

The Baylor Lariat

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WE'RE THERE WHEN YOU CAN'T BE

Thursday | September 11, 2014

Obama calls for airstrikes in Syria

By JULIE PACE
ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON — Opening a new military front in the Middle East, President Barack Obama authorized U.S. airstrikes inside Syria for the first time Wednesday night, along with expanded strikes in Iraq as part of “a steady, relentless effort” to root out Islamic State extremists and their spreading reign of terror.

“We will hunt down terrorists who threaten our country, wherever they are,” Obama declared in a prime-time address to the nation from the White House. “This is a core principle of my presidency: If you threaten America, you will find no safe haven.”

Obama announced that he was dispatching nearly 500 more U.S. troops to advise and assist Iraqi security forces, as well as conduct intelligence and reconnaissance flights, bringing the total number of American forces sent there this summer to more than 1,500. He also urged Congress anew to authorize a program to train and arm Syrian rebels who are fighting both the Islamic State militants and Syrian President Bashar Assad.



Obama

Obama’s plans amounted to a striking shift for a president who rose to political prominence in part because of his early opposition to the Iraq war. While in office, he has steadfastly sought to wind down American military campaigns in the Middle East and avoid new wars — particularly in Syria, a country where the chaos of an intractable civil war has given the Islamic State space to thrive and move freely across the border with Iraq.

Speaking on the eve of the anniversary of the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks, Obama’s plans were also an admission that years of American-led war in the Middle East have not quelled the terror threat emanating from the region.

Obama insisted that his plan to “degrade and ultimately destroy” the Islamic State militants would not involve returning U.S. combat troops to

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CARLYE THORNTON | LARIAT PHOTO EDITOR

Stars and stripes

The Young Conservative of Texas organization spent Wednesday evening planting 3,000 flags on Fountain Mall to commemorate the lives lost thirteen years ago in al-Qaida’s attack on Sept. 11, 2001. 3,000 people died, either on the four hijacked planes, or on the ground and in buildings.

Black student organizations to unite, discuss current issues

SERGIO LEGORRETA
REPORTER

In an effort by the university’s black student organizations to build connections during a time of national and local racial conflict, a community forum discussing race and politics will take place next week.

The forum titled “No Justice No Peace?” is scheduled for 6 p.m. Sept. 17 in Marrs McLean Science Building room 101. Topics of discussion will include recent issues such as police brutality in Ferguson, Mo.

Dr. Mia Moody-Ramirez, assistant professor and faculty adviser to Baylor’s National Association of Black Journalists, will be one of the panel members.

She also wrote the book “Black and Mainstream Press’ Framing of Racial Profiling: A Historical Perspective.”

“A big component of the panel is how media covers criminal stories regarding different races, classes and culture,” Moody-Ramirez said. “Even

wealthy minorities receive different coverage.”

Other issues of discussion at the forum include arrest and incarceration rates based on race and whether the journalism at Ferguson was professional or sensationalized.

This forum is just the latest event highlighting the black student community’s move toward strengthening their connection. Six new Welcome Week events for freshmen and upperclassmen alike took place this semester to celebrate black culture.

The events included a black student orientation, a church picnic and a tailgating event. The title chosen to represent the events, Harambee, is symbolic

of unison, as it means “all pull together” in Swahili.

N’kima Russell, director of the Heavenly Voices Gospel Choir, attended the black student orientation and said she encouraged other students to branch out.

“Harambee is an opportunity for black culture at Baylor to make connections,” Russell said.

The orientation featured a panel of organizers who spoke about issues including academic and social life concerns and community involvement.

To help students get involved in the community, voter registration cards were handed out during orientation and a sign-in sheet allowed attendees to sign up for community newsletters.

Rowlett junior Erin Gaddis, Texas NAACP president for the Youth and College Division, spoke at the orientation and helped organize Harambee. She said the idea for Harambee grew out an event called the Black State of

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Moody-Ramirez

Bodies exhumed near border may be returned to families

By REBECCA FLANNERY
STAFF WRITER

Several unidentified bodies found in graves near the Mexican border may soon find their way to families due in part to acts of diplomacy by Dr. Lori Baker, an associate professor of anthropology.

In a meeting with the Mexican Consulate last week, Baker discussed gaining access to their missing persons database. This would be an integral step in the process of identifying the bodies of suspected immigrants.

“Their database contains information of Mexicans thought to be in the United States,” Baker said. “About 400 families are in the database with DNA samples already collected.”

Baker said it may take a couple weeks to know if they will gain access to the database, but as of now it’s very likely.

“After we gain access to the Mexican database, then we will start working with other Latin American governments to see about sharing their information as well,” Baker said.

Baker and several Baylor students in the field of anthropology have worked the past two summers exhuming bodies from shallow graves in the Rio Grande Valley sector as a part of Baker’s Reuniting Families Project. Their findings have totaled 171 bodies, of which three have been identified.

“The exhumations were very successful, and we’ve continued to work on those cases but they take a

very long time,” Baker said.

Dr. Kate Spradley, an associate professor of anthropology at Texas State University, works with Baker to exhume the bodies along the Texas and Mexico border. She said they are confident to assume the bodies belong to immigrants.

“It’s why we do such thorough research,” Spradley said. “We try to match the data we collect from the bodies to the U.S. federal unidentified persons database, and if they don’t match, we have to check with other countries.”

Baker and Spradley said they are trying to create a system that would integrate databases between the U.S. and Latin American countries. She said this is key in the

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COURTESY ART

The Baylor Forensic team dig in the Rio Grand Valley with Dr. Lori Baker. Students and Baker have been working on this site for the past two summers. They have found 171 bodies and have identified three.

Minus grades hardly affect GPAs

SERGIO LEGORRETA
REPORTER

Despite mixed reactions toward the implementation of minuses in the grading system, it has not affected GPAs, said Dr. Wesley Null, vice provost for undergraduate education.

Null, a member of the Grading Policy Implementation team, said GPAs have not been negatively affected so far. When comparing approximately 3,000 students’ grades from the past three summer terms, there has virtually been no change, he said.

“Any change we’ve seen is within hundredths of a GPA point,” Null said.

The new policy, which went into effect during the May mini-mester, allows but does not require faculty members to use an altered plus and minus system in class. Minuses, not used in the previous grading policy, have a lower GPA weight than before. However, Baylor does not have a set standard to equate percentage in class to a specific letter grade.

According to the registrar’s Frequently Asked Questions about the Grading Policy Change, “Students should refer to individual course syllabi to determine how instructors intend to use the grading scale.”

Sharon Bracken, senior lecturer in the journalism department, said she uses pluses but not minuses in her class.

