

THE BAYLOR LARIAT

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A Whole New Class
Check out our coverage of the 2010 recruiting class that includes 23 players from around the nation and provides the Bears with hope for next year's season

Nearby area ranks ninth for crime

Study focuses on property crime, cites many college areas

By **BETHANY MOORE**
STAFF WRITER

A study performed by Neighborhood Scout, released in December, placed a neighborhood near Baylor University in the top 15 college neighborhoods for property crime in America.

The area surrounding Third and Garden Street on the southeast side of La Salle Avenue, placed ninth on the list, with 437 property crimes per 1,000 residents.

Neighborhood Scout founder and CEO, Dr. Andrew Schiller, was performing a study on the most dangerous neighborhoods for property crime in the U.S. when he realized many of the neighborhoods on the list were close to large and acclaimed universities in America, he said.

"We began this research because we were curious about individual neighborhoods' crime rates, instead of a city as a whole, since there may be higher crime in some neighborhoods versus others," Schiller

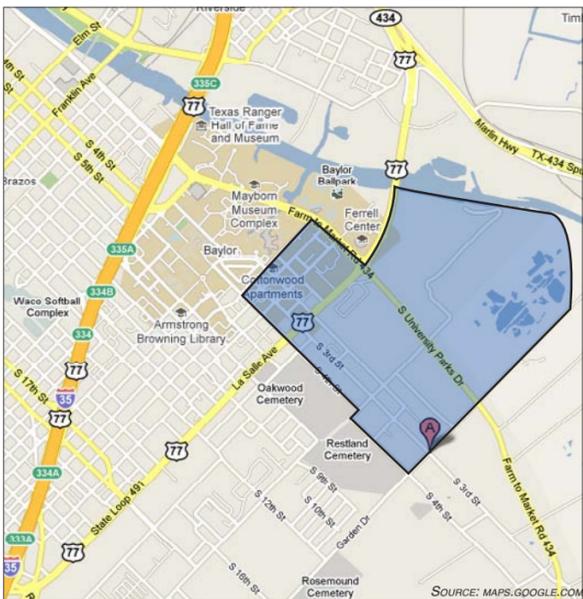
er said. "We were very surprised at the results since many of the neighborhoods were near college campuses."

The neighborhood near Baylor was not in the list of the top 15 neighborhoods of property crime overall; however, when the list was shortened to only areas adjacent to colleges, Baylor placed in the top 10.

Schiller, who holds a Ph.D. in geography and demographic data analysis, said the results were based on the average property crime rates of a specific neighborhood over 2005, 2006 and 2007. The information was then processed through Neighborhood Scouts' high predictability analysis model to find the annual crime rate per 1,000 residents. Neighborhood Scout is a search engine that allows people to compare and research prospective neighborhoods, using their large database of statics and information.

"For Third and Garden, we looked over a moving window of those three years and found an average of 942 property crimes," Schiller said. "We then placed the average in our analysis model, which considers the number of residence in the area

see **CRIME**, pg. 9



Haunted Hippodrome



COURTESY PHOTO

Cindy Jacobson, a paranormal investigator, was a member of the team that confirmed the Waco Hippodrome is haunted. Jacobson has cited several sightings of "orbs" in the theater, such as the one in the top left corner of the photo above.

Waco theater confirmed as paranormal site

Cindy Jacobson walks to the bathroom in the dark Waco Hippodrome. Suddenly, she feels someone tug on her hair. She turns around to look for her husband, but she is alone.

Or is she?

By **CATY HIRST**
STAFF WRITER

With reports circulating that the Hippodrome is haunted, Brandon Burns, technical director for the Waco Performing Arts Company, agreed last fall to participate in a paranormal investigation conducted by McLennan County Paranormal Investigations (MCPI).

Mike Jacobson, founder and investigator at MCPI, said it is a Christian organization and all of the work done is pro-bono.

"We go into a place, not to prove that

it is haunted, but to prove that it is not," Mike said. "Once we go in, we try to debunk what we can. What we cannot debunk is what we focus the investigation on."

Mike said they investigated the Hippodrome on Nov. 14 and Jan. 9. They confirmed Friday that the Hippodrome was haunted.

"Any time you do theater correctly, it will be haunted," Burns said. "You can't bring characters to life and expect them to go away."

Burns said he has personally experienced paranormal activity at the Hippodrome and was not surprised when the investigations deemed the building haunted.

"One of the reasons I agreed to the investigation was because I kept seeing things out of the corner of my eye when going up the stairwell," Burns said. "It is like a mob of people heading out of the building, and I see it more on one side of the building."

Mike also used to work as a night assistant manager at the Hippodrome in the 1970s when it was the Waco Theatre. He was in charge of climbing the cat-

walks to work the curtains.

"One night we went up there and I started up the stairs," Mike said. "The guy that was with me said, 'Who is up on the catwalk?' and I said 'Well, nobody.'"

The man told Mike again that someone was looking at them.

"When I looked up, I saw a black figure looking at me," Mike said. "I walked up there to look and didn't see anything. I got chills and did not go back up there again until the second investigation."

Mike had not returned to the catwalks of the Hippodrome until last year, during the investigation.

During the first investigation, MCPI found mists that were unaccounted for and they caught voices using extremely sensitive digital recorders.

When one team was leaving the area so another team could investigate, the leaving team said, "We are leaving now. Have a good show."

The response recorded was, "That you must see."

Cindy Jacobson, founder and investigator of MCPI, uses a sensitive flashlight

see **GHOSTS**, pg. 9

Marketing prof wins Davidson for dissertation

By **SARA TIRRITO**
STAFF WRITER

The 2010 Davidson Award for Best Article in the Journal of Retailing 2008 will be given to Dr. Morris George, associate professor of marketing, at the American Marketing Association Winter Education's Conference on Feb. 21.

Receiving the award with him will be V. Kumar, professor of marketing at Georgia State University, and Joseph Pancras, assistant professor of marketing at the University of Connecticut, who authored the article with George.

George worked on the article, titled "Cross-Buying in Retailing: Drivers and Consequences," as his dissertation when he was a student at the University of Connecticut. It was published

in the Journal of Retailing just after he began work at Baylor in 2008.

The article focuses on cross-buying, which is a situation where consumers purchase more than one type of product from one retailer.

"This paper is all about identifying some of the factors associated with cross-buying and the impact of cross-buying on customers' value to the company," George said. "I was interested in the field of customer relationship management, especially in customer lifetime value. This cross-buying is a driver of customer lifetime value. I was thinking one step backward — I was thinking what are the drivers of cross-buying?"

Dr. Chris Pullig, associate professor and chair of marketing, said that the award indi-



DANIEL CERNERO | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Dr. Morris George, winner of the 2010 Davidson award for the Best Article in the Journal of Retailing 2008, works in his office Wednesday in the Hankamer School of Business.

icates the substantial effect that George's work has had on retail marketing practice and theory, and that it brings academic recognition to both the business school and the university as a whole.

"The award is given two years after the article appears in order to assess its impact in the field, so it's clear that his work is recognized as essentially the best

that has appeared during this two-year period," Pullig said. "It has a significant effect on our academic reputation with other universities. That's probably the number one impact — it places Baylor in a tier of other universities that are known for their excellence in research."

George said he didn't know

see **AWARD**, pg. 9

Toyota extends hours for recall

By **DAN STRUMPF**
ASSOCIATED PRESS

DETROIT — Toyota's dealers, who have started to repair defective gas pedals in millions of U.S. vehicles, are extending hours, making house calls and offering other services as they try to repair the damage to Toyota's reputation.

Toyota Motor Corp. recalled eight models Jan. 21 and stopped selling them five days later because their accelerator pedals could stick in a depressed position. Toyota is sending dealers a piece of steel about the size of a postage stamp that can be inserted into the accelerator mechanism and eliminate the friction that causes the problem.

Jim White Toyota, a dealership in Toledo, Ohio, received about 350 steel pieces, or shims, and began repairs Wednesday morning. By mid-afternoon, about 25 cars were fixed, said Terry Treter, service manager.

Repairs were going smoothly and a little faster than the half-hour Toyota estimated, he said.

Treter said customers have been calm despite a warning early Wednesday from U.S. Transportation Secretary Ray LaHood, who said owners of recalled Toyotas should stop driving them. LaHood later said he misspoke and told owners to get their cars repaired. Toyota is giving U.S. dealers payments of up to \$75,000 to help them offer extra measures like house calls.

