



ROUNDING UP CAMPUS NEWS SINCE 1900

THE BAYLOR LARIAT

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 12, 2009

Weather strikes with sound and fury

High winds topple street lights, peel off roofs in campus area

By Brittany Hardy
Staff writer

The Waco Police Department received so many phone calls Tuesday evening during the Tornado Watch that the Baylor Police Department began receiving phone calls from people concerned with the weather, from all over the Waco area, said Baylor Police Chief Jim Doak.

Even the Baylor Police, who had two people working the phones, could only get a hold of the Waco Police through the radio, not through the phones, Doak said.

"The biggest issue for us was the Baylor University Dining Center on Ivy Square. The roof was damaged pretty badly — just peeled back, with significant water damage," Doak said.

The damage was consistent with what the police said to be a "tornadic" event.

"Whatever it was, if it had been a 100 yards further to the east, the law school would have taken a direct hit. As it was, we didn't see any damage to the law school," Doak said.

Near the Alwin O. and Dorothy Highers Athletic Complex, the wind drove a chain link fence up under a parked car below the tires.

"The car had to be jacked up to get the fence out from under it," Doak said.

All traffic lights went out in the Waco area; some were completely black, making intersections extremely hazardous.

"Lights that were supposed to be facing west were twisted south and ones that were supposed to be south were twisted to face west, totally nonfunctional," Doak said.

A large Dutton Street Parking



Stephen Green/Lariat staff

Top left: Debris from Tuesday night's storm clutters the rear of the Heart of Texas Region MHMR Center on 12th Street. High winds caused damage to structures in the Waco area.

Above and bottom left: Debris is strewn across University Parks Drive as a result of Tuesday night's weather that came through Waco. Police are calling the damage the result of a "tornadic" event.

Garage window blew out.

"The rest of the campus seemed to survive — limbs down here and there," Doak said. "Something happened in the storm system; it went into overdrive in downtown Waco," Doak said.

The Baylor Facility Services served in a really impressive manner. Doak said they worked "swiftly and in large number."

"I was really encouraged to see all these people at 11:30, here getting after it. The Baylor community needs to know what

a great job they did," he said.

"It looks worse than it really is," Nick Herron of Target Restoration said, as he cleared roof shingles and wood from University Parks Drive, just east of Interstate 35.

Herron ranked the degree of damage as a "medium."

"The damage really moved in a path from Austin Avenue toward campus," Doak said.

At Austin Arms Apartments, which is located on Austin Avenue in downtown Waco, a radio tower from the roof snapped in

half, said Casper Jones, a resident of the apartments.

"If you don't believe in miracles, here's one right here," Jones said, because no one was hurt as a result of this incident.

Jones said winds shattered windows and blew off parts of the roof.

"It scared a lot of people," Jones said.

After the 150-foot-tower snapped and the lights eventually were turned back on, Assistant Fire Chief Don Yeager urged the standing residents to

blow out the candles they had lit in their apartments.

The fire department responded to 35 calls for damage, according to a Waco City press release.

Waco McLennan County Emergency Management was active from 8 p.m., before the storms arrival, and monitoring field reports from the amateur radio operator storm spotters and national weather service offices until after 1 a.m., according to the Waco City press release.

Rescuers search for more victims of Okla. twisters

By Tim Talley
The Associated Press

LONE GROVE, Okla. — The luckiest ones packed like sardines into a cellar as the tornado approached. For the least fortunate, at a mobile home park, there was no close place to seek refuge.

And then there was Lana Hartman's family, who did what they were supposed to do Tuesday evening when the twister hit the small southern Oklahoma town of Lone Grove: She, her two daughters, three grandchildren and two friends hid in a closet.

The storm that killed at least eight people nearly claimed a ninth when it blew part of the roof off Hartman's house and lifted one of her daughters into the air.

"The suction was so unreal," Hartman said.

Everyone grabbed the woman to prevent her from being sucked out of the house and blown away.

"We held onto each other and did a lot of praying," Hartman's friend Carole McFarland said.

After the storm passed, they walked out of what was left of the house and saw debris everywhere. Around town Wednesday, trees were uprooted, cars were flung around like toys and all that was visible of some mobile homes Wednesday were the cinder blocks they had sat on.

"I was in shock, I think I still am," Hartman said. "We're alive, that's all that matters."

Some people were killed

Please see RESCUE, page 6

Obama plans new environmental overhaul

By Sean Doerre
and Ashleigh Schmitz
Reporters

When President Barack Obama was voted in as the 44th president of the United States on the evening of Nov. 4, a collective cheer went up from conservationists around the country.

Besides the fact that the election meant the end of a very rocky eight years of environmental policy from the Bush Administration, it was the start to what the new leader has promised would be sweeping reforms and quick action on global environment issues.

By all accounts Obama will push for the advancement of his "New Energy for America" plan that was laid out during the president's campaign. The strategy calls for the creation of "green" jobs, the reduction of US oil consumption, and a move toward renewable energy sources of energy.

"It is always great to see a healthy environment plan that looks like it could create more opportunity for research efforts in the area of environment health," said Erica Bruce, assistant professor of environmental sciences.

During the first week in

office the new president ordered the Environmental Protection Agency to review whether California and more than a dozen other states should be allowed to impose more stringent auto-emission standards.

The new standards would force carmakers to cut down on the amount of greenhouse gases that their cars put in the atmosphere, something the Bush administration was reluctant to pass.

"The fear was in the Bush administration that to do so would force the auto industry, the oil companies, industries in general in terms of air qual-

ity to cut back," said Dr. Richard Riley, political science professor. "They didn't want to do that because of fear of an economic downturn."

Bruce said that she thinks cleaner fuel and lower auto emission standards are possible.

"I think the technology, the science and the research behind reducing emissions and producing cleaner fuel sources is definitely there," Bruce said.

While the new administration has already recommended tougher auto-emissions standards, environmental issues have taken a backseat to economic issues recently.

"The economy and the housing crunch have really displaced a lot of issues; one of which is environmental concern," Riley said. "I mean that (the economy) is really the first priority, that is main thing Americans are focused on."

The economy is not the only concern currently placed above the environment, according to a January poll conducted by the Pew Research Center. In fact, 15 other concerns including health care, terrorism, and social security all trumped environmental

Please see OBAMA, page 6

Editor's note:

The articles to the left and below are part of a series by The Lariat about President Barack Obama's first 100 days in office.

Energy efficiency high priority for administration

By Dache Johnson
Reporter

President Barack Obama has a new plan to make Americans more efficient energy consumers, including raising fuel economy standards, modernizing the nation's electricity grid system and regulating appliance efficiency. Obama has outlined specific energy goals he wishes to achieve during his presidency, and has begun taking steps to

put his plans into action.

"I've watched 8 years of Bush, even though it will be different to do things in this economy, my view of Bush in environment and energy has been an unmitigated disaster," said Dr. Richard Riley, professor of political science. "Anything Obama does will be a change. He has appointed people that will thrust a different agenda."