“I do not think that they correlate with the actual letter grade,” Bracken said. “I think it’s confusing for students. If you have a C-, I’m afraid a student might think, ‘I have a 2.0 in the class,’ when in fact they have a 1.67 average, which is not considered passing.”

North Richland Hills senior C.J. Price said he does not like the new minuses or the scaling grade policy in general.

“I would prefer if GPA was considered on a point-by-point scale so GPA was representative of performance and not distorted by one or two points,”

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Give thought to who can serve in military

Editorial

Issues are always more complex when it comes to making policy for the military. In war, the enemy doesn't care about good intentions or political correctness. U.S. service members' lives and our national security are on the line every time a policy is made or changed.

These high stakes can sometimes lead to small issues becoming complicated or cause problems for the military that U.S. society has already solved. It might not be surprising to some that the U.S. Department of Defense is the only federal agency to have a ban on the service of transgender personnel. However, even with the complicated nature of the military, it is time for the U.S. to broaden its discussion and seriously consider if it wants to continue its ban on transgender military personnel.

Secretary of Defense Chuck Hagel brought the U.S. military's ban on transgender service members back into the national conversation in May when he appeared on ABC's "This Week" and said the policy "continually should be reviewed." Hagel also said, "Every qualified American who wants to serve our country should have an opportunity if they fit the qualifications and can do it."

Hagel's comments came after an independent commission released a report calling for an end to the ban on transgender service members. San Francisco State University commissioned the five-member panel that included Dr. Joycelyn Elders, former Surgeon General, and Rear Adm. Alan Steinman, the former Coast Guard Chief Health and Safety Director. Since then, multiple LGBT advocacy groups have intensified their fight to end the ban.

Since the commission's report and Hagel's comments there has been a lot of

talk about ending the ban, but no action. The White House deferred the issue to the DOD and Hagel has refused to take a stand on either side.

According to Baylor's statement on human sexuality, it is thus expected that Baylor students will not participate in advocacy groups which promote understandings of sexuality that are contrary to biblical teaching.

While the Lariat editorial board does not condone this lifestyle, we support any American's right to serve in the military as long as they are qualified; and their sexual orientation is not enough to disqualify them from military service.

About 15,500 service members and 134,300 veterans are transgender, according to the commission. Also, at least 12 other nations currently allow them to openly serve in the military, including Israel, England and Canada.

The 15,000 service members who currently serve have to hide their identities and are not afforded access to vital health care specific to their needs, such as hormone therapy. If the military discovers these service members are transgender, they are discharged from the military and lose all access to benefits, even if they had served a long and honorable career. These people lose their career and the access to health care they would have been guaranteed as veterans, including mental health treatment.

The DOD enacted the ban on transgender service members in the 1960s because, at that time, the consensus in the psychiatric community was that people suffered from a mental disorder if they believed they were a gender other than what they were born.

It was also believed that the logistics of providing the unique medical services, necessary for transgender personnel



ASHER FREEMAN

would be too complex and expensive.

However, the consensus in the psychiatric community has changed and now states that these people do not have a mental disorder. Also, in their May report, the commission said, "We determined not only that there is no compelling medical reason for the ban, but also that the ban itself is an expensive, damaging and unfair barrier to health care access for the approximately 15,450 transgender personnel who serve currently in the active, Guard and reserve components."

It is also true that many service members are allowed to serve, and deploy, with medical conditions requiring special

treatment similar to potential the medical necessities of transgender people. For example, insulin-dependent diabetics are allowed to deploy to Iraq and Afghanistan. If the DOD can provide insulin, which has to be kept refrigerated, to personnel on remote combat outposts then surely they can provide transgender service members with the care they need.

The U.S. military's logistics system should not be underestimated. Thanks to modern medical, technological and logistical advances, transgender people can serve their nation without taking a greater risk than anyone else and without compromising the mission.

Other questions have been raised about which service uniform they should wear or which billeting they would live in, male or female.

These questions obviously need to be answered, but are very trivial compared to the big picture. The transgender service member should wear the uniform of the sex they identify with, and keep the grooming standards of that sex.

What barracks they should live in could also be decided by the sex they identify with. The military already has homosexual personnel living with heterosexual service members. These are professional adults and can be trusted to handle these types of living conditions.

This is a complex issue for the Christian community. Many Christians believe that this lifestyle is a choice and immoral. However, Christians also want to be kind, compassionate and express to the world that God loves all of his children.

There is also the fact that thousands of transgender U.S. military personnel are already honorably serving their country, during a time of war, and the nation is grateful for that service.

There are already multiple groups of people serving in the U.S. military with which Christians have a moral disagreement. For example, atheists are allowed to openly serve. Just because the Christian community doesn't protest their service, doesn't mean they endorse atheism. The same would be true for not protesting transgender service members.

Transgender Americans are still Americans and deserve the same rights as every other citizen. Does the DOD have enough to justify its ban on transgender service members? At the very least, it is time for the Christian community and America to start the discussion.

Lariat Letters

Column takes freedom from religion goals out of context

Danny Huizinga's Sept. 10 guest column titled "Viewpoint: Freedom from religion groups not helping kids" belittles Orange County Public Schools' (Fla.) decision to eliminate football chaplains at the Freedom From Religion Foundation's request. I'm the foundation attorney who showed the school system that their chaplains were unconstitutional.

Unfortunately, Huizinga's column showed little regard for the facts or law. Some mistakes are obvious. For instance, the title did not change from "chaplain" to "life coach." The chaplaincy was abolished. Danny bemoans a photo we posted of former chaplain Troy Schmidt trying to make "him look bad," but Schmidt proudly displays the same photo on his own website.

Some mistakes were less obvious.

Danny claims the foundation "intervene[s] in public schools across the country, regardless of whether there were any complaints." The foundation receives more than 2,500 complaints every year. We don't look for complaints; they come to us. That number increases as people de-convert. One third of people under 30 consider themselves nonreligious. There are more atheists and agnostics than Jews, Muslims, Hindus, Sikhs, and Buddhists combined. And yes, we did have an Orange County complaint.

Huizinga claims that we "grossly misrepresented the truth" by writing "the First Amendment does not give you the right to enter into public schools and force your religion onto other people's children." But as the former chaplain's interview shows, Schmidt thinks the First Amendment gives him that right. He's wrong. And we were right to point it out.

Perhaps the chaplain issue should be decided

by determining what is best for the children as Huizinga suggests. But, who knows best, Huizinga and the chaplains or the children's parents? Parents can send their children to Sunday school if they want their child to have religious education. Public schools are not for religious indoctrination.

