

ROUNDING UP CAMPUS NEWS SINCE 1900

THE BAYLOR LARIAT

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 30, 2008

Baptist denominations unite at Covenant

By Shannon Daily
Staff writer

Baptists from all corners of North America will meet from today until Friday to kick off the New Baptist Covenant Celebration at the Georgia World Conference Center in Atlanta.

The event, planned by former President Jimmy Carter and former Baylor President Bill Underwood, will be the first time a Baptist group of this denominational and racial mix will come together.

"The closer it gets, the more cognizant people are of how remarkable a moment this is in American religious history," said Mark Osler, an associate professor at the Baylor Law School.

"Blacks and whites will be worshipping together in equal numbers," Osler said. "It's going to be a lot about racial reconciliation."

Osler, a former federal prosecutor in Detroit, will be speaking on how to approach the criminal justice system from a Christian perspective, a subtopic for one of five areas the covenant will cover.

Two overarching themes of compassion and unity will tie together the five specific topics of discussion: peace with justice, the poor, respecting diversity, welcoming the stranger



Carter

and setting the captive free.

With the way the covenant schedule is set up, people from different denominations will meet and work on these common issues, said Dr. David Gushee, author of *The Future of Faith in American Politics: The Public Witness of the Evangelical Center*.

"Some people are wanting to label this as a political meeting, but it's not," Gushee said. "It's not about electing the next president or about denominational politics. It's about finding a positive vision for Baptists."

Dr. Joel Gregory, a professor of preaching at George W. Truett Theological Seminary, said that another goal of the covenant is to impact American culture in a positive way.

"I think it's timely for Baptists in America to speak with a unified

voice," Gregory said. "It's an opportunity to bring many Baptist bodies together across whatever lines are drawn."

Dr. Jon Singletery, an assistant professor in the School of Social Work, grew up witnessing first-hand the fights within different Baptist groups.

"From my perspective, I grew up Baptist, and for most of my life, conversations I had and experiences I had were about Baptists fighting –



Underwood

Please see BAPTIST, page 5

New Baptist Covenant Celebration

Baylor Lariat Exclusive Coverage



Claire St. Amant
City Editor



Kate Boswell
Opinion Editor

Claire St. Amant and Kate Boswell are attending the New Baptist Covenant Celebration and will be blogging on location in addition to covering the event for the Lariat.

Visit www.baylor.edu/lariat for live blog coverage



Jeff Leslie/Lariat staff

I can tell that we are going to be friends

Katy junior Jeremy Miller and Austin junior Adriel Miditz meet up at the Inter Fraternity Council barbecue Tuesday at Fountain Mall. Fraternities invited men interested in joining to the event to get familiar with members and enjoy food and fun.

Man charged with Brooks trespassing

By Christina Kruse
Staff writer

An employee of a construction company contracted with Baylor was charged Tuesday morning with Criminal Trespassing of a habitation, a Class A Misdemeanor. The employee was thought to have rearranged items in women's dorm rooms in Brooks College over Christmas break.

Billy Riordan, 25, surrendered by walking into Baylor Police Department Tuesday morning, Baylor Police Chief Jim Doak said.

Bond is expected to be posted this morning. Riordan faces up to a year in prison and up to \$4,000 in fines if convicted.

Between Jan. 2 and Jan. 4, at least 12 rooms in Brooks College were accessed, said Doak. Riordan was authorized to install insulation in certain Brooks College dorm rooms during that time

period.

Upon returning from Christmas break, several women found their dorm rooms rearranged. However, nothing was stolen.

"There were some items of clothing that were put in the microwave or put in the freezer," Doak said.

Riordan was issued a card by Baylor Management Facility, like the ones students use to enter their rooms in order to access the authorized rooms, Terri Garrett, director of Campus Living and Learning said.

Riordan gave no explanation when surrendering, Doak said.

"To his credit, he did acknowledge that his behavior was wrong," Doak said.

Students that live in the dorms that were rearranged acted in a positive manner.

"The students were amazing," said Garrett. "They were understanding and patient."

Initiative to 'focus' students on global warming

By Charly Edsitty
Reporter

Baylor will join more than 1,000 college campuses, high schools, churches and businesses Thursday in an effort to bring global warming awareness to the nation.

Focus the Nation is an educational initiative that is working to provide young people with focused discussion about global warming.

Baylor will be participating in a "national teach-in" event, a day when an entire campuses across the nation simultaneously turn their attention toward a single issue and engage in

focused discussion about solutions.

The event will take place at 4 p.m. Thursday in B110 Baylor Sciences Building and is a collaborative effort amongst the University Sustainability Committee, Information Technology Services, Baylor Libraries, Baylor reNew, Clif Bar & Company and the Environmental Concern Organization.