Obama spoke at George Mason University Jan. 8 and out-

lined his proposal to weatherize at least one million low-income homes each year for the next 10 years. Weatherizing a home involves insulating it to protect it from the elements so less energy is required to cool and heat it. The purpose is to reduce energy consumption and moderate energy prices across the board, he said.

"It is not just another public-works program," Obama said. "It's a plan that recognizes both

the paradox and the promise of this moment — the fact that there are millions of Americans trying to find work even as all around the country there's so much work to be done. That's why we'll invest in priorities like energy and education; health care and a new infrastructure that are necessary to keep us strong and competitive in the 21st century."

Obama also laid out plans for modernizing the nation's electricity grid system and

focused on renewable technology in the same speech at George Mason University. According to Obama's New Energy for America Plan, a Grid Modernization Commission will be established to adopt Smart Grid practices across the nation. The Smart Grid System involves installing new meters that can be checked electronically instead of read manually. The new meters will measure the amount of energy used and at what times. This

will allow energy companies to charge more or less for energy used during specific times of day as an incentive for people to use energy more efficiently, said T.J. Ermoian, President of the Texas Energy Aggregation.

The president said he wants to require more energy efficient home appliances and provide more resources for the Department of Energy to implement

Please see ENERGY, page 6

Editorial

Stoplight cameras not always reliable

Lights? Camera? Not the right action. Last week, the Waco City Council approved installing cameras to catch people running red lights. Though the city has not yet chosen the intersections where the cameras will be installed, officials believe it will cut down on traffic accidents. Though running red lights can cause accidents, cameras are not the answer.

When a person is approaching an intersection and the light turns yellow, there are many factors he or she considers in deciding whether to stop or drive through. Drivers have to keep in mind who is behind them, how fast they are going, where exactly they are in relation to the intersection and many other things when the light turns yellow.

Even driver's education teaches you that there is no exact science to knowing when you should stop and when you should keep going through a yellow light. There are several scenarios where potentially running a red light would be safer than trying to brake when the light turns yellow. Traffic light violations should be judged on a case-by-case basis just like drivers must look at each situation individually.

Sometimes running a red light may prevent an accident. If the roads are slick, a driver might lose control if he slams on his brakes. If a driver is being followed too closely and a light turns yellow, it could be impossible for the car behind him to stop in time. According to a 2006 article in Popular Mechanics, rear-end collisions may actually increase when an intersection is installed with a red light camera. Instead of getting a ticket, drivers opt to brake suddenly. In Portland, Ore., according to the article, there was a 140 percent increase in rear-end collisions at the intersections

where there were red light cameras set up.

In 2007 the Virginia Transportation Research Council did find that cameras lowered the number of accidents caused by people running red lights, but the overall number of accidents increased significantly. A 2008 report published in Florida Public Health Review showed that the use of these cameras led to an increase in both insurance rates and injury accidents.

Besides not being able to consider all the factors when recording violations, red light cameras can be faulty, just as all technology can be. A red light camera could malfunction just as easily as any other piece of equipment.

Photos from cameras are often blurry, making it impossible to read the license plate and ticket the correct person. One couple in Cleveland was ticketed by a camera from a time when they weren't even living there, according to NewsNet5.com in Ohio. It turns out the photo had made the plate difficult to read and the city had fined the wrong citizens.

Also in Ohio, the city council in Akron had to refund fines to more than 2,000 motorists who had been wrongly ticketed because of the inaccurate photos from a speed camera, which is similar to a red light camera, in a time period of only 19 days, according to the Popular Mechanics article. Instead of having these unreliable robotic policemen patrolling the stoplights, the city should post more officers at problem intersections.

Officers can judge violations on a more practical basis. If it would be dangerous for an officer to pull out and catch red-light runners at a given intersection, the city should consider lengthening the yellow light.



This would give motorists more time to make it through a light that turns yellow before the cross-street gets a green light.

A 2005 study by the Texas Transportation Institute reported that extended yellow lights decreased red-light running drastically, due largely to the fact that most violations that cameras catch occur within the first second after the light turns red, according to the Popular Mechanics article. Extending the yellow-light time just one second would get rid of the majority of the violations.

In addition to lengthening the yellow lights, clearer intersection markings could cut down

on red-light running. Improved markings, which can include larger signal lamps and moving the signals to the side of the intersection closest to the motorist, have been found to decrease the amount of red-light running by 74 percent without an increased risk of rear-end collisions that cameras can often cause, according to a study by the University of Central Florida for the Florida Department of Transportation. Either of these could be a feasible option that the city of Waco should explore before installing cameras.

The inconvenience and unreliability of the cameras should make the city council give this project the red light.

sports view

Future of Cowboys depends on Jones

After a season full of chaos and controversy, the Dallas Cowboys now face an offseason that will determine whether the team rebounds from a disappointing 9-7 season, or continues to fall towards obscurity in the NFC.

Cowboys owner and General Manager Jerry Jones faces several important decisions that will ultimately decide which Cowboys team opens up Jones' new \$1.3 billion stadium next season.

The biggest decision Jones faces seems to have already been answered. Wade Phillips will

be returning for his third season as head coach. Phillips, who was unable to lead a team with 13 returning Pro-Bowlers to the playoffs, and who at 61 years of age has yet to win a playoff game as a head coach, convinced Jones to retain his services through improved defensive play to close out last season.

When taking a closer look at the team's defensive statistics, it appears appropriate to ask how good the Cowboys defense really was. The Cowboys led the NFL with 59 sacks and finished eighth in yards per game allowed. The team also finished 20th in points allowed per game at 22.8, 30th in interceptions, and 24th in opponent punt return yardage at 10.5. Phillips has been known as a defensive guru throughout his NFL coaching career, yet the Cowboys finished in the bottom half of the league in several of the most important defensive categories.

Next, Jones must decide if he wants Terrell Owens to return for his fourth season as a Cowboys receiver. Owens began to cause a rift in the locker room last season over the amount of touches tight end Jason Witten was receiving; this despite Owens receiving 100 more yards, 19 more

touches, and six more touchdowns than Witten. Of the top ten most targeted receivers in the NFL this past season, Owens finished last in receptions and last in yards.

Green Bay Packers wide receiver Greg Jennings, who at 140 touches received the same amount as Owens, finished the season with 11 more receptions and 240 more yards. Owens is 35 years old and will be 36 by January of next year. As physically gifted as he is, he cannot stop his skills from declining.

At a salary cap figure of \$8.895 million for three years, some believe that releasing Owens would cost the Cowboys too much money. However, if Jones were to release Owens this offseason, his charge against the salary cap would be \$9.675 million, only \$680,000 more than what would be charged against the salary cap. By releasing Owens, Jones would free Tony Romo from having a constant voice over his shoulder and allow him to play more freely, rather than forcing passes to Owens and ignoring receivers who are actually open.

Jones must also decide what the Cowboys need to do in free agency. Cowboy's linebacker Zach Thomas has already stated he will not be returning to the team next season. The obvious replacement for Thomas is Baltimore Ravens Pro Bowl linebacker Ray Lewis, who at 33 years old totaled 117 tackles and led the Ravens to the AFC Cham-

ionship game last season.

