

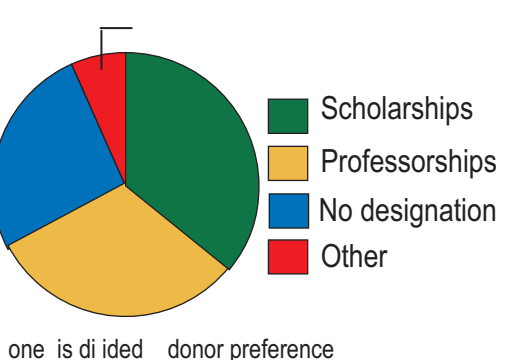
ROUNDING UP CAMPUS NEWS SINCE 1900

THE BAYLOR LARIAT

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 18, 2007

Baylor ahead of push for tuition relief

Baylor University's Endowment



Source: Dr. Reagan Ramsower, vice president for finance and administration
Abbie Rosen/Lariat Staff

By Anita Pere
Staff writer

Help may be on the way for families worried about rising tuition costs at private universities. The U.S. Senate finance committee heard testimony Sept. 26 and Oct. 11 about a recommendation to require private universities to annually spend 5 percent of their endowments. The goal is to help universities defray ever-rising tuition costs. Baylor already spends 5 percent of its endowment annually, according to President John Lilley, Dr. Reagan Ramsower, vice president for finance and administration, and chief investment officer Jonathan Hook. The three officials agreed spending 5

percent a year seemed like a reasonable request. As of last month, Baylor's endowment was approximately \$1.05 billion. The 5 percent spent last year totaled \$45.2 million. The 5 percent is figured by calculating the endowment averages for the previous four years. The endowment amount fluctuates from year to year depending on gift giving and accumulated interest. The university closed its fiscal year last May with a \$1 billion dollar endowment. Bob Spence, treasurer and associate vice president of financial services, said the endowment has not grown significantly since then. The return rate under current

conditions stands at 23 percent annually, Lilley said. Hook explained that the money is dispersed quarterly to various university departments. Ramsower said, "A vast majority of our scholarships do not come from endowments." He said scholarship expenditures for the next year will total \$88 million. "If you multiplied our endowment at the end of September by 5 percent, you would get a payout of \$52.4 million. You can see that even if the entire endowment was designated for scholarships it would fall \$35.6 million short of what we actually award in scholarships," Ramsower said.

The \$88 million is derived from discounted scholarships or tuition. Baylor doesn't make student pay based on need. "All universities do this kind of discounting," Ramsower said. Lilley said the university's ultimate goal is to meet the financial need of all students. He said he thinks Baylor is unique among private institutions in its expenditure on of endowment funds. "To put us all under that same microscope would be unfair," he said. He guessed that Senate discussions of endowment spending

Please see TUITION, page 4

BU Theatre to open 'Museum'

By Rea Corbin
Reporter

Art meets theater Friday in the fast-paced play *Museum*, written by Tina Howe, performed in the Hooper-Schaefer Fine Arts' Mabee Theatre. "It's about the experience of museum-going," said Thomas Ward, assistant professor of theater and *Museum* director. He said the audience will enter the theater through the stage, allowing them to view the art on stage. This also helps create a realistic museum experience. The play is set inside a modern art exhibit, showcasing three distinct artists. William Sherry, professor of scene design, designed the set over the summer. It was then built by students, including the seven smaller sculptures, which are created in the play by character Agnes Vaag. Howe provided the title for each sculpture, but the students took ownership and researched their pieces, Sherry said. One sculpture has a burned look to reflect its title, "Prometheus, Singed." Howe is specific in her description of parts of the set, which Sherry said forced him to look more carefully at his own design as it progressed. One sculpture consists of life-sized figures hanging from a clothesline. Sherry said he changed the single clothesline across the stage to one that was more old-fashioned for the production. Putting the play on in a university setting has many advantages, Ward said. "We have the resources to pull it off, the actors to do it and the manpower to build it," Ward said.