The Focus the Nation Web site states that "we stand at a critical moment in human history" and that decisions the nation makes, or fails to make, over the next few years will have "far-reaching and irreversible impacts on the lives of today's students and the lives of their

children."

Dr. Larry Lehr, professor in the environmental studies department, Dr. Ian Gravagne, professor of engineering, and Robert Darden, professor of journalism, will lecture about global warming and how it relates to their respective disciplines.

Lehr is a member of the University Sustainability Committee formed last fall to promote environmental issues on campus, and he said he hopes students learn from the event.

"Our standard of living and quality of life don't have to be affected by sustainable use of resources," Lehr said. "It is possible to live a sustainable

lifestyle without reducing the standard of living and quality of life."

Lehr said student interest is important in an event like this because global warming could impact a number of ecosystems that are essential for productivity and the well-being of the planet.

"It all begins with student involvement and awareness," he said.

Gravagne will be discussing new and upcoming energy system technologies as well as the limitations of technology to solve global warming issues.

"This event will help to raise the level of consciousness on campus not just about global

warming, but about environmental concerns," Gravagne said in an e-mail interview with *The Baylor Lariat*.

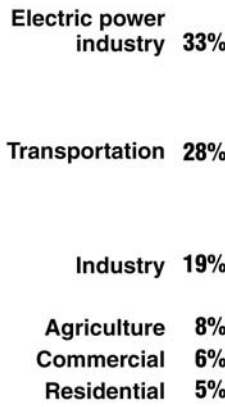
Gravagne said Baylor is doing many things to become environmentally friendly, such as signing a new long-term electricity contract that will help finance construction of wind power plants.

"If humanity takes some action, it may help. But even if it doesn't, we'll still have cleaner air and water, more renewable or alternative energy and more sustainable economies," Gravagne said. "These good things will come at a price, but doing

Please see FOCUS, page 5

Greenhouse gas emissions

Major U.S. sources, 2005:



NOTE: Total not 100% due to rounding
Source: U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Graphic: Judy Treible
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Rebates may aid economy, if students spend, economics professor says

By Anita Pere
Staff writer

The U.S. House of Representatives passed the Economic Stimulus Plan Tuesday, a scheme that, if approved by the Senate and the President, could put more money directly in the pockets of working college students.

The package, totaling \$146 billion, would allow middle and low-income families, as well as middle and low-income single

people such as college students to receive higher tax rebates. Ideally, these rebates would be pumped back into the economy and resolve any woes about the uncertainty of the U.S. economy.

The allotment means single people will receive up to \$600 in tax returns if they earned

The economy could affect professor retirement funds. See story, page 5.

less than \$75,000 in 2007. Single people must have earned at least \$3,000 to collect the extra rebate.

Couples will receive up to \$1,200 in tax returns if they jointly earned less than \$150,000 in 2007. Couples would also benefit from an additional \$300 per child.

President Bush has fervently backed such efforts; his administration worked with Congressional leaders to formulate the plan. In his final State of the

Union Address given Monday, Bush recommended the senate make permanent the tax cuts of 2001 and 2003, adding that if a bill proposing a tax increase reaches his desk he will veto it.

The president would approve the bill after it passes in the Senate. The Senate has indicated that they would make some revisions to the plan, said Joshua Taylor, communications director of Rep. Chet Edwards.

Edwards, who represents the 17th Congressional District of

Texas, voted for the measure, which passed by a vote of 385-35.

"If acted on quickly, this stimulus package could increase national economic growth by 1 percent, which may not seem like much, but actually represents 25 percent to 35 percent of the annual growth needed to maintain a strong economy, low unemployment, and make a positive difference in the lives of working families," Edwards said Tuesday in a release.

But the economy would see no benefit if Americans save the funds or use them to pay off debt.

"(The stimulus package) can help the economy, but it depends on what people do with their tax cuts," Dr. Kent Gilbreath, professor of economics, said.

He pointed out that students must have earned at least \$3,000 last year to reap the benefits and must file taxes independent of

Please see TAX, page 5

Integration of races should begin in worship places

A few years ago I went to a family friend's church to hear his quartet sing.

The sermon was great, the singing was great, everything was, well, great.

Then as the service came to a close and the pastor made his announcements, he said, "Well it looks like we have some visitors today!" Everyone immediately turned around to greet my family.

I'd love to say the community in the church was close-knit enough for everyone to know exactly who the visitors were, but sadly that was not the case.

Why did everyone know we were visiting? We were the only

white family there.

I once heard a pastor say the Sunday morning hours are the most segregated hours of the week.

Chances are if you're white, black, Hispanic or any other race, the majority of your church looks just like you.

