

Baylor softball swept this weekend's games against the Kansas Jayhawks.



Tuesday | April 29, 2014



CONSTANCE ATTON | LARIAT PHOTOGRAPHER

The colors of sisterhood

The Zeta Tau Alpha sorority tie dyed T-shirts outside of the Stacy Riddle Forum Monday as part of their Sisterhood event. The sorority uses these events to bond and form community within the group.

New club to bridge cultural divides

By RAE JEFFERSON
STAFF WRITER

Members of Baylor's African-American community can soon expect to see themselves represented on campus in a new way, thanks to a developing multicultural student organization.

Coalition of Black Ambassadors is a renaming and re-focusing of Association of Black Students, an organization that already has a presence on campus. The new organization will debut this fall.

"On campus, we have noticed that there are so many different organizations," said Pearland junior Lexi Williams, Association of Black Students co-president. "It's nice for us to all just come together, be together and have this organization for us."

Williams said CBA is an umbrella organization for other African-American organizations. Next semester, the Big 12 Council on Student Leadership, an organization that promotes African-American affairs on academic, social and spiritual matters, will merge with Association of Black Students under CBA. The new organization hopes to dissolve other predominantly African-American organizations in the future, Williams said.

Richmond junior Whitley Ausbie, Association of Black Students co-president, said CBA was developed in response to concerns about the representation of African-

SEE CLUB, page 5

Students reach out to D.C., advocate for Greek housing

By ALLYSSA SCHOONOVER
REPORTER

Two Baylor students are in Washington, D.C., this week to advocate for a Greek housing bill the Collegiate Housing and Infrastructure Act, or CHIA.

"Basically the bill allows tax exemptions for Greek organizations that have to do renovations or change fire alarms or whatever to make sure

that everything is up to code and safe to live in," said Scottsdale, Ariz., junior Michael Blair.

Monday they went through training sessions to learn more about this bill which will give tax exemptions to nonprofit housing at colleges as well as approaches for how to lobby for it. They were put in teams to practice their approach for Wednesday when they will meet with members of Congress and their staff.

Blair and Hickory Flat, Ga., senior Haley Davis went through an application process and were selected to go on this trip. They were nominated by the nationals of their respective organizations to represent their groups in Washington. There are over 100 Greek students going from schools all over the country.

While Baylor doesn't have Greek housing, sending student representatives shows Baylor's support for other

Big 12 schools.

"It affects a lot of the Big 12 schools, so that's why we're going," Davis said. "We want to support them."

Helping out other Big 12 schools will be beneficial if Baylor needs their support in the future.

Blair and Davis will go through training from panels of people who

SEE GREEK, page 5

US, EU hit Russia with new sanctions over Ukraine

By LYNN BERRY AND MATTHEW LEE
ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON — The United States and its European allies hit more than two dozen Russian government officials, executives and companies with new sanctions Monday as punishment for their country's actions in Ukraine, yet the penalties stopped short of targeting Russia's broader economy and it remained unclear if they would work. In Moscow, there was relief that the sanctions were not as far-ranging as feared.



Obama

The measures, including asset freezes and visa bans, affect people close to the Kremlin, and Western leaders hope those hurt by the sanctions will pressure Russian President Vladimir Putin to limit his reach in Ukraine and de-escalate the crisis there. However, the Russian leader himself was not among those targeted, and Obama administration officials acknowledged there was no expectation that Putin would quickly change course.

Still, officials in Washington and Brussels said the sanctions, coupled with an initial set imposed following Russia's annexation of the Crimean peninsula last month, would significantly boost the cost to Moscow of ignoring an agreement it signed earlier this month to take concrete steps to ease tensions in Ukraine.

SEE RUSSIA, page 5

High school graduation rate exceeds 80 percent

By LALITA CLOZEL
TRIBUNE WASHINGTON BUREAU
VIA MCCLATCHY TRIBUNE

WASHINGTON — The national high school graduation rate has reached a record high of more than 80 percent, but disparities based on students' racial, socio-economic and disability status remain alarming, according to an annual report by America's Promise Alliance, a nonprofit group founded by former Secretary of State Colin Powell.

An estimated four out of five public high school students obtained their diploma in 2012, according to the report, which used the latest available data from the Department of Education. But figures were lower for minority students. Seventy-six percent of Latino students and 68 percent of African-American students graduated, the report found.

"We have to be honest that this is a matter of equity and that we have to change the opportunity equation," Education Secretary Arne Duncan said Monday. "All of America's children are our children."

Recent improvements in the nation's high school graduation rate — which has risen 8 percentage points in six years — have been driven by the closure of so-called "dropout factories," typically high-minority schools that graduate less than 60 percent of students. In 2002, those schools enrolled almost half of all African-American students but by 2012, that number dropped to only 23 percent.

The results underscore the need for more federal funding to ensure that all students are provided with the same opportunities, said Daniel J. Losen, the director of the Center for Civil Rights Remedies at UCLA.