Lewis is seeking a contract in the area of three years and \$30 million. Is signing a 33-year-old linebacker to a three-year contract the right move? Lewis has played 178 games in his career and has always been under the same defensive system. Jones must determine if Lewis would fit into Wade Phillips' 3-4 defensive scheme, which differs from the Ravens 3-4 scheme because of Phillips' high-blitzing tendencies. Lewis would bring a leadership quality to the Cowboys that they haven't had since Michael Irvin last wore a star on his helmet.

There is no question that with Lewis the entire attitude of the team would change. If Jones were to keep Owens next season, don't think for a second that Lewis would tolerate his disruptiveness. Adding Lewis to the Cowboys next season seems like a logical move for a team that lacks leadership and has its fair share of celebrities, rather than football players.

Ultimately these decisions will be left to Jerry Jones, but there is no reason to believe that any of them are unrealistic.

Jones must decide if he is happy with an average team and a below average coach or if he truly wants the Cowboys to reclaim the title of America's team.

Morgan Hoffman is a sophomore journalism student from Plano.



BY MORGAN HOFFMAN

Opinion policy

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Opinions expressed in the Lariat are not necessarily those of the Baylor administration, the Baylor Board of Regents or the Student Publications Board.

Letters to the editor should include the writer's name, major, graduation year, phone number and student identification number. Non-student writers

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

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

Letters to the editor

Abortion opposition not religious position

I agree with the spirit of Ms. Black's letter from Tuesday on the Mexico City policy. I was dismayed, however, that she made use of a common but fallacious assumption: that opposition to abortion is necessarily a religious position.

Opposition to abortion need not be based on a set of religious principles any more than opposition to murder must be based on religious principles. Our current system of international law is predicated on the concept of inalienable human rights. The first and most fundamental of these is the right to life. Without this, the other rights which follow — including the right to an adequate standard of living — are undermined.

Admittedly, phrasing the issue of abortion in terms of human rights does not make the matter any easier to resolve. We still face the fundamental issue of personhood. Nev-

ertheless, it does mean that the question is not bound to a particular religious viewpoint. As a nation and as a member of the international community, we can address this issue within the framework of current secular legal principles. Therefore, to allow abortion on the grounds of the separation of church and state is a way of avoiding the issue, not addressing it.

As for the Mexico City policy, it is true that the United States cannot trade one injustice for another by withholding aid. Neither, though, can we condone injustice by sanctioning abortion. The injustice of abortion is a matter of natural law, not just religious belief, and so it has every right to inform our public policy. As always, we must seek out third options and other alternatives rather than choosing the lesser of two evils.

Eric Headstream
Philosophy, '09

Correction policy

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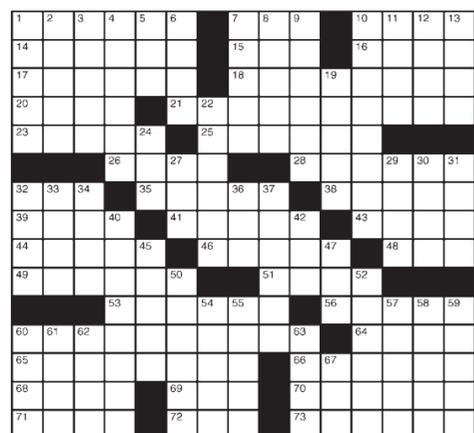
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THE Daily Crossword Edited by Wayne Robert Williams



DOWN

- 1 Jacket feature
- 2 Pimiento holder
- 3 Having blades, as a windmill
- 4 Mortgage condition, often
- 5 Tina Turner's ex
- 6 F.D.R.'s mother
- 7 Master
- 8 Manmade fiber
- 9 Vestiges
- 10 Young plant
- 11 BMW rival
- 12 River to the Caspian
- 13 Be vanquished
- 19 Castle defenders
- 22 Channing and Burnett
- 24 Untried
- 27 "Sliver" author Levin
- 29 Exploit
- 30 Comic Jay
- 31 Cogito __ sum
- 32 Wanes
- 33 Ilk
- 34 Legal bargain
- 36 Trifle (with)
- 37 First name in tenors
- 40 Asian evergreen
- 42 Juniper-flavored drink
- 45 Be worthy of
- 47 Commotion
- 50 Southwest people
- 52 Desert blooms
- 54 Originated
- 55 Castle or Dunne
- 57 Belafonte or Lewis
- 58 Lush
- 59 Edberg or Sorenstam
- 60 Soon afterward
- 61 __ and now (today)
- 62 One of HOMES
- 63 __ off (deflect)
- 67 Get the point

- 41 Part 3 of quip
- 43 "West Side Story" faction
- 44 Silvery European fish
- 46 Aleppo's country
- 48 In addition
- 49 Flower part
- 51 500-mile event, briefly
- 53 Language of Lebanon
- 56 Forces out
- 60 Part 4 of quip
- 64 Food, slangily
- 65 Legacy
- 66 Way out
- 68 Ireland
- 69 Singer Peerce
- 70 Drew close
- 71 Be without
- 72 PAT value
- 73 End of quip

By Adele Mann
New York, NY

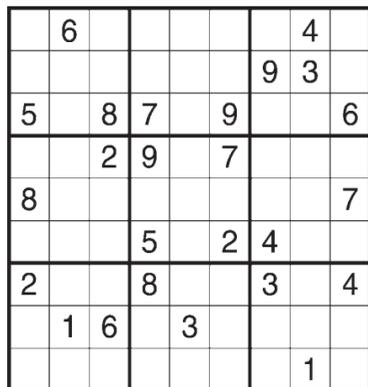
2/12/09

ACROSS

- 1 Start of a quip
- 7 Destiny
- 10 Writer Bellow
- 14 Juneau's land
- 15 Botch
- 16 New currency
- 17 Grasping part
- 18 Shaded walkways
- 20 Even one time
- 21 Part 2 of quip
- 23 Enticed
- 25 Temper
- 26 Masters Champion from Canada
- 28 Archie's command to Edith
- 32 Psychic power
- 35 Lansbury series, "Murder, She ___"
- 38 Haughty look
- 39 Take off quickly

SUDOKU

THE SAMURAI OF PUZZLES By The Mepham Group



Fill in the grid so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 through 9 with no repeats.

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

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More graduate students seek degrees internationally

By Lauren Hollon
Reporter

Graduate school. These two words strike fear and anxiety into the hearts of seniors every year. What many students often don't consider is the option of earning their advanced degrees abroad.

There are many reasons the average Baylor student might not consider a graduate program in another country, ranging from questions of cost to fears of straying too far from home.

Pineville, La., senior Jenny Howell applied to 13 different graduate schools, none of which were outside the U.S.

"Besides Oxford and Cambridge, I don't really know the reputation of any schools abroad. I didn't know which were prestigious or which ones I would have a good chance of getting into. With American universities, I have a better sense of the reputation of the school and the program," Howell wrote in an e-mail to The Lariat.

