

ROUNDING UP CAMPUS NEWS SINCE 1900

THE BAYLOR LARIAT

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 13, 2007

Cops confirm coverage quicker

New program allows insurance verification without paper proof

By Star De La Cruz
Staff Writer

The Texas Department of Insurance will soon implement a new technology program to allow officers to immediately verify whether a driver has car insurance. The Texas Financial Responsibility Verification Program, which goes into effect in January, will allow law enforcement officers to have access to insurance information on vehicles and drivers from their fingertips.

Jerry Hagins, spokesperson for the department, said the program is the result of Texas legislation passed in 2005 that's just now going into effect because of the time it took to develop the technology.

Hagins said the department teamed up with the Texas Department of Public Safety, the Texas Department of Transportation and the Texas Department of Information Resources to implement information database systems similar to ones already working in other states.

The Department of Insurance estimated 15 to 20 percent of all Texas vehicles are uninsured at any given time. The purpose of this program is to reduce the number of uninsured motorists in Texas. The department hopes the new program will pressure everyone to have valid automobile insurance.

Hagins said insurance companies are currently putting all client information onto the data system to test out the program.

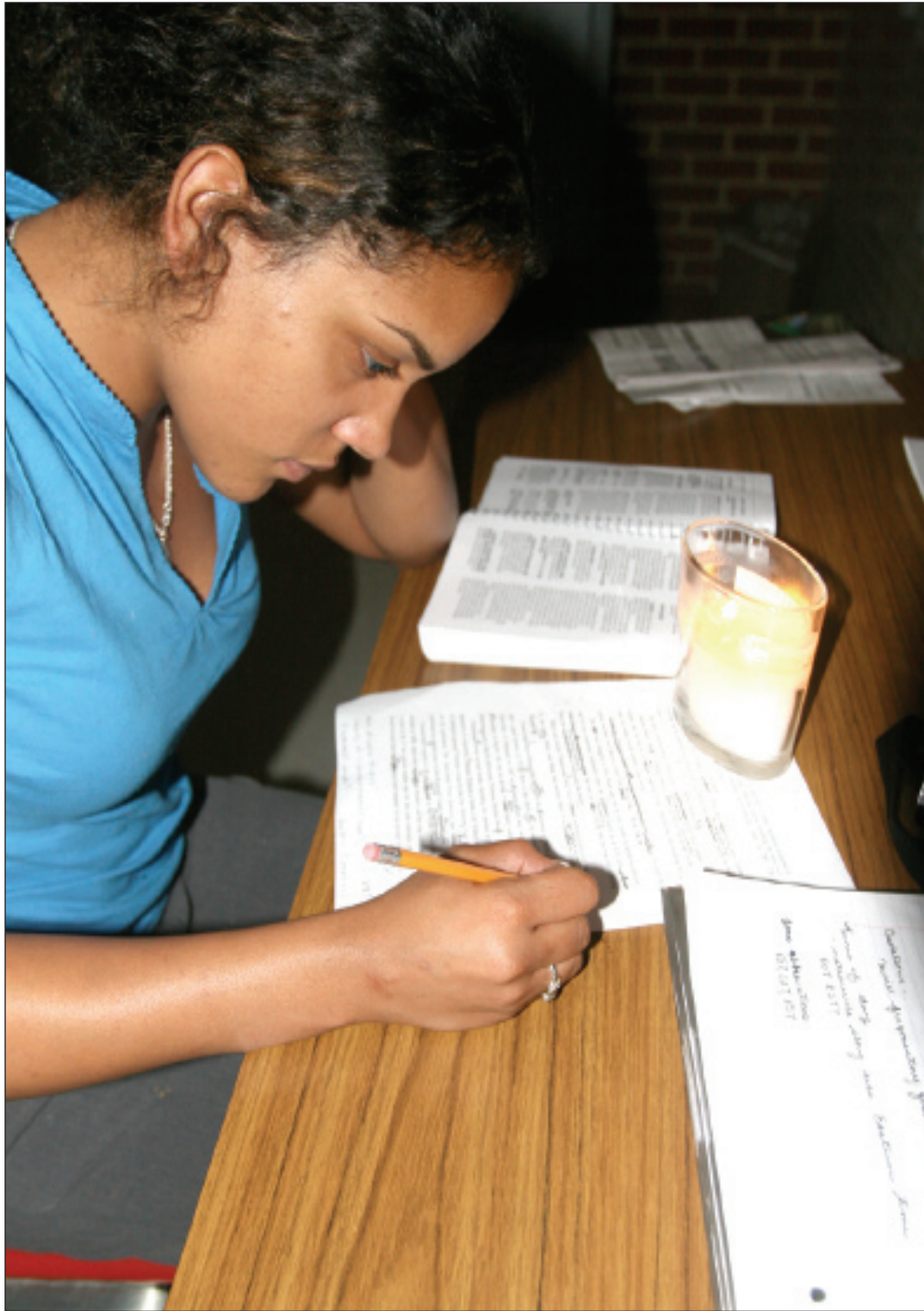
"We want to make sure it's accurate because we don't want anybody to get cited that has insurance or anyone that doesn't get away with it," Hagins said. "The database needs to be accurate."

Scott Everett, a Waco agent and for Farmers Insurance said most of the work is done at the corporate level.

"We will receive verification letters and just go through our local clients to make sure all the (Vehicle Identification Numbers) and policy numbers match," Everett said.

Currently, there are some discrepancies occurring within the insurance's database, Everett said. "A lot of times what we

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Denison junior Danielle Brown, studies by candlelight in Castellow during a campus-wide power outage on Wednesday afternoon.

