



ROUNDING UP CAMPUS NEWS SINCE 1900

THE BAYLOR LARIAT

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 18, 2008



Sarah Morris/Lariat Staff

Lean on me

Elizabeth Lloyd and Hayley Whitcomb of UT Austin and Dallas junior Barrett Doran enjoyed the music of Trey Duck at the Rock the Vote finale concert event. The concert was postponed on Friday due to Hurricane Ike, and marked the end of the Rock the Vote series, which encouraged students to register to vote and think about the issues of the upcoming election.

Tweak made to calendar for spring

Editor's note- Our feature series on overcrowding will continue Friday.

By Ashley Corinne Killough
Staff Writer

Baylor announced Wednesday that it cancelled the last day of class for spring 2009, originally scheduled for May 4, to adjust for an additional commencement ceremony.

The last day of class is now set for the Friday before final exams, with special study days on the following Monday and Tuesday. Baylor added a third ceremony to help alleviate overcrowding and traffic issues seen at the spring 2008 commencement.

Dr. Naymond Keathley, senior vice provost, said ceremony attendance has gradually been increasing the last few years. A record number of students, slightly more than 1,900, participated in commencement exercises in May.

Megan Schneck, a graduate student from Tempe, Ariz., said the large crowd made it difficult to meet up with friends and family after the ceremony.

"It was frustrating to find people," Schneck said. "But it wasn't too big of a hassle."

Keathley said, due to high numbers of attendance, some audience members had to occupy seats with a view blocked by a large screen set up on stage. Keathley said he heard reports that some students had up to ten guests.

With the first ceremony starting at 9:30 a.m. and lasting roughly three hours, and the second ceremony beginning at 2:30 p.m., Keathley said traffic was congested from those leaving with those coming in.

Expecting another record number of graduates in May 2009 and wanting to avoid putting a limit on guest invitations, Keathley said Baylor decided to spread out the event over three ceremonies instead of two.

"We still call out the name of every graduate," Keathley said. "We're allowing everyone to walk across that stage and have that recognition."

By making each ceremony

smaller, Keathley said Baylor could maintain that tradition more effectively.

Natalie Gasmire, a graduate student from Plano, described the ceremony as overcrowded, saying traffic was a "major issue."

"Families had to get there like an hour and a half early to get a decent parking spot and seat," Gasmire said. "I think that three ceremonies will be a positive change so everyone can enjoy the day better."

Keathley said the specifics of the commencement schedule, such as which day each department will participate, will be publicized in two to three days.

"We want to get the word out as quickly as possible so people can get information for families who will be traveling," Keathley said.

Please see SCHEDULE, page 6

May 2009 Revised Calendar

Friday, May 1
Last day of classes

Saturday, May 2
Dead week begins

Monday-Tuesday, May 4-5
Study days

Wednesday-Tuesday,
May 6-12
Final exams

Wednesday-Saturday,
May 13-16
Commencement activities

Friday-Saturday,
May 15-16
Commencement ceremonies

Academic upgrade in the 'SAC;' Students tested on competency

Task force makes the grade in academic assessments

By Sommer Ingram
Staff Writer

At the beginning of September, Baylor sent reports to the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools, a commission that evaluates the performance of higher education institutions, regarding areas Baylor was charged with improving

last December.

SACS re-accredited the university, but required Baylor to make improvements in the areas of assessment.

Assessment, according to SACS, has two parts: the assessment of student learning, and the assessment of general education outcome.

The first part involves individual departments establishing a schematic for what learning outcomes students in their discipline should know.

The second part pertains to the part of a Baylor education

that is common to all Baylor graduates.

"For SACS, the whole reason for assessment is the idea that if you assess student learning, you can increase the effectiveness of that learning," said Dr. Patricia Tolbert, director of assessment and compliance. "It's not that we have to prove anything to SACS, we just have to show that we know how we can be better."

A university must be SACS-accredited to receive federal funding or to give accredited diplomas. SACS re-accredits

universities every 10 years.

"Baylor hadn't looked at the goals for general education in a number of years, and it was time to do that again," Tolbert said.

Baylor assembled a General Education Task Force comprised of faculty members for the 2007-2008 school year for the purpose of identifying competencies that all students are expected to demonstrate upon graduation, and implementing a sustainable plan for

Please see SACS, page 6

Pelosi says aid coming to Texas

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — House Speaker Nancy Pelosi assured Texas congressional members Wednesday Hurricane Ike relief money will be included in a larger bill Congress is expected to approve before it adjourns next week, a Texas lawmaker said.

"Speaker Pelosi promised her full support for immediate emergency funding to help Texas in the aftermath of Hurricane Ike," Rep. Chet Edwards, D-Waco, told The Associated Press. He said she met with Republican and Democratic House members from Texas.

Edwards is the ranking Texan on the House Appropriations Committee. Ike slammed into the Texas coast last weekend with top winds of 110 mph, devastating the Galveston area.

More than 50 deaths have been blamed on Ike, most occurring outside Texas. Residents of devastated areas still were under orders to stay out. Many Houston residents remained without power and residents were lining up at distribution centers for hours to get food water and ice Wednesday.

Some concerns had been raised that the hurricane relief money could end up in a large economic stimulus package House Democrats wanted to bring to a vote, despite resistance from the White House.

Earlier, Texas Republican Sen. John Cornyn warned against bundling the hurricane relief money with "bloated spending that's not necessary to restore people to their homes and repair the damaged infrastructure."

But Pelosi told the Texans the money would be attached to the



AP Photo

Tabitha Romero (left) her son Gavin Romero, 2, and Dalaila Vasquez get water, ice and military rations at a FEMA aid distribution site for relief for Hurricane Ike victims Monday in Galveston.

bill Congress must pass to keep government running, known as a continuing resolution, Edwards said. The resolution is necessary because Congress has not approved any spending bills for the 2009 fiscal year that begins Oct. 1.