Howe's play includes 40 characters. The large cast required Ward to spend time in rehearsal on "traffic control," guiding the actors through the art and one other without collisions. With so many characters, some of which are on stage for less than a minute, Ward said he had to look at character development differently. "You want to present a whole character and a full person," he said. "But you know very little about the person." The play is filled with surprises and light on exposition. But between the comedic moments, there is sincerity. "The majority of the characters get to have a very real, personal and sincere experience with art," Ward said. He said the play stays on the character's experience just long enough for impact, then it's "off to the races again." "At any minute, anything could happen," he said.

Arlington junior Clayton Ellis plays photographer Michael Wall and said the large cast required listening more carefully than he ever had before. "Without turning around, I have to know where someone is," Ellis said, to keep from running into them or stealing attention. Ellis said his character, Wall, was open to a lot of interpretation in his portrayal. "We have made him passive - kind of nice, kind of a jerk," Ellis said. "There's just so much you can do with this character." He said the play was interesting to him because as each character intends to see art, "they become art" in the audience's eyes. The bold traits of each character make him or her stand out immediately. Cleburne senior Liz Conly plays the museum's curator, Chloe Trapp.

Please see PLAY, page 4



Laurisa Lopez/Lariat staff

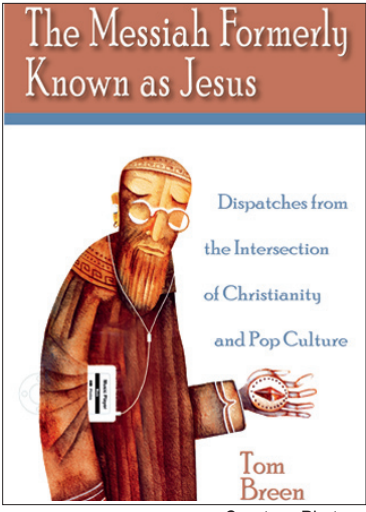
(Left) During dress rehearsal Wednesday, characters observe a work of art during their museum visit in Tina Howe's play, *Museum*. (Above) A closer look at part of the clothesline art display that is featured in the museum. The play will be performed at 7:30 p.m. Friday and Saturday and 2 p.m. Sunday in the Hooper-Schaefer Fine Arts Center's Mabee Theatre.

Best YouTube video to promote book will receive \$1,000

By Kathleen Williams
Reporter

Baylor University Press is holding a YouTube competition to promote the release of its new book, *The Messiah Formerly Known as Jesus: Dispatches from the Intersection of Christianity and Pop Culture*, by Tom Breen. Jennifer Hannah, marketing manager for Baylor University Press, said the book is a humorous look at Christianity from the eyes of pop culture. Hannah also said the book explores how pop culture has made Christianity fun. The contest encourages participants to submit YouTube videos addressing the content and satirical nature of Breen's book. First-place winners of the competition will receive \$1,000. Second-place winners will receive \$500.

Hannah described Breen's new book as a "Colbert Report-ish take on Christianity." Contest applicants will be provided with excerpts from the book to base their videos on. Hannah said the pulled sections "really lend themselves to making a video," but full manuscripts are also available for applicants to read before making their videos. Requirements for the contest are minimal - the videos must contain a screen shot of the book's cover and the address of Baylor University Press's Web site where the book can be purchased. Hannah said the competition is a great way to try out filmmaking skills. "We're very anxious to see what Baylor students, faculty and staff can come up with," Hannah said. Breen's book is Baylor University Press' first book targeted for the



Courtesy Photo

Baylor University Press and the book's author Tom Breen are using a YouTube movie contest to help promote the book.

general public. Its other books and publications are purely academic. Breen, an Associated Press journalist, caught the Baylor University Press' editor's attention after reading Breen's columns and approached him about writing the book. Brian Downey, a Lorena graduate student in the film and digital

