



ROUNDING UP CAMPUS NEWS SINCE 1900

# THE BAYLOR LARIAT

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 2, 2007

HOMECOMING EDITION

## Baylor Homecoming

### Schedule of Events

#### Today

2-3 p.m. **Immortal Ten Memorial Dedication** at Traditions Square between Pat Neff Hall and the Bill Daniel Student Center

3-4 p.m. **Alumni Association Annual Meeting** at Jones Theatre in the Hooper-Schaefer Fine Arts Center featuring a question and answer session with Baylor President John Lilley

4:30-5:30 p.m. **Brooks Village** dedication and reception.

6-11:45 p.m. **Extravaganza** in Fountain Mall

6:30 p.m. **Pigskin Revue** in Waco Hall

7 p.m. **Singspiration** at 7th and James Baptist Church

8 p.m. **Cabaret**, featuring student ensemble, Showtime! at Hooper-Schaefer Fine Arts Building

9 p.m. **Bonfire and Pep Rally** in Fountain Mall

10:30 p.m. **Pigskin Revue** in Waco Hall

#### Saturday

8:30 a.m. **Homecoming Parade**

11:30 a.m. **Reunion Picnic and Class Meetings** at Floyd Casey Stadium

2 p.m. **Homecoming Football Game vs. Texas Tech University** at Floyd Casey Stadium

7 p.m. **Final Pigskin Revue**

#### Sunday

9 a.m. **Homecoming Worship Service** at Powell Chapel in George W. Truett Theological Seminary



Stephanie Jeter/Lariat Staff

Freshmen guard the eternal flame Wednesday night when altercations took place around 11:30 p.m., forcing the flame to be doused and the flame-guarding tradition to be canceled for this year's homecoming.

## Violence causes freshmen guards to leave posts early

By Tessa Shockey  
Reporter

The curfew was 2 a.m., but at 11:30 p.m. Wednesday the tradition of guarding the eternal flame was called off due to violence.

Baylor police Lt. Robert Young made the decision to put out the flame at 11:30 p.m., and then notified Baylor Chamber of Commerce officials. All activities were disbanded for the night.

"There were multiple fights and situations that broke out," Baylor Police Chief Jim Doak said. In addition to the student who was hospitalized for a concussion, one student dislocated her knee, Doak said.

Chamber, in conjunction with the Baylor Police Department and the Division for Student Life, decided to cancel eternal flame activities for this year.

"It is too big of a safety issue," Tulsa, Okla. senior Morris said. Morris is the homecoming chair for Chamber.

Brooks residents reported that one student from North Village participating with them was hospitalized. Another student was also injured in action.

Lorena sophomore Brent Gattis said that a group from Brooks Residential College, including

a student from North Village were walking in between Mars McLean Gymnasium and the Penland Tennis Courts.

"We (were) just standing by the tennis courts. We didn't charge, the freshmen charged us," Gattis said. "We stood there the entire time."

Gattis said the freshmen group started throwing punches and grabbing members of the Brooks group.

Gattis said one North Village student in his group was thrown to the ground by a freshman student and had his head slammed into the pavement. The student was hospitalized with a concussion but has since been released, Gattis said.

"We met with the president of Chamber three times and discussed the rules, and we met with the Baylor Police on two occasions last night and talked to them about the rules," Schertz junior Kyle Ferguson said. "Unfortunately the freshmen were not following the rules."

Thomasville, Ga., senior Bryan Watts also said that Brooks did not initiate the violence. Watts, president of Brooks College, said their intention was to throw water balloons at the freshmen and leave.

"It is their tradition, (we wanted to) play with them but not go on attack," Watts said. "Brooks didn't fight back; that is

Please see **FLAME**, page 12

## Bonfire to burn on Fountain Mall

By Caroline Korsawe  
Reporter

Following the relocation in 2005 to the Ferrell Center, this year's 99th Annual Homecoming Celebration will move back to the heart of campus, on Fountain Mall between Moody Memorial Library and Pat Neff Hall. The main reason extravaganza was moved back to campus is alumni demand, said Tulsa, Okla., senior Andrew Morris, homecoming chair for the Baylor Chamber of Commerce.

Extravaganza begins at 6 p.m. and will include various attractions such as inflatable games, a giant slide, hot air balloon rides and a Ferris wheel. The pep rally starts at 9 p.m. with the bonfire immediately following. Extravaganza's closing act will be a concert by the Christian band, Run Kid Run.

Fort Worth senior Richard Shelton, pep rally coordinator, said unlike last year, this year the pep rally will feature an actual touring band instead of a cover band. In addition, free glow sticks and lights will be handed out during the event.