Danny tells us "the phrase 'separation of church and state' first gained prominent legal power in 1947..." that these are "not... the Constitution's words." Not quite. The language is a metaphor, as is "fair trial," which is not in the Constitution either. But the Supreme Court adopted the phrase nearly 70 years earlier, in 1878, Reynolds v. U.S., quoting Jefferson's 1802 "wall of separation" letter. Rhode Island founder Roger Williams wrote of a "wall of separation between the garden of the church and the wilderness of the world" in 1644. Presidents from Jefferson to Madison to Tyler to JFK all used separation language.

Finally, Huizinga equates government neutrality with promoting atheism. This is perhaps the biggest misunderstanding about the First Amendment. We did not want schools "promoting nontheism in schools." We want schools to remain neutral on religion.

Neutrality is not atheism. Imagine a public school football coach, a government employee, promoting nontheism: "Kids, there is no god and religion is bad." Here's the coach, still a government employee, acting with constitutionally mandated neutrality: "Kids, go out there and do your best."

Surely Huizinga can understand this difference? If not, perhaps he better keep his pen to himself.

— Andrew L. Seidel,

Attorney for Freedom From Religion Foundation Inc.

NFL should protect women

The National Football League is the most profitable sports league in the world, and possibly one of the most powerful institutions in the United States. Unfortunately, the league has a black mark when it comes to one of the most basic tenants of society: protecting women.

According to FiveThirtyEight's Benjamin Morris, considering the relative wealth and status of NFL players, the domestic violence rate is "extremely high relative to expectations." Since 2000, there have been 85 incidents of domestic violence.

The trend has not slowed since current NFL commissioner Roger Goodell has entered office; 44 players have been arrested since his term started in 2014.

Goodell and the NFL need to be held accountable by the public for its soft stance on domestic violence.

Former Baltimore Ravens running back Ray Rice was arrested on Feb. 15 on charges of assault of his then-fiancée, now wife, Janay Palmer in a New Jersey casino. Entertainment conglomerate TMZ released footage of Rice dragging Palmer's unconscious body out of an elevator.

For the felony domestic assault, Rice was suspended two games. For comparisons sake, Denver Broncos wide receiver Wes Welker tested positive for amphetamine, but was suspended four games for the failed drug test.

On Sept. 9, TMZ released a more complete security camera video of the altercation, which showed a more devastating look at Rice's assault. The second video became a national story and brought the NFL significant criticism for the handling of the case.

In response, the league suspended Rice indefinitely; otherwise, Rice would have rejoined the Ravens after its Thursday night game. The Ravens later cut Rice.

There are two possibilities: either the NFL is lying and saw the tape and still gave Rice only two games, or the most powerful sports league in the world put less effort into an investigation of domestic assault

than a gossip website.

Regardless of the truth, it does not matter. We know serious domestic violence occurred. We already saw Rice pulling a limp body from an elevator. Even before the second video was released, there was little question of what happened.

While Rice's transgression was heinous, the public should not need the instant replay to recognize what has become a dirty trend in the NFL.



Shehan Jeyarajah
Sports Editor

Rice is not the only player who the NFL has failed. Carolina Panthers' defensive end Greg Hardy was convicted of assaulting and threatening to kill his former girlfriend; Hardy played on opening day.

After the Rice incident, Goodell said he was implementing stricter guidelines for players charged with domestic assault.

Only days later, San Francisco 49ers defensive end Ray McDonald was booked on charges of felony domestic assault, seemingly a perfect opportunity to assert his new program. McDonald played on opening day.

The NFL is not the only body at fault. Out of the 85 domestic cases, charges were dropped in 29 cases, 22 resulted in players being sent to diversion programs, 15 resulted in a plea deal and only three resulted in jail time. You read that correctly, only 3.5 percent of NFL players arrested for domestic assault actually served any jail time. Those three served a grand total of 49 days between them.

The legal system is giving players a pass, but whether legally or morally, the NFL has a responsibility to control its players, a responsibility the league clearly does not take seriously.

The National Organization for Women, one of the leading women's rights advocacy groups, called for Goodell to resign. If Goodell is not the man to clean up the scourge of domestic violence in the NFL, it may be time to find someone who can.

Shehan Jeyarajah is a junior political science major from Coppel. He is the sports editor for the Lariat. Follow him on Twitter @ShehanJeyarajah.

Opinion

The Baylor Lariat welcomes reader viewpoints through letters to the editor and guest columns. Opinions expressed in the Lariat are not necessarily those of the Baylor administration, the Baylor Board of Regents or the Student Publications Board.

Corrections

In the Sept. 10 article titled "New business school campus to introduce new technology," the finished business school is quoted as 750,000 square feet. The business school, upon completion, will be 275,000 square feet.

The Baylor Lariat strives for accuracy. If a correction is needed, email the correction to Lariat_Letters@baylor.edu.

From the Lariat blog



"Give my Regards to Bear Country"

"When the house lights dim and the orchestra hits the first notes, a surge almost as intense as the Phantom's overture washes over me, and suddenly, I'm behind the blue velvet curtain of my hometown's auditorium once again, awaiting my cue to begin."

— Tyler senior Taylor Griffin, Lariat blogger

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Brothers go through Army ROTC together

By REBECCA FIELDER
CONTRIBUTOR

Two Baylor Army ROTC cadets have more in common than the uniforms they wear. For the first time in Baylor's history, two siblings are contracted together, set on a career path toward military service.

Fort Leavenworth, Kan., sophomore Connor McHugh has been in Baylor ROTC for a year and this semester his younger brother, Dylan McHugh of Fort Leavenworth, Kan., enters the program as a freshman.

The two will contract today, which means they will take an oath in front of their peers and ROTC supervisors to serve in the Army as officers after graduation from Baylor.

Ysenia Crouse, Baylor Army ROTC recruiting operations officer, said this summer was the first time ROTC faculty realized a freshman coming into the program was named McHugh, like Connor. The faculty connected the dots, checked the paperwork, and discovered the two were brothers, she said.

"Dylan and Connor have been together since they were younger, so they get along very well, to the point that they're rooming together in the same dorm," she said.

Connor said he wishes to pursue a life-long career in the military, while Dylan said he is unsure how long he will serve.

"I might get out after I've served some time, but I'll definitely be in more than the



SKYE DUNCAN | LARIAT PHOTOGRAPHER

Sophomore Connor McHugh and freshman Dylan McHugh, the first siblings to go through Baylor ROTC together, will be pledging their services (upon their graduations) to the military this week.

four years that I owe them," Dylan said. "It'll probably be somewhere between ten and 20."

Connor said he knew since he was in high school he wanted to participate in ROTC when he came to college. Dylan said he was of a similar mindset.