For most people, this isn't much of a problem. I, however, feel otherwise.

Throughout my 21 years of life, three things have played major roles in shaping my morals and beliefs — my family, my friends and my church.

As an Air Force brat I moved around quite a bit, and I don't remember seeing anyone of

point of view



BY SHANNON DAILY

another race in any church I attended until I moved to Houston and my family started going to a church with a black pastor.

He only lasted about a year before leaving of his own accord. He was then replaced with an older white man.

So I basically grew up with the most influential people in

my life being the same race as I am. I find it incredibly strange that a nation so determined to achieve complete racial integration would stand by and watch segregation of this magnitude take place.

It's acceptable in our society to call a church "African-American" or "Taiwanese" or whatever other label you could think of.

This segregation is not government-issued, because of the separation of church and state, but rather it comes from within the American people.

I understand people being part of different religions and denominations, and therefore not attending the same church,

but having two churches of a particular denomination right down the street from one another, the only difference being the race of the people in the congregation, seems ridiculous.

Obviously I wasn't alive to witness the social change civil rights activists of the '60s were working to set in motion, but I have a feeling they were aiming higher than just taking the white and colored signs off the bathrooms or letting Rosa Parks sit where she wanted on the bus.

It's my belief they wanted more than just surface equality.

I believe they were working to change people's perceptions, to make people less afraid of

what's different, and to teach people to be more willing to accept people who aren't exactly like them.

I also believe that tackling a massive social change such as complete integration should start within individuals.

Sharing a church is sharing your own sacred space — your time with your God.

I don't think anyone's ever going to be able to say they've broken down their walls until they're able to share that space and that time.

Shannon Daily is a senior journalism and Spanish major from Houston and a staff writer for The Baylor Lariat.

Editorial

Baptists: Agree to disagree

It's been said there's nothing Baptists do better than bicker. Perhaps it's naive to think the New Baptist Covenant can change that.

After all, creating new distinctions under the Baptist name has become a knee-jerk reaction to disagreements in the world of Baptistdom for generations.

Tonight, Baptists across 40 denominations will come together in Atlanta as one body of believers and attempt to prove the old stereotype wrong.

Naturally the covenant has suffered its own number of disagreements, including accusations of a latent leftist political agenda that led former Arkansas governor Mike Huckabee to withdraw from the event. With former Democratic presidents Jimmy Carter and Bill Clinton and former vice president Al Gore attending, it's sometimes hard to believe the covenant will be all that "diverse."

But whatever its shortcomings, this undeniably represents the largest gathering of Baptists across lines of denomination and race, with one notable absence.

While the Southern Baptist Convention isn't an official sponsor, several individual members of the convention have expressed intent to attend the covenant without the support of their governing body.

Sadly, Southern Baptists as a whole are further today from unity with all Baptists than they ever have been. Even sadder still, they seem to swell with pride at that fact.

After a clean-out of moderates in the '80s, the SBC has recently taken things even further by ending a relationship with the Baptist World Alliance amid



claims of accursed liberalism.

Progress has become a four-letter word in the SBC, with cries of godlessness following shortly behind.

Discussion on the role of women, the rights of immigrants and the care of the environment cause staunch Southern Baptists to flee organizations faster than a keg party.

Clinging to conservative interpretations of Scriptures, Southern Baptists are attempting to turn back the clock while the rest of the fragmented denomination takes steps toward the future.

Theological differences aside, Baptists as a whole share many core beliefs,

namely Jesus Christ. That alone should engender a spirit of friendship and a commonality of purpose.

Theology has its place. We have the right as autonomous congregations in the priesthood of believers to search the Bible for ourselves. And no, we will not all find the same answer on every question.

We don't have to sacrifice civility in the name of theological diversity. It isn't an either/or equation.

As the apostle Paul said in the eighth chapter of Romans, "Neither height nor

depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord."

While the theological conceits of Baptists may run the gamut, surely the love of Christ outweighs them.

Coming together wouldn't diminish our individual freedoms as self-governing congregations.

Can we not, as believers of the same God, come together in one place to work against poverty, injustice and oppression? Is any disagreement polarizing enough to trump the love of Christ?

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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.

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Advantages of small town living slowly fading into sunset

A few weekends ago I fulfilled one of my life dreams: I lived like a small-town kid. My life became just as stereotypical as I had hoped, and I loved every minute of it.

I am bitterly disappointed I am not from a small town. Instead, I was born and raised in the essence of suburbia: Katy, right outside of Houston.

I am sure many Baylor students are familiar with the suburban lifestyle and its lack of diversity and emphasis on conformity.

I understand that it would have been impossible to have been raised in a small town, but I finally realized what I'd been missing.