"Within the next several days, you will receive a check from us (no strings attached) with a simple request - 'do the right thing on behalf of Toyota customers,'" Toyota group vice president Bob Carter said Tuesday in the letter to dealers obtained by The Associated Press.

Carter thanked dealers for their extraordinary measures. He also suggested other steps,

see **CARS**, pg. 9

Roeder trial should be wake-up call to Christian church

Point of View



BY MATT LARSEN

Killing is still killing according to the jury in the trial of anti-abortionist Scott Roeder, who was accused and convicted of first-degree murder last Friday.

The jury's decision took under 40 minutes as Roeder openly testified that he deliberately shot and killed Dr. George R. Tiller, a longtime abortion doctor who performed late-term operations.

Few would argue the ruling especially when Roeder, himself, admits to the act. Yet the part of the story that unnerves much of the American population about this story is the fact that Roeder killed Tiller in a church and with a belief system that he draws from biblical principles.

Roeder argued that Tiller would continue to take innocent lives unless something was done. For this reason, he chose to take matters into his own hands.

While Scott Roeder was an extremist that the Christian church wants in no way to be affiliated with, many Christians would agree with his belief that life begins at conception and that abortion is an act of murder itself.

For this reason, I believe that Christians still have a lesson to be learned from the situation.

When I look at Scott Roeder, I see a man who completely lost touch with the principles of the faith he professed.

Principles of love upon which Christianity was established are gone from his mind and that leads me to question whether the church is fully doing its job.

In no way am I blaming Christians in and around Mr. Roeder's life. Mr. Roeder was completely responsible for his actions.

However, when I see extreme acts within the church I can't help but believe that we, as Christians, can do better.

We can do better at building a community within the church that invests in each others' lives in order to bring an accountability that we as humans all need.

I believe we were created to live in community and that extreme mindsets take root when we are not surrounded with other people who share our beliefs and who are willing to walk through life with us.

Roeder made a comment that "two wrongs don't make a right," in defense of his belief that women who have been victims of rape or incest are not entitled to rights of abortion.

I find his statement ironically self-condemning as he himself took Tiller's life in order to prevent more killing.

Yet, as a church I believe we will fall into the same pitfall if we simply dismiss Roeder as an extreme case that we have nothing to learn from. If we do that, we will be arrogantly exalting ourselves rather than humbly choosing to make the church better at doing its job of encouraging and building up one another in love.

Matt Larsen is a Katy sophomore majoring in journalism. He is a sports writer for the Baylor Lariat.

D'OH!



Perry's refusal of education funds — nothing but politics

Editorial

Recently Texas Gov. Rick Perry opted out of a possible grant that would have allowed the federal government to give Texas up to \$750 million in taxpayer money to improve education up to 12th grade.

The grant is in connection with the controversial and competitive "Race to the Top" program. This program encourages competition between states' education systems that apply for funding and meet requirements set by the federal government.

Forty other states and the District of Columbia applied for the federal grants, which amount to \$4.35 billion total, despite what Perry views as an opportunity for federal control.

Perry cited potential increase of federal control in local education as the reason behind the denial of the federal funds. This statement, while it can be a legitimate concern for many governors and Americans, is not a legitimate concern in this situation.

Perry's argument had weak points. Although acceptance of the grant was feared to open the door to federal control in local education, this was in fact the opposite of the truth. Had Perry accepted the grant, it would have been the decision of the individual school districts to apply for a portion of the grant and to comply with the "Race to the Top" guidelines. Thus, the districts would be deciding if the requirements were feasible for their individual districts.

Moreover, while Perry did raise some concerns that may have been voiced by his Republican colleagues, his first priority should have been to provide all the opportunities that he could to better the Texas public school education system.

Thus, most Texans must question Perry's motives and whether or

not the denial had any benefit, aside from increased approval from Republicans who are already skeptical of the Obama-run

federal government.

Regardless of potentially increased federal influence, would the benefit of funds for Texas education have far out weighed those fears?

Is it better to provide for the future or be concerned with bipartisan disagreements of the present?

One of the stipulations to acceptance of the grant that most concerned Perry was the federal plan for all states to work toward the goal of common academic standards in both math and English. While Perry may have viewed this as strings attached to acceptance of the funds, it may in actuality be a measure of accountability for the states that received the grants.

Ultimately, the individual districts know best whether or not they need the funds or would like to meet the requirements to receive them. Perry, by deciding for the entire state, took away the opportunity for any district to decide.

With battles in gay rights, abortion, health care and wars in both Iraq and Afghanistan, a battle in education seems both petty and simply another reason for Perry to establish himself as a grass-roots Republican before his Republican primary race against Sen. Kay Bailey Hutchison, who also said that she would have denied the funds.

As bipartisan lines are drawn in the sand, it seems to be an increasing possibility that even beneficial suggestions from the opposing party may be ignored on basis of habit alone.

Reflection on the highs and lows of growing up

As we enter a new decade, I began thinking about the fashion trends of my childhood. My roommates and I reminisced over bright-colored scrunchies, Lisa Frank notebooks, jelly shoes and heeled shoes, just to name a few. We quickly came to the realization that we would not be wearing these fond fashions anytime soon. They, as so many other things, are out of style.

The fashion trends of my childhood quickly went the way of the laughable big hair of the '80s or the ridiculous bell-bottom pants of the '70s. They were lame.

As this new revelation took hold, we began to contemplate today's fashion trends. For example, wearing leggings with oversized shirts or sweaters, straight hair with poofs and wearing Uggs with Nike shorts when it's cold outside.

In 15 years or so our children will be making fun of our lame fashions, just like we laughed at our parents'.

"Mom, why did you straighten your hair all the time? Didn't you know how silly you looked?"

"Dad, did you really wear saggy pants? I can definitely see your boxers in this picture. Gross."

In 40 years or so, our grandchildren will be appalled by our scandalous fashion sense.

"Grandma! Is that you in the super short-shorts and tank top?"

After this thought, I had an even more disturbing epiphany...

Point of View

BY CATY HIRST



We are getting old.

Okay, maybe old is extreme, but we are getting older. I am two decades old. I am old enough to make fun of a fashion trend I lived through. I remember when cell phones had Snake. I can remember not having a computer.

I love to go to bed early. It is a real treat and I can not wait until I can do it on a regular basis.

I can't go to my pediatrician anymore, and I don't get suckers when I go to the doctor.

Loud music annoys me when I am trying to concentrate. Stupid

teenagers.

Naps are awesome. They are rejuvenating and boost my energy. I actually talk to my parents now. I don't get talked to by them, but we engage in adult-like conversation.

I pay bills.

I am going to graduate from my semi-child, semi-adult college life and make the final transition into adulthood. I am going to have a career and a responsibility to my community as a mature, adult citizen.

But even though this life change is rapidly approaching, I still feel like the little girl who wore bright red scrunchies and imagined I lived in a Lisa Frank rainbow world. And I don't think that is a bad thing.

Growing up and being responsible is necessary, but growing up and being lame? No way. Whether I am wearing scrunchies, Uggs or a business suit, I hope I always remember how to laugh and giggle at the silly things like the big hair and the bell-bottom jeans.

As Peter Pan would say, "If growing up means it would be beneath my dignity to climb a tree, I'll never grow up, never grow up, never grow up... Not me!"

Caty Hirst is a Caddo, Okla., junior majoring in journalism. She is a staff writer for the Baylor Lariat.

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Please Recycle This Issue

Business team gains experience at competition

By JOHN D. ELIZONDO
REPORTER

Teamwork helped four Baylor business students get through a difficult challenge when they went to compete in the KPMG National Case Competition in Dallas on Jan. 22.

KPMG International is a networking company with connections to tax and audit firms worldwide.

Each year, KPMG runs its National Case Competition.

This year each of KPMG's U.S. regions nominated one school to participate in the national case competition.

Baylor University was selected to represent the Southwest region.

First, the university held a preliminary competition in November to determine the group of students who would represent Baylor for the national competition.

Each team had two days to work on a specific business case and give a detailed presentation to KPMG partners from the Dallas offices.

Midlothian junior Jared Bourcier; Nashville, Tenn. sophomore Joseph Mercer; Rockford sophomore Kyle Vesta; and San Antonio senior Tristan Vick won the opportunity to represent Baylor by successfully convincing KPMG partners to buy into their presentation.

"[When we] received feedback after the Baylor rounds, we were told

our group was not the best but that we sold our case the best and had a solid presentation," Bourcier said.

Going into the preliminary competition, the four team members didn't know each other that well because the group was chosen at random.

But Vick said that it didn't phase

"We had a very good team, we felt very confident, and we always came out feeling that we had done a good job."

