

OPINION PAGE 2

“Google’s actions were beneficial in spurring debate about Chinese censorship and showing China just how precarious its hold on information is in an information age.”

ARTS PAGE 4

Ten for 2010
Oscar nominations expanded to include 10 films for best picture

SPORTS PAGE 4

Nothing ‘pro’ about it
Moving the pro bowl to a week before the super bowl ‘made the former irrelevant’

Able-bodied drivers fined for tag misuse

Baylor police ticket nine for parking in handicap spots

By BETHANY MOORE
STAFF WRITER

Nine people, including students and faculty, were fined \$150 when they illegally used a handicap-parking hang tag to park at the Ferrell Center during basketball games on Jan. 16 and 17.

The increase of non-handicapped people using handi-

capped parking, specifically at the Ferrell Center, and the complaints of those who actually need the handicapped parking, has caused Baylor police to hold random stings for the past five years.

Cpl. Marla Garrett was one of the officers checking the hang tags at the Ferrell Center.

“Taking a disabled parking spot from someone who is actually disabled is something I have a big issue with,” Garrett said. “It is just wrong.”

During a recent sting, four Baylor police officers stopped every car with a disabled hang

tag and asked for the driver’s license and the tag to verify that the numbers were the same.

Baylor police Chief Jim Doak said that he can’t believe that, with more than 150 parking spots allotted for disabled parking, they are completely filled during almost every game.

“People are so geared toward convenience that they feel they can justify that, ‘I’m 50 years old. I shouldn’t have to walk,’” Doak said.

Out of the nine violations, most of those caught were using their spouse’s hang tag to park in disabled parking without the

disabled spouse in the car.

Doak said that those who legally need the hang tags were very appreciative of Baylor police enforcing the parking and fining those who were taking the spots from those who need them.

When caught with an illegitimate hang tag Baylor citation and fine is given and the hang tag is confiscated.

If Baylor police decide to report a misused hang tag to the Waco police department, the violator would receive a \$510 fine,



PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY JED DEAN | PHOTO EDITOR

see PARK, pg. 6

Kansas State edges past Bears, 76-74

By JUSTIN BAER
SPORTS EDITOR

Jacob Pullen hit two free throws with 8.2 seconds remaining to help No. 11-ranked Kansas State evade an upset and defeat No. 24-ranked Baylor 76-74 Tuesday night at the Ferrell Center.

Pullen entered the contest shooting 4-for-30 in his last two games. Unfortunately for Baylor, the Wildcats’ leading scorer snapped his slump and tossed in 25 points on 7-for-11 shooting, including 6-for-7 from beyond the 3-point line, to shoulder K-State’s victory.

“He’s got a lot of pride,” Kansas State head coach Frank Martin said. “He understood whatever was happening wasn’t good. He just zoned in.”

After scoring 33 points in a winning effort against the Wildcats last season, LaceDarius Dunn had the chance to erase a 3-for-13 night from the floor on the possession following Pullen’s free throw, but after he dribbled the ball up court, Dunn’s shot flailed off the backboard to snap the Bears’ 11-game home winning streak.

“Originally we were going to get the ball to Tweety (Carter),” head coach Scott Drew said about the final play. “But Lace took it because he was 1-on-1. We all know Lace is good 1-on-1, and he just took the shot.”

Carter led the Bears scoring effort with 23 points. Meanwhile, Anthony Jones and Quincy Acy had 12 points and 10 points, respectively.

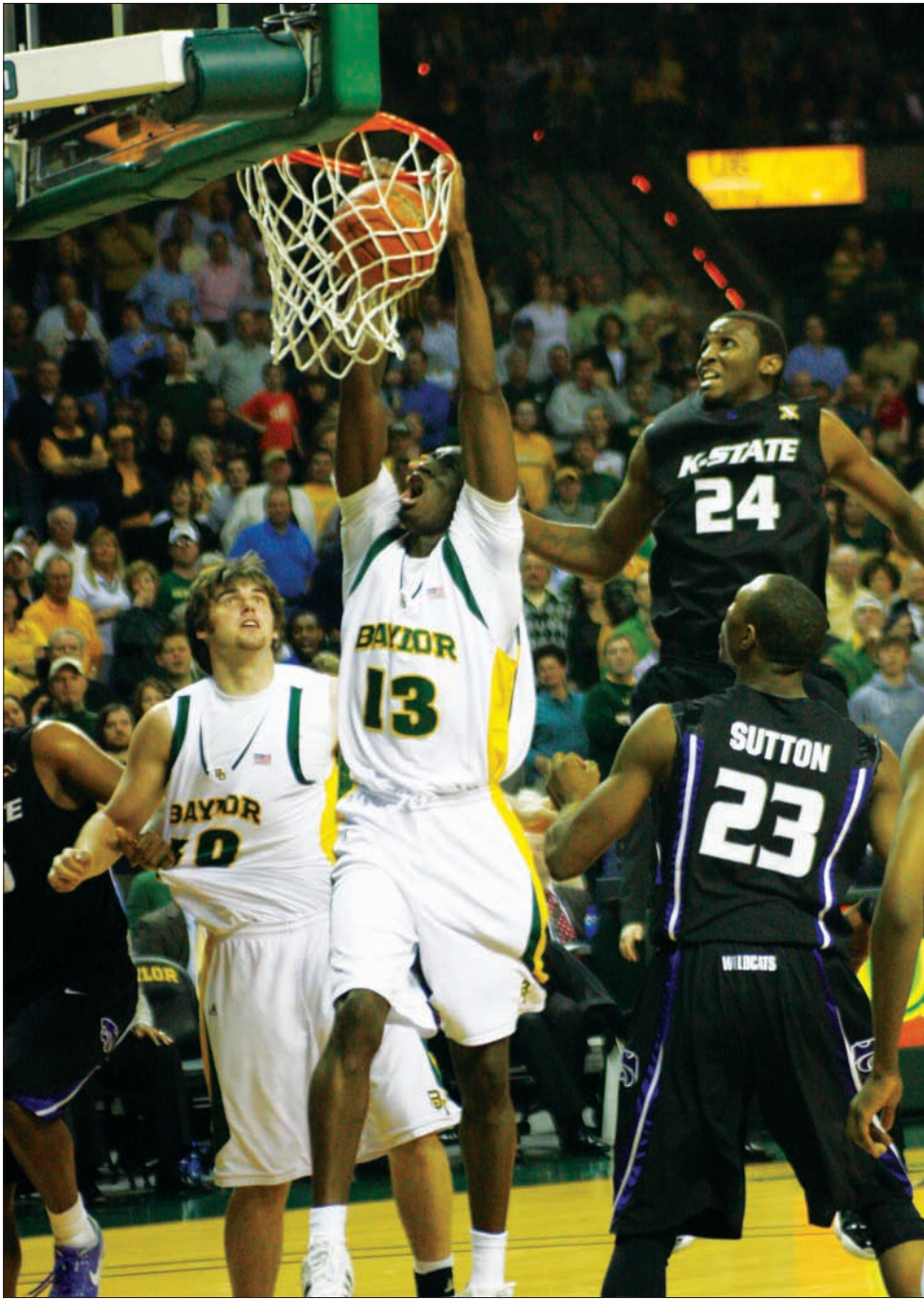
Despite his offensive display, Carter demonstrated the most emotion following the loss.

