



ROUNDING UP CAMPUS NEWS SINCE 1900

THE BAYLOR LARIAT

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 7, 2006

Election eve jabs traded by parties

By Davis Espo
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — On the eve of mid-term elections, Democrats criticized Republicans as stewards of a stale status quo while President Bush declared “we’re closing strong” in a final drive to preserve GOP control of Congress.

“They can’t run anything right,” countered former President Clinton, taunting Republicans about the war in Iraq, the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina and even the scandal involving the House page program that complicated GOP efforts to win two more years in power.

Bush campaigned Monday from Florida to Arkansas and Texas. But the day brought one more reminder of his poor standing in the polls when Republican gubernatorial candidate Charlie Crist skipped the presidential rally in Pensacola, Fla., to make a speech of his own hundreds of miles away.

Bush made no mention of the evident snub in public, but not so his aides. “Let’s see how many people show up in Palm

Beach on 24 hours notice, versus 8,000 or 9,000 people” expected for the president’s speech, said Karl Rove, the White House’s top political strategist.

Some late polls suggested momentum was swinging the Republicans’ way, and Ken Mehlman, the party chairman, told allies the surveys summoned memories of 1998, when the GOP lost seats but held power.

Democrats steadfastly refused to say so in public, but some Republicans signaled privately they expected to lose more than 15 seats, and control of the House with them.

Among GOP-held open seats, those in Arizona, Colorado, New York, Ohio and Iowa seemed likeliest to fall. Republican Reps. John Hostettler, Chris Chocola and Mike Sodrel of Indiana; Charles Taylor of North Carolina; Curt Weldon, Don Sherwood and Melissa Hart of Pennsylvania; and Charles Bass of New Hampshire were in particularly difficult re-election struggles.

Please see **VOTE**, page 3



Associated Press

Former President Bill Clinton criticized the Republican party Monday at a Maryland campaign rally, saying the White House mishandled the war in Iraq and Hurricane Katrina.

Memorial lets friends remember

Moseley memorial celebrates life of freshman killed in crash

Christine M. Tamer
Staff writer

“I believe in reaching for the stars, not to touch them, but to pass them,” Livingston freshman Katie Moseley wrote in her journal.

Moseley hated cockroaches, had too many shoes, loved the lake, went to bed early and was always up for a competition. The girls in Moseley’s hall, North Russell 1C, defined her as an actress, a teacher, a genius and the best roommate ever.

More than 150 people gathered to celebrate Moseley’s life Monday afternoon during a memorial service in Miller Chapel. Moseley was killed Oct. 29 in a two-vehicle, head-on collision on Highway 164 while returning to Waco from Livingston.

“As the girls in North Russell put this to-

Please see **MOSELEY**, page 3

Memorial evacuated after flood

Students left high, dry after malfunction in sprinkler system

By Laura Klingsporn
Reporter

While most students experienced rain walking to class Monday, students in Memorial Residence Hall experienced their own rain showers Sunday night.

According to Campus Living and Learning, sprinkler heads on the fourth floor of the hall failed around 11 p.m. Sunday, causing flooding in rooms on the east side of the building. Students’ belongings, including computers, printers, clothes and bedding, were damaged by the water.

Students waited outside for 30 minutes after a fire alarm triggered by the draining water sounded throughout Memorial Residence Hall and stayed in their friends’ rooms for the rest of the night. Alan freshman Patty Leeke said.

The fourth-floor room, where the flooding began, is used for studying and student group meetings, and before the Panhellenic building was constructed it served as a meeting room for sororities. The water damaged all three floors below the wing after it ran down the drainage system and into residents’ rooms.

Sequin freshman Sherrie King had rugs ruined by the water. Students around her had computers, shoes and many other personal items damaged.

“I am kind of irritated. I



Melea Burke/Lariat staff

Employees of Target Restoration remove damaged carpeting Monday from the flooded fourth floor of Memorial Residence Hall. The hall’s sprinkler system malfunctioned at about 11 p.m. Sunday and damaged property on four floors of Memorial.

pay \$30,000 a year to stay in a room. You would think they would have the plumbing under control,” King said. King did compliment the maintenance staff for their hard work cleaning up overnight.

Joe Bruner, assistant director for resident learning, said Target Restoration is doing their best to clean up the mess. Cam-

pus Living and Learning has put a reimbursement program in place to pay for damages to students’ belongings. Students have been asked to make a list of all the damages and costs they have suffered due to the flooding.

After the list is finished, Baylor will reimburse students for any items damaged by the

flooding.

“The sooner we get the claims, the faster the process,” Bruner said.

This is not the first residence hall flood to affect Baylor students. A similar flood occurred last year at Allen Residence Hall.

That flood, however, was caused by a student tampering

with the sprinkler system. According to Campus Living and Learning, the student’s homeowners insurance paid for the damage.

Some students were allowed to move back into their rooms Monday in the residence hall, but some continue to share a room until the damage to their rooms is repaired.

Business students reveal musical side as part of project

By Greer Kinsey
Reporter

For one strategic management class, the word “project” has taken on a new meaning.

Waco senior Micah Klussmann said when Dr. Jamie Collins walked into class in August, he gave his students an ultimatum. They could do a “boring consulting project” or start and manage their own band.

Klussmann and Silver Springs senior Bryan Dodd are now the managers of the band, Project Graduate.

“We were going to use ‘Don’t Fail Us,’ but Dr. Collins didn’t like the connotation,” Klussmann said.

Klussmann said his classmates divid-

ed themselves into three basic groups: a marketing and logistics team, presentation team and a managing team.

He said Collins gave the class certain requirements for the project that had to be met by Nov. 30. He told them they must perform in two venues, write an original song and write two 10-page progress reports. Klussmann said in addition to the requirements to be met in class, the band members have also set their own milestones.

They have two venues booked: The

Den in the Bill Daniel Student Center and next to Seasons Creamery in North Village. They’ve also already written a song, “Boy Meets Girl,” written by Arlington senior Megan Murray.

The band consists of lead singer Julia Stark, a Nebraska City, Neb., senior; guitarist Megan Murray, a Barrington, Ill., senior; drummer Craig Myer, a Greentown, Ind., senior; bassist Tyler White, a Humble senior; and keyboardist Jonathon Walker, a Friend-

swood senior.