After five hours of driving, my roommates Kelsey and Lindsey

and I reached Kelsey's hometown of Quanah, population 3,022. Her entire town is smaller than my high school.

Quanah's care and affection for strangers was surprising and touching. At church Sunday, before he began, the lay reader had Kelsey introduce Lindsey and me to the congregation.

Also, the "stand and greet your neighbor" part of church took longer than normal. This could be because much of the congregation, consisting of about 40 people, actually left their pews and crossed aisles to mingle with everyone.

As I ate lunch after church (fried chicken, of course), I remembered that before my Quanah experience I often wondered what people talked about in a

point of view



BY ALEX ABDALLAH

small-town. Somehow, I had it in my head that because there is not a lot to do, people would run out of things to say.

I recently saw a CBS News Sunday morning show about the dying of kind of conversation. People do not know how to simply sit around and make small talk anymore and require distractions or forms of entertainment.

Perhaps small town America is holding out. This is how it works. Everyone knows everyone

in Quanah, and most families have been in Quanah for several generations. That common ground provides endless conversations about old times and gossiping.

I had a lot of time to think about this because I gave up trying to comprehend the dozens of generations of families and names that were rattled off while stories were told.

When I expressed my frustrations to my mother, she said, with a hint of sarcasm, that I should move to a small town after college.

Unfortunately Quanah is dying. Most of the buildings are empty. Downtown has definitely seen its better days, thanks to corporations such as Wal-Mart; people are willing to drive out

of town for a better deal. Not to mention one of the town's biggest fears: that a highway overpass will be built through Quanah, and it will simply be forgotten.

This is the plight of small towns across America. Ask your parents — they probably will recollect the excitement and hustle and bustle of their hometown and lament its decline.

After such a fulfilling weekend, it depresses me that small towns are on the verge of extinction. That sense of community, which teaches people to care about each other, will be lost.

In this world of artificial means of communication, with actual human contact lessening every day, people need the support system and accountability

of a small town. I hope the cycle of small towns will come back. It is a possibility we all should think about.

Yes, the cost of commuting and general living would be more expensive, but there are so many advantages.

Our children could grow up in a community where every member keeps an eye out for them. Small schools offer more personal attention and would give children the chance to shine and participate in every activity, regardless of whether they are 5-A material or not.

I am not saying that rural life is a perfect world, but it would be less robotic and more heart-felt.

Alex Abdallah is a sophomore journalism major from Katy.

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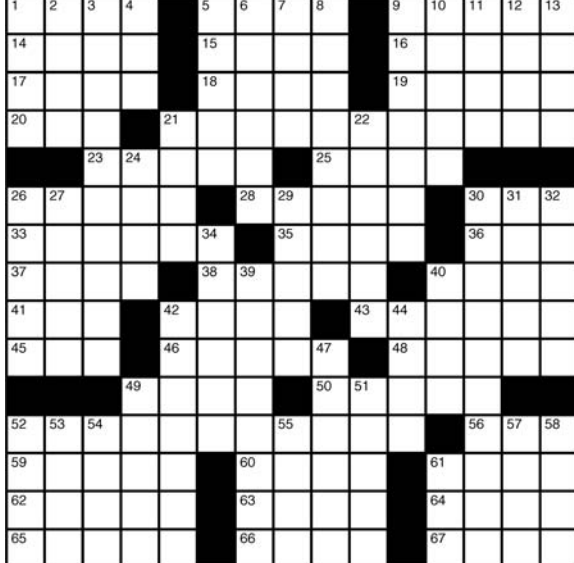
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5 Spurious imitation
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21 Place for bandleader Les?
23 Man the helm
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33 Grieves
35 Martial
36 Corrida chant
37 Cross letters
38 Anabaptist sect
40 Havana's place
41 Relay race segment
42 Rug type
43 ERA word
45 Numerical ending

46 Louise and Turner
48 Money earned
49 1944 physics Nobel
50 Verses
52 Place for singer Anita?
56 Mahal
59 Negotiator
60 Israel's airline
61 Threaten to cause yawns?
62 Photo finish
63 Japanese deer
64 Nocturnal birds
65 Daisy relative
66 Polanski film
67 Shoelace tie

DOWN

1 At great distance
2 Actress Turner
3 Place for actor Brad?
4 Valuable vein
5 Singer Dinah
6 Pays tribute to
7 From scratch
8 Snakes
9 Cat or Ray
10 Dutch flower
11 Indigo plant