Jared Bourcier
Midlothian junior

the team at all.

"It wasn't very tough to work together because we all had a common goal: to win and to get all our work done as fast and as efficiently as possible," Vick said.

After making it through the Baylor round of the competition, Mercer said each member figured out his place in the group.

"I felt we worked very well together," Mercer said. "Tristan had a lot of experience, Jared was very knowledgeable, and Kyle and I were



COURTESY PHOTO

Pictured from left: Michael Pigg (KPMG), Jared Bourcier, Joseph Mercer, Kyle Vesta, Tristan Vick, and Phil Smith (KPMG).

trying to learn as we went along."

Mercer and Vesta received high praise from both Vick and Bourcier for being able to compete at such a high level even though they had little experience in breaking down business cases because they are only sophomores.

"It was quite the challenge having to step up and read the case and understanding it in such little amount of time," Vesta said.

The whole team emphasized how much the team's success was based off of being able to work so well together.

Mercer said the team met up a couple of times the week leading up to the national competition.

They came up with strategies about how to approach the challenges that would await them, but had no idea what to expect other than they would be working with less time to analyze and create a presentation.

As focused as they were, they still managed to find some time to create closer ties and develop team unity the day before the competition.

"It was fun. We went to Jared's

house the night before [the competition], and we played video games and ate pizza," Vesta said. "We got closer as a team on a personal level."

The team headed to the KPMG Dallas offices on Jan. 22 to compete in the national contest.

Bourcier said they had three hours to break-down a big case, create a PowerPoint, and then present the material as best as they could to KPMG business executives in New York City via teleconferencing.

The team agreed they were challenged when trying to complete the case and the questioning by the executives was very intense, but in the end they felt good about their efforts.

"We had a very good team, we felt very confident, and we always came out feeling that we had done a good job," Bourcier said.

The Baylor team did not win the competition, but Mercer said the group took advantage of a great opportunity.

"I thought it would be an interesting experience when I first signed up, and it turned out to be just that," Mercer said.

Junior charged with possession of child porn

By BETHANY MOORE
STAFF WRITER

A Baylor student was released Wednesday on a \$30,000 bond after he was charged with possession of child pornography.

Louise junior Nick Ochoa was arrested Tuesday and charged with a third-degree felony on two separate counts of child pornography, and taken to McLennan County jail in lieu of two \$15,000 bonds.

According to the criminal complaint filed by Billy Martin Justice of the peace precinct 1, videos were found when Ochoa, a psychology major in Martin Hall, turned in his computer to residential technology to have files transferred to his external hard drive on Jan. 25.

Casey Blackburn, a student worker in the technology center, reported to police that during a scan of the hard drive he found a video titled "8-year-old" and other videos with related sexual content. He discovered the content was pornographic and Baylor police officer Jason Wright was notified.

On Jan. 27, a Waco police officer received a warrant to search Ochoa's dorm room and on Jan. 28, after a search of the room, several media devices were taken.

After being interviewed, Ochoa admitted to knowledge of videos containing sexual conduct with a child, according to the criminal complaint.

A waiver must be signed by any student turning in a computer to Residential Technology, which states that residential technology services will forward any information found on the computer which violates university policy or state or federal law to the department or law enforcement agency.

This case is still being investigated.



Ochoa

BEAR BRIEFS

Movie Screening

Bears for Life will screen the movie "Maafa 21" from 7 to 9 p.m. today in 100 Morrison Hall.

Karate practice

Shotokai Karate will host a karate practice from 9-10 p.m. today in room 320 at Marrs-McLean gym. Principles of self-defense practices will be taught and practiced.

Band concert

The School of Music is hosting a 71 member symphonic band concert 7:30 p.m. Friday at Jones Concert Hall. It is free and open to the public.

Senior recital

The School of Music presents Matthew Williams (tenor) at 5 p.m. Saturday in Roxy Grove Hall. This is Williams' senior recital.

Women's basketball

Baylor Women's basketball vs. Colorado will take place from 7:30 to 9:30 p.m. Saturday at the Ferrell Center.

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Border fence plagued by glitches, delays



ASSOCIATED PRESS

This undated picture provided by the U.S. Customs and Border Protection shows a prototype of a tower for a virtual fence along the U.S.-Mexico border at a test facility in Playas, N.M.

By JAQUES BILLEAUD
ASSOCIATED PRESS

PHOENIX — An ambitious, \$6.7 billion government project to secure nearly the entire Mexican border with a “virtual fence” of cameras, ground sensors and radar is in jeopardy after a string of technical glitches and delays.

Having spent \$672 million so far with little to show for it, Washington has ordered a reassessment of the whole idea. The outlook became gloomier this week when President Barack Obama proposed cutting \$189 million from the venture.

Ultimately, the project could be scaled back dramatically, with the government installing virtual fences along a few segments of the nation’s 2,000-mile southern boundary but dropping plans for any further expansion, officials said.

“The worst that happens is that we have a system which gives us some value but we conclude that it’s not worth buying any more of it,” said Mark Borkowski, the government’s director of the project at U.S. Customs and Border Protection.

The first permanent segment of virtual fence — a 23-mile stretch near Sasabe, Ariz. — was supposed to be turned over to the Border Patrol by the main

“Americans need border security now.”

Janet Napolitano
Homeland Security Secretary

contractor, Boeing Co., for testing in January, but the handover has been delayed by problems involving the video recording equipment.

The Bush administration launched the project in 2005 to help secure the border against illegal immigrants, drug smugglers and other intruders. It was conceived as another layer of protection, in addition to thousands of Border Patrol agents and 650 miles of real fences.

The system was supposed to let a small number of dispatchers watch the border on a computer monitor, zoom in with cameras to see people crossing, and decide whether to send Border Patrol agents to the scene. Although there are sensors, cameras and radar at many points along the border, they are not connected to cover large expanses.

Originally, the virtual fence was supposed to be completed by 2011; that date has slipped to 2014, largely because of technical problems.

Among other things, the radar system had trouble distinguishing between vegetation and people when it was windy. Also, the satellite communication system took too long to relay information in the field to a command center. By the time an operator moved a camera to take a closer look at a spot, whatever had raised suspicion was gone.

The Homeland Security Department and Boeing said the early problems were fixed, but other glitches keep popping up. The latest: a software bug that causes video recording devices to lock on to the wrong cameras, hindering agents trying to collect evidence against illegal border-crossers.

The government is trying to negotiate a deal with Boeing to let the Border Patrol begin using the first permanent stretch of virtual fence at night while the contractor is still working on it. Otherwise, the Border Patrol might have to wait until late summer or early fall to take control of the section.

In ordering a reassessment of the project on Jan. 8, Homeland Security Secretary Janet Napolitano said that the delays were unacceptable and that the government needs to consider more efficient and economical options.

She did not elaborate.

“Americans need border security now — not 10 years down the road,” Napolitano said.

As for the possibility of the project being scaled back by government officials, Tim Peters, a Boeing vice president, said: “They really need to come up with the right calculus, and we’ll support that answer and look to be their preferred contractor to build whatever portion of what that calculus is.”

Both Boeing and the government officials said the technical problems stemmed from an erroneous belief that the first-of-its-kind virtual fence could be put together relatively quickly by tying together off-the-shelf components that weren’t designed to be linked.

Borkowski said the government shares blame with the contractor for the delays.

Ira Mehlman, a spokesman for the Federation for American Immigration Reform, which favors tougher immigration enforcement, said the project has suffered from a lack of oversight.

“We didn’t get the border security we were promised,” Mehlman said.

Associated Press Writers Eileen Sullivan in Washington contributed to this report

Chinese New Year to be better cultural experience

By TORI LIGGET
REPORTER

The fifth annual Lunar New Year’s celebration is going being held from 7 to 10 p.m. today on the second floor of the Bill Daniel Student Center.

The SUB will be decorated in red and gold to mimic a Chinese night market. Lanterns will light the room filled with Chinese fans and different paper cutouts with characters that represent luck and prosperity.

The Chinese New Year, or “Lunar New Year,” is one of the most important Chinese holidays. It is a celebration that begins on the first day of the first month and lasts for 15 days. Some of the festivities include dressing in red clothes, decorating the doors and giving children “lucky money” in red envelopes.

“The world is becoming more culturally intertwined and our society is becoming more globalized,” Katy junior Eddie Seto, president of the Asian Student Association, said. “It is very important for students to be more aware of what happens globally, and learn how to interact with and appreciate different aspects of cultural traditions, especially the Asian culture. Someone who understands these unique aspects has more of an advantage in our world today.”