The bill also will include

money for recovery from other disasters including flooding in the Midwest and hurricanes Hanna, Gustav and Dolly, Edwards said.

"The key goal is to put enough

Please see AID, page 6

Poverty minor a major advantage

By Alex Maxwell
Reporter

With tuition increases and the rising cost of living, many students may feel like they are earning a degree in debt, but soon, students may be able to minor in poverty.

The Baylor School of Social Work is pushing to have poverty as a new minor to better the students' lives and potentially improve the world they live in.

The minor is pending approval by the university. The School of Social Work is hoping for it to be officially ready for students in the 2009 academic year.

The idea for this addition to the academic catalogue came from a program known as the Baylor Interdisciplinary Poverty Initiative.

Originally, the program was referred to as the Shepherd Poverty Program, which was closely

modeled after Washington and Lee University's Shepherd program, in 1997.

According to a Baylor press release in August 2007, Baylor was only the third undergraduate program of its kind, after Washington and Lee and Rice University in Houston.

The Shepherd Poverty Program is one of the initiatives that supports Imperative VI of Baylor 2012. Imperative VI is to guide all Baylor students through academic and student life programming to understand a life in stewardship and work as a vocation.

The Baylor Interdisciplinary Poverty Initiative was created to sensitize students to the needs of the poor and establish the desire to incorporate that sensitivity in their future career.

Among the projects BIP

Please see POOR, page 6

Soccer team gives student an appreciation of sport

Soccer is an interesting sport. There, I said it. I haven't always felt this way toward what the larger part of the Earth's population lovingly refers to as fútbol. Those who have heard me speak on the subject before can no doubt tell you that I viewed the sport as "too much running, not enough scoring."

And who could blame me? Raised on the baseball diamond, and later giving my allegiance to the tennis court, I just couldn't see the appeal of running up and down a giant plain of grass countless times with only one or two points to show for it. It just went against my nature.

Sure baseball can be relatively low-scoring, but sitting in a dug-out while awaiting one's turn to bat is relatively low effort when compared to the all out sprints done by soccer players just to get to a spot where the ball may or may not make it to them. Low effort, low score. Fine by me.

Tennis proved to be a little more physically demanding, but the extra effort pays off almost immediately. I mean if I get one shot past the other guy, I'm already up by 15? Sweet. That's my kind of game. Instant gratification.

The fact that I could spend an hour playing soccer, wake up the next morning feeling like I got

sports take



BY JOE HOLLOWAY

hit by a Mack truck, and have little to no points to show for it turned me off. My intramural teammates from last year will tell you my time on the soccer field was best spent as goalie, and even there my level of commitment to the game was questionable.

Playing soccer just wasn't for me, and it probably still isn't. But what about watching soccer? I tried that, too.

The World Cup comes around every so often, and when it does several of my friends catch the coinciding fever. Faced with the options of temporarily severing my friendships or watching soccer, I usually end up seeing two countries I don't particularly care about compete for a trophy I care even less about.

Perhaps it's just hard for me to watch as grown men fall to the ground, crying in feigned anguish, due to an "injury" they undeservedly suffered at the hands of some barbarian on the other team, only to get back up after the officials issue no penalty and play on quite well as if nothing happened. Maybe it's

the popularity of David Beckham who, handsome and talented as he may be, sounds ridiculously like a pansy man.

Whatever it is, in addition to loathing having to play soccer, I can't watch it on TV either.

So why have I changed my mind about the sport itself? What has caused me to think that just because I hate to play it and can't take it seriously when I see it on TV, it's not so bad after all?

Well, largely it's been going to the Betty Lou Mays Field and watching the Bears play soccer right here at Baylor. Some exciting stuff actually happens, and I find it easier to appreciate when professional players from Europe

aren't crying because they fell down and think it's unfair someone wasn't penalized for it.

These girls can take their hits, and they don't seem to use them as excuses not to play. It's soccer in its purest form. Being played by people who love to play and are pretty good at it to boot. That's when I enjoy watching.

And while I might not be much better at it, when intramural soccer rolls back around, maybe I'll be a little more into playing it well. As long as someone finds me some of those goalie gloves.

Joe Holloway is a senior journalism major from Marshall and is a sports writer for The Baylor Lariat.

Editorial

Students shouldn't have to pay more

Nothing says welcome back quite like a nice tuition increase. At least, that is Baylor's idea of kicking the year off right.

The Board of Regents announced Thursday that tuition will, once again, increase. This time students will have to dig extra deep to cover the additional 7 percent increase approved for the 2009-2010 academic year.

This is the fifth consecutive year that Regents have approved a tuition hike. Sing and Diadello better watch out. Tuition increases have become the new Baylor tradition.

According to an e-mail sent to faculty and staff from the president's office, tuition for 12 semester hours or more will increase to \$25,320 from \$23,664, a difference of \$1,656. The general student fee will increase 7.02 percent to \$2,590 and room and board rates will increase by 6 percent and 4.77 percent, respectively.

Basically all these figures and percentages translate to more money for Baylor. The increases shouldn't come as a shock to upperclassmen, but the much-revered class of 2012 should brace themselves because Baylor's vision doesn't come without a hefty price tag.

The roller coaster of tuition has had more ups than downs in the past few years, with enough sharp turns to make anyone sick. Why such steep climbs? Tuition increases are a natural, gradual progression in the growth of any university, but the key word

being gradual. Could it be possible that Baylor is desperately cramming for the biggest test of its existence, Baylor 2012?

Graduating classes prior to 2012 have had to bear most of the burden for a vision in which they will largely never be a part of. Instead, students have had to suffer through inconvenient campus construction and steep tuition spikes in hopes that this vision actually becomes a reality.