"For me the reason is mostly because of the legacy we have," Dylan said. "Our grandpa was in the military and our dad is currently in the military. That played a big part, just seeing the roles that they had in our lives."

The brothers said the financial benefit

of scholarships from ROTC were also a deciding factor. Both brothers were granted a coveted national scholarship from the U.S. Army Cadet Command while still in high school, Connor for three years of school and Dylan for four. Both siblings also receive financial support through the Baylor

Yellow Ribbon program, which caters to veterans and their families. The brothers' father is a colonel in the Army infantry.

"Baylor seemed the most military-friendly of all the schools I applied to," Connor said.

So far the siblings' experience together at Baylor Army ROTC has been a positive one, they said. Dylan said it has been beneficial for him to enter ROTC with his older brother already participating.

"It's been really helpful, especially because Connor has been here a year already. He already knows what I'm going through and what I should do to succeed," Dylan said.

Connor said he and his brother found ROTC beneficial over immediate military service after high school because there are career benefits in having a college degree alongside service.

Dylan wishes to pursue a medical career within the Army while Connor said he has a desire to be a military police officer.

The two agree that growing up in a military family influenced their decision to join ROTC but they have always been free to make their own choices.

"Our dad told me at the beginning of the semester to try out ROTC for a month, and if it didn't turn out like I wanted it to be, then I could just not do it and not contract," Dylan said. "He said it was my choice, and so did my mom. They said they would support us either way. But I'm sure that they're both proud of us for doing it together."

GOP says no to bank loans

By ERICA WERNER
ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON — The tea party may have learned its lesson.

As Congress finishes work on a must-pass spending bill set for votes next week, the most conservative lawmakers on Capitol Hill are eager to send a message on immigration, and stand firm against a government lending bank.

But a year after they forced a 16-day partial government shutdown over President Barack Obama's health care law, few seem to have the stomach to push their demands that far again.

"No question we learned that with the aid of the news media the Democrats were able to pin the blame on us" for last year's shutdown, said conservative Rep. Mo Brooks, R-Ala.

This time around, Brooks said, "We need to pass whatever funding necessary to prevent a government shutdown, first and foremost."

Rep. John Fleming, R-La., another tea party-aligned lawmaker, said: "I don't think any of us want to have a big battle" over the spending bill to fund government operations into December.

Majority Leader Kevin McCarthy announced Wednesday that votes on the measure would be put off to next week to give lawmakers time to weigh the Obama administration's request to include authori-

zation to aid Syrian rebels fighting Islamic State terrorists.

Meanwhile some conservative lawmakers said they are leaning toward supporting the legislation crafted by GOP leaders, even though outside groups on the right are pushing for a "no" vote because it includes an extension of the Export-Import Bank. Many conservatives say the bank that lends to U.S. exporters amounts to corporate welfare.

At the same time, conservatives are signaling they won't use the bill to make a stand over immigration.

Conservatives led by Sen. Ted Cruz, R-Texas, held a press conference this week demanding that Senate Democrats allow a vote on a House-passed measure to block Obama from using executive action to set immigration policy. But Cruz, who played a lead role in last year's shut down, stopped short of threatening to oppose the spending bill if it doesn't include such a measure.

The new dynamic represents a change from the final days before Congress' August recess, when conservatives coached by Cruz and Sen. Jeff Sessions, R-Ala., forced House GOP leaders to scuttle legislation to deal with the unaccompanied minors at the border, and replace it with tougher measures.

This time, "They'll make their own decision about that over there," Sessions said. "No one



ASSOCIATED PRESS

This photo taken July 23, 2013, shows the U.S. Capitol in Washington. Congress returns to work this week with a relatively short and simple agenda, vote to keep the government operating in the short term, then return home to campaign.

wants to be in a shutdown mode."

Even those conservatives who plan to oppose the spending bill for one reason or another appear to be doing so in full confidence that it will pass anyway, with some Democratic support.

"When I looked at the bill I figured that the leadership's already worked this out with the Democrats," said Rep. Thomas Massie, R-Ky., who was among the lawmakers in a meeting Tuesday night with Cruz. Massie and others want the bill to fund the government past the new year.

Rep. Matt Salmon, R-Ariz., also plans to vote "no" but said: "I do anticipate it will pass. ... I don't want to see a government shutdown, at all."

Last year's shutdown amounted to a political fiasco for the GOP, disgusting voters and damaging the party's brand without doing anything to rein in Obamacare. One outcome was to strengthen the hand of party leaders, ac-

cording to GOP aides, while also undercutting the credibility with House Republicans of the senators and outside groups who'd pushed for the shutdown, such as Heritage Action and the Club for Growth.

At the same time, the little-known Export-Import Bank does not carry the political and emotional charge of Obamacare, while the immigration issue is not an immediate concern for most lawmakers since Obama announced he was postponing taking action until after the election. And with elections coming in November, many have little interest in a messy dispute that could make them all look bad.

A press release from House Democratic Leader Nancy Pelosi's office Wednesday declared "Far-Right Groups Urge Another Republican Government Shutdown" after Heritage Action and Club for Growth announced their opposition to the spending bill.

STEM job fair allows students to interact with major companies

By BROOKS WHITEHURST
REPORTER

relevant conversation because they haven't done their research."

Science, technology, engineering, and math focused employers will visit campus today to recruit students for careers and internships today.

The STEM job fair, from 1 - 4 p.m., will take place on the fifth floor of the Cashion Academic Center. Career and Professional Development will bring in 59 companies to visit with students.

"The whole reason we do job fairs is to bring the opportunities and employers to students," said Marjorie Ellis, executive director of career and professional development. "Students want the opportunities but often aren't sure how to contact them."

Carolyn Muska, director of professional development, said in order for students to get the most out of a career fair they should come prepared and appropriately dressed.

"The preparation piece is so important," Muska said. "If they don't prepare, the result is that they're awkward or can't have a

attending the fair have identified and researched his or her preferred three to five companies. She also said students should have prepared what she calls a "30-second commercial," something she said few think to do.

"The 30-second commercial is an intro piece," Muska said. "It lets the recruiter know who you are, what you're interested in and what your specific interests are."

Dress for the event is professional and attendees should also bring their student ID, according to the event page on the Career and Professional Development website. Muska also said students will need to bring several copies of a polished resume.

Among the 59 companies on campus today will be Chevron Phillips, AT&T, Halliburton and Lockheed Martin.

"This is your opportunity to make a first impression," Ellis said. "This could be the opportunity that gets you a position over someone else."

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the Union, which was organized April 2 in response to intercultural conflict.

"There were racist incidents brought to attention," Gaddis said. "There was a lot of tension. A lot of people got hurt."

