



ROUNDING UP CAMPUS NEWS SINCE 1900

THE BAYLOR LARIAT

TUESDAY, APRIL 28, 2009

Rams select Jason Smith No. 2 overall

By Joe Holloway
Sports writer

Former Baylor offensive tackle Jason Smith made history when the St. Louis Rams selected him with the No. 2 overall pick in the NFL Draft in New York on Saturday.

He became the first Bear to get taken at such a high pick since Adrian Burk went to the Baltimore Colts with their No. 2 pick in the 1950 draft.

He tied Burk and Jack Wilson, who was the No. 2 overall pick by the Cleveland Rams in 1942, as the highest drafted Bears ever.

Smith also tied former Texas Longhorn Leonard Davis as the highest drafted player from the Big 12 as Davis was also a No. 2 pick in 2001 when he went to the Arizona Cardinals.

"This is a great day for Jason Smith and his family and a great day for the Baylor family," Baylor head coach Art Briles said Saturday after the Rams announced their pick. "Baylor football couldn't have a better representative of our program at that level than Jason Smith."

Briles characterized Smith as someone with both passion and discipline.

"The Rams got a tremendous football player," he said. "And a tremendous person."

The 6-foot-5, 309-pound Smith raised one arm to the air as he took the stage at Radio City Music Hall and pointed to the sky. His visible excitement on stage was also reflected in his remarks afterward.

"To God be the glory. I'm built Ram tough," he said. "Coach Briles answered the phone and allowed me to talk to Mr. (Billy) Devaney, the GM (general manager) of the Rams. They took my BU pin off and

put the Rams pin on my suit coat."

Smith indicated he was glad to be surrounded by his coaches in the Radio City's green room.

"I'm excited that I was handed over to the Rams the right way," he said. "That Coach Kaz (Kaz Kazadi, Baylor strength coach), Coach Briles and Coach Clements (Randy Clements, Baylor offensive line coach) were with me."

Smith was just the first of 28 players from the Big 12 drafted over the weekend, and was the first of seven taken in the first round.

The only other player from the conference to go in the top 10, however, was Texas Tech wide receiver Michael Crabtree, who went to the San Francisco 49ers with the 10th overall pick in the draft.

Crabtree, who many had pegged as the top receiver available, was largely expected to be the first of the players at that position to go, but fell to No. 10 after the Oakland Raiders picked speedy Maryland wide receiver Darius Heyward-Bey with their No. 7 pick.

Other Baylor players who entered the draft but ended up going unpicked are offensive guard Dan Gay and receiver Thomas White. They could, however, still make it to an NFL roster through free agency.

White said his agent was currently talking to a handful of teams.

"Seattle, St. Louis, Tennessee, Kansas City," he mentioned as teams that had shown interest.

He added that he had talked with Smith about the prospect that they could play on the same team.

"That would be awesome," he said.



Associated Press

Baylor offensive tackle Jason Smith holds up a St. Louis Rams jersey Saturday at the NFL Draft in New York's Radio City Music Hall. Smith was an overall No. 2 pick, tying two other Bears for the highest draft pick in Baylor history.

ALL-TIME BAYLOR 1ST-ROUND NFL DRAFT PICK HISTORY

1942 - #2, Jack Wilson, B - Cleveland Rams	1965 - #10, Lawrence Elkins, E - Green Bay Packers
1950 - #2, Adrian Burk, QB - Baltimore Colts	1977 - #10, Gary Green, DB - Kansas City Chiefs
1952 - #7, Larry Isbell, B - Washington Redskins	1979 - #28, Greg Hawthorne, RB - Pittsburgh Steelers
1954 - #5, Cotton Davidson, QB - Baltimore Colts	1982 - #12, Walter Abercrombie, RB - Pittsburgh Steelers
1957 - #11, Del Shofner, B - Los Angeles Rams	1990 - #12, James Francis, LB - Cincinnati Bengals
1957 - #12, Bill Glass, G - Detroit Lions	1996 - #20, Daryl Gardener, DT - Miami Dolphins
1959 - #9, Paul Dickson, T - Los Angeles Rams	2009 - #2, Jason Smith, OT - St. Louis Rams
1962 - #7, Ronnie Bull, HB - Chicago Bears	

Student stabbed on 8th Street

By Brittany Hardy
Staff writer

A 22-year-old male Baylor student was stabbed several times in his chest, back and arm around 3:50 a.m. Sunday, while walking the 1000 block of South Eighth Street, Waco Police spokesman Steve Anderson said.

The victim and his girlfriend were leaving a party when a black male approached them. The assailant demanded money from the victim and then started walking toward the couple, Anderson said.

As the victim stepped in front of his girlfriend, the assailant proceeded to stab him in the chest. The victim turned to push his girlfriend away and the assailant continued to stab him in the back and arm. The suspect did not take anything, but left running from the scene, Anderson said.

The case is currently active and the Waco Police Department is investigating.

The assailant has been described as in his mid-20s and 5 feet 10 inches. During the incident he was said to be wearing a white t-shirt with a black dragon design on it and blue jeans, Anderson said.

The victim's girlfriend drove him to the old Hillcrest Baptist Medical Center location at 3000 Herring Ave, where they arrived to realize it was closed. She then drove to the Skinny's convenience store, located at 3225 Hillcrest, where an ambulance was called.

The victim was treated for non-life-threatening injuries at the new Hillcrest hospital and was released.

Most recently, the victim

Please see **CRIME**, page 7

Officials confirm spread of swine flu into Texas

Michelle Roberts
The Associated Press

CIBOLO — A third high school student here was confirmed Monday to have contracted a new strain of swine flu as school officials worked to disinfect desks, doorknobs and other surfaces throughout the school district.

All three teens are or have recovered, as have the other U.S. patients who caught the new virus that has killed 149 people in Mexico and sparked fears of a global epidemic. The three teen-

agers are among six cases state and local health officials say the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has confirmed in Texas.

Officials at Steele High School closed the campus and the district's other 13 campuses for at least a week, hoping to stop any more possible spread of the disease. At Steele on Monday, a crew of about a dozen custodians were wiping

down surfaces with disinfectant for the second time since word of the virus emerged late last week.

Wade Hawkins, the director of facilities for the Schertz-Cibolo-Universal City Independent School District in Central Texas, said workers were squirting and wiping down some 2 million square feet of facilities in hopes of eliminating "any possibility" that other students would be sickened.

Meanwhile, an elementary school in North Texas was can-

Please see **SWINE**, page 7



Associated Press

Workers disinfect a classroom at Byron P. Steele High School in Cibolo Monday. Officials at Steele High School closed the campus and the district's other 13 campuses for at least a week, hoping to stop any more possible spread of swine flu. At the high school on Monday, a crew of about a dozen custodians were wiping down surfaces with disinfectant for the second time since word of the virus emerged late last week.

Vice president for Student Life candidates visit campus

By Sommer Ingram
Staff writer

The search for Vice President for Student Life has been narrowed down to three candidates, who will be visiting campus this week for interviews. These presentations are open to the Baylor community.

"The point of these on-cam-

pus interviews is to try and figure out what the best match is for Baylor in all of this," said Dr. Jon Engelhardt, chair of the appointed search committee. "These three candidates clearly represent the different kinds of options for the university. We believe any one of these three could be successful at Baylor."

Dr. Kevin Jackson, current

director of Student Activities at Texas A&M University visited campus Friday. Dr. Bill Kibler's interview will be at 2 p.m. today in Miller Chapel, and Dr. Douglas Wilcoxson will have his interview at 2:30 p.m. Wednesday in Kayser Auditorium of the Hankamer School of Business.

"All of us want the process to be as transparent as possible,

and this encourages that," said Dr. Martha Lou Scott, a member of the committee.

The current Vice President for Student Life, Dr. Dub Oliver, is leaving Baylor to become president of East Texas Baptist University July 1.

The 15-member committee began its work in January with the explicit goal of hiring

a replacement for Oliver by the end of the semester to avoid having an interim period.

"The idea is so we don't create any more ambiguity than necessary," Engelhardt said. "We already have an interim president and interim provost. The desire is not to have an interim vice president for Student Life as well."

Because the vice president for Student Life works so closely with a variety of student organizations and university constituencies, the committee is composed of five faculty members, five staff members, one representative from the provost's office and four students.

Please see **SEARCH**, page 7

Text message anxiety points to troubling dependence

We do it in class, in church, in traffic, and unadvisedly so, in the bathroom. Many of us have taken the first step and admitted to addiction, while others rest easy in denial as we reassure ourselves it's just a few a day.

Sure, some letters, a couple punctuation marks and the occasional colon-parenthesis smiley face may seem harmless at first. But don't be fooled. That first text will certainly not be your last.

I'm going to be bold and confess I feel more naked without my phone than I do without clothes.

There is no deeper pain than facing the gnawing reality that

as you walked out the door this morning, your phone was left lying lifeless on the counter.

Sitting in class you make a list of all the people who are unsuccessfully trying to contact you with a text message of life-altering importance.

