish as well. The Lady Bears lost the match 4-3 before turning around and dropping another 4-3 match to No. 8 Duke the very next day.

"We played with a lot more substance and discipline today, but Duke was just too good," Scrivano said after the Duke loss. "They were definitely our toughest opponent this weekend. We have to get better and the only way to do that is to work."

Baylor and Miami met twice in 2008 and the Lady Bears took



Baylor's Taylor Ormond returns the ball during her singles match against Princeton's Lauren McHale, on Jan. 31. The Lady Bears will play host to Miami this weekend.

both matches. The second of the two came in the NCAA Tournament in the round of 16. Baylor

won 4-1 to advance to the quarterfinals before losing to the California 4-3 in the semifinals.

## Lady Bears go 1-1 against No. 18 UH

By Brian Bateman  
Sports editor

Baylor launched four home runs in two games against No. 18 University of Houston, splitting a midweek match-up with the Cougars.

"Obviously, we're disappointed with the split," head coach Glenn Moore said, adding "(but) anytime you go into their backyard and split, you really should be happy with it."

In the first game — a 2-1 loss — freshman short stop Bree Hanafin had her first career home run, but a series of "mishaps" kept her solo shot from giving the Lady Bears (7-3) the win.

"I wouldn't say errors," senior third baseman Brette Reagan said, who had a home run in the second game. "We had a miscue on catching a foul ball and a runner tagged to go home. I think we're still getting the jitters out of the way."

In the second game, the Baylor bats came alive. After the Tom-ball senior's first-inning homer, the score stayed close for four more innings.

Then junior catcher Courtney Oberg and junior left fielder Tiffany Wesley hit back-to-back home runs, breaking open a 5-4 see-saw.

"(In the) first game we had been playing well, you know, status quo, and we were playing a little stiffer competition," Moore said. "They were dissatisfied with their performance."

The Baton Rouge, La., product, went 3-for-4 on the night with three RBIs. So did Reagan, but with just two RBIs.

Freshman left-handed pitcher Whitney Canion (5-2) had 15 strikeouts on the night, allowing eight hits and two runs, but didn't start game two. That start went to sophomore Shaina Brock.

Baylor returns home to face Sam Houston State University this weekend.

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projects and contracts from government agencies, as well as helping faculty seek outside funding. Schrank will work as a grants coordinator.

“We are basically the central point of coordination for funding for these projects,” she said. “We do our best to provide the best customer service we can and to work cohesively with faculty and staff so that they can ultimately enhance the education of their students.” Schrank previously worked as a Unix administrator at the McLane Company, and Hyde said her specific skill set made her a good fit for her new position.

“Our job in this office is to do nothing but support faculty and make sure they have every opportunity available when they go out and try to get grants,” Hyde said. “They have to submit proposals in a very specific way and to find someone who understands all that is a challenge. We got lucky with Misty in that she had a lot of the skills we were looking for, and the same goes for Damon.” Crisman, whose background in database administration reaches back 16 years, said he hopes to implement a new grants module for financial software. The program would be able to systematically track applications for grants, money paid for grants and money coming in from grants.

“Right now the effort to track these things is not very cohesive,” Crisman said. “We are going to try to put it into a larger system. The important piece is that it would help us understand better how effective we are with grants in general and also give us an idea of where we can better spend our efforts.” From an auditing standpoint, when people want to see what money is going where, a more integrated system will help make the process simpler.

“Once we have this in place – the ability to get to financial data that people may ask for more efficiently – we will be able to serve Baylor better,” Crisman said. “One of the key catalysts to really being a successful research institution is being able to pursue funding and have these kinds of cooperative efforts.”

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these experiences help him realize the problems Iraq must overcome and that training for the Iraqi forces is essential if they are to succeed on their own.

“The two greatest challenges that the government faces are sectarian division and infrastructure development. The U.S. can do little in the first, it could contribute materially to the second, and in terms of security, if you list that as a third issue, the U.S. can continue to contribute training to Iraqi forces,” he said.

In a six-year-old war, some experts wonder whether U.S. involvement has made the situation in the Middle East worse.

“Our presence in Iraq is a point that al-Qaida has used as leverage against us. I think our withdrawal removes much of that leverage,” Long said. “I don’t think that a large number of troops must be withdrawn in the magic 100 days, but by the end of the year he needs to have demonstrated a commitment to phased withdrawal and if it extends beyond his deadline of 2010 and moves into 2011, I don’t see that as problematic.”

While some feel that this phased withdrawal is the long-awaited end, Ellis was careful to point out that only combat troops will be leaving. America will still be involved in training the country to stand on its own.

Ellis encourages students to stay informed about both conflicts.

“We are a nation at war. The people who fight our war are not on our campus and we are not discussing what that fight is about. We are going on as if there is no war. Students should be asking what that means.”

**Iran**

One of the most prevalent issues regarding the Middle East that lit up the campaign trail was American diplomatic policy towards Iran.

Relations between the United States and Iran have never been rosy, to say the least, but they have grown even more tense in recent years.

U.S. allegations that Iran is funding Hamas and Hezbollah, developing nuclear technology for weapons and sending troops into Iraq to support the insurgency, stand between the two countries as President Barack Obama takes office.

“Who knows what’s happening behind the scenes,” Ellis said of Iran’s nuclear program, “but the U.S. wants to contain the development of nuclear weapons by Iran.”

