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Bigelow Is First Woman To Win Oscar For Directing Her Film, 'Hurt Locker,' Won Best Picture, More

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Kathryn Bigelow played field commander to bring her raw, relentless Iraq War thriller "The Hurt Locker" to the screen.

After her film triumphed at the Academy Awards with six prizes and made her the first woman ever to win the directing Oscar, she graduated to diplomat with her deft handling of some uncomfortable personal questions from reporters after the show.

Bigelow's rivals included a man from her past — ex-husband James Cameron, whose science-fiction epic "Avatar" also was nominated for the best picture and director that she won.

Backstage, Bigelow judiciously handled reporters' queries about Cameron, who was seated right behind her at the Oscars and joined the standing ovation she received, clapping heartily and saying, "Yes, yes" after she won best director.

"Jim is very inspiring. I think he inspires filmmakers around the world, and for that, I think I can speak for all of them. We're quite grateful," Bigelow said.

Asked what she might say to Cameron about winning over him, Bigelow gave a big laugh and shrugged off the question.

"You left me speechless," Bigelow said. She and Cameron were married from 1989-91, and Cameron won best director and picture for his 1997 blockbuster "Titanic."

First-time winners took all four acting prizes: Sandra Bullock as best actress for "The Blind Side"; Jeff Bridges as best actor for "Crazy Heart"; Mo'Nique as supporting actress for "Precious: Based on the Novel 'Push' by Sapphire"; and Christoph Waltz as supporting actor for "Inglourious Basterds."

Bigelow downplayed descriptions of herself as a female filmmaker throughout awards season. After the Oscars, she reiterated that sentiment but made it clear she was eager for other women to follow her lead in winning Hollywood's top filmmaking honor.

"I hope I'm the first of many, and of course, I'd love to just think of myself as a filmmaker. And I long for the day when that modifier can be a moot point," Bigelow said. "But I'm very grateful if I can inspire some young, intrepid, tenacious male or female filmmaker and have them feel that the impossible is possible, and never give up on your dream."

Bullock's win came a day after she won worst-actress for her romantic comedy flop "All About Steve" at the Razzies, a spoof of the Oscars that mocks Hollywood's low-points of the year.

Four Hurt When Jeep Loses Control, Crashes

Four people were injured Saturday when a vehicle went out of control and overturned on the South Georgia Parkway near its intersection with TeePee Trail, said Ware County Sheriff Randy Royal.

Meanwhile, the Georgia State Patrol is investigating a two-vehicle collision that occurred Sunday morning on Georgia 121 South, said GSP post secretary Donna White.

No serious injuries were noted and the report has not been completed, White said.

"Nothing has been posted yet," White said. "The trooper is working on it."

Sources quoted witnesses as saying that one of the vehicles became airborne.

In Saturday's single-vehicle accident at U.S. 82 and TeePee Trail (west of Waycross,

not far from Baptist Village), the injured were taken to Satilla Regional Medical Center emergency room, said Royal.

They included the driver, Heather A. Myszak, 21, of Waycross, and two of her three passengers, Victoria Harris, 17, of Waycross, and Jacob Myszak, 1.

A third passenger, Anna Hambrick, 24, of Wyoming Avenue, was slightly hurt but was not taken by ambulance to the hospital.

The driver and the baby were taken by private vehicle while Harris was transported by ambulance, said Royal. He said the baby was properly strapped into a child safety seat.

Driving a 1995 Jeep Laredo, Myszak was eastbound on the South Georgia Parkway when she reached down to pick up a compact

music disc. Royal said she looked up and snatched the wheel, causing the vehicle to go out of control.

The Jeep crossed both eastbound lanes and left the pavement, veering into the median of U.S. 82. Royal said the driver returned to the roadway as the driver over-corrected her steering again. The vehicle then skidded onto the median sideways, crossed the westbound lanes and overturned, coming to rest on the north side of the westbound lanes.

Extensive damage was caused to the vehicle, Royal said.

"Two witnesses told of seeing the vehicle overturn. One witness said the Jeep flipped right in front of her," Royal said.

Deputy Robert Weekley investigated the 2:02 p.m. single-vehicle accident.

KESELOWSKI FLIPS



Brad Keselowski's car flips after being nudged by Carl Edwards during the NASCAR Sprint Cup Series Kobalt Tools 500 race at Atlanta Motor Speedway Sunday.

Busch Wins At Atlanta Crash Between Feuding Carl Edwards, Brad Keselowski Is Under NASCAR Investigation

HAMPTON (AP) — Kurt Busch was running out front with three laps to go when things really got interesting.

First, a frightening crash that seemed intentional between two feuding drivers.

Then, another spinning, slamming melee before the white flag came out.

"We've got to win this race three times, maybe even four times," a frustrated Busch said on his radio.

Not to worry. Busch survived a couple of overtime restarts and 16 extra laps to win again Sunday at Atlanta Motor Speedway, a race marred by accusations that Carl Edwards purposely wrecked Brad Keselowski's car, sending it hurtling toward the main stands upside down.