Please see CONTEST, page 4

2 Baylor organizations to greet troops at DFW

By Amanda Allen
Reporter

A plane full of soldiers, sailors, airmen and Marines land at the Dallas-Fort Worth International Airport every day. On Saturday, two Baylor organizations will greet them. Silver Wings will be teaming up with Arnold Air Society to join family and friends of American troops who will be crowded around terminal B, gate 39 at DFW Airport. The troops flying in consist of mostly service men and women who are on two-week leave from overseas - most from Iraq, Afghanistan or Kuwait. When soldiers land on U.S. soil, they board other flights or catch rides with family members for trips back to their hometowns. Every day soldiers get off the planes and exit customs, they're greeted by banners, balloons and applauding, enthusiastic Americans. Silver Wings is a national organization that supports the troops, with collegiate chapters that volunteer at various non-profit organizations within their commu-

nities. "The work we do is kind of our way of saying 'thank you,'" said Chicago junior Maggie Ellor, who is president of Baylor's Silver Wings. "A lot of us have people we care about who have been deployed, and I know every time I'm in the airport and I see a group of soldiers, I search their faces for the people I know. I pray for the day when I get to welcome my friends home," she said. Even though the soldiers they're greeting are complete strangers to Ellor, she said she sees her friends in them and is happy, relieved and privileged to welcome them home and thank them. Silver Wings works jointly with the Arnold Air Society, a co-ed group within ROTC, to promote leadership skills, military awareness and professional development. "I have several relatives in the Navy, and after Sept. 11, I became really patriotic," Pompton Plains, N.J., sophomore and Silver Wings member Danielle Lee said. Lee said she thinks people don't focus

Please see TROOPS, page 4

Students can connect with local youth in King's Club

When my phone started ringing, Bonnie Raitt started singing, "Let's give 'em somethin' to talk about..." She stopped as soon as I answered the phone, "Hello — what time is it?"

Upon hearing the reply — 9:45 a.m. — I jumped out of bed and raced to get dressed. I couldn't believe I overslept.

On Saturdays at 9:30 a.m., I meet a group of people at St. Peter's Catholic Student Center to carpool over to the Mission Waco building.

After going over the rules and saying a prayer, the large group, made of students from Baylor organizations and lone volunteers, splits up to visit various apartment complexes, where we

play with young children.

That morning, I drove myself and two other volunteers to the center. The doors of the building were locked so we couldn't pick up our supply boxes, which contained balls, coloring materials and snacks. Our group was very small so it was decided that we would all go to the same place.

The routine upon arriving at the apartment complex is to knock on the doors of apartments with a partner, tell them you're from Mission Waco and ask if there are any children who want to come and play.

After 15 minutes spent gathering kids, the group heads over to the complex's playground. The kids play for 45 minutes

point
of view



BY VICTORIA BONGAT

and then are served snacks, listen to a Bible story, learn a short lesson and sing a song. The kids like acting the parts of the story characters, and "Baby Shark" is the most popular song.

The little kids are so sweet. They come up to you for a hug, or just to hold your hand. The older kids have so much energy and tend to get rowdy.

They enjoy playing tag and

being pushed on the swings. Some kids recognized me from the last week, and it was nice to be remembered.

At today's King's Club, there weren't any balls to play with, but the kids entertained themselves successfully. The dog ran around and the kids followed it.

Kids convinced volunteers to play tag with them. Some started a game of red rover, which occupied them for some time while others sat in the grass and let the kids play with their hair.

I ran around and played tag with these two little girls. They giggled as I ran up the steps and attempted to catch them on the slide. No matter how often I

tagged them, I was always "it." When I got tired, I sat down in the grass and looked at the scene around me. These kids really do pull at my heartstrings. Every week, they are happy to see us. They're so excited to interact with and play under the supervision of Baylor students.

I wish the kids in other apartment complexes could have enjoyed the same morning. I remember from last semester that the larger group was able to split up to visit four or five different apartment complexes within the Waco community.

Afterward, I had a bruise from playing that was the size of a doughnut hole on my arm, I was out of breath from running and

my hair was a complete mess. I'm not complaining, because I love going to King's Club.

Making those kids smile and sharing that special time with them is the highlight of my Saturday. I think more people should take advantage of this unique opportunity to spend time with the kids.

If you'd like to experience King's Club for yourself, join me at 9:30 a.m. Saturday at St. Peter's Catholic Student Center, located on 9th Street across from the Stacy Riddle Forum. For more information, contact Mission Waco at (254) 753-4900 or volunteers@missionwaco.org.

Victoria Bongat is a junior journalism major from Converse.

Editorial

Let's make Floyd Casey go green

Baylor may have trouble flinging the Green and Gold afar during the football game against Texas this Saturday, but it should have no trouble going green during the game.