He added that from Iran’s point of view, since other countries in the region – Israel, Pakistan, India and China – are already nuclear armed, it has a right to be as well, though it has maintained it’s nuclear interest is only in energy.

Obama pledged repeatedly during his campaign that he would re-open communications with the country, which were ended under the Bush administration, and seek to bring them to the negotiating table, though

the 100 day timetable may not have a part in it.

“He has already started trying to communicate but it depends what’s on the table and what’s in Iran’s best interest. I wouldn’t judge by 100 days,” Ellis said.

Obama has not yet formally opened talks with Tehran, nor stated his official policy towards the country, saying only that he will seek to open communication, though he refused to rule out military force during the election campaign.

“It’s important for us to understand that other countries have their own interests at heart,” Ellis said. “They are real countries with real people, and we are working against their interest. What would it look like if another country had a war going on right next to our border?”

**Israel**

As the United States’ strongest ally in the Middle East, Israel will play a central role in any policy decisions made in the Middle East by the Obama administration. The political climate in the country, always volatile, is currently even more precarious than usual.

“As of right now, the political situation in Israel is in flux,” said Long.

Elections held in the country last week were indecisive, with the vote being split between the centrist party Kadima and it’s leader Tzipi Livni and Benjamin Netanyahu’s left-wing Likud party.

“The final election results won’t be in for several days. And

it gets more complicated after the election. In Israel, you vote for a party, not an individual,” said Dr. Lynn Tatum, senior lecturer in religion and associate director of Middle East Studies.

“What is clear is that the two largest parties are virtually tied and no party has anything approaching an absolute majority,” Tatum said. “So over the next several weeks – and I expect it will take weeks – the two largest parties will try to negotiate with smaller parties to join in a coalition that can reach the magic number of 51 percent. It’s anybody’s guess what kind of coalition will come out of these efforts.”

The lack of political certainty has jeopardized many of the goals Obama had planned to pursue in the region at least for the time being.

Arguably the most important factor in continued U.S. involvement in brokering peace between Israelis and Palestinians will be the next Israeli administration’s stance towards Palestinians.

“The position of the U.S. has been that there must be a peace settlement between the Israelis and the Palestinians that will result in two states, living in peace, side by side. Netanyahu is the face of the Israeli right which rejects a two - state compromise. Livni, on the other hand, is known as a practical moderate who is willing to negotiate on the basis of a possible two state solution. If she becomes prime minister, it will certainly make Obama’s job easier,” Tatum said.

“There’s no question Obama’s

more likely to find a partner for U.S. initiatives in respect to the Arab-Israeli conflict in Kadima than he would in Likud,” Long said.

The split between the Palestinian Authority and the Palestinian militant group Hamas will complicate any attempts at peace as well. Long said one of the most difficult decisions Obama will have to make in regard to the Palestinians will be how to deal with Hamas.

“I think probably the best thing he can do is to say that we’re willing to treat with Hamas when Hamas clearly recognizes the nation-state of Israel and its right to exist,” he said. “That puts the responsibility back on Hamas. I don’t think they’ll do it, but I’d say that’s the most likely way out for the president.”

Long said that the first 100 days of Obama’s term will have less significance in Israel than in many other arenas.

“I don’t know that I can point to specific things that he hoped to achieve in the first 100 days with respect to the Arab-Israeli conflict. I would say that appointing George Mitchell as his special envoy to the region was the best thing he could have done,” he said, calling the appointment the most important step Obama has taken to repair relations with the Arab world.

“With respect to foreign policy, in many ways all roads lead back to Jerusalem,” Long said. “The issue of the Arab-Israeli conflict is pivotal in the thinking of Arabs broadly, and Muslims around the world.”

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will have to make some tough financial decisions and that those decisions may not be made as early as in previous years, so we wanted to have a pool large enough to yield the class we want,” Carron said.

Because applicants also get accepted to other schools, universities accept more students than they enroll. Baylor is aiming for slightly more than 3,000 students for the Fall 2009 freshman class, and to get the targeted amount, admissions officials calculate the acceptance rate based on historical data.

But Carron said this year they’ve increased the acceptance goal, knowing that final decisions may be affected by students’ financial concerns. For example, if Baylor usually accepts 10 students for every five students that eventually enroll, then this year Baylor might have to accept 12 to reach the same goal.

Baylor’s fall recruitment schedule was similar to years in

the past, but Carron said they added more small group events to provide more personalized attention to recruiting events. Carron said they also enhanced their marketing efforts early in the cycle, with the help of two additional admissions counselors hired last year to handle the increasing size of Baylor’s recruitment territories.

Two weeks ago, Plano junior Haley Purdy flew to Corpus Christi with three admissions counselors to speak at high school rallies on the advantages of attending Baylor. It’s one

of many trips Purdy has made as a member of Student Foundation’s Student Recruitment committee, a team that serves as student representatives at college fairs and other recruitment events.

“It’s really cool because I’ve never seen any other college that sends current students to represent the university. Baylor gives us a lot of responsibilities,” Purdy said. “And I think the high schoolers like to ask questions and talk to actual students.”

Tyler senior Jason Permenter, co-chair of the committee, said

he joined Student Recruitment because he wanted to make an impact.

“Just four years ago when I applied, there was a rolling admissions process, and I found out I was accepted shortly after I sent in my application,” Permenter said. “Now applications are increasing every year, and they even have to put students on a waiting list. What a great problem to have! It shows that people are realizing the value of a Baylor education, which, for current students, is very affirming.”

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