A university's reputation is a factor when choosing a graduate school. According to Michele Ryan in an article called "Graduate School Abroad: Shattering the Myths" on suite101.com, it is important to make sure a for-

ign university is accredited.

The common bodies of accreditation in Europe are the European Quality Improvement System and the Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business. Their Web sites: www.efmd.org and www.aacsb.edu both offer lists of accredited institutions.

North Richland Hills senior Jessica Govers will attend the University of Edinburgh in Scotland next fall to earn an M.S. in economics. For her, the decision was an easy one.

The University of Edinburgh's economics program is one of the top 10 in the United Kingdom, Govers said.

"I looked at U.S. graduate schools in the beginning, but when I started looking at schools in the U.S. versus European schools, for the program I'm doing, there was really no competition," Govers said.

Another concern for some students is the cost of graduate school abroad.

The length of the program can affect its cost dramatically. While most U.S. master's programs take two years, foreign programs often take only one year, cutting living expenses in half.

This is the case for San Anto-

nio alumnus Mark Harris. He graduated last December and is now studying at the Universiteit van Amsterdam.

In about one year he'll have a master's degree in European Studies: Integration and Identity, Harris wrote in an e-mail interview.

Some foreign universities offer scholarships for international students.

Harris wrote that he was especially fortunate to receive one of the university's 17 scholarships offered exclusively to international students. The scholarship paid for his tuition, making education abroad affordable.

However, such scholarships are competitive, according to Harris, and he was surprised to receive one.

Sometimes the exchange rate determines the cost effectiveness of graduate school abroad.

Baylor alumna Mary Woodward completed her master's degree at Durham University in England, in 2009.

The exchange rate hovered around \$2.10 to £1 at the time, Woodward said, which made her experience very expensive.

Costs may be high or low, depending on circumstances, but other factors come into play when determining wheth-

er graduate school abroad is a good option.

Attending a European university has also given Harris the opportunity for a depth of study he could not have received in a European studies program in the U.S., he wrote.

"Obtaining a Masters in European studies in Europe allows for a more hands on approach to the things I am studying," Harris wrote. "One of my courses is called 'Visualizing Europe' and in this class we go on a few field trips around Amsterdam and Brussels; A program in the United States would find it a bit more difficult, not to mention expensive, to perform the same feat."

Another consideration is the difference in American and European teaching styles. British programs in particular are known for having less professor interaction than American programs, said Houston senior Janna Dotschkal, who studied abroad in Scotland in fall 2007. Dotschkal said the lack of professor involvement was a driving reason behind her decision not to pursue graduate studies abroad. She said the independent approach to education made it hard for her to learn.

While not for everyone, pur-



Jessica Govers/Courtesy photo

Senior Jessica Govers stands in front of St. Giles Cathedral in Edinburgh, Scotland in April 2008. Govers will be starting her master's degree at the University of Edinburgh this fall.

suing a graduate degree abroad is an opportunity that more students should consider, Woodward said.

"There's such an exchange of ideas. The conversations would range from different words and what they mean to politics and

society and what their families are like. The whole exchange was completely irreplaceable," Woodward said. "It changes you in some really wonderful ways."

To read the full story, visit www.baylor.edu/Lariat

Obama signs order benefitting community organizations

By Sommer Ingram
Staff Writer

President Barack Obama last week signed an executive order launching the new White House Office of Faith-Based and Neighborhood Partnerships, a council dedicated to reaching out to community organizations that provide social help, no matter their religious or political beliefs.

The office is a more extensive continuation of the Office of Faith-Based and Community Initiatives established under the Bush administration and will take an active part in helping both secular and faith-based organizations make significant impacts in their communities and utilize the resources of the federal government.

"A council like this is a common clearinghouse for work in the area of social issues and can help address an assortment of them," said the Rev. Daniel Payne, a lecturer in the J.M. Dawson Institute of Church-State Studies at Baylor. "One of the first places people turn for help is faith-based and community organizations. There is a certain level of public trust involved that allows these groups an evident power."

Along with the office comes the creation of a 25-member council made up of a diverse group of religious and secular scholars.

The committee, the President's Advisory Council on Faith-Based and Neighborhood Partnerships, will guide decisions on faith-based programs for a range of domestic and for-

eign policy issues.

One of the top goals of the council is to give community groups a vital role in boosting the economy.

These roles start locally as community groups work on issues like teen pregnancy reduction and poverty reduction.

"The economic downturn has created even more demand for the services that faith-based and community organizations provide," said Emily Fau, associate director of Waco Habitat for Humanity. "Such services often help mitigate dire economic effects for the entire community, not just those they serve."

The changes many Americans are looking for under the new administration do not have to come from the government alone.

"The White House council acknowledges and values the integral role that private nonprofit programs play in improving our communities," Fau said. "The council's coordination of public and private nonprofit service initiatives has the potential to strengthen both secular and faith-based community programs by leveraging their local capital with the government's economic objectives and resources."

The power these organizations have to organize the public to bring about a change is a morale-booster for the community and is an important part in the economic recovery process, said Allan Marshall, director of community development for the

Greater Waco Chamber of Commerce.

"The unique thing about faith-based and community organizations is that they can work together to make decisions and then take them to the government," he said.

Under President Bush, federally-funded religious organizations were allowed to exclusively hire those of the same religion, a practice that civil liberties organizations claim to be discriminatory.

"We can see the intrusive nature of the state in dictating what policies these organizations can and cannot adopt," Payne said. "There is a danger inherent in the process of fusing religion and politics together in

a council like this."

Obama has not specified whether he will make good on his campaign promise to put an end to faith-based hiring. If he does change the law, some see it as further encroachment into the territory of religious organizations.

"To remove the discrimination clauses will be highly problematic from a separatist point-of-view," Payne said. "Is it a mistake politically? I don't know. But the government shouldn't dictate hiring practices to begin with because it can lead to excessive entanglement between church and state."

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From left: Ginnifer Goodwin, Jennifer Aniston and Jennifer Connelly star in the new romantic comedy "He's Just Not That Into You."

'He's Just Not That Into You' delivers true-to-life stories

By Brittany McNamara
Reporter

An interlocking web of on-edge relationships perfectly balances humor and a star-studded cast in the highly anticipated film "He's Just Not That Into You."

FILMREVIEW

Directed by Ken Kwapis ("Sisterhood of the Traveling Pants"), the film is based on the No. 1 New York Times bestseller of the same name, written by former "Sex in the City" writers, Greg Behrendt and Liz Tuccillo.

The movie opens on the set of a playground as a mother consoles her daughter after being bullied by a freckle-faced schoolboy. The mother confidently reassures the young girl that the only reason the boy picked on her was because in fact, he liked her.

Now, all-grown-up and ready-for-love Gigi, played by Ginnifer Goodwin, gives every man she dates the benefit of the doubt as she desperately, and painfully, awaits a phone call for a second date.

Gigi sets herself up for destruction time and time again until the friend of her latest disappointment Alex, played by Justin Long, enlightens her on "the rule."

Long mirrors the role of author Behrendt, as he bluntly informs Gigi that all of men's excuses are really code for "he's just not that into you."