Your imagination narrows in on the worst: Grandma Mary fell down the stairs, Take-a-Date has been canceled, or "Grey's Anatomy" isn't new tonight.

Those messages will be left untouched, as you feverishly pencil in time to swing by the house. This, my friends, is dependency example No. 1.

You've reached your house. Just as redemption reaches your



point of view

BY BRITTANY MCNAMARA

fingertips, you see it. That life-ruining blank screen of death is every college student's kryptonite.

That's right, no new messages. How can this be? Your cellular lifeline has been out of reach for two entire 50-minute class periods. First thought, check your

service. Phone held to the sky, you assume Lady Liberty's position. Waddling over each square foot of the living room, finally, the heavenly beep echoes off the walls. You look at the caller name. It's Mom. Awesome.

While a small amount of self-worth has been rekindled, you still are left feeling less than adequate. Emotional dependency? Check. At least Grandma Mary is OK.

A friend of mine once formed a relationship with a guy based solely on text messaging.

This is dangerous for a many reasons. She never put down the phone. Going to coffee with her meant going to coffee with the

back of her phone. To her, each new beep wasn't just a new text message, it was a new step in their relationship. The attachment grew so deep that finally when she met the guy, it was awkward. Instead of relying on punctuation and syntax, they were forced into actual face-to-face conversation.

Now, a year later, the two hang out in person but continue to text daily. Unaware of each other's physical cues for emotion, they can sense the slightest change in demeanor electronically.

A one-word text means he's ticked. A winking smiley? He's flirting. Text messaging has sin-

gle-handedly created new levels of relationship complication.

In all seriousness, texting itself isn't ruining our lives. In fact, text messages can be used to simplify our lives and allow us to take risks we wouldn't otherwise take.

Clarifying plans for the night, asking for directions or just letting someone know you're thinking about them are all healthy ways to text. Just don't get carried away. Maybe someday they'll come out with a patch or some gum, but until then, text in moderation.

Brittany McNamara is a junior journalism major from Southlake

Editorial

Miss USA finalist unfairly slammed by gay activists

Big hair, white smiles and sparkly ball gowns came aplenty April 19 for the Miss USA pageant. But one pageant staple was notably missing, the quintessential pageant answer to every judge's question: "world peace."

One finalist actually spoke her mind about the hot button issue of gay marriage and sparked a firestorm.

Pageant judge Perez Hilton, an openly gay gossip blogger, asked Miss California, Carrie Prejean, whether she supported gay marriage.

Prejean answered by saying, "We live in a land where you can choose same-sex marriage or opposite. And you know what, I think in my country, in my family, I think that I believe that a marriage should be between a man and woman. No offense to anybody out there, but that's how I was raised."

Prejean's statement was met with a mix of boos and applause from the crowd, and Hilton looked none-too-pleased with the answer to his question.



In the aftermath, Hilton led a media crusade to punish Prejean for her comments. Hilton suggested that Prejean's comments ultimately lost her the crown, leaving her to finish as first runner-up.

That Prejean has been ruthlessly ravaged in the media over her honest answer begs the question: When did honesty become outlawed?

Prejean's comments were a statement of opinion. That's all. The fact that her opinion, which she stated was rooted in her beliefs, is causing

this much of an uproar is ridiculous. It's not as if she stood on the stage and proceeded to belittle the gay community.

It's no secret that the issue of homosexuality has been a topic of contention between religious and gay communities.

Is the fact that this was plainly stated and displayed on national television that big of a shocker? After all, both President Barack Obama and Vice President Joe Biden have been on the record stating marriage should be between a man

and woman. So why is a beauty queen facing public scrutiny when elected officials have the same point of view?

It's relieving to see at least one pageant contestant can actually answer a controversial question from the heart instead of relying on safely rehearsed answers that are sure to please everyone.

It took a lot of courage for Prejean to speak her mind knowing that the very judge who asked the question was gay. She chose to answer truth-

fully and in a respectful manner instead of panicking to the judges.

Currently, we live in a society that is still very divided over the issue of gay marriage. What kind of answer was Hilton along with the rest of the world expecting?

No matter what Prejean would've answered, she inevitably would have offended either supporters or non-supporters of gay marriage. In fact, the very state that Prejean represents passed the controversial Proposition 8 back in November.

The proposition changed the state constitution to restrict the definition of marriage between only heterosexual couples, disallowing homosexual couples the right to marriage.

The debate over gay marriage will not be ending anytime soon, but neither will the differing opinions. The bottom line is that Prejean merely shared her opinion when she was asked it. If Hilton wasn't prepared to hear an opposing viewpoint then he shouldn't have asked the question.

Opinion policy

The Baylor Lariat welcomes reader viewpoints through letters to the editor and guest columns.

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

Letters to the editor should include the writer's name, major, graduation year, phone number and student identification number. Non-student writers should include their address. Letters that focus on an issue affecting students or faculty may be considered for a guest column at the editor's discretion.

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

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

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The Baylor Lariat is committed to ensuring the fair and accurate reporting and will correct errors of substance on Page 2. Corrections can be submitted to the editor by sending an e-mail to Lariat_letters@baylor.edu or by calling 254-710-4099.

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Cooking process proves hateful for inexperienced dilettante

I hate cooking.

I'm not very good at it and I would rather spend the money at a drive-through. There are about a million reasons for me not to cook, not the least of which being you probably won't like what I make.

It's not that I don't understand or possess the necessary skills required for culinary success. Maybe it's the love and care that that supposed to be baked into every meal that's missing from my creations. But years of inexperience have taught me to enjoy the meals that others make, and then offer to clean up.

It starts with the process of picking the menu. I don't have any specialties, any go-to meals, or anything I have a lot of experience making. Looking through a cookbook, I generally try to avoid any meals with meat in them because that just seems complicated and sometimes unpleasantly bloody, gooey or slimy. It's not that I mind blood, it's that fact that I'm about to cook that blood into my meal that bothers me. It's like my philosophy with hot dogs: I love to eat them, but please, never tell me what's in them.

I also try to avoid any meals



point of view

BY DACHE JOHNSON

with a complicated process like frying, sautéing or braising. If I can't bake, boil or stir it into a finished product, I am not interested. Also, the fewer steps or ingredients involved, the better. Minimal prep time is key.

I also like to avoid some

appliances.

I've never known how long to microwave things, so I usually put things in for longer than I think is necessary, just to be sure.

This has resulted in exploding hot dogs, a smoke-filled house after burning a bowl of chocolate chips and eggs turned to rubber.

Also, I should probably get a definite list of what materials can and cannot be microwaved, but the little electrical sparks are usually a good indication of what shouldn't go in there.

Next is the shopping trip. I

have friends who find grocery shopping therapeutic, relaxing, even enjoyable.

I hate grocery shopping. The crowds, the lines, the waits and the fact that I can never find what I am looking for and have to ask an employee. I even hate the parking lots at grocery stores. My goal is be in and out of the store as quickly as possible.

By the time I start cooking the meal, I'm already so annoyed with the process that I want it to just all be over.

In general I would say I have a fairly good vocabulary, but

when it comes to cooking, I'm a dunce. Mince? Broil? A pinch? I end up doing Google searches and calling my mom multiple times during every endeavor I make in the kitchen.

I have chosen, with a hope for the future but a contended acceptance of reality, to live by a quote by the famous chef, Julia Childs: "I was 32 when I started cooking; up until then, I just ate." I think with 10 years of practice I can make some significant progress. Right?

Dache Johnson is a senior journalism major from Waco.

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Fill in the grid so that every row, every column and every 3X3 box contains the digits 1 through 9 with no repeats.

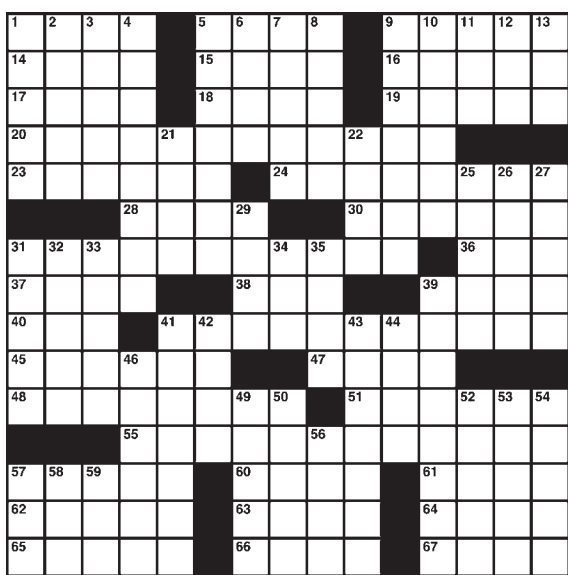
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THE Daily Crossword