In contrast to last year, where only one ride was offered and eventually got stuck in the mud, this year's extravaganza will offer two big rides, said Houston senior Andy Adams, extravaganza coordinator.

For a number of years, surveys and focus groups of alumni, faculty, staff and students have been conducted asking for suggestions as to how extravaganza could be improved.

"Homecoming was on campus pretty much every year until 2005 when it first moved to the Ferrell Center parking lot. What we've



Stephanie Jeter/Lariat Staff

Freshmen build the bonfire Thursday night at Fountain Mall.

heard continuously for the past two years is, 'We really love homecoming, but we really wish you would move it back to campus,'" Morris said.

Brittany Carnes, 2006 alumna, said she was sur-

prised when the event was moved off campus two years ago. Since her freshman year she had experienced homecoming traditions on campus.

Please see **BONFIRE**, page 12

## BAA to make committee for 2012 decision

By Anita Pere  
Staff writer

The Baylor Alumni Association announced Wednesday its formation of an ad-hoc committee charged with investigating Baylor 2012 and making an informed recommendation concerning the association's potential endorsement of the plan.

Jeff Kilgore, executive vice president of the association, explained the reasoning behind the creation of a committee to research Baylor 2012 for possible acceptance.

"We believe it is our role to provide a forum where such programs are explored and discussed openly, and where alumni can find balanced information so that they can draw their own conclusions. We also feel that alumni may not have enough information at this juncture to form an educated opinion on something as important as this, and we want to work with the University to educate and update all alumni."

The committee members Russell Dilday, Lori Hiron, Roland Johnson, Davis Lacy, David

Please see **BAA**, page 12

## Singletary embodies BU on, off field

By Shannon Daily  
Reporter

Late one night, some time in the early '80s, former Baylor football player Scott Casterline witnessed a group of young men "going crazy" outside the old Brooks Residence Hall.

Members of both the football and basketball teams were involved. "People were throwing water balloons and some guy fired off a gun," he continued.

Somewhere in the process Coach Corky Nelson, the defensive coordinator for the football team, was called.

"He was a fireball. You didn't want to cross Coach Nelson."

When Nelson walked into the courtyard, the ruckus continued. No one settled down and eventually Nelson went back inside.

Then Baylor student Mike Singletary got up and went outside.

Everything stopped, Casterline said. He didn't have to say a word.

"He garnered as much respect from his immediate peer group as the coaches did. That's very unusual," Casterline said. "When I think of Mike Singletary I think of one of the most upstanding people I've ever been around."

"He stands for what Baylor stands for."

Singletary, the 10th child of a Pentecostal pastor, is a 1979 graduate of Evan E. Worthing High School in Houston and a 1983 Baylor University alumnus.

According to an article on the Chicago Bears Web site, neither Mike nor any of his brothers and sisters were allowed to participate in sports. His father felt it was against the tenets of his faith. Finally, when Mike was 12 years old, his parents had a change of heart and the youngest Singletary joined his junior high school team at the only position he ever wanted

to play —linebacker.

He is now married to Kim Singletary and has seven children, including two Baylor students. When all nine members of the family are in the same city, they go to church together, have family nights, pizza nights and chili dog nights. "For me, as much time as we can get together is important," Singletary said.

As a linebacker, Singletary was known for his intensity. His eyes were constantly wide open, searching for his next move.

"When I played, I was very excited about what I was doing. I made a lot of noises, and kind of sounded like Bruce Lee," Singletary said. His loud and unyielding approach to everything he did won him the nickname "Samurai Mike."

During his time at Baylor, Singletary garnered 662 career tackles, making him

Please see **BEARS**, page 12



Courtesy Photo

Mike Singletary, 1983 Baylor alumnus, coaches from the San Francisco sidelines this season while his team plays the St. Louis Rams in St. Louis, Mo.

Editorial

BGCT election signals changing of the guard

The Baptist General Convention of Texas made the right call Monday. The convention, which is Texas' largest Baptist group, voted for progress with the election of Joy Fenner, its first woman president.



Fenner

The convention has consistently represented the values of a progressive organization by electing a Hispanic president in 2004 and a black president in 2005.

Now with the election of Fenner, who previously served as first

vice president of the BGCT, the convention has made its stance on equality clear.

Before we preach about equality any further, let's make this clear: Fenner is eminently qualified for the position and was elected for her merits, not her gender.

Fenner served for two decades with the Women's Missionary Union of Texas, so she brings experience to the table.

