

ROUNDING UP CAMPUS NEWS SINCE 1900

THE BAYLOR LARIAT

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 29, 2008

TSTC campus fire is fourth blaze in 5 days

Jade Ortego
Staff Writer

Tuesday, a fire was put out in a house on Texas State Technical College campus, making the fourth fire in five days.

At about 11:30 a.m. that morning, the fire department received a call.

"The fire was confined mostly to the exterior and it was contained on arrival," said

Assistant Fire Chief Don Yeager. There were no injuries and damage was minor, he said.

According to Fire Marshal Jerry Hawk, on Friday night at 9:20 p.m., a fire broke out at the abandoned Vittles Restaurant on 23rd Street and Waco Drive. The building suffered only minor damage.

At around midnight the same night, firefighters responded to a fire at 17th Street and

Washington Avenue, where the dilapidated Townhouse Hotel stands.

The fire damaged the interior and rear wing roof of the hotel, which had previous fire damage and interior damage from years of sitting vacant, Hawk said.

About four hours later, the 104-year-old Sanger Avenue Elementary School was in flames. The three-story building at 18th

Street and Sanger Avenue is "a total loss," Hawk said.

"The three wooden floors and roof (were) consumed in the fire. The fire also weakened the brick walls and there is danger of those walls collapsing," Hawk said.

The school may be dangerous for firefighters to investigate. "The structure is weakened so we'll have to take extra precautions," Yeager said.

The fires did not exhaust the resources of the fire department, Hawk said.

"The fires were staggered, meaning only three to five of the 14 fire stations in Waco were out at any particular time," Hawk said.

The Friday night fires all happened within a few blocks of each other.

"The fires are under investigation and the cause is yet to be

determined," Hawk said.

The Waco Police Department is working hard to determine the cause, Yeager said.

When asked if they are considering arson as a cause, Yeager said that the nature of the fires, whether electrical or chemical or something else, has to be determined first.

"They're pretty busy with the investigation. It's still pretty early in the game," he said.



David Poe/Reporter

It's like giving candy to a baby ...

League City freshman Kaitlin Bucher (Front left) and Charlotte, Mich., freshman Jennifer Young pass out Halloween candy in South Russell Residence Hall during Campus Living and Learning's Treat Night. Faculty and staff, along with Waco community members, trick or treated in the residence halls while students passed out candy.

Sen. Cornyn campaigns at Waco luncheon

By Sommer Ingram
Staff writer

In order to encourage early voting, Sen. John Cornyn, R-Texas, spoke Tuesday at noon at the McLennan County Republican Women's Luncheon.

At the luncheon, Cornyn addressed issues such as national defense, the economy, and taxes. He also stressed the importance of the American voter in this election.

"He indicated that this is a crucial time for America and that this election poses a threat to the Republican way of life," said M.A. Taylor, county chair of the Republican Party. "For one thing, we keep hearing this whole talk about the redistribution of wealth from Obama — taking money from those who have earned it and giving it to those who haven't."

Taylor said that the Republican Party is absolutely against

this. "Republicans want to see everyone do well, but not at the expense of those who have earned their way of life," he said.

Virginia Taylor, a member of the Republican Women of McLennan County said she already voted for Cornyn and some points he made at the luncheon solidified her decision.

"He made some very good statements," she said. "He said Obama's resume is paper-thin; that really struck a chord with



Cornyn

Please see **CORNYN**, page 4

Safety adjustments made for homecoming events

By Ashley Erikson
Reporter

After a student was hospitalized for a concussion in 2007, students can expect Freshman Mass Meeting and the guarding of the Eternal Flame this year to be a little different, according to Baylor Chamber of Commerce.

Though the mass meeting tradition dates back to 1927, it is on the verge of being stripped away from the student body for good, said Houston junior Tanner Vickers, Chamber's 2008 Freshman Mass Meeting coordinator.

"It means a lot to this campus and we feel the tradition should be salvaged," Vickers said. "We're trying to push our opinion that freshman have lost sight of the meaning of mass meeting. Stu-

dents have shifted their focus to stealing this physical flame, when they should be focusing on the Immortal Ten."

In working with Baylor administration, Chamber members have asked themselves if the tradition needs to be changed completely, Vickers said. This year, however, Chamber will attempt to refocus the student body in an effort to make the homecoming events safer.