Furthermore, it seems as if the Regents have a tendency to hide under the large, vague and confusing blanket of Baylor 2012. More parking garages? Baylor 2012. New landscaping every week? Baylor 2012. Personal servants for the bear mascots? Baylor 2012.

Baylor 2012 sure rolls off the lips of regents easily, but things get more complicated when it comes to actually defining it. At least the details of this vision are clearer than Baylor's spending habits.

The university recently made a questionable purchase of a triangle of land between Dutton Avenue, Interstate 35 and Sixth Street with the intention of improving the look of the campus from I-35. Their plans are to demolish the current gas station and local businesses located on the land, and plant a grassy area.

Could this money have been used in a more effective manner? Or does the campus absolutely have to look good for those extra 2 seconds on the Interstate?



It's great to have a nice-looking campus, but money should pay for an education, not grass. There are student organizations on this campus that lack funding as well as students who could use those extra dollars to further their education in scholarships.

Most students have no clue as to what the vision of 2012 entails, but it sounds promising, right? With whispers of possible Ivy League status and top-tier credibility, it seems that this vision is all about the status. It's very ambitious to think that a university can reach top-tier status in only a matter of a few years. Maybe Baylor isn't ready for this.

To what extent are the regents

willing go to make the imperatives of 2012 a reality? Are they willing up tuition to \$30,000 or more a year? No thanks.

Tuition increases are aggravating but sometimes necessary because they help the campus grow, that's understandable. What's frustrating is having to invest in a vision that is several years away and has been more of a headache than a benefit. Baylor needs to put itself in students' shoes. Baylor needs to realize that making students and parents who are financially struggling pay more money when it's not absolutely necessary is wrong.

It's easy for the Regents to make a budget and increase tuition because they are not the

ones having to pay it. Residence halls are cramming three to four students into dorm rooms that were originally intended for two people, students are fighting for parking spots everyday and classes are overflowing. Is this what students are paying for?

Why raise tuition if there's not going to be a noticeable difference. Baylor is more concerned with investing hard-earned student dollars on the outside of campus rather than inside the classrooms.

It remains to be seen whether these increases will ever end and if Baylor is going to continue to help students dig themselves deeper in debt.

Well, at least the campus will look good.

Opinion policy

The Baylor Lariat welcomes reader viewpoints through letters to the editor and guest columns.

Opinions expressed in the Lariat are not necessarily those of 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.

Letters should be e-mailed to Lariat_letters@baylor.edu or mailed to The Baylor Lariat, One Bear Place #97330, Waco, TX 76798-7330.

Corrections policy

The Baylor Lariat is committed to ensuring fair and accurate reporting and will correct errors of substance on Page 2. Corrections can be submitted to the editor by sending an e-mail to Lariat_letters@baylor.edu or by calling 254-710-4099.

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Corrections

The Sept. 17 article "Library sings political 'toon' with exhibit" incorrectly stated that the exhibit opens Tuesday when it actually opens today at the Moody Allbritton Foyer at 7 p.m.

Letters to the editor

BU wasted money on grassy area

I was very pleased to find that the Lariat had published an article explaining the presence of bulldozers in the newly closed Shell station parking lot.

Upon reading the article I learned that Baylor had bought this property, along with the properties of two other healthy businesses. I realize that some people may view this as a foolish act on Baylor's part, but I'd like to stick up for the university's decision.

Consider the reasoning. Baylor needs this bit of land. We're a university that dreams

big, exemplified in our lofty 2012 goal and subsequent merry-go-round of presidents.

But the big idea for this property is obvious. We need to install a new, state-of-the-art grassy knoll.

It's just as the illustrious Dr. Reagan Ramsower said, we need to create more "areas best described as quads" here at Baylor.

When I leave my building best described as a house in the morning and go to my place best described as a classroom, I really would enjoy strolling through some areas best described as quads on my way. And that's

not just me. I think I speak for every person best described as a Baylor student on this one.

But it isn't only the aesthetic feel. The venerable Dr. Ramsower also tells us that the great thing about quads is that, when you're on them, "you can just stand there and feel like you are on real college campus."

Real college campus! Fellow students, isn't it about time Baylor became a REAL college?

I think it is.

Another reason Dr. Ramsower, the inexorable, gives for the land purchase is that it will improve the view of campus (in

other words, Brooks, which has a quad, by the way) from I-35.

This hits a pretty solid note with me, because I'm generally in favor of ugly things not being in the way of pretty things.

Take politics, for example. I've always been of the opinion that our great nation should rally together and demolish Mexico, because it blocks the view of Texas from Guatemala. I've heard that Sarah Palin might support that, actually.

Anyway, the point is, they need to go because we need to make UT students jealous of our campus as they're on their way home to Dallas from their 350

acre campus with its 4.5 billion dollar endowment.

Hook that, you burnt-orange hippies.

Lastly, Dr. Ramsower, the magnificent, tells us that we need to undergo this process because it will help build unity between Baylor and Waco.

Friends, this could not be truer. What better way to build community with Wacoans than by shutting down a few businesses? That way, when they loose their jobs, they'll have ample time to wander around our beautiful campus admiring those glorious quads.