“We had people in our class who had a lot of music experience so it wasn’t much of a stretch,” Klussmann said.

Project Graduate will record a five-song CD today at the Texas Playhouse, Dodd said. He said the possibility of releasing the CD is still being debated.

Klussmann said that this is Collins’ first year at Baylor, as well as his first time to offer the project.

Klussmann, Murray and Dodd all agreed that the project has been a significant amount of work, but the hard work has been beneficial.

“We expected there to be challenges in the beginning because there were no

Please see **BAND**, page 3

Local elections weigh heavy

\$74 million MCC bond, district judges on ballot for midterm

By Analiz González
Staff writer

McLennan County residents will decide today whether to pass McLennan Community College’s bond for \$74.5 million and will elect three district judges.

Jim Meyer, a 170th District Court candidate, is running unopposed.

If the MCC bond passes, the money will go to the construction of three buildings: a science building, a general classroom building and an emergency services center. It will also be used to renovate current buildings and parking lots, said MCC community relations director Lisa Wilhelmi.

If the bond passes, the property tax increase for residents would be about \$3 per month, based on an average county property value of \$95,733.

Wilhelmi, who wouldn’t advocate for or against the bond because of her connection to the public institution, said although most people in the community like seeing MCC grow, they often don’t want a tax increase.

A similar bond election for \$73 million failed by 200 to 300 votes in March 2005.

“The reason the board called for this bond election was because of our enormous enrollment growth,” Wilhelmi said. “Since 1966, we’ve grown from an 855 spring enrollment ... to a 2005 spring enrollment of 8,500.”

54th District Court Judge

Matt Johnson and Scott Peterson are vying to replace 54th District Court Judge George H. Allen after his December retirement.

Republican candidate John-

Please see **LOCAL**, page 3

More than voting, true engagement changes world

Unless you spent the past two months stranded on an island in the Pacific without telephone, radio or Internet, you've probably heard someone talk about the problem of the youth vote.

The problem is, of course, that there really isn't much of one. According to a George Washington University study, only about one-third of voters ages 18 to 24 voted in the last midterm election.

The response to this apathy has been to attempt to persuade the young people of America to vote. There have been numerous Web sites and organizations devoted to this enterprise.

Unfortunately, it seems to me that the overwhelming major-

ity of these groups limit their exhortations to something along the lines of: "Go vote ... and once you've done your bit for democracy and made the world a better place, you can go back to whatever you were doing before campaign season started."

Therein lies the problem with this entire ordeal.

Is voting important?

Yes.

Is my vote going to radically change the world?

Not if it's the only thing I do to change it.

Voting is certainly an important thing, even a vital thing, but I am not sure that it is the most important thing.

It seems to me that move-

point of view



BY KATE BOSWELL

ments organized to encourage students to vote sell themselves short by only encouraging students to vote.

Voting works best, works the way it was intended, when it is part of a larger lifestyle of action and engagement in our country.

If elections are only about filling out a piece of paper and then letting the politicians do the rest, then why do so many find

the apathy of many of America's youth so upsetting?

The answer is that voting represents more than just filling out a ballot: It represents caring.

One reason some have found the dearth of college-age voters so disturbing is that we are the future. If we are disengaged with our world now, what will happen when we are running the country? Will it take some kind of disaster to jar people out of their apathy, or is political activism something you learn with adulthood, like how to fill out your tax return?

I believe absolutely that my peers and I should vote. I also believe, with equal fervor, that

voting is not all we can do nor all we should do. We need to care about our world, both because we live in it and (for those of us who call ourselves Christians) because we are called to it. This caring starts with voting, but it doesn't end there.

I'd like to offer an example of what this engagement with the world looks like. Most of you are probably familiar with the documentary *Invisible Children*, which tells the story of children in Northern Uganda who are forced to flee their homes nightly to avoid being abducted by the rebel army.

Invisible Children started as the work of three college students doing a film project and,

through their compassion and action, has become a nationwide movement on behalf of the victims of this conflict. It is in part due to the political pressure exerted by this and other concerned groups that changes are occurring in Uganda.

What this movement taught me, more than anything, was that it is possible for us to make changes in the world.

It might require a little more of our time than casting a ballot, but ultimately the power to change things is in our hands. All we have to do is care enough to begin.

Kate Boswell is a junior University Scholars major from Longview.

Editorial

Head to polls, cast vote for change

For those of us who didn't participate in early voting this year, and that is a lot of us, this is our last chance.

It's our last chance to make a difference and our last chance to make our voices heard until 2008.

The only problem is that the vast majority of people our age don't care at all, which is pathetic because this midterm election is more important than any other midterm election in a long time.

The U.S. House of Representatives is completely in the air, and Democrats are waiting to snatch it away from Republicans.