The interlocking web begins to unravel as the audience is introduced to a plethora of disgruntled couples in their 20's to 30's struggling to make it work with the one they love.

Unlike most books-turned-movies, "He's just not that into you" brilliantly depicts the content and tone of its source.

Many may argue the connections become a tad too tangled, as it becomes hard to follow how each relationship is connected to the others.

This is done in order to properly display the large variety of relationship quandaries women present to Behrendt throughout the book. Scenes in the movie that link to the chapter titles in the book are divided by black and white slides with phrases such as, "if he's not marrying you," or "if he's not calling you."

For those who have not read



Courtesy of Warner Brothers

Alex, played by Justin Long, acts as the voice of reason in "He's Just Not That Into You."

the book, the film is still 100 percent identifiable. And when I say identifiable, I mean identifiable for women. If the title of the movie wasn't clear enough, the target audience for the film is predominantly women.

The collection of relationships and stories allow all women to relate and see a bit of their own life played out on-screen.

A highlight throughout the film is Goodwin's endearing performance. Hopeless romantic Gigi warms the hearts of the entire theater and has all rooting for her to end up on top in the end. Goodwin's corks and slightly awkward humor makes for non-stop giggles and grins.

The minor downfall to the movie lies in its failure to dive deeply into elaborate life issues.

While "Wedding Crasher's" Bradley Cooper's unfaithful relationship with wife, Janine, shows a glimmer of hope in this regard, I would have liked to see more depth to this story. The more complex relationships in the film deserved more than simply scratching the surface.

"He's just not that into you" may not be up for an Academy Award for best drama, but it irresistibly lives up to all standards of a quality romantic comedy.

The film will leave women feeling understood, enlightened and secretly wishing their boyfriends were in the seat next to them to receive a little enlightenment of their own.

Grade: B+

Sassy lyrics gives Allen a fresh take

By Megan Keyser
Contributor

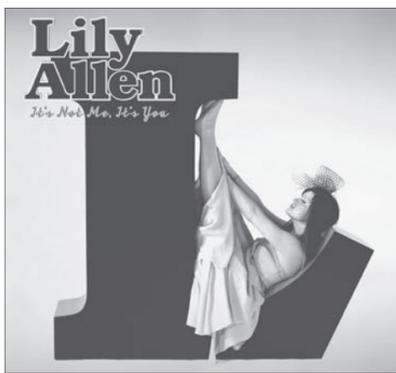
I first listened to Lily Allen two months ago when a friend gave me a copy of her 2006 debut album, "Alright, Still." I quickly fell in love with Allen's spunk and humor, and began anxiously awaiting her next release. Allen did not disappoint.

ALBUMREVIEW

In her slightly darker sophomore album, "It's Not Me, It's You," the young British pop singer/songwriter managed to maintain the catchy tunes and sassy attitude that made her first album a hit. And she did so without becoming dull or predictable. In fact, Allen proved to be just the opposite, going beyond the typical stories of relationship angst to offer social, political and religious commentaries in nearly half of the album's 13 tracks.

The opening track, "Everyone's At It," addresses the widespread social problem of drug use. The song asks the inciting question, "How can we start to tackle the problem if you don't put your hands up and admit that you're on it?"

In a religious quandary, "Him," Allen speculates, "If there is some kind of god do you think he's pleased? When he looks



Associated Press

British pop artist Lily Allen released her second full length album, "It's Not Me, It's You" Friday.

down on us I wonder what he sees." Although these lyrics seem dark, heavy and even slightly offensive, Allen contrasts them with whimsical, energetic music, which keeps the subject matter from becoming distracting or overwhelming.

For those who prefer songs about love and relationships, "It's Not Me, It's You" has plenty to offer. From complete infatuation in "Who'd Have Known," to disappointment and relationship monotony in "I Could Say" and "Chinese," everyone is sure to find a

story to relate to.

However, the album did have a few downfalls.

The first two tracks were very catchy, songs to tap a beat to. But when track three, "Not Fair," came on, my enthusiasm dwindled. The western twang from the banjo was the initial turnoff, but when the overly repetitive chorus began, I lost all interest.

"Back to the Start" was also disappointing compared to previous tracks. The chorus lyrics seemed scrunched into each measure, giving the song "just the right amount of awkward" to make me want to skip ahead.

Though "Not Fair" and "Back to the Start" are clearly not the album's best tracks, upon second and third listen they did grow on me. I certainly wouldn't put them on "repeat," but I no longer feel the urge to reach for the "skip" button.

Despite a couple mediocre tracks, Allen's sophomore album is a rich compilation of songs for a diverse audience. "It's Not Me, It's You" maintains enough of a resemblance to "Alright, Still" to keep fans loyal, while branching out enough to distinguish itself from its predecessor.

"I don't know much, but I know this for certain," Lily Allen hit a good note with "It's Not Me, It's You."

Grade: B+

Published photographer shares work, advice

By Kelli Boesel
Entertainment Editor

O. Rufus Lovett's "Kilgore Rangerettes" are in black and white at the Martin Museum of Art.

Lovett is an accomplished photographer who has published two books, "Weeping Mary" and "Kilgore Rangerettes," and articles in magazines such as Texas Monthly.

In a "Gallery Talk" Wednesday, Lovett spoke to students and faculty about his photography and how he chooses a subject.

"Photography is not about how to operate cameras and how to work lights; it's really about issues," Lovett said.

Lovett said he was fascinated with the contrast between the grace and beauty of the Rangerettes, the first dance team to perform during football game halftimes, against the cold, hard environment in which they per-

form. This interest in contrast led him to begin an 18-year process of photographing the Kilgore Rangerettes. He began the project in 1989 and completed it in 2007.

Lovett said this kind of passion in a subject is what every photographer should look for.

"A gallery curator, owner or art collector is looking for an issue and your personal point of view regarding that issue," he said.

All the Rangerette photos are shot on black film, which Lovett said he prefers because he grew in a black and white world, without color television or photographs.

"Black and white is an honest interpretation of the time that I came from," Lovett said. "I'm going to be doing black and white film as long as it exists."

Lovett not only talked about his work, but also gave advice to aspiring photographers. One thing he stressed was that sub-

ject material for all photographers can be found anywhere.

"Little everyday things that we take for granted — those can be some of the most important photographs you will ever make," he said.

Another tid-bit of advice Lovett gave was to develop a unique visual eye that is distinctive to the individual.

"We all have a different fingerprint and we all have a different way of interpreting things," Lovett said. "You all have a new, fresh way of seeing things; you just have to seek it out." Lovett's photography is on display at the Martin Museum at the suggestion of associate professor of art Susan Maguire.

"He is a well-known photographer that does excellent work," Maguire said. "I thought students would benefit from looking at his work."

Maguire said she hopes students that view the work will take away from it the sense of

dedication that it takes to produce a cohesive body of work like Lovett's.

Kingwood freshman Lauren Laumbach said she came to the "Gallery Talk" because she was interested in photography and thought Lovett's talk would be interesting.

