

NEW CORNERBACKS
HAVE BIG SHOES
TO FILL PAGE 8

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THE B

THE BAYLOR LARIAT

Student charged in thefts

By Melissa Limmer
Staff writer

Chris Weeks/
Lariat staff

Law rank made official

By Claire St. Amant
Staff writer

Please see **LAW**, page 7

Senate chaplain latest speaker in series

By Jon Schroeder
Staff writer



Black

“He can speak more freely here about

Please see **BLACK**, page 7

Court allows Hay to run in election

By Kate Boswell
Staff writer



Student Court ruled Friday that Sikeston, Miss., junior Jeff Hay was eligible to run for office in student government.

Conference to mix faith, business

By Kate Boswell
Staff writer

Please see **FAITH**, page 7

Real women need to counter negative media images

Britney has checked out of rehab, Lindsay could be on her way back in and still no one knows who is the father of Anna Nicole's baby.

I realize that I don't even have to use these people's last names for everyone to know exactly whom I'm talking about.

This is exactly my point: Every day we're bombarded with stories of the latest escapades in the lives of overprivileged party girls.

While they may be entertaining, I worry about the big picture – the effect these images have on young girls.

It seems as if there's no one for a girl to look up to any-

more. Not even Miss USA can be counted on as a role model. Sure, the idea of a beauty pageant is a little archaic, but at least Miss USA was more than a pretty face.

She could be looked up to as a beautiful but also dedicated woman – a woman who took an active part, at least for one year, in serving the greater community through different philanthropic efforts.

Thanks to 2006 Miss USA Tara Conner, even this image has been tarnished. She checked into rehab after drinking and doing drugs at nightclubs all over New York City. Conner ruined her opportunity to be a

point of view



BY MELISSA LIMMER

positive role model.

What happened to all of our positive female role models? Who are young girls to turn to, especially when they're bombarded with negative images of women in the media?

The message is this: You can be popular if you have money, wear the right clothes, are skinny and party your life away.

actively untouched by this latest bad girl phenomenon. Sure Britney was getting big, but that was way before K-Fed, head shaving and rehab.

I remember looking up to athletes like Mia Hamm, Sheryl Swoopes and Kerri Strug. These women promoted healthy body images, unlike the anorexic-looking girls in every newspaper, magazine and billboard today.

How are young girls supposed to be OK with their bodies the way God made them, when the media keeps telling them otherwise?

Having a younger sister makes me fear for the genera-

tion of girls growing up in our shadow. If the people in television and music can't be counted on to portray a positive image, we need to step up.

Let this younger generation know what a real woman of character looks like. Teach them to value their bodies as a creation of God, not something to flaunt or ruin with drugs and alcohol.

Tell them that if they work hard, they can be anything they want to be and not another tragedy played out on the covers of magazines.

Melissa Limmer is a sophomore journalism major from Friendswood.

Editorial

Language is key to the future

Maybe you've heard the joke about the computer that was built to predict the future. When it finally produced a printout about how the world would turn out, no one could read it. It was in Chinese.

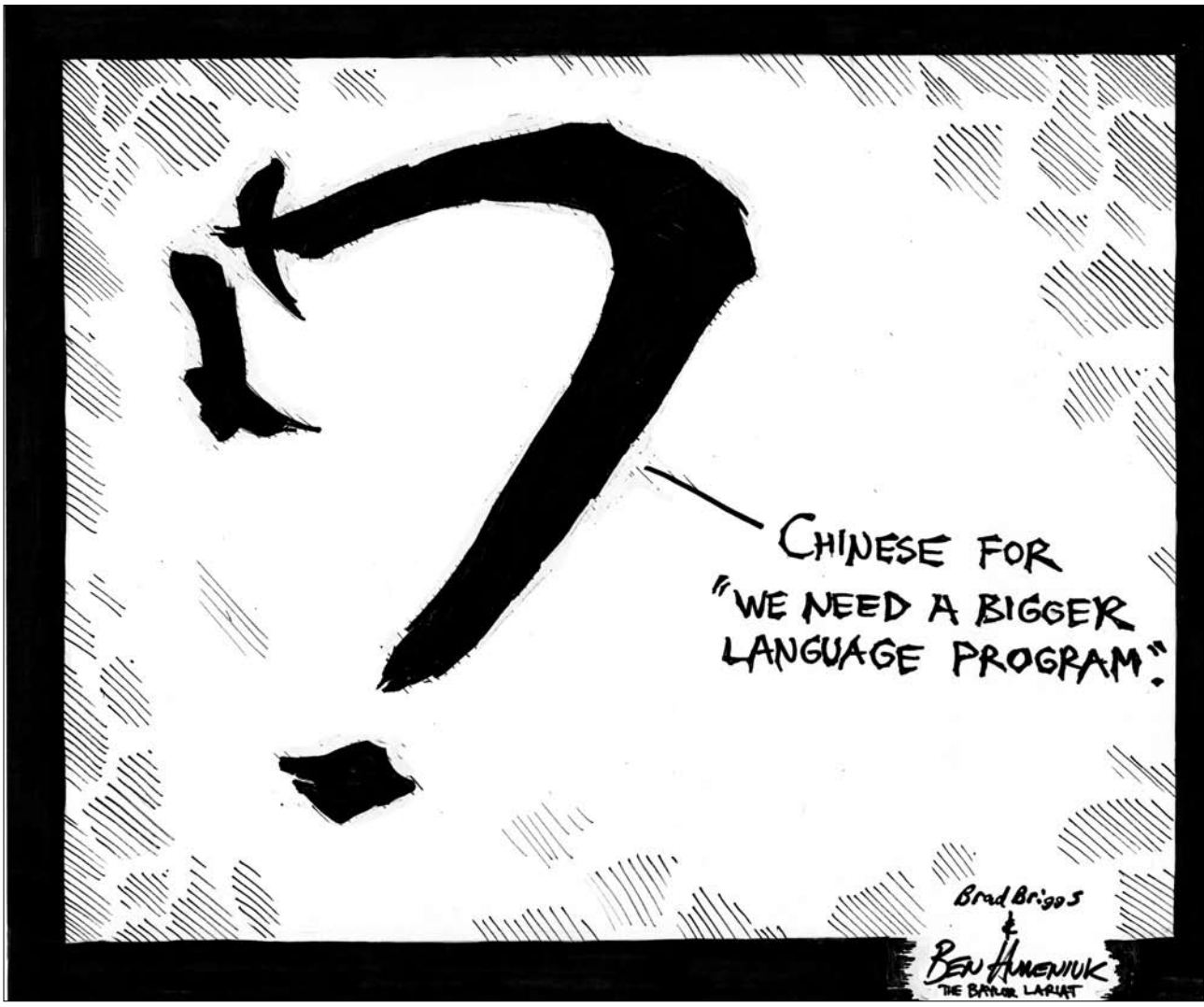
It might be a joke, but the premise is real – the world is becoming smaller, and effective communication between sectors of business and government has become even more important as distance becomes less so.

The need for foreign language skills in our global community is obvious. In 2006, the government announced initiatives to increase the study of foreign languages, especially those relevant to national security, such as Chinese, Arabic and others.