Across
1 Family group
5 Imogene of comedy
9 Succeed
14 Widespread
15 Made fun of, in a way
16 Prefix meaning "vinegar"
17 Where the steeple is, vis-à-vis the church
18 Composer Édouard
19 In-your-face challenge
20 Talk aimlessly
23 Parlor piece
24 Opposite of "All rise"
28 Snowfall unit
30 Ex-quarterback Dan
31 Blame someone else
36 Debussy's sea
37 MD's calendar listing
38 Traveler's choice
39 Fluids in shots
40 Brazilian port
41 Dress to impress
45 Space along the page border
47 Chimney sweep's sweepings
48 Old things
51 Looks shocked, e.g.
55 Pass its peak, slangily, as

a TV series
57 Margaret Mead subject
60 Burn a bit
61 Buffalo's lake
62 Sci-fi staple
63 Aware of
64 Pre-deal payment
65 Rising agent
66 Where Homer drinks Duff Beer
67 Insect repellent ingredient
Down
1 Boorish
2 Supply
3 What the game is, to Holmes
4 One hiring relatives
5 Pasadena science institute, familiarly
6 Colorful fish
7 Fanzine focus
8 Hacienda brick
9 Dangerous pipe problem
10 Of the eye
11 Lawyer's charge
12 Place to get bucks fast, briefly

13 Fish eggs
21 It's pitched by campers
22 "Semper fi" military org.
25 Like Olympic races
26 Año starter
27 Rapper's cap
29 Oven output
31 Italian city known for its cheese
32 Like beehives
33 Baseball or golf
34 Much of an obit
35 Java holders
39 Adjust for daylight-saving time
41 Pleasingly pungent
42 E pluribus
43 Bullfighters
44 Cultivation tools
46 Military action toys
49 English Derby site
50 Dictator's aide
52 Mexican meat
53 Clichéd
54 Shooting contest with traps
56 Despire
57 "By the way ..."
58 Stein filler
59 Actress Farrow



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

CASABLANCA
PHASE III

Pinetree

The Edge

Bear Gardens

CENTRE
COURT
APARTMENTS

The Place

Browning
Place

Lou Ann
CONDOMINIUMS

BAYLOR PLAZA

CAMBRIDGE

St. James Place

Jamestown

TRES
Grande

THE
CENTRE

Regency Square
TOWNHOUSE CONDOMINIUMS

Island
CONDOMINIUMS

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BIG 12

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Lou Ann - \$675
Baylor Village - \$695
Island - \$775
St. James - \$795
Centre - \$825
Bear Gardens- \$850
Centre Court - \$950
Place - \$975
Benchmark - \$980
Bear Colony - \$995
Bandera Ranch - \$1,400

Three Bedroom Units:

Browning Place - \$950
Bear Gardens - \$1,095
Centre - \$1,150
Edge - \$1,250
Benchmark - \$1,395
Place - \$1,450
Bandera Ranch - \$1,600

Four Bedroom Units:

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Benchmark - \$1,795
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Bandera Ranch - \$2,100

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2 bedrooms/1 bath - \$800
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Communication barriers unavoidable when traveling

By Lauren Hollon
Reporter

Communication is fraught with misunderstanding, even when the two parties involved speak the same language. Frustration increases tenfold when trying to communicate in a foreign language.

Enter the “ugly American,” that traveler we’re all embarrassed to know who believes everyone will understand English if he reaches the right decibel or carefully enunciates every word.

Dozens of Baylor students venture out into the world every semester to test their mettle. For many students, practicing their language skills is an important reason to study abroad.

Houston junior Kira Geslin spent last semester studying at American University in Cairo. She arrived in Egypt with two semesters of Arabic classes under her belt, but said the Egyptian dialect was different from what she learned at Baylor.

“You pick up a lot pretty quick,” Geslin said. “They would ask you to repeat things again and again, and there were a lot of charades and acting things out involved. One night we walked around for about an hour or so — six of us, with varying levels of Arabic — looking for a puppet show, and none of us knew the word for puppet.”

She and her friends desperately mimed puppets with their hands, trying to get the message across.

Study Abroad Tips

•Listen carefully

•When in doubt, use a language dictionary

•Consult a friend who has mastery of the language

•Avoid controversial topics (sex, alcohol, religion and security)

“If you really need something, short, broken Arabic will usually get you by,” Geslin said.

Some students embrace their linguistic limitations. Others possess the necessary head knowledge, but get tripped up in the execution.

Tonal languages can be especially tricky for non-native speakers. Words may look and sound exactly the same, with only a change in tone distinguishing between different words. Waynesboro, Miss., senior Scott Strickland learned this lesson

the hard way in China.

“One of the first things that happened was during the first week in Beijing,” Strickland said. “In the subway they have this huge poster of a McDonald’s chicken sandwich. When we saw it, I just exclaimed, ‘Hen cuo ji!’ which I thought was, ‘So much chicken!’ The problem was that there was a different tone on the last syllable, so what I actually said was, ‘So many prostitutes!’ Dr. Wang, without skipping a beat, leaned over and told me what I’d actually said and told me to watch my tone.”

But even students who know the language and say the right words unwittingly reveal their status as foreigners. Difficulties can arise from unfamiliarity with local slang. A student may know the literal meaning of a word, but Baylor professors don’t teach the vulgar ways it’s used in popular culture.

Dr. Linda McManness, associate professor of Spanish, takes students to study in Spain every summer. One year, she had a student who had Carnation Instant Breakfast every morning. As soon as they arrived in Madrid, the student wanted to buy milk. She walked into a store and came out minutes later looking perplexed, explaining that the clerks laughed at her hysterically. She couldn’t figure out what she’d done wrong.

“I asked what she’d said to



Courtesy Photo

Waynesboro, Miss., senior Scott Strickland practices the art of bargaining with a street vendor in Dali, China.

them,” McManness said, “And she told me she said, ‘Tienes leche?’ (Do you have milk?)”

What the student didn’t realize is that you have to order ‘un vaso de leche’ — a glass of milk. “The word ‘leche’ is slang for sperm,” McManness said.

The word for eggs — ‘huevos’ — is used similarly for part of the male anatomy. Students would receive especially odd looks if

they asked a female waitress, “Tienes huevos? (Do you have eggs?)”

Instead, McManness said, you should order your eggs boiled, scrambled, fried or specifically cooked in some way to avoid an awkward moment.

Miscommunications can’t be avoided 100 percent of the time; they’re a fact of life. Strickland said he learned how easy it was

to misunderstand others, even while speaking the same language.

“I realized that a lot of times you can speak the same language and still be coming at things from such different backgrounds and different ways of viewing the everyday world,” Strickland said. “You have to try a little harder to see things the way others do.”

Scholars Week features research

By Nick Dean
Staff writer

Scholars Week began Monday and is promoting the production of new ideas and the broadening of horizons; two aspects the Undergraduate Research and Scholarly Achievement (URSA) initiative at Baylor emphasize on a daily basis.

“It is a week of presentations that allow undergraduates to present their research findings,” said Frieda Blackwell, professor of Spanish and associate dean of humanities for the College of Arts and Sciences. “It is also part of our quality enhancement program, too.”

This is the second-annual Scholars Week and the participation has increased from last year. This year’s event which started Monday and will continue Wednesday at Bill Daniel Student Center, features about 61 Baylor undergraduate presentations. Other participants will present research posters at 2 p.m. today in the Baylor Sciences Building.

“It is a campus wide celebration of the work that many of our undergraduates are doing that has to do with research, writing and thinking,” said Elizabeth Vardaman, associate dean of the College of Arts and Sciences. “We want to be sure that the students that have done excellent work can show it and let the faculty see it and we want



Jacky Reyes/Lariat Staff

Junior language and linguistics major Audrey Johnson gives a presentation titled “Responding to Criticism on Conservation: A Linguistic Analysis of Critical Components Among Friends” on Monday in the Bill Daniel Student Center as a part of Scholars Week.

to simply celebrate great scholarship.”

The research undergraduates complete is supposed to help organize their thinking, learn to write well and think directly. Undergraduate research is being emphasized throughout the academia realm, Blackwell said.

“Part of what we do in academia is share our findings,” Blackwell said. “We hope this (event) promotes undergraduates to participate in research earlier.”

The research is not only limited to sciences, Vardaman said.

“Talking about new ideas, making connections across various fields and celebrating intelligent life are all components of undergraduate research,” Vardaman said. “Many universities recognize the importance to present excellent research.”

Apart from the academic help undergraduate research provides, the emphasis of early scholarly activity may also help to find personal passions, Vardaman said.

“If a student has curiosity and

a love of learning in a particular area, projects that encourage the student to explore the issues deeply and passionately are exciting and energizing and worthwhile in and of themselves,” Vardaman said. “Of course, the skills a student develops during the research may help him or her also bid competitively for professional school or graduate school. But the biggest reason to do research is because you love the research.”

Vardaman also said that Baylor has resources that aid undergraduates in their research endeavors and that Scholars Week is beneficial in illustrating those resources.

“In the two years (Scholars week) has been operational, it has shown students that Baylor has resources that can support their research,” Vardaman said. “We are hoping to grow this program every year. The presenters are typically to be upper classmen,” Vardaman said.

For a full version of this story, visit www.baylor.edu/lariat.

Economy boosts graduate enrollment

By Shanna Taylor
and Jenna DeWitt
Reporters

The economy is in recession. Your future is uncertain. No one is hiring. Plan B? Grad school.