“It’s very frustrating. We have to let this one go,” a dejected Carter said. “We have to look over film, and move on to Texas.”

The game featured eight lead changes in the first half, but the second half consisted of the Bears clawing their way to stay in the game. K-State didn’t have a lead greater than six points in the second half, but Baylor couldn’t climb past the hill and take the lead.

“It was hard to get an offensive flow and run our sets like we wanted to,” Carter said. “We got some good looks, but we just didn’t make shots tonight.”

Ekpe Udoh’s two free throws gave Baylor its biggest lead of the game at 32-29 with 3:42 left



SARAH GROMAN | LARIAT PHOTOGRAPHER

No. 13 forward Ekpe Udoh gives the Ferrell Center’s hyped crowd something else to cheer about by slamming the ball through the hoop during the Bears’ loss to the Kansas State Wildcats Tuesday night.

see BEARS, pg. 6

C.S.I. offers false reality

BU forensic science courses teach on fundamentals

By ERIN NIPPER
REPORTER

A dead body is surrounded by yellow crime scene tape. A team of investigators, forensic scientists and police surround it, taking photos, writing notes and making predictions about how the woman met her untimely demise. Samples of fluid are taken and rushed off to a lab.

Fast-forward 30 minutes: It is made known that an obsessed ex-lover strangled the victim after she turned him down. He waited for her to come home, killed her and left.

Fast-forward another 15 minutes: The murderer has been arrested and placed on trial. He is convicted of his crime in the first degree.

Sound familiar?

It is a common scenario on television crime shows, as detectives like Olivia Benson and Eliot Stabler of Law and Order: SVU bring justice to the world one criminal at a time— in less than an hour.

Ask any real-life forensic scientist about television shows like C.S.I. or Law and Order, and they will immediately roll their eyes.

“C.S.I. has a lot of technology that doesn’t exist,” Dr. Lori Baker, associate professor of anthropology, said. “They pull a screen out of thin air and can pull it with their finger, and there are hologram images. Not even close to something that exists. Even if it did exist, there is not a forensic scientist in the world that could afford it. Forensic scientists usually work with a small budget. It’s a little bit comical.”

Lecturer of forensic science Laura Marsh puts “It’s not like you see on TV” at the top of the syllabus for her survey of forensic science class.

“They make it seem like a crime is solved in one hour on TV. Students end up surprised because shows portray forensic science as a more varied profession,” Marsh said.

Baker said it can take up to two months for lab results to return and that DNA testing is not always necessary. Crime shows often make real-life trials difficult because the jury has unreal-

Address will focus on economic woes

State of the Union will include ways to strengthen America

By JENNIFER LOVEN
ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON — President Barack Obama will try to pivot past rocky times for the nation and himself tonight night in his first State of the Union address, offering a skeptical public repackaged plans to energize the economy, stem a tide of red ink and strengthen anti-terror defenses.

He’ll also be trying to revive his own “yes we can” image.

One year into office, and a week after pledging to do better at “speaking directly to the American people,” Obama faces urgent challenges as he stands before lawmakers gathered in the Capitol and a prime-time television audience at home for the constitutionally mandated ritual of U.S. governing. The country has lost more than 7

million jobs since the recession began two years ago, unemployment is stuck at 10 percent, and the government is grappling with a record \$1.4 trillion deficit.

Obama’s presidency is troubled as well. The percentage of Americans giving him a thumbs-up has fallen precipitously, from 74 percent when he took office to 56 percent now. He hasn’t had a breakout legislative or diplomatic victory, and he’s failed to break Washington’s partisanship as promised. Then last week, an upset Republican victory in a Massachusetts Senate race threw Obama’s signature domestic priority, a sweeping health care overhaul, into jeopardy and shined a spotlight on economic angst now being taken out on him.

Obama will be using one of the presidency’s loudest and grandest megaphones to press several themes. They will be fleshed out in greater detail afterward as the president travels to Florida on Thursday and New Hampshire on Tuesday for jobs-

focused appearances and when he submits his 2011 budget to Congress on Monday.

Republican Gov. Bob McDonnell of Virginia will deliver a televised response tonight night, two months after putting his state in GOP hands in one of the party’s major recent election victories.

Among the freshly sharpened messages Obama will weave through his remarks: He’s a fighter for struggling families and against wealthy special interests; he relates personally to Americans’ everyday concerns; he has come far in one year but has made some errors along the way and has much more to do. And he does not intend to fling aside an ambitious agenda on health care, energy, education, immigration and other issues in favor of trimmed-down goals.

In fact, Obama will argue that his sweeping ideas for change are as much a part of putting the economy back on track as more immediate job creation and economic security proposals.

“If we don’t get that stuff



ASSOCIATED PRESS

President Barack Obama announces economic initiatives for struggling middle class families in the Eisenhower Executive Office Building Monday. President Obama will give the State of the Union address will be tonight.

right, then it’s going to be very difficult for us to answer the anxieties that people feel over the long term,” Obama said this week in an interview with ABC News.

Advisers say the president doesn’t plan to reshape his agen-

da as much as better explain and defend it:

— He’ll map a way forward for mired health care legislation, facing several options for passage. With each option deeply

see UNION, pg. 6

see FORENSICS, pg. 6



With censorship lifted, many in China react with hunger for information

Google China users have recently been able to search terms like “Tiananmen Square” and “democracy,” whereas in the past, such a search would have returned nothing but a continuously loading page or error message.

This recent cyber freedom is a result of Google’s choice to no longer censor its Chinese search engine following December cyber attacks. The attacks by Chinese hackers led to stolen intellectual property and breached Gmail accounts, according to a statement posted on the company’s blog. The Internet giant responded with equal force on Jan. 12 by unblocking all content previously censored on Google.cn.

The significance of the Google-China cyber war is unmatched. The most dominant Internet presence made a bold statement in support of free speech to a nation whose power rests upon its censorship capabilities. Google’s move put China in a precarious position on the world stage, forcing the nation’s leaders to see the diplomatic ramifications of censorship.

Considering that China’s censorship policies and a vast information bank called the Internet were never compatible, Google’s sudden action was beneficial in addressing the inevitable clash.

As Google stated in its release, many companies have been subject to Chinese hacking, but none have come forward with as much zeal as this Internet giant.

Google’s stance is a possibly revolutionary turning point in China’s control of cyber information, especially for the new Internet-savvy generation of Chinese. Likewise, an important aspect of this stand off has been the wired generation’s show of support for Google and, in effect, free speech.

As proof of this phenomenon, on Jan. 18, just days after censors were lifted, the search term “Truth of Tiananmen”

Editorial

skyrocketed, becoming the second-fastest searched term on Google.cn, as reported by Bloomberg News Jan. 18.

This signifies a noteworthy undermining of China’s power to a generation that yearns for the access to information. It shows that Google’s support of the freedom to information at the possible expense of business in China has inspired this generation of information-seekers.

This generation has made its desires known through blogs and the Chinese blogging community, which has seen persecution in the past, has made its voice heard following the recent controversy.