12 Genuine
13 Sea eagle
21 Swiss capital
22 Be in turmoil
24 Actress Garr
26 Writer Zola
27 "Rouen Cathedral" painter
29 Subarctic forest
30 Place for pitcher Cy?
31 "Seascape" playwright
32 Alcoholic honey beverages
34 Indian colonialists
39 Apparent
40 Study intensively
42 Beginner
44 Dumbfounded
47 Gives one's address?
49 French income
51 Earthenware crocks
52 Crimson Tide, to fans
53 Turkish titles
54 Etta of the comics
55 Nastase of tennis
57 Singer Guthrie
58 Witticism
61 choy (Chinese vegetable)



By Philip J. Anderson
Portland, OR

1/30/08

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

Suspect charged with robbery in George's case

Christina Kruse
Staff writer

Jonathan Ochoa, 18, was charged Thursday with aggravated robbery in connection with a recent holdup of five Baylor students outside George's Restaurant.

Two men reputedly stole more than \$350 January 18 in a parking lot across from the restaurant. One man was armed and fired a shot while demanding money from one group of students. Then, the man fired another shot, which ricocheted off a nearby truck. The man then demanded money from another group of students inside a vehicle.

An eyewitness description and license plate identification of the getaway vehicle led to the charges, according to Waco Police Department spokesman Steve Anderson.

Ochoa was already being held in McLennan County Jail

on unrelated charges at the time the warrant for his arrest was issued Thursday, Anderson said.

Ochoa was booked in McLennan County Jail on January 20 on charges of evasion of arrest, possession of a weapon in a prohibited place, harassment by phone and possession of marijuana, according to McLennan County Jail records.

Ochoa is being held in lieu of \$29,000 bail. A court date has not been set.

If convicted of aggravated robbery, Ochoa could face up to 99 years in prison as well as a \$10,000 fine, Anderson said.

"I am very happy that the Waco Police Department and the detectives apprehended the situation in a timely manner," George's Restaurant owner Sammy Citrano said.

For the convenience and safety of customers and employees, a parking lot closer to the restaurant is under construction.

Structures were recently razed to make room for the parking lot.

Until the completion of the new parking lot, Citrano said that a complimentary shuttle is available for customers.

Prior to the robbery, the shuttle was not available to customers.

"I feel safer going to George's," Plano sophomore Julie Patterson said, who is a frequent customer. "The new precautions that George's has taken will deter criminals from doing anything again."

A news release from the Waco police originally indicated that Ochoa was an escapee from a Texas Youth Commission unit. However, later information from the police indicated that Ochoa failed to report to a parole officer. TYC placed a hold at the McLennan County Jail as a result of Ochoa's failure to report, which means that Ochoa is not able to post bail.



Luis Noble/Lariat staff

Mayor Virginia DuPuy attends the meeting of the Waco Transportation Policy Board Tuesday. The board voted to improve I-35.

I-35 options left open

By Victoria Mgbemena
Staff writer

The Waco Transportation Policy Board convened Tuesday to vote in favor of keeping the proposal for implementing toll lanes on Interstate-35. The vote came in light of several appeals by Waco residents to keep all options open.

"We were very grateful for the people who came out today," Waco Mayor Virginia DuPuy said. "An educated and well-informed citizenry makes all the difference in the development of a community."

Board members approved the amendment to the proposal documents by a vote of 11-3, which put infrastructure maintenance and improvement at the forefront.

The plan calls for the widening of I-35 from six to eight lanes between Elm Mott and South Loop 340.

In order to realize this goal, the city would have to find a method to raise the portion of money that would not be provided federally.

The Texas Department of Transportation is currently working with the Metropolitan Planning Organization to generate plans for financing.

"With the approval to keep toll lanes on the plan, within the next couple of years the feasibility will be evaluated, and we will examine the funds needed

and whether this will be viable in the long run," MPO director Chris Evilia said. "TxDOT could potentially provide 60 percent of the needed funding, and the revenue from the toll roads could go toward the remaining 40 percent."

The decision was made tentatively to appraise the financial requirements of the venture.

The MPO policy board is looking toward proceeding with the current plan and exploring the possibility of restored federal funding in a couple of years as an option.

"The policy board can amend their decision at any time as long as they allow 45 days for public feedback and a public hearing that addresses them again," Evilia said. The vote kept the proposal for toll lanes as an option to generate revenue.

DuPuy believes the input of the people was vital in the board's decision.

"This gives us the option of using toll lanes rather than raising taxes for everyone," DuPuy said. "TxDOT did not anticipate the amount of maintenance needed, and there are a lot of complexities that come with this sort of project. If we plan right now for future transportation needs, we should be able to avoid what is happening in larger cities with population growth. What happens in the heart of Waco is important for the whole metro-area."



Jeff Leslie/Lariat staff

Tennis the Menace

Waco freshman Ty Sprague plays tennis Tuesday afternoon in the tennis courts by Penland.