So in conclusion, fellow stu-

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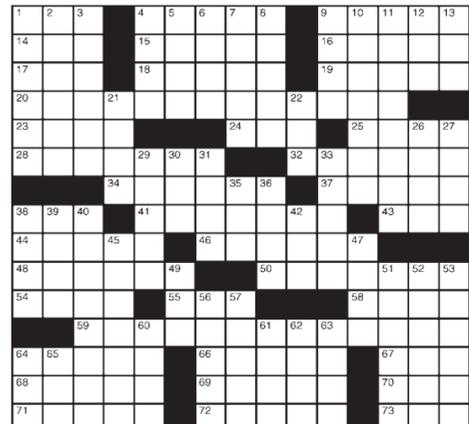
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- 33 Shoot-'em-up
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- 47 Tap on a table
- 49 Dress (up)
- 51 Wagnerian heroine
- 52 More chilling
- 53 Laundry machines
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- 63 Latin being
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- 65 Will Smith biopic

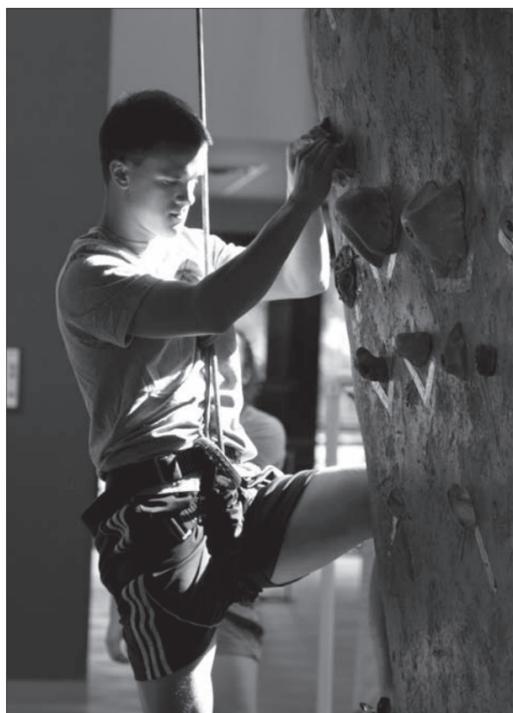


By Alan P. Olschwang
Huntington Beach, CA

9/18/08

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



Christina Kruse/Lariat Staff

Beam me up?

Broken Arrow, Okla., freshman Jesse Luck climbs the rock wall inside the McLane Student Life Center Wednesday afternoon.

Girls Fight Back coming to campus

By Kirsten Johnson
Reporter

From 2004-2006, U.S. colleges and universities reported 8,923 aggravated assaults and 8,114 forcible-sex offenses on campuses, according to the Annual Campus Security Report.

Alpha Delta Pi will hold the 3rd Annual Girls Fight Back seminar at 7 p.m. tonight in the Barfield Drawing Room in the Bill Daniel Student Center.

The event aims to empower women by giving them a basic foundation of knowledge in self defense.

The timing of this seminar coincides with the official National Campus Safety Awareness Month, which is September, as designated by the U.S. House of Representatives.

As a professional speaker, author, certified self-defense instructor and founder of Girls Fight Back, Erin Weed has traveled across the nation sharing her message.

"I hope the women gain, for starters, the realization that they are worth fighting for, because I think a lot of women don't believe that fully," Weed said. "I also hope that they walk away

not only just knowing what they are fighting for, but actually how to do it."

The organization started in 2001 in reaction to the murder of Weed's friend, Shannon McNamara, who chose to fight back when assaulted.

According to the Girls Fight Back Web site, she was assaulted in her college apartment by a male college student who lived across the street.

Weed took action and set out on the Girls Fight Back mission, which is to educate women across the globe about personal safety and self-defense, according to the Web site.

"My initial purpose was just out of my own personal fear," Weed said. "After Shannon died, I knew that if I was in a similar situation, there was no way that I was going to get out of that. From there, it has kind of taken on a life of its own."

Weed said that the new movement is to establish Girls Fight Back clubs on campuses, promoting the issues addressed throughout the year.

So far, 33 colleges have contacted the organization with interest. For now, Weed tours the U.S., teaching core concepts and basic self-defense techniques.

"Girls Fight Back is important because it provides women with skills that will last a lifetime," Mesa, Ariz., junior Brooke Worcester said. "It gives confi-

"I emphasize the need to be able to react either verbally or physically."

Gary Richardson
Self-defense instructor

dence and self-defense moves in a fun, empowering way, and this is the best of both worlds. You get good education tips while interacting with your friends."

Even though the session will introduce moves related to real-life attack situations, Weed said that it is not intended to replace an intense self-defense class.

"You do walk out having some very basic skills, but it's not the end all be all of what you need to know," Weed said. "The next step is to find more resources and to enroll in an actual intensive self-defense class."

Baylor offers self-defense classes as part of its human performance courses.

From beginning to advanced

sections, self-defense specialist Gary Richardson has instructed students for the last three years.

"The main thing is to make sure the students feel confident, so that if confronted they can handle the situation without being afraid," Richardson said. "I emphasize the need to be able to react either verbally or physically. It's not always how hard you hit, but knowing where to hit." Pressure points include the eyes, neck, solar plexus and other areas.

In the class, he goes over different extremes and scenarios.

Both Richardson and Weed reiterate the importance of students being aware in every environment.

"It's just like with wild animals. A wolf will attack the small, timid deer, not the tall-standing buck," Richardson said. "A predator is the same way. It won't attack someone who is aware, looking around and walking with her head up."

The Web site features promotional videos illustrating defensive moves.

Products such as educational videos, pepper spray, alarms and stickers are also available.

For more information, visit www.girlsfightback.org.

Walk to travel through Waco, raise awareness of homeless

Jennifer Sutton and Christina Kruse
Reporters

Walk for the Homeless will be used as an educational tool designed to raise awareness and understanding of the homelessness and poverty in Waco.

Those participating in the walk Sunday will travel 1.4 miles through the streets of downtown Waco.

They will stop at seven locations. Initially, walkers will meet at 8:15 a.m. in the Meyer Center, located on 1226 Washington Ave.

The seven locations include the Family Health Center, Compassion Ministries, Caritas, Ax Christian Fellowship, My Brother's Keeper, Heart of Texas Region Mental Health Mental Retardation Center, and the Gospel Café.

At these stops, attendants will listen to speakers, read scripture and pray.

The Walk will end at the Church Under the Bridge at 10:20 a.m.

