

Baylor men's basketball falls to UT in Austin 74-69 Wednesday night.



Thursday | February 27, 2014



CONSTANCE ATTON | LARIAT PHOTOGRAPHER

## Two of a kind

Waxahachie freshman Marissa Mueller and Irvine, Calif., freshman Kelsey Stevens performed the song "You and I" by Ingrid Michaelson Wednesday during the Panhellenic New Member Talent Show held inside the Bill Daniel Student Union Building. Mueller and Stevens came in third place while representing Zeta Tau Alpha.



TRAVIS TAYLOR | PHOTO EDITOR

Ben Tatro, 32, speaks with Harlingen senior Jacqueline Lopez on the platform of Kesha Rogers, who is running for the United States Senate, Wednesday on South Fifth Street and Bagby Avenue. Rogers, a LaRouche Democrat, is running on a platform for the impeachment of President Barack Obama.

## Group speaks out, urges students to impeach Obama

By JORDAN CORONA  
STAFF WRITER

Two campaign representatives for U.S. Senate hopeful Kesha Rogers stood behind a picture of President Barack Obama, defaced with a mustache to look like Adolf Hitler at the corner of Fifth and Bagby Streets Wednesday.

"We don't want to impeach Obama for those mainstream racial bull--- reasons," Rey Padron, a Rogers campaign representative, said. "He's in the way of us rebuilding the country."

Members of Rogers' LaRouche movement urged Baylor students to impeach Obama by the end of the week.

Rogers' campaign and her party's platform are centered around ideas like re-imposing the Glass-Steagall Act to intentionally damage the U.S. banking system and impeaching the

president.

A few drivers honked their horns at the intersection, acknowledging the campaign's provocative "Impeach Obama" signs. When pedestrians stopped at the table, the campaigners talked about the administration's foreign policy, calling attention to the administration's support of rebel groups in Ukraine and Lybia. Distributing party informational fliers and Rogers-for-Senate information, the campaigners talked to pedestrians about their dissatisfaction with the present executive administration.

Lori Fogleman, Baylor assistant vice president for media communications, said the organizers did not know about Baylor's political activism policies when they came to demonstrate on campus without permission.

They left without incident when Baylor police advised them to do so.

## Obama seeking \$300 billion for roads, railways

By NEDRA PICKLER  
ASSOCIATED PRESS

ST. PAUL, Minn. — President Barack Obama said Wednesday he will ask Congress for \$300 billion to update aging roads and railways, arguing that the taxpayer investment is a worthy one that will pay dividends by attracting businesses and helping put people to work.

Obama announced his plan at the Union Depot rail and bus

station after touring a light rail maintenance facility. Funding for surface transportation programs expires later this year, and the White House says 700,000 jobs could be at risk unless Congress renews them.

"At a time when companies are saying they intend to hire more people this year, we need to make that decision easier for them," Obama said, by rebuilding aging transportation systems, power grids, communications networks

and other projects that ease commerce.

"The bottom line is there's work to be done, workers ready to do it," he said, adding that one of Congress' major responsibilities is to help states and cities pay for such projects.

Transportation Secretary Anthony Foxx warned Wednesday of a "transportation cliff" coming in August or September when the Highway Trust Fund, which finances federal highway and transit

projects, is forecast to go broke.

The trust fund will need an influx of \$100 billion over the next six years just to maintain transportation spending levels. But Obama and Congress have been unwilling to raise federal gasoline and diesel fuel taxes that have been the main source of federal transportation funding for decades.

AAA, the automobile association, on Wednesday criticized

SEE **ROADS**, page 6

## Judge strikes down ban on gay marriage

By JORDAN CORONA  
STAFF WRITER

A federal judge decided Texas' same-sex marriage ban is unconstitutional Wednesday.

U.S. District Judge Orlando Garcia ruled in favor of two homosexual couples seeking marital recognition from the state of Texas.

The defendants in the case included Gov. Rick Perry and State Attorney General Greg Abbott.

"Without a rational relation to a legitimate governmental purpose, state-imposed inequality can find no refuge in our United States Constitution," Garcia wrote in his decision. "These Texas laws deny plaintiffs access to the institution of marriage and its numerous rights, privileges, and responsibilities for the sole reason that Plaintiffs wish to be married to a person of the same sex."

The judge stayed his the ruling pending the decision of the Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals. This means Texas is still one of 33 states prohibiting homosexu-

al marriage.

Abbott said he plans to submit an expedited appeal to the court, which is based in New Orleans.

"The U.S. Supreme Court has ruled over and over again that states have the authority to define and regulate marriage," Abbott said. "The Texas Constitution defines marriage as between one man and one woman."

Abbott's official response to the ruling directed attention to that appeals process, saying the ultimate decision about state law is up to the higher courts.

The decision has people across the state and campus talking.

"I read the decision will probably get shut down," Harker Heights senior Anthony Rodriguez said.

Almost two years ago, Rodriguez helped form a group of students who wanted to talk about LGBT issues called the Sexual Identity Forum, which meets in the Bill Daniel Student Center on Thursday nights. The

SEE **MARRIAGE**, page 6

## Davis challenges Baylor to get fit for state program

By JESSICA ABBEY  
REPORTER

Students are getting off the couch and teaming up to walk across Texas the week following spring break.

These students are signing up for the Walk Across Texas challenge, an eight-week program designed to help Texas become more regularly active. The challenge takes place from March 24 through May 16.

Van Davis, assistant director for fitness and nutrition education, is working to form teams of faculty and students to represent Baylor in this challenge.

An interest meeting will take place at 5:15 p.m. Wednesday and 12:20 on March 6 in 308 McLane Student Life Center. Students can sign up online at [walkacrosstexas.tamu.edu](http://walkacrosstexas.tamu.edu) as individuals or teams of up to eight.

Teams can be made up of Baylor students, faculty, staff and their

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TRAVIS TAYLOR | PHOTO EDITOR

## Inside

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City manager Larry Groth retires after 10 years of service to the Waco community.



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Singer-songwriter Trannie Stevens takes the Sing stage for the first time with SAE's act.



### WEB

Check online for a complete photo slideshow of the men's basketball game against UT.