The event is an opportunity for Baylor campus to increase cultural knowledge through different games and booths and special performances.

“In the past years the Chinese New Year event has been glamorized,” Seto said. “I want to make

this year’s event more about showing people the culture. Yes, the decorations are great, but I would really like Chinese New Year to express and convey the tradition of the Asian celebration.”

Students can learn while listening to the sounds of taiko drums surrounded with the smell of Chinese food. This year the Asian Student Association will be bringing in many different types of entertainment and providing free food from Panda Express.

For entertainment, a traditional lion dance will be performed by JK Wong Academy from Dallas, and Kobushi, also from Dallas, will perform taiko drumming. The Asian Student Association will be performing different skits on cultural history.

“I am really excited that we are able to collaborate with the other student associations,” Connie Tang, junior from Deer Park, said. “We have about eight or nine groups we are working with, including the Japanese Student Association, Hispanic Student Association and other service organizations.”

This event not only shows cultural diversity, but it also brings together different student groups.

“The Baylor Activities Council and Student Activities support ASA because it’s really important for community diversity and education,” Germany sophomore Venue Hummel, a member of the Baylor Activities Council, said. “It’s a great way to celebrate another culture’s heritage here at Baylor, [and] to bring people from different walks of life together.”



Shoshana Johnson

Former POW to release book

By KIMBERLY HEFLING
ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON — Shoshana Johnson survived gunshot wounds to both legs and 22 days as a prisoner of war in Iraq. Life wasn’t so easy when she came home, either.

In Johnson’s book, “I’m Still Standing,” out this week, the 37-year-old single mother describes mental health problems related to her captivity and tells how it felt to play second fiddle in the media to fellow POW Jes-

sica Lynch, who was captured in the same ambush.

“It was kind of hurtful,” Johnson said in a telephone interview with The Associated Press. “If I’d been a petite, cutesy thing, it would’ve been different.”

Johnson, the nation’s first female black prisoner of war, said she felt she was portrayed differently because of her race, either by media outlets that chose not to cover her experience or those who portrayed her as greedy when she challenged the disability rating she was given for her

post-traumatic stress disorder.

While the story of Lynch, then 19, remains firmly in the nation’s collective memory from the 2003 U.S. invasion of Iraq, far less attention has been paid to Johnson, then 30, and four male soldiers from the 507th Maintenance Co. from Fort Bliss, who also survived captivity.

Johnson was rescued by Marines about two weeks after Lynch’s rescue. Months after returning home, Johnson left the military and today is enrolled in culinary school.

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Uproar artist uses God's creation as inspiration



COURTESY: UPROAR RECORDS

Uproar Network artist and Franklin, Tenn., senior Michelle Piland uses her gift of music as a witness to audiences.

By LINCOLN FAULKNER
CONTRIBUTOR

If you're updating your outdoor living playlist for walking in the park, hiking on trails, or just driving through the countryside, Uproar Records' new artist may make a good addition.

Franklin, Tenn., senior Michelle Piland creates music using her love for people and the beauty of nature as her organic muse.

"A lot of my songs were inspired while in the beautiful San Juan Mountains of Colorado where my family goes every summer," Piland said. "I love enjoying God's creation away from the noise and busyness of life."

Beginning with her first song, which she wrote when she was 6, Piland said she always knew that she wanted to write songs. She recalled recording songs with her father, also a Baylor alumnus and songwriter, who had a studio in their home and has encouraged her writing.

Becoming more serious in high school, she wrote song using a guitar at 17 and began playing for audiences.

"My first paid performing gig was at a barbecue restaurant in a little mountain town called Lake

City, Colorado, where my sister (Laura Piland) and I played every night in July (2008), after waiting tables," she said. "It was a lot of fun and gave me a lot of performing experience."

Piland tried out for B.R.A.N. (now known as the Uproar Network) her sophomore year at Baylor and landed on Uproar's first artist album her junior year with her original song "Drive."

Returning this year to release two new songs on the label's second album, she said that her experience with Uproar has been both beneficial and fun. Free marketing, promotion, and getting to know other great Baylor artists are just some of the perks she said comes with being on the label's roster.

Arlington senior Sarah Leyda, vice president of artist and repertoire for Uproar and Piland's manager, said Piland is an artist that everyone can relate to.

"She writes songs influenced by everyday life," Leyda said. "Combined with a positive outlook and honest lyrics, (Piland) captures the beauty of life through her music."

Recording in a studio other than her father's was a life-changing experience as well. Not

being able to collaborate with her father, whom she was comfortable with, and working with a person unfamiliar to her posed a challenge.

"It felt like all the pressure was on me to get the song done," she said. "But, it was really good for me because I'm not always going to have my dad around, and it gives me kind of a different sound."

However this year Piland said she will be accompanied by her father in one of her songs.

Piland dreams of one day hearing one of her recordings played on the radio. In fact that dream is just one of many on her list of "100 things to do" in the future. Another includes playing at the Red Rock Amphitheatre in Denver.

"It's the only naturally occurring amphitheater, and that's just really cool," she said. "It's gorgeous and it's in Colorado, and I just love that state."

Piland hopes her music will be able to shine with Christ's love and that after her concerts, audiences will walk away feeling inspired by her lyrics.

Santo Rancho Margarita, Calif., junior Rachel Peterson agrees that Piland has the ability to ex-

ude in her songs an uplifting and positive spirit to the audience.

"Michelle has a natural gift for encouraging those around her," Peterson said. "She has a lot of wisdom to share and is able to share it because she lives a life full of integrity. She relates to people well and earns their trust."

Peterson also views Piland's music as a picture of her life.

"Her music is just an extension of the way she lives life," Peterson said. "Through her singing and songwriting, she encourages, relates and shares deep insight with her listeners, and does so in a creative way."

Though Piland's days at Baylor are quickly becoming few, her plans after graduation will take her across the world and on more outdoor adventures.

"I'm going to India this summer," she said. "Also, I would love to guide backpacking trips anywhere where there are mountains and possibly through an organization that uses outdoor experiences as therapy for troubled teens."

She said she also hopes to live with her sister in Telluride, Colo., where she can "just enjoy being in the mountains" and "hopefully write a lot of songs."

Stars unite to remake 'We Are the World' for Haiti

By GEOFF BOUCHER
LOS ANGELES TIMES

LOS ANGELES - Twenty-five years after the all-star recording of "We Are the World" became a signature moment in celebrity altruism and pop-music history, a new collective of stars came together this week at the same Hollywood recording studio to record a new version for Haiti earthquake relief.

Just as Michael Jackson, Bruce Springsteen and Bob Dylan descended on the A&M Studios to sing for famine relief in Africa, Barbra Streisand, Celine Dion, Kanye West and Keith Urban turned up Monday at the same soundstage (now called Henson Recording Studios) to join an all-star chorus that was 100 voices strong.

The 1985 effort, called USA for Africa, raised \$63 million and became a template for famous-face fundraising. The new single will premiere Feb. 12 on NBC during the opening ceremonies of the Winter Olympics with the hope that the download single can help funnel aid into the ravaged

island nation.

The anniversary project had been quietly planned for months and was scheduled for the day after the 52nd Annual Grammy Awards to maximize celebrity availability. The plan veered sharply, though, after the Jan. 12 temblor in Haiti: Instead of more relief for Africa, the organizers switched gears and turned their cause to the Caribbean.

The scene on Monday, like the original session, was a fascinating mix of star confluence.

Where else would 83-year-old Tony Bennett sing in unison with 15-year-old Justin Bieber? Emphasizing the cross-generational representation, the choir featured two Beach Boys (Brian Wilson and Al Jardine) and three Jonas Brothers (Nick, Joe and Kevin).

Some newly minted stars, such as Zac Brown, whose band won the best new artist Grammy on Sunday, seemed a bit wide-eyed to be milling in the sweltering recording room with the likes of Carlos Santana, who recorded a searing guitar solo for the single early in the six-hour session.

"It's like standing in the clas-

ic records section at the Turtles music store looking at all the covers," Brown said. "It's ridiculous and it's wonderful and for a good cause."

Other performers included Pink, Jeff Bridges, Vince Vaughn, Usher, Akon, T-Pain, Lil Wayne, Toni Braxton, Snoop Dogg and Josh Groban.

The original recording session on Jan. 28, 1985, featured 46 pop and rock stars, including Diana Ross, Billy Joel, Ray Charles, Tina Turner, Stevie Wonder and Willie Nelson.

The song "We Are the World" was written by Jackson and Lionel Richie, and the single was produced by Quincy Jones, who also helped put together Monday's anniversary session.