At Baylor, the interest in these languages has taken the form of increased enrollment and full classes. Dr. Xin Wang, an assistant professor who teaches Chinese, said enrollment in Chinese courses has risen by almost 30 percent since 2004.

Unfortunately for interested students, Chinese – like Arabic, Japanese, Swahili and others – is only offered through four semesters. New class sections of Chinese have been opened, but upper-level classes have yet to be added.

Hiring qualified faculty to teach advanced language classes may be difficult, but it's the next step Baylor should take. We encourage the university to make it possible to expand the language programs with the highest student interest and the most relevance for our generation's needs.



This would work to bring Baylor closer to fulfilling Baylor 2012 Imperatives IV and V, which call for attracting a top-tier student body and creating new academic programs in selected areas.

Although much of Imperative V focuses on graduate programs, improving undergraduate language programs should also be a priority.

Strong programs in often overlooked languages can be a huge draw for international students as well as

for top-tier students. Establishing good language programs to meet interest and attract others will help push Baylor in the right academic direction.

It will also be a complement to Baylor's strong political science department and its popular international studies major, which require upper-level language classes not currently available in some languages.

The university should focus resources on developing language

minors and stronger programs in high-demand languages. It would bring talented students and faculty to Baylor and keep students already enrolled who have reached the top of the ladder here and are waiting for the next step.

Not all languages taught at Baylor have the interest necessary to justify expansion. But it would be a shame for students to look elsewhere for an education because of a lack of available classes.

Opinion policy

The Baylor Lariat welcomes reader viewpoints through letters to the editor and guest columns. Opinions expressed in the Lariat are not necessarily those of Baylor administration, 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. Non-student writers should include their address.

Letters that focus on an issue affecting students or faculty may be considered for a guest column at the editor's discretion.

All submissions become the property of The Baylor Lariat. The Lariat reserves the right to edit letters for grammar, length, libel and style. Letters should be e-mailed to Lariat_Letters@baylor.edu.

Correction

An error occurred in the editing process of "Loosier legal trouble not over" Thursday.

The first sentence of the story incorrectly stated that Justin Loosier pleaded not guilty to one count of indecency with a child by exposure.

Loosier pleaded guilty to one count of indecency with a child by exposure.

He withdrew this guilty plea after District Judge Matt Johnson rejected the plea bargain between Loosier and District Attorney Melanie Walker.

Corrections policy

Corrections can be submitted to the editor by sending an e-mail to Lariat_Letters@baylor.edu or by calling 254-710-4099.

Students need motivation to keep up with global competition

Trimming seems to be the latest trend in schools across the nation – around students' waistlines as well as their brains.

American students continue to fall behind in reading and mathematics. This is nothing new.

Neither is President Bush's education initiative, the No Child Left Behind Act, passed in 2002. It requires schools to pass annual benchmark exams to show students' level of proficiency in reading and math.

As a result, science, social studies, art and language classes are being cut to allow students more class time to improve basic math and reading skills in preparation for the exams.

Why is it that other countries

spend a fraction of the money we spend on education and produce students who are far more competitive?

In today's schools, teachers are forced to base their lesson plans on making sure students pass standardized tests.

From experience, students can tell you that you don't learn much from preparing for TAKS because you spend so much time learning how to take the test instead of what's actually in it.

As a result, high school students are taking summer and remedial courses when they start college because they aren't adequately prepared.

Without previous exposure to other subjects and career paths,

point of view



BY SAPNA PRASAD

students are clueless when they enter college. Often times it can take five, six or even seven years to complete an undergraduate degree because students don't know what major to declare.

In countries like India and China, students spend six days a week in school refining their math, reading and science skills.

These students realize the motivation necessary to succeed

in the global economy. When they reach the university level, many of them compete with us for admissions and scholarships to universities across the United States.

Trimming other subjects from curriculum won't foster an interest to study these subjects further in high school or college. Neither will it give students the tools necessary to be competitive in the global job market. To be competitive and succeed in the 21st century requires adaptability and diverse knowledge.

By trimming other classes, students are missing out on some valuable opportunities.

Music and the arts give students appreciation for the beauty around them.

History gives the gift of hindsight – a skill acquired through trial and error. We don't want future generations to repeat the same mistakes made in the past.

Everyone knows immigration is a hot-button issue. Students in border states interact with bilingual communities every day. Learning Spanish is essential for these populations and is becoming increasingly important across the United States.

Well-rounded curricula also affect the development of brain function. Exposure to only math and reading develops the left side of the brain. Creativity and language are dependent on the right side.

We need to be able to use

both sides of our brain well, not one side badly and the other not at all.

Education isn't about instant gratification. It's an arduous process that requires dedication and motivation.

Zeroing in on the problem is good, but not at the cost of cutting a student's necessary education. We're simply creating more problems than the system can handle.

Maybe we've become complacent because of our past successes.

Maybe this generation needs to realize what it has to lose before we can become competitive again.

Sapna Prasad is a senior journalism major from San Antonio.

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V. EASY

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THE Daily Crossword

Edited by Wayne Robert Williams

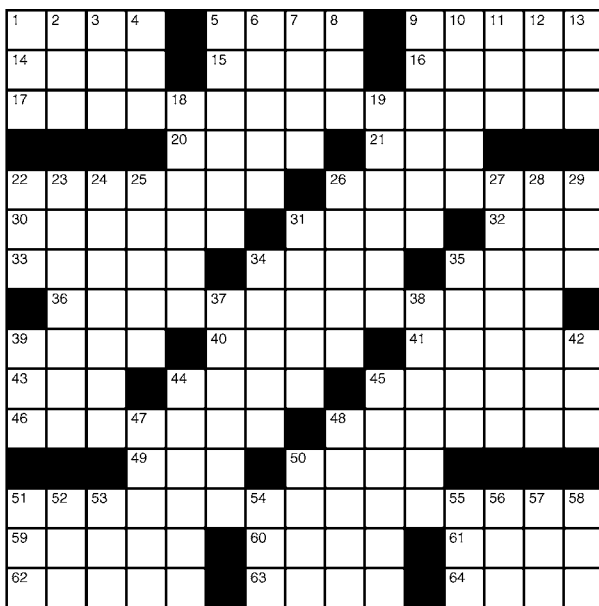
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- Loose stack
- Crescent features
- Eye amorously
- Mild Dutch cheese
- Super-sized?
- Shortly
- Leather punches
- Actress Gabor
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- Effervesced
- Slender and graceful
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- Pierre's pal
- Noodles
- Skin pit
- Zealous
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- TV accessory
- Former
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- Citrus cooler
- Herbal drinks
- Finally

DOWN

- Goopy mass
- Vital statistic
- Santa's helper
- August sign
- Little fellow
- Pastoral poems
- Cambodia's neighbor
- Rhea's relative
- Vehicle procession
- WWII predator
- Stitch together
- Pressure unit
- Firmed up
- Wickerwork cane
- Corn seed
- Cleopatra's undoing
- Dodging maneuver
- Settle conclusively
- Some glee club voices
- Charon's transport
- Deprived person
- Abu Dhabi or Fujairah

- Carried out
- Portals
- Blather on
- Microscopic particles
- Tooth protection
- Relaxed
- Lennon's love
- Spearheaded
- Downy ducks
- Swelters
- Nevada border lake
- Bright aquarium fish
- Romanov ruler
- Tack on
- Besides
- Letters that explode
- Sure shot
- Ford or Dodge, e.g.
- Raw mineral
- Zero
- Calendar component



By Diane C. Baldwin
Columbia, MD

4/3/07

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

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BEAR BRIEFS

A black and white photograph of a large plate of combination nachos. The nachos are piled high with tortilla chips, melted cheese, ground meat, diced tomatoes, sliced jalapeños, and a dollop of sour cream.