One such incident happened the same night as the Black State of the Union. Racist remarks were made on Yik Yak, a mobile phone

application that lets users communicate anonymously in a small radius. After one user suggested that Baylor needed more diversity, a slew of racist comments followed.

Gaddis said Harambee was organized to build a community and avoid conflicts seen last year.

"People often get disappointed since events at Baylor don't always cater to the black student commu-

nity," Gaddis said.

Waco senior Jewel Udenwagu, president of the African Student Association, attended Harambee and said the event and movement by black students was an opportunity to shine a positive light where negativity once existed.

"We want to show there's unity and positivity in the black community," Udenwagu said.



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War from Page 1

the Middle East. Even so, he acknowledged that "any time we take military action, there are risks involved, especially to the servicemen and women who carry out these missions."

"But I want the American people to understand how this effort will be different from the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan. It will not involve American combat troops fighting on foreign soil," he added.

The president's speech, which lasted about 15 minutes, followed a summer of deliberation at the

White House over how to respond to the violent Islamic State militants. While administration officials have said they are not aware of a credible threat of a potential attack by the militants in the U.S., they say the group poses risks to Americans and interests across the Middle East. Officials are also concerned about the prospect that Westerners, including Americans, who have joined the militant group could return to their home countries to launch attacks.

In recent weeks, the militants

have released videos depicting the beheading of two American journalists in Syria. The violent images appear to have had an impact on a formerly war-weary public, with multiple polls in recent days showing that the majority of Americans support airstrikes in both Iraq and Syria.

The U.S. began launching limited airstrikes against Islamic State targets in Iraq earlier this summer at the request of that country's former prime minister. But Obama vowed that he would not commit

the U.S. to a deeper military campaign until Iraq formed a new government that allowed greater participation from all sects, a step Iraqi leaders took Tuesday.

Officials said Obama plans to proceed with both the broader airstrikes in Iraq and the strikes in Syria without seeking new authorization from Congress. Instead, he is to act under a use-of-force authorization Congress passed in the days after 9/11 to give President George W. Bush the ability to go after those who perpetrated the

terror attacks. Obama has previously called for that authorization to be repealed, but he has also used it as support for strikes against terror targets in Yemen and Somalia.

Obama said his approach in Syria is modeled after those long-running U.S. counterterrorism campaigns. But it is different in important ways, starting with the fact that it marks the first time since 9/11 that a U.S. president has authorized the bombing of terror targets in another nation without seeking permission or at least no-

tifying it in advance.

House Speaker John Boehner, R-Ohio, praised Obama for acknowledging the "grave and growing threat" that Islamic extremists pose, but he said Obama was coming to that conclusion far too late.

"He has finally begun to make the case the nation has needed him to make for quite some time: that destroying this terrorist threat requires decisive action and must be the highest priority for the United States and other nations of the free world," Boehner said.

Grades from Page 1

Price said.

Dr. Chris Pullig, associate professor and chairman of marketing, said he finds the pluses and minuses system useful and implements it in class.

"It will be beneficial in that Baylor will be viewed as having a higher level of academic rigor, which will be better in the long run for students," Pullig said.

Pullig said the system is especially beneficial for graduate students, as law school admissions already adjust students' GPA into their grading scales, which includes minuses. If students apply while at an institution that does not use a minus scale system they may have their GPA adjusted downward more than necessary for comparisons, particularly if numerical values on transcripts cannot be verified.

"It aligns us with peer institutions so that graduate schools can make more direct GPA comparisons," Pullig said.

However, Pullig said it is good the policy remains optional for professors.

"An optional policy is common across many schools," he said. "The advantage of it being optional is that individual professors can apply it according to the rigor of the course. I have confidence that individual faculty members will apply the policy in an appropriate manner."

San Antonio senior Alexander Keller said he believes the policy may be beneficial for graduates in other regards outside of law school applications.

"If you and another candidate apply for a job and you both have a 3.0, but you are in the minus system, it can come down to that," Keller said.

Bodies from Page 1

effort to identify missing persons near the border.

"In Texas we have a much more diverse group of people coming across the border," Baker said. "We have about 50 percent Mexican nationals, but also an increase in the number of Latin American immigrants, as well as Chinese, African and Middle Eastern people coming across our southern border."

The bodies have to be examined to create biological profiles, which could take months to complete, Baker said.

"We do an assessment to see if there's any trauma that someone might have sustained during life that would give us an indication of who they were - like a broken leg or a reconstructed knee," Baker said. "We also look for determination through the skeletal remains for the age, sex or stature of a person."

All of the factors examined help narrow down who the person might have been, Baker said.

The ultimate goal for the Reuniting Families Project is to determine identities and return the deceased to their families, according to the International Consortium for Forensic Identification website.

"We are collecting data on how to better understand the human variation across all these different nations," Baker said. "My students are so willing and interested in giving of themselves to something that could benefit humanity."

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When tech meets fab

New software streamlines fashion department

By ELLY SPENCER
REPORTER

Baylor's apparel design and merchandising students will soon have the chance to bring their designs to life with the latest software in visual fashion design.

Fashion-design majors entering the spring semester of their senior year work with fabric design and bring their imagination and creativity to the forefront using the new Optitex 3D software.

Students put their designs on a 3D avatar, displaying what the clothes will look like on the body. Students can choose the height, weight, skin color and even the hair color of the avatar wearing their designs.

The software holds many benefits and advantages for Baylor fashion students, one being it allows students to have faster, more efficient work.

"For the design students, their

first sample will be of better quality, because they'll be able to see mistakes on the avatar," said Jaynie Fader, apparel design and merchandising senior lecturer. "Merchandising majors will also find the software extremely helpful because of the marketing aspect."

Academy Sports and Outdoors donated the funds for the software this summer, after specifically choosing Baylor to receive the store's assistance.

Academy released its plans to assist Baylor fashion in the spring.

"They chose Baylor and came to us," Fader said. "They really like our undergrads, and many are employees or interns."

The Optitex 3D software is not the first technological advance Baylor fashion has held over other universities. Baylor is already one of the only universities to have a fabric printer, various Adobe products, Gerber WebPDM, which is an online product data management

software, and many storyboard and catalog pages.

"With having a top-notch technology aspect to our programs, Baylor is ahead of the curve when it comes to the latest technology and procedures that companies have," said Dallas senior Kendal Carse, fashion student ambassador.

Fashionista.com rated Baylor in the top 20 fashion departments in the nation in 2011, while FashionSchools.org rated Baylor 35th of 75 apparel and merchandising programs within the nation.

Fader said she believes the fashion department's technology lab is what has landed Baylor in the prestigious university ranking it holds.