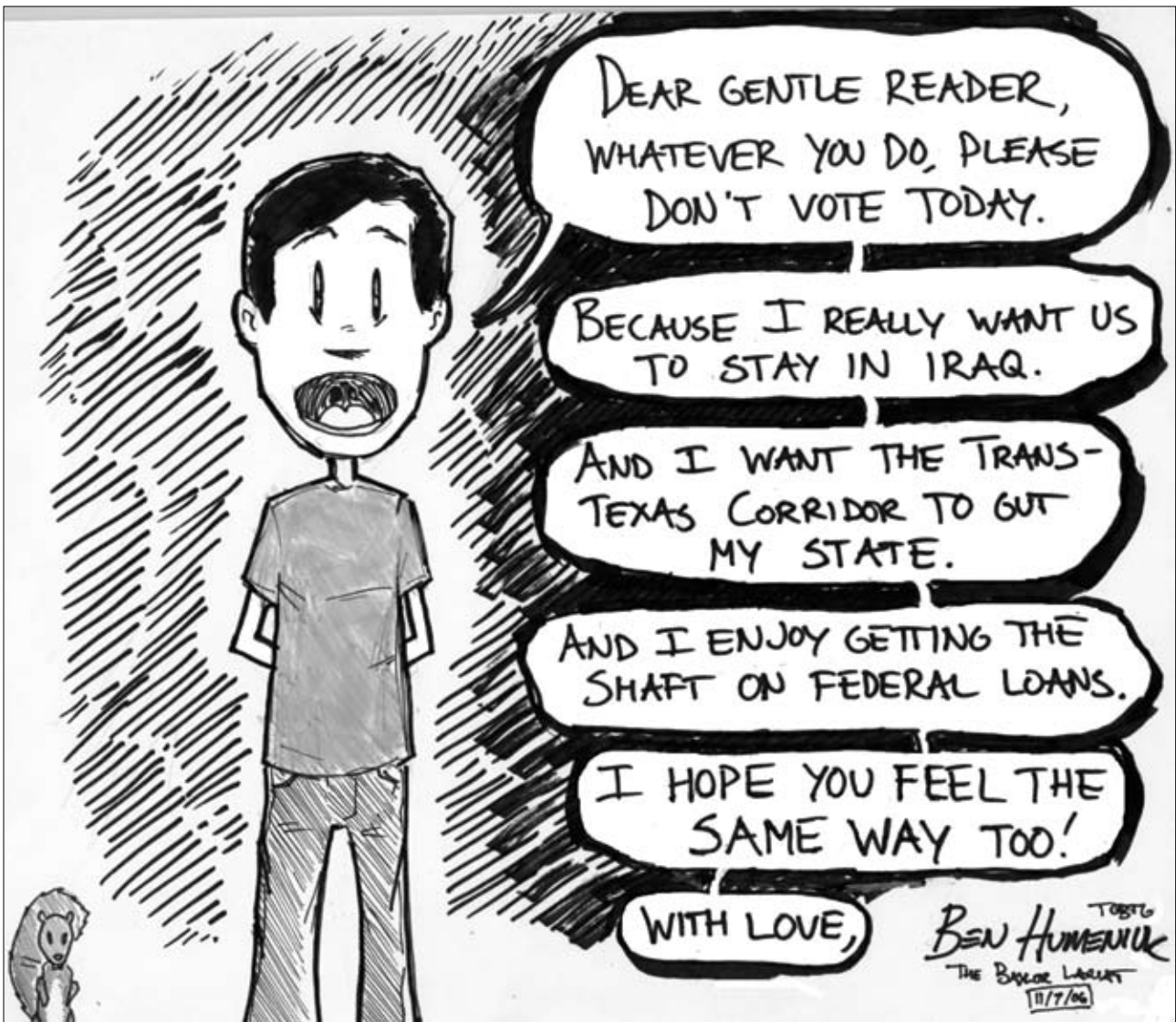
If the Republicans win, the nation will continue unabated on the current path it's on.

If Democrats win the majority of Congress, there will be a sweeping change in legislative philosophy, but with a Republican president in the White House, the government will be in a virtual standoff.

Gov. Rick Perry is threatening to run away with the gubernatorial election, despite his very controversial and highly debated Trans-Texas Corridor plan, which all three of his primary competitors have spoken against.

If you have any opinion on the direction of this nation, then you have a responsibility to vote, and time's running out today.

You may be asking, "What does the



government do for me?"

If you have student loans, the government does a lot for you, and it's not all necessarily good.

The federal student loan rates continue to rise and if voters 18 to 24 don't vote, then the government has no reason to help us out at all.

And why should the government care?

Our age group has never made it a priority to vote.

According to a study by George Washington University, in the last midterm election, 82.8 percent of people age 18 to 24 did not vote.

One of the most disturbing trends is that you can't even count on college students, those who are supposed to be the future of our nation, to vote much more than you can a high school dropout.

Even in the 2004 presidential election, about half of young adults didn't

even bother to register to vote. Of the half that did register, just one-third cared to make it to the polls.

The bottom line is, you have no excuse not to vote this midterm election.

In order for democracy to work, we have to participate in the election process.

But if you don't, who cares?

It's only your life, money, freedom, beliefs and religion on the line.

Letters to the editor

America doesn't owe Mexico

I am writing in response to the editorial published Friday named "Border fence degrades Mexicans."

I would like to suggest that it should have been named "Illegal immigration degrades American taxpayers."

What people fail to realize is the ludicrous amount of taxpayer dollars that go toward health care, education and incarceration of illegal immigrants each year.

Children of illegal immigrant make up 11.9 percent of students in the Texas school system.

That means Texas taxpayers pick up a \$4 billion (yes, that is a "B") tab to make up for the children whose parents don't pay taxes to go toward Texas'

curriculum. That makes it a little easier to see how a child can get "left behind," doesn't it? This is only the tip of the iceberg.

We suffer the cost, socially and monetarily, caused by the criminals who cross our border and prey on the defenseless.

If you will recall the incident that happened in Mexia (not far from Waco) just this last June where a newly graduated high school girl was raped, stabbed, beaten and left to die on the side of the road. This atrocious act was the work of two illegal immigrants who have ruined a young girl's life and planted terror in the residents of Mexia.

Between the costs of incarceration and health care, Texas taxpayers spend an approximate \$670 million annually.

This doesn't even take into account the cost of the damage done by these criminals, their court cost or time spent in local jails.

I personally have no problem with anyone who wants to come to America for job opportunities (the Mexican people have an amazing work ethic).

I don't have a problem with helping a person when they are down.

What I do have a problem with are people who come to America to exploit our generosity and feel no obligation to repay their debt.

To those who would criticize Bush for trying to control our border by putting up a fence because it "degrades" the Mexican people or because they think it is too expensive, I would say: I worry about the American people and their

safety first; the feelings and emotions of foreign countries are secondary.

American taxpayers pay somewhere in the neighborhood of \$4.5 billion annually to take care of people who aren't even here legally.

So a \$2.2 billion fence is less than half of the annual cost that we are spending to keep illegals here. Not to mention the national security issues involved in having an open border.

And to Vicente Fox who said that the fence was an "embarrassment for the United States" I would say, yes, it is an embarrassment. But not to the United States, but rather for the Mexican people for making the U.S. force integrity upon them.

Dallas Snodgrass
Management 2008

Corrections

In Thursday's story "Photography pioneer to relay dark-room tips" Robbie Barber was incorrectly identified as female. Barber, associate professor of art, is male.

...