Jade Hodges/Lariat staff

BU blackout caused by line failure

By Star De La Cruz
Staff writer

If a student was working on an important paper and didn't save it by 2:34 p.m. Wednesday, more than likely this student got pretty upset within the next two minutes.

At 2:35 p.m. yesterday, every Baylor building on the east side of N 1-35 lost electrical power.

Lori Fogleman, Baylor director of media relations, said Baylor campus lost power because of a line failure that delivers electricity from Baylor's Oncor provider to the Baylor Electrical Sub-station.

That failure tripped a switch on the north side of the Brazos River and caused a power outage that was contained to Baylor campus.

Power was restored around 3:05 p.m., Fogleman said, when Oncor switched to another cable that fed into Baylor's service line. "This was not a problem with Baylor's power grid," Fogleman said.

Fogleman said there were four reported incidents of people who were trapped in elevators during the power outage two in Collins Residence Hall, one in the McLane Student Life Center and one in the Baylor Sciences Building.

Baylor Poice Chief Jim Doak confirmed this and had Baylor police respond and assist those who were inside the elevators.

Tommy Roberson, manager of server operations, said Baylor has two back up systems for a power outage crisis. The first one is the uninterruptible power supplier, which is basically a bank of batteries that keeps the server on for minutes.

The other is the diesel generator, Roberson said. This back-up generator will maintain the campus server for as long as we have fuel.

"We have a mechanism that allows us to keep providing the generator with diesel, so it can last for a very long time," Roberson said.

Dallas sophomore Natalie Berry, who was in her small group speech class, said she was scared because her classroom became pitch black.

"Our teacher told us to get out our cell phones and go outside," Berry said. "Then we had class for a little while outside until we were dismissed."

Houston sophomore Jenny Long also was in Berry's class also. "I freaked out," Long said. "I thought it was raining or something and no one knew what to do."

"It's ridiculous how something like this can happen at Baylor, it interrupts everyone and their daily schedule," Long said.

Many professors decided to move their classes outside rather

Please see **POWER**, page 6

Mental health summits aim to alleviate ailments

By Anita Pere
Staff writer

Last year the Baylor Counseling Center helped 790 students, up from 610 the previous year.

"We know there's been more demand," said Dr. Jim Marsh, director of counseling services, as he spoke of the waiting list students have encountered at the center.

College students now have a 50/50 chance of becoming depressed, Marsh said.

But the counseling center comes to students with its Student Mental Health Summits. The summits are to inform students of the signs of depression and other mental health issues.

The first summit was held Wednesday and another sum-

mit will be held Sept. 20 at the same time and place.

The counseling center sees students for many issues, such as anxiety, bipolar disorder, relationship and family problems, sexual and substance abuse and trauma.

The center increased their staff this year to include six psychologists, a counselor, four graduate assistant counselors, a psychiatrist and a dietician.

With the heightened pressures on modern-day college students, it's no mystery why more students are reporting depression.

"[Students] are in the middle of a pressure cooker," said Marsh. He refers to the challenge college students face with juggling classes, homework, jobs, extracurricular activities and a social life.

Marsh believes part of the problem lies with the current generation's "strong drive to succeed."

"With higher expectations comes more stress," he said.

He cited the "Ivy League" factor as another dynamic in depression among students.

The Ivy League factor states that students attending Ivy League schools use university counseling services three times more than students at state schools.

Rigorous academics and a high cost render a higher level of mental burden for students, said Marsh.

Several members of the Sigma Nu fraternity attended the summit Wednesday.

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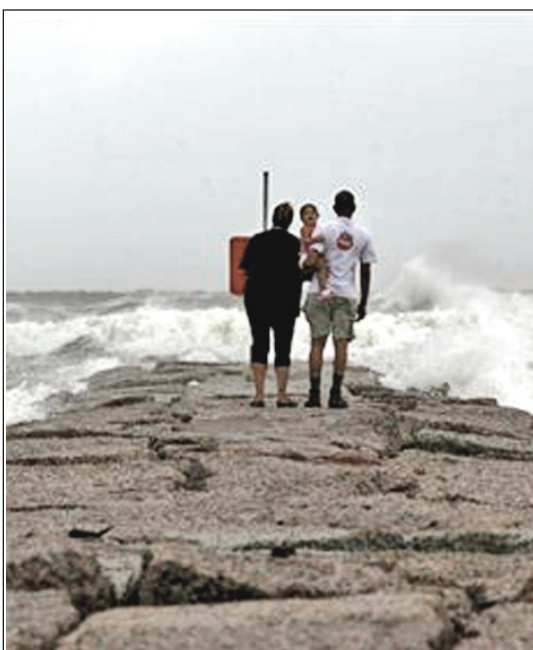


Dr. Jim Marsh, director of counseling spoke at the Student Mental Health Summit Wednesday. The summits are to inform students of the signs of depression and other mental health issues.

Stephanie Jeter/Lariat staff

Tropical storm threatens Texas coast with heavy rains, flooding

Two men fish from the Flagship Hotel fishing pier Wednesday, in Galveston, Texas as waves from tropical storm Humberto hit the shore.



The Associated Press

By Michael Graczyk
The Associated Press

HOUSTON— Tropical Storm Humberto formed off the Texas coast Wednesday and forecasters warned residents along a 270-mile stretch of the coastline extending into southwestern Louisiana to brace for heavy rains and possible flooding.

Tropical storm warnings were posted from Port O'Connor to Intracoastal City, La., with the center of Humberto predicted to slosh ashore overnight Wednesday, probably in the Freeport or Galveston areas, south of Houston.