Security will be increased this year and the curfew is 2 a.m., when the flame will be extinguished, until 8 a.m. Thursday.

"We've been working really hard with administration and community leaders to make sure that we're all just out here for fellowship and Baylor spirit," said El Paso junior Hayley Gibson, the Chamber Homecoming

assistant.

Along with Chamber, the Baylor Police Department will be present at the guarding of the Eternal Flame to ensure student safety.

"We're very aware of the past history with this event and steps have been taken to deal with situations swiftly and decisively," said Baylor Police Chief Jim Doak. "We just expect students to display appropriate behavior and hope that they will."

Vickers said that this year will be pivotal in deciding the future of the freshman homecoming traditions.

"This is a really good opportunity for the student body to step up and say they care about Baylor enough to pass on this tradition," he said.

"If students choose to unite



File Photo

Increased security and a curfew will be enforced at this year's guarding of the eternal flame, according to the Baylor Chamber of Commerce, due to an incident last year when a student got a concussion.

for the sake of Baylor spirit, they should be aware that Baylor administration and Chamber members will be keeping a close watch.

"We're not interested in continuing a tradition if it gets out of hand, if that's the case, the tradition will undergo serious

changes."

If students' activities are deemed dangerous, the Eternal Flame will be shut down for the week, he added.

Chamber is focusing on student safety and encouraging

Please see **SAFETY**, page 4

Documentary featured in business ethics week

By Molly MacEwan
Reporter

As part of the three-week Dale P. Jones Business Ethics Forum 2008: The Responsibilities of Business-Doing, the Hankamer School of Business is presenting two screenings of the documentary "The Call of the Entrepreneur," a film that presents the story of three entrepreneurs and their business endeavors.

The second showing of the film will take place from 6:30 p.m. to 8 p.m. tonight in Kayser Auditorium in Hankamer School of Business.

The theme of the film is positive, whereas the films in the forum's previous years have focused on controversial issues such as Enron and WalMart, said Dr. Mitchell Neubert, the Chavanne Chair of Christian Ethics in Business. The film focuses on the idea that some

people are called to do good work, like starting a business and stimulating the economy,

The first is the story of a struggling dairy farmer who created a thriving business.

According to the Action Institute for the Study of Religion and Liberty Web site, the farmer "overcame the odds against him, creating value and wealth from the dirt under his feet."

Frank Hanna, a merchant

banker in New York, is the character in the second piece. He explains how financial engineering played a crucial role in the discovery of America and makes credit more widely available to entrepreneurs today, according to the Web site.

"Entrepreneurship is a dash into hope," said Jimmy Lai, the third entrepreneur featured in the film.

Lai is a refugee from Communist China who fled to Hong

Kong.

"The movie explained how entrepreneurs transform the world," Mexico City junior Ana Velazquez said. "They take risks to find solutions. They like challenges."

According to Neubert, the forum started a few years ago, but only lasted a week with a few speakers. Three years ago, the competition and movie

Please see **ETHICS**, page 4

10-year bonfire lawsuit settled

The Associated Press

COLLEGE STATION - Texas A&M University agreed Tuesday to pay \$2.1 million to settle a lawsuit over the collapse of a bonfire tower that killed 12 people and injured dozens more nearly a decade ago.

The families of four students killed and several of those who were injured sued university administrators and construction contractors hired to help build the 59-foot-tall tower of logs that fell apart in November 1999.

After the collapse, the university prohibited students from building the bonfire on its property — a tradition for the Texas A&M-Texas football game going back to 1909. Since then, the fire has been held off campus by students and alumni.

Under the settlement reached Tuesday in Brazos County court, the university agreed to pay \$2.1 million to the victims and their families and to have engineering oversight if the university ever decides to allow future bonfires on campus. University spokesman Jason Cook said the university will pay \$500,000, with the

Please see **LAWSUIT**, page 4

BU should take kicking cue from Texas Tech

I can see the flyers now. "Calling all people with feet," they would have said. "Baylor University would like to give you a full scholarship to kick on the football team.

"Poor kicking acceptable, but the ability to make extra points more often than not is a plus."

Of course these fliers don't really exist, but it could be easy to think they did, judging from Baylor kickers' performances this year.