In the story headlined "Guerrillas looking to move popular act to local space" in Friday's paper, Guerrilla Comedy Troupe member Blake Evans was misquoted.

He said "Maybe the Hippodrome has a comedy play once a year, but it's just not the same as improv comedy," not that the Hippodrome does not have good quality comedy acts perform.

The Baylor Lariat

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V. EASY

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THE Daily Crossword

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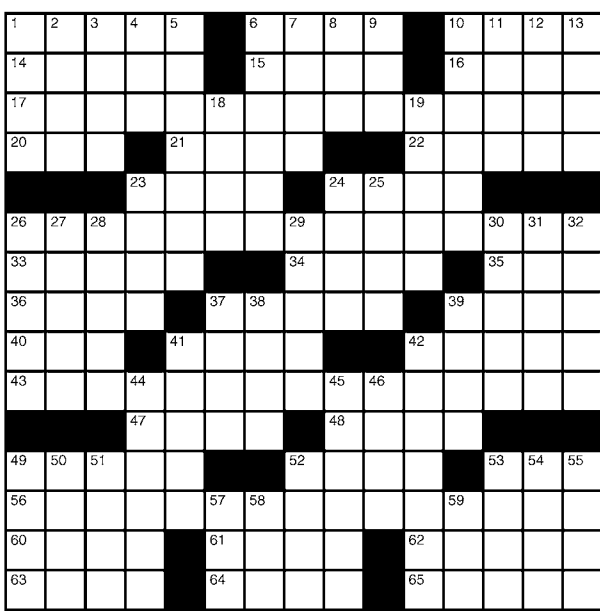
ACROSS

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36 College credit
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39 Put one's foot down?
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49 Deep gap
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DOWN

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5 Pub offering
6 Ornamental tree
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8 Tennis do-over
9 Grate stuff
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11 Wander about
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13 Nourish
18 Banjoist Scruggs
19 Joyous
23 Buttonhole, for instance
24 Cheat at hide-and-seek

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29 Liquor container
30 Emcee piece
31 Take care of
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37 Throw in one's cards
38 Hi's mate
39 London district
41 Mount
42 GIs' helmets
44 Light beams
45 Develop
46 Diet word
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50 Own
51 Between ports
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53 Sports Illustrated founder
54 Long period
55 Attention-getter
57 Alias initials
58 Vietnam Memorial artist
59 Mountain pass

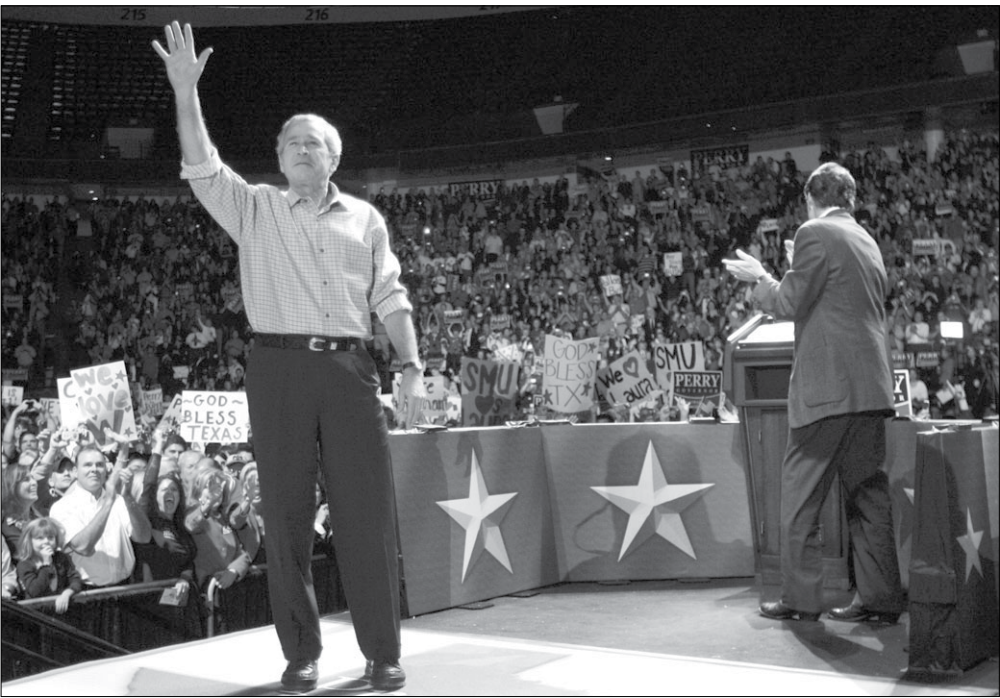


By Arlan & Linda Bushman

Chicago, IL

11/7/06

For today's crossword and sudoku answers, visit www.baylor.edu/Lariat



Associated Press

In the home stretch

President Bush waves Monday as he is introduced by Texas Gov. Rick Perry, right, at a campaign rally at Reunion Arena in Dallas.

BAND from page 1

real guidelines,” Dodd said. Klussmann said he’s put at least 150 hours into the project, which he said is much more hands-on than writing a paper. “It’s like you plan something and think it only has 10 steps, but in reality there are 300

steps,” he said. Murray said she’s had “a great time” with the project and is passionate about succeeding. “It’s a lot more work than I thought it would be, but I’d like to perfect it and make it as good as I can,” she said. Klussmann also said Collins has “thrown a few curve-

balls” at the group. One curveball is a mandatory acoustic performance to be held at 4 p.m. on Nov. 28 North Village Residential Community. Project Graduate’s first performance will be at 6 p.m. Wednesday in The Den at the Bill Daniel Student Center. Admission is free.