"I've been here for nine years, and our technology is the reason for our top listings," Fader said. "Usually we're one of the only schools within the Midwest to be listed."

The fashion department's lab and climbing ranks have led many



CONSTANCE ATTON | LARIAT PHOTOGRAPHER

Apparel design and merchandising students will improve the quality of their designs with the help of a new software called Optitex 3D. The program allows users to display clothing designs on a 3D customized model.

students within the department to come on board for the program.

Stony Point, N.Y., senior Madison Zucker said she was one of those students.

"Learning about these rankings

is actually what led me to look at Baylor in the first place," Zucker said.

Students have recognized the technology lab the Baylor fashion department possesses, and are

thankful for the advantages it gives them, Carse said.

"Because of its lab, Baylor has built a reputation among companies that seek after and hire Baylor graduates," Carse said.

Ed Sheeran draws audiences with honest lyrics, one-man-band syle

By JONATHAN TAKIFF
McCLATCHY-TRIBUNE

A ginger-haired, scruffy and increasingly tattooed "misfit" from Britain, Ed Sheeran plays guitar, beatboxes and, occasionally, fiddles. He also writes and winsomely sings hip-hop-inflected folk confessionals that enthrall young'uns — and their parents, too.

And while clearly connected to the keep-it-real troubadour continuum that stretches, as he said, from "Bob Dylan and Van Morrison to Damien Rice and Jason Mraz," there's never been a phenomenon quite like him.

Even in their brightest superstar moments, a Dylan (or James Taylor, Cat Stevens, John Denver or Jackson Browne) could never do what Sheeran now does — fill an entire arena with music, and fans, all by his lonesome.

Yes, this ever-gracious guy did accept a bit of musical assistance from Welcome America house band the Roots when he headlined the July Fourth extravaganza in Philadelphia this summer.

"It was the biggest show I've ever done in the U.S.," he shared in a

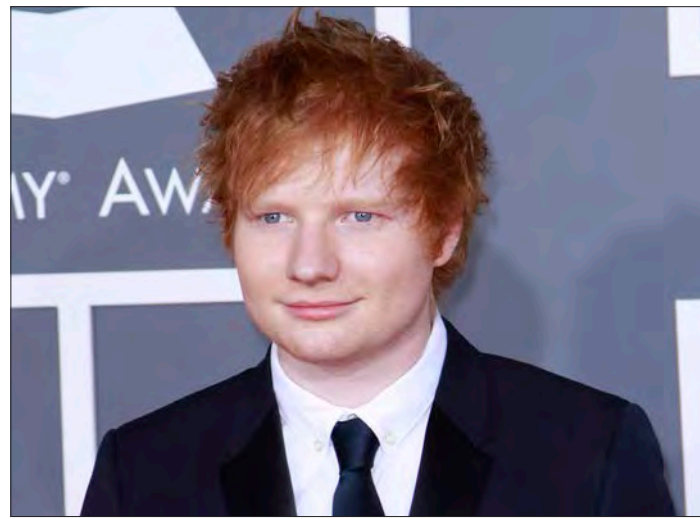
recent chat, a day after his first win at the MTV Video Music Awards.

The Roots and their vocal chorus were especially helpful in boosting the football stadium sing-along nature of Sheeran's hit anthem "Sing." You know, the tune with the hearty, wobbly "wa-ah-ah-oh-oh-oh-oh" hook suggested by song collaborator Pharrell Williams. And so was that video, co-starring a cute Sheeran puppet, which won the guy his MTV honor.

But when Sheeran dips into other gems like "The A Team," "One," "I'm a Mess" and the notorious "Don't" from his hit albums "+" and "X," the guy gets by with just a bunch of three-quarter-size (mostly Martin) guitars and some foot-pedal-triggered machinery — the latter to lay down those snappy beatbox grooves and allow Ed to build up, quite impressively, looped backing vocals and guitar riffage.

"I am creating a bigger sound than you've heard from me in the past," Sheeran mock-protested with a laugh to our "Got a band yet?" question.

"I've upped the arsenal, got four



McCLATCHY-TRIBUNE

British singer and musician Ed Sheeran has gained followers in both the U.S. and the U.K., as well as other countries from all over the world.

times the gear onstage. So it's a bigger 'band,' if you will, that I'm traveling with. And with all that stuff at the ready, I'm rarely left in the lurch from equipment failure."

Surviving on his own has been instinctual and mandatory since the now 23-year-old bravely left home (Framingham, England) at age 16 to make his way as a musician in London. Plenty of dues paying followed. Busking on street

corners. Passing the hat at bars throughout the United Kingdom. Learning what it takes in the 21st century to attract a crowd — and when it's time to move on.

"Reason to travel light with a small guitar," he shared. But in truth, those smaller-scale instruments also fit his small frame and understated nature.

Sheeran's friend and sometimes opening act Michael Rosenberg

(better known as Passenger) says that "for a long spell, before things turned around, even the most legendary, 'folk-centric' British pubs were not friendly to guys like Ed and me. The times had changed, tastes had changed. A DJ would pack the house. We could only bring in 20 people."

Things started turning around after Sheeran sold enough homemade CDs to buy a plane ticket to L.A., where he got a break performing on Jamie Foxx's satellite radio channel and hanging out at the actor/comedian's house.

Back in Britain, he picked up support from his now-manager Stuart Camp, a colleague of Elton John's who would also famously advise and endorse Sheeran's artistry.

The buzz would also build after Sheeran supplied tunes to red-hot boy band One Direction.

Brits embraced Sheeran in full measure when his first mainstream-label album came out. "+" (pronounced "plus") became "the most illegally downloaded record in England," he proudly proclaimed in a radio interview. "And worldwide, it's been downloaded

43 million times. It feels amazing to know I'm on so many people's iPods."

Then the floodgates opened here, especially after Sheeran won stateside tour slots opening for Snow Patrol, and for Taylor Swift on her "Red" tour.

She and he got along famously and even wrote and recorded some songs together (at least one while bouncing on her trampoline) that were supposed to wind up on a deluxe edition of "Red."