Freshman kicker Ben "All-Star" Parks has the worst PAT percentage of any of the kickers in the Big 12 Conference. A blocked extra point and a 19-yard field goal attempt that dinged off the upright in Saturday's 32-20 loss

to Nebraska are the latest evidence in the case against Parks.

At the moment, the most compelling case for Parks seems to be that sophomore kicker Shea Brewster is even worse. Few people who profess themselves to be kickers can miss a 35-yard field goal by simply failing to send the ball past the end zone as he did against TCU last year, but Brewster's inadequacies are hardly reason to keep Parks on the top of the depth chart.

So if Parks can't kick consistently, and neither can Brewster, who's left to fill the position?

Probably a number of people.

Here is a situation where Baylor should take a page from

sports
take



BY JOE HOLLOWAY

the Texas Tech playbook, which had tried out two different kickers before going a different direction.

Sophomore Tarleton State transfer Matt Williams kicked all nine of the Raiders' extra points in their 62-21 rout of Kansas over the weekend. There's nothing really shocking about that. Extra points have their name for a reason. They are supposed to be

freebies, rewards tacked on after the team has already done most of the hard work that resulted in the touchdown.

But faced with a dearth of talent at their place kicker position, the Raiders enlisted Williams after he kicked a 30-yard field goal to win a year of free rent in a promotion for Lynnwood Townhomes during halftime of Tech's game against the University of Massachusetts.

I don't see any reason the Bears couldn't do the same thing.

There's bound to be someone on campus capable of kicking extra points and, who knows, maybe even a field goal or two.

Of course NCAA rules wouldn't allow Baylor to procure

any sort of free rent in turn for kicks, but an open kicking competition wouldn't be out of the question. To the winner would go all the glory that goes with being able to consistently send a ball off of one's foot from the 2-yard line high enough to avoid the outstretched arms of defenders and straight enough to split the ever-looming uprights.

Brewster is simply taking up a scholarship, one for which far more capable athletes would no doubt have appreciated. Parks, who I do not accuse of lacking a leg, can still handle the kick-offs.

But I would let Parks and the theoretical newcomer battle for field goal duties. After all, kick-

ers have been known to be easily rattled.

Texas Tech defensive coordinator Ruffin McNeil said that Williams was calm the first night he came to practice with the team.

"As calm as he was that night, he was today," he said of Williams' performance against the Jayhawks.

That's a calm Parks may not possess but that Baylor needs. As a freshman, he's got plenty of time to prove otherwise, but until then, those flyers might not be such a bad idea.

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

Editorial

Murder rate sign can harm Waco's economy

A recent billboard located at the New Road exit of Interstate-35 has created controversy in Waco. The board reads, "The Murder Rate Is Up!" followed by "Waco is the 7th most violent city in Texas," and is funded by the Waco Police Association.

The Police Association paid for the sign to warn Wacoans and travelers of the violent crime in the city. It collected the statistics from its 2006 study, which is consistent with the FBI's findings of the same year.

According to its Web site, the association feels that funding for the police is not adequate, and the city council isn't allowing the group to voice its complaints. The association chose to erect the sign to make the Waco citizens aware of the murder rate and the perceived need for increased funding.