She also will help the BGCT have more of a missions-oriented focus. And as Baylor students, we couldn't be more proud of the fact that the BGCT has chosen Fenner for the presidency.

Baylor's ties with this story run deep. The university has long been affiliated with the BGCT, dating back to the late 1880s.

Fenner was also named an honorary alumna of the George W. Truett Theological Seminary in 2001 and has served as a member of the board of advocates for the School of Social Work.

The convention still elects a fourth of Baylor's Board of Regents as well. Suffice it to say that anything happening with one institution affects the other to some extent.

Fenner's election is particularly important considering the stark con-

trast it draws against the Southern Baptist Convention.

The BGCT has long been regarded as the more moderate of the two. The difference of beliefs even led to a group of conservatives within the BGCT, the Southern Baptists of Texas, splitting from the BGCT in 1998.

The SBC holds the belief that women should not hold positions of leadership within the church. On the national stage, this well-known position of the SBC has been a bit of a black eye for Baptists who may disagree with this view.

The BGCT is filled with moderate Baptists who maintain that women holding leadership positions within the church is in line with generally accepted New Testament theology.

Unlike more conservative interpretations of the Bible that make leadership a gender issue, the BGCT and other moderate Baptists acknowledge the cultural context of passages related to women's roles in the church. It's good to see the BGCT take a more nuanced approach to this issue, as many other denominations have.

Each state convention and every individual Baptist church (including SBC churches) usually adheres to the Baptist tradition of being fiercely independent.

The Baylor community should feel proud to be affiliated with a denominational convention that has a long-standing reputation for being independent-minded and unafraid to voice its opinion — especially when it seems like the SBC dominates the spotlight all too often.

It is important to recognize that the SBC only speaks for a certain faction of Baptists when it comes to issues like these. The BGCT is among voices who refuse to let the fundamentalist wing of the denomination define the Baptist name, and for that they are to be commended.

Even with what should be a routine procedure of electing a new president, the BGCT has spoken volumes about where it stands.



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Opinions expressed in the Lariat are not necessarily those of the 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.

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Risk Management threatening to put out flames of Baylor tradition

Wednesday evening, the Baylor community may have lost one of its most long-held traditions for good.

On Jan. 22, 1927, 10 Baylor men were killed when a train smashed into their bus in Round Rock. Jack Castellaw, Sam Dilow, Merle Dudley Cyell, Ivey Foster, Robert Hailey, Robert Hannah, Clyde "Abe" Kelley, Willis Murray, James "Jimmie" Walker and William Winchester died that day, and their loss struck Baylor like nothing had before.

In the interim since that day more than 80 years ago, we've celebrated their memory and the meaning the Immortal Ten added to the Baylor spirit in any number of ways; through the years, Baylor has seen reenactments, memorializations and, finally, the tradition now known as Mass Meeting, which explains to freshmen the meaning of the eternal flame.

The guarding of that flame has been a bonding experience for freshmen — it's brought them together and into the Baylor community in a unique way. But sadly, the changing culture on campus could change that soon.

Wednesday night, after one student was injured near Fountain Mall, the tradition went by

point of view  
BY JON SCHROEDER

the wayside. By next fall, a new wave of opposition to the tradition will likely snuff out the flame for the last time.

And from what sector will the attack on tradition come?

Baylor Risk Management, a longtime campus department, started flexing its muscles in 2004. I was the Baylor Chamber of Commerce's bonfire chairman that year, and I listened in incredulity at a planning meeting to discuss, among other things, the size of the bonfire.

Risk Management representatives called into question the safety of leaving the shades open on the side of the Rena Marrs McLean Gymnasium, wondering aloud if papers inside would "spontaneously combust" when the fire was lit.

A ridiculous claim, but one that marks a transition between Risk Management's care for Baylor students to its active role in dismantling Baylor's traditions one by one.

On Friday of homecoming

that year, I was forced by Risk Management to unbuild part of the class of 2008's bonfire.

The first steps to removing the bonfire from campus were taken, and on Friday it threatened to cancel bonfire altogether. Because of the rain that year (and a lack of nerve on their part), the tradition continued.

Due to the same people obsessing over largely imaginary student and property risks, the bonfire was moved from Fountain Mall to the Ferrell Center parking lot in 2005. Risk Management's worry that year was that the parking lot would melt.

Of course, the parking lot didn't melt, and so Risk Management found a new fight. Partially because of the newfound risk of students falling on concrete during the guarding of the flame, it was ultimately moved back again this fall.

