

THE BAYLOR LARIAT

Grass not always greener on organic side



sinks her teeth into a black bean burrito Monday at Terry and Jo's Food for Thought. The restaurant specializes in organic foods.

"It's not natural and our bodies aren't going to react in a natural way," she said. "For the most part, I go without getting

He said he believes organic food is a more responsible choice for the environ-

Please see **FOOD**, page 6

This is Los Angeles, and this is the life of 10 film and digital media majors interning this semester. Each of these students is interning with a different company in the promotional or

This is a new program the

A large portion of the in-

Please see **INTERN**, page 6



Houston senior Josh Franer, left, Sherman junior Walker Hanson and Georgetown senior Jason Seagraves are spending the fall semester as interns in Los Angeles.

Please see **WOLDA**, page 6



Iraqi President Jalal Talabani, right, arrived in Tehran Monday amid increasing calls for Washington to enlist Iran's help in calming the violence in Iraq.

Activists are pressuring Britain to offer an apology and reparations for its role in slavery before it marks the 200th anni-

"I believe the bicentenary offers us a chance not just to say how profoundly shameful the slave trade was, how we condemn its existence utterly and praise those who fought for its

As al-Maliki prepared to meet Bush, Iraqi President Jalal Talabani sought Monday to enlist Iran's help in quelling the escalating violence that threatens to tear apart the country. "We are

The increased pace of diplomacy comes as a bipartisan U.S. panel headed by former Secretary of State James A. Baker III and former Rep. Lee Hamilton is expected to put forth recommendations soon to the White House on alterations to Iraq policy. Seeking help from Iran and Syria was believed to be

Iraqi officials believe the summit will deal with giving Iraqi forces more control over

Please see **IRAQ**, page 6

Activists have criticized Blair's statement, arguing his careful language reflects the government's fear of paying out huge reparations for wrongs committed hundreds of years ago. They argue that those who benefited from the slave trade should admit their role, and pay for it.

Other nations and institutions have also recently examined their role in the slave trade.

Please see **BLAIR**, page 6

Spending Thanksgiving in India makes world history

There is one word to describe my Thanksgiving: historic. There was no turkey. No dressing. No cranberry sauce. And definitely none of my aunt's amazing green Jell-O salad. In fact, there was no reason to celebrate Thanksgiving, because I was in India.

In September, I read a flier titled "Thanksgiving in India. Wash feet. Share a meal." My nomadic spirit rose up in me, and I knew I couldn't let this opportunity pass. What I didn't realize was in taking that simple step, I would be a part of making history in India.

For centuries, India's society has been established in the caste system. The lowest in the caste are the Dalits, which translates into "untouchables." And untouchable is exactly how

they are treated. The Dalits are told by all upper caste and the Indian government that they are worthless and deserve their life of poverty and disease. They are not to be touched, fed, cured or even associated with. But the Dalits makes up more than half of India's population.

My team of 19 traveled to India to wash the feet of these people, the action for which only a servant is responsible. When we arrived, we met the two men spearheading Unity Day – the holiday we were going to partake in by washing feet.

Sunil Sardar, the Indian pastor who envisioned Unity Day, explained his heart for his country, his desire for social justice and – most importantly – the scripture's clear message for the oppressed and poor. After

spending several years in jail for preaching the gospel, Sardar learned about India's connection to Jesus.

Sardar told us of three statues in India. One of the statues is Phule, who Gandhi claimed was his guru. While in jail, Sardar further studied the life of Phule and found that he was the first to teach his wife to read, the first to open his well to the Dalit and the first to say his true guru was Baliraja – the sacrificed king. The more Sardar began to

study about Phule's belief in Baliraja, the more he began to realize Phuli was writing about Jesus and his message of "doing unto others how you would have them do unto you." More than 150 years ago, Phule prayed that the followers of Baliraja from the West would come to India and unite with those from the East. He also prayed that the caste leaders would begin to see that they are all equal.

So on America's Thanksgiving, India celebrated Phule's death day (which is celebrated instead of birthdays), and on that same day my team became the first group of Westerners to enter these Dalit villages and wash their feet – an act no one has ever done for them.

No one. Until now. On Unity Day, Sardar

preached the message of Baliraja and preached about social injustice letting these people know that they are equal. Equally loved. Equally valued. Equal.

As I washed the feet of some Dalit women, my heart was opened to an entirely new aspect of humility and love. I finally grasped what it meant to be a servant.

To see them in shock and awe that someone who previously would have condemned them to death because of their skin color was now serving them was phenomenal.

Leaders of the villages asked Sardar how they could bring Baliraja's teachings into their villages. Even a man who led a protest against us confronted Sardar later asking for forgiveness because he was touched that we

weren't trying to "westernize" India. He said he appreciated Sardar's desire to have a rally on equality and a centuries-old guru to India – Baliraja.