MOSELEY from page 1

gether, they didn’t know whether to put on a party or to put on a memorial service,” Interim University Chaplain Byron Weathersbee said. “They decided it needed to be more of a party than a memorial service because that would fit Katie in her life.” The memorial service consisted of worship music, prayers, slideshows, Scripture readings and memories shared by those who knew and loved Moseley. Dr. Dub Oliver, vice president of student life, spoke about the difference Moseley made at Baylor during her two months as a student. “The most important people at university are its students, and death of any one of them breaks our hearts. ... The difference Katie made wasn’t just that she was perfect for Baylor: bright, intelligent, fun, creative, so loving,” Oliver said. “It was the way that she reached out to others. The way that she was in-

involved in their lives. She was a faithful witness. She even loved Dr Pepper.” Moseley wrote a poem after the passing of her cousin in August 2003. In her poem she wrote, “When your day starts going bad, and you wish that it would pass, Keep in mind that it could be your last.” Southlake freshman Hayley Dyer remembered Moseley as the most competitive person she had ever met. “She ran her race better than most people here at Baylor,” Dyer said. “She has received her prize and is waiting for us to get ours, too.” Livingston sophomore Britany Ogletree picked the word “outgoing” to define Moseley. “She was a phenomenal

person, and she touched every person in her own special way,” Ogletree said. Ogletree remembered one year a summer camp when Moseley stole lemons from the lunchroom and jokingly threw them out the window at people. “I asked her why are you doing this, and she said because it’s funny,” Ogletree said. “T h a t ’ s how it was around Katie.” Moseley believed in “equality of everyone, the necessity of education, the will of God, the significance of self-esteem, the value of unselfishness, honesty, respect and morals,” according to a journal entry read by Weathersbee. “I like competition, loyalty and winning. It is good to be honest. Sarcasm is negative, but

“She ran her race better than most people here at Baylor. She has received her prize and is waiting for us to get ours, too.”

Hayley Dyer
Southlake freshman

LOCAL from page 1

son’s credentials include serving as justice of the peace at McLennan County Precinct One, felony prosecutor and court of appeals briefing attorney. Johnson did his undergraduate work at Baylor and got his law degree from Oklahoma City University. Peterson, the Democratic candidate, is an attorney at law at Johnson & Reed in Reyna. He is a board certified criminal law specialist who has practiced law in the 54th District Court for the past 20 years. He also has capital murder trial experience and experience as chief felony prosecutor for the McLennan County district attorney. Peterson received his undergraduate degree from the University of Texas at Austin and received his law degree from the University of Houston. After the elections, the five

district judges will decide if the 54th District Court will begin handling civil cases in addition to criminal cases. The 54th District Court is the only court in Waco that does not try civil cases. Although the decision will be voted on by the five judges, Peterson said he would like to maintain it as a solely criminal court. “My opponent is a civil lawyer, and he hasn’t made secret of the fact that he’d prefer being judge of a civil law court,” Peterson said, adding that it would be in the best interest of the county to maintain the court as it is. Johnson said he isn’t planning on pushing for a change in docket, but he would be willing to make the court available for civil cases if it is most convenient for other judges in the county. “The 54th has a long history of handling felony criminal cases, and I have no intention of challenging that history,” he said. He

later said, “I’m not telling people there’s no-way-no-how I would listen to a civil case. I could hear civil cases if it is needed to balance the docket.” **414th district judge** Incumbent Vicki Menard is running against Merrilee Harmon Dunnam to keep her post as 414th District Court judge. The 414th District Court of McLennan County was created last September, and Gov. Rick Perry named Menard as the court’s first judge. Dunnam, a Democrat, has served as an assistant district attorney in McLennan County, has tried cases before juries and judges in a broad number of areas and has handled appeals before the State Court of Appeals, Texas Court of Criminal Appeals, Texas Supreme Court, Federal Court of Appeals for the 5th Circuit and the United States Supreme Court. She has 27 years of law experience.

VOTE from page 1

Democrats also boasted of several election targets in New York, where Sen. Hillary Rodham Clinton and Eliot Spitzer, the Democratic candidate for governor, were expected to win landslides at the top of the ticket. Easily two dozen more Republican seats were in jeopardy, including one in Texas that may not be settled until next month. There, Republican Rep. Henry Bonilla and former Rep. Ciro Rodriguez, a Democrat, were the leading contenders in an eight-candidate field. A run-off between the two top vote-getters would follow if no one won a majority on Tuesday. In contrast, only a few Democratic incumbents appeared in jeopardy, including Reps. John Barrow in Georgia; Melissa Bean in Illinois and, in a race that bore no impact on the broader party struggle, William Jefferson in Louisiana. Jefferson, ensnared in a federal corruption investigation, faced a likely run-off on Dec. 9, possibly against fellow Democrat Karen Carter. After months of pursuing the Republicans, Democrats declined to say they would catch them. “From the Iraq war to the economy to how the Congress does its work, the American people want a different direction, and that’s what Democrats offer,” Rep. Rahm Emanuel of Illinois, the head of the House Democrats’ campaign committee, said Monday.

sometimes it lightens the mood. Abortion is wrong. Animals are great friends. Boys are stupid. This is me,” Weathersbee read from Moseley’s journal entries. Moseley sat behind Houston freshman Christine Ramirez in pre-calculus. “She was a real great friend,” Ramirez said. “There would be times where I was struggling in pre-calculus, and she was willing to help me out in a heartbeat.” El Paso freshman Kristen Boone was in small group with Moseley. “I honestly think we could have become the closest of friends if we had more time,” Boone said. “Katie liked everyone, and one of her best assets was simply making friends.” Weathersbee encouraged attendees to remember Moseley just as she ended her poem. “So when you think of me, please don’t say goodbye. Just smile real big and say, ‘I’ll see her in God’s time.’”

Menard, a Republican, had 15 years of civil law experience before taking the bench in 2005. During her time as judge, she hired staff, furnished the court and disposed of more than 800 cases. She has also served on the Waco Family Abuse Center board. Both candidates have undergraduate and law degrees from Baylor. If elected, Dunnam said she would like to make the 414th District Court available to hear more criminal cases. Dunnam stresses that Menard was selected by the governor. “It’s time the public should pick the candidate that has the greatest number of qualifications.” Menard said one of her top qualities is the ability remain even tempered. “I am even tempered, which I am very fair, and I have a proven record sitting in this court.”