Two years ago, when I chaired Baylor's homecoming parade committee, Risk Management started taking a more active role there as well, approving (or disapproving) float ideas, inspecting student groups' float building sites, etc.

One question it put serious time into asking that year was whether candy thrown from cars would put out people's eyes. I can only imagine what Risk



Stephanie Jeter/Lariat staff

After a student was injured during an altercation Wednesday night at the guarding of the Eternal Flame, Baylor Chamber of Commerce in association with Baylor Risk Management sent students home early.

Management is doing now, but I don't have to imagine that it has stepped beyond its bounds.

It is sapping the life from Baylor traditions.

This is not the administration's fault. It's not Chamber's fault — the "keepers of the Baylor spirit" haven't stopped trying. For closing down the event Wednesday, it's not really even the fault of Baylor DPS.

It's the environment of paranoia — Risk Management's very own tradition — that the department has brought to Baylor in recent years.

While Risk Management has no direct role in bringing Wednesday's guarding of the flame to an early close, it had already won a minor victory in forcing the tradition stopped at 2 a.m., ostensibly for safety.

Why Baylor students are safer at 1:59 than they are at 2:01 I leave to their wild, horrifying imaginations — I simply don't know.

And as this train of thought continues down the years, make no mistake: every bit as unstoppable as a Sunshine Special, it's going to smash our traditions to bits, leaving us to mourn their loss.

The eternal flame may continue this year, maybe not. But four years ago we wouldn't have even thought of taking it down. Last year, after a slightly more serious incident, the tradition went on. Without alumni becoming involved, it will eventually be lost.

So what's homecoming without the traditions that make it?

During Mass Meeting on Wednesday, beloved track coach Clyde Hart said it's the students. "You are Baylor tradition," he extolled freshmen as they prepared to guard the flame.

But only hours later, the flame put out, no freshman in sight and the tradition clenching weakly to an uncertain future, I can only wonder: Where has all the tradition gone?

Jon Schroeder is a journalism and philosophy alum of 2007. He also served in Chamber in the Spring of 2004.

The Baylor Lariat

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HARD

# 10

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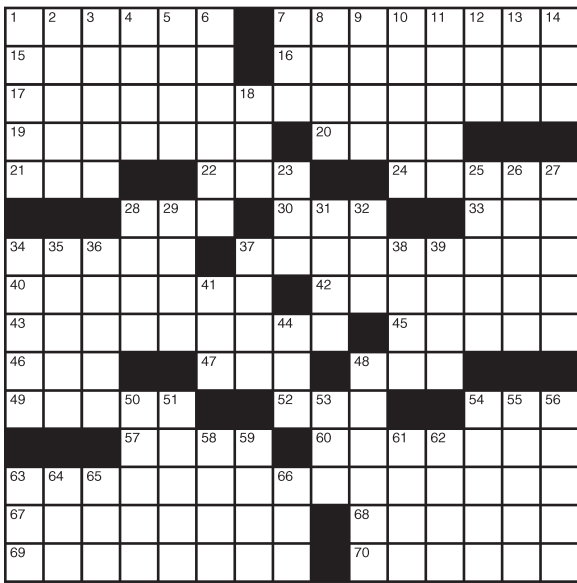
THE Daily Crossword

Edited by Wayne Robert Williams

- ACROSS**
- 1 Centers of action
  - 7 Egg-laying mammal
  - 15 Old Testament prophet
  - 16 Produce anew
  - 17 Glad-handing politician's road sign?
  - 19 Mosaic tile
  - 20 Fender impression
  - 21 Pig's digs
  - 22 Shell-game item
  - 24 Mud smears
  - 28 Pharm. watchdog
  - 30 Actress Lupino
  - 33 Victoria's Secret purchase
  - 34 Of the moon
  - 37 Dieter's road sign?
  - 40 Extol
  - 43 Shopaholic's road sign?
  - 45 Motel listings
  - 46 Facial twitch
  - 47 Gobbled up
  - 48 Afghan money
  - 49 Oozes
  - 52 Mai \_\_\_ cocktail
  - 54 Depression Era agcy.
  - 57 Art print: abbr.
  - 60 Increase in strength,

- as wind
- 63 Out-of-sorts patron's road sign?
  - 67 Add breath to pronunciation
  - 68 Browbeat
  - 69 Spruced up
  - 70 One who wails
- DOWN**
- 1 Wet sprays
  - 2 Dot on a map
  - 3 Dagwood's dog
  - 4 Uses a straw
  - 5 Racetrack ribbon
  - 6 Everest guide
  - 7 Be a buttinsky
  - 8 Obscene
  - 9 Painful throb
  - 10 Prevailing force
  - 11 Busybody
  - 12 Actress Dawber
  - 13 Shoshone
  - 14 In position
  - 18 \_\_\_ Dawn Chong
  - 23 Broadcast
  - 25 Ger. submarine
  - 26 Beast
  - 27 Fills to capacity
  - 28 Karma
  - 29 Tap problem