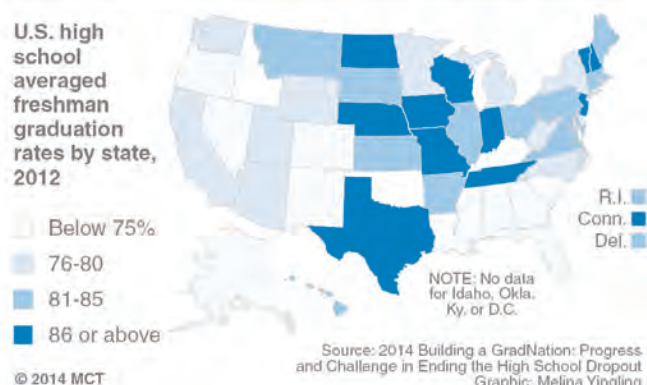
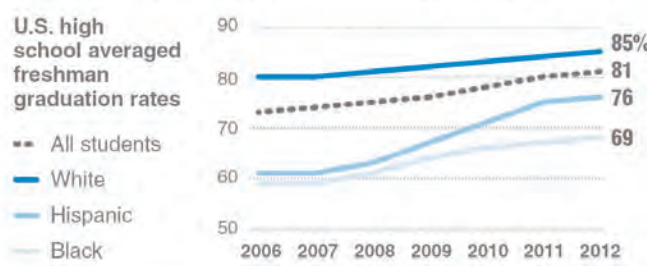
"We still have many school districts where it looks like apartheid in America," he said. "It's going to require more than the contributions of the private sector and the competitive grants of the federal government."

Several categories of students face persistently lower odds of graduating, including those with physical and mental disabilities, those from low-income

SEE GRADUATION, page 5

Improving graduation rates

U.S. public high schools have reached a milestone with more than eight out of 10 public high school students graduating on time.



WEB

Acrobatics and tumbling ended its season with a loss to Oregon in the semifinal.



NEWS p. 4

Dark days lie ahead in Baghdad for the Iraqi people as the parliamentary elections begin soon.



A&E p. 7

Baylor Theatre performs "The Arabian Nights" as its final production of the semester.



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NCAA in a pickle over new meal rules

Editorial

The NCAA Board of Directors has a big decision ahead of it that could forever change the lives of student-athletes. Current rules require schools to provide three meals per day to scholarship athletes. The rules also allow for schools to give athletes snacks as well.

The proposed changes would allow schools to give both scholarship and walk-on athletes unlimited meals. If passed this summer, the changes would take effect on Aug. 1.

Talks of changing meal rules have been simmering for a while because of the somewhat arbitrary nature of the current rules.

For example, the current rules allow athletes to receive a bagel because a bagel is considered a snack. As soon as a spread, such as cream cheese or butter, is added to the bagel, then it is considered a meal for some reason.

What pushed the idea of changing the rule to the forefront of the Board of Directors' minds was the comment University of Connecticut guard Shabazz Napier made during the NCAA Tournament.

"I don't feel student-athletes should get hundreds of thousands of dollars, but like I said, there are hungry nights that I go to bed, and I'm starving," Napier said.

Athletes do need more than three meals each day because of the energy they exert during and in preparation for their athletic activities. The NCAA needed to throw its ridiculous rules about snacks and meals away in favor of new ones because the current rules make no sense. Walk-on athletes deserve meals from the athletic programs they represent. Giving athletes unlimited meals, however, is not the appropriate solution to any of these issues.

If the NCAA changes its rules, it will first have to iron out exactly what "unlimited" means. Will athletes get blank checks to go eat wherever they desire? Will schools be able to spend an un-



ASHER FREEMAN

limited amount of money on team-wide meals? Or will athletes be given unlimited admittance into the school's dining halls?

Each of these scenarios looks very different from the others, but all would qualify as giving athletes unlimited meals.

Whether it is right or not, athletics are one of the main focal points of most major universities in the United States. Schools get ahead in athletics by recruiting.

If the rules on meals change, it would be a pretty safe bet to say schools that can afford to give more will use their deep pockets to provide everything the rules permit to athletes.

All of this will just further distract from what universities are supposed to be about: education. High school recruits should pick a school based largely on its

academics, not based on whether the athletic program provides its athletes with more or better food than other athletic programs.

Scholarship athletes are very well compensated for their services to the university. In addition to scholarship money, athletic gear, stipends, meals, access to top-notch facilities and private academic tutors, is it right to increase their meal plans to an unlimited amount?

Food allowance is a problem, but the answer is not unlimited meals. It's too easy to exploit and cannot be reasonably implemented.

Athletes do, however, often need more than the current rules allow.

A simpler solution would be to increase the meal allowance to four meals and clearly define which snacks schools are allowed to give athletes without having cream cheese be a determining factor.

Group projects are risky business

At some point in your college career, regardless of major or classification, you encounter a group project. They are dreaded by most students for a variety of reasons.

Coordinating schedules with a group of people can be a pain. Different personalities clash and ultimate academic frustration ensues. Your grade is now dependent on other people who may or may not care whether your project gets an A or a C.

Not only is there usually someone with a very lackadaisical attitude, sometimes there is a group member who wants to go above and beyond what is necessary, which can be as equally obnoxious.

The Slacker

The slacker coasts along on everyone else's hard work, hoping the rest of the group is kind enough not to totally sabotage their grade on the peer reviews. There seems to be one of these people in every group. They never show up to meetings or, when they do, there is minimal effort or input given to the project.

The Dictator

He or she immediately takes charge, dividing everyone's tasks. They nitpick at your work and has to double-check every detail. They create the group message and/or email and blow up your phone with plans and tasks for everyone to do. Their opinion and ideas are golden and everyone else must agree. The dictator,



Allyssa Schoonover | Reporter

while annoying, usually gets things done and helps make sure everyone does their part in a timely manner. Every group needs a leader, but sometimes that leader is a dictator.

The Overachiever

Taking nearly the whole weight of the project on his or her own shoulders, the overachiever excludes the rest of the group. While some students may enjoy this invitation to relax and have their grade handed to them on a silver platter, others feel differently. They have a strong sense of responsibility to do their part and the overachiever robs them of that. Not to mention the looming peer reviews. Will the overachiever take responsibility for everyone else's lack of

participation or gain vengeance by giving poor peer reviews?