A new trend has emerged in the motivation behind continuing education for this year’s graduating class. The recent economic downturn is a harsh reality for students graduating this semester and looking to enter the workforce. The job crunch has made employment opportunities scarce, and remaining in the comfort of college life seems more attractive every day. After all, students don’t dish out for a Baylor education expecting to end up on the streets searching for work.

Over the past year, 5.3 million jobs have disappeared, according to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. Unemployment among college graduates has more than doubled in the same time period. Unemployment is higher than it has been in over 25 years.

Graduate school can seem like a way of waiting out the economy while simultaneously making yourself more marketable.

“There are no jobs out there. Even if I just wanted to work part-time in retail, there aren’t jobs,” Camarillo, Calif., senior Jessica Wilson. “I was so frustrated looking for jobs that when an opportunity came along to pursue a master’s degree now, instead of down the road like I was planning, I jumped at it.”

She’s not the only one who has found grad school to be a respite from a shaky economy.

“In times of recession there is an increase in applications to graduate school and when the economy is booming there is a

decline,” said Dr. Larry Lyon, dean of the graduate school. “In fact, in the last boom the demand for some occupations was so great that employers were hiring graduate students out of grad school before they graduated. Now it’s the reverse. People with bachelor’s degrees are not finding jobs.”

For some professions, a master’s degree has become a requirement for employment in an increasingly competitive marketplace.

Erin Wolfe, a museum-studies graduate student, said after graduating from Florida State University, she found a master’s to be essential.

“It was very difficult to get a job in my field without a master’s degree so that’s when I decided to get my M.A.,” Wolfe said.

Others just don’t feel ready to enter the workforce.

“I basically went to grad school because I didn’t want to grow up yet; I wasn’t ready to have a full-time job,” said Ali Moyer, a health, human performance and recreation master’s candidate.

Moyer also said that Baylor’s offer of free tuition with a stipend helped her decision financially. Some think it is a good idea to get more education because opportunities in their fields are currently limited.

“Going to graduate school affords me the time and resources to continue developing my writing and interest in publishing while jobs in these industries remain minimal at best,” said San Antonio senior Billy Collins, who is entering graduate school for journalism after graduation.

While it may seem like the easy way out, or even the most practical option, graduate school is not for the less-than-

committed.

Sociology doctoral candidate Alessandra Gonzalez said avoiding responsibility is the worst reason to go to grad school.

“If you think it’s just another four more years of undergrad it is going to be a big surprise,” Gonzalez said. “You won’t make it to graduation. You won’t finish.”

Grad school shouldn’t be a quick fix for indecision, said sociology doctoral candidate Ashley Palmer-Boyes. If anything, it requires a higher level of certainty.

“You shouldn’t come if you are on the fence about it, really. I think you have to be really sure this is what you want to do,” Palmer-Boyes said.

Students sometimes go to graduate school for all the wrong reasons, Lyon said, such as not knowing what they want to do or not being able to find a job.

“The reason those are wrong is that graduate study requires such a high level of dedication, such a high quantity and quality of work, that it’s not at all a pleasurable experience if you’re doing it just to sort of mark time,” Lyon said. “You can imagine having to live and breathe just one subject at a very high level: 40, 50, 60 hours a week. There are better things to do unless you’ve got a tie to a clear occupation, or unless you really love it and want to spend the rest of your life doing it.”

Whatever the motivation, endurance is key, Gonzalez said.

“It’s like a marathon, not a sprint. Some people just want to get a degree and shebang out of here like a sprint,” Gonzalez said. “If you tried to sprint a marathon you’re going to burn out, and you’re going to hurt yourself. It requires endurance.”

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Mexico criticized for flu reaction

By Niko Price
The Associated Press

It remained unclear where and how the epidemic began, how it has spread, who it has killed or how fast it is growing. And the government has yet to take some basic steps critical to containing any outbreak, such as quick treatment of people who had contact with the victims.

Elias Camacho, a 31-year-old truck driver with fever, cough and body aches, was ordered out of a government ambulance Sunday because paramedics complained he might be contagious, his father-in-law told the AP. When family members took



But even as it did so, it acknowledged the outbreak began earlier than April 12, the date it had previously linked to the first case. Cordova confirmed Monday that a 4-year-old boy who was part of an outbreak in eastern Veracruz state that

The second, he said, didn't let him in "because they say they're too busy."

Associated Press writers Olga Rodriguez in Xonacatlan and Peter Orsi and Lisa J. Adams in Mexico City contributed to this report.

By Jennifer Loven
Associated Press

Richard Besser, the acting director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, said his agency was aggressively investigating, looking for evidence of the disease spreading and probing for ways to control and prevent it. Both were asked

Gibbs also stressed that the

U.S. health authorities late Monday set dosing and distribution requirements for Tamiflu and Relenza just in case mass dosing is required to deal with a widespread outbreak of swine flu. The health officials also authorized distribution of a swine flu diagnostic test to public health and other qualified laboratories.

All information is from a Waco-McLennan County Public Health District swine flu update.

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# Iraqi archbishop decries Christian slayings, violence

By Yahya Barzanji  
The Associated Press

KIRKUK, Iraq —At two Christian homes, the gunmen used the same methods: point-blank fire that claimed three lives in a 30-minute span.

The attacks left another outpost of Iraq's dwindling Christian community frightened Monday that it could become caught in the struggles over disputed Kirkuk.

"Innocent people who have no relation with politics and never harmed anyone were killed by terrorists in their homes just because they were Christians," Chaldean Archbishop Louis Sako told more than 600 mourners in this ethnically mixed city 180 miles north of the capital.

The motives behind the late Sunday attacks remained unclear, with suspicions mostly falling on Sunni insurgents linked to al-Qaida in Iraq.

But fear of reprisals and worries about vulnerability have become common themes for members of one of the world's oldest Christian homelands.

Iraq's Christians, who numbered about 1 million in the early 1980s, are now estimated at about half that as families flee warfare and extremist attacks that target their churches and homes.

The future of Kirkuk, an ethnic patchwork led by Kurds and Arabs, has become one of the most politically sensitive issues for Iraqi leaders and for U.S. military commanders preparing to withdraw their troops by the end of 2011.

The city is the hub of Iraq's northern oil fields and a key prize for both Kurds and the central government in Baghdad.

The showdown is so volatile that Kirkuk was excluded from regional elections in January and the United Nations has offered a proposal for compromise plans.

Caught in between are the smaller communities of ethnic Turks and Christians, including the ancient branches of Chaldean and Assyrian churches and smaller communities such as Roman Catholics and Orthodox.

Speaking to mourners at Kirkuk's main Chaldean church, Sako blamed political leaders for failing to reach compromises on the many ethnic and political disputes.

"It seems that violence is coming back and they lost that chance," he said.

Two of the victims were

*"What have they done to be treated like this?"*

Eman Latif  
victim's sister

Chaldean Christians; the other was Assyrian. Family members said all would be buried in their home areas around Mosul, Iraq's third-largest city 225 miles northwest of Baghdad.

Kirkuk police Lt. Col. Anwar Qadir said the slayings appeared to be an attempt by al-Qaida to spark sectarian clashes or scare



Associated Press

People carry a coffin with the body of a slain Christian on Monday inside a church in Kirkuk, 180 miles north of Baghdad. An Iraqi Christian leader told mourners Monday that the slayings of three Christians a day earlier was an act of religious terrorism that raised fears of more sectarian violence in the northern city of Kirkuk.

away the more than 10,000 Christians remaining around Kirkuk.

In the past, insurgents have described Iraq's Christians as "crusaders" whose true loyalty lies with U.S. troops and the West.

On Monday, round-the-clock security patrols and checkpoints were increased around Christian areas.

Christians in the Mosul area have faced the brunt of attacks, including a string of bombings and execution-style slaying in late 2008 blamed on Sunni insurgents. An estimated 3,000 Christians fled the area in a single week.

In March 2008, the body of Mosul's Chaldean Archbishop, Paulos Faraj Rahho, was found in a shallow grave, a month after he was kidnapped at gunpoint as he left a Mass.

Kirkuk, however, has not

been spared. In January 2006, two churches here were bombed as part of a series of coordinated attacks that also targeted the Vatican's diplomatic mission in Baghdad.

"If we can't feel protected, then more Christians will leave Iraq," said the Rev. Giorgos Alywa, an Assyrian Orthodox cleric at the burials in the Mosul area.

The first assault killed a woman and her daughter-in-law. About a half-hour later, gunmen killed a 27-year-old man in another part of the city, said Qadir.

Eman Latif, the sister of the younger woman killed, said the attacker stabbed the victims after they were gunned down.

"What have they done to be treated like this?" she said.

Last week, U.N. representatives gave Iraqi leaders a report outlining suggestions to ease

sectarian tensions in Kirkuk, including a proposal to grant the area "special status" that would allow joint oversight by both the Kurdish region and the central government in Baghdad.

Kirkuk "should be solved through political, diplomatic channels and dialogue.