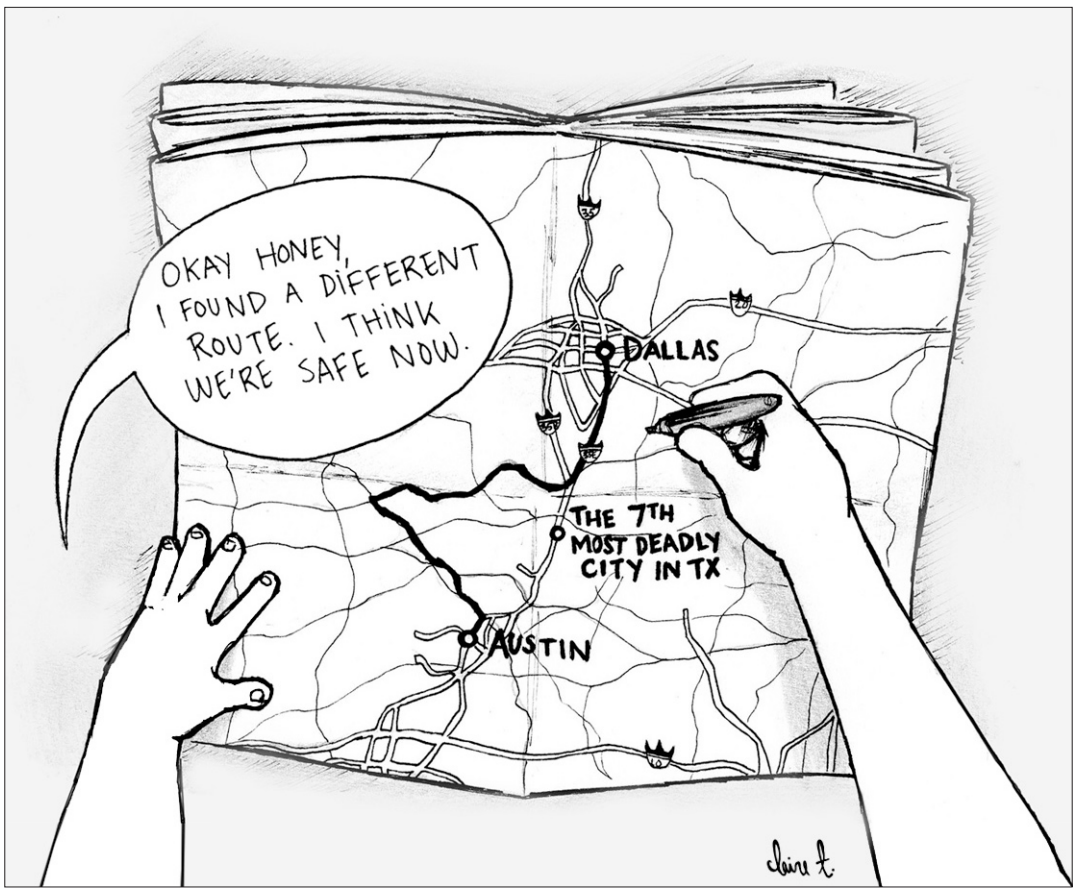
Although the association has legitimate reason to warn passers-by and citizens, a billboard on the highway is more harmful than helpful.

The information came from the group's own study, which is nearly a year old. Although an annual study isn't feasible,

the 2006 study cost \$25,000, it should be noted that the group waited an entire year before publishing the information on the highway. Because the numbers are from 2006, it may be, as of today, inaccurate to label Waco as the 7th most violent city in Texas. This is deceiving, especially if the numbers have changed.

Many people pass through Waco on a daily basis. A significant portion travels to Waco as a destination, spending money that the city wouldn't normally receive. For example, the Waco Convention Center held 346 events in 2007, which contributed nearly \$24 million to the local economy.

Add to that number other tourist attractions, such as the Texas Sports Hall of Fame, the Texas Ranger Hall of Fame and Museum, the Dr Pepper Museum, Cameron Park and Cameron Park Zoo, and the tourism impact could well go beyond \$24 million. It would be a large economic hit to the City of Waco if people stopped planning events in the city or visiting city attractions.



Also, sporting events are a major source of income. Every year, Waco is the home of nearly all Region II and III tournaments of the University Interscholastic League, the governing body for public high school athletics. Waco is also the home for the Little League baseball regionals, and, of course, Baylor athletics.

The city, which is located at the edge of each UIL sanction region, could easily lose the rights to these events if families feel that their children are at risk during these tournaments because of the perceived prevalence of violent crime.

Waco also holds claim to

Waco I.S.D. Stadium, which is easily the nicest stadium within a 150-mile radius. Not only does it support both Waco high schools, but it consistently draws 10 to 15 pre-district and playoff games. At \$5 per ticket, the proceeds can mount quickly and provide a good source of income for the school district. Since coaches select which field to use, those that see the billboard or hear rumors about the city could choose not to play in Waco – especially since the billboard sits right on the exit to the stadium, where every coach, player and parent will see it.

Baylor would also be exposed to lost revenue. Traveling fans

will be less likely to visit Waco, and even less likely to spend money at Waco establishments if they feel that their lives could be in danger.

Finally, Baylor could suffer in non-athletic areas as well. Right now, prospective high school seniors are searching for a university to attend for the next four years. Those considering Baylor, and their parents, might think twice before applying to a university in a crime-riddled city.

The Waco Police Association would be well advised to remove the billboard and find another way to push for more police funding.

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.

All submissions become the property of The Baylor Lariat. The Lariat reserves the right to edit letters for grammar, length, libel and style.