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Northcutt Lecture to feature well-known church musician

By Rafael Benavides
Reporter

The 21st annual Northcutt Lecture today will feature Dr. Carlton R. Young, emeritus professor of church music in the Candler School of Theology at Emory University. His lecture, "Christian Music Leadership: Biblical, Liturgical and Educational Perspectives," will be from 4 to 5 p.m. in Meadows Recital Hall in the Glennis

McCrary Music Building. Dr. Randall Bradley, professor and director of the Center for Church Music, said the Northcutt Lecture is designed "to give students the opportunity to hear national and international scholars in church music and to become acquainted with them." Bradley also said the music school chose Young because he is a well-known church musician and a major player in Meth-

odist church music. Young was educated at the Cincinnati College-Conservatory of Music and Boston University School of Theology. He did fur-



Young

ther studies at Union Theological Seminary in New York and in Vienna and Prague. Young has received honorary doctorates from Ohio Northern University, Ohio Wesleyan University, West Virginia Wesleyan and Emory University. He also served on the faculty and directed graduate studies in church music at Southern Methodist University's Perkins School of Theology and at Scarritt College.

Young is the author of *Companion to the United Methodist Hymnal*, *My Great Redeemer's Praise: An Introduction to Christian Hymns*, and *Music of the Heart: John and Charles Wesley on Music and Musicians*. His published choral and organ works are in major music catalogues and the American Society of Composers, Authors and Publishers has recognized Young's work with 35 awards presented by the Standard

Awards Panel. "We want to expose the public to Dr. Young's music," said coordinator for the Northcutt Lecture and professor of church music, David Music. "We want to talk about leadership in music and how you achieve it." The lecture is made possible by an endowment from LeGrande and Cassandra Northcutt of Longview. The event is free and open to the public.



Henry Chan/contributor

Racing for the cure

Hundreds participate Saturday in the Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation Race for the Cure in downtown Waco, which raised funds and awareness for the fight against breast cancer by celebrating breast cancer survivors and honoring those who have lost their battle with the disease.

U.S. blocks pet food ingredient

By Andrew Bridges
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The U.S. is blocking imports of wheat gluten from a company in China, acting after an investigation implicated the contaminated ingredient in the recent pet-food deaths of cats and dogs. The Food and Drug Administration took action against wheat gluten from Xuzhou Anying Biologic Technology Development Co. in Wangdient, China, after the U.S. recall of nearly 100 brands of pet food made with the chemically contaminated ingredient. The pet food, tainted with the chemical melamine, apparently has resulted in kidney failure in an unknown number of animals across the country. Wheat gluten from China has been suspected in the outbreak since the first of multiple recalls was announced in mid-March. Even more pet food could be recalled in the next few days, though there probably has been no contamination of human food, FDA officials said Monday. The FDA reported last week that it had found melamine in samples of the vegetable protein source used in the recalled wet and dry pet foods and treats, as well as in cats that died after eating contaminated food. "The wheat gluten that is positive for melamine all has come from this manufacturer," Neal Bataler, director of the division of compliance with the FDA's veterinary medicine office, told

reporters. Melamine is used in plastics, countertops, glue, fire retardants and other products. Its toxicity to dogs and cats is unknown, but it is not allowed in food in any quantity. "At this time, we can say that there is no evidence to suggest that any of the imported, suspect wheat gluten formed positive lots that made it into the human food supply," said Michael Rogers, who oversees field investigations for the FDA's office of regulatory affairs. The imported product was only minimally labeled but apparently went only to pet food producers. "This should not be viewed as suddenly our food supply is unsafe, because I don't believe that to be the case. In fact, the opposite is true," agency chief Dr. Andrew von Eschenbach said. FDA officials said its nationwide investigation could turn up more pet food manufacturers that used the tainted ingredient, prompting even more products to be recalled. "It is impossible for us to say at this time that there won't be additional recalls," said David Elder, who oversees enforcement in the FDA's office of regulatory affairs. Menu Foods, a major manufacturer of nearly 100 store- and major-brand pet foods, announced the first recall March 16. Hill's Pet Nutrition Inc., Del Monte Pet Products and Nestle

Purina PetCare Co. all have since recalled some of their products as well. The FDA's import alert, disclosed Monday but posted on its Web site Friday, notifies its field offices to detain any wheat gluten offered for import from the Chinese company. The order also recommends inspectors screen all wheat gluten from China as well as from the Netherlands, a country through which transshipping of Chinese products can occur. The FDA could not immediately say how much wheat gluten was exported to the U.S. by Xuzhou Anying. The FDA has received in recent weeks more than 9,400 pet food-related complaints from consumers — nearly twice what the agency receives in a full year, von Eschenbach said. "The sheer volume of this is extraordinary," he added. The number of confirmed pet deaths remains at roughly 15, though anecdotal reports suggest hundreds of pets may have died. Cats appear to have been especially susceptible to the contamination. Also Monday, Eight In One Inc., a division of United Pet Group Inc., announced the unrelated recall of all Dingo brand Chick'n Jerky treats for dogs, cats and ferrets. The treats are being recalled because they may be contaminated with salmonella, the company said. They were sold at Target, PetSmart and other stores.

College admissions seek to 'weed out' troublemakers

By Kathy Boccella
McClatchy Newspapers

PHILADELPHIA — Along with SAT scores and extra-curricular activities, college-bound students increasingly are being asked to divulge information that may not be so flattering: their arrest and discipline records. Since late summer, the Common Application, a form used by about 300 institutions, has asked students and guidance counselors whether the applicant has ever been convicted of a crime or disciplined at school. In an effort to weed out troublemakers before they hit campus, colleges with their own forms also are requiring prospective students to disclose behavioral black marks. The University of Pennsylvania put its admissions policy under review after the discovery in January that a 25-year-old child molester taking graduate courses was commuting from his Bucks County, Pa., prison cell. "It's an issue that's exploding," said Timothy Mann, dean of student affairs at Babson College, who is writing his doctoral dissertation on the subject. The debate over whether to screen and for what is contentious. Opponents cite privacy issues and the risk of penalizing offenders twice. Education encourages rehabilitation, argues the United States Student Association, the nation's largest student group. "Are we now putting institutions of higher education in the position of dispensing post-judicial punishment?" Barmak Nasirian of the American Association of Collegiate Registrars and Admissions Officers asked. Offenders can still slip in. "No background check is foolproof," cautioned Stephanie Hughes, a professor at the University of Northern Kentucky and security expert who owns RiskAware, which runs background checks on college employees. Federal law prevents most schools from releasing educa-