Internships help graduates land job in midst of recession, professor says

By Courtney Jewett
Reporter

The competition is on for seniors who will graduate into a possible economic recession and declining job market.

Top economists from Merrill Lynch and Goldman Sachs believe a recession has begun, according to CNNMoney.com.

A decline in a country's gross domestic product for two or more successive quarters of a year is known as a recession.

This economic slowdown produces fewer jobs, placing recent hires and new job candidates in a difficult situation compared to veteran workers.

Dr. Kent Gilbreath, professor of economics and Stevens Chairholder of Private Enterprise and Entrepreneurship, said students with internship experience on their resumes are likely to be the preferred appli-

cants to increasingly selective companies.

"Recruiting top quality talent has become increasingly competitive for companies," Gilbreath said. "Students who have held an internship by them are more likely to be recruited by them."

As finding jobs becomes more difficult, Gilbreath said students with real-world internship experience and knowledge will be more likely to get hired.

The Career Services department assists students in finding internships in their career field.

The department will hold six job fairs this spring, compared to the four job fairs offered last spring.

"Sixty percent of hires now are a result of internships," said Dr. John Boyd, Career Services director.

The February HireABear Career Fair will have 37 companies seeking interns. Students

can log into HireABear from the Career Services Web page to register for the event or for on-campus interviews.

HireABear's job search lists 153 internship opportunities in Texas and is updated regularly throughout the year. Career Services also offers resume critiques to help students obtain desired internships.

Cedar Park senior James Nortey interned with the FBI last summer, working in the Office of Law-Enforcement Coordination. He said he values the experience he gained and advised other students to obtain internships while in college.

"Internships are (the company's) way of pre-hiring," Nortey said. "The biggest thing is to start early because some internships are so competitive. And to have a killer resume."

Mesquite junior Jessica Evans was a full-time intern at the White House last semester. She

worked 40 hours a week in the presidential scheduling office.

Evans said the experience opened up new career opportunities.

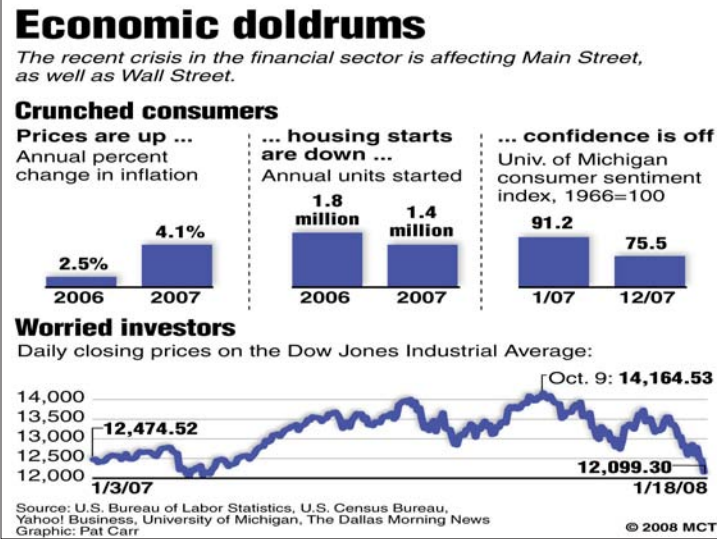
"I'm hoping to work at the Bush Library, and I've made a lot of great contacts. (The internship) got my foot into the door so I can work for him full-time after I graduate," Evans said.

One of the highlights of her White House internship was posing in a picture with President George W. Bush, Vice President Dick Cheney and the other interns, Evans said.

Evans described the internship as being "the best experience I've ever had."

As graduates enter into an economic slowdown, an internship "might be the most valuable thing to have on your resume," said Dr. Blaine McCormick, associate dean of Hankamer School of Business.

McCormick stressed the



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Fund diversity provides less risk for professors

By Victoria Turner
Reporter

In the face of a drop in the stock market, many stockholders can afford to wait out the decline until the stocks recover. But for professors who plan on retiring at the end of the semester, waiting isn't an option.

If professors are expecting to make a withdrawal from their investments and the market drops by 20 percent, then they may have reason to be concerned.

"If you have \$1 million in your retirement account and the stock market dropped 20

percent in the last month, if you sell out then you will have lost \$200,000," said Dr. Franklin Potts, associate professor of finance.

"Most experts tell you that when you get within four to five years of retiring you ought to start moving 10 to 20 percent of your portfolio every year into something more stable, like bonds," Potts said.

By having their retirement money spread among different funds, professors may shelter themselves when the environment of the stock market is unstable.