Busch won the spring race at the 1.54-mile trioval for the second year in a row, beating Matt Kenseth to the line by nearly half a second in the Kobalt Tools

500. Juan Pablo Montoya was third, followed by Kasey Kahne and Paul Menard.

"The Deuce is back, baby!" Busch said after his No. 2 Dodge took the checkered flag.

The race went 341 laps instead of its scheduled 325 because of two big crashes near the end. The first one drew the most attention.

Edwards, running 156 laps behind, clipped Keselowski and caused his car to spin, then lift into the air at around 190 mph. It smashed into the barrier in front of the stands roof-first, then flipped back onto the track right side up. Keselowski was OK, but NASCAR ordered Edwards to park his car and summoned him to its trailer.

"That's not cool," Keselowski said. "He could have killed someone in the grandstands."

(see ATLANTA, page 8)

Quake Flattens Turkish Village, Kills 51 People

OKCULAR, Turkey (AP) — A strong, pre-dawn earthquake with a preliminary magnitude of 6 struck eastern Turkey this morning, killing 51 people as it knocked down stone and mud-brick houses and minarets in at least six villages, the government said.

The earthquake surprised many people as they slept, crumpling buildings into piles of rubble. Panicked survivors fled into the narrow village streets, some climbing out of windows, as more than 50 aftershocks measuring up to 5.5 and 5.3 magnitude rattled the region.

The Kandilli seismology center said the quake hit at 4:32 a.m. near the village of Basyurt in Elazig province, about 340 miles east of Ankara, the capital.

The government initially put the death toll at 57 but later lowered it to 51. It gave no explanation for the discrepancy. In addition to the deaths, about 34 people were being treated for injuries from the quake, Turkey's crisis center said.

The worst-hit area was the village of Okcular, where 17 people were killed. As relatives

rushed in for news of their loved ones, authorities blocked off the area so ambulances and rescue teams could maneuver on the village's narrow roads. Residents lit fires to keep warm in the winter cold.

"The village is totally flattened," village administrator Hasan Demirdag told private NTV television.

Ali Riza Ferhat of Okcular said he was awakened by the jolt.

"I tried to get out of the door but it wouldn't open. I came out of the window and started helping my neighbors," he told NTV television. "We removed six bodies."

Television footage showed rescue workers and soldiers at Okcular lifting debris as villagers looked on. Rescuers dug into the dirt to find the body of an elderly man and quickly covered him with a sheet. Two women sat on mattresses wrapped in blankets. The temblor also knocked down barns, killing farm animals.

Another 13 people were killed in the village of Yukari Demirci, Gov. Muammer Erol (see TURKEY, page 8)

Obama To Dems: 'Trust Me' On Health Care Bill

WASHINGTON (AP) — In private pitches to Democrats, President Barack Obama says he will persuade Congress to pass his health care overhaul even if it kills him and even if he has to ask deeply distrustful lawmakers to trust him on a promise the White House doesn't have the power to keep.

That, in a sometimes darkly joking way, is what the president is telling Democratic House members as he begins an all-out push to coax Congress into passing his proposals despite voters' misgivings and Republicans' dire warnings.

"He made the case, 'Listen, we put in a very hard year working on health care reform and the time for action is now,'" said Rep. Ron Kind, D-Wis., one of several Democrats who met with Obama at the White House on Thursday.

Obama joked that the political battle has contributed to the recent rise in his cholesterol. Kind said, and the president noted how ironic it would be if health care drove him to his grave.

But Obama is anything but sickly these days, making health care pitches Monday in Philadelphia and Wednesday in St. Louis, and instructing aides to address every question or concern Democratic lawmakers possibly can raise.

Some answers, however, rely more on faith than fact. Confronting party unrest on his left and right, Obama is calling for political courage, citing historic opportunities and essentially say-



Rep. Joseph Crowley, D-N.Y., leaves the West Wing of the White House after talking with President Barack Obama about health care.

ing "trust me" in areas inherently murky, uncertain and out of his control. The process for getting health care legislation through Congress is tough enough already, and Republicans are determined to derail it.

Obama told House liberals last week that he understands their frustration in seeing priorities — such as allowing the government to sell insurance in competition with private companies — dropped from the revised legislation. He promised to work with them in the future to improve health care laws, said Rep. Barbara Lee, D-Calif., who leads the Congressional Black Caucus.

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—page 2—

Only 25 Days Until...
Our 6th Annual Swampfest
April 2nd & 3rd 2010

Multi-User Church
Since Burnt Fort Chapel (today's top of page 1 photo) was built in the 18th century, the church has hosted Union, Episcopal and later Methodist and Baptist congregations. Plans for the current non-denominational chapel were conceived in 1976, as a bi-centennial project.

What's Inside
Vol. 92 No. 56

Billy Graham	4
Classified Ads	13,14
Comics	12
Dear Abby	4
Editorials	5
Extended Forecast	2
Family News	10-11
Obituaries	3
Sports	6-7