The storm was expected to track south and east of Houston, then veer to the northeast into Louisiana through Thursday.

Heaviest rain was expected

along and to the east of the storm track.

By late afternoon Wednesday, Humberto was packing nearly 50 mph winds about 50 miles south-southwest of Galveston, moving to the north at 7 mph.

"This obviously isn't an evacuation event or hurricane," John Simsen, emergency coordinator for Galveston County, said. "It's too close to be in a position where it's going to develop that much."

"However, it looks to be a prolonged rain event and some pretty substantial tropical storm-force winds."

Texas has had one of the wettest summers on record, with Houston soaked under the most rain it's had in a summer since 1942. With the ground already saturated, flooding was likely.

Forecasters were anticipating 5 to 10 inches of rain with some spots possibly getting as much as 15 inches.

Tropical storms typically are significant rainmakers.

Last month, at least six deaths were blamed on Tropical Storm Erin, which dropped nearly a foot of rain in parts of San Antonio, Houston and the Texas Hill Country.

In 2001, slow-moving Tropical Storm Allison soaked Houston, dumping about 20 inches of rain in eight hours.

Some two dozen people died, sections of the city were paralyzed and damage was estimated at some \$5 billion.

Brazoria County Sheriff Charles Wagner said low-lying areas in his coastal county, which includes Freeport, could

present problems for residents and "put water into a lot of houses."

No evacuations, however, were recommended.

Just last Saturday, Galveston marked the 107th anniversary of the great 1900 storm where more than 6,000 people were killed in what remains the nation's deadliest natural disaster.

"Be prepared for any kind of serious weather threat is what we ask our people all year long," Galveston Mayor Lyda Ann Thomas said. "And I believe they have done that and are continuing to do that."

In Austin, Gov. Rick Perry activated 50 high-profile military vehicles with 200 soldiers,

Please see **STORM**, page 6

Milk prices gouge students' pocketbooks

By Kate Gronewald
Reporter

Growing up in the 1990s means you know the phrase "don't have a cow." Now you may actually want one.

Milk prices have risen sharply this year due to increased production costs and dairy product demand. Prices are up more than 20 percent from 2006, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

A gallon of milk at a Waco H.E.B. costs \$4.29.

Dairy demand has also increased globally, especially for low-fat and skim varieties, which now outsell whole varieties, as reported by the USDA. The effects may have consumers wishing they were lactose intolerant.

Such volatile prices of commodity products greatly affect businesses, many of which are close to the average college student's heart.

Starbucks raised drink prices on July 31 by an average of 9 cents to counteract skyrocketing milk prices.

As the company's second-largest commodity cost, milk accounts for 10 to 15 percent of Starbucks' cost of goods sold. This recent price increase follows last October's 5-cent increase.

Luckily, beverages at Starbucks in the Dutton Avenue Office and Parking Facility are currently immune to the company's price increase.

"We have a little leeway since we're run through Aramark," said Chris Fisher, store manager.

But students can expect to pay more than \$3.35 for their usual white chocolate mocha in another month when the prices start to equal those of other Starbucks locations.

Even when prices do rise on campus, students' love for Starbucks may outweigh the desire to save a few pennies.

"I don't think people will care," Fisher said.

He may be right.

"I didn't even know prices had gone up," said Edmond, Okla., MBA graduate student Amanda Schwada. "Theoretically, quantity sold should go down, but Starbucks' demand may not be very responsive to a change in price."



Laurisa Lopez/Lariat staff

San Antonio senior Sarah Sweeney compares milk prices at a local grocery store. Milk prices have skyrocketed to more than \$4 per gallon.

Soaring milk prices affect more than the cost of a daily latte.

While pennies may seem inconsequential, some Baylor students have already felt this

year's milk prices hit their pocketbooks.

"My roommates and I had a pretty high grocery bill this past month and were complaining about the price of milk," said Kansas City, Kan., junior Colby Humphrey. "But we'll for sure keep buying it. We have to."

Internet video class taps student interest

By Katherine Farlow
Reporter

The Internet is infiltrated with videos.

"Video on the Internet is the biggest thing that's happened, in my opinion, in media since standardized television," said Dr. Michael Korpi, communication studies professor and film and digital media director.

Before the Internet, distribution of videos was limited, but now "there are almost zero barriers for getting your work out there for people to see," Korpi said.

Stories are all over the news about the Internet, videos and constant changes in technology, Korpi said.

Korpi teaches a new media management class this semester called Internet Video, which is a seminar structured class that looks at different aspects of Internet video and where it's going.

According to a recent survey done by SurveyU, college students exceeded the general population in watching and downloading videos on the Internet.

Cameron Weed, a San Antonio graduate student enrolled in the class, said the class discusses viral (extremely popular) videos, YouTube videos, weekly Internet video news and how to make Internet video a viable source.

The class will also be pitching ideas for Internet video series to create, he said.

"It makes me look at something I've looked at that's so ordinary that has much bigger possibilities," Weed said. "It's an interesting study of business integrating the video world."

Waco senior Parnell McNamara said the class is learning new information on a day-to-day basis about the history and business side of Internet video.

"I'm looking forward to learning the business part of it and keeping a close watch on the development process,"

"Video on the Internet is the biggest thing, in my opinion, that's happened in media since standardized television."

Dr. Michael Korpi
Communications Studies professor

McNamara said. McNamara said he looks forward to seeing the video projects at the end of the semester.

"More and more people are catching on to the idea of getting information for whatever purpose on the Internet," McNamara said.