Following Google’s announcement, Chinese message boards and microblogs were abuzz with comments ranging from apathy at Google’s possible pullout to fear at the thought of losing the Web giant’s presence.

The U.S. has not shied away from giving its opinion on Internet censorship, with U.S. Secretary of State Hilary Rodham Clinton’s visit to China on Thursday. In her speech, she claimed that there was an increase in cyber threats over the past year in China, which elicited a harsh reaction from China, accusing the U.S. of “information imperialism.”

While this sort of reaction was to be expected from the prideful nation, the U.S. was right to voice its opinion and support Google’s brazen efforts.

Although it is doubtful that China will cave under the pressure of Google and its supporters, Google’s actions were beneficial in spurring debate about Chinese censorship and showing China just how precarious its hold on information is in an information age.

Art takes over when words give out

Last week I attended the Waco Symphony at Waco Hall. As the announcer stepped up to introduce the first piece, he mentioned that the following piece was world-renowned for being able to express emotions when words have run out. It was a piece played for the passing of great leaders and for overwhelming tragedies, seen most recently, with the devastation of Haiti.

As the melody of the first piece filled the hall and the slow, smooth sounds struck me and the people seated nearby, I began to fully comprehend the announcer’s words. Music and art have ways of expressing feelings that exist outside of words. Similarly, these forms of expression are not limited to a certain language, but cross cultural barriers to a place where we are all unified under one simple concept: we are all human. We are humans who run out of words. We are humans who feel grief and passion in a way that busts through the limitations of words.

I absolutely believe in the power of words. I would estimate that I spend about 70 percent of my life reading or writing and I hope I am always this lucky. I have dedicated a great deal of passion, energy and time to learning how to work with words. Even if you don’t plan to be a writer or publisher or even an avid reader, I believe words are absolutely vital and important in dealing with individuals.

However, as the announcer again stepped back into the

Point of View

BY BRITTANY HARDY



One of my roommates is a painting major, as is my grandma. Both of these women have been blessed with the amazing and slightly unexplainable talent to express feelings in a way that is completely different than words and numbers. Again, not to undercut the power of either of these more concrete tools, however some of the abstract perceptions that my roommate and grandmother are able to capture and present to their eagerly awaiting audiences go beyond the limits of words.

As the word bank runs dry and the restrictions of words are revealed, I’m deeply thankful that God has blessed people with the ability of expression in other forms. I’m thankful that many individuals utilize these gifts. Here’s to you, artists of all kinds. I’m so very thankful for what you do.

Brittany Hardy is an Argyle junior majoring in journalism. She is the opinion editor for the Baylor Lariat.

wings of the stage and the music took over right where he had left off, I was overwhelmed by the reality that words are just that and there are ideas and emotions and feelings that escape their boundaries. Words are wonderful and useful and extremely powerful, but reading about goosebumps is not the same as feeling them. Experiencing a broken heart, the passing of a loved one, feeling the power of Jesus Christ: These things are not often entirely captured by words.

My secret anguish: A door to hope

Point of View

BY JUSTIN BAER



My heart begins to race 1 million miles per minute. The world is spinning around me. My palms are seeping with perspiration. I subconsciously quit breathing. Worrisome thoughts invade my mind and progressively worsen.

This is my secret.

Only my family and closest of friends know. None of my classmates, co-workers or peers understand what I encounter and what I am forced to triumph on a daily basis — until now.

I have general anxiety disorder.

As a prideful male, writing this revelation comes as a humbling task. Especially because of the negative connotation attached with my condition. Yet for some inexplicable reason, I felt compelled to share my story. I’m not aspiring to receive pity. My ultimate goal is for someone who also suffers from anxiety to cross paths with this column and to garner relief that they are not alone.

Sources indicate nearly 4 percent of Americans suffer from anxiety, and while that seems like a minuscule number, it translates to approximately 500 students at Baylor enduring the same disease I am. However, none of us 500 could point out someone suffering from the same symptoms we are, because we are too embarrassed to admit our flaws. So instead, we hide behind a front pretending everything is all right, when in reality, sometimes it is all wrong.

With more emphasis being put on excelling in athletics, earning academic scholarships, getting a promotion at work and the recent economy (just to name a few), the number of people dealing with anxiety disorders is on a meteoric rise.

So are these people, including myself, just mental wimps? Not quite. While life experiences are factors for those dealing with anxiety disorders, anxiety patients aren’t simply the ones who can’t handle the tough times.

Researchers have discovered genetics play a high-contributing role in anxiety disorder patients. Meanwhile, neurotransmitter imbalances, often found in those suffering from the disorder, further create an involuntary sense of anxiety.

So what does this mean? For me, it meant years of turmoil, anguish and hell. Only in the past year, have I been able to live an enjoyable life, yet even today, I am sometimes hindered by my anxiety disorder.

I first started having flare-ups in high school. Following a torn labrum from pitching, I realized my baseball career was in jeopardy. The more and more I saw my lifelong passion slip out of reach, the more my anxieties accumulated. I questioned what to do with my life from that point forward. I had initial symptoms of nervousness, but those symptoms quickly magnified. Walking down the hall at school soon became a daily grind, as I constantly felt like I was going to pass out. I worried about what would happen if I would pass out in front of all my peers. These panic attacks were destroying my life.

I fretted so much that I soon began to fear the fear of panic attacks.

When I started college, I made outlandish excuses to avoid going to large gatherings, participating in sports and attending classes. When I did leave the chambers of my room, it would be a daunting battle to motivate myself to keep going. As a 6-foot-3, 230-pound sports guru, I am supposed to be macho. Instead, this disease crushed me to the lowest of valleys.

I searched for solutions in all the wrong places — alcohol, medicine and therapy. But while those provided temporary bouts of relief, the vicious cycle of anxiety always made its unwanted return.

Then my heart finally turned to God. I had done everything in my power to conquer this problem but to no avail.

The moment I gave my heart to God, He took over my mind. No longer did I fear passing out nor feel like I was going to. No longer was my mind consumed with worrisome thoughts. Together, God and I suppressed the fear.

I still have speed bumps throughout my life, but the pain and suffering I endure today is a mere fraction of what I have lived through. I give credit to Him.

I am walking to my dreaded Strategic Management class, and I am blind-sided by a panic attack. I close my eyes, pray to God. This time, I won’t be inhibited from being the man I want to be.

Justin Baer is a Midlothian senior majoring in marketing and business journalism. He is the sports editor for the Baylor Lariat.

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Bears For Life wins Group of the Year at national conference

BY KATY MCDOWALL
REPORTER

Bears for Life, Baylor's student anti-abortion organization, was named "Group of the Year" by the Students for Life of America and awarded \$1,000 Saturday at the Students for Life of America National Conference in Washington D.C.

Five members of the group and their faculty sponsors, Dr. Douglas Henry and Dr. John Pisciotta, traveled to D.C. from Thursday until Sunday.

They took part in the annual March for Life and met with legislators, and also attended the conference.

Henry is an associate professor of philosophy and Pisciotta is

an associate professor of economics.