Unity Day was a stepping stone to bringing equality to the Dalits as well as sharing the love of Jesus – someone who desires their freedom more than any human ever could.

I won't forget my time in India, because I don't think my view on life or my heart will ever be the same. I had no idea I was signing up to make history. I was just ready to take a trip across the seas. I know my kids will read about the first Unity Day in India someday, and I'll be proud to give them my eyewitness experience.

Donelle Sauer is a junior journalism major from Amarillo.

Editorial

Richards' apologies should be accepted

For nine seasons, Michael Richards donned a vintage wardrobe and crashed through apartment 4B, crafting the character of an eccentric neighbor on the sitcom *Seinfeld*. But it only took one tirade on Nov. 17 at the Laugh Factory in Los Angeles, where the comedian spouted racial slurs on stage at two black men who Richards believed were heckling him, to tarnish his reputation as an entertainer.

The two men demanded an apology and compensation from Richards and from the club. The Laugh Factory issued an apology and banned Richards from performing at any of its clubs in the future.

Richards publicly apologized via satellite during a Nov. 20 interview with Jerry Seinfeld on the *Late Show with David Letterman*.

Richards spoke on the Rev. Jesse Jackson's radio show Monday to apologize again for the incident and said he wanted to meet the two men to reconcile.

Jackson said Richards' "anger is volatile and dangerous to himself and others. I hope he gets the help he needs."

The Rev. Al Sharpton refused to accept an apology from Richards, but said he would agree

to meet with him to address racism in America. Sharpton also said that whites or blacks should not use the n-word.

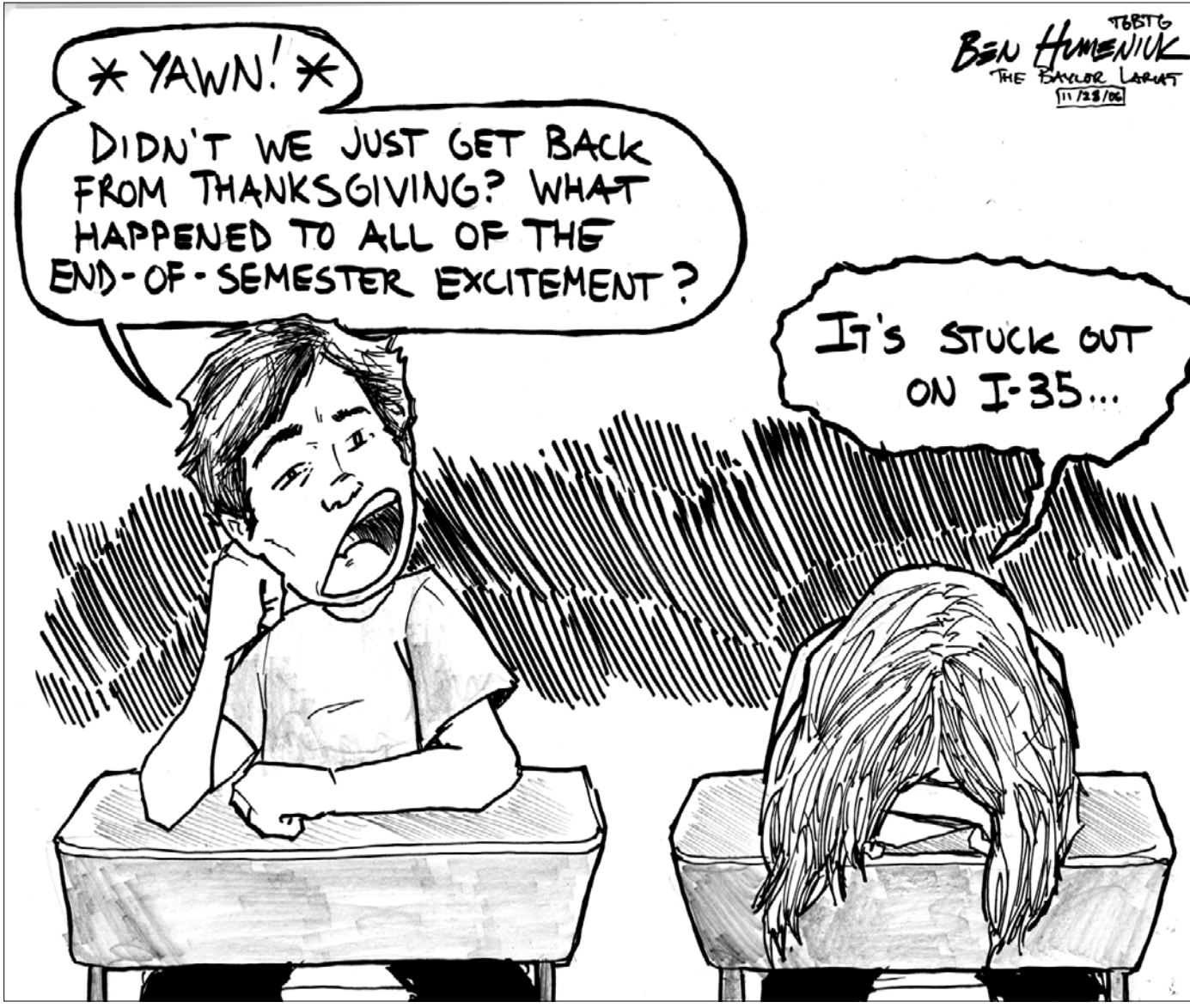
Despite Richards' apology, black leaders and black comedians have been resistant to accept his words at face value. Would money make the situation less painful? The sting of the slurs will not subside if Richards agrees to pay for his words.