- 31 Clock face
- 32 Append
- 34 Itemizations
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- 36 Dorothy, to Em
- 37 Dart about
- 38 Wise mentor
- 39 Israeli airline
- 41 Arab garment
- 44 Permit to
- 48 Robbery on the high seas
- 50 \_\_\_ fours
- 51 Saw wood?
- 53 Lackland or Eglin, e.g.
- 54 Spin around
- 55 Old pieces of pounds
- 56 Wrath
- 58 Crimebuster
- 59 Nerve network
- 61 End of a switch?
- 62 Give a bias to
- 63 Is able to
- 64 Bring into play
- 65 Rejuvenation center
- 66 Scarlet or crimson



By Robert A. Doll  
Hattiesburg, MS

11/2/07

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

# Helping U Find That Place Called Home.

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FAIRMONT  
APARTMENTS

Lamestown

BENCHMARK

# Alumni Association gives warm welcome to returning Bears

By Jessica Reynolds  
Reporter

Freshman Mass Meeting, Pigskin Revue and tailgating are homecoming traditions enjoyed by students until they graduate. However, in the years after, graduates can come back to Baylor and enjoy similar events hosted by the Baylor Alumni Association.

“My favorite part of homecoming is watching alumni as they come back. The campus may have changed, but the Baylor spirit hasn’t,” said Judy Prather, communications coordinator for the alumni association. “Our job is to help alumni reconnect and remember.”

The association kicks off homecoming weekend by hosting its annual meeting for alumni. The meeting begins at 3 p.m. today in the Jones Theater of the Hooper-Schaefer Fine Arts Center. During the meeting, Jeff Kilgore, executive vice president of the alumni association, will give a report about the state of the association. Then, President John Lilley recognize the W.R. White Meritorious Service Award recipients.

This award is given to Baylor alumni who have demonstrated outstanding service to the university. This year’s recipients are Ray Burchette, D. Diane Dillard, Joyce Hornaday Packard and Rufus B. Spain.

After the presentation of awards, the alumni board officers and representatives will be elected. Finally, Lilley will participate in a question-and-answer session with members of the audience. Prather said the meeting usually has a decent turnout, with approximately 200 to 300 alumni in attendance.

“It’s a good representation of our alumni,” Prather said.

After the meeting, the reunion dinners will begin. Last spring, the class of 1957 was initiated into the Heritage Club, which honors graduates who attended Baylor 50 years ago.

Their dinner will be at 5 p.m. in Barfield Drawing Room if the Bill Daniel Student Center. Members of the classes five years prior to ’57 will eat at 5 p.m. in Harrington House. The 25-year reunion dinner for the class of 1982 will begin at 6 p.m. in the Lt. Jack Whetsel Practice Facility at the Ferrell Center.

The late Roger Edens, who served as chairman of homecoming activities for the alumni association, is credited with beginning Cabaret in 1960. Cabaret, a variety show, offers additional entertainment and ends tomorrow’s festivities.

“Cabaret provides an alternative to Pigskin in a more intimate venue,” Prather said.

Since then, ShowTime! has become involved in Cabaret. ShowTime! is a show-choir of select Baylor students who perform Broadway-type sing and dance acts. It has become the main act of Cabaret in the past 15 to 20 years.

“It’s only an hour show, but there’s a lot going on,” said Dr. Leta Horan, associate professor of piano and director of Show-Time! “It’s a lot more casual and intimate atmosphere than something large like Pigskin.”

Between the parade and game on Saturday, the alumni association hosts reunion picnics. This year, Prather said she expects to have the biggest turnout she can remember, with 1,300 alumni expected to attend. Reunion tents will be set up in Touchdown Alley for alumni to gather. The barbecue will be from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Saturday. Prather said the reunion picnics and dinners are some of her favorite homecoming traditions.

“We work hard to help the weekend happen, but the whole point of homecoming is for alumni to come home,” Prather said. “That’s been the main purpose since the first homecoming in 1909.”

To finish off homecoming weekend, the association will host a worship service Sunday morning. This year’s service will be different than the year before. It will be a more traditional worship experience for the Baylor family, Prather said.