Participants are invited to join the following church service but it is not a required part of the walk.

"We've really made head-way with the homeless issue in the

last 10 years here in Waco," said Dr. Jimmy Dorrell, director of Mission Waco.

Misty Turberville, a master teacher at Rappaport Academy and mother of three, said that after participating in the Walk for Homeless for three years, it has changed her perspective on

For more information about the 1.4 mile walk, call Mission Waco at: (254) 753-4900 missionwaco.org

the homeless population.

"Talk about destroying your misconceptions," Turberville said.

Since her first walk in 2006, Turberville has become more involved in Mission Waco.

She said she has personally befriended those who go to the shelter seeking help.

"I've had some of the most intellectual conversations with these people that are homeless," Turberville said.

According to the Mission Waco newsletter, "The harsh

realities are that thousands of men, women and children can't make it and fall prey to the destructive forces of the streets of one of the richest nations in the world."

Most individuals who seek help with Mission Waco are not drug addicts, alcoholics, or mentally ill, said Durrell, who is also the pastor of the Church Under the Bridge.

"For us it's not a 'those' people kind of thing, these are our friends," he said.

Durrell said that the walk is a very eclectic event in which the homeless and the impoverished combine with students and citizens to create a memorable and educational event.

Mission Waco will also be collecting hygiene and non-perishable food items at the beginning of the walk.

These will be shared with different agencies throughout Waco.

This is the eighth year that the Walk for the Homeless has taken place, and last year's walk



Courtesy Photo

A crowd stands outside "My Brothers Keeper." The organization is one of seven to be visited during the Walk for the Homeless event Sunday. The walk will start at the Meyer Center and end at the Church Under the Bridge.

held the record for attendance, with over 200 people.

The Walk also marks the Church Under the Bridge's 16th anniversary.

According to the Mission

Waco Web site, the organization provides job training and placement assistance, G.E.D. classes and drug and alcohol abuse rehabilitation services.

Singer Bob Bennett will open

the Walk with a song.

Bennett will also be conducting a free concert in honor of the Walk for the Homeless at 7:30 p.m. Saturday in the Jubilee Theater.

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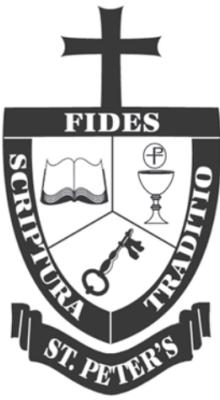
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Jones Concert Hall
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Jubilee Theater
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Island Party
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Carlos Mencia
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Waco Hippodrome
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Cultural Arts Fest to bring live music, poetry, art, crafts to Waco community

By Ashley Erikson
Reporter

The fifth annual Waco Cultural Arts Fest Saturday will be held Sunday at Indian Springs Park.

The festival will have live music, arts and crafts and an artist marketplace.

"The most important thing is bringing community together, and the arts are a great barrier breaker," said festival producer Doreen Ravenscroft.

Ravenscroft, who spent many years as a board member for the Waco Arts Center, said she was compelled to keep the festival going despite the Art Center's inability to fund it.

Ravenscroft said she brought the event back to life within six months.

"The Waco Cultural Arts Fest is more than just a free event," Ravenscroft said. "It's great music, great artists and an incredible cultural event with a variety of food and dancing."

The event is not entirely free, though, Ravenscroft said.

Food, as well as items at the artist marketplace, such as paintings, jewelry, ceramics and photography, can be purchased throughout the weekend.

Spoken arts will also be performed.

Michael Guinn, a member and co-founder of an Emmy-nominated poetry group, "Spoken Images," will hold the Arts Fest Poetry Slam Saturday from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m.

"In 1997, when I was a child abuse investigator, I saw so much abuse and neglect that I cried and cried for the sake of these children," Guinn said. "Then I decided that I needed to stop. I found myself with a pencil in hand, trying to pull the feelings from my soul, and have been writing ever since."

The format for this year's poetry slam is different than last year's adult competition, Guinn said.

This year, the competition will be for the children.

The poetry slam will begin with an open mic for poetry and singing, Guinn said.

"For the competition, however, poets will have three minutes to recite their original work," he said. "Then they will be graded on a scale from 0 to 10 by five judges who are selected from the audience."

The top poet will be named Best Waco Youth Poet of 2008.

Besides performances, the Arts Fest has an array of booths set up for arts and crafts.

"Baylor sponsors wood sculpture, one of the most popular activities. The booth runs from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. and we have

Eaker began as a volunteer three years ago after watching his son take part in the activities.

"My son was so astonished at what he could do," Eaker said, "that it made me want to be a part of this."

Volunteer sign up includes printing out the application and bringing it to the blue tent at 5 p.m. Friday in Indian Springs Park, where orientation will take place.

"We always need dependable people," Eaker said. "If it's for the whole two days, or just for an hour, we need volunteers. It's an event to show compassion. It's all about enjoying yourself and giving great experiences to

Band line-up for Cultural Arts Festival

Saturday

Central Texas Academy 11 a.m.
Waco Symphony Youth Orchestra 12 p.m.
The Steel Drum Ambassadors 1 p.m.
Solo Sevillanas 2 p.m.
Horton Duo 3 p.m.
Eric Dozier & Naseem Khozein 4 p.m.
Inner City All Stars 5 p.m.
Atash 7 p.m.
Brave Combo 9 p.m.

Sunday

Richard Thomas & the Sesame Street Quartet 12:30 p.m.
Capital City Pipes & Drums 2 p.m.
MCC Jazz Faculty Ensemble 2:30 p.m.
South Austin Jug Band 3:30 p.m.
Dale Watson 5 p.m.

to turn people away at close," Ravenscroft said.

Other activities include face painting, easel art, claymation and paper sculpture.