Laumbach said she enjoyed Lovett's talk because of his sense of humor.

"It was cool to see the Rangerettes and how he talked about them with a sense of humor and kept you interested," she said.

Along with Lovett's photography exhibit is a watercolor exhibit by Warren Taylor. Taylor will be on campus for a "Gallery Talk" Feb. 26.

The Lovett exhibit at the Martin Museum of Art will be open until Feb. 24.

The Martin Museum is open 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesday through Friday and 12 p.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday. Admission to the museum is free.

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Men fall short of victory, streak continues; loss six

By Brian Bateman
Sports editor

University of Oklahoma sophomore forward Blake Griffin got his numbers, but it was the team effort that brought the Sooners their 24th victory of the year.

Four different Sooners scored in double digits leaving Baylor (15-9, 3-7) gasping to cover them all in a 78-63 loss.

"That's what our team has been around this year," Oklahoma head coach Jeff Capel said.

Baylor uncharacteristically shot 19.2 percent from beyond the arc, partially due to sophomore guard LaceDarius Dunn's 0-for-6 shooting there. To compound the problem, the Sooners hit seven 3-pointers.

Austin Johnson, a senior guard, made four, including an off-balance, shot-clock beater that put the Sooners (24-1, 10-0) in a commanding, late-game 10-point lead.

"It was really a lucky shot," the Amarillo native said. "Sometimes things like that happen."

Blake Griffin had 18 points, 10 rebounds and two blocks. His average is 22.3 points and 14 rebounds per game.

"If he got it, we were just going to take our chances with the one-on-one," senior forward Kevin Rogers said. "He's going to find ways to get the ball. Credit those guys for getting it to them."

The Bears had their share of bad luck during the game. Midway through the first half, freshman forward Quincy Acy had a clear block on Blake Griffin, but the ball bounced into the

net for two Sooner points. Then the Mesquite forward's dunk in the waning seconds of the half skimmed off the rim. It would have cut the halftime deficit to one possession.

Despite a poor field goal percentage outside the paint, the Bears managed to stick with the Sooners, trailing by just five points at the break. Sooner sophomore forward and future NBA draft prospect Blake Griffin had just eight points, but the Bears' attention on him kept the perimeter open. Senior guard Austin Johnson had three 3-pointers by the break, while the Bears received just two from senior guard Curtis Jerrells.

In the second, the Sooners stretched the lead to eight out of the gate, but the Bears fought back while the Sooners missed every shot for a full six minutes.

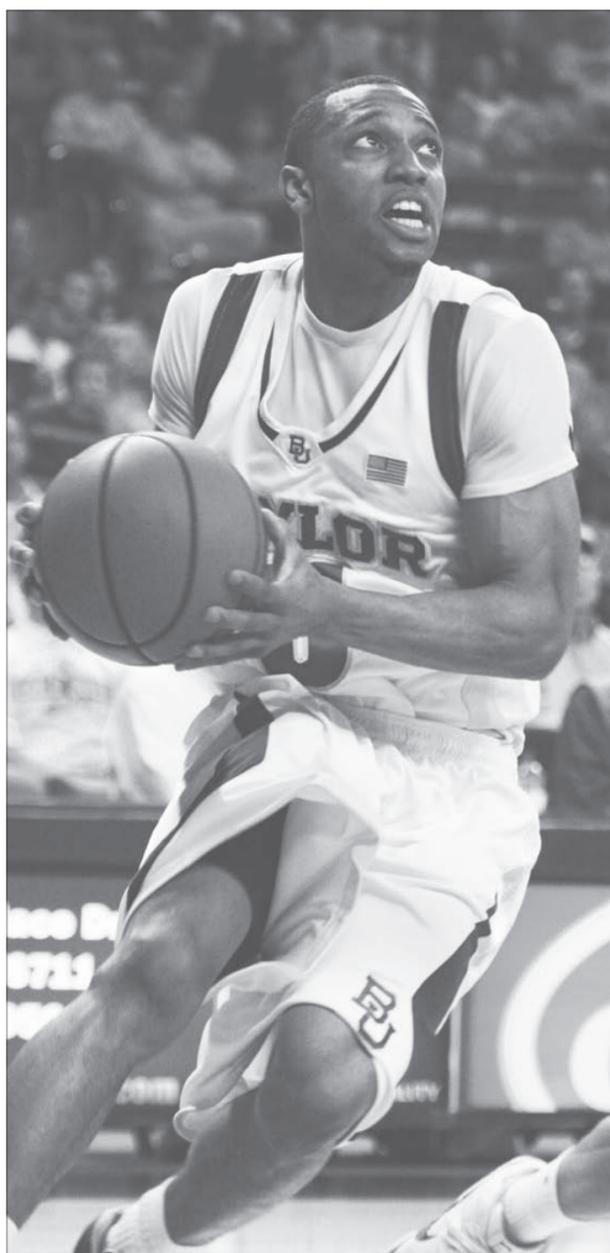
"We knew that playing against (Baylor), they're going to have some runs on us," Johnson said. "I thought during that run they hit some shots on us and we got stagnant on the offensive end."

Capel called a timeout, and the lead extended to double digits.

"We played under control the whole game," Blake Griffin said. "That's important on the road. Everybody did a great job of staying calm and contributing."

Baylor led the points in the paint category 32-28, but head coach Scott Drew wasn't pleased with the results.

"We went to the glass hard, but we only outscore them by two in second-chance points," he said



Shanna Taylor/Lariat staff

Baylor guard Henry Dugat makes a layup during the first half against the Oklahoma Sooners Wednesday night at the Ferrell Center. Baylor lost 78-63.

Overtime drives women to victory

By Stephen Hawkins
The Associated Press

WACO — Andrea Riley had just driven the length of the court for a layup to give No. 22 Oklahoma State a lead.

Baylor guards Jessica Morrow and Melissa Jones made sure it was short-lived — and that the Cowgirls weren't going to win again in Waco.

"We wanted this win, especially with what happened last time," Jones said. "That mentality kicked in and took over from there."

Morrow and Jones hit consecutive 3-pointers for the fifth-ranked later Bears, the first of 12 consecutive points in a 22-3 run that pushed the Lady Bears (15-1, 3-0 Big 12) to avenging a home loss that kept them from winning the conference title last year.

Baylor, which has won nine straight overall, has won 27 of its last 28 home games. The lone loss was to the Cowgirls (12-4, 1-2) in last year's regular season finale.

"We certainly wish this was the game last year," coach Kim Mulkey said. "If you're a competitor, you don't forget those moments. When somebody denies you a championship,

you are motivated to play that team."

Riley, who had a game-high 33 points, put Oklahoma State (12-4, 1-2) ahead 38-37 when she grabbed a defensive rebound and drove all the way for a layup with 17:17 left. Morrow and Jones then hit their 3s.

By time Riley scored again nearly 8 minutes later, Oklahoma State trailed by 15.

"We made some defensive mistakes and offensively we weren't quite in synch the way we should have been in the second half," coach Kurt Budke said. "Definitely, it's a long year and there are not going to be a lot of people that come here and win here."