"I came to the conference not expecting to win an award or anything like that," Bears for Life President and Houston junior Rachana Chhin said. "I remember applying for it but not expecting to win."

Other schools that attended the conference included Boston College, Tulane and Cornell, many of which have larger and more established pro-life organizations.

"When they announced us, I was so surprised," Chhin said.

Chhin was joined on the trip by Bears for Life secretary and Boerne junior Danielle Washington, Houston sophomore Frances Padilla; Neodesha, Kan., junior

Ethan Barrett; and Mesquite junior Phuong Luu.

"I was so surprised," Washington said. "I don't think any of us were expecting it. It was really emotional because I've been with Bears for Life since there were just a handful of members."

Bears for Life was established at Baylor in 1997, but only had two members when Chhin joined in his freshman year.

Since then the organization has grown and become more active with a total of about 20 members, Chhin said.

"What the award recognizes is the day-in and day-out quiet work that the group does here back in Waco," Henry said.

The organization annually holds a Roe v. Wade flag display

on Fountain Mall, as well as hosting movie screenings and working with crisis pregnancy centers in the community.

"Sometimes you don't think you're doing much, but in a way you are," Chhin said. "Scripture says none of the work that you do for God is done in vain. Sometimes you may think you're doing little things that aren't making any impact, but really in the grand scheme of things you actually are."

On the 37th anniversary of Roe v. Wade last Friday the group attended the annual March for Life on the National Mall with hundreds of thousands of other people.

"Even if it's one step at a time, I feel like we're still making a dif-

ference," Padilla said. "This year it was bigger than it had been in past years, so I feel even more so like I was being a part of the cause."

The march included speakers from different religious leaders and leaders of the pro-life movement.

"As my first time there, I was really encouraged to see all of the solidarity that I felt being with other pro-lifers, because even though the recent Gallup Polls say we're the majority of Americans, it doesn't always feel like that," Chhin said.

Another advocate present at the march was Baylor alumnus Rep. Anh "Joseph" Cao.

Prior to the march, the group had a chance to meet Cao.

"He stopped everything he was doing to meet with us," Padilla said.

The meeting with Cao was especially important to Luu, who, like Cao, is a Vietnamese immigrant.

"It showed me that as long as I have a dream, as long as I have a goal, then I will be successful no matter what," Luu said.

Back in Waco, the members say they have not yet decided what to do with their reward.

"We're trying to process where to go from here," Chhin said. "Being recognized as the Group of the Year is something we're really proud about, but we want to honor that and make good use of the award we have gotten."

City of Waco to begin umpire training

Contract job offered to locals, students with promise of flexibility

BY CATY HIRST
STAFF WRITER

The city of Waco is offering umpire training for slow pitch softball to people who are interested in becoming contract employees for the city of Waco.

Reggie Jackson, the athletic supervisor for the city of Waco, said umpire training will be held at 6 p.m. every Wednesday at Riverbend Park.

The dues are \$75 and cover registration and insurance for the entire year.

Dennis Trotter, an umpire for the city of Waco, said he enjoys being an umpire and that it is a fun hobby.

Trotter said one of the best parts of being an umpire is getting to watch the people, he said there are always funny stories.

"Somebody may be running real hard for the ball and miss it, and have no reason at all to run for the ball," Trotter said.

Umpires will work the adult league, which is played Monday through Friday.

Four games are played on each field a night, and umpires will be required to ump all four games on the nights they work.

The first game starts at 6:30 p.m. and the last game starts at 9 p.m.

Umpires are paid \$16 for every game they work, and the days they work are flexible.

Jackson said he recommends the job to college students because of its adjustability.

"Basically what happens is I take the days you want to work and I try to work around that," Jackson said. "You set your own days that you want to work."

Training is every Wednesday until the season starts on Feb. 22 and games run through November.

People interested should attend umpire training today at Riverbend Park, where they will be given the necessary paperwork to fill out.

Trotter said umpires earn the respect of the players, although sometimes the game can be frustrating.

"You are always going to be 50 percent right and 50 percent wrong," Trotter said. "One team is always going to think you are right and one team is always going to think you are wrong."

Trotter said people who are interested in being an umpire must have a great deal of patience and be careful about being hit with the ball.

Trotter has been hit two years in a row and had to miss a day of work because he was injured by a ball.

"A lot of people say softball is a sissy's game, but if that ball hits you there is nothing sissy about it," Trotter said.

For those interested, registration for 2010 adult softball leagues begins in February and the registration forms can be found on the City of Waco Web site, <http://www.waco-texas.com>

Constant Kate



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PRICEWATERHOUSECOOPERS 

Best picture nominees expand to 10 for 2010

By Patrick Goldstein
LOS ANGELES TIMES

Here's the dirty little secret about the motion picture academy's controversial scheme to expand this year's best picture nominees from five to 10 movies. It isn't going to make the slightest bit of difference in the Oscar race.

Coming on the heels of some surprise picks over the weekend, including a win for "The Hurt Locker" from the Producers Guild of America and a win for "Inglourious Basterds" from the Screen Actors Guild, the big favorites in the shootout for the all-important Academy Award for best picture look exactly the same as they did before "Avatar," the industry's astounding box-office phenomenon, won the top award at the Golden Globes a week ago.

When the nominations for best picture are announced Feb. 2, 10 movies will get to briefly bask in the spotlight, but for most of them it will be a Pyrrhic victory at best. As virtually every breathless Oscar prognosticator will tell you, there are only four movies that have even a remote chance of winning best picture, and all four of them - "Avatar," "The Hurt Locker," "Inglourious

Basterds" and "Up in the Air" - would've made the final cut regardless of whether the academy had five or 10 best picture nominees this year.

The votes are already in (academy ballots were due Saturday) but even without any official count, it's safe to say that all the other films in the discussion are glorified also-rans. It's a four-film race. Period. It will hardly be a surprise to see the final 10 nominations include such worthy contenders as "Precious," "Up," "An Education," "A Serious Man" and perhaps one or two studio blockbusters, but they are just along for the ride; none of the films outside of the Fab Four is going anywhere.

But does this mean it was a terrible idea for the academy to expand its best picture list, as many veteran members have privately groused? I put the question to academy President Tom Sherak, who was one of the biggest advocates for the move.

"I know it's the oldest cliché in the world but, by and large, if people are talking about you, it's always a good thing," says Sherak, who, never at a loss for a quip, excepted from this rule the time his former company, Revolution Pictures, was trying to get moviegoers to see "Gigli." "The

move to expand the nominees has created an enormous amount of buzz about the Oscars and the movies that are in contention. A lot of people think it's a good idea, a lot of people don't, but regardless of the pros and cons, it's ignited a debate that's been good for the Oscars."

To hear Sherak tell it, the move was long overdue. "The Oscars are a brand, and if there's a perception that the brand was starting to age, we needed to do something and change with the times," he explains. "If you become stagnant, you become a dinosaur. So we tried to do a few things, and some of them you won't even see until you watch the broadcast, that were designed to help the Oscars become more a part of today's world."