Under the direction of Paul Haggis, the filmmaker best known for "Crash," the most star-packed cast on the planet made a music video Monday while facing a swooping camera.

At front and center was Wyclef Jean, a former member of the Fugees and a defining presence in the public life of his native Haiti, especially in recent weeks.

"We're doing this for the cameras," Haggis told his charges.

In the rear, Vaughn and Harry Connick Jr., both known as charismatic wise guys, seemed to be enjoying a chuckle.

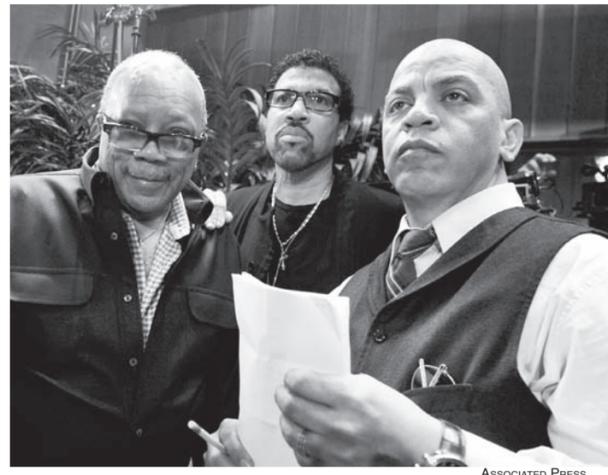
In the center of the group, Streisand stood arm in arm with Black Eyed Peas singer will.i.am, and just an arm's reach from Dion, the closest thing in sight to an inheritor of her genre throne.

Groban, stepping out from the studio for a break, said he was a bit bewildered by the crazy-quilt crowd, genre-wise.

"I'm standing there between Tony Bennett and Bizzy," he said, referring to the jazz icon and the member of Bone Thugs-N-Harmony. "That's not ever really going to happen again."

Groban said the small talk between takes was especially riveting. "Everyone is talking about what they're working on next. It's fascinating," he said, just as Dion and her husband-manager, Rene Angelil, walked by with a wave.

Some stars weren't eager to talk to reporters. West, the hip-hop firebrand, smiled and said,



ASSOCIATED PRESS

From left, producer Quincy Jones, singer Lionel Richie and producer Rickey Minor are seen Feb. 1 at the "We Are The World" recording in Los Angeles.

"It's a good cause," and left it at that.

Jean, on the other hand, spoke to all who would listen. He talked emotionally about his own journey, as a young Haitian immigrant working at Burger King and falling in love with the music

of Richie.

"I'm like a kid in a candy shop," he said of the gallery of music heroes.

Jean had one overriding response to the night: "I just want to thank everyone. Haiti thanks you. The world thanks you."

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Reel World Sense: Oscar winners and losers

POINT of view By ASH ANDERSON

Every year, writers, directors, actors, actresses and film crews gather for one evening to acknowledge their peers for superior achievement in or contribution to the film industry. The competition is always marked with silent intensity. Everyone that has made a movie has, at one point in their career, envisioned themselves holding a golden statue from the Academy Awards.

I have always had a love/hate relationship with the Academy. The right winner is often picked. However, there have been several instances where certain people were robbed.

Take Martin Scorsese for example. The guy has directed some of the best films of the last 100 years, released to both critical and commercial acclaim – and it wasn't until 2006 that he was finally recognized for his achievements.

When 2009 came to a close, the front runners for the year weren't as pronounced as they were in previous years. Many great films were produced throughout the course of the entire year, instead of a bevy of quality pictures coming out in the closing months.

Two nominees in the Best Picture category, "Up" and "An Education," were both released in the first half of the year. Normally they would be on the back burner of critics' minds, but because they were so adventurous in their scope and analytical in their portrayal of human emotion (yes, I'm still talking about "Up"), their influence endured.

As we enter into this year's Academy Awards, there are a behind-the-scenes story lines worth noting, many of which are hilarious in their own right:

Family Feud

James Cameron's "Avatar" and Kathryn Bigelow's "The Hurt Locker" are locked in a heated battle with nine nominations

each, and are both up for Best Picture. Cameron's foray into next-gen cinematography and big-budget spending is a complete juxtaposition to Bigelow's independent film which cost \$240 million dollars less to make.

The best part? Cameron and Bigelow were married from 1989 to 1991. Awkward.

Best and Worst

Sandra Bullock, often overlooked for her more understated roles, practically reignited her career in 2009 with the massive hits, "The Proposal" and "The Blind Side," the latter of which earned her a nomination for Best Actress.

On the other hand, she has also been nominated for a Razzie Award for, wait for it, Worst Actress for her abysmal performance in "All About Steve." I wonder how she's going to react if she manages to snap up both.

Making predictions for these kinds of awards is never easy. No one knows the vendettas that the Academy voters may have against one another, which in turn may influence the voting process. Some might get stiffed while others get needless votes. But either way, it sure is exciting.

Here are my predictions in the major categories:

Best Actor in a Leading Role

- Jeff Bridges for "Crazy Heart"
- George Clooney for "Up in the Air"
- Colin Firth for "A Single Man"
- Morgan Freeman for "Invictus"
- Jeremy Renner for "The Hurt Locker"

I consider myself very well-versed when it comes to movies, but no one was more surprised than I was when I saw Morgan Freeman's name on this list. Sure, he was good, but I didn't think he was good enough to beat someone like Michael Stuhlbarg ("A Serious Man"). Just shows



Actress Anne Hathaway, left, and Tom Sherak, president of the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences, announce the nominees for the 82nd Academy Awards in Beverly Hills, California, Tuesday.

you what I know. Regardless of the his nomination, it doesn't really matter how well he or George Clooney or Jeremy Renner portrayed their characters. Jeff Bridges took his embodiment of broken country music singer Bad Blake to any entirely different level. Words cannot describe the personality and genuine passion that Bridges was able to summon to make "Crazy Heart" one of the best pictures of the year.

Prediction: Jeff Bridges

Best Actress in a Leading Role

- Sandra Bullock for "The Blind Side"
- Helen Mirren for "The Last Station"
- Carey Mulligan for "An Education"
- Gabourey Sidibe for "Precious: Based on the Novel Push by Sapphire"
- Meryl Streep for "Julie & Julia"

The Academy absolutely adores Meryl Streep. Let's just go ahead and throw that out there in case you don't already know it. However, while her portrayal as Julia Child was enjoyable, it lacked the emotional vice grip of Sandra Bullock's. Normally

known to her fans as a funny person, Bullock dazzled as Leigh Ann Tuohy, adoptive mother of NFL left tackle Michael Oher, and gave every audience member a reason to believe that, with the right guidance, anyone can fulfill their potential.

Prediction: Sandra Bullock

Best Actor in a Supporting Role

- Matt Damon for "Invictus"
- Woody Harrelson for "The Messenger"
- Christopher Plummer for "The Last Station"
- Stanley Tucci for "The Lovely Bones"
- Christoph Waltz for "Inglourious Basterds"

Have you seen "Inglourious Basterds"? Christoph Waltz speaks four – FOUR – languages during the course of his role as Standartenführer (Colonel) Hans Landa. Oh, and he's already won 24 awards for this role. Done.

Prediction: Christoph Waltz

Best Actress in a Supporting Role

- Penélope Cruz for "Nine"
- Vera Farmiga for "Up in the Air"

Maggie Gyllenhaal for "Crazy Heart"

Anna Kendrick for "Up in the Air"

Mo'Nique for "Precious: Based on the Novel Push by Sapphire"

Like Christoph Waltz, Mo'Nique has her award locked down. While I certainly appreciated the depth that Vera Farmiga and newcomer Anna Kendrick (well, a newcomer to anyone that's not a "Twilight" fan) were able to bring to their characters, no one else allowed their character to completely take over their soul as much as Mo'Nique did. As the abusive and dysfunctional mother of an illiterate, obese black girl, we see the raw audacity of some people that just do not care about anyone but themselves. And through that, we are able to see what we absolutely do not want to become.

Prediction: Mo'Nique

Best Motion Picture of the Year

- "Avatar"
- "The Blind Side"
- "District 9"
- "An Education"
- "The Hurt Locker"
- "Inglourious Basterds"

Barack Obama: entertainment star or president?

By DAVID ZURAWIK
THE BALTIMORE SUN

He's baaaack. TV Obama is everywhere, again.

Friday, the White House asked for TV coverage of President Barack Obama's visit to Baltimore for the GOP retreat.