The service will begin at 9 a.m. in the Powell Chapel of George W. Truett Theological Seminary. Leaders of the service are typically alumni, and this year, Dr. Dan Bagby, the permanent class president of 1962 and former pastor of Seventh and James Baptist Church, will deliver the message. Prather said the homecoming is “a feel-good time when alumni come back and remember what Baylor means to them.”

“The Baylor Alumni Association’s job is to remind alumni of what happened here that changed them,” Prather said.



Abbie Rosen/Lariat staff

## Float to take flight

Dallas freshman Tim Simmons and Houston freshman Will Linthicum work Thursday on the Baylor Aviation homecoming float at a hangar at Texas State Technical College.

# Student Senate approves funding for two concerts, revisits Encore approval

By Sommer Ingram  
Staff writer

Student Senate allocated \$15,785 to Kappa Omega Tau for its Christmas Tree Lighting and Concert featuring musical performances by Chris Rice and Clay Walker.

The event will be held during Christmas on Fifth Street on the night of Nov. 29.

“I think the KOT Christmas Tree Lighting is an event that really helps to pull the campus together around the holidays,” said Dallas junior Parker Short. “The tree combined with the concert help to get students in the Christmas spirit.”

Student government voted unanimously to fund the Second Annual Omega Kids Benefit Concert. Omega Kids is a nonprofit student-run organization developed in response to a University Missions-sponsored trip to Nairobi, Kenya. The funds from this event will go toward building a rehabilitation center in Nairobi.

“The Omega Kids concert was a huge success last year and this year is bringing

in even bigger names,” Short said. “The fact that they have come to us so far in advance shows that the event will definitely be a quality one.”

The senate allocated \$7,500 to the group for the purpose of bringing Matt Wertz in for the concert. Last year, the concert raised approximately \$11,000 in ticket revenue and \$2,000 in merchandise. For this year’s concert, Omega Kids expects an approximate attendance of 2,000. Tickets will be \$12 in advance and \$15 at the door. The event will be in Waco Hall on Jan. 25.

A bill that Senate voted to pass last Thursday concerning Sigma Phi Lambda’s Encore concert after Steppin’ Out was sent back to Senate with recommendations for improvement.

The bill was not vetoed, but adjustments were made in order to ensure that the means by which student government allocated the group its requested funds was completely legal, said Thomas Herndon, a Kansas City senior.

The revamped bill was tabled until next week because of concern about the wording.

## BEAR BRIEFS

**Delta Sigma Theta’s Rho Eta** chapter will host a step show at 8 p.m. Saturday in the Waco Hippodrome. Tickets are \$15 pre-sale and \$20 at the door. Tickets are available at the Baylor Ticket Office and Marilyn’s Gift Shop on Elm Street. For information, contact Kari\_Houston@baylor.edu.

**The City of Waco Parks and Recreation** will present “Ride Cameron Park: Women’s Mountain Bike Clinic” Saturday and Sunday. The clinic includes group led rides in Cameron Park, demo bikes, professional instructors, camping, yoga and nutritional information. Women of all ages and abilities are welcome to attend. Call 750-8057 for more information.

**A free concert** will take place following Steppin’ Out from 7 to 10 p.m. Nov. 10 at the Burleson Quadrangle. The concert features Plumblaine, Opened by Air, Five and Baylor’s own Kristen Warren.

### CONTACT US

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Don't miss

Pigskin

2007

Nov. 1 7:00pm  
Nov. 2 6:30pm & 10:30pm  
Nov. 3 7:00pm

Waco Hall

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Alpha Tau Omega  
Chi Omega-  
Phi Gamma Delta  
Phi Kappa Chi  
Sing Alliance

Featuring:

Delta Delta Delta (1st)  
Kappa Sigma (1st)  
Kappa Kappa Gamma (3rd)

Alpha Tau Omega  
Chi Omega-  
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# Ring symbols tell tale of BU history

By Jessica Reynolds  
Reporter

Baylor's 162-year history is now covered in gold, set in stone and can be purchased and worn.

The Official Baylor Ring, designed by Balfour in 1995, depicts 13 symbols representing Baylor and can be purchased by students who have completed 75 credit hours and have junior status.

"Graduating from college is a pretty big deal," Houston senior Lindsey Kennedy said. "I didn't get a ring when I graduated from high school, and this one is more important."

Students purchase the ring online, through Balfour or during Ring Week, which was held the first week of October. The purchased rings are then shipped to Baylor and students will receive them at the Ring Ceremony Nov. 27.

During the Ring Ceremony students are presented with their rings by President John Lilley. However, before they are allowed to put the rings on, 1983 graduate Vince Clark shares the meaning behind the symbols.