"I think it's a fun thing for students to come out, browse through the artwork and be a part of the community," Ravenscroft said.

Another way to play an active role in the community is to volunteer at the festival.

"It shows kids that there's still art in the world. They can be as creative as they want, in any way they choose," said volunteer coordinator Brett Eaker.

those who don't have the opportunity."

The festival will run from 10 a.m. to 11 p.m. Saturday and noon to 7 p.m. Sunday.

"It's a different way of looking at things. There will be different types of food, activities, music, comedians and poets," Eaker said. "The festival is a way for artists to express themselves."

For additional information, such as schedules and volunteer applications, visit www.wacoartsfest.org. Those who would like to volunteer can also contact Karin Gilliam at 710-6390.

'Silver Bear' proves thrilling experience, effortless read

By Kelli Boesel
Entertainment Editor

Calling a book a page-turner has become a cliché in the literary and writing world, but sometimes there is just no other way to describe a novel. Derek Haas' "The Silver Bear" is exactly that.

BOOK REVIEW

You know you must be reading a good piece of fiction when closing the book is the only way to re-enter reality. "The Silver Bear" has a little bit of everything — love, friendship, hatred, violence and suspense. But beyond that, it has deeper elements exploring universal themes and real issues.

"The Silver Bear" isn't the next great American novel, author and Baylor alumnus Derek Haas said, but he hopes it will entertain people.

"The challenge is to write a great surface story that is a page-turner and keeps everyone interested but still have a deeper meaning to it," Haas said.

Although Haas is an accomplished screenwriter, this is his first published novel. He and Michael Brandt, also a Baylor alumnus, wrote the adapted screenplays "3:10 to Yuma" and "Wanted." Haas said he thought "The Silver Bear" as an idea was too small for a movie, so he started writing it in prose. It took him over four years.

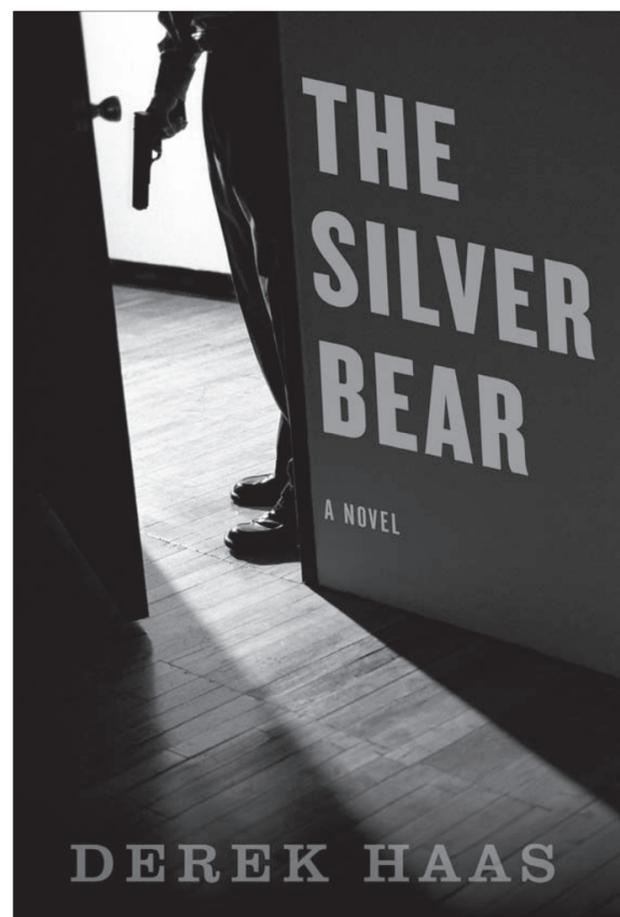
Self-proclaimed "born assassin" Columbus narrates the novel. "Columbus" is his assassin identity and the reader is never told his real name.

The novel is centered on the most important kill of Columbus' life, his father as the target. But the majority of the novel is flashbacks to other kills and important events in his life that build the character.

"He's an unreliable narrator," Haas said. "He even calls himself a liar at a certain point in the book."

Columbus is "unreliable" and not easy to understand. Considering the novel revolves entirely around his life, it makes sense that he would have multiple levels. He is easy to hate in one minute but feel for in the next.

Originally, Haas said he hadn't planned for the book to



Courtesy art

"The Silver Bear" is the first novel by Derek Haas, a Baylor alumnus. Haas has adapted to screenplays for "3:10 to Yuma" and "Wanted."

be about an assassin.

"I knew I wanted to right some story about a man that wanted to hunt down his father and I was like — why not make him a killer," he said.

Haas said he isn't interested

Derek Haas will be at the Baylor Bookstore Friday 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. for a book signing.

in characters written in black and white.

"For me, characters are only interesting if they are written in shades of grey," he said.

"Shades of grey" is a perfect way to describe Columbus' iden-

tity. One minute he is a normal man eating dinner with his girlfriend and her family, then the next he is strangling a woman in a stairwell. Yet you can never really hate him.

For a novel based a lot on character development, the plot is exiting and fast-paced. A lot happens in 215 pages.

Haas is currently writing the sequel to "The Silver Bear," which will be published in fall 2009. He said there could be more editions to the series if people are responsive to Columbus.

"I feel like the character has a long way to go," he said.

Overall, "The Silver Bear" is exciting and worth the read.

Grade: A

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Flag football begins with 240 registered teams

By Kyle McKanna
Reporter

The 2008 men's and women's flag football season kicked off this week, signifying the start of intramural's most popular sport.

The season starts with pool play and ends with the all-university championships, a process that could take anywhere from five to seven weeks to complete.

"We have three weeks of pool play, one week of league play-offs and then one week of the all-university championships scheduled," senior intramurals coordinator Dominique Hill said. "But you never know what the weather is going to do."