Richards has already addressed a national audience multiple times in the last 11 days. His apologies should be sufficient.

Regardless of the connotation of the n-word, people need to take a closer look at what using the word promotes. Even if the word has taken on a different connotation when used in the black community, the word still carries strong feelings of hatred. Whether or not the word will dissipate from our vocabulary is yet to be seen.

There is no question that Richards was wrong to use racial slurs. But no one is in the position to accuse Richards of being a racist, or to absolve him and the incident as a one-time occurrence.

Only Richards knows the truth.



Opinion policy

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ters to the editor and guest columns. Opinions expressed in the *Lariat* are not necessarily those of the Baylor adminis-

tration, the Baylor Board of Regents or the Student Publications Board. Letters to the editor should include the writer's name,

major, graduation year, phone number and student identification number. Letters should be e-mailed to Lariat_Letters@baylor.edu.

Ailing Secret Santa's credo: 'Tis better to receive by giving

Santa Claus has cancer. It started in his esophagus and spread to his liver. He's being treated, but chemotherapy has sapped his appetite and energy and he's down about a hundred pounds. He's worried about money, too. The treatment costs more than \$16,000 a month and his insurance doesn't cover it.

Santa Claus is named Larry Stewart and he's a wealthy 58-year-old businessman who lives in a suburb of Kansas City, but he used to be a down-on-his-luck 20-something living out of his car. How did he become Santa Claus? Well, it might have begun that day he approached a woman at a church and told her he was destitute. She told him the man who handled destitute people was gone for the day and

suggested he come back tomorrow. Stewart says he never felt so low. He never did go back.

Or maybe it began that time he hadn't eaten for two days and he went into a diner and ordered breakfast and then, when the bill came, pretended he'd lost his wallet. The owner of the diner came over. "You must have dropped this," he said. And he put a twenty into Stewart's hand.

Or maybe Larry Stewart became Santa Claus the day he was at a drive-through restaurant, feeling dispirited and low at having lost his job the week before Christmas. For the second year in a row. As he recently told The Associated Press, "It was cold and the car hop didn't have on a very big jacket and I

thought to myself, 'I think I got it bad. She's out there in the cold making nickels and dimes.'" He handed her a twenty on a tab that couldn't have been more than two or three bucks and told her to keep the change. The woman cried and told him he had no idea what his gift meant. "And man, I'm telling you what, it just ripped my heart right out. And I thought, 'Wow.' I had never had a feeling like that."

He liked the feeling so much

that he went to his bank and took out \$200 in fives and twenties and drove around looking for people who looked like they needed help. That was in 1979 and he's done the same thing every year since, randomly handing out \$100 bills (by his estimate, a total of \$1.3 million) to strangers with what he calls "that look" – poverty, desperation, need – in their eyes. He never told anyone who he was. Reporters who traveled with "secret Santa" had to swear to keep his name out of the paper.

But now Santa Claus has cancer. The media have come calling – the Associated Press, CNN, the *Kansas City Star* and more – and he has agreed to be named. He doesn't say this in so many words, but you get

the sense he's thinking that if he dies, he doesn't want the idea of random kindness to die with him. He wants people to remember how good giving feels. He wants them to know that giving is its own reward.

People seem unlikely to forget. When the *Star* wrote about him, it brought letters from around the state and from as far away as Texas and South Carolina. People said he gave them hope. People said he inspired them to kindnesses of their own. People said they were praying for him.

"There's people praying for me that ..." he told CNN, and then he stopped, grief and gratitude gluing his throat closed so that it took him 20 seconds to finish the thought: "I don't even know 'em."

Now, here Christmas comes. Maybe the first one he'll miss since Jimmy Carter was president.

Lights are being strung on houses, tree lots are opening for business. And there's Santa Claus, sick with cancer, and maybe facing his last Christmas, pondering life, death and the meaning of the years between. All those years, all those strangers, all those random kindnesses.

The axiom says it is better to give than to receive.

One suspects Santa Claus, even now, would disagree. One suspects he would say that if you do the one, the other happens naturally.

Leonard Pitts Jr. is a columnist for the *Miami Herald*.