That sounds all well and good, but let's face it, nearly all of those changes, starting with the expansion to 10 nominees, were done to reverse the Academy Awards' prolonged ratings slide, which has seen the broadcast go from being must-see TV to simply the last (and often the snooziest) event of a ve-r-r-ry long award season. So the real test of the academy's expansion strategy will come from whether this year's broadcast enjoys a healthy ratings boost.



Jeremy Renner is shown in a scene from "The Hurt Locker," one of the choices for the Best Picture at the Oscars.

Unfortunately, Jim Cameron threw a monkey wrench into that plan.

With a box-office blitzkrieg like "Avatar" in the middle of the best picture race, it's almost inevitable that the Oscars will enjoy a hefty ratings boost, just as the broadcast did the year Cameron's smash hit "Titanic" was running the table. One of the key reasons why the Oscars' ratings

have dipped so precipitously is that the movies being honored in recent years have had little resonance in Middle America. It's hard to score big ratings when most of the winners of your top categories would be equally at home at the Independent Spirit Awards.

So while it's almost a slam dunk that the Oscar's ratings will go up this year, the lion's share

of the credit will go to "Avatar," not the presence of five additional best picture nominees. In essence, this means that the academy probably needs to continue the experiment for a couple more years to see how it plays out in different circumstances. (Luckily, Cameron only makes a movie once every 10 years, so he won't be around to muck up the experiment for a while.)

Recent wedding bells ring on smaller budgets

By Racquel Joseph
REPORTER

There are three things constant in this world regardless of recessions: death, taxes and weddings.

On Sunday afternoon about 1,500 wedding enthusiasts, brides-to-be and their entourages arrived at Waco Convention Center for a bridal show equipped with lists, pictures, and, most importantly, budgets.

Though attendance at the With This Ring bridal show was not of what was expected, many

aspects of the wedding business have been affected by the recent dip in the economy.

Bruce Waters, owner of Tuxedo Junction and the organizer of the bridal show for the past 21 years, said that recently weddings have been smaller, which means fewer tuxedos, bridesmaid dresses and guests.

Even the wedding dress is struggling to withstand budget cuts of discerning brides. Ivy McCarn, the co-owner of Pat's Gowns, said that among her customers, rental is becoming a more popular option.

"You can rent a gown, tiara, veil, slip and get alterations all for about \$190," McCarn said of prices that are less than most off-the-rack wedding dresses.

Brides are also being more selective when purchasing wedding essentials and doing more comparison shopping.

"They're not just saying 'this is my dress.' They're looking around and making sure they're getting the best price," McCarn said.

"They're ordering bridesmaids dresses in ivory and prom dresses."

McCarn notes a trend toward simple earth tones and also, at the opposite end, lots of glitz.

"In the roaring '20s and then the '80s when the recession hit, they added glitz and shiny. So now, they buy a simple dress and hit the sparkle."

For Baylor alumna and newlywed Callie Dorroh, keeping it simple was the order of her big day. Dorroh was married in December and when it came time to write her budget she "made decisions about what mattered most."

For Dorroh, that meant find-

ing a church that was already decorated for Christmas to avoid pricey florists' bills and choosing a top tier photographer to preserve memories.

McCarn does think brides are being more conscious about money but believes they are keeping what matters in mind.

Tuscon, Ariz., senior Anna Meier is in the process of planning her May wedding and said her thrifty decisions were more concerned with keeping the meaning of the day in mind than a dampened economy.

Meier attended the bridal

show and felt that many of the vendors were selling extras that she and her fiance did not need.

"We don't need a carriage," Meier said. "Other people might see that as something necessary but I don't need a bridal massage or facial."

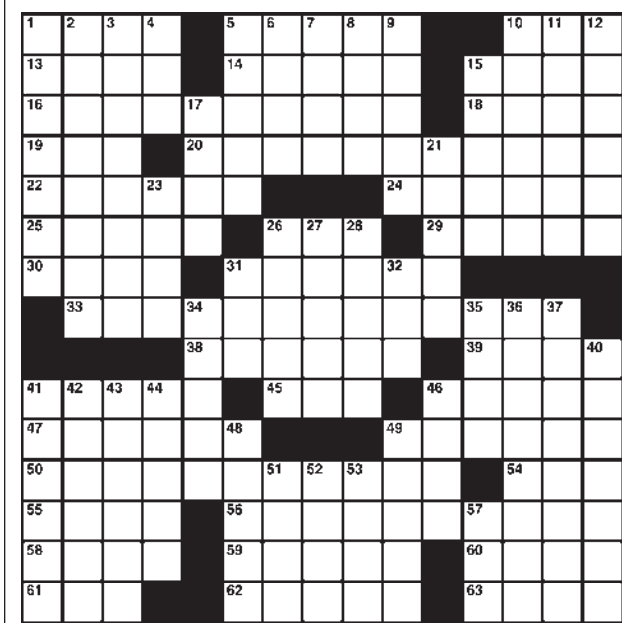
Meier plans for her bridesmaids to do her hair and makeup and she will wear her mother's veil.

"I want people to see us and our love and the love and support of our family and people who love us in the details of our wedding."

FUN TIMES

Find answers at www.baylorlariat.com

McClatchy-Tribune



- Across
- 1 "I did it!"
 - 5 Outplays
 - 10 Jack's inferior
 - 13 Holly genus
 - 14 Draw a better bead on
 - 15 Pitcher Hideo
 - 16 "Big name in tequila
 - 18 Gossip tidbit
 - 19 Abu Dhabi's federation: Abbr.
 - 20 "Mexican muralist
 - 22 Actor Brody of "The Pianist"
 - 24 Pep
 - 25 ___ one mind: disagreeing
 - 26 Fri. preceder
 - 29 Short film role
 - 30 Some
 - 31 On the double
 - 33 "Spanish painter (1746-1828)
 - 38 For all to see

- 39 Submissive
- 41 Gas brand with a landmark sign outside Fenway Park
- 45 Vegas cube
- 46 Iraqi seaport
- 47 Opposed (to)
- 49 "The Picture of ___ Gray"
- 50 "Roger Federer rival
- 54 Gold units: Abbr.
- 55 Big pictures: Abbr.
- 56 Home to this puzzle's theme
- 58 Fight-ending calls, briefly
- 59 Insect stage
- 60 Animal whose fur was used for Crockett's cap
- 61 Word that forms a city when combined with the first names in answers to starred clues
- 62 Slow to catch on

- 63 Barley beards
- Down
- 1 Baja border city
 - 2 What you "take" when you sit down
 - 3 Military no-show
 - 4 Lumberjack's tool
 - 5 UCLA player
 - 6 Extra wide, on a shoe-box
 - 7 Puppeteer Tony
 - 8 VCR successor
 - 9 Campfire treat
 - 10 For the full length of a pregnancy
 - 11 Come to light
 - 12 "Skip the sandwich dressing"
 - 15 Skin care brand
 - 17 B-G link
 - 21 Working undercover, for short
 - 23 Corn Belt state
 - 26 Gave it a shot