Korpi said in the film and digital media program, focus is put on technology and technology disruption. He also said the main thing he wants students to realize is where there's disruption, there's opportunity.

"Everybody's trying to figure out what kind of programs will work, and everyone's trying to figure out how you make money on Internet video," Korpi said.

"It seriously disrupts the current order, the current structures of media companies; they're all kind of running scared, threatened," Korpi said.

The Internet gives people a way to distribute information unavailable to people before. Web sites like YouTube, Metacafe and Brightcove give students access to distribution they didn't have before, Korpi said.

Korpi's class will work in combination with communication studies professor Dr. Corey Carbonara's high-definition studio production class to produce the videos.

Korpi said one of the goals of the class is to have the videos "as widely distributed as possible" to maximize advertising potential.



Associated Press

Prayers for the new year

Ultra-Orthodox Jewish men pray Wednesday at the Western Wall, Judaism's holiest site, in Jerusalem. The two-day festival of Rosh Hashanah that marks the beginning of the Jewish new year started at sunset. Thousands of Jews are expected to visit the holy sites in the Old City during the holiday period.

Indonesia rocked by twin earthquakes

By Anthony Deutsch
The Associated Press

PADANG, Indonesia — The second powerful earthquake in as many days shook western Indonesia Thursday, collapsing buildings in a coastal city and triggering tsunami alerts around the region.

The latest quake was also felt in Malaysia and in Singapore where tall buildings swayed.

Rafael Abreu, a geologist with The U.S. Geological Survey in Colorado, said the magnitude-7.8 quake did not appear to be an aftershock to Wednesday's 8.4-magnitude temblor.

"We are not calling it an aftershock at this point. It's fairly large itself. It seems to be a different earthquake," Abreu said.

He said a tsunami watch was in effect for Australia and Indonesia. Indonesia later lifted its alert with no tsunamis detected.

"The quake seems to be pretty shallow," he said. "These are the quakes that can produce tsunamis."

The USGS said the new quake was centered about 125 miles from Bengkulu, a city on the Indonesian island of Sumatra,

which was ravaged by the 2004 tsunami. It occurred at a shallow depth of about six miles.

The Pacific Tsunami Warning Center in Hawaii warned Thursday's quake had the potential to generate a destructive regional tsunami along coasts within 600 miles of the epicenter. It advised authorities to take immediate action to evacuate coastal areas.

On Wednesday, a strong earthquake shook Southeast Asia, collapsing buildings, killing at least five people and injuring dozens in Indonesia. That tremor triggered small waves off the coastal city of Padang in Sumatra, the island ravaged by the 2004 tsunami disaster.

Thursday's quake caused extensive damage in Padang, a local official said.

"Many buildings collapsed after this morning's quake," Fauzi Bahar, the governor, told El Shinta radio. "We're still trying to find out about victims."

After Wednesday's quake, frightened people fled their homes and ran inland, fearing a repeat of the 2004 earthquake and tsunami that struck a dozen nations around the Indian Ocean, killing an estimated 230,000 people.

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MISCELLANEOUS

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Lady Bears lose against Cyclones

By Justin Baer
Sports writer

Coming off of a tournament victory last weekend at the SMU/Radisson Invitational, the Baylor Lady Bears were swept away by the Iowa State Cyclones (30-23, 30-27, 31-29) Wednesday night at the Paul J. Meyer Arena in the Ferrell Center.

Despite a valiant effort put forth by Baylor in their Big 12 conference opener, the Lady Bears were unable to triumph over Iowa State's two monster hitters Mary Bisenius and Lauren Cummings who combined for 26 kills.

If there is such a thing as home court advantage, it hasn't worked out well for the Lady Bears.

After Wednesday night's defeat, Baylor falls to 2-3 at home.

"We've played a lot better on the road," said head coach Jim Barnes. "And then we come back to this building and again we're uptight, and we start games in the hole. We have to serve tough and consistent. Tonight we did not."

The Lady Bears (7-4, 0-1) were led by Haley Thomas who posted 12 kills, while freshman Sarah Grace had a match-high 25 digs.

Baylor seemed to be plagued by communication errors as several balls hit the ground between players throughout the night.

However, the Lady Bears were able to fight back and make things interesting in the second and third games.

But overall Baylor had dug themselves in too deep of a hole to overcome the deficits they

facied.

"I think we came out way too timid," Buda sophomore Anna Breyfogle said. "We need to go out like we have nothing to lose."

"I wish we went into the game with more of an attitude of 'we can do this, we're going to work together', but instead I think we came in here thinking 'we're going to win,'" Breyfogle said.

In the third and final game, Baylor quickly fell behind 6-0 forcing Barnes to call a timeout. Houston senior Amanda Modglin would block an Iowa State hit to put Baylor on the board but the Cyclones would return the favor to side out.

Later, the Lady Bears were down to their last point when Grace came in and served five straight points to claw the Lady Bears back into the game and tie it up at 29.

"I think at that point, we were just relaxed and going for every single ball because at that point there is nothing we could lose," Grace said.

"I think we should play with that attitude the whole time," Grace said.

However, after an Iowa State kill stifled the Lady Bears' momentum, the Cyclones were able to hold off Baylor's late rally and secure the victory.

The Bears return to action this weekend as they travel to Manhattan, Kan., to battle Kansas State.

"We played incredible last weekend," Grace said. "The team that was at SMU didn't show up to play tonight. Hopefully we can bring that back and focus in on Saturday when we play K-State."