tional records — including disciplinary information — without a parental approval. Counselors can leave the questions blank, a spokesman for the Common Application said. And schools don't always know about the trouble students get into off campus. Where Mark McGrath, president of the New Jersey School Counselor Association, works, the few kids who have had an incident tend to admit their wrongdoings. "We try to put it in the best light we can" on the application, said McGrath, a counselor at Lawrence High School in Lawrenceville, N.J. "We're the advocates for the child." Access to more accurate information and increased expectations about college involvement in students' lives have spurred the trend toward preadmission screening, Mann said. Though campus crime has not appreciably increased since 2003, according to the U.S. Department of Education, a few high-profile crimes committed by students with rap sheets have led institutions to reexamine their admissions process. The Common Application added its inquiries at the request of schools concerned about liability, executive director Rob Killian said. Students are warned not to omit information. If they're caught lying, they're disqualified. Administrators believe most comply. Several states have taken stricter measures. A new law criticized by privacy advocates forces Virginia colleges to reveal names and birth dates of incoming students so police can cross-check sex-offender lists. If there's a match, the school and local police are told and the offender has three days to register with authorities after moving to campus. Virginia State Police Lt. Tom Turner said authorities expect to check 80,000 to 100,000 names annually. In North Carolina, additional precautions have been imple-

mented since students with rape and larceny convictions committed two unrelated murders at the state university in Wilmington in 2004. In addition to being asked about their pasts, applicants to the University of North Carolina's 16 campuses are checked against a national database of suspended or expelled college students. Those who trigger suspicion are investigated, Leslie Winner, general counsel for the 200,000-student system, said. As a result, 84 applicants were denied entry last fall. Schools generally ask for a letter of explanation and consult counselors and others when a problem is reported. Though juvenile records are sealed, colleges can run criminal background checks on those 18 or older. Each school has its idea of a deal-breaking offense, Hughes, said. "We look at it on a case-by-case basis," said Mark Laprezi, associate vice president of enrollment at Arcadia University, which uses the Common Application and which may revise its own form. "We look for students showing growth or having learned" from their mistakes, he said. Connie Clery would rather err on the side of caution. She founded Security on Campus after her 19-year-old daughter, Jeanne, was killed by a fellow student during a robbery at Lehigh University in 1986. The Jeanne Clery Act requires all colleges to disclose crime on and around their campuses. Clery, who has lobbied for background checks for everyone from faculty to students, said, "This is a violent culture and it extends onto all college campuses." Something as benign as theft, the No. 1 campus crime, Clery said, can lead to violence, as it did in her daughter's case. "If you lose one child, there's nothing in the world that can compensate for that and no way you can get over it if you're a parent," she said. "Why risk it?"

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Associated Press

A member of the Australian Navy (left) helps a Solomon Islands' police officer load relief supplies for the tsunami hit region of Gizo onto a ship in Honiara, Solomon Islands Monday.

Pacific tsunami kills at least 13, leaves thousands more homeless

By George Herming
The Associated Press

HONIARA, Solomon Islands — Bodies floated out to sea and thousands of residents camped out overnight Tuesday on a hillside above a devastated town in the western Solomon Islands after a tsunami that struck without warning washed away coastal villages, killing at least 13 people. The death toll was expected to rise.

A wall of water reportedly 30 feet high struck the island of Choiseul and swept a third of a mile inland, while smaller but still destructive waves surged ashore elsewhere in the western part of the impoverished archipelago, causing widespread damage and driving thousands from their homes.

Thirteen people were confirmed killed in the Solomons, and the toll was expected to rise as assessment teams made their way into the stricken zone, National Disaster Management Office spokesman Julian Makaa told Australian Broadcasting Corp. radio.

The station also reported the first deaths in neighboring Papua New Guinea, where a family of five was reportedly washed away. Makaa said more than 900 homes were destroyed in the Solomons.

The tsunami was triggered by a magnitude 8.0 quake that struck shortly after 7:39 a.m. Monday six miles beneath the sea floor, about 25 miles from the western island of Gizo and 215 miles northwest of the Solomons' capital, Honiara, the U.S. Geological Survey said.

The quake — the strongest in the Solomons in more than three decades — set off tsunami alarms from Tokyo to Hawaii and closed beaches along the east coast of Australia more than 1,250 miles away. Lifeguards with bullhorns yelled at surfers to get out of the water at Sydney's famous Bondi Beach.

The danger passed quickly, but officials rejected suggestions they overreacted, adding that the emergency tested procedures put in place after the 2004 Indian Ocean disaster that left 230,000 dead or missing in a dozen countries.

Up to 4,000 people were camped on a hill behind Gizo (pronounced GEE-zoh), a town of about 7,000, said Alex Lokopio, premier of hard-hit Western Province. In all, at least 5,000 people were affected by the tsunami, Makaa said.

Many people were too scared to return to the coast amid more than two dozen aftershocks, including at least four of magnitude-6 or stronger.

Initial reports from other islands suggest similar or worse levels of damage, the Red Cross said. Roads were inaccessible and there was heavy damage to infrastructure, including phones and electricity, said Martin Blackgrove, the International Red Cross' regional disaster management coordinator for the Pacific, based in Fiji.

Because of Gizo's proximity to the quake's epicenter, the tsunami struck before an alarm could be sounded. "There wasn't any warning — the warning was the earth tremors," Lokopio told New Zealand's National Radio. "It shook us very, very strongly and we were frightened, and all of a sudden the sea was rising up."

Within five minutes, a wall of water up to 16 feet high plowed into the coast, inundating homes, businesses, a hospital, schools and two police stations, and dumping boats into streets in Gizo, a popular spot for diving, witnesses and officials said. Outlying villages, where many houses are flimsy wooden structures, may have fared worse, based on scattered reports from residents with two-way radios.

"It was just a noise like an underground explosion," Gizo resident Dorothy Parkinson told Australia's Nine Network television.

Dallas museum exhibits artifacts from Jesus' time

By Ashlie Young
Reporter

The smell of hot lentils and garlic wafts through the air amid scrolls of Biblical text and bone boxes of men who have been dead for centuries.

Wild treasures lay along every wall, scenes of ancient days coming to life.

Clay squishes and forms into pots as sand seeps through fingers digging for artifacts.

For the first time in history, people will have the chance to step back in time and experience life the way it was centuries ago, the way it was when Jesus walked the earth.

Dallas Fair Park is holding "Ancient Treasures of the Holy Land," the largest cultural exhibit of Holy Land antiquities in U.S. history nearly 30,000 square feet.

Artifacts date back from the time of Abraham until after the death of Jesus, laid out in chronological order.

"This exhibit is the culmination of many years of dreaming, planning and conceptualizing," general manager Dennis Malone said.

"Many people want to go to Israel but can't. So we are bringing it to them "Ancient Treasures of the Holy Land" paints the story of Israel and Jewish heritage."

More than 350 priceless artifacts, many never seen outside their native countries, have been brought together to allow viewers to see the real story.