The Minimalist

It's pretty much a guarantee that there will be a member of your group that just does the bare minimum. He or she does his or her fair share of work but lets everyone else do the bulk of it. You can't be mad at the minimalist because he or she hasn't done anything wrong but it's still annoying to have to pick up their slack. He or she doesn't offer to do anything extra and no one else really wants to assign tasks to him or her either.

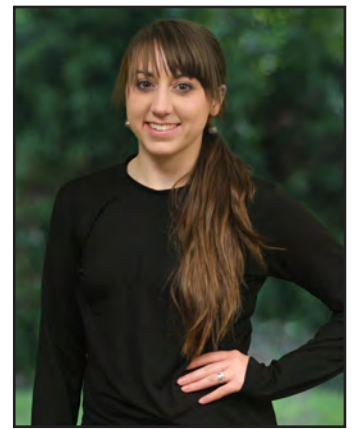
Group projects are incredibly unpredictable. Whether your group is assigned or chosen, you never really know how it's going to turn out. While teachers may think peer reviews keep everyone accountable, it barely accomplishes that goal. A lot of people feel guilty giving bad reviews. How does bringing down someone else's grade help yours? It doesn't, so there's really no point in ever giving a poor review.

Group projects are supposed to teach us how to work together and prepare us for the real world, but the difference in setting and motivation is so different that I don't think they really do this either. Not much we can do about this, though. Group projects are inevitable, and all we can do is hope and pray for a good group.

Allyssa Schoonover is a senior journalism major from Andover, Kan. She is a reporter for The Lariat.

Don't be wasteful; donate your stuff

In the final days before the school year comes to its stopping point, college students' lives seem to accelerate in every aspect. And when that last final is over, the rush to get home saturates the campus atmosphere.



Lauren Tidmore | Reporter

As a Waco resident since birth, I've seen it for many years. Driving past Baylor campus and area dumpsters at the end of any school semester, especially in May, meant seeing the numerous items students had deemed unusable, unsatisfactory or unnecessary in the trash, whether it was done out of carelessness or haste.

With flights to catch and last-minute to-do lists, it's easy for Baylor students' minds to be consumed with thoughts of me, myself and I.

I want to know how I did on my finals. I need to get this, this and this done before I leave. I can't wait to be home with my family.

They're perfectly normal thoughts, but being engulfed by the world of "me" just for a few days can sometimes cancel out any positive work and relationships that were accomplished in the Waco community during the year.

The first time I remember experiencing this, I saw a brand new flat screen TV still in its box sitting next to a like-new bedroom furniture collection.

The items had been carelessly placed beside the dumpster without any protective covering, clearly intended to be thrown out.

Such a simple action was all it took for me to formulate my first opinion about Baylor students, and it was not positive.

Baylor students appeared careless and selfish.

With the great work being done by Baylor in the Waco community, it would be a shame for such small, last-minute decisions to cause any doubt in the people behind Baylor's outreach programs and ministries. However, it is in the little actions that a true servant's heart is shown.

Baylor students and faculty continuously volunteer their time and money for outreach programs. They're givers. So when that giving nature is cast aside in quiet, it causes questioning of the authenticity of the giving that is seen publicly.

It would be unfair to say that all Baylor students, or that even most, could be accused of throwing out household items that those in need could use. But the actions of a few can create a reputation for many, especially if its a negative reputation.

A Baylor student might not find value in out-of-style clothes and shoes, but value in the material is relative to an individual's circumstances. A person in need would greatly appreciate any such items.

On the other hand, value in a set of core morals and social responsibility should not be relative to a person's circumstances.

As the semester closes, don't get lost in the high-speed traffic of college life and forget to consider the needs of others. There are options. Donate to Goodwill or take part in Baylor Sustainability's "Give and Go" event, which takes gently used items and gives them to people in need.

Just don't throw away Baylor's mission of giving and service.

Lauren Tidmore is a senior journalism and theater arts double major from Waco. She is a reporter for The Lariat.



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Obama vigorously defends foreign policy record

By JULIE PACE
ASSOCIATED PRESS

MANILA, Philippines — President Barack Obama vigorously defended his foreign policy record Monday, arguing that his cautious approach to global problems has avoided the type of missteps that contributed to a “disastrous” decade of war for the United States.

Obama’s expansive comments came at the end of a weeklong Asia trip that exposed growing White House frustration with critics who cast the president as weak and ineffectual on the world stage. The president and his advisers get particularly irked by those who seize on Obama’s decision to pull back from a military strike in Syria and link it with virtually every other foreign policy challenge, from Russia’s threatening moves in Ukraine to China’s increasing assertiveness in Asia’s territorial disputes.

“Why is it that everybody is so eager to use military force after we’ve just gone through a decade of war at enormous costs to our troops and to our budget?” Obama said during a news conference in the Philippines.

Summing up his foreign policy philosophy, Obama said it was one that “avoids errors.”

White House advisers argue in part that Obama’s approach puts him on the side of a conflict-weary American public, some of whom voted for him in the 2008 election because of his early opposition to the Iraq war. Yet the president’s foreign policy record of late has provided plenty of fodder for his critics.

It was Obama’s own declaration that Syria’s chemical weapons

use would cross his “red line” that raised the stakes for a U.S. response when Syrian leader Bashar Assad launched an attack last summer. The Obama administration’s own drumbeat toward a U.S. strike only fueled the narrative that the president was indecisive or didn’t have the stomach for an attack when he abruptly pulled back, first in favor of a vote in Congress, then to strike a deal with Syria and Russia that aimed to rid the Assad regime of its chemical weapons stockpiles.