# Stoodents are not prepared for collage

## Editorial

The transition from high school to college can be a difficult one. Even without the medical school with the same name, Baylor is well-known for the rigor of its pre-medicine program. Approximately 1,000 freshmen come to Baylor with the declaration of pre-medicine until they take freshman biology.

The department of biology has established a pre-biology major in order to prevent students from declaring a biology major until they have credit for the first two biology classes.

Aside from that, first-year students in general may have trouble in their classes as a result of a lack of preparation in high school.

One way to prepare students better is to start science education classes earlier.

Can you recall how early you really started learning science in elementary school?

Sure, there were probably children-approved “labs” that were brought into classrooms that students glazed over, but science was likely not emphasized as much as math or English.

Another way to help students become better prepared to succeed in college is to encourage early education to be dynamic and hands-on.

This may include a larger emphasis on the use of science labs or real-life applications of math-

ematics or even readings about current events or important books that shaped the world.

We should also encourage teachers to inspire students through their love of the subject matter.

It’s easier for students to become passionate about a subject if the teacher is also passionate about what he or she is teaching.

Additionally, students are more likely to enjoy a subject they are good at over a subject they constantly struggle with.

The Program for International Student Assessment found in 2012 that there were 22 school systems that scored higher than the U.S. in science, which is up from 18 in 2009.

According to the ACT, only 64 percent of the high school students who took the ACT met the College Readiness Benchmark in English, which is the likelihood the student will have success in a first-year English college course.

The ACT defines readiness for college classes as a 50 percent chance the student will obtain a B or higher or a 75 percent chance the student will earn a C or higher in a first-year college course.

Only a third of students met the benchmark for science and 44 percent met the readiness benchmark in reading and math.

Only 26 percent of all students met the College Readiness Benchmark for all four subjects — English, reading, math and science.

That means 74 percent of students, nearly three out of four, will have trouble in at least one of

those four areas upon arriving in college.

The Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development found American 9th graders rank 26th in math and 21st in science out of 34 countries.

Conversely, ninth-graders in Shanghai have the highest math and science scores.

This poses a problem for students, parents and educators who want to see students succeed in college and be sufficiently prepared for their courses at a university.

It also poses a problem for students who come to college at a disadvantage because they were not sufficiently prepared beforehand.

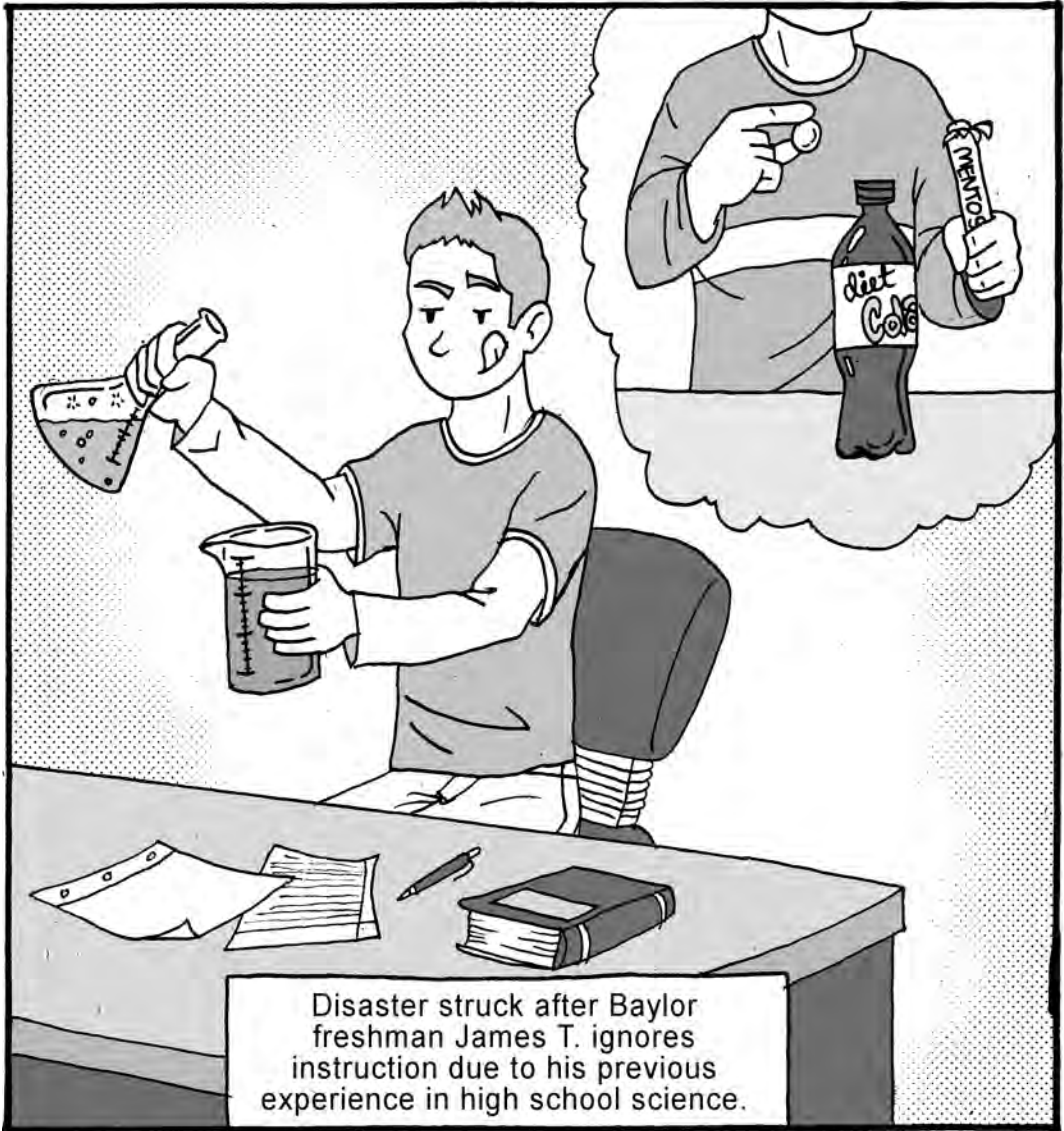
Readiness is important for students because students, of course, want to succeed in their classes and make A’s in their classes.