- 27 Mubarak of Egypt
- 28 "I give up!"
- 31 Angel dust, briefly
- 32 Happy Meal extra
- 34 Lariat loop
- 35 Poet Khayyám
- 36 "That's not news to me"
- 37 Soda-making process
- 40 Topeka natives
- 41 Insertion marks
- 42 The Donald's daughter
- 43 Nonstick coating
- 44 Lawn makeup
- 46 Western tie
- 48 Spanish hero played by Heston
- 49 Willem of "Spider-Man"
- 51 Appoint
- 52 Actor Alda
- 53 Uses a spade
- 57 Color TV pioneer

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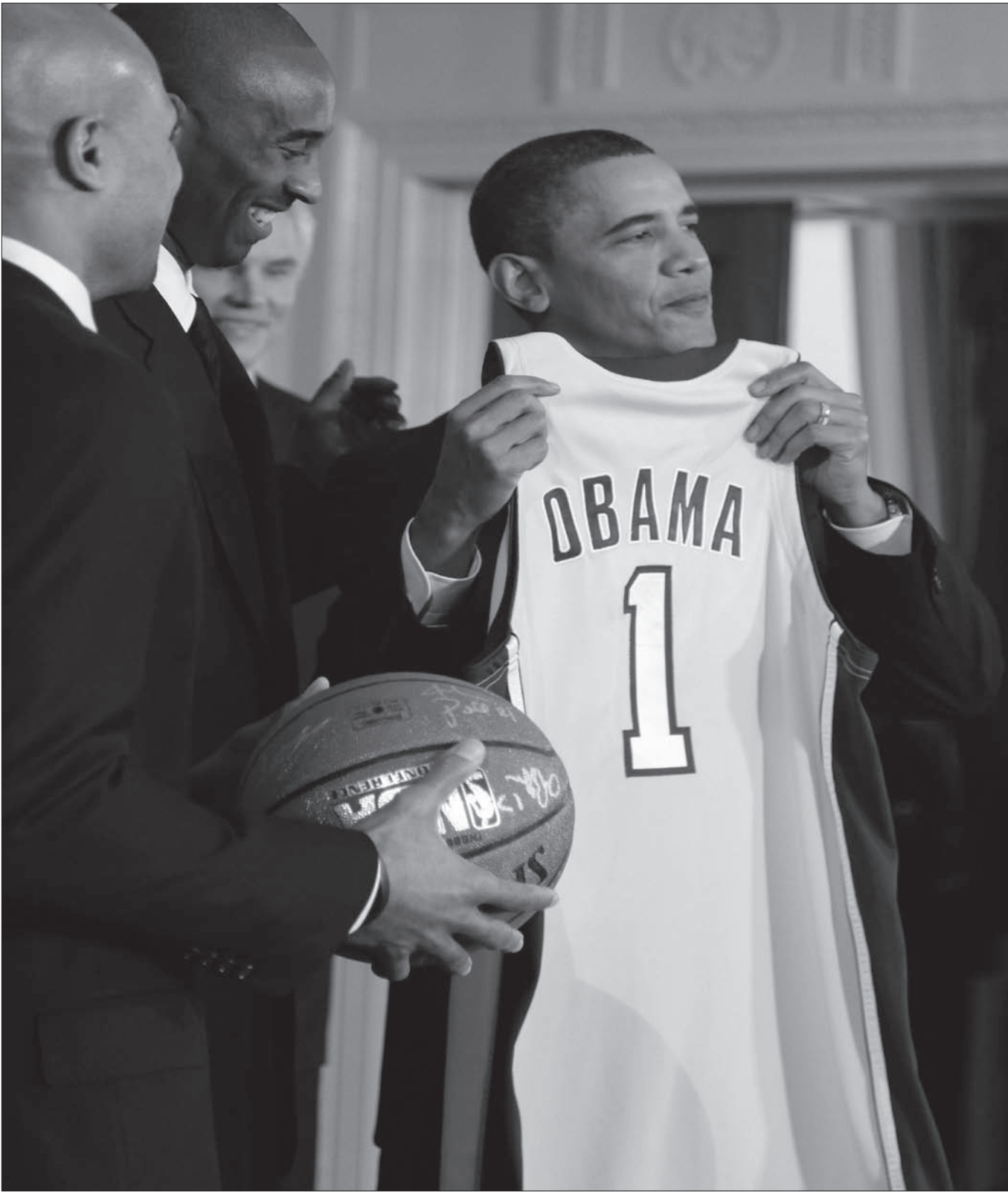
			6		9	2	
9	7		2		1	6	3
	2			7		4	
		1	9		2	3	
	3		8			7	
5	7	9		4		6	2
4	6		9				

Complete the grid so each row, column and 3-by-3 box (in bold borders) contains every digit, 1 to 9.

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From President to Post

President Barack Obama, right, holds a jersey given to him by Los Angeles Lakers guards Derek Fisher, left, and Kobe Bryant, during a ceremony Monday in the East Room of the White House, where he honored the 2008-2009 NBA basketball champions.

Sports take: Pro Bowl irrelevant for football fans, NFL

“How sad is it that there is only one football game left?” one SportsCenter anchor lamented on Monday night.

As with all live broadcasts, he had no time to recant his blunder. His co-anchor, determined to stop the mistake from going unnoticed, pounced.

“Wait! There’s two! You’re forgetting the Pro Bowl.”

I would have customarily chuckled at the nationally televised error, except that upon further review, the first anchor was essentially right. After moving the Pro Bowl to the week before the Super Bowl, the NFL managed to make the former even more irrelevant.

The Pro Bowl already consisted of jazzercise with pads and helmets that were hardly necessary. Players brought family and friends on a weeklong party, which culminated in a ballroom dance watched by 50,000 people in Aloha Stadium.

Don’t get me wrong; I am happy for the players who receive selections. If somebody subjects himself to 17 weeks of mental and physical punishment, he should enjoy a touch football game in paradise at least once in his career.

It is not fair to expect said player to give the same effort with his beat-up body as he did for the regular season. To do what people pay to see in the NFL requires a wanton disregard for bodily health, making it im-

“Nobody tries, but the Hawaiians and tourists watching don’t care.”

Chris Derrett
Sports writer



Chris Derrett
Sports writer

This year Peyton Manning and Drew Brees highlight the list of absentees, and rarely, if ever does a team get to the Super Bowl without several of the league’s premier players. That means that in each year of the Pro Bowl being before Super Sunday, at least a few of the best players will miss the “all-star” game due to more important engagements.

The Pro Bowl already came minus most of the hard hits; taking away the great players leaves me with no reason to tune in.

Of course, Pro Bowl enthusiasts simply say, “If you don’t like it, don’t watch it.”

Fine, I won’t watch it. But the problem still exists.

Because the Pro Bowl makes a mockery of football, the NFL should maintain the integrity of the game by keeping it as it was and stop trying to integrate it into the season.

Like all sports, the NFL bases its livelihood on competition, players vying to defeat their opponents to be crowned the best.

Last year the cameras caught Pro Bowlers breaking the pre-game huddle with the cry, “45!”

Each player on the winning team received \$45,000. Despite million-dollar salaries, this was the best motivation they could find to “fight” for a win.

Like the former Pro Bowl’s home in Honolulu, the game itself has been a laid-back event far from reality. Nobody tries, but the Hawaiians and tourists watching don’t care.

Who can complain on an 80-degree day with partly cloudy skies?