The Syria scenario has trickled into Obama’s relationship with Asia, where anxious allies spent much of the last week seeking assurances from the president that he would have their back if China used military force to take the advantage in the region’s numerous territorial disputes. And Russian President Vladimir Putin’s flouting of Western sanctions in response to his alleged provocations in Ukraine has stirred fresh criticism that the president’s strategy lacks teeth.

That line of thinking was evident Monday after the Obama administration announced new sanctions on seven Russian officials, as well 17 companies with ties to Russian President Vladimir Putin. Sen. Kelly Ayotte, a Republican from New Hampshire who has been a frequent Obama foreign policy critic, called the measures “tepid,” “incremental” and “insufficient.” Other GOP lawmakers have called on Obama to provide lethal assistance to the Ukrainian military, a prospect he roundly rejected once again Monday.

“Do people actually think that somehow us sending some additional arms into Ukraine could

potentially deter the Russian army?” Obama said. “Or are we more likely to deter them by applying the sort of international pressure, diplomatic pressure and economic pressure that we’re applying?”

While Obama did not call out any of his critics by name, the White House has often been frustrated with two sets of foreign policy critics: Republican lawmakers like Sen. John McCain of Arizona, who takes a more hawkish position than Obama on nearly every issue, and foreign policy commentators who use their platforms on television or editorial pages to push the president to take a more aggressive approach.

“Frankly, most of the foreign policy commentators that have questioned our policies would go headlong into a bunch of military adventures that the American people had no interest in participating in and would not advance our core security interests,” Obama said. He added that he’s not inclined to make policy decisions because “somebody sitting in an office in Washington or New York think it would look strong.”

Obama spoke on the final full day of his four-country Asia swing. The centerpiece of his president’s trip was a 10-year security agreement signed with the Philippines Monday that will give the U.S. military greater access to bases on the Southeast Asian nation, which is struggling to bolster its territorial defense amid China’s increasingly assertive behavior in the oil- and gas-rich South China Sea.

The president arrived in the Philippines Monday afternoon following visits to Japan, South Korea and Malaysia.



KHALID MOHAMMED | ASSOCIATED PRESS

Iraqi army soldiers, one giving the victory sign, prepare to depart after killing all the attackers on a Shiite private college, in Baghdad’s eastern neighborhood of Ur, Iraq, Sunday, April 20, 2014. Less than two weeks ahead of parliamentary elections, Iraq is struggling to keep a lid on a surge in sectarian violence.

Dark days ahead in Baghdad amid elections

By HAMZA HENDAWI
ASSOCIATED PRESS

BAGHDAD — Blast barrier walls topped with barbed wire snake across the Iraqi capital, encircling government buildings like a fortress and enshrining the separation of neighborhoods increasingly divided by religious sect.

As parliamentary elections are held this week more than two years after the withdrawal of U.S. troops, Baghdad is once again a city gripped by fear and scarred by violence. Many of the city’s 7 million residents avoid roads hit by bombings, fearing a deadly repeat. Most shops now close shortly after sunset, and an overnight curfew that begins at midnight remains in force.

On Monday, suspected Sunni militants struck checkpoints outside polling stations across Bag-

dad and much of the country, as army and police personnel voted two days before the rest of Iraq’s 22 million registered voters cast their ballots on Wednesday. At least 21 people were killed in the suicide bombings and other attacks.

Despite a surge in violence engulfing the country over the past year, Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki’s election coalition is expected to win and propel him to a third, four-year term in office. Al-Maliki’s campaign has cast him as a strong statesman who has kept the country together through tough times, a view rejected by many Sunnis who see him as a sectarian politician.

Baghdad’s division along sectarian lines, a legacy of the last decade’s Sunni-Shiite bloodletting, is now deeply enshrined and, to hardliners on both sides, is how

things should be. Most of the hundreds of thousands of mostly Sunni Baghdadians who fled the capital have yet to come back, finding relative peace abroad in Arab cities like Amman, Dubai and Beirut.

Some of the campaign posters for Wednesday’s parliamentary election are promising better days for the city — jobs, security and an end to graft. But many residents don’t believe such promises, instead distrusting politicians as corrupt or inept.

“It is only now that it is election season that we hear from politicians,” said Zeid Ibrahim Ahmed, a 47-year-old Sunni barber from Baghdad’s mostly Sunni Azamiyah neighborhood. “But for four years they failed to do anything useful. The only change we might see in Iraq after the election is that we will move from bad to worse.”

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GREEK from Page 1

work with members of Congress as well as people who work on the Hill or for consulting firms for a couple of days. Then they will spend all day Wednesday on Capitol Hill. Each student lobbyist will have eight to 12 meetings with members of Congress to talk about the benefits of CHIA. After this they will attend a dinner with senators and representatives who were members of Greek organizations.

The bill specifically aids nonprofit student housing, which will mainly affect Greek housing. The Stacy Riddle Forum is a university building and because the sororities pay rent each year as part of their sorority dues, it will not be affected by this bill.

A lot of Greek houses at other universities are old or historic buildings, so it can be difficult and expensive to update them, Davis said.

By passing the Collegiate Housing and Infrastructure Act, it is likely that more nonprofit housing, not just Greek housing, will be built or maintained across the nation, which could make college more affordable for all students. It would make buildings safer and prevent damages or fires that are not uncommon in older houses.