Saturday, he showed up at halftime on CBS for its coverage of the Georgetown-Duke basketball game.

Tuesday, he did a town hall meeting in New Hampshire with the good citizens of the Granite State sitting there like a TV audience.

Sunday, he'll be interviewed

by Katie Couric before the Super Bowl.

Trying to buck up Brand Obama, First Lady Michelle Obama was interviewed Wednesday on NBC's "Today" by Matt Lauer. Too bad Jay Leno's such a mess these days, or the president would probably be back there as well this week.

Yes, the president did indeed get the message from Massachusetts, but it might not be the one angry and frightened Americans meant to send. The message he appears to have received: Get back on TV like it's 2008 and you are running for president. Because while this governing thing

has not been working out too well during the first year, the one thing you can do is perform in front of the camera like no other politician since Ronald Reagan. Work it, baby, work it.

When the going gets tough, President Obama gets on television. TV performance is almost everything with this president, and I think that is one of the reasons things have gone so badly behind the scenes during his first 12 months in office. Playing a president on TV is not enough in a time of crisis like the one we find ourselves in today.

Watching the president's performance Tuesday in New

Hampshire as he strutted about the stage microphone in hand with the citizens of New Hampshire sitting on risers behind him, I was struck by how much he reminded me of Oprah Winfrey or Phil Donahue, working the audience of a daytime talk show. (The Donahue reference is for readers of a certain age who remember Phil in his glory days.)

And I wondered about all the praise President Obama received for his performance in Baltimore last Friday.

Health-care reform is locked up behind one of those closed doors in Congress, gasping for life and possibly abandoned, and

the press is praising the president for being glib and striking a pose of conciliation before the TV cameras in Baltimore. And here we go again in the TV press: We are praising the TV pose, while taking our eyes of the hard work that isn't getting done.

The C-SPAN cameras were kept away from the sausage-making of health care, and we go ga-ga over the White House having the president travel 40 miles down I-95 to perform on a TV stage – and letting us have the privilege of watching him win a media performance mismatch with House Republicans. He uses TV to give the appearance of bi-

partisan governance and an open door to GOP ideas. Maybe, if he's lucky, some viewers will even blame the GOP instead of just Democrats for the lack of focus and progress on jobs during the last 12 months.

Last year at this time, as a media and TV critic, I was delighted at the thought of having the most savvy TV president since Ronald Reagan to write about for the next four years.

Today, as a citizen, I am utterly dismayed by the way those TV skills have been used to paper over what appears to be a lack of vision and sustained effort from the man behind the video image.

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Eighteen of Briles' 23 recruits hail from the state of Texas



Head coach Art Briles speaks in the Galloway Suites at Floyd Casey Stadium Wednesday afternoon.

DAWN of a new era

JED DEAN | PHOTO EDITOR

Briles signs highest-ranked class of tenure

By MATT LARSEN AND JUSTIN BAER
SPORTS WRITER AND SPORTS EDITOR

After losing defensive veterans like Jordan Lake, Joe Pawelek and Jason Lamb, head coach Art Briles and his staff entered the recruitment season with some glaring needs on the table.

The three players had 124 starts among them but all drained up their eligibility in the fall. With 15 players signed, including three, four-star recruits, to the defensive side of the ball, Briles hopes to alleviate the departure of six defensive starters.

"Last year's recruiting class was kind of about the offensive line and the receivers," Briles said in his opening statement. "This year, the strength of the class is definitely the defense. Top to bottom, this is a class that really fills a lot of needs for us." Defensive coordinator Brian Norwood cannot wait to put the lengthy list of talented players on the field.

"Each one of those guys brings something special to the pot and adds qualities that really help our team," he said.

Local talent Ahmad Dixon highlights the 2010 recruiting class. The Midway product is ranked as the 10th-best safety in the nation, according to Rivals.com. Dixon's path to Baylor has taken off-course turns, including commitments to the Universities of Texas and Tennessee, and two commitments to Baylor. Despite Dixon's wavering during the recruiting process, Briles is excited about

the safety's prospects.

"Ahmad is 'from Waco with love' - that's the way I look at it," Briles said. "He is physical, fast and strong. He brings exactly what you are looking for from a safety position. We're proud that he stayed home."

Dixon is just one of the many talented defensive backs Briles signed Wednesday. The Bears' defensive back class was ranked No. 5 according to Rivals.com. Lancaster four-star recruit Tyler Stephenson is perceived as one of the elite cornerbacks in the nation, earning positional ranking as high as No. 14. Hargrave Military Academy standout Prince Kent enrolled at Baylor in January, and the four-star safety could also find his way into the rotation this fall. Defensive back Sam Holl has drawn comparisons to Lake, while Tuswani Copeland and TC Robinson are each blessed with 4.4 speed.

"We were very fortunate to fill holes," Norwood said. "We have more depth to compete."

Penn State's former defensive backs coach also received help from his first two lines of defense. Big Spring native Matt Ritchey is a three-star recruit, while Robert Singletary (no relation to Mike) and Bryce Hager (son of former NFL veteran Britt Hager) provide depth.

The defensive line, like the defensive backs, received much-needed depth for the upcoming season. Junior college All-American Anthony Gonzales will make an immediate impact at defensive end.

"If he walked through the room, you would say that is what a defensive end in the Big 12 South looks like," Briles said. "He looks fast."

Former Texas Tech commit

Kedrick Dial will need time in the weight room to fill out his 6-foot-4, 215-pound frame, but should be an excellent pass rusher as an end. The Bears also signed a trio of three-star defensive tackles—Dominique Jones, Xavier Ruben and Sean Watson. The Bears addressed areas of need on the offensive line, while building for the future at the receiver, running back and quarterback positions.

December high school graduate Troy Baker is another local product that stayed loyal to Waco, as the Connally High School student is currently working out with the Bears. Robert Griffin, a Navarro College four-star offensive lineman, will spend time protecting his quarterback of the same name, and is an early favorite to start as a guard. Tackles Tim Smith and Luke Burleson round out the offensive line class.

"If you're good up front, you are going to have a good football team," Briles said. "That's where it all starts, that's where we spend 80 percent of our time."

Midlothian wide receiver Eddie Johnson could sneak into the wide receiver rotation. The 6-foot-4, 230-pound creates an immediate mismatch with his size and was ranked as the nation's 61st receiver. Antwan Goodley is a speedster and three-sport standout from Midland that Briles claims is the steal of the class.

Isaac Williams is a junior college running back transfer that has added 21 pounds since he arrived in December. Meanwhile, Tyrell Jenkins, a top Major League Baseball prospect, inked as a quarterback.

Baylor's *Prized* Signees

Ahmad Dixon, S
Hewitt, Texas



Dixon

Dixon was an All-American defensive back rated No. 15 nationally on ESPN 150 by ESPN.com and listed as the nation's No. 2 defensive back. The Midway Panther originally committed to the University of Texas

Tyler Stephenson, CB
Lancaster, Texas



Stephenson

Stephenson ranks nationally among the top 20 cornerbacks by ESPN.com and Scout.com. The four-star recruit was a member of the 2009 first-team 4A All-State squad. Stephenson is also a track star in the hurdles.

Robert Griffin, OL
Eules, Texas



Griffin

Griffin is a junior college transfer from Navarro College. He enrolled at Baylor in January and is rated as No. 28 on SuperPrep Juco 100 listing.

Griffin is expected to fill one of the vacancies left by graduates J.D. Walton and James Barnard.

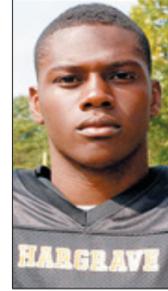
Anthony Gonzales, DE
Copperas Cove, Texas



Gonzales

Gonzales is a junior college All-American defensive lineman from Blinn College. He earned first-team NJCAA All-American honors as a sophomore after totaling 39 tackles, 13 tackles-for-loss, and eight sacks.

Prince Kent
Norcross, GA



Kent

The safety from Hargrave Military Academy in Chatham, Va., enrolled at Baylor in January. The four-star recruit is rated as the No. 10 prep school recruit in the nation by Rivals.com.

Eddie Johnson, WR
Midlothian, Texas



Johnson

Johnson was rated as the No. 61 wide receiver recruit nationally by Scout.com and No. 90 by Rivals.com. He was a three-year starter for the Panthers. Johnson will join former prep teammate Bryce Petty at Baylor.