Readiness is also important for educators who want to do a good job of teaching their students.

This is especially true at Baylor, where professors are known to take special interest in the success of their students.

Parents also want their children to succeed in school. They are paying thousands of dollars to send their children to college to get an education, but if their children aren’t ready for the demand and rigor of a college education, it’s doing those students a disservice to send them into an environment where the odds are against them.

There is a strong push for students to go into STEM fields — science, technology, engineering



ASHER FREEMAN

and math.

However, why should we push students to go into a field that they are not sufficiently prepared to succeed in?

This means students, teachers and parents all need to work to ensure college readiness among students who opt to take the college route.

If students are the future of the world, do we really want those who can barely pass the readiness benchmarks for beginning level college classes running it?

## Gamer stereotype needs to ctrl+F4

Stereotypes are everywhere. The color of your skin, your religion, your age, occupation and even your hair color make you subject to stereotyping.

Some can be hurtful to you emotionally, some can even hurt your ability to get a job, and there are also some that are just annoying, but either way they affect your life in some way.

One stereotype that’s particularly irritating to me is the “gamer” stereotype that people who play videogames are catatonic because games kill your brain, they are severely anti-social and of course, they are all male.

It’s bad enough that our society has preconceived notions about me, having brown hair and blue eyes, going to Baylor, being from Texas, being right-handed, eating pizza.

OK maybe not that last one, but I wouldn’t be surprised.

With all of these to keep up with, why do people feel the need to keep adding more and more unnecessary stereotypes to this already bias-heavy world, especially when they’re so very inaccurate?

Some of the smartest people I know are gamers. Studies even show that the commonly held



Katdie Norton | Reporter

idea that playing videogames will rot your brain is wrong.

Apparently one hour a day of gaming is shown to actually increase your brain’s gray matter. Video games also improve your strategic thinking and help you make faster decisions (like, shoot him before he shoots you).

Also, the notion that videogames make you violent is just ridiculous.

Driving on campus is what makes you violent, but going home to run over people in your virtual world is what relieves that stress.

So, please don’t think gamers

are brain-fried and less intelligent because that sort of thinking gets people killed (my level 90 mage kills people all the time because of this).

Another part of our gamer stereotype is that we are 40 years old and still live in our parents’ basement.

That’s another ridiculous notion. There’s no need to move all my stuff to the basement when my bedroom is much more comfortable (plus, Mom brings me snacks).

Seriously though, anti-social? Games nowadays connect you with people all over the world and provide you with multiple ways to communicate and interact.

From typing “hi, how are you today?” to actually seeing someone in a face-to-face video, you get to be social.

Have you ever heard of a convention? If you want to see social gamers, go to ComicCon, but you just may not be able to handle our sort of social.

Some people may think it’s OK to label people when they actually “fit” the stereotype. But not only is it never OK to stereotype people, but this particular one is completely off.

The biggest trouble with some

people’s preconceived notions of gamers is that only guys play videogames. I get insulted when I’m in a game store and am asked if I need help shopping for my boyfriend.

I do, because guys aren’t as easy to shop for as they claim, but that’s not why I’m at that store. I need a new mouse to play World of Warcraft with and it’s just for me.

I know so many girls who break this stereotype, it’s actually comical that it still exists.

I can’t change every bias. I’m sorry if people think you are less intelligent because you are blonde or if people think you aren’t serious about your life just because you’re young.

Maybe if we start small by showing people a stereotype as simple as “gamers are brain-fried, anti-social dudes” is wrong, it’ll change the way we use all of the other stereotypes.

If we can start weaning people from using this one stereotype, maybe one day it will spread to our sad overabundance of other inaccurate and more painful stereotypes.

Katdie Norton is a senior journalism major from Simms. She is a reporter for The Lariat.

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Trannie Stevens hits high notes as ‘lifeguard diva’

By KAT WORRALL  
REPORTER

Uproar Records’ singer-songwriter artist Trannie Stevens, a McGregor junior, has a lot of musical experience. She’s performed with big names like Toby Keith and Jack Ingram. She has been a headlining performer, recorded in Nashville and has big hopes for her musical future. However, performing with Sigma Alpha Epsilon during this year’s All-University Sing is a first for Stevens and an experience she calls incomparable.

Stevens at first struggled with the idea of competing with Sigma Alpha Epsilon when their head Sing chair, Sugar Land junior Jack Spalding, asked her last spring. Because of an illness her sophomore year, Stevens has never competed in Sing with her sorority Chi Omega, she said.

“It is sad for me to not be on stage with Chi Omega, because so many of my good friends are in the act and created the act, but it has been really fun and worth it to be in SAE,” she said.

After receiving her friends’ approval, Stevens committed in the fall to performing with Sigma Alpha Epsilon. Spalding and Stevens have been friends since freshman year and even composed and performed two songs for After Dark that year. Spalding was excited to have Stevens’ talent for Sigma Alpha Epsilon.

“She adds so much to the show,” Spalding said. “When I say her name in the middle of the act, people go nuts.”

Sigma Alpha Epsilon’s act “Lifeguard” is about lifeguards trying to control the “pool rats,” Stevens said. While Stevens sings a little on nearly all of the songs, her two main songs are “It’s a Hard Knock Life” and Dreamgirls’ “And I Am Telling You I’m Not Going,” the Sing finale song. Steven’s outfit, a poofy pink dress, was one of her ideas for the act, Spalding said.

“When I suggested the song that is the finale, which is a big finale, she was like, ‘What if I wore this dress I wore to prom in high school?’” Spalding said. “It was so pink and girly-girl and I thought it was funny.”

She also contributed to some of the interactions happening on the side and how the men sing, Spalding said.

“Her creative vision is her second best quality,” Spalding said, after her vocal talent.

With Sigma Alpha Epsilon’s traditionally humorous act, which includes rapping, opera and a recorder performance, the group takes a different approach than most groups, but it is more Stevens’ speed, she said.