There is a chance to solve it," the top U.S. commander in Iraq, Gen. Raymond Odierno, said Monday in an interview with Iraq's Al-Sharqiya television.

But a Christian university student in Kirkuk, Rudi Shammo, said there is a different reality on the streets: "We Christians in Kirkuk have no weapons or militias to protect us."

Still, he plans to take a stand.

"Some groups may have plans to push us out of our own country, but I say we will not leave Iraq," he said. "This will not happen."

# Congressional Democrats seek quick pact on budget

By Andrew Taylor  
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Congressional Democrats pushed to wrap up negotiations on a budget plan that would help President Barack Obama's ambitious goal of overhauling the health care system.

Negotiators from the House and Senate met Monday, and Senate Budget Committee Chairman Kent Conrad, D-N.D., confirmed details of a tentative pact reached last week that would prevent Senate Republicans from delaying or blocking Obama's plan to vastly expand government-subsidized health care.

The \$3.5 trillion plan for the budget year starting Oct. 1 embraces several of Obama's key goals, including health care reform, funds for domestic programs and clean energy, and a tax increase for individuals making more than \$200,000 a year or couples making more than \$250,000.

But the plan would allow Obama's signature \$400 tax cut for most workers to expire at the end of next year.

Even after squeezing the defense and war budgets to levels that are probably unrealistic, the plan would cause a deficit of



Associated Press

While opposing President Obama's budget agenda, Rep. Paul Ryan, R-Wisc., the ranking member on the House Budget Committee, talks on April 1 about an alternative Republican budget plan.

\$523 billion in five years.

"I think this is a good budget," Conrad said. But, he added, "Much more will have to be done to get us on a more sustainable course," including slowing the growth of benefit programs like Medicare and overhauling the tax code.

The plan would patch the alternative minimum tax for three years to prevent more than 20 million taxpayers from getting socked with increases aver-

aging \$2,000 or so.

The estate tax would be kept at current levels and allow for estates up to \$7 million to be exempt from the tax with a 45 percent rate applying to inheritances above that.

It would cut Obama's request of about \$50 billion worth of increases for non-defense agency operating budgets by about \$10 billion, lowering the increases from 10 percent on average to 8 percent.

Under Capitol Hill's arcane rules, the annual congressional budget produces an outline for follow-up tax and spending legislation.

Most importantly, the measure would allow Obama's health plan to pass the Senate by a simple majority instead of the 60 votes that are needed for plenty of other legislation.

Democrats and independent allies control 58 Senate seats.

Democrats hope the House will adopt the budget on Tuesday and the Senate on Wednesday, which marks Obama's 100 days in office.

Obama and his Democratic allies say they still want support from Republicans for health care legislation but need the option of expedited action in case the debate becomes overly partisan. "For this bipartisan process to take root, Republicans must demonstrate a sincere interest in legislating," Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid, D-Nev., wrote in a letter Monday to GOP Leader Mitch McConnell of Kentucky. "Rather than just saying no, you must be willing to offer concrete and constructive proposals."

The fast-track rules also would apply to Obama's plan to eliminate lender subsidies on banks and other lenders presently participating in the federal

## Important facts:

The \$3.5 trillion budget plan would cause a \$523 million deficit in five years and includes a tax increase for the wealthy.

student loan program.

Direct lending by the government would replace the program, with the savings dedicated to boosting Pell Grants for lower-income college students.

While handing Obama a victory, there is still an extraordinary amount of work before Obama's vision of health care reform becomes a reality, including raising taxes and cutting spending to generate \$1 trillion or more over the next decade to fund the health care initiative.

The budget plan also anticipates the expiration of former President George W. Bush's tax cuts on wealthier people's income and investments at the end of next year.

But it ignores Obama's calls for raising taxes to help pay for his health care initiative by reducing the benefits wealthier people take on itemized deductions like charitable gifts and mortgage interest.

# New York flyover renews old fears

By Sara Kugler  
The Associated Press

NEW YORK — One of the president's official planes and a supersonic fighter jet zoomed past the lower Manhattan skyline in a flash just as the work day was beginning Monday. Within minutes, startled financial workers streamed out of their offices, fearing a nightmarish replay of Sept. 11.

For a half-hour, the Boeing 747 and F-16 jet circled the Statue of Liberty and the lower Manhattan skyline near the World Trade Center site. Offices evacuated. Dispatchers were inundated with calls. Witnesses thought the planes were flying dangerously low.

But the flyover was nothing but a photo op, apparently one of a series of flights to get pictures of the president's airliner in front of national landmarks.

It was carried out by the Defense Department with little warning, infuriating New York officials and putting the White House on the defense. Even Mayor Michael Bloomberg didn't know about it, and he later called it "insensitive" to fly so near the site of the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks.

The director of the White House military office, Louis Caldera, took the blame a few hours later. The airliner was a 747 that is called Air Force One when used by the president.

"Last week, I approved a mission over New York. I take responsibility for that decision," Caldera said. "While federal authorities took the proper steps to notify state and local authorities in New York and New Jersey, it's clear that the mission created confusion and disruption. I apologize and take responsibility for any distress that flight caused."

When told of the flight, President Barack Obama was furious, a White House official said on the condition of anonymity to discuss private conversations.

Still, federal officials provided few details and wouldn't say why the public and area building security managers weren't notified. They also wouldn't address why someone thought it was a wise decision to send two jets into New York City, all for a few photos with the Statue of Liberty as a backdrop.

An administration official said the purpose of the photo op was to update file photos of the president's plane near the Lady Liberty.

This official said the White House military office told the Federal Aviation Administration that it was updating file photos of Air Force One near national landmarks, such as the statute in the New York harbor and the Grand Canyon. The official requested anonymity to give more details than the official White House announcement.

An Air Force combat photographer took pictures from one of the fighter jets, administration officials said.

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## SWINE from page 1

celing classes until at least Friday after a student was confirmed to have contracted swine flu. Canyon Creek Elementary School in the Dallas suburb of Richardson would be cleaned and disinfected, said Tim Clark, a spokesman for the Richardson Independent School District.

The 7-year-old, along with a 24-year-old and a 3-month-old, accounted for three cases the CDC confirmed in North Texas, Dallas County Health and Human Services Director Zachary Thompson said Monday.

All three patients are recovering and were not hospitalized, Thompson said.

The families of those who were ill in Central Texas remained home on voluntary isolation.

None of the three had recently traveled to Mexico or had contact with people who did, said Texas Department of State Health Services spokesman Doug McBride.

Cibolo, a once agricultural community on the edge of San Antonio, has been taken over by suburban housing developments, but the community still has residents who raise livestock and pigs for show. Before the emergence of the new strain, swine flu could only be transmitted to humans by direct contact with pigs.

Residents of the community were taking precautions. At City Hall, residents who wanted to pay bills in person were asked to do so at a table out front.

But many seemed unconcerned , except for the unexpected week at home school-age children were getting.

Kelly Silvers, the owner of a pet and feed store, said she suspected that officials were going “a tad bit” overboard, as her 5-year-old daughter rode a pink bicycle with training wheels around the store. The girl’s daycare closed to disinfect.

“I haven’t heard of any real concerns,” she said.

Another resident, Pauline

Sowder, said she saw one person at a local drug store wearing a mask, but otherwise, few people seemed concerned.

“Nobody’s really said anything. They’re still out and about doing errands,” she said.

Elsewhere in Texas, people arriving from Mexico, the epicenter of the outbreak, were more cautious.

At the main pedestrian border crossing between El Paso and Ciudad Juarez, officials were handing out a “health alert notice” provided by the CDC. The flier described symptoms and advice for preventing spread of the disease.

A handful of border crossers were wearing protective masks as they entered the United States. U.S. Customs and Border Protection agents were also on the lookout for travelers with signs of swine flu infection, though there were no specific health screenings being done.

Jorge Juarez and Miranda Carnero, both 18, said they were wearing them just in case.

“It’s just a precaution,” said Juarez, who lives in El Paso and drew a smiley face on his mask.

Carnero said she’s been to the doctor and is fine, but they wanted to be careful.

Some travelers arriving at Dallas-Fort Worth International Airport from Mexico on Monday were still wearing the blue masks issued by the Mexican military, but said they didn’t undergo any special screening once they arrived in the United States.

Elvia Wallace-Martinez had been in her native Acapulco for her sister’s funeral.

“It’s just scary,” she said, taking her mask off for the first time in two days to describe how people were careful not to touch each other at the funeral. “People don’t even shake hands. They’re your relatives.”

Wallace-Martinez said she was happy to be home, where she’d be closer to medical care if she needs it.

“It’s good to be back in America,” she said.

stabbed him if the assailant is identified, Anderson said.

Anyone who has any information in regards to the case should call the Waco Police Department.



Stephen Green/Lariat Staff

## Muddy buddies

Arlington senior Clayton Reedellis and Thorton, Colo., sophomore Melissa Jones leg wrestle in the mud at Russell Field on a rainy Monday afternoon. The weather forecast calls for isolated thunder storms for the rest of the week.