“We have never said we’re going to take control of the Senate. We have said we’re on the edge. That’s where we are,” said Sen. Chuck Schumer, D-N.Y., chairman of the Senate Democrats’ organization. Democrats needed to gain six seats to win control of the Senate. GOP Sens. Mike DeWine in Ohio and Rick Santorum in Pennsylvania appeared in deepest trouble, Sens. Lincoln Chafee in Rhode Island and Conrad Burns in Montana somewhat less so. Rep. Nancy Pelosi of California, in line to become the first woman speaker in history if Democrats win, was in Washington after a weekend of campaigning for candidates in Pennsylvania and Connecticut. Neither Bush nor Clinton, the president and ex-president, was on Tuesday’s ballot, but both campaigned energetically toward the finish line. In Bentonville, Ark., where he campaigned for Asa Hutchinson, the party’s gubernatorial candidate, Bush said Republicans had late momentum because they were stressing that Democrats would raise taxes if they gained power. “The Democrats want to raise taxes when you’re born, when you’re working, when you retire and when you die,” Bush said in Florida as his audience laughed appreciatively. “In other words, the Democrats’ philosophy is this: ‘If it breathes, tax it. And if it stops breathing, find their children, tax them.’”

BEAR BRIEFS

Election Day

Today registered voters can cast ballots at precinct sites, divided according to addresses on voter registration cards. Polls will be open from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. Visti <http://www.co.mclennan.tx.us/elections/index.html> to search for your designated voting location.

North Korea lecture

Dr. Seon-Wook Kim, an assistant professor and philosophy department chair at South Korea’s Soongsil University, will give a lecture on “North Korea: The Nuclear Crisis” at 4 p.m. today in 116 Draper Academic Building.

Yearbook pictures

Round Up yearbook pictures for freshmen, sophomores and juniors will be taken in the CUB Student Government Lounge in the Bill Daniel Student Center from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. today through Friday. Walk-ins only.

Religious lecture

Lecturer Bruce Feiler’s presentation, “Can We All Get Along? Building Bridges Among the Religions of the 21st Century,” will be at 7:30 pm. Thursday in Waco Hall.. Student tickets are \$5.

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BAYLOR BEARS.COM

Bears grasp fading bowl dreams

By David Kaye
Reporter

Through disappointing losses and come-from-behind wins, the Bears have spent the entire season focusing on the big picture — getting to a bowl game for the first time since 1994. Now they don't have that luxury.

With their record falling to 4-6 after a 55-21 blowout loss to Texas Tech University on Saturday, the Bears must now win both of their remaining games to meet the six-win minimum required for bowl eligibility.

"I don't think we talk about a bowl this week," Morriss said. "I think we talk about trying to win the game, and everything else will take care of itself."

Few teams have their destiny spelled out for them as well as the Bears do. They have to beat both Oklahoma State and Oklahoma if they plan on ending an 11-year post-season drought.

Despite having their backs against the wall, senior receiver Trent Shelton said he likes the

Bears' chances.

"There's a lot of pressure, but I think our team responds to pressure and adversity pretty well," Shelton said. "I've faced it since I've been here. We've just got to come out, play hard and win the game."

Baylor will be the underdog in both games, but as the Bears showed in the 2005 season, they can compete with the teams remaining on their schedule.

After a heartbreaking double overtime loss to the Sooners in Norman, Okla., Baylor finished its 2005 season with a 44-34 win over the Cowboys at Floyd Casey Stadium.

Shelton said if the Bears hope to continue playing in December, they'll have to forget about Saturday's loss.

"Before the game we seemed dead. Not just one player — the whole team just seemed dead to me," Shelton said. "We didn't come out fired up like we usually are. We've just got to put this game behind us because we can't bring it back. We need to

come out on Tuesday, practice as hard as we can and get into this bowl game."

One thing the Bears can take from the loss is the experience gained by freshman quarterback Blake Syzmanski.

After throwing just five passes all season, Syzmanski took every snap for the Baylor offense Saturday.

"I felt good about the way Blake played. I think he was the one bright spot offensively," Morriss said. "His demeanor was good. He's always upbeat and positive. He believes in himself."

Syzmanski completed 16 of 30 passes for 197 yards and one touchdown with one interception. He also became the first Baylor quarterback to rush for two touchdowns in a game since 1992. Senior safety Maurice Linguist said he was pleased with Syzmanski's performance.

"It's a tough situation. He hasn't really played before," Linguist said. "He's thrown in the middle (of the) season trying

to take our team to get a win in a hostile environment, and I think he did a good job making the plays he could."

Syzmanski said he wasn't as pleased. On third-and-one in the second quarter, with the Bears trailing 21-14, the snap sailed over his head for a 24-yard loss.

"We've got to handle adversity; bad things happen and you've got to be able to control those," Syzmanski said. "You've just got to keep chugging along. I need to get better. I need to make better reads and keep making plays for my team."

Morriss said the Bears have to find a way to bounce back and get a win against Oklahoma State on Saturday.

"I think one of the things we have got to do is appeal to the seniors that this is their last two chances," Morriss said.

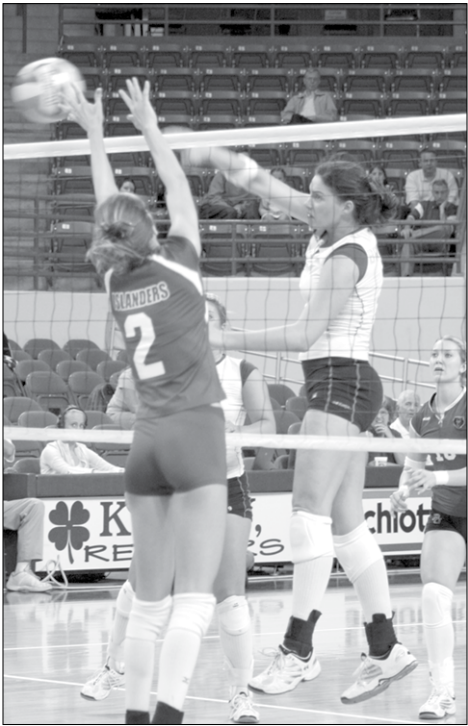
"We just have to get our heads up, come in, look at some film, try to get it out of our system and get ready to go to Oklahoma State."



Associated Press
Texas Tech's Joel Filani pulls down a 76-yard touchdown pass over Baylor cornerback James Todd late in the third quarter of Saturday's game in Lubbock. Texas Tech went on to win the game 55-21.