The Cowgirls won eight straight games before losing their Big 12 opener at Iowa State, which they followed with a 36-point victory over Colorado when five players scored in double figures. Riley was the only one with at least 10 points against Baylor.

Morghan Medlock's two free throws with 10:19 left capped Baylor's game-turning spurt, with Medlock scoring eight of the last 10 points.

Medlock finished with 14 points in 16 minutes off the bench, while Danielle Wilson



The Associated Press

Baylor guard Jessica Morrow (3) drives against Oklahoma State guard Taylor Hardeman (13) during the first half of an NCAA college basketball game in Wednesday at Stillwater, Okla. The Bears won 64-62.

had 14 points and 12 rebounds, her sixth double-double in eight games. Morrow had 11 points.

The Lady Bears won their second straight game over a top 25 opponent, having defeated No. 20 Iowa State 68-57 on Wednesday. They play four of their next six games against ranked teams, starting Wednesday at No. 8 Texas A&M.

Jones had a bank shot and a 3-pointer on consecutive possessions before halftime to put the Lady Bears up 30-22.

Oklahoma State then ended the half with a 9-3 run and had a chance to at least tie the game

after Wilson's free throw with 31.7 seconds left made it 33-31. Riley waited in the backcourt for time to run off the clock, then after finally making her move to the basket lost control of the ball and the shot clock expired.

Riley then had an assist and scored five points early in the second half to push the Cowgirls ahead, but that lead lasted only a few seconds.

"We're only at our best when we have four or five in double figures," Budke said. "We've got to do a better job of continuing to try to get other people involved."

Marijuana charges against recruit

By Brian Bateman
Sports editor

Willie Jefferson, a 6-foot-6-inch wide receiver recruit from Beaumont-Ozen High School, was arrested Jan. 25 on charges of marijuana possession.

Possession of marijuana is a Class-B misdemeanor. If convicted, the defendant faces up to 180 days in jail and a fine not to exceed \$2,000.

"Until the situation is resolved by the Orange County authorities, we believe it would be inappropriate for Baylor to comment on this matter," said Nick Joos, Baylor senior associate director of external affairs.

Baylor head coach Art Briles

made a brief statement on Jefferson during the signing day ceremony.

"When we started the process of recruiting a year ago we knew we wanted to get a tall receiver for this class; Willie fits that bill. He is a legit 6'6" guy that can jump," Briles said.

"We really feel like he can be a great playmaker for us and create mismatches for us through the years. He's a very engaging individual that has an understanding of what it takes to have a chance to succeed and achieve. He's very mature with his mind process at this stage of his life and is going to be a very welcome addition to our football family."

Sports Briefs

Track finishes first overall at New Balance Invitational

Sophomore sprinter Tiffany Townsend ran the fastest 200 meter time in the world this year, a 23.31 mark, in a strong overall showing this weekend by the men's and women's squads in New York at the New Balance Invitational. The men's team took first place overall with a score of 65 points, while the women's team totaled 68 points in a second place showing. The men's 4x400 meter relay team continued its dominance in the event, winning its 32nd-straight meet despite the absence of junior standout LeJerald Betters. The team will travel to College Station this weekend for the Texas A&M Invitational.

Whitney Canion named Big 12 co-Pitcher of the Week

After a week that saw her throw a complete game shutout against No. 1 University of Florida, freshman Whitney Canion has been named Big 12 Pitcher of the Week. The Aledo native yielded three hits, one walk, and struck out 10 in seven innings of duty in the program's first ever win over a No. 1 opponent. Canion also pitched the series opener, a 3-0 loss to the Gators, despite allowing one earned run in six innings and recording nine strikeouts. Canion and the Lady Bears will take on Northwestern State University Friday Feb. 13 in the first game of the Getteman Classic at Baylor's Getteman Stadium.

Equestrian moves up to No. 2 in National Poll

After a 13-10 victory over then No. 2 Texas A&M University, the Lady Bears have moved up to No. 2 in most recent Coaches Poll. The team is currently in the midst of a four-game win streak, and sits only four points behind current No. 1 University of Georgia. The Aggies moved to No. 4 after their third straight loss. Up next for the

Lady Bears is a Feb. 14 home competition with the Oklahoma State University Cowgirls.

No. 4 women's tennis, No. 10 men's squad draw first round opponents in ITAs

Coming off wins over No. 52 Princeton University and No. 41 Virginia Tech in the qualifying rounds of the ITA National Indoor Championships, the No. 4 Lady Bears are set to square off against the No. 11 ranked University of North Carolina Tarheels in the tournament's opening round. The meet will be hosted by the University of Wisconsin at the A.C. Nielsen Tennis Stadium in Madison, Wis. Northwestern University rides into the tournament as the consensus No. 1 team after receiving eight of eight first place votes in the ITA Rankings. The No. 10 men's team will face the University of Tennessee in their opening round match in the men's tournament at the Midtown Tennis Club in Chicago. The team is coming off wins over No. 62 Texas A&M-Corpus Christi, No. 66 University of Utah, and Georgia Tech, and will begin championship play Feb. 13 against the Volunteers.

Women's golf takes 8th in California tournament

Sophomore Lene Hafsten-Morch turned in a score of 230 in the Northrop Grumman Regional Challenge in Palos Verdes, Calif. this week, putting her at 12th place individually for the event. The team finished with scores of 325, 315, and 308 for a total of 948, putting them in a tie with No. 29 University of Florida. The Lady Bears finished ahead of five top-35 teams, while Arizona State University took first place with a score of 898. The team will aim for another top-10 finish March 2-3 at the Pinehurst Challenge in Pinehurst, N.C.

Compiled by Gordon Voit

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RESCUE from page 1

by flying debris. One man died when a pickup truck fell on him. Another woman was found injured but alive beneath an overturned mobile home.

Residents of Lone Grove, a town of 4,600 about 100 miles south of Oklahoma City, awoke Wednesday to find much of their community in ruins.

Shirley Mose was not at home when the tornado struck, but she returned to find the house destroyed and her pickup truck wrecked.

"I had a little Chihuahua that stayed in there," Mose said. "We found her bed, but not her. I guess she's gone."

The Lone Grove twister was among a cluster of unusual February tornadoes that touched down Tuesday in Oklahoma.

A half-dozen homes and several businesses were also damaged in Oklahoma City and suburban Edmond, but no serious injuries were reported there.

Lone Grove firefighters searched each damaged or destroyed structure, spray-painting a large "X" on homes after inspection. Residents were then allowed to check for belongings.

Authorities gave as much as 35 minutes of warning that a twister was approaching.

The National Weather Service issued a tornado warning at 6:50 p.m. Tuesday, meaning a twister was imminent and residents should take shelter. Another warning was issued at 7:15 p.m. when the actual tornado was spotted. It hit Lone Grove at 7:25 p.m.

"A lot of people just didn't leave," Carter County Sheriff Ken Grace said.

Joe Hornback, 42, said the roof was blown off a post office a few blocks from his home.