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College builds character that will help shape life decisions

Life is just a cycle of seasons. As the weather shifts from the humid and sticky months of August into the crisp season of fall, I am reminded that everything is changing. Our biggest goals of reading every book, perfecting every foreign accent and getting enough sleep are long gone. However, despite our best intentions, we all have been tempted by the lure of the easy way out.

This season of change is proving to be especially true in my life. I am tying up the loose ends of my undergraduate basics and moving on to my actual field of interest.

The balancing act between our social and academic lives is forever becoming more difficult,

and I find myself scrambling to reorganize my schedule.

I am facing serious decisions about the rest of my life. Even the smallest details are becoming more and more important in the planning of my future – everything from what details to put on a resume to which professors to ask for recommendations take on a greater importance with each passing day.

Sometimes the amount of decisions we are presented with is overwhelming.

But college is not just about learning the facts or becoming an expert in your future field of work, but, rather, it is about learning how to live.

We are expected to read complex novels, write intricate papers

point
of view



BY KATE WILLIAMS

and recite biology facts off of the top of our heads. But, at the end of the day, what really matters is how we lived our lives, together and with one another.

The college experience can not be fully lived out unless we learn the simple lessons of how to relate to one another, build close friendships and rely on community in times of difficulty.

I find myself understanding that I can not handle all of this

alone. Learning to turn to the people who know me best for guidance has proven to be my most cherished lesson from this year.

While I am aware that learning the nature of salacious oozes is important, it somehow does not compare to relating to a friend going through a difficult breakup, because I have been there. We all have been there. At the end of the day, isn't the most rewarding feeling knowing you made a difference in someone else's life?

But especially in this time of change I find it meaningful to reflect back on all of the growth that has occurred this year.

I have begun to see the lessons learned during my freshman year playing a role in the opinions I

currently hold. Living in a dorm never seemed so special, until now. Learning to consider the way some people cook their eggs or how they have a non-negotiable need to down a very strong cup of coffee before they even consider your existence taught me a lot.

I understand that relating to someone comes from seeking common ground. Digging to the core of someone and finding out what makes them tick is a true art form. And I am just beginning to paint that canvas; luckily I have had help from many artists.

Somehow, at the end of my four years at Baylor, I know it will all come together. The latest gossip will fade and that bad grade will be a distant memory. But

right now, the most important reminder of how unique the college years are is the reminder that in the end it is the character you build now that will shape your decisions for the rest of your life.

However, even as life inevitably shifts into its many seasons, the lessons we learn in college: patience, compassion, humor, and perhaps most importantly, trust, will continue to serve as beacons of light during the many coming storms. Perhaps it is by recognizing that which we have overcome are we truly able to enjoy this season, for we know that our better selves lie just on the other side.

Kate Williams is a sophomore political science and journalism major from Thousand Oaks, Calif.

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THE Daily Crossword

Edited by Wayne Robert Williams

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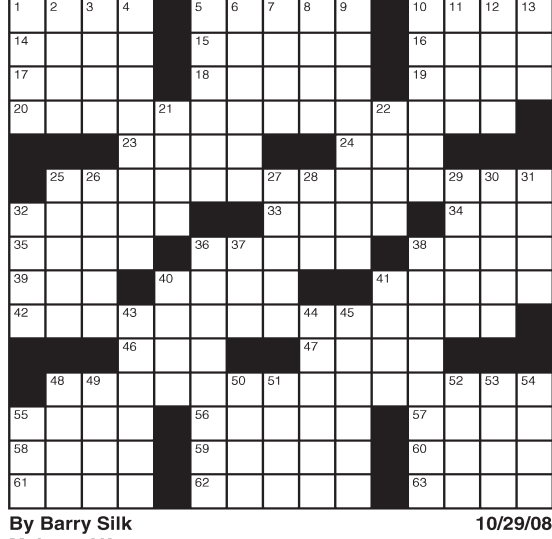
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By Barry Silk

McLean, VA

10/29/08

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

BEAR BRIEFS

ITS will present a BearAware event at 2:30 p.m. today in 103 Cashion Academic Center. Chris Thompson from the FBI Cyber Crimes Division will present the latest trends in cyber crime, discuss national security threats and explore high-tech security issues. For more information, contact Carl_Flynn@baylor.edu.