Chris Derrett is a sophomore journalism major from Katy and a sports writer for the Lariat.

Hopeful Rangers owner excited watching team

By STEPHEN HAWKINS
ASSOCIATED PRESS

Chuck Greenberg bought a red Texas Rangers pullover during a rainy late-season series when he was in town preparing a bid to buy the team.

“It sat on my chair for four months. I wouldn’t put it on,” Greenberg said Tuesday, sporting the pullover while watching the Rangers work out. “On Saturday night, I put it on. It felt pretty good.”

Greenberg’s excitement was still evident three days after his investment group reached an agreement to buy the Rangers from Tom Hicks in a deal that will make Greenberg the team’s new CEO and managing general partner — especially on a sunny day at Rangers Ballpark with players taking batting practice during winter development camp.

“That is one of the best sounds in the world,” Greenberg said. “It feels like opening day is around the corner. I’m excited to get going.”

The sale still has to be reviewed and approved by major league officials. Greenberg and Nolan Ryan, the Hall of Fame pitcher who is part of Greenberg’s group and will remain team president, both believe the process can be completed by the April 5 season opener.

“My level of confidence is that it should be,” Ryan said Tuesday.

Ryan first met Greenberg in May, when the Pittsburgh sports attorney who owns two minor league teams visited Texas. It soon became obvious to Ryan, whose oldest son knew Greenberg, that they would be a good fit. Now Ryan, the Rangers president the past two

years, has an ownership stake in the team that will be governed by a board of directors.

“My perspective will be a little different because I do have some ownership interest in it and the fact that a lot of those people are going to look toward me for guidance on the baseball side of it,” Ryan said. “I don’t know that I’ll feel any more responsibility, but I think how the club does will definitely impact where I am and my interest in it.”

While the deal between Greenberg’s group

“My expectations today are that we are going to be extremely competitive.”

Nolan Ryan
Rangers team president

and the Hicks Sports Group was reached eight days after a 30-day exclusive negotiating window had expired, Greenberg said the process actually moved swiftly.

“The reality is this all came together remarkably quickly, really from around New Year’s until Saturday night was barely three weeks,” Greenberg said. “I’ve never seen such a large complex deal come together so quickly. Hopefully that pace can continue through the approval process.”

The Rangers haven’t been to the playoffs since 1999 after winning all three of their AL

West titles in a four-year span. They have never won a playoff series.

Texas is coming off only its second winning season (87-75) since its last playoff appearance. With a roster filled with young players, the Rangers finished second in the AL West behind the Los Angeles Angels and in the AL wild-card race behind Boston.

“My expectations today are that we are going to be extremely competitive and if we don’t win our division, I’ll be disappointed,” Ryan said. “I think we’ve positioned ourselves right there with everybody else in the division.”

Though Ryan acknowledged that major league officials have had to approve certain financial moves made by the Rangers since last summer, they were able to add pitcher Rich Harden to the rotation after clearing money by trading Kevin Millwood. They also signed slugger Vladimir Guerrero and right-handed starter Colby Lewis.

“There’s this extraordinary amount of pent-up enthusiasm, and hope and expectation for what this franchise can be,” Greenberg said. “To see everybody so excited and believe in what’s possible, we’re going to do everything we can to make those hopes be realized.”

Including the players. “Everything that he’s been talking about has been pretty much up our alley,” All-Star third baseman Michael Young said.

“(Greenberg) seems like a down-to-Earth guy. His main focus is winning and it seems like he wants to do anything possible to do that,” slugger Josh Hamilton said. “So that’s a sigh of a relief as a player.”

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FORENSICS from pg. 1

istic expectations about forensic science.

"The real problem arises when you are testifying in cases because the jury expects certain evidence," Baker said. "Even when you have fingerprint-evidence that links someone to a certain crime, it's always, 'Where's the DNA?'"

Baker said DNA testing is expensive and time consuming, but jurors often expect it because they have seen it used to solve cases on television.

"After the O.J. Simpson trial, there was a vast education on DNA analysis, whereas before I would be in a lab working and someone would say, 'What's that?'" Baker said.

According to Marsh, people often think forensic science is simply one area of study. There are many different areas of forensics, including forensic dentists, pathologists, anthropologists and accountants.

"It's a very, very diverse field. It has a vast amount of applications," Marsh said.

No matter what area of forensics one chooses to embark upon, Marsh said forensic scientists can be assured they will have job security.

"Crimes have been happening since the beginning of time and will keep happening," Marsh said.

Emily Atwood, a senior forensic science major from Shreveport, La., spent five weeks in-



JED DEAN | PHOTO EDITOR

Dr. Laura Marsh holds petri dish no. 4, containing the surface cleaner Oxyclean, and cornstarch to her Trace Evidence Analysis class Tuesday, in the Marrs McLean Sciences Building. Students were asked to identify individual substances from a conglomerated batch of substances.

turning for a coroner's office. She said it could take six weeks for toxicology reports to come back from a lab.

"If someone is in a car accident and we don't know why—maybe it was in the middle of the day and they flipped their car for some reason—if they were drinking, we won't know for another six weeks," Atwood said.

Although many aspects of crime shows are unrealistic, there are aspects that apply to real-life situations.

"Several of the basic techniques that they use, like dusting

for fingerprints, looking for bodily fluids, paint transfer on cars, that sort of thing—a lot of those things are legitimate and we actually use those out in the field," Atwood said. "The equipment is not accurate, but the techniques are."

Although Baylor no longer offers a major in forensic science, a minor is still offered.

Marsh said that because there is only a minor, forensic classes are open for all students to take.

"Come over, take a class," Marsh said. "Forensic science is still a field."

UNION from pg. 1

problematic, White House advisers continued to wrestle with that portion of the speech in particular late Tuesday. Obama planned to acknowledge that the long, messy health care debate has soured many on the idea and try to make a far-reaching overhaul relevant and attractive again to voters. "We have to move forward in a way that recaptures that sense of opening things up more," he told ABC.

He'll talk about why he thinks the nation's future economic health also depends on reshaping financial industry regulations to place tighter rules on Wall Street, another immediate domestic priority. White House press secretary Robert Gibbs said Obama will detail "what he would find acceptable on that."

He'll renew his call for immigration reform, a volatile issue once considered a first-year priority but lately sent to the back burner. Obama is expected to prod Congress to craft a plan to tighten the Mexican border, crack down on businesses exploiting undocumented workers and resolve the status of roughly 12 million illegal immigrants.

He'll give specifics on how he believes Washington's combative, partisan, gridlocked ways can be changed. Obama will call on Congress to address what he considers to be a dangerous Supreme Court decision that has suddenly

changed the rules of campaign finance and expanded corporate influence over elections.

On national security, Obama will detail his administration's efforts to combat terrorism around the globe, which have seen some success but have been overshadowed by the attempted airline attack on Christmas Day and political difficulties in Pakistan. He also will address the wars in Afghanistan and Iraq, nuclear disputes with Iran and North Korea, this month's devastating earthquake in Haiti and his larger ambition to restore the U.S. image around the world.