OFFICIAL BAYLOR 2010 RECRUITING CLASS

| NAME | POSITION | HEIGHT | WEIGHT | HOMETOWN |
|-------------------|----------|--------|--------|------------------|
| Troy Baker | OL | 6'6" | 284 | Waco |
| Luke Burleson | OL | 6'6" | 275 | Allen |
| Tuswani Copeland | ATH | 6'0" | 175 | Lawton, OK |
| Kedrick Dial | DE | 6'5" | 215 | Sulphur Springs |
| Ahmad Dixon | DB | 6'1" | 194 | Waco |
| Anthony Gonzales | DE | 6'5" | 256 | Brenham |
| Antwan Goodley | WR | 5'11" | 195 | Midland |
| Robert Griffin | OL | 6-6 | 355 | Corsicana |
| Bryce Hager | LB | 6'1" | 212 | Austin |
| Sam Holl | DB | 6'1" | 190 | Katy |
| Tyrell Jenkins | QB | 6'3" | 185 | Henderson |
| Eddie Johnson | WR | 6'3" | 194 | Midlothian |
| Dominique Jones | DT | 6'2" | 278 | Midwest City, OK |
| Price Kent | DB | 6'3" | 200 | Chatham, VA |
| Clarence Lee | LB | 6'4" | 210 | Jefferson |
| Matt Ritchey | LB | 6'3" | 205 | Big Spring |
| TC Robinson | DB | 5'10" | 175 | Abilene |
| Xavier Ruben | DT | 6'3" | 280 | Baytown |
| Robert Singletary | LB | 6'4" | 220 | Kingwood |
| Tim Smith | OL | 6'4" | 286 | Baytown |
| Tyler Stephenson | DB | 5'10" | 175 | Lancaster |
| Sean Watson | DT | 6'3" | 283 | Panama City, FL |
| Isaac Williams | RB | 6'0" | 193 | Torrance, CA |

Briles snags top backyard talent

By CHRIS DERRETT
SPORTS WRITER

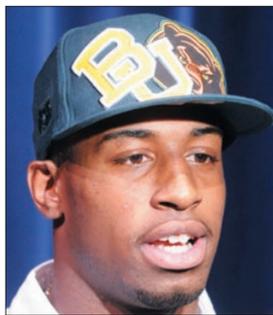
One of the Bears' most highly touted additions played his high school games just minutes away from his new university.

He kept people guessing throughout the recruitment process, but on Wednesday he finalized the deal.

"It's a done deal now. Baylor is my home," Ahmad Dixon said at his signing ceremony.

Dixon, the No. 10 ranked safety on the Rivals.com 250 and No. 15 overall player on the ESPN 150, signed with Baylor yesterday.

Dixon played for the Midway High School Panthers, where he garnered attention, as his team made consecutive playoff ap-



COURTESY PHOTO
Ahmad Dixon

pearances.

Looking for strong defensive prospects, coach Art Briles recruited Dixon as one of three four-star defensive backs in the

class of 2010.

"He is physical, fast and strong. He brings exactly what you are looking for from a safety position," Briles said.

With Dixon comes 4.5 40-yard-dash speed as well as a hard-hitting physicality. That combination allowed him to rattle opponents in high school and also block punts.

Dixon also runs track for the Panthers and returned kicks on the gridiron last season. His speed, Midway head coach Kent Bachtel says, is one of his greatest natural assets.

"He can run like the wind. He's a good kickoff return guy too he can take one to the house on you," Bachtel said.

Last season Baylor bid farewell to senior safeties Jordan

Lake and Jeremy Williams, who were the team's second and fifth leading tacklers, respectively. Before next year, the Bears expect Dixon and his fellow defensive teammates to jockey for playing time, which should result in a strong finished product.

"We have more depth," defensive coordinator Scott Norwood said about the secondary. "Guys are competing. The high level of competition fills holes."

Baylor had the fourth-worst pass defense in the Big 12 last year, allowing 257.2 yards per game through the air.

Dixon's path to Baylor included an original commitment to the University of Texas then the Bears, followed by a switch to the University of Tennessee and finally a return to Baylor.

Basketball storms past Cyclones

By CHRIS DERRETT
SPORTS WRITER

Ekpe Udoh recorded his 11th double-double of the year with 17 points and 10 rebounds, as Baylor pulled away from Iowa State in an 84-63 win Wednesday at the Ferrell Center. LaceDarius Dunn scored 21 points, his first 20-plus effort in three games, and Tweety Carter shot 5-10 for 14 points in 36 minutes.

Baylor's defense came out of the locker room and forced five turnovers before the 10-minute mark in the second half, which made the difference according to head coach Scott Drew.

"In the second half I thought we really defended a lot better than we did in the first half.

We rebounded a lot better and played with a lot more energy," Drew said.

After the Cyclones pulled to within three early in the second half, the Bears went on a 9-2 run punctuated by a Quincy Acy tip-in slam that put his team up 47-37 and drew thunderous applause.

The lead expanded to 65-49 when Dunn nailed his fourth three-pointer of the game.

Dunn, who shot a combined 11-36 in his previous three games, hit five of eight attempts in the second half Wednesday night. Unscathed from his earlier struggles, Dunn attacked from behind the arc and took the ball inside a few times as well.

"I just came in and played. I had a couple of bad nights, but I try not to look (back) on that," Dunn said. "I just come out and play every night. Most importantly we got the win."

Udoh also entered Wednesday

night on a slump, shooting 3-15 at Texas. He finished 8-15 for 19 points and held the Cyclones' Craig Brackins to the same amount. Brackins scored 33 in his last visit to the Ferrell Center.

Iowa State took an early 14-9 lead with a 6-0 run, but Baylor battled back to a 16-16 tie.

Dunn later sliced through the lane for a layup, drawing an and-1 foul to put Baylor ahead 19-16, and Carter stretched the lead to six with a 3-pointer on the Bears' next possession. Iowa State came storming back, however, on another run to square the game at 22.

The teams remained deadlocked for much of the first half, as the Bears were able to score inside and on the perimeter but could not

stop the Cyclones from doing the same. At halftime, the message to Baylor was simple, Carter said.

"Rebound and get stops. That's what we preach," Carter said. "We are a better team than what we were showing. We have to compete for 40 minutes on the defensive end and not just try to trade buckets."

The Bears increased their intensity and finished the game shooting 53 percent, outscoring the Cyclones in the paint 28-12.

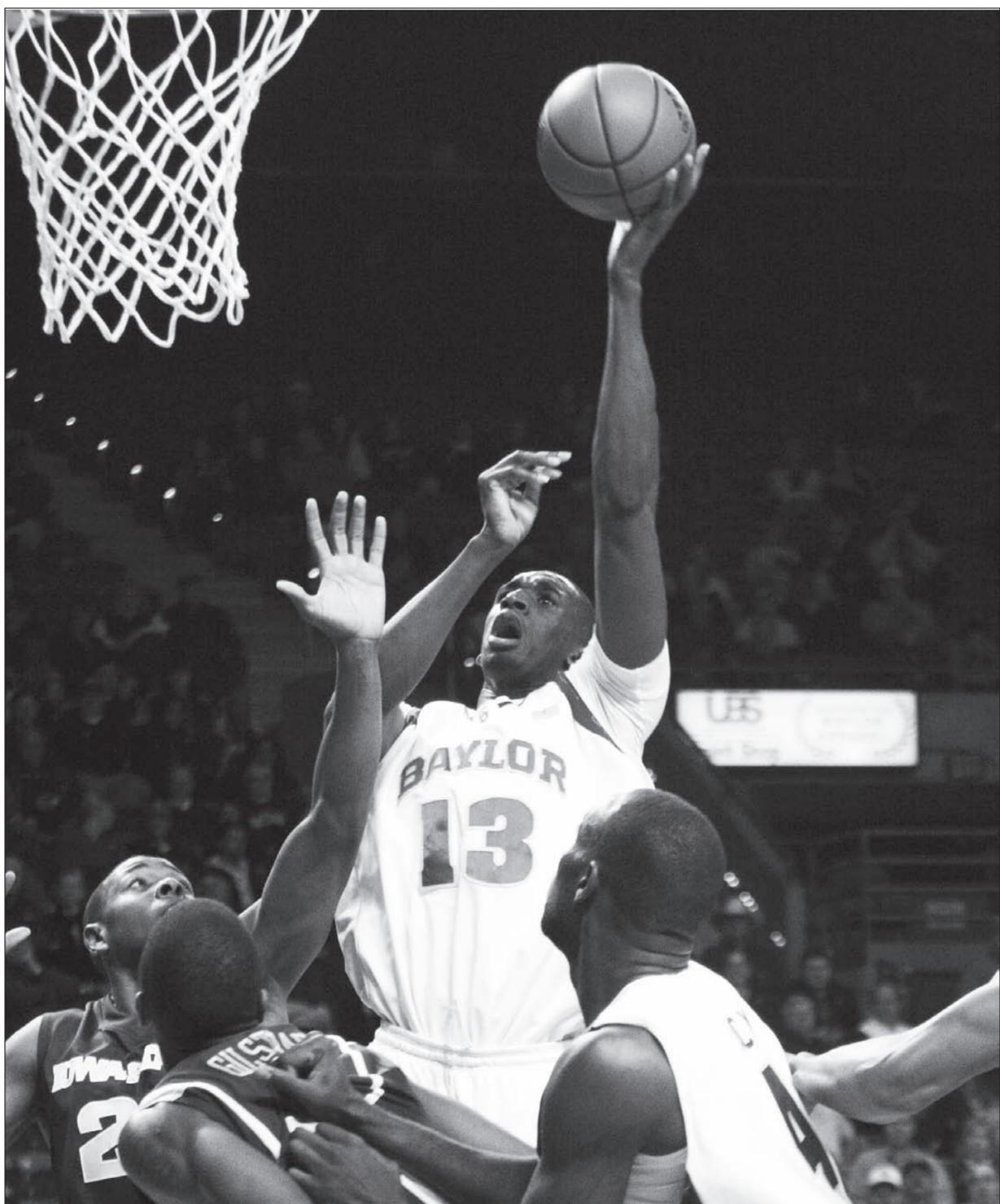
With fewer than three minutes remaining Baylor gave its home crowd three more reasons to shout with three consecutive alley-oop dunks.