The ONE Campaign Bus will be on campus from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. today at Fountain Mall. There will be free T-shirts, bands and information for students interested in joining the ONE poverty campaign. For more information, contact Justin_Kralemann@baylor.edu.

Baylor University Health Center is sponsoring flu shot clinics from 3 p.m. to 5 p.m. today in 308 McLane Student Life Center and from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Thursday at the Community Center of North Village. The cost is \$20 and can be billed to student accounts.

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Music department to recreate Halloween during organ recital

By Courtney Webb Reporter

Shrieks and screams are the typical sounds of Halloween, but this holiday the sounds are much sweeter.

The students in the organ department of the Baylor Music School are seeking to transform the traditional way of celebrating Halloween.

The department will present their 17th annual Halloween Organ Recital 9:00 p.m. tonight in the Jones Concert Hall. This event is free of charge.

The recital will have a spooky Halloween theme and will offer a different activity from the customary Halloween activities, such as haunted houses and trick-or-treating.

“There are some new songs for those who have attended in previous years – such as the theme from Star Wars – but of course we will have the traditional pieces that we play every year, like Haunted House in D minor,” said Dr. Joyce Jones, professor of music and organist in residence.

Students performing will dress up in costumes and per-

form traditional frightening Halloween music.

The Halloween music will include “quintessential BVack Toccata and Fugue in D minor, to funny Halloween tunes comprised of Danse Macabre, complete with dancing skeletons and a hilarious spoof by P.D.Q. Back Toot Suite,” Jones said.

During the recital, beware of a familiar horror character to make an appearance – Alfred Hitchcock.

Richardson graduate student James Kimmel will appear on stage “standing in profile, wearing a tux with a pillow tucked under his costume, and will say in a deep, monotone voice, ‘Good Evening,’” Jones said.

“The production is a department recital, but it’s a fun production with some serious organ playing,” Kimmel said. “A lot of kids come and sometimes candy is passed around.”

The Halloween Organ Recital is not your typical “sit-there-and-watch” performance concert, Kimmel said. It’s an interactive, family-fun event.

“If you go to any recital this year hosted by the School of Music, it should be this one,”

Kimmel said.

Last year the Halloween Organ Recital drew a crowd of 600, he said.

“The best part is seeing the audience dressed up, and witnessing their responses throughout the show,” he said. “They laugh, they clap – everyone just gets right into the show.”

The majority of the students playing are performance and piano majors.

“It’s fun to show off the organ in a fun way,” Double Oak freshman Matthew J. Pool said. “I’d like to remove the organ’s drab stereotype.”

Along with other performances, Pool will be performing the Danse Macabre and Hornpipe Humoresque.

Audience members are encouraged to attend the recital in a Halloween costume.

In order to avoid conflicts with Baylor’s homecoming, the department opted to have the recital earlier in the week at a late hour, Jones said.

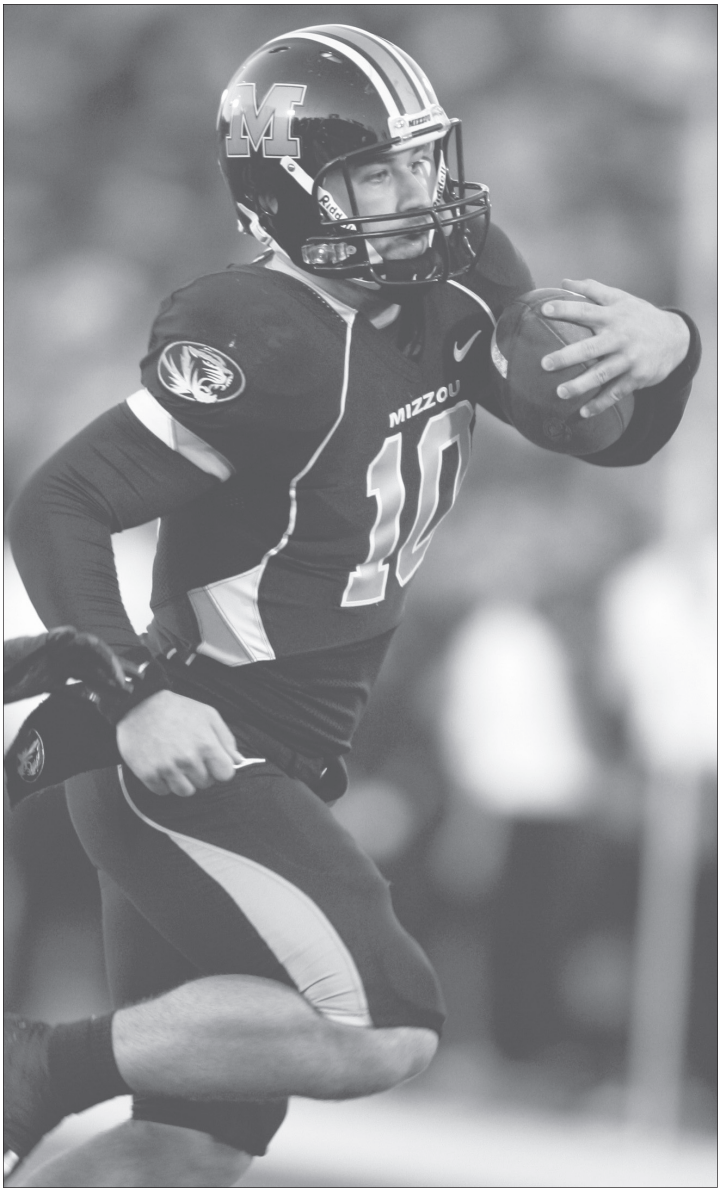
There has been a Halloween concert almost every year, except the one year the silent movie “Phantom of the Opera” was shown instead, Jones said.