Teams must win at least two games and accumulate six sportsmanship points to qualify for the league playoffs. The officials and/or the Intramural Graduate Assistant are responsible for awarding sportsmanship points. Teams can earn either zero, one or two sportsmanship points per game, with two points being awarded for good sportsmanship and zero points being awarded to teams who do not comply with the rules of conduct.

The winner of each of the league playoffs will receive an automatic bid into the all-university championships. In addition to the automatic bids, the Championship Selection Committee will award twelve teams at-large bids. The winner of the

men's and women's all-university championships will represent Baylor at the National Intramural-Recreational Sports Association Flag Football Regional Tournament.

The two win requirement makes the early pool games very important for teams looking to solidify their spot in the league playoffs.

"We lost our first game by one touchdown," Chicago junior Ashly Hester said. "But we had a lot of people who hadn't practiced yet."

Hester, who plays for Alpha Chi Omega B, won't be alone when facing inexperience problems. Baylor's second largest freshmen class in school history undoubtedly contributed to the whopping 240 teams that registered.

"Wow, that's crazy," Woodlands senior Matt Russell said upon hearing the massive registration numbers. "Are they going to have enough referees for all of that?"

Hill feels confident that he and his staff can handle it. "I have the largest work-study staff on campus," he said. "And I work with great people."

The men and women each have Gold, Green, Residence Hall and Open divisions.

Pool play began Monday, and 39 men's teams and 28 women's teams have already earned season-opening victories.

Games will resume at 5 p.m. tonight at the intramural fields across from the Ferrell Center.



Alex Song/Lariat staff

A member of Zeta Tau Alpha plays flag football today at the Baylor Recreational Sports Fields by the Ferrell Center. Flag football started this week, with over 250 teams signed up.

Men's winners

Phi Gamma Delta B, Kappa Omega Tau A, Sigma Alpha Epsilon A, Kappa Sigma A, Alpha Tau Omega C, Kappa Sigma C, Alpha Tau Omega D, Kappa Omega Tau F, Phi Gamma Delta C, Kappa Sigma E, Phi Gamma Delta D, Kappa Omega Tau C, Phi Gamma Delta E, Kappa Omega Tau D, Beta, Delta Tau Delta A, CRU,

Sigma Alpha Epsilon, AFC A, FSA, Sigma Nu Snakes, GBA, Air Force ROTC A, BYX, We Are Legend, BUGWB, Martin King Crickets, Dynasty Squad, NV Murda, Penland 25C, Bad News Bears, Jabronis, Sharks, Truett and Somebody Good.

Women's winners

Chi Omega A, Kappa Alpha Theta B, Chi Omega B, Pi Beta Phi A, Kappa Kappa Gamma B,

Zeta Tau Alpha A, Kappa Kappa Gamma C, Pi Beta Phi D, Kappa Kappa Gamma D, Pi Beta Phi E, Collins 1, Collins 4, Collins 3, Crazy Collins Cuties, Collins Ya Ya Sisters, SORO The Good, The Bad, and You, Collins The Cyclone, NV Average Joes, Intramural Team, Bad Bees, The Storm, Someone Good, Dino-Mite, Streakers, Baylor Spirit Squads, ISSA Girls, Phi Lamb and Kappa Chi Alpha.

Women's volleyball wins Big 12 opener

Justin Baer
Reporter

Volleyball captured its first conference victory of the season 3-1 (25-22, 25-19, 22-25, 25-22) Wednesday night against Texas Tech University at the Ferrell Center in the Bears Big 12 opener.

Hindered by a sluggish start and faulty serving throughout the match, the Bears (9-2, 1-0) were able to overcome an under-achieving performance to snap a two-game losing skid.

"A win is always good, especially in the Big 12," head coach Jim Barnes said. "We didn't execute very well, but we still fought our way through."

Katy junior Katie Sanders and Buda junior Anna Breyfogle led the Bears with 16 kills and 14 kills respectively.

Even more impressive was Breyfogle's play at the net, as the preseason All-Big 12 candidate finished the night with eight blocks, many of those coming at crucial times for Baylor.

"Katie and I are in tune with each other," Breyfogle said. "When one of us is down, the other is there to take control until the other gets their confidence back."

The Bears quickly found themselves down 9-3 in the opening game. But after Breyfogle strung together two consecutive kills, the Red Raiders

committed two errors to allow Baylor to get back in the game.

A heated battle resumed as both teams escalated toward the 25-point goal. With the score 24-20, Texas Tech attempted to come back, with Michelle Flores slamming a kill and Brooke Smith pinpointing a service ace. But Katie Sanders denied the comeback when she smashed a kill to end the first set.

The Bears looked to be running away with the match in the second set. The Red Raiders felt the wrath of Taylor Barnes' wicked serving, as the Arlington junior spotted two service aces in the set.

Sanders and Breyfogle each had four kills in the set, as the

Bears held Tech to .028 shooting to easily down the Red Raiders 25-19.

The Bears attempt at a sweep was halted in the third match, as the blunders and mistakes that haunted Baylor at the beginning of the match reappeared.

The Bears shot a mere .111 in the third set, the lowest of all four sets on the night. Add the two service errors and receiving error that Baylor miscued, and it's easy to see why the Bears were frustrated.

"We obviously wanted to win in three," Breyfogle said. "But a win is a win."

The Bears are traveling Sunday to face the University of Missouri.



Shanna Taylor/Lariat staff

Middle blocker Briana Tolbert (21) tips the ball in the game Wednesday against Texas Tech. The Bears won 3-1.

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SACS from page 1

assessing the degree to which students are attaining the competencies.

After research and collaboration, the Task Force formulated four proficiencies that Baylor graduates should be competent in: communication, critical thinking, Christian perspective and global leadership and service.

"Every Baylor student should be able to think critically," said Dr. Larry Lyon, vice president for institutional effectiveness. "So the Task Force asked, 'What does this mean?' and came up with these areas of competency that tested that."