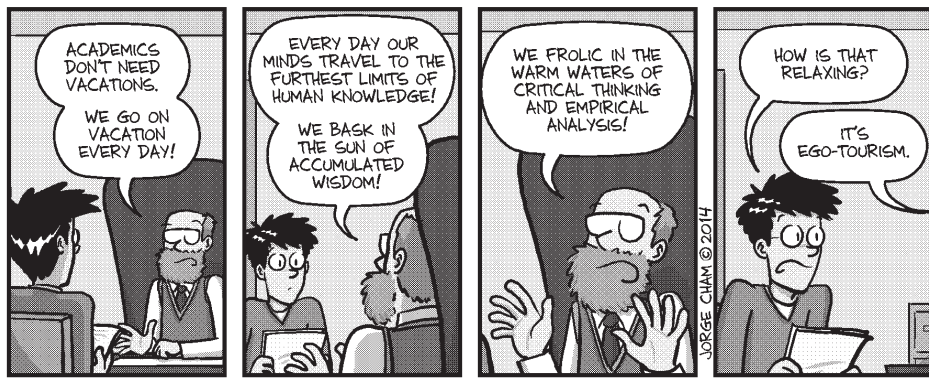
They "will see the light of day eventually," he said.

Also in Sheeran's future, he hinted, is another in a series of folk-meets-hip-hop collaborations, this time with the Game, maybe some music recorded with Usher and more movie soundtrack placements.

"But I really shouldn't talk about what's coming up," he demurred. "There's the current album to promote. And it's up to the people who asked me to collaborate to announce their timing."

Yeah, it seems that Sheeran has been coached on working the career side of his life a bit more professionally.

Piled Higher & Deeper Ph D.



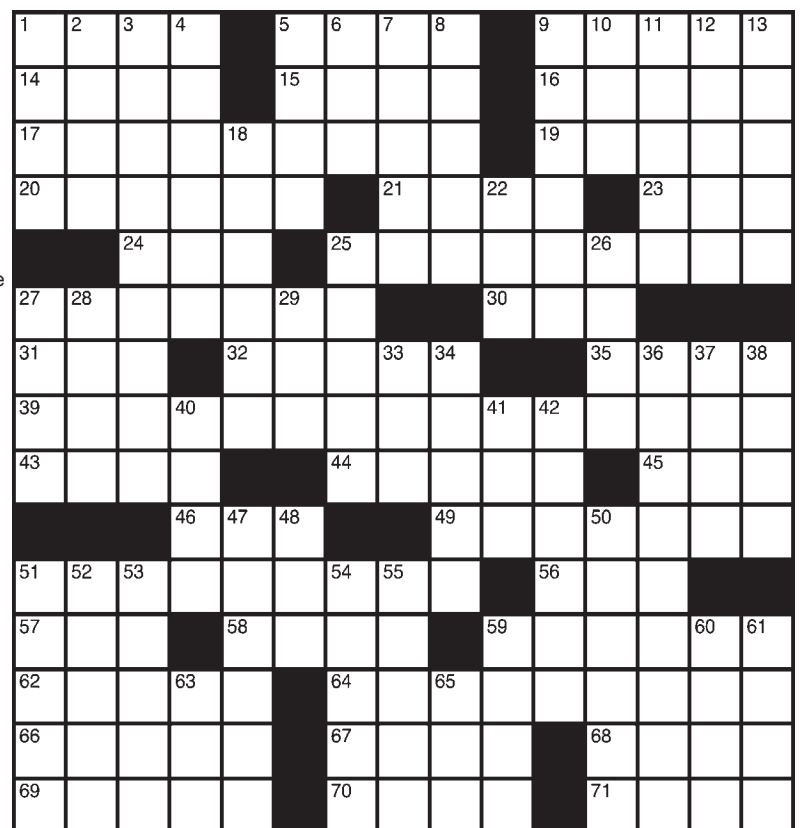
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DAILY PUZZLES

Answers at www.baylorlariat.com

- Across
- City with a Viking Ship Museum
 - Booking agents?
 - Boardroom graphic
 - Goof up
 - Cheerful tune
 - "Thus with a kiss I die" speaker
 - Par, for stock
 - "No thanks"
 - Spend an evening at home
 - Spam folders
 - Minor facial spasm, say
 - Wanna-__: poseurs
 - Delicate tableware
 - Friendly
 - Rival of Peyton
 - A, in Assisi
 - Best
 - Workplace protection agcy.
 - Same old same old
 - Craigslist caveat
 - University of Alabama head coach Nick
 - Tear
 - Some commuter lines
 - Web designers
 - Special effects scene in a summer blockbuster, say
 - Silent __: Coolidge nickname
 - Year in Mexico
 - Bring in
 - Many a marathon winner since the '90s
 - Talmud scholar
 - Slogan for TV channel TBS, and a hint to the first word of 17-, 25-, 39- and 51-Across
 - Pastel shade
 - Word-of-mouth
 - Beethoven's birth city
 - Spheres
 - Pound enclosure
 - Online crafts store

- Down
- Does in
 - Blind piece
 - "The Godfather" hatchet man
 - Did as directed
 - Tartan-wearing group



- Canola __
- Demoted planet
- Stout holder
- Shortening brand since 1911
- Short flight
- Vintage violin
- Pine secretion
- Puccini classic
- Asset of successful entrepreneurs
- Monarch catcher
- Hallow
- Med. plan choices
- Largest Caribbean island
- Burden
- "Wheel of Fortune" request
- Solheim Cup team
- Brew brand with a ribbon logo
- Formal "Uh-uh!"
- Kojak's lack
- Lake Geneva backdrop
- "Got it"
- Gullible one
- Intl. relief agency since 1946
- Karaoke machine display
- Spokane-to-Boise dir.
- Vienna's river
- "A League of Their Own" infielder __ Hooch
- Studio alert
- Duke or earl
- Utter chaos
- Puccini work
- Stan's pal on "South Park"
- Landers and Richards
- Part of a SoHo address
- Petting zoo cry
- Dust collector

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	6				3	9		
	8	5		7				4
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Football prepares for road test

By JEFFREY SWINDOLL
SPORTS WRITER

No. 8 Baylor football opened McLane Stadium with just about everything it could have wanted out of its first two games in the stadium, but the Bears will face their first road test this season on Friday in front of a sold-out crowd at University of Buffalo.

"You know you have to win on the road. That's just it," Baylor head coach Art Briles said. "You have to go on the road, you have to win, and you've got to understand that now it's a situation where it might not have been that way five years ago. They want to get us on their home floor and they want to slap us around. So either you man up, you play tougher, you bond more together, you fight harder for each other or you stay at home and don't get on the plane."

It has been all smiles for the Bears to open the season in the new stadium. They have put up big numbers and big plays in front of big home crowds. With an injury-stricken roster and its first away game of the season, Baylor's younger players will face possibly an even greater challenge at Buffalo than their last two games.

"It's always good to win on the road," junior receiver Jay Lee said. "So if we can go out there and pick up this win [against Buffalo]



Baylor football players get hyped up in the pregame warmups before playing Northwestern State on Sept. 6 at McLane Stadium. The Bears vanquished the Demons 70-6.

exceptionally well in the first two games, especially Baylor's backup receivers with senior starters Antwan Goodley, Levi Norwood and Clay Fuller out of the lineup. However, junior offensive tackle Spencer Drango said there are some things that talent and skill may not prepare a player for playing in front of a hostile crowd at the college level.