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THE Daily Crossword

Edited by Wayne Robert Williams

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- 20 Half a buck's rack
- 21 Flemish map-maker
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- 26 Stubby, erect tail
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By Stanley B. Whitten

Highwood, IL

11/28/06

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

Photo exhibit captures cultural landscape of South

By Lauren Hightower
Reporter

A lone cannon sits out on an empty field. Black women sit in a church with elaborate hats adorning their heads.

The Mayborn Museum Complex opened a new exhibit by Dr. Clark Baker, associate professor of journalism and department chairman, on Nov. 16.

The exhibit, "Images of Myth and Reality: Texas and the South," was originally a part of the American Studies Association of Texas's 50th annual conference, said Dr. Doug Ferdon, associate professor of journalism and director of the American Studies Program.

This year's conference theme focused on images of Southwest Texas.

Baker said he has been taking photographs since his uncle gave him a camera at the age of 10 and taught him the rudiments of the craft, he said.

The pictures in the exhibit were taken over a span of 15 years, during which Baker traveled all over the South.

The collection includes hun-

dreds of photos, but the museum display was narrowed to 24.

"I think the hardest part is editing them into something coherent," Baker said. "It's hard to avoid photos that speak to what outsiders know to be the South."

Baker said he did not originally plan for his work to be exhibited.

The project began in Alabama and continued as he traveled, carrying over into his move to Baylor. He said his purpose was in part to express the deep South.

"I can't help but be inspired by that region," he said.

The entire collection is made up of black and white photos, his favorite medium.

"I always seem to return to black and white when I have that luxury," he said.

The use of black and white in this exhibit is a fitting medium for this style of photography said Sarah Levine, director of marketing for the Mayborn Museum Complex.

"Pictures become more dramatic in black and white than they do in color," Levine said.

"It shows there's still a kind of graciousness there."

The exhibit shows a cultural and physical landscape of Texas and the South, including religion, race issues, land and other themes, said Frankie Pack, coordinator of changing exhibits for the Mayborn Museum Complex.

"I think it fits nicely with the museum's mission of presenting local history by offering a unique look at images of Texas and the South," she said.

Baker said he chose the name for his exhibit because his goal was to portray the South as something "not so one-dimensional as people seem to think."

The Mayborn Museum agreed to put up the images in a public exhibit hall so they would be open to more viewers that the conference area would allow, Pack said.

"It's a great and wonderful resource to be able to display works from local professors," Pack said.

"It established a good working relationship and is convenient as well."

The exhibit will be open un-



Kelly Moore/Lariat staff

Lori Lutz of Waco looks at photographs in Dr. Clark Baker's exhibit Monday afternoon in the Mayborn Museum Complex. The exhibit, "Images of Myth and Reality: Texas and the South," is open until Jan. 25.

til Jan. 25. Admission is \$6 for adults, \$5 for senior adults and \$4 for children.

Baylor faculty and staff will be given free admission for themselves and their families

Thursday. Admission is free for students.

Health center officials, class officers discuss fees, wait time

By Christine Tamer and Greer Kinsey
Staff writer and reporter

A spoon full of sugar may make the medicine go down, but it does little for the long amounts of time students spend waiting at Baylor's Health Center.

Freshman class officers met Nov. 14 with the university's health center officials to address issues brought to them by students, including longer waiting times and new fees.

"Students have approached us directly or wrote in forums complaining about their experiences," said League City freshman class vice president Yong-Yong Huang. "It was an issue that had to be addressed."

The health center attributed long waiting times to the new electronic medical records (EMR).

"The initial problem through the EMR is that it requires them (health center) to use a tablet PC and go through approximately 15 pages of data prior to doing

anything with a patient at the clinic," said Lindale freshman class president Noah Hutchinson.

"Therefore, instead of just writing a few things on a piece of paper, it provides a better medical record in the end. But it obviously prolongs the process and diminishes the ability for students to be seen more quickly," he said.

Rosemary Townsend, director of the health center's business affairs and administration, said lines haven't been as long as they were at the beginning of the semester.

The long lines were originally caused by the new insurance plan and the fact that this is the first year that insurance claims have been filed electronically through the health center.

With the new system, all students' insurance information had to be updated, Townsend said.

"It's rather complicated to get something like this up and running," Townsend said.

Lines have slowed down,

Townsend said, but adjusting to the new insurance plan and EMR systems are only a small part of the problem.

Townsend said students don't always clarify their reason for coming to the health center.

She said many students are vague about their condition, but when they actually come into the office, their condition requires more attention than expected.

Townsend said students should make a clear explanation of their medical condition when making their appointment at the health center.

"This slows the whole clinic down, so lines are always longer at the end of the day," Townsend said.

The health center officials told the freshman class officers they are looking into increasing hours or hiring additional staff members, Cleburne freshman secretary Holly Maddox said.