“This is supposed to be a fun show,” Stevens said. “This isn’t necessarily a career starter for people. I totally understand why people pour so much time into it because it is a competition. I get it and I respect people who take it really seriously because it is a lot of work, but I also respect SAE for being different.”

While many groups spend hours each week practicing, she said Sigma Alpha Epsilon had around eight practices.

“They’re able to put together an act that’s well done and hilarious with very minimal effort,” she said. “It’s unique that they can do that. It’s one of the most anticipated acts in the show every year.”

Spalding decided to use Stevens and her voice because of her talent and Sigma Alpha Epsilon’s lack of singers.

“Trannie is incredibly talented and a beautiful voice,” Spalding said. “Having her in Sing takes that much weight off my own voice. I have somebody else in the show singing beside me — that was actually a goal I accomplished this year.”

“This is more like theater to me. I’m a lifeguard, then I’m a lifeguard diva in a pink dress.”

Trannie Stevens | McGregor junior

Stevens said her favorite part of the act is walking out at the end, alone on the stage in her pink dress, and then having the boys dance behind her.

“They all come out, do ‘Kappa arms’ and make fun of every other Greek life on campus behind me,” Stevens said. “It’s just so funny.”

With new friends and a new Sing experience, Stevens has enjoyed par-



McGregor junior Trannie Stevens, a singer-songwriter and Uproar artist, belts it out for a packed All-University Sing audience on Thursday. This is Stevens’ first time performing at Sing.

icipating with the group and joked they “made her a SAE.”

“Everybody else’s is so similar, in certain ways,” Stevens said. “They’re trying to maximize every single thing on the score sheet and SAE is just trying to create the most entertaining act they possibly can. I think that is more important in the long run.”

The entertainment is not without improvement on the legitimacy of the act each year, she said, and that is because of Spalding.

“Jack is very serious about turning SAE’s reputation around,” Stevens said. “He wants to keep it fun and he wants to keep it funny and what SAE is known for in that way, but he also wants it to be well done and for it to have a chance to go to Pigskin. I think he does a really good job and has honestly increased the quality of the act every year.”

As for Sigma Alpha Epsilon’s chance of making Pigskin Revue this year, Stevens said she believes they might have a chance.

“I think we are the wild card,” she said. “I don’t think there’s a great chance, but if it happens, I am going to be the happiest girl at Baylor.”

Whether or not the group makes

Pigskin, Stevens said she believes they should not change a thing for their future performances.

“I think they should keep doing what they’re doing, honestly,” she said. “Maybe practice a bit more to really nail choreography, because that is something that is important, but I think they should always keep entertainment and comedy as their number one.”

As for Stevens’ more serious musical career, she has a new single being released on April 1 called “Twice.”

Stevens is working on an EP to be released next fall and is planning a mini-tour in April with Auburn University student and folk singer-songwriter Ben Hoefling. The duo will be perform on April 12 at Common Grounds.

Stevens is using her time competing in All-University Sing with the men of Sigma Alpha Epsilon to shed her singer-songwriter persona for a few nights.

“This is more like theater to me,” Stevens said. “I’m not being myself on stage — I’m a lifeguard. I’m a lifeguard, then I’m a lifeguard diva in a pink dress.”

Choral festival allows students to teach music

By IAN CURRIE  
REPORTER

This morning, more than 300 high school choir students will arrive at Baylor without any music. By 5 p.m. they will perform together for the first time, singing pieces they have been taught in one day.

This combination of intensity, teamwork and talent is the core of the 10th annual Women’s Choir Festival.

The festival will conclude with a free concert at 5 p.m. in Jones Concert Hall in the Glennis McCrary Music Building.

The concert will feature choirs of varying sizes in addition to performances by four soloists.

Baylor’s 36-voice Bella Voce choir, the 66-voice women’s choir and the festival choir, a combination of young women from eight high schools, will perform.

The performing choirs and soloists will showcase choral music from various composers. The choirs are all different sizes and will each present a different combination of vocal performances.

Dr. Michele Henry, associate professor of choral education, said what makes this festival unique is the high school girls receive the music they will perform for the first time on the morning of the festival.

“The upper-level choral education students spend the festival physically teaching music,” Henry said.

The concert shows the product of a day-long intensive teaching program led by Baylor upper-level choral education students.

The teaching element of the festival is divided into two sections. The first section is led by choral education students while the second is led by an expert clinician from outside the student body.

In the first stage, the high school students are split into groups so each student can receive more focused training.

Baylor choral education students are spread throughout the groups and teach the groups the music.

Then Derek Brookins, director of choral studies at Plano High School, will help refine the taught material in a clinic.

“It is quite a feat to achieve this performance by the end of the day, given the amount of time available and the amount of people learning at the same time,” Henry said.

Grapevine senior Vanessa Todora is teaching at the festival for the second time. She said it is a special and important part of her class.

“We have to apply the message we learn from our classes,” Todora said. “I love that the class is so integrated and we have to get out there and experience it for ourselves.”

Todora described the experience of getting high school students to learn and perform music within one day as “exceptionally gratifying.”

Henry said the festival is important as it allows the women in the choirs to showcase their abilities.

“There is a body of repertoire specifically designed for female vocalists,” Henry said. “All these women have background in women’s choirs and specialize in women’s choirs.”

An audience member at the concert can expect a diverse lineup, both in terms of experience and style.

“There are a variety of female voices performing, from collegiate to soloists and high school students,” Henry said.