## SEARCH from page 1

“Each individual brought a whole set of perspectives with them,” Engelhardt said. “To the interview process they bring the important questions from those constituencies. Collectively then, we find a person that doesn’t represent just one area of campus, but represents the concerns and priorities of many constituencies across campus.”

With the help of Greenwood/Asher and Associates, an external consulting firm hired to work with the university

last fall, the search committee launched a strong recruitment campaign.

Because of the state of the economy, the committee was warned that the pool of applicants might be as small as 12, but ended up with almost 50. The pool was then narrowed down to a smaller group of finalists who were interviewed off-campus.

“We attribute this large (applicant pool) to aggressive recruitment, as well as the strong reputation of Baylor,” Engelhardt said. “People know Baylor and know it’s a quality institution.”

Engelhardt said Oliver’s nationwide reputation also had a great deal to do with the high applicant response.

“In the period of time he’s been vice president, the level of student-centeredness and the level of attention to both student affairs and academic affairs has dramatically increased,” he said. “Many, many initiatives have been put into place that bring student affairs and academics together under his direction. He wants to do what’s best for the students and for the university.”

Some of the basic duties of vice president for Student Life

include working in partnership with academic affairs, serving on the president’s executive council and providing leadership and support to multiple areas of campus life.

“All three of these candidates have a strong record and professional knowledge of student affairs and student life,” Engelhardt said. “All are persons of deep faith – whether their background is private or public, they bring their faith to professional decision-making. They are all people who, in their own unique ways, can inspire and speak to multiple audiences.”



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# Baylor Theatre brings tragic tone in ‘Blood Wedding’

By Kristina Bateman  
Reporter

Blood is married with death in the Baylor Theatre department's final production of the year. "Blood Wedding" is based on a true story originally written in Spanish by Federico Garcia Lorca. The play tells the story of a young woman who decides to run off with another man on the day of her wedding. The action follows those who are left to deal with the situation after she has gone. The story centers around three families: the groom and his mother, the bride and her father and the bride's lover and his wife, Garland graduate student Traci Ledford said. Ledford plays the mother of the bridegroom in the production. "The loyalty to the family, the loyalty to blood and the defense of that, and the revenge of that, is very much an important aspect to the play," Ledford said. Dr. Marion Castleberry, professor of theater arts, said the story is about death and the effect of death on women. Castleberry is not only directing the show, but he has also translated and adapted the original script of "Blood Wedding." Castleberry said he has

directed almost 200 plays, but never one by Lorca because his plays are difficult to do. "I thought, 'well, I want a challenge,' so I decided to do this after many years and I am glad I did," Castleberry said. "Although, I must say it has been quite a journey." He said he has tried to keep the original writer's intent by keeping the sense of the poetry and the spirit of the playwright in the story. Castleberry changed some of the aspects that did not work well on stage and refined some of the longer passages of poetry so that the action of the play moves faster, he said. "There are several translations and adaptations on the market, but (Castleberry) felt that there were problems with each of those," Ledford said. "(They) didn't prepare the audience well enough for the symbolic elements." Castleberry said he added dancing and music to the production while still keeping the tragic tone of the play. The live Spanish guitars, drums, trumpets, rhythm instruments and singers will entertain the audience during the transitions, Castleberry said. Ledford said the cast spent many rehearsals practicing the



Shanna Taylor/Lariat staff  
Victoria Eisele and Daniel Hubbard play lovers on the run in Baylor Theatre's production of "Blood Wedding." The show will play this week only in the Mabee Theatre in Hooper-Schaefer Fine Arts Center.

music and choreography of folk and flamenco dances. Ledford has acted in and directed many plays, but she said "Blood Wedding" has still been very challenging. She said memorizing and understanding the script has taken her longer than normal because of the poet-

ic and symbolic language Lorca uses. "Lorca is definitely a poet before he is a playwright," Ledford said. "The language in the play is so poetic and so latent with imagery. There is so much talk about knives, and blood, and horses and flowers repeated

over and over and over." Ledford said she spent much time trying to portray the age of her character in a realistic way. "There was a lot of experimentation with physicality, posture, speed of movement," she said. "I had to lower my voice (because the mother) has a much deeper, crisper voice than my own." Ledford said trying to respect and honor the foreign culture in the play was also challenging. "(Blood Wedding) is very dark; it is very passionate. It is definitely tragic in tone," she said. "I think the audience needs to be open to the different time period and the different culture. It is a very intense play. It is definitely entertaining and it is definitely thought provoking, but it is not light-hearted." "Blood Wedding" will be performed at 7:30 p.m. from April 28 through May 2 and 2 p.m. on May 3 in the Mabee Theatre in the Hooper-Schaefer Fine Arts Center. The performances are sold out but there will be a limited number of standing room only tickets sold for \$10 for students, \$15 for general audiences one hour before each performance. The play will run around an hour and a half with no intermission. "In the last couple of days I have been very, very impressed with our students and the quality of work that they are doing and just how well they are doing the show," Castleberry said. "I am very proud of them and they have brought my vision to be, and it looks great from that perspective."

# Acting shines in touching story ‘Soloist’

By Ash Anderson  
Contributor

True stories are often times harder to stomach than fiction. Such is the case of "The Soloist," the biographic film of cellist-turned-schizophrenic Nathaniel Anthony Ayers, Jr., and Los Angeles Times columnist Steve Lopez, and the friendship forged by the two men.



Paramount Pictures  
From left: Robert Downey, Jr. and Jamie Foxx star in the heart-tugging drama "The Soloist." When looking for a story, Steve Lopez (Downey) discovers Nathaniel Anthony Ayers (Foxx), a schizophrenic musician with a troubled past.

## FILMREVIEW

Lopez (Robert Downey Jr.) is a newsman out for any story he can get his hands on. Journal articles and newspaper clippings litter his desk as a source of inspiration, in hopes that something – anything – might jump out and give him a story to write about. Walking through the urban maze of downtown Los Angeles looking for a catalyst, Lopez comes across a homeless man playing a two-stringed violin. The man points out that he can't seem to find the right pitch for one of Beethoven's symphonies, and Lopez immediately dismisses what he says as the musings of a crazy person, until he mentions that he attended the Julliard School of Music. Striking up a conversation with the man who introduces himself as Nathaniel Anthony Ayers Jr. (Jamie Foxx), Lopez comes to realize that there is something off about this man – his mannerisms and constant rambling pointing to a severe mental handicap. Regardless of any reservations they have about each other, the two men embark on a journey of self-discovery and friendship that leads them to discover the struggle and heartbreak of pursuing dreams long forgotten. As Lopez tries to immerse Ayers into the world of professional music, Ayers's schizo-

phrenia disables him in such a way that he can barely function – much less play his music for even the smallest of crowds. But Lopez sticks by him, and he eventually realizes that all he can be is a friend, and sometimes that is all it takes. Both Foxx and Downey Jr. give powerful performances that bring life to the characters they portray. While the film mainly revolves around Foxx's performance, I would venture to say that Downey Jr. eclipses his co-star with his perfect blend of sarcasm and quick wit. Although the acting is superb, I couldn't help but feel like the direction of the film was severely lacking. Director Joe Wright took distinct advantage of the location, but seemingly avoided any kind of distinct character development aside from what

was integral to the plot. This is not necessarily a poor decision, but overall it detracts from the film when the characters are so deep to begin with. The most compelling aspect of the film is that in no way do the actors or crew try to present this story as one with a happy ending – it's not. The story shown on the screen is almost exactly what happened with Ayers and Lopez, trial and travesty included. Instead, the message of this story is what makes it so interesting. There are people in this world dealing with exactly what Ayers has to deal with, and, a lot of the time, simply offering to be a friend can equip someone with the necessary ability to deal with whatever roadblocks lay ahead.

Grade: B-

## BOX OFFICE RESULTS

1. "Obsessed," \$28.5 million
2. "17 Again," \$11.7 million
3. "Fighting," \$11.4 million
4. "The Soloist," \$9.71 million
5. "Earth," \$8.55 million
6. "Monsters vs. Aliens," \$8.52 million
7. "State of Play," \$6.89 million
8. "Hannah Montana: The Movie," \$6.37 million
9. "Fast & Furious," \$6.06 million
10. "Crank: High Voltage," \$2.4 million

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## Newest Releases in Music & Film (4/28)

### New on DVD

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**"Hotel for Dogs:"**  
starring Emma Roberts  
**"The Uninvited:"**  
starring Emily Browning, Arielle Kebbel

### New on CD

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**Wilco (DVD):**  
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BEAR BRIEFS

Drew adds McLaughlin to 2009 recruiting class

Four days after head coach Scott Drew announced the signing of guard Nolan Dennis, the sixth year coach announced that another member of the class of 2009 has been signed to a letter of intent. Mark McLaughlin, a 6-6 shooting guard from Kenmore, Wash., marks the fifth player that will join the men's basketball team next fall. McLaughlin is rated as the No. 76 prospect in the nation by Rivals.com, and had previously signed to play with Washington State University and the University of Nevada- Reno.