Christina Kruse/Lariat Staff

Valley Mills senior April Langston (left) and Derby, Kan. sophomore Sami Froncek play the “Turkish March” written by Ludwig Van Beethoven. The students will preform this song at the Halloween Organ Recital tonight.

Bears gear up for tough homecoming game against Missouri



Associated Press

By Garrett Turner Sports Writer

When skimming through Halloween costumes this year, look no further than dressing up as Chase Daniel, the University of Missouri’s all-star quarterback.

It will be a reality-check for the Bears this Saturday when Daniel brings one of the most feared offenses in the nation to Floyd Casey Stadium.

Daniel, the reigning Big 12 Offensive Player of the Year, has already thrown 23 touchdowns this season, and seven of those touchdowns have gone to sophomore wide receiver Jeremy Maclin.

Daniel and Maclin have already connected 58 times for 800 yards and they have motivated the offense even more, after blanking the University of Colorado last Saturday 58-0.

Baylor head coach Art Briles is aware of this scary duo.

“You would like to contain them both, but that’s pretty tough,” Briles said. “Maclin is kind of a Reggie Bush. When drafting, you look at this guy as a running back but also a return person, so he’s going to touch the ball a bunch. You got to know where he’s at and what he’s doing because every time he touches the ball, which they’re going to make sure he does it, he’s awfully productive with it.”

Returning home

After two discouraging road losses, Briles thinks it will be good to come back home and play in front of the home crowd.

The Bears end their two-game road trip this Saturday.

“We’re excited about Saturday’s homecoming game, going with all the activities like the pep rally Friday night and the parade Saturday,” Briles said. “Hopefully a big win on the football field will follow against a very fine Missouri team.”

It seems the Bears face the

“We can’t stand around while we watch everyone else getting good.”

Art Briles
Head Coach

daunting task of getting wins from “very fine” opponents every week because they have the bad fortune of residing in this season’s prominent conference, the Big 12.

Big 12 teams are making leaps and bounds in improving their programs and Briles doesn’t want to be left behind.

“Every time you line up in the Big 12, you’re going to have a good opponent,” Briles said. “If you’re going to run in this pack, you have to be a bad dog because if you’re not, you’re going to get left behind. We can’t stand around while we watch everyone else getting good,” he said. “We have to continue to grow as a football program, a football team and as a staff because the rest aren’t slowing down.”

Bears showing improvement

The Bears’ bad fortune can make it hard to see the statisti-

cal improvements from this season compared to last season.

In fact, the Bears have made their own leaps and bounds.

Take last year’s offensive production, in which they ranked last in the Big 12 in scoring offense, at 13.5 points per game compared to this season’s scoring offense, at 20.5 points per game.

The defense also has improved from last season when they ranked No. 11 in the Big 12 in total defense at 502.9 yards per game compared to this year, when the defense is No. 8 in the conference, allowing 451.2 yards per game.