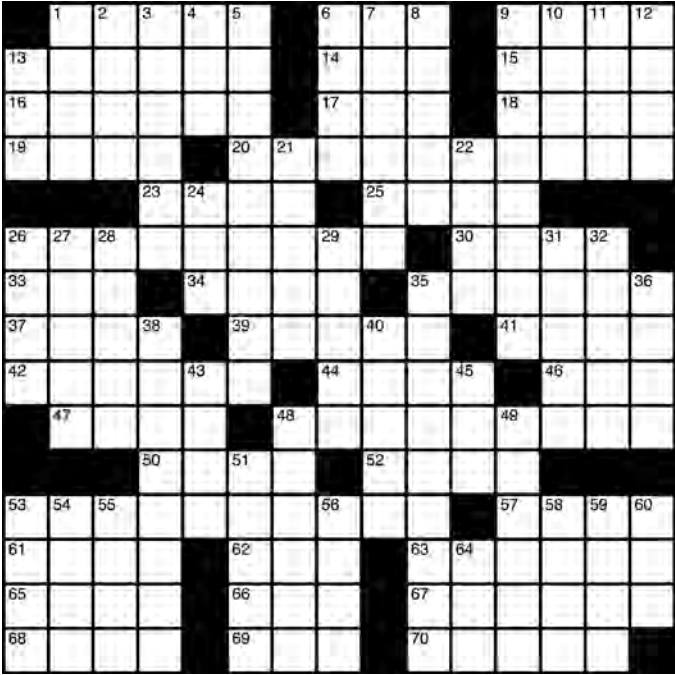
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- 1 McCarthy’s dummy friend
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  - 9 Cougar
  - 13 Canadian dollar coin nickname
  - 14 “I threw away my golf shoes when I got a hole in one” e.g.
  - 15 Computer operating system
  - 16 “Blackadder” network
  - 17 Hosp. heart exam
  - 18 Medicinal dose
  - 19 Cutie pie
  - 20 Impressionist whom Mel Blanc labeled “The Man of a Thousand Voices”
  - 23 Baltic feeder
  - 25 “... a \_\_\_ / By any other name ...”
  - 26 Head honcho
  - 30 Tolkien’s talking trees
  - 33 Equal: Pref.
  - 34 “The Mod Squad” cop
  - 35 Show shame, perhaps
  - 37 Smudge
  - 39 ‘60s jacket style
  - 41 UFO-tracking org.
  - 42 Unsavory sort
  - 44 Respectful address
  - 46 From, in some European names
  - 47 Star witnesses?
  - 48 Driving with abandon
  - 50 Hispaniola, por ejemplo
  - 52 Poet \_\_\_ St. Vincent Millay
  - 53 Borzois, e.g.
  - 57 Gratify
  - 61 Put out
  - 62 Low numero
  - 63 Prominent Ore. peak
  - 65 Wither in the sun
  - 66 Porter’s “\_\_\_ De-Lovely”
  - 67 B beater
  - 68 Raised
  - 69 Look at
  - 70 Super Bowl XLVII player
- Down
- 1 Area below Greenwich Village
  - 2 Sleigh ride song
  - 3 As a whole
  - 4 Kid
  - 5 Making pronouncements
  - 6 A writer may work on it
  - 7 Trick-taking card game
  - 8 Prefix meaning “English”



- 9 Portable shelters
- 10 Curriculum part
- 11 Grain grinder
- 12 Rod in a hot rod
- 13 Letters on some Brit. letterheads
- 21 Dancer Castle
- 22 Oracle’s opening
- 24 UPS competitor
- 26 Lettuce variety
- 27 Imam’s faith
- 28 Fondue choice
- 29 Knucklehead
- 31 “Three Coins ...” fountain
- 32 Resolute about
- 35 Reserve soldier
- 36 Minor dent
- 38 Put a bad present to good use
- 40 Like daisies
- 43 Lillian of the silver screen
- 45 Musical key abbr.
- 48 Smart-looking
- 49 Enter quickly
- 51 Character in “Donald’s Nephews” (1938 cartoon)
- 53 5’7” Spud who won the 1986 NBA Slam Dunk contest
- 54 “Rubáiyát” poet
- 55 Enjoy
- 56 Bouquet
- 58 Top-of-the-line
- 59 Visit with a guide
- 60 Money mgrs.?
- 64 Texter’s “I didn’t need to know that!”





MICHAEL CONROY | ASSOCIATED PRESS

Former Baylor offensive guard and NFL Draft prospect Cyril Richardson runs through drills at the 2014 NFL Combine on Saturday at Lucas Oil Stadium in Indianapolis, Ind.

## Bears display athleticism at NFL Combine

By JEFFREY SWINDOLL  
SPORTS WRITER

Baylor football's presence at the NFL Combine consistently sees widespread improvement from year to year.

Last weekend, six Baylor players participated in the 2014 NFL Combine at Lucas Oil Stadium in Indianapolis,— safety Ahmad Dixon, running back Lache Seastrunk, tight end Jordan Najvar, cornerback Demetri Goodson, offensive guard Cyril Richardson and wide receiver Tevin Reese.

Baylor football's combine class served as proof that assistant athletic director for athletic performance Kaz Kazadi's strength training and conditioning program at Baylor is producing exceptional results.

The six players participated in drills to highlight pure athleticism, and the Bears throughout one of the NFL's most rigorous tests before the draft.

Starting with the offensive players, Seastrunk came into the season with expectations of winning the Heisman.

He did not win the prestigious award, after going through some injury issues in the middle of the season, but Seastrunk showed just his unique blend of speed and strength to the NFL scouts.

"I set a goal in my head to run below a 4.3, and that's my goal to keep striving for," Seastrunk told Fox Sports 1 before the running the 40. "I know I can do it. It's within reach."

The transfer from Oregon had his expectations set high but fell short of the goal he set for himself. Seastrunk clocked in at 4.51 in the 40-yard dash. A disappointing time for Seastrunk personally, but he showed his athleticism in a number of other events at the combine.

*"Dixon possesses the physical talent to compete in the NFL and even earn a starting job eventually if he can stay focused, commit to a playbook and hone his eyes."*

Nolan Nawrocki | NFL.com analyst

Posting the best vertical jump among running backs at 41.5 inches and a broad jump of 134 inches, Seastrunk can walk away with his head held high as one of the overall best running back prospects for NFL scouts.

Reese followed suit after Seastrunk. He did not have the most impressive 40-yard time, 4.46 seconds, when considering all the other receivers' times, but Reese dominated in the other drills just as Seastrunk did.

In the vertical jump, broad jump and three-cone drill, Reese posted the best times and distances

among the wide receivers. Reese and Seastrunk were the most notable standouts at the combine.

Najvar perhaps needed the combine more than any other offensive player from Baylor. He played in an offense that did not use tight ends for more than blocking on the majority of the snaps.

Baylor's offense is wide and quick with four to five receivers on nearly every down.