One of the reasons Baylor's

retiring professors shouldn't be too concerned with the drop in the stock market is the diversity within their funds under their respective vendors, said Dr. Jonathan Hook, chief investment officer for Baylor. The 403B, the retirement plan offered by Baylor, is composed of three main vendors: GuideStone Financial Resources of the Southern Baptist Convention, Vanguard and TIAA-CREF.

"Each one gives the individual a chance to invest their money in various different ways," Hook said. "You can direct percentages of your retirement money toward different funds within

their groups."

This diversification of funds should calm the worries of retiring professors as long as they haven't invested all of their retirement money on one particular fund. It helps protect the individuals from situations such as the present drop in the stock market because even if some of the investments aren't doing well, those that do well "can help buffer that," Hook said.

Dr. Bill Reichenstein, professor of finance and the Pat and Thomas R. Powers chair in investment management, said these vendors provide their customers with "quality informa-

tion and advice," as opposed to someone who is trying to earn commission through the sale of a product.

Both Potts and Hook encouraged individuals not to sell their stocks when the market is down. Potts said whenever the market falls it creates a "knee-jerk reaction" and people sell out of panic.

"As long as you leave it in the market, it can go back up and recover," Potts said.

Once they retire and begin withdrawing money out of their retirement fund, Reichenstein cautions retirees to be sure that the money they have within the

fund won't run out in 30 years.

He said the typical life expectancy of someone who retires at the age of 65 is 20 years, but since they might live longer than they expect, he recommended withdrawing around 4 to 4.5 percent a year.

Concerning retiring professors, Hook said that as long as their retirement plan is diversified within different funds, they should not be too worried. They should keep in mind Potts' recommendation of not selling when the market is at a low point.

"We can't control the market," Reichenstein said.

BAPTIST from page 1

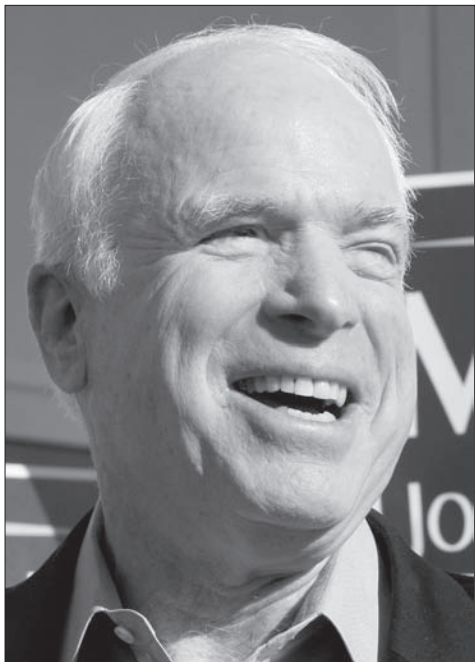
churches splitting was far too common," Singletary said. "This is finally a chance for these denominations to all come together to say that Baptists really can be united in Christ as a community and to work together to address the needs of our world."

Mission Waco founder Dr. Jimmy Dorrell said he looks forward to the impact the covenant will have on the lives of the needy.

"I'm very encouraged that this kind of a discussion is going to take place," Dorrell said. "The kind of denominational infighting that's been going on took away from those matters. I think it's going to bring people together in unity to focus on these bigger things that are a matter of God's concern."

Gushee also said that some time after Easter, President Carter is planning on pulling together leaders from this convention to talk about what step to take next.

McCain, Romney in tight race in Florida



Associated Press

Republican presidential hopeful Sen. John McCain, R-Ariz., smiles while speaking to reporters outside a polling station Tuesday in St. Petersburg, Fla..

By David Espo
The Associated Press

MIAMI — John McCain edged ahead of Mitt Romney in the Florida primary Tuesday night, a battle for the biggest delegate prize to date as well as precious campaign momentum heading into next week's competition across more than 20 states.

Rudy Giuliani and Mike Huckabee trailed, each struggling to remain relevant in a campaign about to explode into a coast-to-coast chase for delegates on Feb. 5.

The Florida winner stood to gain all 57 national convention delegates at stake. More than 1,000 will be awarded next week in primaries and caucuses.

Returns from 32 percent of the state's precincts showed McCain with 34 percent of the vote and Romney with 33.

McCain, the Arizona senator, was hoping for a breakout win in a state that allowed only Republicans to vote. His previous victories, in New Hampshire and South Carolina this year, and in two states in 2000, came in elections open to independents.

Romney's only primary win so far was in Michigan, a state where he grew up and claimed a home-field advantage.

A survey of voters as they left their polling places showed the economy was the top issue for nearly half the Republican electorate.