"We found out the answers of the slowness, and the changes made by health services," Maddox said. "We are continuing

to research that. I don't think we necessarily have a solution, but we have an answer for students."

The freshman class officers presented the idea of registering for health service appointments online, but the current technology cannot accommodate the idea at the time, Huang said.

"Students need to be aware of the problems that exist and stick with the system as it continues to change," Hutchinson said.

"In my perspective, knowing what goes on behind closed doors makes it easier for me to wait a few more minutes."

As far as money goes, Huang also said students came to the freshman class officers confused as to why a part of their tuition goes directly toward health services, but they no longer receive free consultations.

Townsend said the health center no longer receives any percentage of the student fee and has not received a part of the fee since the 2004 fiscal year.

"We did change the fee struc-

ture," Townsend said. "It was changed so that now we instituted an office visit charge. It had nothing to do with insurance per se. It helps cover the costs and expenses that was directly affected because we didn't get that general student fee fund anymore."

The newly implemented Baylor health insurance policy states that if a student is covered by a plan other than the university sponsored plan, the Baylor Health Center will now bill that person's health insurance company for services received.

The insurance claim will automatically go from the health center to the student's insurance company, Townsend said.

"If you are a student with insurance, you are charged only in terms with your insurance card," Townsend said. "It is whatever your policy charges. There is no double charge."

Most insurance companies are now in network with Baylor, which means the insurance company will pay more on a claim, which benefits the student more

than if it is out of network.

If a student's insurance company is not in-network, his or her insurance company bases prices on an "allowable range," which is a standard price for all insurance companies.

Townsend said Baylor health care officials base prices off each specific student's insurance policy, so it's important for students to have health insurance.

"You need to, as a student, understand the policies and regulations of your insurance program," she said.

Townsend said not everyone clearly reads everything they're sent from Baylor, including the information about the new insurance policy. She said this can lead to confusion about the insurance policy.

Hutchinson said that it is possible that the freshman class officers will not be able to directly change the way the health center makes decisions.

In this case, she said they aspire to promote understanding among students when visiting the health center.

Instructors willing to take pie in the face for good cause

By Katelyn Foster
Reporter

Any students who have dreamed of throwing something at their instructors will have their chance Friday.

Pie-A-Prof, hosted by Baylor Habitat for Humanity, will give students a chance to throw a pie in the face of the professor of their choice. Baylor Habitat is raising money to help build their 20th anniversary house.

Founded in 1987, the organization will turn 20 years old in November. An anniversary house will be dedicated in honor of the celebration.

Everyone, including students, staff, faculty and spouses, can purchase a pie for two dollars that will go toward the building of the house. Donations will also be accepted.

Amanda Cronin, a Houston junior and fundraising chairman, said it will be a friendly little exchange between students and professors.

"It builds camaraderie between faculty and students," she said.

Participants include Timothy Heckenlively, lecturer in classics; David White, lecturer in classics; Alex Alderman, lecturer in classics; Byron Weathers-

bee, university chaplain; Cindy Fry, senior lecturer in computer science and engineering; John Knue, senior lecturer in Information Systems; Dr. Chris van Gorder, associate professor of religion; Dr. Charles McDaniel, visiting professor in Church-State studies and Fred Hulme, senior lecturer in economics. Students Joshua Gillam and Sonya Maness will also be participating.

Sonya Maness, a Houston senior and president of Baylor's Habitat for Humanity, said they are thankful for the volunteers.

"How many professors let students smash pies in their

faces?" she said. "We're grateful that the professors volunteer their time and faces."

Cindy Fry, senior lecturer of computer science, said it's a great time to have fun and laugh.

"I'm lucky. I can't wait," Fry said. "It's a great cause and another way to hang out with students," she said.

Maness said the event comes at a perfect time of year.

"Around finals everyone gets stressed and need a way to relieve the stress. What better way to do that than throw a pie in a professor's face, and at the same time help build a home in the Waco community?"

Habitat adviser Charles McDaniel agreed that it will be a good relief near the end of the semester. He said he's willing to take the abuse in order to help out a good cause.

Although it will be a fun event, Fredericksburg junior and service chairman Justin Ersch said Pie-A-Prof is a way for students to be a big part of building the anniversary house and provides students with an opportunity to reach out.

"It's a good way to help us help the community," he said.

Pie-A-Prof will take place in Fountain Mall from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. today through Friday.

Holidays spent at home can cause parent-student friction

By Cassandra Spratling
McClatchy Newspapers

DETROIT — While home during a break from North Carolina A&T, where she's a sophomore, Rickelle Winton casually mentioned to her mom that she was having a friend over.

They planned to watch TV in Rickelle's bedroom.

"No way," said her mom. Rickelle's friend is a guy.

"I told her I didn't think that was fair because I have boys in my room in my dorm," says Rickelle, who attends the college in Greensboro, N.C.