Drew joked about those "very well and diagrammed plays" but said they encompassed Baylor's effectiveness on the night.

"That's what you like to see: defensive stops or getting the ball in quick and having numbers," Drew said.

"Rebound and get stops. That's what we preach."

Tweety Carter
Baylor Guard



DANIEL CERNERO | PHOTOGRAPHY STAFF

No. 13 center Ekpe Udoh shoots over Iowa State No. 21 forward Craig Brackins Wednesday, Feb. 3, 2010 at the Ferrell Center. The No. 20-ranked Bears defeated the Cyclones 84-63 to improve to 17-4 on the season and head to College Station on Saturday to face the Texas A&M Aggies.

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GHOSTS from pg.1

to communicate with spirits. She sets the flashlight down so that the spirits can touch it and make it flash.

"I like to use the flashlight," Cindy said. "You loosen the back of it and make it real sensitive and sometimes I seem to get responses to questions I ask."

Cindy said she uses the flashlight to ask yes/no questions. She tells the spirits to flash the lights once for yes, twice for no. She said she had very good results during the investigation at the Hippodrome.

"Just as soon as a question came out of my mouth, the flashlight would come on," Cindy said.

During the second investigation, MCPI collected voice evidence and also recorded images with a thermal camcorder that registers hot and cold images. Mike said there is a theory that spirits are different temperatures.

"So wherever they are at, they are showing a cold signature or a hot signature, according to what kind of spirit it is," Mike said.

The camcorder records cold areas as a dark, bluish gray, and it picked up a thermal image in the shape of a person in the balcony at the Hippodrome.

"The one in the balcony I got it to where you could see it. This blue figure [was] walking up and down the aisle and around the seats," Mike said.

Cindy said she firmly believes the Hippodrome is haunted, especially because of the evidence collected by the thermal camcorder.

"That is one of the things that convinced me. We don't catch things like that very often," Cindy said. Burns said while he is excited about the certification, he is not surprised.

"We got certification on something I already knew," Burns said. "So it didn't make a difference to me if we actually got certified."

Cristina Uptmore, the box office manager, said she has not experienced anything unusual in the theater.

"In a theater you hear things and it's an old building. It's creaky," Uptmore said. "I have never attributed it to paranormal activity, but it creeps you out just the same."

"I was surprised when they certified us, but you know, who knows if there is another dimension of life that no one knows about?" Uptmore said. "Its kind of fun, though, thinking about it." The investigative team also heard loud, unaccounted-for bangs. Mike compared it to someone dropping a 200-pound weight on the floor.

MCPI has also investigated the Dr Pepper Museum.

Mary Beth Webster, the collections manager for the Dr Pepper Museum, said the museum was certified as haunted in June 2009.

Webster said the toilets in the museum flush when no one is in the bathroom.

"When they investigated the museum building, they got some really good video footage of light orbs," Webster said. "They are professionals and they can distinguish between specks of dust and a light orb that is lit from within. They captured light orbs traveling through the museum. One was in the soda fountain area and one was on the second floor."

Mike said there is some uncertainty in the paranormal field. He said researchers are trying to find why some spirits pass on and why some spirits stay on earth.

"Some are afraid to receive judgment, some may not know what they are doing, some may have not finished what they started," Mike said.

He said violent deaths are the worst to investigate because the spirits may not know they are dead or they may want revenge.

"This is something we are trying to find out," Mike said.

CARS from pg.1

like additional hires to help with recall repairs, dedicated recall service lanes and complimentary oil changes. Toyota has around 1,200 U.S. dealers.

Toyota won't reveal the cost of the repairs, but according to information from dealers, the shim costs only about a penny and a half, while the average cost for 30 minutes of labor to install it is \$42.50. Multiplied by 2.3 million vehicles, and the cost of the part and labor alone is \$97.8 million, all of which will be covered by Toyota. Carter said Toyota is considering other marketing efforts to win back customers' confidence, but he didn't elaborate.

CRIME from pg.1

and the average total crime, and found that there were 437 annual property crimes per 1,000 residents."

Baylor police Chief Jim Doak said that he questions the validity of the study since it was based on predicted statistics and the specifics of the area.

"I am skeptical of the numbers they present," Doak said. "It's a remarkable amount of crime for that area. I have no idea how they could have come up with such a specific number for such a small area."

Schiller performed the study based on data from the FBI and more than 17,000 local law agencies, researching every one of America's 61,000 neighborhoods.

The study specifically concentrated on areas of property crime, meaning theft, burglary and motor vehicle theft.

Austin junior Anthony Jacobs, a resident of the Third and Garden Street area, was not surprised at the study's results.

"I absolutely agree with that," Jacobs said. "The day I came to move in we noticed the back window was smashed and someone had taken the TV."

Jacobs also said that Waco Police and the neighborhood owners should work together to make the community safer and prevent more thefts, instead of their heavy concentration on substance abuse.

"I think Waco P.D. spends way too much time trying to bust parties instead of preventing robberies," Jacobs said.

Waco Police department had no comment on the results of the study.

Also within the top 15 was University of Texas at Austin, for two locations, the area around Lamar Boulevard and the area around Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard and Lamar Boulevard and 24th street.

In an e-mail to the Lariat, University of Texas at Austin Police Chief Robert Dahlstrom said they were not completely sure why these were the worst areas around campus, except for they are areas highly populated by students.

"This area is one of the closest to campus and remains very densely populated all of the way up to 34th Street," he said. "I have talked to Austin PD, who is responsible for that area, and they said the major issue there is burglary of vehicles."

Dahlstrom also said that he had heard many concerned parents inquire about the study's results and Austin police, campus police and himself are in discussion of how to lower the statistic.

The area of Lamar Boulevard and Martin Luther King Jr. in Austin was also in the top 15 for neighborhoods of property crime, not only college neighborhoods.

The Wall Street Journal, CNN Money, CBS Market Watch, and the Chicago Tribune have used the Neighborhood Scout's research as a credible source.

AWARD from pg.1

the article was going to be considered for the Davidson Award. "This was my dissertation paper. When your dissertation work has been published, that itself is a joy," George said.

"When you start working on a paper, you never know — will it end up in a journal, or what will be the end outcome of this paper?"

George's current research is based on communication from retailers and tailoring it to consumers.

"Right now my focus is on identifying customer specific strategies for sending customer-specific communication," George said.

"The main focus is on developing some strategies which retailers can implement, which ultimately will increase their profit." Dr. Jeff Tanner, professor of marketing and associate dean for faculty development and research, said George's work, from the article to his current research, can apply to more than just retailers.

"First of all, the impact of the award is incredible. It's unusual for somebody as young as he is in his career to win an award like that, and it's really prestigious for him. That said, part of the reason he won it is because the work he's doing is really important," Tanner said.

"The stuff that he's doing has application way beyond just L.L. Bean sending the right catalogue to you.

"It has the opportunity to influence what organizations are doing to improve the quality of life for employees and families. It has wide-ranging application."

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