The Environmental Concern Organization's recycling campaign at Floyd Casey Stadium has gotten off to a good start — more than 800 pounds of plastic bottles were collected after the Oct. 6 home game against Colorado. That's 800 pounds of non-biodegradable plastic that will not take up space in a landfill for hundreds of years.

It's amazing to see what something as simple as throwing away a plastic bottle in a different container can do for the environment.

We'd like to extend our appreciation to ECO for its efforts in this program as well as its tireless commitment toward raising awareness of environmental issues on campus. Thanks are also in order for others that helped at the game, such as the Baylor Democrats, the Magellan Society and Kiwanis International Foundation, as well as other individuals who collected either for extra credit or simply out of the goodness of their hearts.

We hope that for Saturday's game, more people will be aware of the program and get involved. ECO hopes to implement an "adopt-a-game" approach where fraternities, sororities and other organizations can help share the load by serving at one of the home games throughout the season.

Even if you can't directly participate in the program, make sure to at least do your part at the game by throwing your plastic bottles into the recycling bins that will be stationed throughout



Floyd Casey. There will also be volunteers making rounds through the aisles to make it as convenient as possible for fans to recycle.

It is estimated that about 60 million plastic water bottles are thrown away every day in the U.S. Most of these bottles are not recycled. Imagine the benefits of recycling most of this.

One thing it would do is reduce the amount of oil used to make plastic products. According to The Pacific Institute, it is estimated that 20 million barrels of oil are used to make plastic bottles each year.

Despite the initial success of the

program, the members of ECO need our help.

If we can contribute to the program's success by lending a hand, it will send a strong message to Baylor that the student body is serious about recycling.

One can only imagine the amount of waste generated on Baylor's own campus that could be recycled.

Although our campus has no official recycling program as of yet, a pilot program has been established at the North Village Residential Community.

ECO and Student Senate have been

steadfast in advocating an official program, and we fully support their efforts. Future expansions of the pilot program will be directly dependent on how much it is used.

Imperative VI of Baylor 2012 states: "Guide all Baylor students through academic and student life programming to understand life as a stewardship and work as a vocation."

Successfully recycling at Floyd Casey Stadium can go a long way toward showing Baylor administration that being environmentally friendly is in keeping with the university's vision.

Letters to the editor

Olson's off-base statements

Re: "Atheism's moral philosophy not consistent with Baylor's mission"

Dr. Olson claims an atheist who behaves morally is living inconsistently with their atheism. He could just as soon claim an atheist who behaves immorally suffers from the same inconsistency, and he would still be wrong.

Atheism doesn't have a moral philosophy — it is simply a lack of belief in a deity. It's illogical to progress from lack of belief in God to any moral conclusions one way or the other. Moreover, Olson doesn't even begin to address the moral philosophies developed by non-religious philosophers over the centuries.

Instead, he trots out stale questions like, "Have you ever heard of an entire atheist organization serving the poor, the sick, or the hungry?" as if they were relevant to the truth or falsity of atheism. Imagine how absurd it would be for a charity worker to say, "I'm only giving you this soup because I don't believe in God, and you'll understand why nonbelievers don't donate to charities in the name of their disbelief."

That's not to say nonbelievers don't donate. A quick Google search led me to the Secular Humanist Aid and Relief Effort. And last year, nonbeliever Warren Buffett gave \$30 billion to the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation. Dr. Olson contends this behavior is inconsistent with

an atheistic philosophy. How? Where in the statement, "I do not believe in God," does he see, "I must not be good to others?"

"Why do people, atheists included, behave morally?" is an interesting anthropological question, but assuming the existence of God without any credible evidence is not the way to answer it. Dr. Olson might as well have said, "Even if atheism is true, society would be better off without it." I'm sorry, but I was raised to deal with truth, not to hide from it.

Cody Cobb
Biochemistry, 2008

Morals matter more than belief

Re: "Atheism's moral philosophy not consistent with Baylor's mission"

Dr. Olson wrote a very well-reasoned article concerning the redeeming social value of atheism.

It may or may not be true that atheism cannot sufficiently explain why people should care for one another, help the weak, or even define wickedness.