Dorm's one thing; home's another, her mother, Doreen Odom of Detroit, told her.

Parents and their children

home for the holidays are bound to have similar discussions as college students accustomed to living by their own rules return home to live by their parents' rules over the winter break.

"At school, you could come home at 4 o'clock in the morning and she'd have no idea," says Rachel Kay, 19, a University of Michigan sophomore, referring to her mother, Janice Kay, 50, of West Bloomfield, Mich.

"It is a frustrating thing when you're used to being on your own, but it's understandable because she's my mom and she worries."

The holiday season will be a happier time for parents and students if they talk about and agree on rules, curfews and

plans for the holidays.

And the sooner the better.

"When I was in high school my curfew was 1 a.m.," says Rachel. "When I come home from college, she extended it to 2 a.m."

Janice Kay says she understands the frustration, but she needs the peace of mind.

"We talked about it and I told her that when she stays with me, she needs to let me know where she is and when she'll be home,"

says Kay, a speech-language pathologist with the Detroit Public Schools.

Doreen Odom, who is in her 40s and an administrator at a community health center, doesn't set a curfew, preferring to let the occasion dictate the time Rickelle should be home.

But she says she does expect Rickelle to tell her where she's going, with whom and what time she'll be home — something Rickelle forgot when she first re-

BEAR BRIEFS

Guerilla Troupe show

The Guerilla Comedy Troupe will perform a free show modeled after "Whose Line Is It Anyway?" from 5 to 11:45 p.m. today in the Bill Daniel Student Center Den.

Freshman formal tickets

Tickets will be on sale for the Freshman Formal from noon to 4 p.m. today in dining halls across campus.

Student Life survey

Visit bin.baylor.edu and voice your opinion about different campus issues including professor accessibility, campus safety and final exam dead days. The Student Life survey will be available through Friday.

To submit a bear brief, e-mail Lariat@baylor.edu.

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Singing, dancing penguins will tap right into hearts

Animated tale appears lifelike with advanced film technology

By Aileen Wong
Contributor

You wouldn't think being the next toe-tapping Gene Kelly would be a curse. However, for an Emperor penguin, rhythmic feet can only mean trouble.

MOVIEREVIEW

Happy Feet is an animated film about Mumble (Elijah Wood), a penguin born with "happy feet," which is a tragic condition of monstop tap-dance-itis.

At birth, every penguin finds his or her own Heartsong, which is a mating song.

When Mumble tries to find his Heartsong, his feet rapidly tap, and ice-shattering sounds, similar to nails on a chalkboard, arise from his beak. In a world where penguins mate for life, not having a Heartsong is a bad sign.

Unfortunately for Mumble,

his talents lie in his feet, not his voice.

The young penguin discovers that aliens (aka humans) are taking away all of the fish, and he wants to talk to the aliens to stop them.

When he tries to alert the elders about the problem, they refuse to listen and believe his tapping is the cause of the fish loss.

Mumble is forced to leave the colony and begins a mission to do everything penguinly possible — including stunt attempts only a daredevil determined to make the *Guinness Book of World Records* would try.

He desperately tries to stop the aliens from taking the fish in order to earn the respect of his fellow penguins.

The animation in *Happy Feet* raises the bar for all animated films and puts recent animated releases to shame.

Some of the penguins had more than six million feathers each. I questioned my judgment of what was live action and what was animated.

The realism of the film can



Associated Press

Mumble dances around the ice in a scene from the new movie *Happy Feet*, which was released worldwide in theaters on Nov. 17.

also be attributed to the motion capture technology, which animated the talents of tap dancer

Savion Glover to create the realistic moves of Mumble's fast feet.

The star-studded cast, featuring the talents of Wood, Robin Williams, Nicole Kidman, Brit-

tany Murphy and Hugh Jackman, combined with superior computer technology, makes each penguin surprisingly realistic.

This isn't the average cartoon-animal-on-a-quest movie. It ties in a meaningful story line with an environmental message, as well as creates awareness for animal rights.

This movie is a singing and dancing hit, filled with cover songs like Queen's "Somebody to Love" and Prince's "Kiss." It is essentially the cartoon version of *Moulin Rouge*, skillfully incorporating classic musical hits into the story line.

You may think you've seen enough penguin films recently, but this one taps its way into your heart.

The film ties in love, passion, hope, musical numbers and the oh-so-awkward everyone-hates-me feeling. This fun-filled animation kept me rocking in my seat from start to finish.

Gene Kelly, you may have found your match in a small, flightless bird.

Grade: A



MCT

Keisha Castle-Hughes stars as Mary in Friday's release of Catherine Hardwicke's *The Nativity Story*.

By Richard N. Ostling
The Associated Press

Was the box office for Mel Gibson's *The Passion of the Christ*, that 2004 show-biz shocker, a fluke? Or did it reveal a massive and neglected audience for reverential fare?