Blair and Davis also talked with some administrators on campus to prepare for this trip including, Dr. Kevin Jackson, the vice president of student life; Tam Dunn, the associate director of student activities for Greek life; and a few people involved with governmental relations for Baylor. This, accompanied with their training in Washington, D.C., will prepare them to speak with politicians and adequately advocate for this bill and express its benefits, Davis said.

GRADUATION from Page 1

families and those learning English as a second language.

The nation's graduation rate began decreasing in the 1990s, but with rising awareness of the dropout crisis in certain school districts, states and districts began implementing reforms in the 2000s, which are now beginning to bear fruit.

"Schools were for a long time ignoring this facet," said Losen. "They were focused for the longest time on test scores."

Joanna Hornig Fox, the deputy director of the Everyone Graduates Center at Johns

Hopkins University and one of the report's authors, attributed the improved rates in part to recent federal education reform bills, including No Child Left Behind and Race to the Top, which implemented nationwide standards and performance-based funding for public schools.

Fox said that thanks to efforts to ensure "students do a great more deal of writing and explain their thinking," now students in poorer districts are "not just filling in the blank"



TRAVIS TAYLOR | LARIAT PHOTO EDITOR

A cultural experience

Houston Sophomore Christina Nguyen performs a Vietnamese cultural dance during a performance by the Vietnamese Student Association at the Cultural Extravaganza on Monday at the SUB Bowl.

RUSSIA from Page 1

"The goal here is not to go after Mr. Putin personally," President Barack Obama told reporters in the Philippines, where he was wrapping up a four-nation trip to Asia. "The goal is to change his calculus with respect to how the current actions that he's engaging in could have an adverse impact on the Russian economy over the long haul."

Obama said Russia still could resolve the Ukraine crisis diplomatically. But he sounded far from confident about the immediate prospects for the new sanctions packages.

"We don't yet know whether it's going to work," he said.

In addition to the sanctions on the seven individuals and 17 companies, there also are new arms and technology export restrictions on Russia.

Meanwhile, in Brussels, the European Union announced it had added 15 more officials to its Russia sanctions list, bringing to 48 the number of people singled out for "undermining Ukraine's territorial integrity, sovereignty and independence."

They will be banned from traveling to the 28-nation bloc, and their assets will be frozen, the EU said in a statement. The names of the individuals targeted weren't immediately released.

The EU is Russia's biggest trading partner, giving the Europeans greater economic leverage over Moscow than the U.S. has. However, the EU treads more carefully in imposing sanctions since Russia is also one of its biggest oil and gas suppliers — and the bloc apparently shied away from following Washington's lead in targeting specific Russian companies.

CLUB from Page 1

American students on campus, as well as a noticeable lack of unity among African-American students, Ausbie said.

"The organization had died down over the years," she said, referring to Association of Black Students. "We realized we needed more unity on campus because there was a lack of vision amongst African-American students on campus."

Ausbie said CBA will allow organizations to more effectively promote their events and projects to the African-American community.

"Sometimes you go to black events and you only see 10 or 12 people there, and then people say, 'Oh, I didn't know about it. If I knew I would've gone,'" she said.

"This is hopefully a way that everyone knows what's going on with the majority-black organizations all the time."

The organization will also help African-American students get connected to academic and professional resources. CBA will connect members with African-American Baylor professors and scholarship resources in order to supplement their education in a culturally relatable way, Williams said.

"I didn't meet a lot of them until this year, and they've given me so much support and drive to complete all the things I have this past year," she said.

CBA will also speak with administration about the concerns of African-American students, Williams said.

can students, Williams said.

"You hear a lot of complaints in the black community," she said. "We feel like it's time to take on the complaints and actually do something about it. We want to make a difference — make the changes we want to see."

Plans for CBA have been underway for at least three years, Williams said. Initially, the students who spearheaded the organization tried to implement a black student government on Baylor's campus to oversee all predominantly African-American organizations.

The university denied this request on the grounds that a student government serving the entire student body already

existed, and a separate government for African-Americans would create conflicts of interest, Ausbie said.

"They took the idea of a black student government and formed it into the idea of an umbrella organization," she said, referring to former Association of Black Students members who conceptualized CBA. "It's not a government, though, because we aren't allocating funds and telling them what they can and can't do. We'll just be there for support."

Both Williams and Ausbie said they wish to see African-American students get involved with CBA, with a particular focus on incoming freshmen.

"We want to get the incoming fresh-

men excited about being a black student on campus," Ausbie said. "After your first semester, it can be a little discouraging. You don't feel like this is your school — it's like you're visiting for four years."

Williams said she hopes to see change occur on campus for African-American students in the future.

"I want to come back and see that African-American students feel like they belong here," she said. "We want to make this their campus too."

Students interested in learning more about the organization can email Williams or Ausbie at Lexi_Williams@baylor.edu or Whitley_Ausbie@baylor.edu.

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'The Arabian Nights' comes to life in final BU Theatre show

By KAT WORRALL
STAFF WRITER

In Baylor Theatre's newest sold-out play, "The Arabian Nights," Flower Mound junior Chynna Walker acts as the storytelling Scheherezade, Walker's first leading role at Baylor.

Each day, King Shahryar marries a new girl, and each night, King Shahryar kills his new wife.

This cycle continues until a new wife, Scheherezade, begins weaving a long web of stories each night, leaving him wanting to hear more, and thus prolonging her life a little more each day.

The theme of storytelling and transformation almost mimics Walker's own experience with theater. She remembers acting used to terrify her as a seventh-grade student, but now she loves acting and telling her own stories.