The Task Force concluded that both the competencies of communication and critical thinking could be determined through analyzing student writing in senior-level classes.

Ten percent of the graduating class' senior-level papers were collected, and a dozen faculty members met in May to determine how well the students were prepared.

"They looked for things like being able to state a thesis, provide good support for a thesis, as well as evidence," Tolbert said. "The good news is that the students performed better than

the Task Force anticipated."

In order for students to demonstrate their ability to evaluate situations from a Christian perspective, students in Christian Scriptures and Christian Heri-

"This standing committee will be a way to keep pulling together all the information a graduate of Baylor should know, regardless of major."

Larry Lyon
Vice President for
Institutional Effectiveness

tage classes, both university-required courses, were given multiple-choice examinations over key topics integral to the core of each course.

"Whether you're a person of faith or not, one thing every Baylor graduate should take with them is an understanding of how the Christian faith impacts how Christians live life," Lyon said. "Given Baylor's history and mission, this is quite important."

Assessing the competency of a Baylor graduate in the area of global leadership and service

was slightly more complicated than the previous areas, but the Task Force held that it was a vital part of the Baylor mission.

The committee examined the proficiency of students at the end of the fourth semester of a foreign language course, as well as took results from student participants in the National Survey of Student Engagement.

The Task Force sent a report to SACS reporting their efforts and findings in the area of assessment. They also recommended to the Baylor provost that a faculty committee of a more permanent nature be created for the purpose of performing assessments and reporting their findings annually.

The proposed committee could add new directives to the list, as well as recommend any needed action based on the results.

"To a degree, this is a response to specialization," Lyon said. "For a long time, all college students shared a common core of classes, and therefore, the curriculum defined what a student should know upon graduation. But now, different majors require intense knowledge of that one area. This standing committee will be a way to keep pulling together all the information a graduate of Baylor should know, regardless of major."

POOR from page 1

has planned for this year are the "Campus Kitchen" project, which will establish a central location for feeding those that are hungry, and "Open Table" project to help those in poverty turn their lives around.

Dr. Gaynor Yancey, associate dean for baccalaureate studies, said she is pushing for the new minor and hopes Baylor can take one more step toward alleviating poverty.

"Last fall the Foundations of Social Justice course was offered to students. The students who took the course were all in the School of Social Work, so we could see what kind of interest we could generate," Yancey said.

The course was offered again this fall and incorporated about a third of other discipline stu-

dents.

"Even though the School of Social Work will be the academic house for this program, upon approval, the goal is to get every vocation and discipline involved," she said.

This all started with a grant of \$150,000 from the Bridgeway Capital Management. BIPI wants to enhance student life and experience, while educating and exposing students to poverty.

Some departments involved will include anthropology, health education, political science, journalism, and economics, said Dr. Beth Lanning, associate professor of health education.

Lanning is a member of the steering committee for BIPI and mentioned how they want to inform about social change and justice as it relates to poverty.

Poverty is a global issue that

affects the Baylor community as well. In the 2007 census, the U.S. Census Bureau reported that Waco is the fifth-poorest city in Texas.

The poverty rate for families in the city was 21.9 percent. In the county, 13.7 percent of families live in poverty. An estimated 27.6 percent of Waco residents and 19.2 percent of McLennan County residents in the last year lived below the poverty level.

Yancey said she "hopes that Baylor can be focused on helping those in poverty."

Jimmy Dorrell, director of Mission Waco, said he was glad to hear about the potential addition of the poverty minor.

"Anything that moves people in that direction of helping is good," Dorrell said. "Baylor has been pretty behind on the poverty curve. We've got some catching up to do, and this is a good start."



Sarah Morris/Lariat Staff

Come fly with me

Denver sophomore Karie Jo Mathias get tips from Allen Crise with her fly fishing skills on Wednesday evening as part of the Outdoor Adventure LLC at North Village. Crise is a monthly guest speaker and is one of three Federation of Fly Fishers Master Casting Instructors in Texas. The Outdoor Adventure LLC will be heading to the Texas Coast for fly fishing and kayaking over Fall Break.

AID from page 1

money in for such things as the disaster relief fund at the (Federal Emergency Management Agency) and (Housing and Urban Development) Community Development Block Grants in order to address all the emergency needs through next March," he said.

Democratic Reps. Al Green and Gene Green and Republicans Reps. Ron Paul, John Cul-

bertson, Michael McCaul and Ted Poe also attended the meeting with Pelosi. Democratic Rep. Nick Lampson, whose district includes some of the areas hit by the hurricane, participated by conference call. Rep. Sheila Jackson Lee of Houston had met with Pelosi on Tuesday.

Texas officials have a few days to come up with estimates on how much assistance should be provided in the bill. Edwards said its likely to be in the billions.

Meanwhile, Sen. Kay Bailey Hutchison asked the Senate to also include money for Ike recovery in disaster assistance legislation.

"We know that we have given for Katrina. We have given to other disasters and what we would ask is that we be treated in the same way so that we can recover and get our economy going again, get our jobs going again, get our schools open ... so that we can recover," Hutchison said.

SCHEDULE from page 1

With the additional ceremony, exam week will be pushed back a day and final exams will start on Wednesday.

"The last day of class will still be on a Monday for the fall semester, though, because commencements are traditionally

smaller in December," Keathley said, adding that the number of days in the spring now equals those in the fall semester.

Waynesboro, Miss., senior Scott Strickland said he was glad to hear the last day of class was eliminated.

"It will be nice to have the semester over with on a Friday instead of the following Mon-

day," Strickland said. "Being able to go straight into finals that last week will make things easier."

Plano senior John Maguire said he also appreciated the new schedule.

"It's good they're making it a little easier on family and friends that come to graduation," he said.

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