Therefore, Najvar needed to be firing on all cylinders for the NFL scouts last weekend to prove just how capable he is of doing both primary responsibilities of a tight end— blocking and catching.

Najvar recorded 18 bench press reps of 225 pounds and 4.96 seconds in the 40-yard dash.

Najvar earned the top times among tight ends in two drills. Najvar ran the three-cone-drill at 7.14 seconds. Najvar also earned the fastest time in the 60-yard shuttle at 12.02 seconds.

The athletic ability of all these Baylor players came to the forefront at the combine, and Najvar's three-cone-drill time showed the athleticism did not just apply to the receivers and running backs from Baylor.

"There are a couple of things that I will test again and improve on at my pro day," Najvar told Corey Brewer from The Pewter Plank website. "It was important to me to do every event the combine offered, because it would show me the areas I need to improve on."

The combine can serve as a measuring stick for NFL hopefuls like Najvar. Najvar trained in Dallas at the Michael Johnson Performance facility before the combine, and will continue to train to put himself in the best position to be drafted. Experts project Najvar to be selected in the seventh round of the draft or to sign with a team as an undrafted free agent.

Unlike any of the previous three athletes, Dixon did not post the top performance in any events at the combine.

Analysts think Dixon is physically qualified to compete in the NFL. Analysts acknowledge his ability to get involved in plays and impact football games. He was one of Baylor's defensive lightning rods for the past four years.

"Dixon possesses the physical talent to compete in the NFL and even earn a starting job eventually if he can stay focused, commit to a playbook and hone his eyes," NFL.com analyst Nolan Nawrocki said.

Richardson and Goodson's combine performances received mediocre ratings from NFL.com. Both earned ratings between 5.2 and 5.6 on a 10.00 scale. They were given above average chances of making an NFL roster.

Baylor's star power showed up at the combine. Seastrunk and Reese turned heads with high-level performances.

Baylor's pro day is March 19 at the Jay and Jenny Allison Indoor Football Practice Facility. All Baylor players seeking to play professional football will participate.

## Baylor falls 74-69 in Austin to No. 24 Texas Longhorns

By SHEHAN JEYARAJAH  
SPORTS WRITER

For a half, it looked as though the Bears were in hibernation. Baylor finally woke up in the second half, but could not overcome its 25 percent shooting in the first half as Baylor fell to No. 24 Texas 74-69, in Austin.

"There's a few reasons we've struggled to put halves together, something different every game," senior power forward Cory Jefferson said. "They got a lot of easy buckets in transitions and threes, and we weren't defending their shots. Obviously, there were a lot of things we could have done differently, but it's just a tough loss right now."

Jefferson started off the game with a post basket, but Baylor's offense stalled from there. The Bears (18-10, 6-9) shot 1-for-7 to open the game, including three missed three-pointers.

Texas (21-7, 10-5) hit on its first three three-pointers to start, including two from sophomore guard Javan Felix as Texas built a quick 12-3 lead under five minutes into the game.

Junior point guard Kenny Chery responded with eight straight points, including two treys, to key a 10-3 run for Baylor to bring the Texas lead down to 15-13. From there, Baylor's offense stalled. The Bears went eight minutes without a basket as Texas used a 18-3 run behind six points from freshman guard Isaiah Taylor and another three-pointer from Felix. Texas took a 42-27 lead into the locker room at half.

Chery led the way with 14 points in the first half for a struggling Baylor team, including both of Baylor's three-pointers. Baylor shot 25 percent from the field in the first half, including 2-for-10 from beyond the arc. Outside of Chery, the Bears shot only 4-for-24 from the field.

"We just didn't start out the way we were supposed to," Jefferson said. "They got off to a quick start and hit a lot of threes."

Felix hit all five of his three-pointers in the first half to lead Texas with 15 points.

Longhorns sophomore center Cameron Ridley added 13 points and six rebounds. Texas shot 51.6 percent from the field and 6-for-9 from the three-point line.

"I thought they were more physical than us in the first half," Baylor coach Scott Drew said. "They got the 50-50 balls. We'd been scoring in the post the past few games, but we didn't respond to their physicality. You've got to do that for 40 minutes."

Baylor came out of the gates on fire in the second half. The Bears hit 6-of-8 over the first six minutes of the half, including two three-pointers from senior guard Brady Heslip and five points from Chery. The 18-7 run pulled the game within 49-45.

Texas shot 2-for-8 to start before Felix stopped the bleeding with a three of his own.

Ridley added a bucket of his own and Texas pushed their lead to eight.

Chery and junior forward Royce O'Neale responded with threes for Baylor to cut the Texas lead down to 61-59.

Junior forward Jonathan Holmes scored eight straight points for Texas to push the Texas lead out to 69-60, but Jefferson and sophomore center Isaiah Austin responded with buckets to cut the lead right back down to 70-69.

Taylor hit a layup to push Texas's lead out to 72-69 with 43.8 seconds left and Ridley blocked Chery's layup attempt and Taylor hit two free throws to give Baylor the 74-69 win.

Chery finished with a career-high 27 points on 8-for-17 shooting to go along with five three-pointers.

"My teammates found me," Chery said. "I was just trying to be aggressive. We got down early, and I wanted to be aggressive to lead us back."

Jefferson added 14 points, 12 rebounds and two blocks. O'Neale added nine points, all in the second



TRAVIS TAYLOR | LARIAT PHOTO EDITOR

Baylor junior guard Kenny Chery drives to the hoop in Baylor's 74-69 loss to No. 24 Texas on Wednesday at the Frank Erwin Center in Austin.

half. Austin shot 1-for-10 on the night and missed all three of his three-point attempts.

The Baylor bench combined to shoot 1-for-8 from the field.

Felix finished with 21 points in the win for Texas. Ridley added 20 points and 10 rebounds in 27 minutes. Holmes added 14 points and three blocks.

Baylor falls to 18-10 on the season and 6-9 in Big 12 conference play. The Bears currently sit right on the edge of the NCAA

Tournament with only three Big 12 games remaining in the regular season before the conference tournament.