"It's good having [an away game] early, to get our young guys accustomed to it because I'm expecting it to be what most Big 12 atmospheres are like," Drango said. "It'll definitely be good experience for the young guys."

The jump in crowd size from high school to college can be a substantial difference. There are few high-school venues that come even close to the size of stadiums and crowds the Bears will play this year.

Drango said it is not really something one can extensively prepare for; rather it is just an experience that players have to go through with open eyes and focused minds.

before the bye week, we have to come ready."

The University of Buffalo is hyping this game as their marquee game of the season. In fact, the school is spreading word to its fans, who plan to "black out" the stadium, similar to what Baylor did against Oklahoma in 2013.

"I don't know how many ["blackout" games] they have had, probably one. To me that is good," Briles said. "It challenges us to some extent, and I like that part of it because we are not going to be in any comfort zone. We are going to have to go out there and depend on the guys we look around and see. That part of it is kind of inspiring to me."

The youth on the team have performed

Akanyirige shines in new offensive role

By JEFFREY SWINDOLL
SPORTS WRITER

Baylor soccer forward Precious Akanyirige is tied for the team lead in goals as a true freshman, and has done it all playing a position she had hardly played at all before coming to Baylor.

Listed as a defender earlier in her career, Akanyirige had played as a forward competitively on rare occasions.

Baylor co-head coach Marci Jobson happened to attend one of the few club games that Akanyirige played as a forward, not necessarily aware of Akanyirige's abilities to play that position.

"She was playing in the back with her team as she always does, and her coach popped her up top for about 10 minutes, and then [the coaching staff] said we were probably going to use her up top," Jobson said.

Jobson said Akanyirige has natural abilities to play the position. However, adjusting from the high school to college level is a big jump in any sport, especially with having to learn a brand new position.

"I think she's starting to understand the position better," Jobson said. "When she

first started playing forward, she said, 'I just don't really understand the position.' I said, 'Just run around and try and shoot and you'll be fine.' I keep telling her, 'Just pretend like you're the best player on the field.' So I think she's just starting to believe that a little bit," Jobson said.



Akanyirige

As a four-star defender in high school, speed was one of Akanyirige's greatest assets and has been all her life. Akanyirige led her high school's 4x100 relay track team to the California state finals in 2011 and 2013, and was named MVP of her high school's track team in 2012.

"She's good at scoring. She's fast a jet. She's got to continue to develop a little more endurance up top, being able to run longer. But you know she's still very good at what she does," Jobson said.

Akanyirige scored her first collegiate goal against No. 22 Brigham Young University last week. It was a huge goal for the Bears, who

went on to upset the Cougars 2-1 that day.

"I'm getting a little bit more comfortable playing a new position," Akanyirige said. "It's just great to get experience out on the field being a freshman."

Since that game, Akanyirige has scored in two straight matches and has become a staple to a Baylor offense that is firing on all cylinders as of late. The Bears have scored 12 goals in its last three games. Akanyirige has been key to the strong effort with her superior speed and physical dominance in the penalty box.

Baylor's offensive production is predicated on the wing players getting down the flank and crossing the ball into the box for the forward to hammer the ball in from just a few yards out. Baylor's wingers, including seniors Natalie Huggins and Justine Hovden, have been very successful at getting past defenders on the sideline and providing good service for the forwards. Akanyirige is just now finding her form and the places to be in the box to convert those crosses into goals.

"I keep telling myself that I need to get in front of the goal because there have been so many balls that I've missed like that, and I just want to be able to help out my team get there. That's my job," Akanyirige said.

No. 8 Baylor football built for the future

By CODY SOTO
SPORTS WRITER

SPORTS TAKE

Baylor football is in its golden age, something this program has not seen before. With one Heisman winner and a Big 12 championship under its belt, Baylor Nation should not expect this excitement to go away any time soon.

The Bears will continue to see success under the reign of head coach Art Briles and the current coaching staff, which has turned around this program just in the seven years that Briles has been at Baylor. Under Briles, the Bears have been ranked in the AP Top 25 for a school-record 19 straight weeks. Baylor is 17-2 in the last 19 games, an .895 win percentage.

Baylor is currently the most successful FBS program in the state of Texas since 2011 with a win percentage of .756 (31-10). Before Briles, attendance at games was mediocre and still was not great during the era of Heisman winner and former Baylor quarterback Robert Griffin III.

Students and fans are now scrambling for tickets and selling out the stadium, something that has not happened in the history of Baylor football.

The brand new McLane Stadium is a testament to the national attention that this team is receiving and the hard work that is paying off for the Bears. Baylor has yet to allow any team to score in their "Palace on the Brazos."

Part of Baylor's success is coming from the transfers that have come to play for the Bears. Former running back Lache Seastunk transferred from Oregon and had over 1,100 rushing yards and ran for 11 touchdowns in the 2013 season. Other transfers include Phil Taylor (Penn State), Demetri Goodson (Gonzaga), and Jordan Najvar (Stanford). This Senior defensive end Shawn Oakman is also a transfer who originally played for Penn State.

Also, Briles continues to bring new talent to Waco, and Baylor's

recruiting classes is climbing the national charts in skill level and overall impact. The Bears currently have 12 commits in the 2015 recruiting class and are ranked 36th overall by Scout.com. The 2016 class already has five commits, including four-star prospects at running back, wide receiver and cornerback, as well as a quarterback poised to rise up boards. If Baylor has another successful season in 2014, the recruiting rankings will continue to climb.

To top it off, many underclassmen players will lead the team after the current senior class departs this year. Sophomore quarterback Seth Russell has already received some valuable playing time this season with a record-breaking half against Northwestern State. Freshman wide receiver K.D. Cannon will also return to the offense as well as many members of the "Gang Green" defense. Baylor is benefiting from having the underclassmen out on the field that will help the team in the long run. With more starts and more experience, leaders will emerge from the underclassmen.

Even after their time on the team, former players are still finding themselves in the national spotlight as they enter into the NFL Draft, another place where Baylor leads the state of Texas with 15 draft picks over the past three years. Five players were drafted in the 2014 NFL Draft, and many more eventually signed training camp deals with NFL teams.

With Baylor's rise of success in the past three years, Baylor Nation should not worry if their team will bring home more victories next season. Experience, expectations, and future recruits will lead this team year after year to prominence.

The Bears look to continue their growth at 7 p.m. on Friday against Buffalo. The game will be nationally televised on ESPN.



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