But regardless, the argument he puts forth is only valid if the causal relationship between the philosophy behind a set of teachings and the resulting failure of those teachings to provide a moral compass is ignored. That causal link which must exist for this argument to survive is the practical application of those teachings.

Chances are, if you ask a Christian whether their behavior would change if Christianity

couldn't give a clear explanation for why its teachings encourage the practice of caring for others, they would say: "No, absolutely not."

Why? Because the support for teachings encouraging people to be caring only serve as support for people when they choose to be caring, not the reason they choose to care.

You can give explanations for why we should be kind and caring until you are blue in the face, but that will not teach people to care, it will only teach people why they should care.

Olson stated, "(Atheists) are people of character and virtue in spite of their philosophy of life — not because of it." Couldn't you say the same of bad people who happen to be Christians? They

are bad in spite of their philosophy of life, not because of it.

So what does that prove? Nothing, of course. Our personal beliefs are not what shape our character and personality. The most powerful factors are those experiences, lessons (including personal beliefs) and people that come and go in our lifetime.

Beliefs can never transcend the true character of the person holding them. It is not the teachings themselves that are important, but how we choose to use those teachings to educate our next generation, to teach them how to use the important lessons of life and to mold them into adults who will lead our society.

Hayley Turner
Baylor Law, 2009

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Newsroom: 710-1711
Advertising: 710-3407
Sports: 710-6357
Entertainment: 710-7228
Editor: 710-4099
Lariat@baylor.edu

THE Daily Crossword

Edited by Wayne Robert Williams

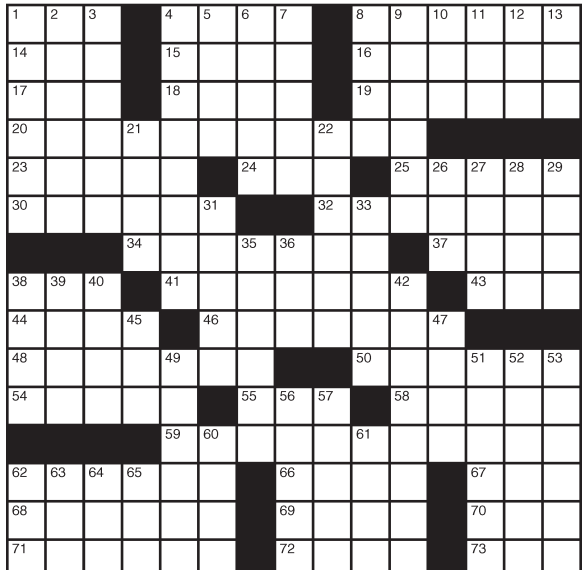
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By Alan P. Olschwang
Huntington Beach, CA

10/18/07

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

Senior running back: ‘I am tired of losing’

By Justin Baer
Sports writer

With echoes of fan's displeasure overwhelming him, senior running back Brandon Whitaker did what he was obliged to do as a veteran and captain on the team. In a team meeting two weeks ago following a humiliating 43-23 home loss to the University of Colorado Buffaloes, the usually quiet Whitaker made sure his voice was heard.

"I just got emotional after the Colorado game," Whitaker said. "I don't speak that much, but I am tired of losing. I just told them to keep their heads up. We have got to quit beating ourselves."

Whitaker has backed up his words with actions on the field recently, accumulating 294 total yards in his past two games. But as Whitaker said, he believes he should not only be a leader by words, but example as well.

"I don't really talk that much. I would rather just show it on Saturday," Whitaker said of his leadership role. "On Saturday, I consider that my job and that's what I am supposed to do."

Whitaker's running style has been scrutinized in the past, with critics harassing the Edmond, Okla., native for running "east and west" too much, instead of running straight to the hole. Yet first-year running back coach Cornell Jackson has

worked with Whitaker and his labor on the running back's technique has shown results.

"He's kind of been the guy to look and run," Jackson said. "Now we are working on trying to get him to run and look. I think that has really helped him improve this year over last year."

Whitaker leads the Bears with 512 total yards from scrimmage; however, all has not been merry for the 5-foot-10, 196-pound workhorse this season. With the emergence of Corsicana freshman Jay Finley, Whitaker has platooned for the starting job.