"It's like you get penalized sometimes for having the best conference because of parity," Drew said. Our strength of schedule is eighth in the nation. The Big 12 is as tough as it has ever been."

Baylor will look to avenge its early season loss to the Texas Tech Red Raiders at 12:30 p.m. Saturday at the Ferrell Center in Waco.

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# Russia war games over Ukraine protests prompt US warning

By Karl Ritter and Vladimir Isachenkov  
Associated Press

KIEV, Ukraine — Russia ordered 150,000 troops to test their combat readiness Wednesday in a show of force that prompted a blunt warning from the United States that any military intervention in Ukraine would be a "grave mistake."

Vladimir Putin's announcement of huge new war games came as Ukraine's protest leaders named a millionaire former banker to head a new government after the pro-Russian president went into hiding.

The new government, which is expected to be formally approved by parliament Thursday, will face the hugely complicated task of restoring stability in a country that is not only deeply divided politically but on the verge of financial collapse. Its fugitive president, Viktor Yanukovich, fled the capital last week.

In Kiev's Independence Square, the heart of the protest movement against Yanukovich, the interim leaders who seized control after he disappeared proposed Arseniy Yatsenyuk as the country's new prime minister.

The 39-year-old served as economy minister, foreign minister and parliamentary speaker before Yanukovich took office in 2010, and is widely viewed as a technocratic reformer who enjoys the support of the U.S.

Across Ukraine, the divided allegiances between Russia and the West were on full display as fistfights broke out between pro- and anti-Russia protesters in the strategic Crimea peninsula.

Amid the tensions, Putin put the military on alert for massive exercises involving most of the military units in western Russia, and announced measures to tighten security at the headquarters of Russia's Black Sea Fleet on Ukraine's Crimea peninsula.

The maneuvers will involve some 150,000 troops, 880 tanks, 90 aircraft and 80 navy ships, and are intended to "check the troops' readiness for action in crisis situations that threaten the nation's military security," Defense Minister Sergei Shoigu said in remarks carried by Russian news agencies.

The move prompted a sharp rebuke from U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry, who warned Russia against any military intervention in Ukraine.

"Any kind of military intervention that would violate the sovereign territorial integrity of Ukraine would be a huge, a grave mistake," Kerry told reporters in Washington. "The territorial integrity of Ukraine needs to be respected."

In delivering the message, Kerry also announced that the Obama administration was planning \$1 billion in loan guarantees for Ukraine and would consider additional direct assistance for the former Soviet republic.

Still, Kerry insisted that U.S. policy was not aimed at reducing Russia's influence in Ukraine or other former Soviet republics, but rather to see their people realize aspirations for freedom in robust democracies with strong economies.

"This is not 'Rocky IV'," Kerry said, referring to the 1985 Sylvester Stallone film in which an aging American boxer takes on a daunting Soviet muscleman. "It is not a zero-sum game. We do not view it through the lens of East-West, Russia-U.S.

or anything else. We view it as an example of people within a sovereign nation who are expressing their desire to choose their future. And that's a very powerful force."

Russia denied the military maneuvers had any connection to the situation in Ukraine, but the massive show of force appeared intended to show both the new Ukrainian authorities and the West that the Kremlin was ready to use all means to protect its interests.

While Russia has pledged not to intervene in Ukraine's domestic affairs, it has issued a flurry of statements voicing concern about the situation of Russian speakers in Ukraine, including in the Crimea.

The strategic region, which hosts a major Russian naval base and where the majority of the population are Russian speakers, has strong ties to Moscow.

It only became part of Ukraine in 1954 when Soviet leader Nikita Khrushchev transferred jurisdiction from Russia — a move that was a mere formality until the 1991 Soviet collapse meant Crimea landed in an independent Ukraine.

Igor Korotchenko, a former colonel of the Russian military's General Staff, wrote a commentary in a Russian online newspaper, slon.ru, saying "if illegal armed formations attempt to overthrow the local government in Crimea by force, a civil war will start and Russia couldn't ignore it."

Still, while the exercises include most units from Russia's Western Military District and some from the Central Military District that spreads across the Urals and part of Siberia, it does not involve troops from the Southern Military District, such as the Black Sea Fleet and areas in southern Russia that neighbor Ukraine.

This seemed to signal that Moscow does not want to go too far. By flexing its military muscles Russia clearly wants to show the West it must seriously consider its interests in Ukraine, while avoiding inflaming tensions further.

In Crimea, fistfights broke out between rival demonstrators in the regional capital of Simferopol when some 20,000 Muslim Tatars rallying in support of Ukraine's interim leaders clashed with a smaller pro-Russian rally.

The protesters shouted and attacked each other with stones, bottles and punches, as police and leaders of both rallies struggled to keep the two groups apart.

One health official said at least 20 people were injured, while the local health ministry said one person died from an apparent heart attack. Tatar leaders said there was a second fatality when a woman was trampled to death by the crowd. Authorities did not confirm that.

The Tatars, a Muslim ethnic group who have lived in Crimea for centuries, were brutally deported in 1944 by Soviet dictator Josef Stalin, but have since returned.

One of the first jobs for Yatsenyuk and other members of his new Cabinet will be seeking outside financial help from the European Union and the International Monetary Fund.

Economists say Ukraine is close to financial collapse, with its currency under pressure and its treasury almost empty.

The acting finance minister has said Ukraine will need \$35 billion in bailout loans to get through the next two years.

Any such deal will require a new prime minister to take unpopular steps, such as raising the price of gas to consumers.

## MARRIAGE

from Page 1

Sexual Identity Forum is not an approved Baylor group.

Rodriguez said the group was not intended to promote a given agenda, but instead to encourage dialogue about sexual identity and gender on campus.

"I think there's a misconception that Texas is a bastion of unfriendliness towards the LGBT community," Rodriguez said. "In reality, we're a lot more diverse than we're given credit."

For Colleyville sophomore Kristen Brown, the state ban seemed like a moral imposition, almost a violation of church-state separation. She said she thought the ban on same-sex marriage was discriminating.

"Based on my religious beliefs, I don't really support gay marriage," Brown said. "But I don't think I have the right to tell someone they can't."

Alido freshman Connor Black said he does not agree with gay marriage.