"Theater also scared me so much, so I never wanted to do it," Walker said. "I was always saying, 'I would probably like it, though. I should do it.' So I made myself do it and ended up really loving it."

Her first role, playing a made-up character Betsy in the play "Worst High School Player in the World," had no lines. All Walker did was follow her "sister" and the other actors around on stage, silently responding to whatever they did.

While the role might seem small, Walker said that was what got her hooked on theater.

"I went with it and made her whatever I wanted to, because I had completely free reign," Walker said. "It was the most fun thing I had ever done."

When Walker applied to colleges, she left it up to chance on whether or not she would continue pursuing theater.

"I kind of doubted it," Walker said. "I never knew exactly if I wanted to do theater and even when applying to colleges, I only applied to two colleges close to home. I thought, 'If I get into a theater department, I'll go, but if not, that's OK. I'm not supposed to do that.'"

After she did get accepted into Baylor's theater performance program, Walker decided to pursue theater full time, though she did experience doubt at times with her decision.

"The Lord really played a big part in that, just because I was trying to do what He wanted me to, and I think He always kind of pulled me back to theater," Walker said. "Christians in the department always question it because it is so self-centered and you're very focused on how good you're doing. Actors are the most insecure people in the world. 'Are we doing well? Are we not?' I think that is something that I've learned that this the battle I have to face and I have always been pulled to it without knowing why."

"The Arabian Nights" will show at 7:30 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday and at 2 p.m. Saturday and Sunday in the Mabee Theatre.

Walker and the opposing male lead, Sonora senior Colyer Dermody, guide the story line of "The Arabian Nights." However, both Walker and the play's director, Lisa Denman, the undergraduate program director for Baylor's theater department,



CARLYE THORNTON | LARIAT PHOTOGRAPHER

Flower Mound junior Chynna Walker and Frisco senior Garrett Williams rehearse a scene in the final spring production for Baylor Theatre, "Arabian Nights" on April 23. Walker, as Scheherezade, spends much of the play telling stories while the rest of the cast acts them out.

label the play an ensemble show.

"It's less focused on one person and more focused on the whole cast creating a story," Walker said. "Yes, I'm the person who tells the stories, but most of the play is them acting out my stories."

What Walker begins, other actors soon take over and that can get complicated, Denman said.

"It's a tricky part, because she starts the stories and will often interject in the middle of the story, but for a good part of the time, she is watching the story unfold in front of her," Denman said. "These are her stories, but she brings them to life and then the other actors act them out."

For most of the play, Denman said, nearly all of the actors are on the stage at once, while sometimes darting off to switch costumes or grab a prop. Walker and Dermody, though, she calls the "bookends to the play."

"It's a really interesting play in that it's

so ensemble," Denman said. "At one moment, there's one actor who is front and center, and then there's another. It feels like a group of people telling a story, so I think it is a cool thing from them to be a part of an ensemble like that."

Walker said one of her challenges with her role as Scheherezade is the language.

"It's not everyday language," she said. "It's more poetic, so it has been hard to make it realistic."

She also has to overlap her lines with other actors as they take over her stories.

"A lot of her lines that she says are simultaneous with other actors, so she had to learn how those actors were going to say their lines so she could have the same inflection and timing," Denman said.

Walker said she hopes to bring out Scheherezade's characteristics in herself in order to properly connect to the role.

"She is more brave than other people," Walker said of her character. "She is the

one who changes it and changes him. She is beyond her years, but she is also a young, innocent girl whose mind is full of imagination."

As the entire cast prepares for tonight's opening night, Denman said the group, which she calls a "little family," should be proud of their work.

"I'm hoping that the actors really feel a sense of pride and ownership as they do the play because I think they all put a lot of time, energy and effort into the play," Denman said. "I hope the audience likes it. I hope they think it's funny, but that they also take away something from the play."

This adaptation of "The Arabian Nights" has a message of art and the transformation of storytelling, Denman said.

"It's a beautiful reminder of how stories are told," Walker said. "Being able to see those stories and capture them and communicate them — that's what we do as actors in theater."

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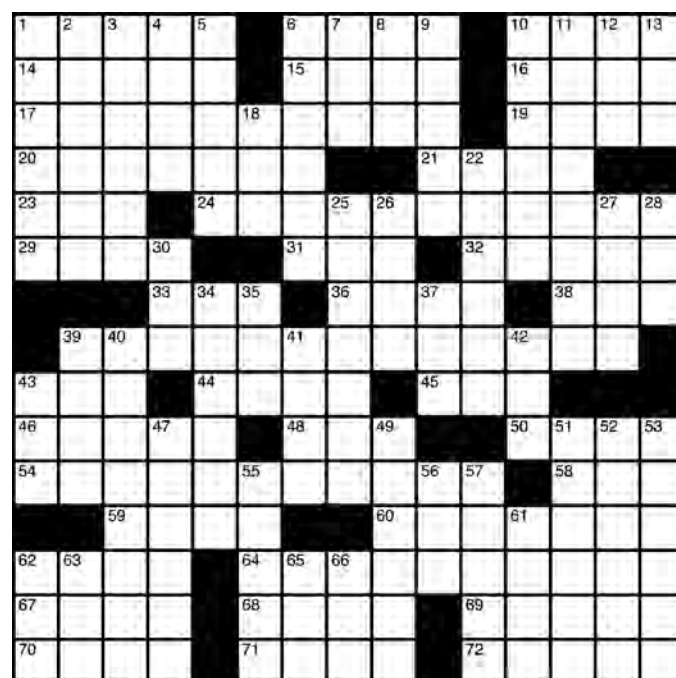
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Across