"We were very fortunate," he said. "We went into the only cellar on our block. There were 30 of us in a 6-by-6 underground cellar."

Tornadoes are relatively rare in the winter. Since 1950,

Oklahoma has been struck by 44 in February, most recently on Feb. 25, 2000, when a twister damaged a barn and power lines in the western part of the state.

Most of the bodies were found in the mobile home wreckage. A trucker driving through town was also killed when winds slammed into his rig. Fourteen other people were seriously injured.

Cherokee Ballard, a spokeswoman for the state medical examiner's office, said some of the victims appeared to have been inside their homes when the tornado hit. Others had fled outdoors.

Most died from blows to the head.

"One victim was found underneath a pickup truck the tornado had lifted and dropped on him," Ballard said.

There was no shelter near the mobile home park for the residents to seek refuge.

Surveying the wreckage, Wade Taliefferro pointed to a section of the park where six mobile homes had once stood.

"They're all gone," said Taliefferro, whose uncle lives in the area. "I found a dead body in the pasture last night."

Thirty National Guard troops helped police provide security.

"We know we have lost many lives in Lone Grove, and we pray the losses do not rise any higher," Gov. Brad Henry said.

Along the main road in Lone Grove, homes and businesses were destroyed. Trees were splintered. Roofs were missing. Power lines were on the ground, and electricity was out.

Trina Quinton stood next to a pile of rubble that used to be John's Furniture, which was owned by her cousin.

"This is where I was raised," Quinton said as tears rolled down her cheek. "This is where I grew up."

She was grateful that the business was closed at the time of the twister, but she doubted the family would be able to rebuild.

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worries.

Riley said he does not know how much change Obama's administration will be able to bring due to the state of the national economy.

In his new energy plan, Obama has tied the economy and energy problems together, with the hope that by creating "green" jobs the economy will rebound.

"A turnaround here is not going to happen quickly," Riley said. "We could do much more in the green direction and at the same time build the kind of economy that is more friendly to the environment, but again that is going to take a long time."

With regards to Baylor's own green movement, Sustainability Committee Chair for Communication, Carl Flynn said he believes Baylor is ready for the president's actions.

"The 'green' industry, new energy industry is where he (Obama) sees job creation and where he sees a positive impact

on the environment," Flynn said. "I kind of hope it keeps going forward because we are ready."

Flynn said the university would greatly benefit from a program where the government gives assistance in the effort to get buildings up to a "green" standard.

"If the tools are provided, if the expertise is provided for how to do it, and then there is some program where we can do it at a reduce cost, hey why not," Flynn said.

He said that Obama's emphasis on environmental concerns could only help increase the level of interest towards sustainability efforts at Baylor.

"Innovative measures to improve energy efficiency of buildings, that is something Baylor would benefit from, if they decided to adopt those energy efficient goals in their future construction," Bruce said.

For the moment energy seems to be at the forefront of Obama's push to fix the stumbling economy.

The president's initiative calls for the creation of five mil-

lion new jobs with their aim to develop clean energy sources and make the American infrastructure more energy efficient.

Currently the United States, with only five percent of the world's population, consumes 21 million barrels of oil everyday, which equates to 25 percent of the globe's energy, Riley said.

"We have an enormous appetite and it has done appreciable damage to the environment in which we live," Riley said.

The new president has assembled what has been called by many a "dream team" of green experts to head up his top environmental committees.

So far Obama has tabbed Stephen Chu to lead the Energy Department. Chu is a Nobel Prize-winning physicist, who has a history of fighting global warming aggressively, Riley said.

"From a scientific standpoint, Stephen Chu is probably the best qualified. I mean he is a Nobel laureate in physics," Riley said. "Stephen Chu has not been very supportive at all of clean coal technology. He has real doubts about whether you

can ever make coal clean."

Bruce said she agrees with Chu on the matter of clean coal and said that what people call clean coal is really just a cleaner coal with less toxins.

"We need to find fuels that burn clean and produce no toxins if that is possible," Bruce said. "We have done research in the past with bio-fuels and that is something we will continue to investigate."

The rest of Obama's appointments make-up a Who's Who list of environmental experts.

The list includes Carol Browner, the former EPA leader under President Clinton, who will serve as policy advisor to Obama.

Lisa Jackson will now serve as head of the EPA after working as New Jersey's top environmental official. Ken Salazar, who was a Colorado senator will now serve as the Secretary of the Interior.

The top priorities for this new group will be to adopt more policies for conservation, while trying to reduce our dependence on fossil fuels and expanding activities in renewable energies, Riley said.

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regular updates for efficiency standards, according to Obama's New Energy for America plan. He also said he plans to work with Congress to improve national efficiency codes for water fixtures and appliances.

The president issued a memorandum to the Department of Energy Feb. 5 directing them to take "all necessary steps ... to finalize legally required efficiency standards as expeditiously as possible and consistent with all applicable judicial and statutory deadlines."

"This will save consumers money, this will spur innovation, and this will conserve tremendous amounts of energy. We'll save through these simple steps over the next 30 years the amount of energy produced over a two-year period by all the coal-fired power plants in America," Obama said.

Obama issued an executive

order Jan. 26, intended to raise fuel standards, according to the White House Web site.

The executive order instructed the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration to "take all measures" consistent with the law to meet new fuel standards for 2011 car models by March 30.

"To me, Obama's energy plan hinges on short term costs for long term benefits," said Dallas junior Rachel Kirkpatrick. "For quite some time, America has lagged behind other developed countries when it comes to matters such as renewable energy. By investing money in hybrid vehicles and wind energy, it will stimulate the economy by producing more 'green jobs' as well as wean America off its dependence on foreign oil."

During his presidency, Obama said he plans to increase fuel economy standards by 4 percent each year and invest \$50 billion to make American manufacturing facilities capable

of making more environmentally friendly cars, according to Obama's Blueprint for Change.

Taking his energy plan international, President Obama plans to re-engage with the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and create a Global Energy Forum of the world's largest emitters to focus on global energy and environmental issues.

Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton named Todd Stern Special Envoy for Climate Change Jan. 26. Appointing an envoy is the first step to working with the U.N. on climate change.

"The Special Envoy will serve as a principal advisor on international climate policy and strategy," Clinton said. "He will be the administration's chief climate negotiator. He will be leading our efforts with United Nations negotiations and processes involving a smaller set of countries and bilateral sessions."

Obama said he has a basic

long-term plan with few specific goals according to his Blueprint for Change. One goal is to provide relief for families struggling to pay gas prices. They will accomplish this through taking on unregulated speculation in the energy markets, enacting a windfall profits tax in record oil company profits to provide families with a \$1000 energy rebate and supporting a limited exchange of oil from the Strategic Petroleum Reserve, according to his Blueprint for Change.

He plans to reduce America's dependence on foreign oil by reducing oil consumption to eliminate current imports within the next 10 years and invest \$150 billion over 10 years to deploy clean technologies, protect existing manufacturing base and create million of new jobs.

"Overall, it's important for people to realize that the problems America faces are not a quick fix; we may not see concrete results for years," Kirkpatrick said.

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