After not starting Sept. 22 against the University of Buffalo, Whitaker has since solidified himself as a legitimate weapon for the Bears, averaging 109.6 total yards in three Big 12 games.

"I just take it as a coach's challenge for me to play better," Whitaker said. "Jay is a really good running back, but I wasn't playing up to my ability. It's just helping me play harder and harder every week."

With four of its next five opponents coming against nationally ranked teams, Baylor (3-4, 0-3) will in all probability be underdogs for the rest of the season. Despite the toughest of the Big 12 Conference yet to face, Whitaker is not intimidated by the remainder of the schedule.

"It doesn't affect my morale at all," Whitaker said. "I like being the under-



Stephanie Jeter/Lariat staff

Running back Brandon Whitaker (2) prepares at practice Wednesday for the Bear's match-up against the University of Texas Longhorns Saturday at Floyd Casey Stadium. Also pictured: Bangs junior Jacoby Jones (25) and Katy senior Keegan Vann (40).

dog. It just gives us the chance to upset."

Baylor faces a huge obstacle Saturday when Mack Brown and the 2005 National Champion University of Texas Longhorns stampede into town. The Bears have been outscored 118-0 in the last two meetings between the teams at Floyd Casey Stadium, but as Whitaker

noted, the No. 19 Longhorns are not the dominating team they have been in past years.

"Texas is coming off of an 0-2 start in conference, and they are not used to that," Whitaker said. "They are going to be ready to play, and we are going to be ready to play too."

Musical show to feature ex-student

Barrage to showcase singing, dancing, violins

By Kelli Boesel
Reporter

Most people probably can't play a musical instrument, dance and sing at the same time, but the nine performers in Barrage do.

Barrage, composed primarily of violinists, begins at 7 p.m. Friday in Jones Concert Hall. The performance is combined with guitar and drums and tied together with dancing, singing and a variety of musical styles.

Waco native Naseem Khozien has been performing with Barrage for three years. Khozien, who attended Baylor for a short time, said she auditioned for the show in Austin.

"I auditioned for about two days," she said. "And then I had to go through a four-month training period."

Khozien said the audience gets to know each of the nine members of the band as individuals throughout the show.

"We each have our own unique styles," she said.

The show, Khozien said, will give Baylor students a new respect for the violin.

"It's a unique way to see the violin," she said. "And you're never bored."



Courtesy photo

Barrage will perform at 7 p.m. Friday in Jones Concert Hall. The performance will feature the infusion of song, dance and violin.

She also said the show has always had a good reception, and Baylor students are sure to enjoy it.

"I think they will come and see really talented musicians having a lot of fun with each other and the audience," she said.

Barrage co-creator Anthony Moore said the show, which began in 1996 in Canada, has been performed in 20 countries and typically runs 44 weeks a year.

Barrage's education program is what brought the show to Waco. The program aims to motivate children, getting them interested and excited about playing the violin, Moore said. The company worked with local directors to pick an appropriate venue for the show. Holding the performance in Jones Hall "is a great way to have different programs involved at once," he said.

Barrage is a musical ride, Moore said. People will hear things that are familiar, like songs from The Beatles.

"The great thing about Barrage is that it takes things you already know and it presents them in a way you would never expect," Moore said.

Odenton, Md., sophomore John Pemberton plans to attend the show Friday. Pemberton said he saw a flier for the performance and a friend who's already seen the show recommended it. Pemberton, who said he has a wide range of taste in music and has been involved in choir at church, researched the show on YouTube and the show's Web site, www.barrage.org. But, he said, you don't have to be a music enthusiast to enjoy the show.

"The style of music seems like it could grab the attention of people who aren't music lovers," he said.

Pemberton said he is looking forward to seeing the performers play their instruments while moving.

Tickets can be reserved by calling 755-9521, but purchases are made at the door.

Students can go hands-on with BaylorVision class

By Christina Kruse
Contributor

There are few classes in Baylor's course listings requiring students to attend football games, but Introduction to Video Practicum does. Part of the film and digital media department curriculum, BaylorVision provides this practicum, a chance to observe football, volleyball and basketball video production during the games.