- Nile dam
- Start a card game
- Stone Age dwelling
- "The final frontier," on "Star Trek"
- Fairy tale bully
- Curved molding
- "Waiting for your signal"
- Forest growth
- Coastline concern
- Garden entrance
- R-V link
- Be in complete accord
- Fill completely
- Ex-NBA star Ming
- Beginning
- Federal property agcy.
- Strikeout king Nolan
- Airport screening org.
- Sound that may be "heaved" in a classroom
- dried tomatoes
- Potpourri
- Wrath
- Nebraska's most populous city
- Genetic letters
- Turn, as a burger
- Oath-ending words
- Dictator Amin
- Minor: Little Dipper
- Continent-spanning landmass
- Spanish artist Joan
- "Alphabet series" mystery writer (she's up to "X")
- Needing mending
- "Gone With the Wind" plantation
- Spanish painter El ___
- Fellows
- Ooze
- PlayStation and Discman

Down

- Evaluate
- Ancient Greek city-state
- Exit door



- Behaves
- Classic grape sodas
- "Iron Man" actor Robert ___ Jr.
- A star may have a big one
- LAX incoming flight datum
- Pigeon's perch
- Word before boll or Bowl
- Goes along with
- Geese formation
- Wide shoe spec
- Fair-hiring abbr.
- One making amends
- Hammer or anvil, anatomically
- Toy on a string
- Polite rural reply
- Greek "H"
- It came before the chicken— or maybe after?
- Shallow sea hazards
- Yahoo! alternative
- Tycoon Onassis
- Japanese heavyweight sport
- Pressed for time
- Law partnership, e.g.
- Rock's ___ Leppard
- Scouring pad brand
- Great blue waders
- May-December wedding issue
- Pay attention
- Foolishness
- Steinways, e.g.
- Personal histories
- "... ___ daily bread"
- Fast, short auto races
- Puffy haired
- Item on a business sched.
- Letters from one who is short?
- Persian Gulf fed.
- Before, to a bard

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Softball sweeps Kansas

By SHEHAN JEYARAJAH
SPORTS WRITER

After losing both games of a double-header to No. 16 Louisiana last Tuesday, Baylor softball needed a strong weekend showing to stay alive in the Big 12 standings.

On a weekend filled with recognition and celebration for Senior Day, No. 14 Baylor pulled out the brooms for a three-game sweep over the visiting Kansas Jayhawks at Gettman Stadium.

Senior pitcher Whitney Canion showed up in a big way. The left-hander started two of the three games and earned the win in all three after throwing 12 innings of shutout softball this weekend. Her performance was capped off by a complete game shutout on Sunday.

"It's the end of the season, and it's my last year," Canion said. "I'm never going to say no to the ball. I just really have to keep my mechanics good because I know I'm going to be throwing a lot. That will really help me in the postseason. Yes, I'm throwing a lot, but I love it."

Baylor's hitters found their rhythm early and often off of Kansas pitcher Alicia Pille. A strong defensive performance combined with the consistent offense to lead the Bears to a 7-0 opening victory on Friday.

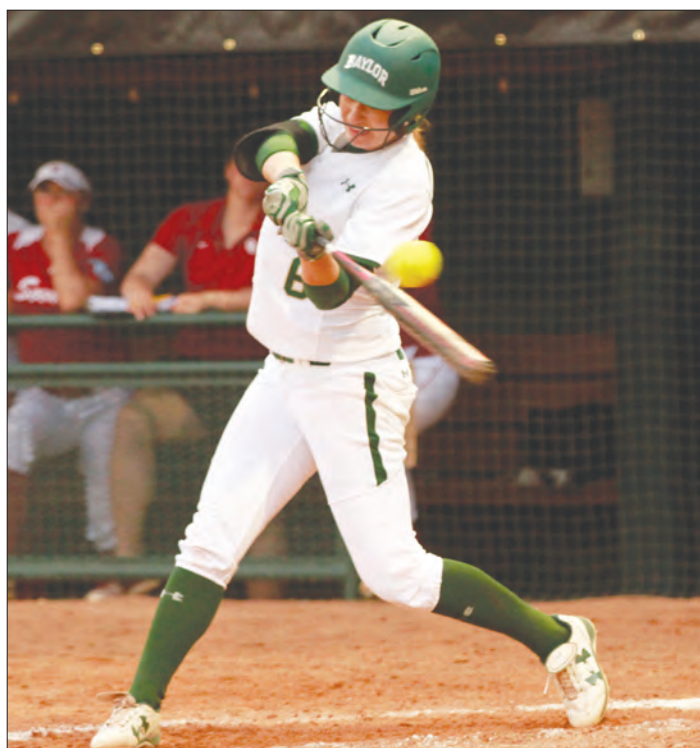
Baylor (36-12, 9-4) continued its offensive surge into the third inning. Hosack singled and Holl lined a double down the right field line to put runners on second and third. Junior shortstop Jordan Strickland continued her power streak and doubled to left center to score both Hosack and Holl.

After the offensive exhibition on Friday, Baylor struggled to produce offensively on Saturday, but late game heroics pushed the Bears to a 2-1 victory and a series victory on Saturday.

After surrendering a run on a single to Kansas shortstop Chaley Brickey, Moore opted to replace relief pitcher Paul with Canion.

"I'm not really a relief pitcher," Canion said. "But I love these pressure situations."

Canion calmly came to the circle and struck out three straight batters to end the inning.