Displayed items include the ossuary, or bone boxes, believed to have contained the bones of both Simon of Cyrenia, who carried the cross of Jesus, and his son Alexander; large portions of the Dead Sea Scrolls from Leviticus and Deuteronomy; wall decorations from the Ivory Palace of King Ahab and Queen Jezebel; inscriptions more than 4,000 years old from Abraham's home in the city of Ur; ancient coins and weaponry, including a sword dating back to 2200 B.C.; and many other artifacts from Masada, Qumran, the City of David and Egypt.

"This is literally a once-in-a-lifetime experience," managing partner Cary Summers said. "Once the exhibit is over, every

"This is literally a once-in-a-lifetime experience."

Cary Summers
managing partner

artifact goes back to where it came from."

Visitors can see, touch, feel, hear, smell and taste their way around the exhibit.

Original video footage, the first 3-D video shot in Israel, lets people see the real Holy Land as it looks today.

Combined with the antiquities, viewers can take a walk through 2,500 years of Biblical history.

Highly thematic sets, photomurals and state-of-the-art lighting unite with narration, a music score by nationally recognized artist Don Moen and digital surround sound to create an atmosphere overwhelming the senses with authentic Israeli themes.

"The details of the exhibit are so intricate, even the exact design of the clothing," Summers said.

"Everything has been meticulously checked, down to every last detail, making sure everything is authentic and accurate."

People of all ages can experience ancient Jerusalem by touch with a real archeological dig.

Visitors can find broken pieces of replica artifacts hidden among the sand and dirt and learn how to put them back together.

A 5,000-foot bazaar is open for perusal, allowing attendees to purchase souvenirs.

Among the items for sale are artifact replicas, Thomas Kinkade DVDs, posters and paintings, anointing oils, Bibles, hand painted wood and glass, books, CDs of the cultural sounds of Don Moen's score written specifically for the exhibit and even food.

Shoppers can taste the hearty vegetable lentil soup served with hummus, thyme and olive oil, pita bread, salad, olives and cucumbers. Turkish coffee and dessert completes the light, traditional first-century meal. Lunch and dinner can be purchased from 1 to 6 p.m. and cost \$8.95.

chased from 1 to 6 p.m. and cost \$8.95.

"Baylor students should come see this if they are looking for a connection to their Christian or Jewish heritage," Malone said.

"It will also be interesting for them to see how similar life was to how we live now. They were more sophisticated and progressive than most believe," he said.

"It's amazing to see how different cultures lived thousands of years ago."

The "Ancient Treasures of the Holy Land" exhibit is endorsed by Israel's minister of tourism and was a collaboration between The Institute of Archeology of Hebrew University of Jerusalem, Programa I Design Studio and the world's top experts in Israeli archeological history, including both Christian and Jewish scholars.

All this helped create the most creatively dynamic and accurate presentation of the Bible in history.

"We hope to inspire people," Summers said. "We want people to see that God's hand is in everything. The detail will break down barriers of reality, allowing people to see everything exactly as it once was. We hope this will make it more relatable to people of the 21st century."

Meghan Fields, a junior international studies major and Middle-Eastern studies minor from Vancleave, Miss., said after hearing about the exhibit, she really felt a need to experience it.

"A lot of people today are more interested in Middle-Eastern politics," Fields said. "But the past is so important to understand what's going on today. The things in this exhibit are important not only to Christians and Jews, but also to Muslims. It seems like it's a truly amazing experience in ancient Middle-Eastern life."

The exhibit takes approximately an hour and a half to two hours to walk through.

It runs through July 28 and is open from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. Sunday to Thursday and from 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. Friday and Saturday.

Tickets may be purchased online at www.holyland1.com, by phone at 866-698-5333 or at the exhibit.

GOOD TIMES. * * * * *

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FAITH from page 1

She said that while some biblical characters, such as Moses, experienced a dramatic calling, others, such as Esther, did not. “I think it’s still the same way,” she said. “You don’t find most people having this mystical call. Calling is really already embedded in your life. What you have to do is look and see what God has already done.” Tomball senior David Gladney said he heard a version of Davis’ message at a church event in February. He said while students may be initially skeptical of the \$19 price tag, the event is worth it. “What’s worth the money is through the conference, you’re able to connect what God’s calling is with what your passions are and funnel that into your vocation,” Gladney said. “The workplace isn’t just about 40 hours a week equaling a dollar sign,” he said. “It’s about lives we touch at work, whatever profession you’re doing.” He said the event features professionals from different fields and professions and will have something for students from every background. “It’s especially important for students who don’t know what they want to do,” he said. “It shows them that in every field they can glorify God’s purpose with their life.” Davis said the event, though targeted at students, is also beneficial to faculty members. “Faculty members are stewarding a generation,” she said. “They are the ones who first begin to understand things coming down the pipe in their fields of study. If they can grab hold of the fact that their students can be on a kingdom mission and be excellent in their professions at the same time, then they can understand connection and help students” Cuney senior and external vice president Allan Marshall said he was glad the Intersection Conference was being held at Baylor because it was a message that would be relevant to students’ lives. “I think it’s important that we understand that God does connect everything we do. Our callings do connect with our passions,” Marshall said. “This is an important time in students’ lives for those conversations to be taking place.” This is the first time the Intersection Conference has been brought to a college campus, Davis said. In its prior incarnation, it was addressed to professionals already in the work force as well as to church leaders. “We had been wanting to do it for years,” Davis said. “So, when we were invited to by University Ministries, we jumped.” The conference fee is \$19 for faculty and students until April 10, after which it will be \$24. Registration forms can be found on the conference’s Web site at www.intersectionconference.com or at the University Ministries office.

LAW from page 1

many successful, prominent lawyers who didn’t attend the most prestigious schools. “It doesn’t matter as much where you go to law school, but how well you can make connections and think as a lawyer,” she said. Wenk said she probably won’t apply to Baylor, but because of geography, not a ranking. “I think location is more important than reputation,” she said. “You generally practice law where you attend school, so I will probably look at schools in Chicago.” Cynthia Powell, director of “Our consistent success in the ranking reflects our excellence.” Brad Toben Dean, Baylor Law School

public relations for U.S. News and World Report, said leaks have happened before, but they are doing their best to keep the information from the public until an official release date. “Our system has firewalls, and we always try to keep our listings and other information private,” she said. “We don’t have any idea how the rankings got out there.” Powell said there weren’t any internal plans to investigate the leak.

Meningitis kills student at Houston university

The Associated Press


HOUSTON — One of two Texas Southern University students diagnosed with bacterial meningitis has died, and public health officials are offering free preventive antibiotics to students who came in contact with the victims. Houston Department of Health and Human Services spokeswoman Kathy Barton estimated about 500 students shared classes with the two infected, whose names aren’t

being released. Barton said it is unknown whether there’s a connection between the infected students, one of whom died Thursday. The other student is in critical condition in Ben Taub Hospital’s intensive care unit, said TSU spokeswoman Gayle Barge. Like the one who died, the hospitalized student is a 21-year-old male in his junior year, Barge said. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recommends that infected people seek treatment as soon as possible. Antibiotics can reduce the risk of dying to less than 15 percent, according to the CDC. Vaccines that protect against certain strains of bacterial meningitis are recommended for dorm-dwelling college freshmen, among other groups, because they live in close quarters. A Baylor student contracted meningitis in the fall.