Volleyball team digs victory over Texas A&M-Corpus Christi

Freshman middle blocker Anna Breyfogle goes up for a block in Monday's match against Texas A&M-Corpus Christi. The Lady Bears took home a 3-1 victory over the Islanders. The win topped off a season in which the Lady Bears recorded the best non-conference winning percentage in the history of the program.



Kelly Moore/
Lariat staff

By Brittany McGuire
Sports writer

The Baylor Lady Bears volleyball team slammed Texas A&M-Corpus Christi Monday night at the Ferrell Special Events Center, taking the match 3-1 and keeping its NCAA tournament hopes alive.

The win pushes Baylor's non-conference record to 12-1, the best non-conference win percentage in school history.

"Corpus did a great job of mixing it up," head Coach Jim Barnes said. "They came to play."

Baylor came out swinging hard in game one, quickly taking the lead. Texas A&M-Corpus Christi tried to sneak back in the score, but the Lady Bears' offense was on the attack, and it wouldn't be stopped, taking game one 30-18 and the match lead 1-0.

The Islanders pushed Baylor hard in game two, scoring two to

three points for Baylor's one. Texas A&M-Corpus Christi started to pull away from the Lady Bears, and at game point things looked grim for Baylor, which was down by four points.

Three kills from freshman Katie Sanders kept the Lady Bears alive in the match, tying the game 29-29. Senior Nicole LeBlanc put Baylor ahead by one, but the Islanders answered, tying the score. Freshman Kelsey Smith blasted the ball for the winning point, taking the game 32-30 and a huge 2-0 match lead.

"Tonight we just focused on individual things," Sanders said. "We were waiting for the ball and going in at just the right time."

The Texas A&M-Corpus Christi team wasn't ready to head home yet. Barnes played around with the lineup, starting new players, but the Islanders weren't going to give Baylor a break and quickly took the game lead. Down 12-20,

Barnes called a team timeout, but kept the lineup on the court.

"We got to play our entire team," Barnes said.

The Lady Bears again found themselves down 25-29 at game point, but they couldn't close the match, falling 27-30, keeping the Islanders in the match 2-1.

Baylor returned its starters for game four and brought on a strong offensive attack, winning game four 30-22 and the match 3-1.

The Lady Bears had 70 offensive kills to the Islanders' 53, and they added 65 assists and 83 digs to Texas A&M-Corpus Christi's 48 and 77. Baylor recorded 17 team blocks, nearly three times as many as the Islanders put up.

Leading the Lady Bears was senior Desiree Guilliard-Young, who became the first player in Baylor history to accrue 1,000 kills and 500 blocks.

"She's a tremendous player,"

Barnes said. "Everyone across the nation knows Desiree."

Guilliard-Young said the individual honor is great, but her goals are still for the team.

"I feel honored to be up there with people who have set milestones," Guilliard-Young said. "But the biggest award would be going to the tournament."

The senior middle blocker had 17 kills and nine blocks on the night.

The Lady Bears will travel to Kansas State University on Wednesday and will then have to turn around and head to Lubbock to face Texas Tech University on Saturday.

The Lady Bears said they're looking forward to playing on the road. They need a winning run in order to keep their tournament chances alive.

"The girls really see the opportunity," Barnes said. "We can still make a run at the tournament."

SPORTS BRIEFS

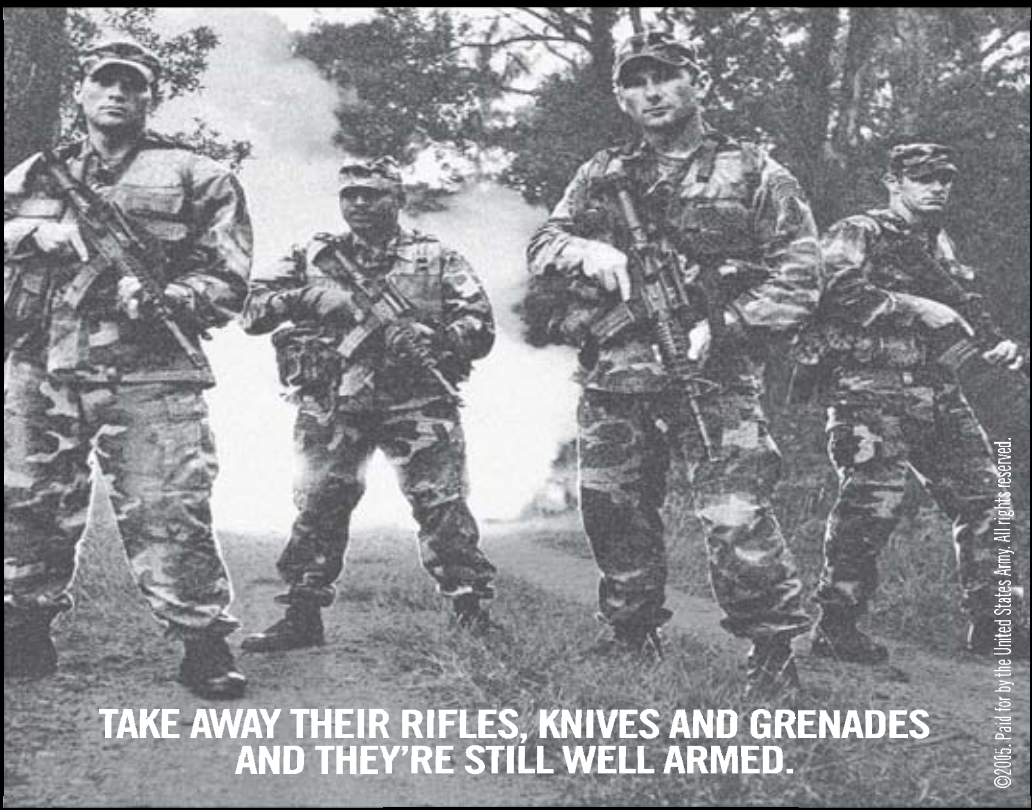
Men's basketball wins exhibition opener
The Baylor men's basketball team opened its season Saturday with a 102-85 victory over Texas A&M-Commerce in an exhibition game. Junior guard Aaron Bruce led the way for the Bears with 27 points, hitting five of eight times from beyond the 3-point line. Sophomore forward Kevin Rogers added 17 points and a game-high 15 rebounds in the winning effort.