We'll learn more from the box-office receipts for *The Nativity Story*, New Line Cinema's holiday gift that brings elegant Christmas-card scenes of Jesus' birth to life on screen.

Christians will presumably flock to *Nativity*, even though the same Time Warner unit bears responsibility for those *Texas Chainsaw Massacre* movies.

Director Catherine Hard-

wicke (*Thirteen*, *Lords of Dogtown*) said she sought "epic intimacy" to evoke "another time and beautiful landscape." Strikingly austere vistas in Morocco and Italy represent the first-century Holy Land.

The 10-nation cast boasts Oscar nominees Shohreh Aghdashloo (*House of Sand and Fog*) as Elizabeth, mother of John the Baptist, and the magnetic Keisha Castle-Hughes (*Whale Rider*) in the primary role of her cousin Mary.

Oddly, Jesus' crucifixion and ministry have provided ample movie material, but his birth is largely ignored. Perhaps that's because this version of possibly the most famous biblical story ever

told lacks suspense.

The movie's historical consultant, the Rev. William Fulco of Loyola Marymount University in Los Angeles, endorses mild "higher criticism" of the Bible in a publicity handout that will rile fundamentalists.

The accounts in the Gospels of Matthew and Luke "are not completely compatible," Fulco said. Since "very little was known of the events," he explained, "the stories were developed using what is called midrash, a sometimes creative reconstruction of events based on what is actually known, elaborated from clues" in prior writings.

Screenwriter Mike Rich (*Finding Forrester*) turned the

minimal scriptures into 94 minutes, so how does *Nativity* compare with the Bible?

Rich follows a largely literal replication of Matthew and Luke. Unlike some of Gibson's *Passion* embroidery, the elaborations emerge naturally from the biblical and cultural background.

Rich emphasizes the characters' Jewishness and, unlike with Jesus' passion, the only villains of the *Nativity* were the Romans.

The show bears a PG violence warning because it begins with the Romans' slaughter of the innocents, so the paranoid King Herod can eliminate youngsters who'd threaten his reign.

Rich similarly presents Nazareth villagers as liv-

ing on the economic margins, suffering from ruinous Roman taxes.

Mary might have been as reluctant to wed Joseph, as Rich supposes, since it was probably an arranged marriage.

It's certainly plausible that the holy couple, as here, would have been afraid, confused and worried rather than serenely accepting the miraculous unwed pregnancy that would have scandalized small-town neighbors.

This on-screen Joseph is roughly Mary's age. There's a common Roman Catholic and Eastern Orthodox view that he was much older, to undergird belief that Mary remained perpetually virgin even after Jesus' birth.

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MISCELLANEOUS

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INTERN from page 1

professional,” he said. “Apparently a lot of people who applied didn’t do that.”

Seagraves is now interning with Puma Entertainment and Marketing. As an intern, his main responsibility is to check for Puma products being shown in television and magazines and make sure that promotional products are ready for celebrities. A book is compiled at the end of the year to show what products were used in the media during that year.

In addition, Seagraves has attended several different events, including a movie premiere, where he was on the red carpet, and a celebrity after-party.

Seagraves isn’t the only intern with strange or dazzling experiences to share. Tiffany Kreck, a Los Angeles junior, is an intern with the *Tyra Banks Show* and *America’s Top Model*. She said she saw P. Diddy arrive in a personal helicopter.

Ryan Metcalf, an Arlington senior, is an intern with X-Play. He said he was asked to run around on screen in a panda suit in one episode and sang karaoke in another.

Some of the interns in the program have received job offers from their companies, Elliot said. Experiencing life in Los Angeles has given them important experiences that couldn’t be found elsewhere.

“You have to get out there and introduce yourself to people you normally wouldn’t,” Seagraves said. “If you take some risks and make yourself vulnerable, that is when you’ll get the most return.”

IRAQ from page 1

security. The Iraqis expect President Bush to agree to such an arrangement, and they say al-Maliki will then ask for the Americans to start discussing a timetable for the withdrawal of U.S. troops, according to one of the officials, who spoke on condition of anonymity because of the sensitive nature of the information.

The second official, who spoke anonymously for the same reason, said American officials had indicated in preparatory talks in Baghdad that Bush was open to increasing the pace of the security hand-over.

“The responsibilities of U.S. troops will decrease when security is transferred to Iraqis, and that will mean the Americans have more soldiers here than they need,” the second official said.

Also on the Iraqi agenda, the officials said, would be al-Maliki’s insistence that the United States pressure its Sunni Arab allies in the region to stop what Baghdad claims is support for the Iraqi insurgency.

Lastly, al-Maliki wants to get an outline of the U.S. view of the strategic relationship that would exist as the Americans draw down their presence in the country, the officials said.

As the summit approached, Britain said on Monday it expected to withdraw thousands of its 7,000 military personnel from Iraq by the end of next year, and Poland and Italy announced the impending pull-out of their remaining troops.