BLACK from page 1

his religion and about God in general because we are a private institution and we are Christian.” Hixson said students involved with Truett, religion majors and political science majors likely will be particularly interested in the lecture. From 3 to 4:30 p.m., Black will attend a reception for church-state graduate students and law students taking a separation of church and state class. That reception will be held in 316 Carroll Library and will be sponsored by the J. M. Dawson Institute of Church-State Studies. “Certainly it’s an honor for us to have the chaplain of the U.S. Senate here,” said Dr. Christo-

pher Marsh, interim chairman of the institute, adding that the office of chaplain has been a “fixture of American public life” since it was created at the Senate’s first meeting. “It’s seen sometimes as anachronistic that we have a wall of separation between church and state while at the same time we have chaplains in Congress and in the military,” Marsh said. He said the position doesn’t create problems with the separation of church and state. “I think that their presence in Congress is an important one,” he said. “They’re an important resource for the members of Congress who have to make decisions on issues such as war and peace on a daily basis.” The 5 p.m. lecture is free and open to the public.



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Cover men look to lock up positions

By Daniel Youngblood
Sports Editor

Entering spring practice last month, head Coach Guy Morriss knew he'd have holes to fill.

After losing a combined 16 starters to graduation from a senior-laden 2006 squad, Morriss has spent much of the spring looking for players to replace them.

While finding a successor for graduating quarterback Shawn Bell is the coaching staff's chief priority on the offensive side of things, there is no bigger concern defensively than shoring up play at cornerback.

With seniors C.J. Wilson, Anthony Arline and James Todd combining for 110 tackles, nine interceptions and two touchdowns last season, the cornerback position was considered one of the team's strengths.

But since then, graduations and the hiring of new cornerbacks Coach Clay Jennings have made the team's strength at the position an unknown.

This spring, seniors Alton Widemon and Josh Bell and

freshman Dominique Criss have been the only three scholarship players who have participated in every practice.

Freshman Antareis Bryan has been nursing a dislocated knee cap and senior Braelon Davis is spending the spring working on regaining academic eligibility.

But despite the lack of depth, Bell said he thinks the cornerbacks will do whatever it takes to be successful next fall.

"We'll be fine," he said. "We'll be going up against whatever receivers they throw on the field and dominate them just like (Anthony) Arline and C.J. (Wilson) did. There won't be any drop-off and if there is, we've done something wrong."

Jennings said he's used the success of former players to motivate his current players.

"We have a lot of guys who

have been here for a few years and been in the shadows of some pretty good players," he said. "The one thing I try to get across to them is they have to step up and make plays. They have to establish themselves and make their own legacies."

Jennings said the biggest challenge he's had so far is impressing upon his players the importance of practice.

"I'm trying to show these guys that the goal's not only to get repetitions, but to get good reps," he said. "Each rep for them has to be a game-day rep. They have to come out with the mentality that they can't wait until Saturday to work hard."

With a lack of depth and inexperience at the cornerback position, Jennings said he's seen some good things out of a few walk-ons this spring.

He said senior walk-on Ralph Rodriguez's hard work in practice has pushed the other players and has put him in a position to vie for some playing time this fall.

With so few cornerbacks participating in spring drills, Widemon said those that are in

camp have been forced to improve their play.

"We have no choice but to step up to the challenge," he said. "We have what we got, and those people need to step up and make plays."

Jennings said getting better this spring is the most important thing, but he expects the depth problem to be appeased a bit with the arrival of incoming freshmen Clifton Odom, Barry Valcin and Larry Rosebud. He said a lot depends on the shape they show up to Waco in, but all could see playing time their true freshmen years.

"One thing that appealed to those freshmen was the opportunity to play early," Jennings said. "Now it comes down to whether or not they want it and if they're up to the task."

While help may be on the way in the form of younger players, Bell said he and the other players in camp are focused on improving now.

"I'm almost disgusted by the way we finished last year," he said. "We're all competitors, and we're trying to come out here every day and get better."



File photo

Senior cornerback C.J. Wilson was the face of the Baylor defense the past two seasons. One of head Coach Guy Morriss' chief concerns this spring is filling the holes at cornerback left by the departure of three graduating seniors.

SPORTS BRIEFS

OSU sweeps baseball

The Baylor baseball team dropped all three games in its series at No. 14 Oklahoma State University over the weekend. The Bears (16-14, 2-7) have now lost eight straight Big 12 road games and were swept by the Cowboys for the first time in nine years. Oklahoma State took both games of their doubleheader on Saturday, defeating Baylor 15-5 (seven innings) and 14-7. Baylor then lost 10-5 in the final game of the series on Sunday. The Bears will try and shake off the sweep with a game against the University of Houston at 6:30 p.m. today at the Baylor Ballpark.

Tennis edges Pepperdine

The No. 4 Baylor men's tennis team (15-2) defeated No. 14 Pepperdine University 4-3 Sunday at home to win its eighth straight match. Baylor lost the doubles point, and the match eventually hinged on the final singles match of the day. After losing the second set and trailing for part of the third, Baylor's Matija Zgaga pulled out a 6-2, 4-6, 7-5 victory over Richard Johnson and secured Baylor's overall victory. The team is undefeated this season at the Baylor Tennis Center, where the Bears will play Texas A&M University at 6 p.m. today.

Lady netters beat Missouri

The No. 16 Baylor women's tennis team (13-6) defeated the University of Missouri 7-0 on Sunday for their fifth-straight win. Senior

Iva Mihaylova dropped the Bears' only set all day, but she rebounded to take the match 4-6, 6-0, 10-8 and preserve the Bears' fourth-consecutive shutout. Baylor continues its three-match home stand against the University of Texas at 6 p.m. Wednesday.

Softball sweeps KU

The Baylor softball team (34-9) completed a two-game sweep over the University of Kansas Sunday with a 5-3 victory at Arocha Park in Lawrence, Kan. Baylor hit three home runs to win the first game 8-2. The Bears, who have won each of their first four conference games, play No. 3 Texas A&M at 6:30 p.m. Wednesday in College Station. The Bears will enter their clash with the conference's most celebrated team on an eight-game winning streak. The team is 11-8 away from home this season.

Hart honored

Former Baylor track head Coach Clyde Hart was named one of five finalists for the United States Olympic Committee's National Coach of the Year, the USOC announced Friday. Now the director of Baylor track & field, Hart is representing USA Track & Field, where he coached Jeremy Wariner and Sanya Richards to undefeated records in 2006 in the men's and women's 400 meters. Hart was also named the 2006 Nike Coach of the Year by USATF, an award he won once before in 2004.

By Dave Carpenter
Associated Press

CHICAGO — Tribune Co. made a stunning pitch to investors on baseball's opening day: The Chicago Cubs will be sold at season's end.

The announcement Monday came as the ailing media conglomerate announced its acquisition by billionaire investor Sam Zell. It puts one of sports' most storied and star-crossed franchises on the block, a year shy of the 100th anniversary of its last World Series title.

Zell, a real estate magnate who already owns part of his hometown Bulls and White Sox, issued no comment about why he's not interested in keeping the Cubs in connection with the \$8.2 billion deal. The team is one of Tribune's richest assets.