"BaylorVision was formed in 2002 to support video boards at athletic venues," said Bryan Bray, director of BaylorVision and coordinator of the practicum.

Video boards are the giant television screens on scoreboards running commercials from game sponsors, live game footage and visual effects created by BaylorVision staff. BaylorVision utilizes programs such as Final Cut Pro, Photoshop, ProAnimator, Motion and LiveType to generate visual effects, such as 3-D spinning football helmets.

Video boards are located at Floyd Casey Stadium, the Ferrell Center, Getterman Stadium and Baylor Ballpark. Prior to BaylorVision's formation, the athletic games were not specifically coordinated.

Students enrolled in the course are required to sign up for a football game, a basketball game, a volleyball game and an additional game of their choice. They spend roughly 35 hours in class. Students meet Friday and Saturday

afternoons and Saturday evening at Floyd Casey Stadium. There, students observe the BaylorVision staff operate during pre-and post-game set up, as well as during the game.

"It's really nice to be able to take a step back and look at what's going on," said Waco sophomore Laruen Woodruff, a student of the practicum. "You learn so much more just being on the set (video production room)."

In class, Woodruff said, there isn't time to mess with equipment.

During game time, students see what's going to happen next from a script coordinated with the game clock. The script contains times the cheerleaders and band perform, so the video program does not overlap with their performances. However, everything depends upon when the game clock starts and stops.

"Game time is basically controlled chaos," Bray said. "We are the glue that brings it together."

After finishing the practicum, students are eligible to apply for a paid position with BaylorVision.

"Expect to learn a lot," Waco sophomore Spenser Gilliland said. "Everything we do may look easy from the outside, but there is so much technical knowledge involved."

Bray said an interest in sports was not a prerequisite, but it doesn't hurt.

"The library doesn't hire people who hate books; the Astros don't hire people who hate baseball," Bray said.

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Stephen Colbert announces candidacy for president

By Jake Coyle
Associated Press

NEW YORK —Stephen Colbert has announced his candidacy for president on *The Colbert Report*, tossing his satirical hat into the ring of an already crowded race.

"I shall seek the office of the president of the United States," Colbert said Tuesday on his Comedy Central show as red, white and blue balloons fell around him.

Colbert, 43, had recently satirized the coyness of would-be



Colbert

presidential candidates by refusing to disclose whether he would seek the country's highest office, a refusal that often came without any prompting.

Shortly before making the announcement, Colbert appeared on *The Daily Show* (the

show that spawned Colbert's spin-off) and played cagey, claiming he was only ready to consider a White House bid.

He entered the studio set pulled by a bicycle pedaled by Uncle Sam and quickly pulled out a bale of hay and a bottle of beer to show that he was "an Average Joe."

Colbert said his final decision would be announced on a "more prestigious show," which turned out to be his own.

"After nearly 15 minutes of soul-searching, I have heard the call," Colbert said.

His recent best-seller, *I Am America (And So Can You!)*, allowed him to mock the now-standard approach to a White House run, complete with a high-profile book tour.

Colbert said he planned to run in South Carolina, "and South Carolina alone." The state, one of the key early primaries, is also Colbert's native state. Earlier this week, South Carolina public television station ETV invited Colbert to announce his candidacy on air.

Exactly how far the mock conservative pundit planned to

stretch his impression of a presidential candidate wasn't clear.

Colbert rarely breaks character on camera, including at his memorable speech at the White House Correspondents' Association Dinner last year.

The Comedy Central host has often mobilized his fans ("Colbert Nation"), encouraging them to vote to have a Hungarian bridge named after him, for example, or to vandalize Web site Wikipedia.com with his version of "truthiness" and "wikiality."

Colbert said he would run as

both a Democrat and Republican.

He earlier explained the strategy: "I can lose twice." He claimed three running mate possibilities: Colbert-Huckabee, Colbert-Putin or Colbert-Colbert. Minutes after announcing his presidential pursuit, Colbert welcomed CBS political analyst Jeff Greenfield to ask how he had changed the race.

"This is going to be one for the books," said Greenfield.

A spokesman for Colbert said he would be unavailable for further comment Tuesday evening.