The Iraqi officials said they expected al-Maliki would brief Bush on the outcome of Talabani’s meetings with Ahmadinejad.

Al-Maliki also was expected to explain his thoughts on how Syria, Iraq’s western neighbor, could play a role in calming violence. Al-Maliki lived in exile in Syria during Saddam’s rule.

As Iraqi officials reached out to both Iran and the U.S., speculation rose that Mideast peace might also be on Bush’s agenda. Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Olmert on Monday delivered one of his most conciliatory speeches yet, and Palestinian legislator Saeb Erekat said it was possible that Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas would meet with Bush in Jordan, whose king faces new vulnerability because of violence in Gaza and floods of Iraqi refugees.

Jordan’s King Abdullah said Sunday the problems in the Middle East go beyond the war in Iraq and that much of the region soon could become engulfed in violence unless the central issues are addressed quickly.

“We could possibly imagine going into 2007 and having three civil wars on our hands,” he said, citing conflicts in Iraq, Lebanon and the decades-long strife between the Palestinians and Israelis.

Key players in those conflicts are Syria and Iran, which has a major influence over fellow Shiites in Iraq, including the Shiite-led government.

The meeting between Talabani and Ahmadinejad, which was delayed for two days because of a security clampdown in Iraq, provided Tehran an opportunity to try to assert its role as the top regional power broker to counter Washington’s influence on Baghdad.

During their talks, Ahmadinejad pledged Tehran’s support in helping to improve security in Iraq.

“Definitely, the Iranian government and nation will stand next to its brother Iraq and will do every help it can to strengthen security in Iraq,” state-television quoted him as saying.

“We believe a stable, developed and powerful Iraq is in the interest of the Iraqi nation, Iran and the whole region,” Ahmadinejad said, according to the television report.

Iran had been trying to organize a summit joining Ahmadinejad, Talabani and Syrian President Bashar Assad, but Damascus decided against attending.

Talabani flew to Tehran on Monday after the government ended a three-day curfew on vehicle traffic and reopened the international airport. The curfew and closure were imposed after bombings Thursday killed 215 people in Sadr City, Baghdad’s main Shiite Muslim enclave.

Iran’s potential for heavy influence in Iraq is particularly troubling to the Bush administration. Many in Iraq’s new Shiite-dominated power structure have deep ties to Iran, and many of the key players spent considerable time in exile in Iran during Saddam’s rule.

WOLDA from page 1

flowers.

“She always wanted to make Baylor a better place for students,” Eichelberger said.

Lofgren said he remembers Wolda as very committed to her work at Baylor.

“She was unquestioning in her loyalty,” Lofgren said. “She was a wonderful person who you could always count on.”

In her 18 years at Baylor, Wolda received two awards for her excellence in her job. In 1997, Wolda was one of six to receive Baylor’s Outstanding Staff Award. In 2005, she was the recipient of the Tom Z. Parrish Outstanding Development Professional Award.

In the e-mail, Wolda was remembered as a model of diligence, professionalism, and commitment to her co-workers.

“Shari was always a perfectionist,” Eichelberger said. “She always wanted things to be done right. She loved everybody she

worked with.”

“The nicest tribute we could make to Shari is that everything she did as an employee she did for the students,” she said.

Visitation will be held from 6 to 8 p.m. today at Oak Crest Funeral Home on Bosque Boulevard.

A memorial service will be held at 11 a.m. Wednesday at the First Baptist Church of Woodway. A graveside service will follow at Waco Memorial Park.

FOOD from page 1

ment and that the produce tastes better.

Otto said organic products aren’t sprayed with pesticides, which is especially important in fruits like strawberries and apples because they easily absorb chemicals. Purchasing organic lettuce isn’t as important because the pesticides are washed off the leaves.

“I think at this point, people are looking around and seeing the things that Americans have been eating for the last 30 or 40 years.”



Associated Press

Backed up for miles

Road workers and firefighters work together Sunday to remove a crane that crushed a Robinson Fire Department truck. The truck and the crane were on the scene of an accident on Interstate 35 when the crane fell on the fire truck, causing traffic to be backed up for miles on the highway.

BLAIR from page 1

France launched efforts to heal lingering wounds linked to its colonial legacy, holding its first annual commemoration of victims of the slave trade earlier this year.

The Church of England voted this year to apologize for its role in the slave trade, while in the United States, banking giant JP Morgan Chase also publicly apologized after disclosing that between 1831 and 1865 two of its predecessor banks accepted 13,000 slaves as collateral on loans and took ownership of hundreds of them when plantation owners defaulted.

Activists say the slave trade was so odious that governments must compensate the descendants of those who suffered in Africa, the Caribbean or Asia.

Proposals include writing off debt to African nations or the establishment of human rights funds on behalf of communities which suffered.



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