Bidding for the ballclub and historic Wrigley Field, however, is certain to be fiercely competitive. Analysts have estimated the Cubs could fetch \$600 million or more, a far cry from the \$20.5 million Tribune paid in 1981.

While the total may not exceed the record \$660 million paid for the Boston Red Sox in 2002 by a group headed by John Henry, analysts and baseball insiders all agreed the price should top those paid since then for the Washington Nationals (\$450 million), Los Angeles Dodgers (\$430 million) and Milwaukee Brewers (\$223 million), and



Associated Press

Fans walk outside of Wrigley Field, the playing home of the Chicago Cubs. Tribune Co., a media conglomerate that has owned the franchise since 1981 announced Monday they will sell the Cubs following the 2007 season.

agreed to for the Atlanta Braves (\$461 million).

"The Cubs are a great franchise. Great history, great tradition," baseball commissioner Bud Selig told reporters in Chicago, where he was attending the White Sox opener against Cleveland. "I'm not going to speculate on price."

The Cubs' popularity as a sports franchise — and the lure of potentially steering them to their first championship since 1908 — has attracted the interest of many potential buyers since a sale became a strong possibility last year. Billionaire entre-

preneur Mark Cuban, Phoenix sports executive Jerry Colangelo and actor Bill Murray are among those reported or rumored to have interest, along with numerous Chicago business figures.

Cuban, the most prominent and wealthiest of the bunch, did not immediately respond to a request for comment, nor did Colangelo, a Chicago-area native who said in a November interview that he would have "great interest" in the Cubs.

Tribune hopes first to erase or at least lessen the Cubs' stigma of losing following 99 years without a championship, more

than a quarter of them under its watch.

"In our last season of ownership the team has one mission, and that is to win for our great fans," said Dennis FitzSimons, Tribune's chairman, president and chief executive officer.

Speculation that the Cubs might be destined for new ownership ramped up last fall when Tribune put itself up for possible sale under pressure from disgruntled shareholders. It intensified with the club's off-season spending spree, including signing outfielder Alfonso Soriano to an eight-year contract for \$136 million — the fifth-richest contract in major league history.

Tribune had said for months that it would focus first on a sale of the entire company before considering selling individual pieces, which also include 23 television stations and 11 newspapers. That sale was announced Monday morning when it said it had agreed to a complex deal in which the company will go private and Zell will invest \$315 million.

While the Cubs are renowned for their losing ways, they also have become more of a box-office success under Tribune's ownership and have spent dramatically more money in recent years. Nevertheless, its stewardship will go down as checkered if it fails to win so much as a single pennant.

Pirates steal opening game from Astros, 4-2

By Kristie Rieken
Associated Press

HOUSTON — Jason Bay's two-run homer in the 10th inning gave the Pittsburgh Pirates a 4-2 win over the Houston Astros on Monday night in front of a Minute Maid Park record crowd that included former President George H. W. Bush.

Bay's hit off Chad Qualls came with two outs on a 0-2 pitch and landed in the Crawford Boxes in left field.

The game went to extra innings after Brad Lidge, who had a 5.28 ERA last year and blew

six saves, gave up a solo homer to Xavier Nady in the ninth inning that tied it at 2.

Lidge struck out Adam LaRoche, before Ronny Paulino grounded out. Then came Nady's homer on Lidge's first pitch into the left-field porch, prompting the boos that dogged him last season.

Jose Bautista then lined a double into the left-field corner and the crowd booed again.

With Qualls pitching in the 10th, television shots showed Lidge sitting alone and stone-faced, rubbing on his goatee in the dugout.

Matt Capps pitched the ninth for the win, while Salomon Torres, who went 12-for-12 in save chances last year, pitched the 10th for the save.

Despite allowing one run and five hits in 7 2-3 innings, Roy Oswalt failed to get the 99th win of his career in his fifth straight opening day start.

Toronto's Roy Halladay also started his fifth straight opener Monday to tie Oswalt for the longest active streak in the majors.

The Houston ace didn't give up a run until he allowed a home run by Nate McLouth,

that hit just over the yellow line on the wall in left-center, in the eighth inning.

Bush and his wife, Barbara, and country music star Clay Walker were part of a Minute Maid Park record crowd of 43,803.

The Astros gave Carlos Lee a six-year, \$100 million contract in an effort to amp up an offense that ranked last in the National League last season. On Monday, Lee went 0-for-4.

Houston's only scoring came from a two-run homer to center field by Luke Scott in the fifth inning.

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Armstrong to lead A Capella Choir

By **Brittany Mihalcin**
Reporter

One of the nation's premiere conductors will direct what some call Baylor's premiere choir at 7:30 p.m. today in Jones Concert Hall, located in the Glennis McCrary Music Building.

"The a cappella choir is our premiere large choral ensemble," concert and promotion manger Richard Veit said. "They are some of our top singers."

The 64-member group was selected through a competitive audition and is composed of undergraduate students majoring in music.

This year's Robert Foster Cherry Award for Great Teaching recipient, Anton Armstrong, will directed the A Cappella Choir as a guest conductor tonight.

The Cherry Award is a program used to recognize great

teachers and bring them in contact with Baylor students. In order to do this, recipients are required to teach in residence at Baylor for one semester.

Armstrong comes to Baylor from St. Olaf College in Minnesota, where he is a professor of music and conductor of the St. Olaf Choir.

Armstrong has been working with the A Cappella Choir for about six weeks.

Under his direction, the choir will perform Georg Schumann's "Das ist ein köstliches Ding," Ralph Johnson's "Evening Meal," Kenneth Jennings' "Antiphon," and Stephen Paulus' "Pilgrim's Hymn."

Other songs to be performed include Glenn McClure's "Saint Francis in the Americas: A Caribbean Mass" and Carolyn Jennings' "A Feast of Lanterns."

The choir also will perform under Madisonville graduate

student and conductor Joshua Brown.

Brown comes with his own set of accolades. In March, he was part of the American Choral Directors Graduate Students Conducting Competition, composed of eight semi-finalists from across the U.S.

"The choir has worked really hard, and they sound wonderful," Brown said. "The've worked well in a short amount of time to accomplish a difficult set of music."

Brown has been working with the choir since February and said he thinks the concert is going to be very enjoyable.

"Having Anton has built the community in the choir and it has stretched us and forced us to grow," Brown said.

This is Brown's first time conducting a concert at Baylor. He said he is more anticipating it more than he is nervous for it. Brown will lead the ensemble

in the "Magnificat," of German-born composer Charles Theodore Pachelbel, and the "Five Mystical Songs," of English composer Ralph Vaughan Williams.

"The Five Mystical Songs" will feature a solo by Alrington junior Jonathan Wimpy.

Wimpy said he was given the music a few months ago and has been spending a lot of time working on his solo.

"I think it's going to be a good concert," Wimpy said.

Recently, Wimpy received two awards at the National Association of Teachers of Singing competition in the North Texas Division.

He received first place in the classical division and second place in the musical theatre division.

The concert is free and open to the public. For more information, call the Baylor University School of Music at 710-3991.