"I'm honored whenever they ask (me) to be able to introduce Baylor history and Baylor character to members of the Baylor family," Clark said. "It's a great honor."

Clark was given the opportunity to share the history behind the ring when history professor emeritus Robert Reid passed on the tradition.

"Vince does a great job about the symbols on the ring," said Leslie Coltrain, Baylor Alumni Association Coordinator of Lifelong Learning. "I've been to several presentations now, and every one I go to I'm just like, 'OK, you can't miss this part.'"

The symbols date back to the beginning of Baylor. Established in Independence, Baylor was built on two hills. In 1857 a building was built upon one of those hills, Academy Hill. In the 1870s, when Baylor faced depression, the campus decided to relocate to Waco. The only things remaining in Independence were four columns from a campus building, which can also be found on the class ring.

In 1914, more than 40 years after Baylor relocated, the student body decided to vote on a mascot. The bear, which won out over the buffalo, beaver and ferret, is also on the ring. The year 1927 brought a new tradition and a tragedy that are both represented on the ring. The senior class met with the juniors on Burleson Quadrangle and handed down a vine of ivy, which symbolizes the passing on of spirit and wisdom. The ivy branch on the ring represents this tradition, known as Ring Out.

In the same year, as the basketball team traveled to Austin on Jan. 22, the team's bus stalled on a railroad track in Round Rock. A train collided with the bus, killing 10 students. A railroad spike can be found on the ring.



Abbie Rosen/Lariat staff

Students order Baylor Rings from a Balfour representative during Ring Week, held the first week of October.

A few years later, World War II began and Baylor students left Waco to fight. Today, fallen soldiers' names are written on shields placed on memorial lampposts. The lampposts are also found on the Baylor ring.

The Quadrangle Bell, Old Main, the statue of Judge R.E.B. Baylor, Pat Neff Hall and the Texas and Christian flags are the remaining seven symbols found on the ring.

"(Picking you favorite symbol) is like picking you favorite ice cream flavor," Clark said. "It's just really hard to do."

The 13th symbol is the seal found at the top of the ring with Baylor's motto, "Pro Ecclesia, Pro Texana," meaning for church and for state.

"I love the seal part of the ring," Coltrain said. "That would be my favorite part."

After the speech, students are allowed to put on the rings. They wear the rings so that they can read the school's name. However, at Commencement, graduates turn the ring around, with the name of the school facing out. This symbolizes the fact that the graduate is prepared to face the world.

"The ring itself is just a piece of jewelry," Clark said. "But the symbols and emblems upon it are deeply meaningful to Baylor people because they not only touch on our long history but they also are about Baylor's character."

In order to participate in the ring ceremony, student must purchase a ring before Ring Week ends. Ring Week and the ring ceremony occur once a semester.

"I feel like this (ring) is my reward to myself," Houston senior Natasha Legette said. "I know I'm going to walk, so it's like 'Phew! This is it.'"

Qualifying students are notified that they are eligible for purchasing a ring before Ring Week. During Ring Week, Balfour is

located in the Bill Daniel Student Center, where students can be fitted and can put a down payment on their ring. They do not have to pay for it in full because Balfour has a six-month interest-free payment plan, Coltrain said.

"It's another one of those tradition things," Coltrain said. "You get 75 hours and, 'Hey! I can order my ring.'"

Although students cannot purchase the ring until they achieve junior status, they can start saving for their rings early. This year introduced the new Ring Savings program.

Freshmen can start putting aside \$75 toward their ring per semester. Students can opt out at any time, but participation allows them to pay for the majority of the ring so it's not "all out of pocket," Coltrain said. This year 75 percent of the freshman class is participating in the Ring Savings Program.

"We want to make it as easy and affordable as possible for everyone who wants a ring to be able to get one when they're eligible," Coltrain said. "And the ring savings program is just a way to do that."

Baylor alumni can also purchase a ring if they chose not to while they were in school. Coltrain said students often think they don't want a ring or can't afford it at a time, but after they graduate they decide they actually do want a ring.

"We just want to present the opportunity and let alumni know that, 'Hey, if you didn't get a ring when you wanted one, you can still order one,'" Coltrain said.

Information about the official class ring can be found by contacting Leslie Coltrain at Leslie.Coltrain@baylor.edu or at www.balfour.com.

"It's a symbol, and it ties you (to Baylor) forever," Coltrain said.

## Police Blotter

A minor consuming arrest occurred at 3:08 a.m. Saturday at the 1300 block of South Eighth Street.