Laurisa Lopez/Lariat staff

Iowa State's Erin Boeve (7) goes up for a kill against Baylor's Anna Breyfogle (14) and Taylor Barnes (9). Kristen Schramek (18) covers her teammates blocking effort during the Wednesday night volleyball match.

Cowboys' Romo, Witten enjoy positive rapport

The Associated Press

IRVING — Tony Romo and Jason Witten have taken different paths to being Pro Bowl players for the Dallas Cowboys.

Witten was an All-SEC tight end from Tennessee who became a rookie starter in 2003, when Romo was still the unknown rookie quarterback from a lower division school.

Now Romo, the dimple-faced single guy, has the celebrity status as quarterback of America's Team and is also a fixture in gossip columns. Witten is the popular yet down-home player with a wife and a young son.

But together on the field, the fifth-year players are quite a tandem. Romo and Witten seem to always know what the other is doing and have already shown in the only game this season what a catalyst they can be for a potentially explosive offense.

"I doubt if I'll ever be as close to a teammate again in my career for sure," Romo said. "It's a special relationship where I feel like I know where he's going to be on the field. I feel like we've practiced and done it a million times, we've talked about it a million times."

Witten had five of his six catches in the first half of the season opener — all gains of at least 10 yards in third down situations, one a 12-yard TD on third-and-11. The only catch that didn't get a first down set up Marion Barber's 18-yard TD on fourth-and-1.

Even with 1,000-yard receiver Terry Glenn sidelined by a knee injury, the Cowboys rolled up 478 yards in their season-opening 45-35 victory Sunday night over the New York Giants. It was the most points in an opener for Dallas since 1971, which was a

Super Bowl-winning team.

While Witten's only catch after halftime was a TD drive-starting 38-yard gain, the tight end had extra attention from defenders. That helped free Terrell Owens, who had two TDs in his three catches after being shut out in the first half, Patrick Crayton and Sam Hurd (51-yard TD).

"Wit had a big first half in the second half, I got involved, Patrick (Crayton) got involved, Sam got a deep ball," Owens said Wednesday. "Witten being wide open a couple of times ... he's going to work that middle like no other. He's a guy that knows how to run routes and get himself open."

It was Witten's first 100-yard receiving game (116) since 2004, the first of his three consecutive Pro Bowl appearances, and when Romo, the undrafted rookie from Division I-AA Eastern Illinois, was still relegated to throwing passes in practice and only got in games to hold on kicks.

Romo didn't throw a pass until last October, a week before he replaced Drew Bledsoe at halftime in a Monday night home game against the Giants and threw for 227 yards with two touchdowns and three interceptions.

After that, Romo started the final 10 games, plus the playoff loss at Seattle, and was named to the NFC Pro Bowl team.

Established as the starter, Romo heard a lot of friendly chatter from teammates during the offseason.

"Jason, T.O., Terry, Marion (Barber), Julius (Jones), they all want the ball. You've got to get everybody their presents," Romo said. "That's part of being in the position."

Baseball opens fall practice season

Team readies for spring with goal in sight and new five-game a week schedule

By Justin Baer
Sports writer

The players are lacing up their cleats. The leather mitts are popping from blazing fastballs. The ping from the impact made on aluminum bats echoes across the street.

Fall baseball practice has arrived for Baylor, and although most of the team still hasn't had much of a break from the game since spring practice started late last January, the Bears are back on the diamond preparing to contend for their first College World Series appearance since 2005.

Baylor will return six starting position players and a deep pitching rotation for the 2008 season.

But head coach Steve Smith said the fall is an important time to evaluate the incoming freshman class as well as the progression of his returning players after summer leagues at various locations across the country.

"Obviously we have a lot of new guys," Smith said. "We get a chance to see them up close and personal, so there is a lot of evaluation going on. A lot of the teaching going on for the guys is much of a review since we have so many returning players."

One major change the Bears will face this upcoming season is playing five games a week opposed to three games.

The change, which was enforced across the entire NCAA, allows the Bears to practice longer in the fall, which is just one of the reasons Smith finds the new schedule policy a benefit to his team.

"(Our pitching depth) could have supported it for the last several years," Smith said of the five-game a week schedule. "I like it from that standpoint, because I feel like



David Poe/Lariat staff

Sophomore pitcher Zach Boles helps warm up the pitchers Wednesday at practice in the Baylor Ballpark.

that is one of the advantages we have."

Maybe even a greater advantage to the team than the altered schedule format will

be the return of senior closer Nick Cassavechia.

Cassavechia proved to be a crucial piece of last year's bullpen, closing several close games as well as getting Baylor out of several jams. Cassavechia's domination on the mound continued over the summer as he collected 11 saves and a 1.07 ERA in 16 appearances.

For his stellar summer performance, Cassavechia, a member of the Yarmouth-Dennis Red Sox, was named the 2007 Cape Cod League Relief Pitcher of the Year.

"It was obviously a great honor to be recognized with the best of the best out there," Cassavechia said. "I attribute that to having a really good team that made great plays behind me."

Baylor will return an abundance of talent from last season's squad alongside Cassavechia, a key reason why *Baseball America* predicted over the summer that the Bears would make the trip to Omaha in 2008.

Along with Cassavechia, junior pitcher Wade Mackey returns after posting a 3.18 ERA in 11 starts and 15 appearances last season. His maturation filled out the Baylor starting pitching staff and gave the bullpen more relief late in the season.

Sophomore outfielder Raynor Campbell is coming off a season in which he posted a .321 batting average and was named to the Louisville Slugger Freshman All-America Team by *Collegiate Baseball*.

Yet the players aren't letting the acknowledgment of their talent get to their heads.