Courtesy photo

Guest conductor Anton Armstrong directs the Baylor A Cappella Choir during practice for their concert at 7:30 p.m. today in the Jones Concert Hall, located in the McCrary Music Building.



Associated Press

Sanjaya Malakar performs last Tuesday on Fox's "American Idol" in Los Angeles. Malakar is considered to be one of the weakest performers, but has a fan base that has helped him survive multiple rounds of viewer elimination.

No 'Idol' threat in Web site's challenge

By **Michael Daly**
McClatchy Newspapers

The test is between the biggest show on television and a Web site started by a 24-year-old suburban gadfly, between media old and new.

On one side is "American Idol," which is in its sixth season of drawing millions to look on as our fellow citizens risk insult and humiliation in the hope of becoming a singing star.

On the other side is Vote-fortheWorst.com, started three years ago by Dave Della Terza of Naperville, Ill., with the avowed purpose of getting viewers to vote for the contestants whom "the producers would hate to see win on 'American Idol.'"

In earlier seasons, the contestants the site deemed the worst had enough appeal that it seemed possible their continued presence on the show was due to voters actually liking them.

After all, we have not needed some Web site to prod us into voting for the worst when it comes to politics. The White House continues to serve as a reminder of that every day in nearly every regard, from the war in Iraq to cuts in cancer research.

Even the VFTW site's current pick for worst, 17-year-old Sanjaya Malakar, initially exhibited enough teenybopper appeal to make you wonder if perhaps legions of junior high school girls were voting for him again and again.

At one point, another contestant, Chris Sligh, apparently sought to gloat the mantle of worst by saying, "Hi, Dave" on the air. Most viewers were likely not aware that Dave was the founder of VFTW.

Della Terza was delighted, saying, "Now I love Chris Sligh." But Della Terza still knew a true worst when he saw one, and he stuck with Sanjaya.

This week, Sanjaya proved how right Della Terza was by stepping before the cameras with a ponytail Mohawk that would have left even a deaf teenybopper hard-pressed to vote for him. And his performance of "Bathwater" was as dreadful as his hair style.

You may have noticed the judges had the deflated look of those doubting their influ-

ence. They may have sensed that Sanjaya's only significant appeal must be fundamentally perverse, that if he stayed on after this it could only be termed a victory of a lowly Web site over heretofore mighty TV.

Some observers have suggested that VFTW's power springs from being touted by radio's Howard Stern, who seems to share some of Della Terza's sensibility. Stern surely helped, but a measure of VFTW's own popularity repeatedly appeared when a reporter attempted to visit the site in the aftermath of the Mohawk.

"We are experiencing a high amount of traffic. Please try back in a few minutes," a message read.

The reporter finally managed to reach the site and beheld a caricature of a smiling Sanjaya and the words: "The ponytail Mohawk can only mean one thing: Sanjaya loves us! Sanjaya, you're awesome! If we keep him in, he can only pick a new hair style that's even better next week. Nice work, buddy!"

By then, more than 30 million votes were in. So many people had dialed (866) IDOLS-04 on Sanjaya's behalf that he will be indeed be coming back.

He was even spared being one of the bottom three, which meant that he sat in comfy security among the top seven Wednesday night as a trio of decidedly superior singers sweated out who would be going home.

The loser was Sligh, the very one who had sought to win VFTW's favor by greeting the founder by name on the air. VFTW's continuing favorite, Sanjaya, will be coming back next week, no doubt with a new hair style and another song so bad as to keep him incontestably the worst.

His continued presence seems proof that television is no longer the all-powerful medium it once was. How wonderful it would be if somebody in the months ahead proved able to marshal the power of new media to offset the TV commercials that will seek to sway us in our choice for the next president.

Perhaps we will witness something in contemporary politics that would truly be revolutionary. The site could be called "VOTE FOR THE BEST!"

By **Katelyn Foster**
Contributor

"I see lots of familiar faces in here."

Entering Homestead Heritage, these are the words my friend said about complete strangers.

RESTAURANTREVIEW

I laughed, at first, but after looking around, I realized there was an underlying truth to his statement. The warm smiles and calm movements of the workers immediately gave me a sensation of peace.

Nestled at the end of a serene shaded country road about 15 minutes north of Waco, Homestead Heritage is a community of large families devoted to living a simple lifestyle.

The village includes pottery and blacksmith shops, wood-working and furniture shops, a farm and garden center and a syrup mill. But among these tourist sights lies a deli and bakery that captures the true spirit of the people of the Homestead Heritage community: gentle and welcoming.

Walking into the dining area, I immediately became filled with a bewildering sense of excitement.

Our waitress' name, Julianne,

was embroidered on her apron, and she sat us at a perfect table for two next to a window with a tree naked of leaves from winter.

The sun shone through on our table, illuminating the wooden walls, floors and hand-made iron chandeliers — which served to enhance the joyful ambience of the deli.

After waiting 10 minutes for Julianne to return to take our drink order, the beauty of the restaurant became apparent.

I realized the exceptional value of Homestead Heritage doesn't come from the delicately prepared food I was about to order but, instead, from the ability to relax, disregard time and forget about the stresses of the day.

Julianne soon reappeared with her soothing smile and calming voice to take our meal order. She spoke slowly, as if she cared for each word leaving her mouth just as she cared for each individual customer.

Now don't get me wrong, the food also has the gift of capturing the spirit of the people. Being a first-timer, I took the advice of my friend and decided to experience the jalapeno sweet potato soup. Orange in color and sweet, yet spicy, the creation was surprising and satisfying.

I also settled on a chopped

barbecue sandwich with homemade potato chips. The lightly toasted bun with perfectly sliced beef and a moderate amount of sauce made for a perfect combination. I was more than pleased.

Homestead Heritage occupies 510 acres, with 40 families residing on the land. There's something special about knowing that some of those residents wake up at 4 a.m. to bake the bread I'll eat for lunch that day. Every piece of food is not natural at this point, Julianne said, but that is the goal they're working toward.

What makes the food at this deli so first-class? I believe it is the time and care put into making it.

On my second visit I chose the cheddar roast beef melt. The secret sauce was enough to make me come back a third time.

While enjoying our meal, a 20-something woman wearing a long dress and vest with her hair tucked into a neat bun approached our table with a smile.

"It's good to see you again," she said.

Her name was Bessie, and she really was a familiar face. She had met my friend when he was dining a previous time. Her ease at coming to our table, even though we were all basically

strangers to her, proved to me that the people of this community don't know the meaning of the word stranger. They care for all people and this is confirmed by their service, food and overall presence.

Bessie continued to talk for a few minutes and left only after inviting us to attend church with her.

After an hour and a half, we both became hostile to the realization we had to return to class.

As I was walking out, Julianne made the effort to stop me and say she appreciated my warm smile and cheerfulness.

I felt as if she had taken the exact words out of my mouth that she deserved to hear herself. A good meal and personal compliments — does this place really exist?

Walking to the car, I felt renewed. Not only is Homestead Heritage the ideal place to eat wholesome food and forget about the constraints of time, it's a getaway that rejuvenates my belief in the good of the world.

The food alone couldn't make me feel this way. It's the people of this community, who know no other way, that make such a difference.

Homestead Heritage is open 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday through Saturday.

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