KEVIN FREEMAN | LARIAT PHOTOGRAPHER

Senior first baseman Holly Holl makes contact with the ball in Baylor's 2-0 win over Texas State on March 18 at Gettman Stadium.

Heading into the seventh, the game was still deadlocked at 1-1. After two walks and an error from Hawkins, the bases were loaded with only one out on the board. Again in a pressure situation, Canion struck out two straight to end the inning.

All that set the table for the bottom of the seventh. Smith flew out to lead off, which brought sophomore designated player Linsey Hays to the plate. Hays fell down 1-2 immediately in the count before working to a full count with the game on the line.

"She had me a little bit off balance for most of the at-bat, but I knew that she would give me a changeup at some point because she did in all of my other at-bats," Hays said.

And when Hays saw the changeup, she blasted a walk-off home run over the right field wall to launch the Bears to a dramatic 2-1 victory at Gettman.

Senior Day is a day to honor the seniors, and all of them made sure their final conference series game was memorable on Sunday afternoon as the Bears won in a dominating five inning 10-0 performance.

Holl got the festivities started in the first inning. After Hawkins got on base to start, Holl hit a powerful two-run homer to right to get Baylor on the board.

Coming into Sunday's game, senior Liz Paul had never hit a collegiate home run. In celebration of Senior Day, Moore started Paul in the outfield. Paul had not played left field since high school and only had 57 total at-bats coming into Sunday's game.

When Paul came to bat with Riley Browder pinch running at fourth and no outs in the fourth, Paul took full advantage of the opportunity. In the sixth pitch of the at-bat, Paul lifted one over the left field foul pole for her first career home run.

"I was thinking this morning, I've never hit a home run in my career," Paul said. "I was kind of sad about that. So when I got an opportunity to hit, I decided I would make the most of it and go up there and swing for the fences."

Paul's homer started an offensive explosion in the fourth. Freshman center fielder Lindsey Cargill singled and Thumann hit a two-run homer of her own, the first home run she has ever hit at Gettman.

When the dust cleared, all three graduating seniors who batted scored a run, and Paul and Holl each hit two-run home runs. Canion also picked up the win after a complete game shutout.

"I know we've never had a senior group that well together on Senior Day," Moore said. "There's a lot of talent in that group, and as a coach I couldn't be more proud to see all of them contribute. The one who's received the least playing time in four years end up being queen for the day, and that made it even more special."

Over the series, Kansas left 24 runners on base and scored only one run.

Baylor softball will get back to work at 6 p.m. Tuesday against North Texas at Gettman Stadium. They will turn around and play another against McNeese State at 5 p.m. Wednesday in Waco.

Men's and women's tennis bring home Big 12 titles

By RYAN HANNEGAN
REPORTER

Baylor men's and women's tennis dominated the weekend, winning both Big 12 Championship crowns.

For the seventh time overall, the Baylor women's tennis team won the Big 12 Championship with a 4-1 victory over No. 25 Oklahoma State on Sunday at the Bayard H. Tennis Center.

"I am just proud of these girls," head coach Joey Scrivano said. "It all starts with your seniors. Their leadership really made a difference. I think that was the difference the last couple of years. We just didn't have that strength of leadership all the way through our team. This year our seniors were incredible. They just pulled the whole team up. That's where it all starts."

The Lady Bears opened the match by taking the doubles point with little resistance. To start, Alex Clay and Blair Shankle improved to 11-0 on the season with an 8-3 win over Maria Alvarez and Karyn Guttormsen. The Baylor team of Victoria Kisialeva and Jordan Sanford sealed the point for Baylor by winning their third straight match with an 8-5 victory over Viktoriya Kushkova and Katarina Adamovic.

In singles, Clay disposed of Alvarez, 6-3, 6-2 at the bottom of the lineup. The Lady Bears slammed the door from there as No. 83 Ema Burgic bested Megan McCray, 7-6(4), 6-2. Burgic had trailed 5-2 in the opening set, before rallying to win in the tie-breaker.

To clinch the match, Shankle squeezed out a 6-2, 7-6(3) triumph on court 4. Burgic was named the event's Most Outstanding Player, after she compiled a 3-0 singles record over the weekend.

No. 6 Baylor men's tennis



CONSTANCE ATTON | LARIAT PHOTOGRAPHER

Senior Patrick Pradella focuses during Baylor's 5-2 win over Texas on April 16 at the Hurd Tennis Center.

topped No. 3 Oklahoma 4-3 after a comeback win at the Bayard H. Friedman Tennis Center to win its eighth Big 12 postseason title.

"I always think we can pull it out," head coach Matt Knoll said. "I had a lot of confidence in all the guys that were out there. Diego's guy served for the match in the second set and when he broke there I thought that we had a path. I really felt like Patrick would get it done and I really thought Michel would get it done. Momentum was so radically on their side (when we were down 3-1). Their crowd was into it, but it is hard to cheer when you are getting drilled and we were getting drilled, but we hung in there."

The Bears lost three of the first

four points but bounced back to even things up at 3-3. No. 16 Patrick Pradella found himself in a clash with No. 6 Axel Alvarez Llamas. Llamas had won the first-set 7-6(6), before Pradella forced a third set with a 6-3 win in the second. Pradella led the third and deciding set, 5-3 before Alvarez cut the deficit to 5-4.

The Baylor Bear then served for the match and the Big 12 Championship title. He had six match points and faced five break point with 11 deuces in the game. Pradella was finally able to pull away for the victory with an ace up the middle. He was tackled on the court by his teammates in celebration and earned the Big 12 Most Outstanding Player honor.

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