Bush praises religion politics of Dalai Lama

By Foster Klug
Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) _ President Bush, raising Beijing's ire, presented the Dalai Lama on Wednesday with the U.S. Congress' highest civilian honor and urged Chinese leaders to welcome the monk to Beijing.

The exiled spiritual head of Tibet's Buddhists by his side, Bush praised a man he called a "universal symbol of peace and tolerance, a shepherd of the faithful and a keeper of the flame for his people."

"Americans cannot look to the plight of the religiously oppressed and close our eyes or turn away," Bush said at the U.S. Capitol building, where he personally handed the Dalai Lama the prestigious Congressional Gold Medal.

The Dalai Lama, chuckling as he stumbled over his remarks in English, said the award will bring "tremendous joy and encouragement to the Tibetan

people" and he thanked Bush for his "firm stand on religious freedom and democracy."

He said he supports the 2008 Beijing Olympics in the hopes China would become a more open and tolerant country.

He also addressed Chinese suspicions of his advocacy for Tibet, saying, "I have no hidden agenda."

China reviles the 72-year-old monk as a Tibetan separatist and vehemently protested the elaborate public ceremony.

But at a news conference earlier in the day, Bush said he did not think his attendance at the ceremony would damage U.S. relations with China.

"I support religious freedom; he supports religious freedom. ... I want to honor this man," Bush told reporters at the White House. "I have consistently told the Chinese that religious freedom is in their nation's interest."

Democratic Rep. Tom Lantos, D-Calif., chairman of the House



Associated Press

The Dalai Lama, left, accompanied by House Speaker Nancy Pelosi is seen Wednesday on Capitol Hill after he received the Congressional Gold Medal.

Foreign Affairs Committee, advised China that inviting the Dalai Lama for talks over Tibet's future will help make the 2008 Olympics a success.

"Let this man of peace visit Beijing," Lantos said as the crowd and Bush applauded. "He is not a splittist. He merely wants the

religious and cultural autonomy for his own people that they so richly deserve."

The Dalai Lama smiled and nodded at people in the crowd throughout the ceremony in the majestic Capitol Rotunda; huge murals of important U.S. events loomed behind him.

TUITION from page 1

requirements are geared toward schools with multibillion-dollar endowments, such as Harvard (\$39.4 billion) and Yale (\$22.5 billion).

Lynne Munson, an adjunct

fellow at the Center for College Affordability and Productivity in Washington, spoke before the Senate in favor of the recommended measure to cut college costs via mandating endowment spending.

"Senators, what would your constituents say if gasoline costs

\$9.15 a gallon? Or if the price of milk was over \$15? That's how much these items would cost if their price had gone up at the same rate that tuition has since 1980," Munson said.

In a phone interview with the *Baylor Lariat*, Munson said she thinks students should pay

for college just like any other service, but students are distraught, even "intimidated" by tuition prices.

Ramsower said the university is doing much, but tuition costs will continue to rise "as long as people get raises and costs continue to rise."

CONTEST from page 1

media department, said the process of creating a good YouTube video is not a simple one. "YouTube will be a good marketing tool for getting the book exposure," Downey said.

Justin Wilson, film and digital media lecturer, said the campaign could be effective if it had an eye-catching element. "A series of videos that would keep people wanting to tune in would be successful," he said.

TROOPS from page 1

enough on the military. "They're defending our freedom," she said. "People should be more supportive of what they're doing."

A friend of Lee's sent her a video about someone who goes every week to welcome home troops.

There are two airports the troops come into. Lee said she thought welcoming troops would be a cool thing

to do since DFW is so close to Baylor.

Lee got in contact with the Welcome Home A Hero Program and took off from there, but she emphasized that any interested students could also get involved by visiting WelcomeTroops.com for more information.

Independence, Mo., sophomore Stephanie Frazon said she wanted to be in the military when she was younger.

"I joined (Silver Wings) because I think it's very important to support the military

and I wanted to get involved," she said.

Frazon said although people support the troops, most don't get actively involved.

Frazon and Lee both mentioned how the war in Iraq might affect feelings towards the military.

"I think a lot of the people in the military feel like a lot of Americans are upset (the troops are) over there," Lee said. "The more people that welcome them, the more they will see how many people really do support them."

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