Women's tennis cruises to fourth-straight Big 12 championship

The No. 5 women's tennis team took home their fourth-straight title Sunday at the Big 12 Conference Championships in Norman, Okla. Junior Csilla Borsanyi was awarded with the championship Most Outstanding Player trophy after a tournament in which she took home wins in each of her three singles matches and her doubles match. No. 32 Lenka Broosova defeated Krista Damico of the University of Texas in the championship match, 6-0, 6-1, while Nina Secerbegovic eased by Amanda Craddock, 6-0, 6-2.

Wilson not returning for senior season

Junior post Danielle Wilson has announced that she will not return to head coach Kim Mulkey's squad next year for her senior season. The Bay Shore, N.Y., native led the Lady Bears with 15.1 points and 9.6 rebounds per game, while leading the Big 12 Conference in blocks with 3.1 per game. Wilson earned first-team All-Big 12 honors, All-Big 12 Defensive team, and honorable mention All-America honors while anchoring the Lady Bears' frontcourt.

Compiled by Gordon Voit

To submit a bear brief, e-mail [Lariat@baylor.edu](mailto:Lariat@baylor.edu).

Lady Bears bring home win in weekend series

By Julie Sessions Reporter

The Lady Bears claimed an 11-8 victory Sunday over the University of Kansas in game two of the weekend series in Lawrence, Kan.

The win came after a 7-3 loss Saturday to the Jayhawks and places Baylor in the third spot overall in the Big 12 rankings.

“(Sunday) was a slow pitch softball game for once, and our offense really helped carry Whitney (Canion) to our win,” head coach Glenn Moore said. “To go up and lose the first game and come back and win the second was good ... Obviously we needed to go up to Kansas and sweep (so that) we’d have a chance at possibly sharing the title for Big 12 Champion. But knowing what sort of team we went up against when we got there, I was very happy with the fact we were able to come out with at least a 500 (record).”

Coming up from a 7-1 deficit in the game, freshman Whitney Canion pitched the Lady Bears to her 23rd career victory after giving up seven earned runs on nine hits and striking out 12 players in seven innings.

Senior Brette Reagan struck her eighth home run of the season in the fifth inning, beginning a back and forth frenzy between the teams to keep the lead. After the Jayhawks cut an 8-5 Baylor lead in the sixth by one, junior outfielder Tiffany Wesley hit a two-out single in the ninth that allowed sophomore designated player Jordan Vannatta to score from second.

“We had some great bats, some great runners in scoring positions when we needed them. And Whitney has done phenomenal,” Moore said. “At one point Sunday I thought of changing out the pitching rotation ... but she ended up dominating the opposing lineup and pulled through for us in the end

with the rest of the team.”

Ranked just below the University of Missouri and the University of Oklahoma in Big 12 rankings, the Lady Bears play their last game of the season in a postponed matchup against Texas A&M University Sunday.

“We’ve been doing what we need to do throughout the season to potentially host regional’s here, and we’re really looking forward to playing A&M this weekend because we have some payback in mind since last facing them in College Station,” junior catcher Courtney Ogre said. “With the game being postponed because of the weather this week, having these next few days will give everybody a little bit of time to recover. We have a couple injuries that need to be taken care of ... and a lot of conditioning to do.”

Baylor returns to action this Sunday at home in a rescheduled game against Texas A&M University.



Jacky Reyes/Lariat staff

Baylor right-handed pitcher Shaina Brock (9) throws one in against Rutgers February 27 at Getterman Stadium. The Lady Bears won 7-1.

Mens tennis beats Texas to win championship title

By Ben Powell Reporter

The No. 7 Baylor men's tennis team edged the No. 15 University of Texas 4-3 to win the Big 12 Championship Title. Baylor reached the final with a 4-1 victory over No. 21 Oklahoma State University.

Junior Dominik Mueller and freshman Maros Horny won their matches 6-1, 6-3 and 6-2, 6-3, respectively, setting up No. 43 Jordan Rux, a sophomore,

with the clinching match.

On the final day of competition, Baylor walked onto the courts to be met by Texas and 30 mile-per-hour winds.

“Whoever is the most mentally tough in those type of conditions usually comes out with the win and by the score I guess we were more mentally tough than they were,” assistant coach Kyle Spencer said.

The Bears won the much-needed doubles point against Texas to take an early 1-0 lead.

Junior Denes Lukacs and Horny upset Texas’ No. 43 doubles team of Dimitar Kutrovsky and Josh Zavala 8-3 and No. 21 duo David Galic, a senior, and Rux defeated No. 25 Ed Corrie and Kellen Damico 8-6 to force the Longhorns to try and win the contest in singles play.

The Championship came down to court two where Rux again clinched the match for the win, this time coming from behind to beat Texas’ No. 64 Corrie 5-7, 6-4, 6-4. In the last set, Rux was down 2-4 but surged to win the next four games to put Corrie away.

“Against a team like (Texas) you figure you have to win your match for the team to win anyway, but to have everyone there yelling and screaming it adds a little bit of pressure and I think it’s what every athlete trains for,” Rux said. “It’s kind of a marquee moment and to be able to get that in a big environment, us versus Texas, it’s kind of special.”

Rux was in the same situation last year when the Bears, then No. 11, defeated then seventh-ranked Texas in the Big 12 Championships.

Rux lost his first set in a tie-

“We have a trophy case back home and we don’t put trophies from all tournaments in there, we put these kind of trophies in there.”

Matt Knoll head coach

and doubles.

Baylor has reached the Big 12 Championship finals every year since 2001 and has won seven of the eight titles. This year was Baylor’s fourth-straight to face the Longhorns in the finals and has now won three of the four matches.

“The Big 12 Tournament is a big deal,” head coach Matt Knoll said in a press release. “We have a trophy case back home and we don’t put trophies from all tournaments in there, we put these kind of trophies in there.”

The Bears are 15-40 all-time versus Texas with all 15 of those wins coming under Knoll’s coaching.

The men and women’s tennis teams have invited fans to join them at 4:30 p.m. today in the Ferrell Center’s Stone Reception Room to watch the 2009 NCAA Tennis Championship Show where the brackets for the NCAA Championships will be announced.

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# ‘Smooth’ transition

## Rams take Smith with No. 2 pick in NFL draft

By Gordon Voit  
Contributor

A bear of a man walks down the hallway, testing the horizontal and vertical limits of the door frame as he enters the conference room. Handshakes are exchanged as he climbs up to the podium to find a microphone resting on the table. A reporter politely asks him to test the sound system, to which he responds by channeling legendary beatboxer Rahzel, playfully rattling off his best string of high hats, snare and bass.

Jason Smith has entered the room. Things may seem to come effortlessly to the man they call “J-Smooth”, but guess again if you think his success is a product of luck or just God-given talent. Yes, he was blessed with a 6-foot-5-inch frame and quick feet, but to think that his meteoric rise to the top of NFL draft boards is a byproduct of anything other than sweat and determination is simply wrong. Behind the easy-going aura that follows Smith is a young man bound by an uncommon level of maturity and a resounding work ethic.

“Since my pro day, it’s been about staying ready for camp,” Smith said to the Associated Press. “I’m not out in Honolulu or somewhere thinking about the draft. I’m here in Waco focusing on football.”

No, don’t let the friendly jokester Jason fool you. His transformation into an elite offensive lineman may have come as a surprise to the likes of ESPN’s Mel Kiper and Todd McShay, but not to the man himself. In light of the recent media blitz surrounding the man who was once unwanted by the nation’s top programs, Smith reminds those who will listen that he never lost sight of his ultimate goal of becoming an NFL player: not when he was lightly recruited out of Dallas-White High School, not when he redshirted his true freshman year and not when he had mixed results as a gawky 225-pound tight end.

With a chip on his shoulder and a burning desire to realize his dreams, Smith all but took up residence in the weight room after his freshman season, gaining 80 pounds and the starting right tackle job in the process. But as Smith knows, individual efforts, however great, are doomed to fail without a plan. That’s why Smith attributes his transformation to one principle more so than any supplement or blocking drill: structure. The graduated fifth-year senior and newly minted millionaire says that drawing and executing a plan for success with former head coach Guy Morriss guided him along his journey, making his success possible.

“I woke up every morning with a plan, drawing the line of what I wanted to hear and what I didn’t want to hear,” he said. “Without structure everything will fail.”

Smith’s hard work paid off, and he made a seamless transition to offensive line, starting all 12 games at right tackle

in his sophomore season. But just when it appeared he had finally broken through to the fast track to success, Smith strained his medial collateral ligament in the 2007 season opener against TCU. The injury left him sidelined for three games, but the waiting was far from over. Back in the lineup against Colorado nearly a month later, Smith reinjured the knee, forcing him to miss two more games.

To the outside eye, it appeared that Smith had finally reached his potential. He had solidified himself as a contributor after starting 19 games in two years. Scouts pegged him as a moderate draft prospect with the potential to break into the first round. But to Smith, the injury-plagued games and the scouts’ criticisms wouldn’t cut it. The plan had taken him far, but he hadn’t put in four years of hard work to become a decent player.