"I've always grown up against it," Black said. "Being from a church background, I was taught marriage is for a man and a woman."

The case Garcia heard involved two homosexual couples.

After a 16-year relationship, Victor Holmes and Mark Phariss were denied a marriage license at the Bexar County Clerk's office in 2013.

Cleopatra de Leon and Nichole Dimetman married September 2011 in Massachusetts and now share child-rearing responsibilities for Dimetman's biological child. Although the state of Massachusetts recognizes both women as the child's legal parents, Texas does not.

Plaintiffs needed to prove the law was responsible for some verifiable injury the parties suffered and that a decision to strike down the ban would make things better.

## ROADS

from Page 1

Washington's refusal to increase fuel taxes to pay for projects.

In the budget he sends Congress next week, Obama will propose that half of the \$302 billion he's seeking come from an overhaul of the corporate tax system.

On Wednesday, Rep. Dave Camp, R-Mich., chairman of the tax-writing House Ways and Means Committee, announced a corporate tax overhaul plan that would dedicate \$126.5 billion in corporate tax revenue to the Highway Trust Fund over the next eight years.

Obama stressed the job-creating power of federal transportation projects. As part of his promise to take action where Congress won't, he also announced a \$600 million competition for federal grants to help local governments pay for infrastructure projects.

The primary sources of revenue for the Highway Trust Fund are the federal 18.4 cent-per-gallon gasoline and 24.4 cent-per-gallon diesel taxes, which

haven't been increased in 20 years. While highway construction costs have risen over the decades, revenue going into fund has declined.

Among the reasons for the decline are that vehicles are getting more miles per gallon and people are driving less on a per capita basis.

The fund experienced its first shortfall in 2008. Since then, Congress has shifted tens of billions of dollars from the general treasury to make up continuing shortfalls.

Some of the transfers have been paid for through spending cuts or tax increases elsewhere in the federal budget, while others have not.

Earlier this month, the nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office estimated that the trust fund again will not have enough money to meet its obligations to states by the end of the federal budget year on Sept. 30.

Even if Congress transfers enough

The ban on same-sex marriage protected Texas State Constitution Section 32. In that vain, parenthood is designated for a man and a woman.

Defending the state's view, Perry, Abbott, Bexar County Clerk Gerard Rickoff and David Lakey, Texas Department of Health Services Commissioner, presented a case that Garcia did not find compelling enough to overcome the plaintiff's standing.

"Overall, the Court finds Defendants have not satisfied their burden of proving that Section 32 is constitutional," Garcia wrote in his official court opinion. "Defendants have failed to identify any rational, much less a compelling, reason that is served by denying same-sex couples the fundamental right to marry."

The Associated Press contributed to this report.

## WALK

from Page 1

family members. They can also be from out of state, or even from out of the country.

"People that are very competitive will probably want eight," Davis said. The teams can combine their miles each week together, and the teams with the most overall miles could be eligible to win prizes.

A few years ago, a Baylor team won first place, and each team member received a \$100 gift certificate to Academy. Prizes are offered every year and have included HEB giftcards in the past as well.

The miles combined for each team don't just include walking and running. Any physical activity can be converted into miles using the calculator on the challenge's website.

Whether it's intramurals, weight lifting, swimming or even house cleaning, the activity can be tracked.

There will be an event to kick-off the competition at 3:30 p.m. March 20 at the Cub Trail on the third floor of the SLC.

The human resources department at Baylor will sponsor the first 20 teams by providing them with free pedometers and T-shirts. Davis said Richard Amos, the director of Compensation and Benefits, is active in helping set up the sponsorship.

"He's been very helpful in promoting health and wellness not only with Baylor faculty, but with the community as well," Davis said.

Deer Park sophomore Mark Figueroa said he is interested in signing up with a team.

"It will challenge me to take more steps," Figueroa said.

He said he likes the competitive and team aspects to this challenge.

"If you're working as a team you gain that push from one another," Figueroa said. He plans on signing up with his four roommates and some other friends.

Davis said this competition could be a wonderful team building activity within Baylor's academic departments, and the point of this challenge is to get

people to be more active.

"God gave me legs to walk, and I can take a few extra steps," Davis said. "The things you are already doing will count for something."

Each Monday the team captain collects the activity of the team and submits their mileage online.

Davis said this competition comes at an ideal time. She said people are motivated to workout after Christmas break for their New Year's resolutions and right before spring break, but this challenge allows people to continue staying active after break.

"This might be a way for some to get physical activity without having to think about it," Davis said.

Davis said individuals who are interested in signing up can email her directly at Van\_Davis@baylor.edu. She said she can match those who may not have a full team together.

"Just use the workout you're already doing and have it equate to friendly competition," Davis said.

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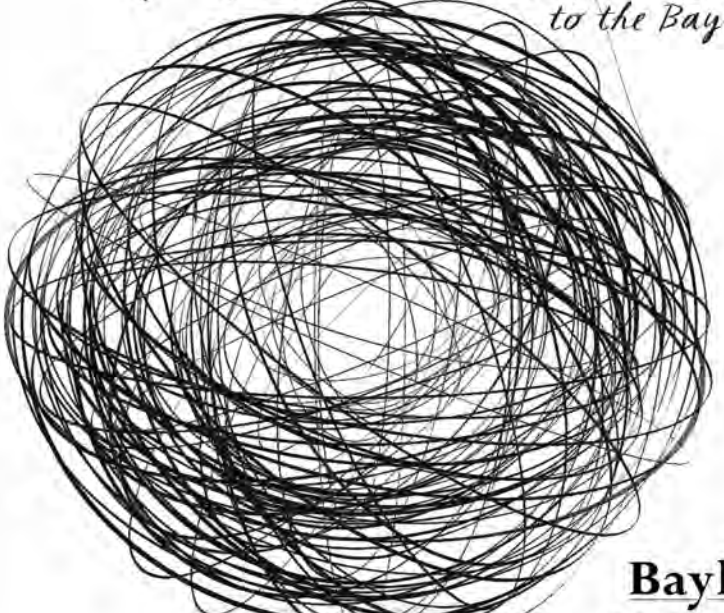


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