"Coach Smith harps on us that those predictions don't really mean anything until we get out on the field," junior shortstop Beamer Weems said. "It's nice to get recognition like that to be a good team."

"We haven't proved anything yet this year. We just got to go out this year like any other year and play our best and hopefully we'll come out on top," Weems said.

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Acoustic Café to showcase students' talent as rising artists

By Rea Corbin
Reporter

Standing on stage can feel nerve-wracking, exhilarating or nightmarish.

But Glen Rose freshman David Dulcie feels happy.

"Everything's crazy with deadlines (with school) right now," Dulcie said. "Being on stage makes it go away for 30 minutes or so, until they kick me off."

Dulcie will perform tonight at Acoustic Café, put on by the Baylor Rising Artists Network. San Diego, Calif., senior Dana

Hamann and Fort Worth freshman John Walter also will be performing.

Both Hamann and Dulcie used a recording of one of their original songs to audition. Hamann said what might have helped get her involved was a friend who mentioned her name first to Michael Riemer, associate director of Student Activities.

"We really rely on our student interaction to find the artists and get a hold of a demo," said Britany Temple, graduate assistant for Special Performances.

For the show, Temple said, Special Performances tried to

find a varied sound in the performers. She said being well-known or a member of B.R.A.N. isn't necessary.

Hamann said she hasn't performed frequently before, except a few times at University Baptist Church and at Common Grounds.

"It's just a little treat," she said.

Hamann said she has been playing guitar for six years and began performing after she started writing original songs.

"Up until the first song that I wrote, I thought it was impossible," Hamann said. After the

first song, Hamann said, she found writing easier.

For Hamann, music comes from her passions. She said she finds it difficult to state a particular influence for her songs.

"My style of music has come out of who I am, the way I carry myself and the things I'm passionate about," Hamann said.

Dulcie, who's been performing for about a year, said as the day of the concert approached, he started to grow nervous. This is partly because he'll have an audience of fellow students, but also because instead of "just playing music," he'll be taking it

to heart, he said.

"It's the same music, but it's taking a different spot within me," Dulcie said.

Like Hamann, Dulcie said he finds a certain flow in writing songs.

"You just sit down and know what to write about," Dulcie said. "If you struggle, it usually doesn't end up as good."

Dulcie said he has written around 30 "decent" songs, but triple that in all.

He said no one specific musician influenced him directly, but he could name a few candidates. Near the top of the list

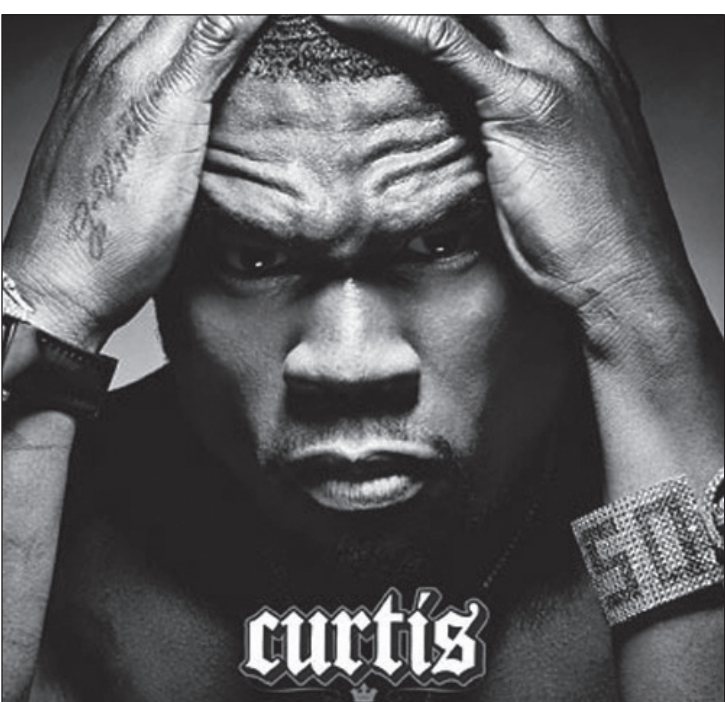
was James Taylor, whose music he was raised on, he said.

His other influences include John Mayer and Dave Matthews, Dulcie said. Both artists have songs Dulcie likes to play along with his own music.

Both Dulcie and Hamann said they plan to play some cover songs along with their own.

Hamann said she'd like to do more things like Acoustic Café, in part because it's a new experience. The opportunity "just fell into my lap," she said.

Acoustic Café will be held from 8 to 10 p.m. today in the Bill Daniel Student Center Den



'Curtis' packed with profanity, performers galore

By Shannon Daily
Reporter

While 50 Cent's new album, *Curtis*, is just as bullet-riddled as he is, both manage to entertain the masses.

ALBUMREVIEW

The intro to the CD, an audio excerpt from the movie *Shooters*, quickly reminds the listener that they're not at "Guns 'R' Us."

Four seconds into the next song the first shots are fired.

Just as in his previous albums, 50 Cent, or Curtis Jackson, takes his time asserting his power and prestige, reminding everyone just how he got to be where he is — nine bullets and loads of talent.

The single "I Get Money" says it all, "I was young, I couldn't do good, now I can't do bad. I ride, wreck the new Jag, I just buy a new Jag."

The way he wraps his mes-

sage in such catchy songs and clever lyrics, however, makes the listener quickly forget the messages of his CD.

He touches on everything from murder to sexual topics that would make most people either blush or cringe.

Curtis is definitely not something to share with mom and dad.