Lady Bears to play final exhibition game
The Baylor Lady Bear basketball team will play its second and final exhibition game at home tonight against the Houston Jaguars. The game marks the eighth consecutive year the two teams have met in preseason action. The Lady Bears have won all seven contests against the Jaguars by an average of 29.9 points. In

their first exhibition game Thursday, the Lady Bears beat Louisiana College 94-23.

Sepulveda sets NCAA all-time record
Baylor punter Daniel Sepulveda was named the Big 12 Conference Special Teams Player of the Week for the second time in his career after his Saturday performance against the Red Raiders. The senior punter kicked the ball eight times for a Baylor single-game school record average of 49.6 yards per kick. His four punts of at least 50 yards gave him the NCAA record with 91 career punts of 50 yards or more.

Women's netters compete in tourney
The Baylor women's tennis team wrapped up the fall portion of its schedule with the Palm Spring Doral Desert tournament. Freshman netter Jessica Zok advanced to the singles A Draw semifinals, while senior Iva Mihaylova was eliminated in the B Draw semifinals.



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Overwhelming holiday cheer smothers ‘Escape Clause’

By Paige Panter
Contributor

My first thought when the screen filled with a snowy scene of rosy-cheeked child elves and twinkling lights was, “This is magical.”

MOVIE REVIEW

Then, after about five minutes, I remembered that I’m a cynic, somewhat of a realist and not all that crazy about children.

The Santa Clause 3: The Escape Clause is bursting with Christmas spirit, and if you’re not ready for it, it will hit you with a big, cheery smack in the face.

Tim Allen is back as the big guy in red, and this time the obstacle he must overcome just in time for Christmas is Jack Frost (Martin Short). Suffering from an inferiority complex, Jack creates quite a bit of mischief in Santa’s workshop and aims to steal the role of Santa.

To top things off, Santa’s in-laws, who are still in the dark about their son-in-law’s true identity, are coming to visit. Much of the intended humor is derived from their thinking that they are not at the North Pole but in Canada.

Along his way to sabotaging Christmas, Short does manage to salvage some of the movie’s humor, as does Alan Arkin (*Little Miss Sunshine*), the emotionally absent, sarcastic father-in-law.

The rest, however, drowns in the Disney wonderland sentimentality. A pregnant Mrs. Clause (Elizabeth Mitchell), in particular, goes overboard with the “Miss Positive” attitude, despite being a week past her due date and as active as any of Santa’s little helpers.

Besides the borderline cheesiness and in-your-face symbolism of the true meaning of Christmas, writers Ed Decter and John J. Strauss do come up with a creative story line and some interesting quirks, like

farting reindeer that speak in a language reminiscent of the ’98 Christmas it-toy, Furby.

Performances by Allen and Short make the movie endurable even if you’re wondering what you are doing watching a Christmas movie weeks before Thanksgiving. Distributors probably were right to release it now before the good, non-sequel Christmas movies start hitting the box office.

The movie does make an honest attempt to reach beyond all the holiday materialism and take hold of some family values. Even if it is trite, there is definitely some truth in one of Allen’s lines at the end of the movie: “Families are supposed to tick each other off on Christmas Eve. The important thing is that we’re together.”

Bottom line: If you’re ready for some extremely premature Christmas spirit, this is the flick for you. If not, then waste your money elsewhere.

Grade: B-



Associated Press

Ann-Margret, from left, Judge Reinhold, Martin Short, Tim Allen and Elizabeth Mitchell appear in a scene from *The Santa Clause 3: The Escape Clause*, which was released in theaters Friday.

Broadway meets rock with black Jesus

DC Talk’s Michael Tait helps put new spin on Christian history

By Cat Smith
Reporter

What would it look like if Jesus were crucified today?

The rock opera *!Hero* shows Jesus as a black youth with a head full of dreadlocks born in Bethlehem, Pa.

Michael Tait, a member of the former Christian band DC Talk, plays Jesus in the show and said it will be eye-opening for a lot of people to see Jesus as an African-American.

“When people usually think of Jesus, they imagine the blue-eyed and blond-hair version,” Tait said. “It may be jarring for many people to see a black Jesus.”

!Hero kicks off its 2006 tour with one showing at 7 p.m. today in Waco Hall.

When he read the script, Tait said he knew it was going to raise eyebrows.

“This is a new way to imagine the gospels, but the show is a faithful representation about a real man who lived and died,” he said.

Tait said he hopes the show will add new dimensions to the way people think of the gospels.

“A lot of people don’t realize that Jesus was actually presented almost as a terrorist in his time,” Tait said. “He was the ultimate outsider.”

When Jesus is crucified, there is no wooden cross. Instead, he is haphazardly strung up on a street sign in New York City, and Judas dies by shooting himself in the head with a .45-caliber pistol.

Tait said the crucifixion is one of his favorite parts of the show.

“When Jesus is crucified, it’s a really intense scene because it’s very realistic and moving,” he said. “I think people will really respond to it.”

Tait said he found that playing the role of Jesus was a humbling experience.

“It is the ultimate part to play, and it really made me take a look inwards at myself and many situations in my

life,” he said.

Carol Anderson, the play’s tour publicist, said one of the best things about the show is the music.

“The show is set to all original music and blends hip-hop, pop and rock music to bring the gospel a new generation,” Anderson said.

Tait said the musical score is what will help keep young people engaged in the play.

“This is MTV meets a blend of Broadway and a rock concert,” he said.

Heather Hampton, a Columbia, Mo., senior, said she is excited to see the show.

“I can’t wait to see it,” Hampton said. “It’s edgy and has a new take on a story that everyone knows.”

Tait said he encourages everyone to come out and see the play.

“Even if you have heard the gospel and are a believer, seeing it come to life in terms we can all understand is amazing,” Tait said. “It will blow your mind.”

Tickets cost \$18 and can be purchased at www.heroshows.com.

Michael Tait stars in *!Hero*, a modern tale of the life of Jesus Christ. One of the modern takes is how Jesus was crucified. Instead of being hung on a cross, he is displayed on a New York City street sign. Baylor is the cast’s first stop on its 2006 tour. The play begins at 7 p.m. today in Waco Hall.



Courtesy photo

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