These improvements will have to show up this Saturday against a Missouri team that Briles said is going at a high level.

“I definitely think this a team Missouri has been waiting on for a couple of years,” Briles said. “They have a lot of people back. They’ve been a competitive, good every year. Now they’ve grown to a level where they’re a championship team.”

The Bears pass defense, currently ranked No. 6 in the Big 12, has held its own.

The defensive game plan will start with pressure from up front, which gives junior defensive end Jason Lamb and his fellow linemen more opportunities to make a better impact.

“The pass rush up front is so important,” Lamb said. “If we’re getting pressure on Chase and not letting him get comfortable, (it) will take a lot of pressure off our secondary and linebackers.

Missouri has a much heavier passing offense and being defensive linemen, “we love

that,” Lamb said.

“It gives us more opportunities for sacks and hitting the quarterback, which is always what we want to do,” he said.

The importance of this game is undeniable for a team that is still fighting for bowl eligibility despite a tough loss last weekend.

Freshman quarterback Robert Griffin said they can’t live in the past.

“You have to (let it go),” Briles said. “If you don’t, you’re going to be living in the past and it’s going to affect you. You have to show up to every game with a new mindset. Even if you win a game, you can’t think the momentum is going to carry on to the next game. You have to create your own momentum in the game.”

Quick Facts

- Baylor offensive tackle Jordan Hearvey suffered an anterior cruciate ligament tear against the University of Nebraska Saturday. He will miss the rest of the season.
- Baylor’s 19 rushing scores are the most scored in one season since 1985.
- Quarterback Robert Griffin is the second leading freshman rusher in the Big 12, behind Colorado’s Rodney Stewart.

New Campus Kitchen to feed Waco’s hungry

By Molly MacEwan Reporter

Soon, excess food from campus cafeterias will have a better destination than the trash can. Baylor University Campus Kitchens, or BUCK, was chartered Oct. 15. The project will take leftover food to feed to the hungry in Waco.

Campus Kitchens is a national non-profit organization. Its mission is to be “an emerging leader in community service for students and resourceful anti-hunger programs for communities around the country,” according to its Web site. Baylor is the first Texas site for the program.

Plano senior and coordinator of BUCK Abby Williams said she found out about the program while on a trip to Washington and Lee University in Lexington, Va., as part of the Baylor Interdisciplinary Poverty Initiative.

Williams, along with Hewitt master’s candidate Sheena Smith and Oklahoma City, Okla., sophomore Anna Imose, learned about a similar program called D.C. Kitchens.

“The D.C. Kitchens train students in how to prepare and move the food,” said Dr. Gaynor Yancey, professor and associ-

ate dean of the School of Social Work. “They also teach the people how to turn it into a job.”

The BUCK project will have a trial run on Dec. 5 and Dec. 19 in south Waco, said Flor Avellaneda, a McGregor senior in the Master’s of Social Work program.

They are having a kick-off event at the BoBo Spiritual Life Center Nov. 12 for interested students, and student recruitment starts Nov. 17, she said.

The program is open to students of all academic disciplines. Avellaneda said the program will go into full effect in the spring with distribution sites around Waco.

“We hope to have regular feeding sites, cooking and delivery shifts on at least a weekly basis,” Williams said.

Aramark will provide the excess food taken from each cafeteria.

BUCK will also collaborate with the Waco Restaurant Association, Caritas, the McLennan County Food Coalition and perhaps the Capital Area Food Bank in Austin, Yancey said. “All the food is usable, edible and leftovers that are normally thrown away,” she said. “Ultimately, we want to get the Waco community involved through food drives.”

Another goal of the organization is to expand the program into nutrition classes and job training.

“Campus Kitchens is a partnership around good to help the needy,” Yancey said. “There is a great need for programs like this in Waco. It is the fifth poorest city in Texas with an adult poverty rate between 26 and 27 percent. It rises to 31 percent for children.”

According to the National Census Bureau, the national poverty rate in 2006 was less than half that, at 12.6 percent.

BUCK will bring the needs of

the hungry to meet with willingness of Baylor students to positively support the Waco community.

The program is entirely run by students.

The School of Social Work is partnering graduate students with undergraduate students.

The two groups are divided into three teams to work with different aspects of the program.

“They are learning how to work in groups, be a team, be a leader, write grants, work on PR, research and network,” Yancey said.

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