Six minor consuming arrests occurred at 1:46 a.m. Sunday at 2007 S. 15th St.

A driving while intoxicated arrest occurred at 1:33 a.m. Oct. 26. at the 1100th block of University Parks Drive.

A driving while intoxicated arrest occurred at 11:24 p.m. Oct. 26 at the intersection of South Ninth Street and James Avenue.

A driving while intoxicated arrest occurred at 2:03 a.m. Saturday at the intersection of Third Street and South Dutton Avenue.

A public intoxication arrest occurred at 2:03 a.m. Saturday at the intersection of Third Street and South Dutton Avenue.

A public intoxication arrest occurred at 3:34 a.m. Sunday at South Fifth Street and Dutton Avenue.

An accident with failure to stop occurred between at 8:30 p.m.

and 11:30 p.m. Oct. 26 at the northwest corner of Speight Avenue and Eighth Street.

An accident with failure to stop occurred between 8 a.m. and 5:40 p.m. Monday at the Speight Plaza Parking Garage.

An accident with failure to stop occurred between 11 p.m. and 2 p.m. Wednesday at the Dutton Avenue Parking Facility.

A narcotics possession arrest occurred at 1:46 a.m. Sunday at 2007 S. 15th St.

Theft of a bicycle occurred between 8 a.m. Oct. 26th and 10 a.m. Monday at the Carroll Science Building bike rack.

Theft of a bicycle occurred between 1:50 p.m. and 2 p.m. Monday between Dutton Avenue and M.P. Daniel Street.

Theft of over \$50 and under \$500 occurred between 2:30 p.m. and 4:45 p.m. Tuesday at 1311 S. 5th St.

Information compiled from the Baylor Police Department crime log.

# Bush battles for Mukasey nomination

By Laurie Kellman  
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — President Bush sought to save Michael Mukasey's troubled nomination for attorney general Thursday, defending the retired judge's refusal to say whether he considers waterboarding torture and warning of a leaderless Justice Department if Democrats don't confirm him.

"If the Senate Judiciary Committee were to block Judge Mukasey on these grounds,

they would set a new standard for confirmation that could not be met by any responsible nominee for attorney general," Bush said in a speech at the Heritage Foundation, a conservative think tank.

"That would guarantee that America would have no attorney general during this time of war," the president said.

Opposition continued to grow. Sen. Edward M. Kennedy, D-Mass., became the fourth of 10 Democrats to declare he will vote against Mukasey.

# Powers, colleagues devoted to campus safety

By Caitlin Forehand  
Reporter

Tim Powers started his career in the corporate world, but his passion has changed to keeping Baylor students safe.

Powers has been the coordinator for safety and citizenship education at Baylor for a little more than a year. Before coming to Baylor, Powers worked at a production facility overseeing safety.

This is where he said his interest in campus safety began. The safety and citizenship education department is in charge of safety on campus. The staff is made up of Powers and several safety and security education officers.

They work closely with risk management, the fire marshal, the Baylor Police Department and judicial affairs to keep campus as safe as possible.

"I am proud of how safe our communities are," Powers said.

One of Power's main jobs is to supervise the safety and security education officers.

"We walk in and around the residential communities from 11 p.m. until 7 a.m.

every night," Safety and Security Education Officer Darlene Cale said.

They talk to students, make sure all of the doors are closed and locked and help students who have been locked out of their residence halls. Officers also contact Baylor police if they see or hear any suspicious activity.

"(The officers) look for anything that could put a student at risk," Powers said.

Students can call their officer if they feel unsafe and have the safety and security education officers walk with them from a parking lot, library or another residence hall.

The phone numbers for the officers can be found on the Baylor Web site.

One safety issue the department has been monitoring since Powers began working at Baylor is lighting audits.

"We look for lights that are burned out

on campus and even offer suggestions as to where more lighting may be needed to increase safety," Cale said.

Recently, Powers said, he organized a week-long initiative that focused on building community and preventing residence hall "tailgating." The Campus Living and Learning Web site says tailgating is "the act of allowing someone you do not know access to our residence halls by holding the door open."

Powers and others in the safety and citizenship education department want to promote community in residence halls. Through this, they wish to make campus a safer place where students feel comfortable and at home.

"It can be scary if you have to walk through campus late at night," Dallas senior Hailey Hamilton said. "It's good to know that there are people out there looking out for us. I know it will definitely make my parents feel better about me living in Waco."

Powers and other Baylor leaders want students to feel safe on campus so that the Baylor community will continue to grow and thrive.



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