With an eye on turning his weaknesses into strengths, Smith would undergo furious preparation for his final year of eligibility. The team averaged a lowly average of 77.8 yards per game on the ground, good for 113th in the country, something that motivated the unselfish Smith to work harder than ever. He focused on improving his lateral quickness and upper body strength, and cleared the way for the revamped offensive unit that made headlines by racking up 195.75 yards per game, the 21st highest average in the country. By the end of the season, Smith had started each of the team’s 11 games and had led the much-improved Bears to a 4-7 record. Offseason awards began pouring in, including being named to the All-Big 12 Conference and All-America teams.

The man with a giant Bear mascot tattooed on his arm had officially ended the Baylor chapter of his career, but like all other phases of his journey, there was still work to be done.

Smith’s next hurdle came on Feb. 18-24 when he impressed the throngs of NFL personnel members assembled at the NFL Scouting Combine in Indianapolis. There, Smith drew praise for his top-10 finishes in the bench press, 40-yard dash, and three-cone drill. But perhaps more importantly, Smith confirmed teams’ reports of his strong character and personable demeanor in the individual interviews and at his press conference.

Smith said that the Baylor coaches’ impact on him was evident as he competed in drills at the Combine in the same position group as fellow elite prospect Andre Smith of the University of Alabama.

“I went to the Combine with my principles that were set here at Baylor by Coach Briles and his staff, (strength coach) Coach Kazadi, and I came out

of there victorious because I was able to compete at a high level. Once I left Arizona (where Smith prepared for the Combine) I was always the same guy.”

He also added that he trained with a chip on his shoulder, knowing that the rival Smith was ranked ahead of him by many at the time, a mindset he became accustomed to while playing for a

er, despite hearing himself compared to the likes of legends like Orlando Pace, Smith says that he refuses to let the rush of attention get to his head so as to

avoid complacency.

“(The attention) hasn’t hit me, because once it hits you then it’s (over),” he said.

The draft saga continued later on that month, when he participated in Baylor’s Pro Day alongside nine former teammates. In front of representatives from 16 NFL teams, Smith and the others ran through drills similar to the Combine, though Smith let his combine workout numbers stand and chose to only participate in the position drills.

Next came the personal workouts with several teams. Smith visited with several of the teams at the top of the draft, including a March 12 visit with the St. Louis Rams in Waco, a meeting that impressed the team enough to take Smith No. 2 overall in this weekend’s draft.

Though others may be surprised by Smith’s climb from rarely used tight end to the franchise cornerstone of an NFL team, for the 309-pound tackle, it’s all part of the plan. The next stop? Turning around a franchise that ranked in the bottom six in the NFL in both offense and defense on its way to a disappointing 2-14 season.

One thing is for sure: the Rams’ newest addition to the offensive line will have a structured plan for success that is sure to rub off on his teammates.

Former Baylor left tackle Jason Smith celebrates after St. Louis selected him No. 2 overall. Smith becomes the first Baylor player selected in the first round since 1996.

Associated Press

## Notable 1st-round picks

|     |                   |            |            |
|-----|-------------------|------------|------------|
| QB  | Matt Stafford     | Georgia    | Lions      |
| QB  | Mark Sanchez      | USC        | Jets       |
| WR  | Michael Crabtree  | Texas Tech | 49ers      |
| DE  | Brian Orakpo      | Texas      | Broncos    |
| QB  | Josh Freeman      | KSU        | Buccaneers |
| WR  | Jeremy Maclin     | Missouri   | Eagles     |
| TE  | Brandon Pettigrew | OSU        | Lions      |
| DT  | Evander Hood      | MU         | Steelers   |
| OLB | Brian Cushing     | USC        | Texans     |

## Dallas looks to build stronger team with second-day selections

By David Jimenez  
The Associated Press

IRVING – There were no big-time players taken with high picks and no huge trades that made a big splash. It seemed like a pretty uneventful weekend for the Dallas Cowboys, who have a reputation for free-wheeling ways during the NFL draft.

Things were far from boring, however, after the Cowboys made an NFL-high 12 picks in the second day of the draft on Sunday.

“This is as excited as we’ve ever been about the draft with the numbers and opportunities that

we have,” Cowboys vice president Stephen Jones said. “It’s as exciting as if we had two Number Ones and two Number Twos. To me, this is a lot more interesting process.”

For the first time since Jerry Jones bought the team in 1989, the Cowboys did not have a pick in the first two rounds.

That meant Dallas did not make a selection Saturday and had to wait until Sunday before taking Western Illinois linebacker Jason Williams and Ball State offensive tackle Robert Brewster in the third round.

Dallas drafted Texas A&M’s Stephen McGee in the fourth

round, the first quarterback the team has drafted since taking Quincy Carter in 2001.

The Cowboys also nabbed a pair of defensive ends in the fourth, Oregon State’s Victor Butler and Texas Tech’s Brandon Williams.

“I think the acquisition of this talent complements what we already have on this team,” Jones said.

This is the first time Dallas has gone without a pick in the first two rounds since 1980, when its first pick was in the third round and 78th overall.

The Cowboys’ longest wait in Jones’ tenure before Saturday was

2001, when they drafted Carter at No. 53.

McGee threw for 4,889 yards and rushed for 1,800 more in his first three seasons with the Aggies but made only three starts in 2008 after suffering a torn labrum in his throwing shoulder.

“I really expected to go in the third round,” said McGee, who was taken with the first pick of the fourth round. “I had a lot of things happen in my career that I couldn’t control. Despite all that, I’m thrilled to go to the Cowboys.”

The 6-foot-1, 241-pound Jason Williams was the 69th overall

selection. He made 17 tackles for losses and forced six fumbles as a senior at the FCS school.

Williams was not invited to the scouting combine in February.

“It probably had something to with being an FCS player,” Williams said. “I got overlooked in the process.”

The Cowboys took Brewster with the 75th pick. He was a four-year starter at Ball State and helped the Cardinals go 12-2 in 2008.

“It is a new chapter, the next step in life,” Brewster said. “I’m ready to go to work and do the same things I did at Ball State.”

Famer Orlando Pace. While his production as a professional is yet to be seen, Smith’s work ethic and dedication provide a solid foundation for a solid career. As an avid ambassador for Baylor, Smith gives due allegiance to the school that has made him, and what he believes others able to accomplish a dream.

“The more some kid may wonder how to be just like Jason and say ‘how do I do that,’” Smith said. “Well go get the secrets. Go in there and play football and they will get you where you need to be.”

Smith’s demeanor is contradictory to his playing style. Drawing raves at the NFL Combine for his interview ability, Smith’s warm personality has been favorable among reporters and fans. Yet many believe his destructive attitude in finishing blocks elevated him to be the top offensive lineman in the 2009

class.

“This guy gives you football team a physical identity, a mindset and somebody I think Steven Jackson will enjoy running behind,” Super Bowl champion head coach Jon Gruden said during the draft.

While many of Saturday’s top-draft picks were heralded as future NFL stars during their senior years of high school, Smith took another path to the limelight. Behind Smith’s widespread grin on the stage of Radio City Music Hall were years of hard work to obtain his goal.

“I haven’t been spoon fed,” Smith said. “I have had to scrape everything up off the ground. My plate is still empty.”

Smith was a 220-pound, two-star defensive end recruit out of W.T. White High School. Smith started as a tight end his redshirt freshman year at Baylor before kicking out to offensive tackle.

Cowboys coach Wade Phillips said Butler and Williams will both be converted to outside line-backer.

Brandon Williams, a native of Fort Worth, left school after his junior year. He led the Big 12 with 13 sacks in 2008 and finished his career with 22.5, the fourth most in Texas Tech history.

Butler started just one season in college, but he piled up 22.5 sacks the past two years.

“To make the move, you have to be able to rush the passer,” Phillips said. “You have to see enough of them to know if they can make the change at the next level.”

By Justin Baer  
Sports writer

Offensive tackle Jason Smith’s face illuminated when NFL commissioner Roger Goodell announced the former Baylor All-American had been selected No. 2 overall by the St. Louis Rams in Saturday’s NFL Draft.

The 6-foot-5, 309-pound Dallas native hugged everyone in sight – family, friends, coaches Art Briles and Kaz Kazadi and finally Goodell.

“I feel very privileged, and to number one, to God be the glory,” Smith said in an interview with Deion Sanders immediately after being selected. “My main focus is to wake up and do what I am supposed to do as a person.”

While his passion for excelling on the field can’t be taught, Smith gives much credit to Kazadi, Baylor’s strength and conditioning coach.

Kazadi, who was drafted by the Rams in 1997, joined Briles’ staff from the University of South Florida. Kazadi and Smith generated a bond during the year the two were together.

“Coach Kaz means a lot to me,” Smith said. “Guys that are great guys don’t have to take credit. It is very unexplainable what he is to me. He is a unique person, and I love him.”

Now, Smith will approach the NFL, what he calls the best league in the world. He is assigned a daunting task of filling the shoes of future Hall of