The music behind the lyrics, however, is any hip-hop fanatics' dream, as 50 Cent masters different combinations of styles.

With a hard back-beat so common to hip-hop remaining constant, the melodies of the songs are anything but. They range everywhere from instrumental and almost jazz-like to electronic and soft R&B.

The majority of the solo songs on the album stick to a distinctively hip-hop sound. There is some hard piano or violin that gets added in and gives a nice effect. It's slightly reminiscent of the orchestra-conducting stint 50 Cent pulled in his Vitamin Water commercial.

The CD also draws a large part of its magic from the variety of contributors that he brings in to play. While Justin Timberlake



West defiantly 'stronger' on third album

By Heather Sheppard
Contributor

For his third studio album, *Graduation*, eccentric and controversial rapper and producer Kanye West sticks to what he knows best — sampling — and changes it up a bit with fewer songs and a more adult sound, proving that he has indeed graduated.

ALBUMREVIEW

West began making music in the late '90s and released his first album, *The College Drop Out*, in 2004.

Three years later, *Graduation* is getting more exposure than his first album and second album, *Late Registration*, got combined; mostly due to his highly publicized "who will sell more records" competition with rapper 50 Cent's new album, *Curtis*, dropped on Tuesday as well.

lends his more electronic style and sweet voice to make the crowd say "Ay-O," Robin Thicke croons away, helping to give 50 Cent a rare softer side.

Adding their share of soul and sass are Mary J. Blige and Nicole Scherzinger of the Pussycat Dolls. Eminem and Akon also do their part, helping 50 maintain his street cred. But he doesn't seem to need much help.

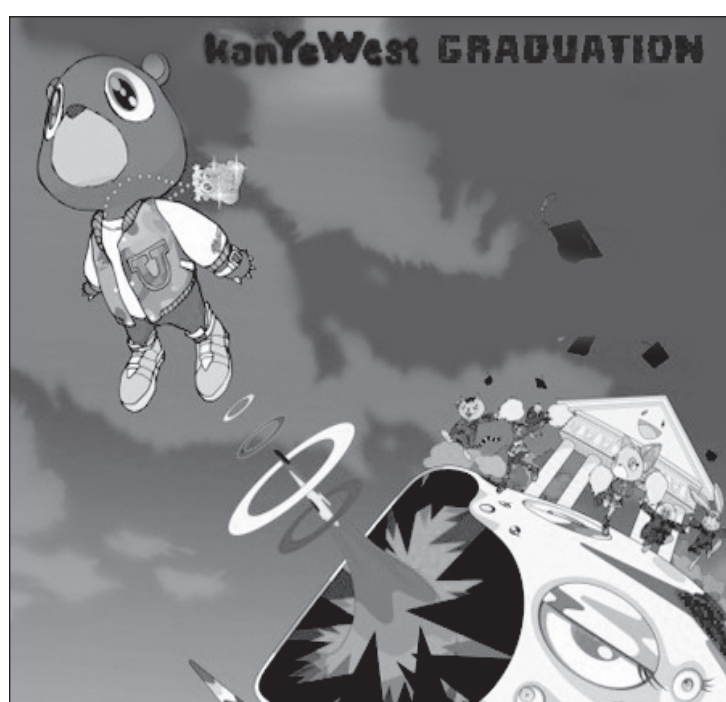
"50 Cent, above all else, is a hustler, one that mastered the fine art of speaking in intoxicating sound bites long before publicists were paid to be in the picture," according to *Rolling Stone*.

The promotion of this album is a testimony to that. The 50 Cent vs. Kanye West release date brought massive amounts of publicity to both artists. 50 Cent told *Rolling Stone* that he'll retire if West sells more albums than he does.

"Well, then he'll just get shot again and come back," said Magnolia junior Brett Baroch.

Overall, the style of the album is great and the songs are highly entertaining, even if the lyrics are a little risqué.

Grade: B+



The two artists have been using the publicity from their "rivalry" to their advantage by appearing together Sunday on the 2007 MTV Video Music Awards and on the cover of the September issue of *Rolling Stone*. 50 Cent took the competition one step further by saying that if *Graduation* outsold *Curtis*, he would retire from the music business. Though the true winner hasn't been announced yet, *Graduation* is already beating *Curtis* on the iTunes album charts.

If there's one thing West knows how to do well, it's sample other artists, and he executes this talent extremely well this time around. The second single off *Graduation*, "Stronger" samples 2001's "Harder, Better, Faster, Stronger" by the French duo Daft Punk.

West also samples Elton John's "Someone Saved My Life Tonight" on the opening track "Good Morning," which features vocals from Jay-Z. "The Good Life," featuring T-Pain samples Michael Jackson's 1982 hit "P.Y.T. (Pretty Young Thing)." Steely Dan and Public Enemy are also sampled on the album.

Compared to West's last album, *Graduation* has a more grown-up and tighter sound. This album has only 13 songs instead of the 21 on his last release. West decided to skip the comedic skits that were on *Late Registration* and opted for a quicker-paced album that gets straight to the point. *Graduation* shows a more serious side of West, who seems to have grown from a young student to a true graduate of the music business.

The song "Flashing Lights," featuring chilling violins, cellos and the soulful sound of singer Dwele, mixes drama with the edgy sound of synthesizers. "Homecoming," featuring Coldplay's Chris Martin, discusses West's childhood to the sound of some jazzy piano work and hard-hitting percussions. The oddball of the album, "Drunk and Hot Girls," featuring Mos Def, slows the album down a little bit but supplies some of the humor West is known for.