Terrorism, the war in Iraq and immigration followed in importance. In a state that is a magnet for retirees, more than one-third of the voters were 65 or older.

McCain was benefiting from the support of self-described moderates, as well as Hispanics and older voters.

Romney was favored by voters opposed to abortion and opposed to easing the path to citizenship for illegal immigrants.

The poll was conducted by Edison Media Research and Mitofsky International for The Associated Press and the television networks.

Sen. Hillary Rodham Clinton won the Democratic race, an event that drew no campaigning by any of the contenders — and awarded no delegates to the winner.

The Democratic primary was controversial by its very existence, an act of defiance against national party officials who wanted it held later in the year.

Even so, Clinton sought to emphasize her performance in the state, holding a rally as the polls were closing.

She challenged Barack Obama to agree to seat the delegates on the basis of the night's vote, but he demurred, saying he would abide by an agreement all Democratic candidates had made months ago.

"Those decisions will be made after the nomination, not before," Obama told reporters Tuesday on a plane from Washington to Kansas. "Obviously, I care a lot about the people in Michigan and a lot about the people in Florida. And I want their votes in the general election. We'll be actively campaigning for them."

Romney began the evening with 59 Republican delegates, to 36 for McCain and 40 for Huckabee. Giuliani had one.

No matter the winner, there was no time to rest. There are 21 GOP contests on the ballot on Feb. 5, with 1,023 delegates at stake.

FOCUS from page 1

something seems better than doing nothing."

Austin junior Whitney Petty is president of the Environmental Concern Organization, an organization that strives toward decreasing the environmental impact of Baylor.

"Global warming is an issue that we can all call our own," Petty said. "Making positive changes to our lifestyle will ensure those that come after us

will have the same opportunities we have."

Petty said she hopes students will feel a sense of ownership and empowerment in taking part in the solution.

"There is so much you can do, but at the same time, you don't have to sacrifice your current lifestyle," Petty said. "You just have to make switches."

A reception will follow the event in the atrium with on-campus and local sustainable services in attendance. Sponsor Clif Bar will provide refreshments.

TAX from page 1

their parents. Even if a college student opts to let their parents file them as a dependent, parents would receive the \$300 child credit, which could in turn benefit students.

Gilbreath anticipates students will do their part to help the economy if they receive the increased rebate.

"Students have a probability of approximately 100 percent of spending their rebate. I can't imagine students saving any of it," Gilbreath said.

He also offered a warning. "I believe the feds cutting interest rates and increasing the money supply, and Congress and the President increasing the federal deficit through tax cuts

will cause an increase in inflation, which will adversely affect students in upcoming years," Gilbreath said.

David VanHoose, professor of economics, called the stimulus package "a terrible idea." He said it's unclear whether the U.S. is even headed toward recession, or what the tax rebates would do, because recipients may not spend the money.

According to the Permanent Income Hypothesis, an economic theory, most people consume with their future income in mind, VanHoose said. Hence, college students who anticipate a high income later in life are very likely to borrow money and spend at high levels.

VanHoose said he thinks permanent tax rate cuts are the answer, not one-time rebates.

Costs force Haiti's poor to resort to eating dirt

By Jonathan M. Katz
The Associated Press

PORT-AU-PRINCE, Haiti — It was lunchtime in one of Haiti's worst slums, and Charlene Dumas was eating mud.

With food prices rising, Haiti's poorest can't afford even a daily plate of rice, and some take desperate measures to fill their bellies.

Charlene, 16 with a 1-month-old son, has come to rely on a traditional Haitian remedy for hunger pangs: cookies made of

dried yellow dirt from the country's central plateau.

The mud has long been prized by pregnant women and children here as an antacid and source of calcium. But in places like Cite Soleil, the oceanside slum where Charlene shares a two-room house with her baby, five siblings and two unemployed parents, cookies made of dirt, salt and vegetable shortening have become a regular meal.

"When my mother does not cook anything, I have to eat them three times a day," Charlene said.

Her baby, named Woodson, lay still across her lap, looking even thinner than the slim 6 pounds 3 ounces he weighed at birth.

Though she likes their buttery, salty taste, Charlene said the cookies also give her stomach pains. "When I nurse, the baby sometimes seems colicky too," she said.

Food prices around the world have spiked because of higher oil prices, needed for fertilizer, irrigation and transportation. Prices for basic ingredients such as corn and wheat are also up

sharply, and the increasing global demand for biofuels is pressuring food markets as well.

The problem is particularly dire in the Caribbean, where island nations depend on imports and food prices are up 40 percent in places.

The global price hikes, together with floods and crop damage from the 2007 hurricane season, prompted the U.N. Food and Agriculture Agency to declare states of emergency in Haiti and several other Caribbean countries.

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