But bread-and-butter issues — lost jobs, difficulties paying for college or retirement, soaring deficits, anger at Wall Street fat cats — will dominate the speech.

"What he'll discuss more than anything is getting our economy moving again," Gibbs said.

The first priority is reversing persistent joblessness, and Obama is expected to defend the job-boosting results of last year's stimulus package while pushing anew for proposals such as giving tax credits to small businesses that add workers and incentives to make homes more energy efficient. Neither proposal made it into a jobs bill passed by the House in December.

He also plans to propose modest new measures to help the middle class — money for child

care, helping out aging parents, saving for retirement and paying off college debt, for example.

Aware of increasing voter frustration over the government's red ink, Obama will talk about various efforts at what Gibbs called "a slow chipping away" at the deficit. The White House announced that Obama would ask Congress to freeze spending on some domestic programs for three years — though the savings would total only a tiny fraction of the annual deficit.

Obama is also making the mostly symbolic move of announcing a freeze — for the second year — on the salaries of highly paid White House aides and top federal agency officials.

As is typical of Obama and big speeches, he was working up to the last minute to craft it while his team labored to shorten it. Other issues expected to get a mention are:

A record \$8.8 billion in federal funding in the next fiscal year to help military families with child care, counseling, financial services and other programs, a top priority for first lady Michelle Obama.

The president's campaign promise, as yet unfulfilled, to lift the ban on gays serving openly in the military.

A new plan for a better and quicker response to bioterrorism threats.

device may result in the revocation of your privilege to possess a handicap parking placard."

Garrett said that those who are using the hang tag illegally should understand the law.

"Some people we stop really believe they aren't breaking the law because it is their mother's car or the disabled person isn't in the car with them right then," Garrett said.

"However the transportation code says that it is illegal to stand, park or block any disabled area without a placard being issued to a person in the vehicle."

Student Body President Jordan Hannah worked last spring with the Baylor initiative, "Bear

the Difference," which works to raise awareness about those with physical or mental disabilities, and said he is let down that people would take the parking spots when others are in need of them.

"It's certainly disappointing to hear of people taking advantages of handicap spots that are specifically allocated to individuals with verified physical disabilities," Hannah said.

"I hope they understand that their actions are illegal and not a proper use of those spaces. From now on I hope they don't take advantage of those spaces and respect the rules and regulations in place."

BEARS from pg. 1

in the first half. However, K-State used Denis Clemente's 3-pointer off a turnover to instigate a 10-6 run to close out the half ahead 39-36.

Clemente went on another scoring splurge to begin the second half, as he scored eight of the Wildcats' first 12 points to give the Wildcats a 53-52 lead.

A.J. Walton gave the Bears their last lead of the game when he made an acrobatic layup on the ensuing possession to give Baylor a 54-53 lead with 10:32 left on the clock.

For the next 10 minutes, the Bears played a game of cat and mouse with K-State but couldn't quite snag the lead.

After Pullen splashed a 3-pointer from the wing, Carter hit a jumper to bring Baylor with-

in two points at 74-72 with 53 seconds remaining.

Dunn swiped the ball from Pullen on the next possession, and the Reserve, La., guard tied the game at 74 after goaltending was called on Kansas State with 19 seconds remaining.

Dunn fouled Pullen on the following possession, and Pullen made both of his shots to propel Kansas State to victory.

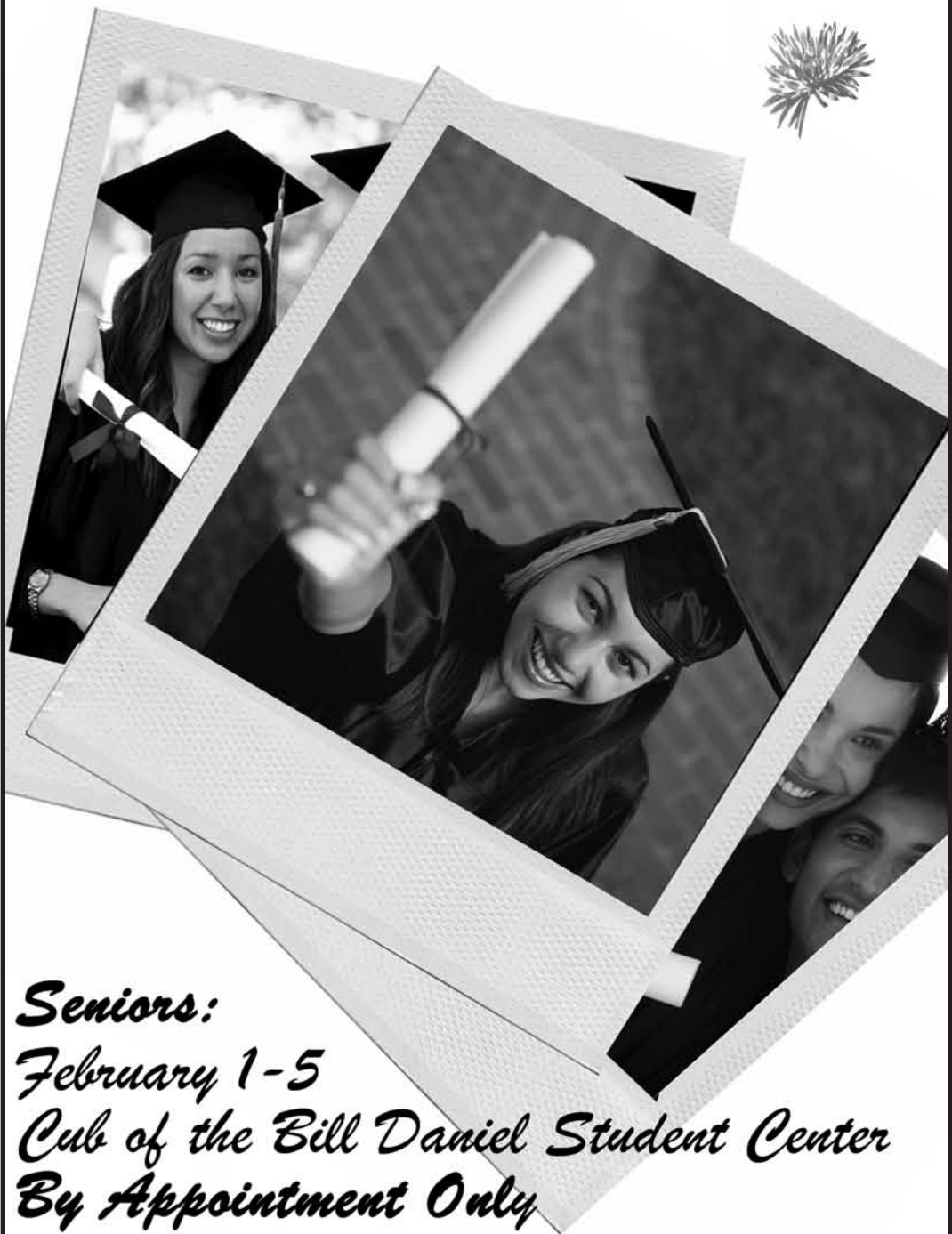
Baylor plays the No. 6-ranked University of Texas at 3 p.m. on Saturday in Austin.

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