Graduation is a surefire way to solidify his celebrity. Whether you're rooting for Kanye West or 50 Cent, *Graduation* is an album definitely worth listening to.

Grade: A

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David Poe/Lariat staff

Never mess with a man and his gun

Henry Chan, Rex Weir, Justin McGraw and Chandler Basset shoot skeet during the Baylor Marksman's Association Officer shoot at Chandler's Gun Ranger in Valley Mills

HEALTH from page 1

Since the death of brother Mark Hudson last year, the fraternity promotes the early detection of depression and suicidal thoughts. Marsh recommends walking a friend to the center or dialing the number for them. Most importantly, if a friend shares suicidal thoughts, let someone in the counseling center know immediately. The counseling center's services are confidential. The first seven visits are free and \$10 a session thereafter. Faculty members met for a mental health summit last September. This year's faculty summit will be held from 2-4 p.m. Oct. 3. in 151 Robinson Tower.

POWER from page 1

er than cancel them. Maryann Jennings, human health performance and recreation adjunct instructor, was one of them. Jennings said when the lights went out her students just left. "For my next class, I took my students outside, took roll, went over the next test and after 15 minutes let them go," Jennings said. Dr. Robin Wallace, history music professor, was working in his office when the power went

in behavior and threats of harming self or others. If these signs are observed in a friend, urge them to call the counseling center anytime day or night. Wallace said. For some students, the power outage was something good. Dennison senior Jarius Wyatt said his first thought was, "Yes! We're fixing to get out!" Wyatt said he was in his Christain heritage class when the professor's computer turned off. "He (the professor) was trying to find the light switch because the classroom lights were already off," Wyatt said.

Senate Democrats reject general's plan, draft legislation

By Anne Flaherty
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON - A day before President Bush's war address, Senate Democrats rejected a four-star general's recommendation to keep some 130,000 troops in Iraq through next summer and sought legislation that would limit the mission of U.S. forces. Their proposal was not

expected to set a deadline to end the war, as many Democrats want, but restrict troops to narrow objectives: training Iraq's military and police, protecting U.S. assets and fighting terrorists, Democratic party officials told The Associated Press. The goal is to attract enough Republicans to break the 60-vote threshold in the Senate needed to end a filibuster. Democrats have proved unable to do that since they took control of Con-

gress eight months ago. "I call on the Senate Republicans to not walk lockstep as they have with the president for years in this war," Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid, D-Nev., said at a news conference. "It's time to change. It's the president's war. At this point it also appears clear it's also the Senate Republicans' war." Democrats struggled to regain momentum in the war debate after two days of testi-

mony by Gen. David Petraeus, the top commander in Iraq, and Ambassador Ryan Crocker. Petraeus said the 30,000 troop buildup begun this year had yielded some gains and needed more time. He recommended slowly reversing the buildup, drawing down about 5,500 soldiers and Marines by year's end and aiming for a force of 130,000 next summer. Reid and other Democrats said that proposal does not go

far enough. "It creates and provides an illusion of change in an effort to take the wind out of the sails of those of us who want to truly change course in Iraq," said Sen. Carl Levin, D-Mich., chairman of the Armed Services Committee. In a bold challenge to Petraeus' assessment, Reid said the "situation on the ground in Iraq has not changed at all." He later acknowledged gains in Anbar

province, "but it's like the big balloon that you push on one side and it comes out someplace else." Petraeus' assessment inflamed Democrats, but assuaged many Republicans. It did lead to tough questions from several Republican skeptics, including Sens. John Warner of Virginia and Susan Collins of Maine, but most GOP lawmakers said they were reluctant to impose a firm timetable.

AUTO from page 1

have experienced this year is that when fake VIN and policy numbers are file in police reports or law suits," Everett said. "The state departments call us and it causes a lot of extra paper work." Everett said he personally prefers physical proof. "It's a good idea because it keeps people abiding by the state laws and it will cut down on some unnecessary insurance disputes when someone isn't insured," Everett said. Because there are so many insurance companies, Everett said he doesn't think it will matter much within insurance economics. "The rates won't increase but there may be more competition since there will be more people trying to make sure they are insured," Everett said. Law enforcement officers already have access to information with their current database

system, Baylor Police Chief Jim Doak said, including whether a car is stolen or if the car is registered with the state. About one in 10 students he pulls over don't have insurance, Doak said. "The new program is a win-win situation for everybody," he said. "The idea is, stay off the road if you don't have liability insurance. No insurance, no driving." There's no action required on the part of the drivers, but for caution drivers may want to verify that the Vehicle Identification Number (VIN) on their vehicle is the same as the one shown on the insurance policy and vehicle title and registration, Hagin said. He also said if there is some type of discrepancy, a fine may have to be paid even if you have insurance. Also, drivers won't be asked to show their insurance card because police will rely on the datsystem. There's the small percentage that an error can show some-

one is uninsured when they are, Hagin said. "I'd be pretty upset, if I got pulled over and had to pay a ticket for being wrongly accused," Houston sophomore William Ervin said. "But if they can make it work the way it should then I don't have any problem with it." "It's actually good," Ervin said. "Because if you forget your insurance card you don't get a ticket and save yourself the trouble of having to go to the courthouse and verify that you do have insurance." McGregor senior Flor Avellaneda said she would feel her rights, as a citizen, would be violated if she were accused of not having insurance when in fact she did. "I think showing your insurance card is safer in the sense that you don't have to be nervous if whether something may go wrong and your name and vehicle identification number don't match with your insurance policy number," Avellaneda said.

Trib reporter Emily Ingram takes you behind the scenes and into the stands at every Baylor home game!

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