

Baylor Backstory

The stories and snapshots that shaped our campus



BU BAYLOR LARIAT
News for the students by the students

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Ava Sanborn | Photographer

LEGACY Men on the third floor of Penland Residence Hall continue the reputation as being boisterous.

Penland Hall's 'Dirty Third' lives on

AVA DUNWOODY
Staff Writer

The "Dirty Third" of Penland Residence Hall continues another year through notoriously messy pranks, a tradition rumored to have begun back when it was an all-men's dormitory. Nobody seems to know how or when it truly began, but the freshmen are continuing the legacy.

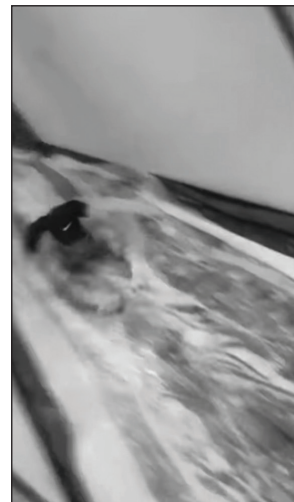
Mobile, Ala., freshman Parks Moore said he stayed with second-floor Penland men during one of his visits to Baylor and heard rumors of the floor above. He said that's how he knew where he wanted to live the following year.

"It was where the most fun happened," Moore said. "I'm a pretty outgoing person, so I really wanted to be around that fun."

So far, Moore has stumbled upon hay bales stacked in the showers and an indoor slip and slide that went viral on social media. Past Dirty Third residents said there has been a toilet paper-wrapped Christmas tree in a third-floor toilet, spilled kiddie pools in the hall and many accounts of broken ceiling tiles.

McKinney senior Jacob Gerard is a Dirty Third legacy, as both he and his father lived there as Baylor freshmen. When Gerard moved in, he knew he was going to grow close to everybody through the "chaos of the third floor."

During his freshman year, Gerard said the "favorite" CL of the Dirty Third was fired for employee misconduct. In revolt, "the third floor threw a riot," Gerard said.



Courtesy of viral video

SLIP N SLIDE Third-floor residents of Penland Hall break out the plastic sheets in their hallway in September.

"Family-sized bags of cereal and every kind of trash you can imagine was thrown out from end to end of the third floor," Gerard said. "You couldn't walk without stepping on something. It was insane. It was like a revolution."

Like this year's slip and slide, Dirty Third shenanigans that break Baylor rules do not go unpunished. Moore said many students who headed the slip and slide went through disciplinary actions.

"We want to have fun," Moore said. "We just want to do it so that it doesn't break any rules or damage any property. Just harmless fun."

Gerard said he is still friends with many of his Dirty Third hallmates and they like to reminisce about their first year. For him, living on the third floor became a "big sense of community" that brought together a group of men who were all going through the same experiences as new college students.

"Just to be able to come together and do these little traditions is something that can have a drastic impact on your freshman year and really help you get comfortable and learn to have fun and love the people around you," Gerard said. "I think it entirely changed my freshman year and I'm very thankful for it."

Especially in the year of COVID-19, Moore said, he is also thankful for the community he has found in the Dirty Third. As a freshman trying to have the full college experience during this time, dorm life is one of the few normalcies he gets to take part in.

"I'm glad that I got to be a part of the Dirty Third," Moore said. "It's been hard to find traditions that are still going on right now. Everything has been suppressed as far as our freshman year with COVID-19 restrictions in place, so it just presents an opportunity for us to have one more thing to make memories with."

The day an Aggie was killed in Waco

MATTHEW SODERBERG
News Editor

A series of memories long forgotten

A fight broke out, a man was murdered and a rivalry was etched in stone for generations to come. But another tragedy stifled the memory, and few remember the day an Aggie was killed in Waco.

It was obvious why the two teams were rivals from the start — 90 miles separate the schools, the all-male atmosphere at Texas A&M clashed with the coed nature of Baylor, and the constant meetings thanks to the Southwest Conference all play a part. What is less obvious is what came first: the name of the rivalry or the name of the riot. T.G. Webb, 1997 Baylor alumn and author of “Battle of the Brazos,” said the rivalry grew to enormous proportions early on.

“By the early 1920s, it had achieved the status where it was as popular as the UT-A&M game in the state of Texas,” Webb said. “The crowds were some of the biggest at any game in the state.”

On Oct. 30, 1926, nearly 94 years ago, tempers flared as the Aggies and the Bears met in Waco. The few years before the fight saw some angst, but nothing compares to the halftime melee where a cadet had a piece of chair smash his skull.

“You had this car come onto the field that had a bunch of women on it, and they were each wearing placards, and on the placards there were scores from previous big Baylor wins,” Webb said. It was the site, though, of the vehicle.

“In 1924, Baylor had brought a vehicle onto the field mocking the Aggies, and it had swerved near the Aggie team during halftime, so A&M had warned Baylor, allegedly, that if they bring a car on the field, there’s going to be trouble,” Webb said. “Baylor did it anyway.”

A cadet took off from the stands, sprinted onto the field and dove into the driver’s seat of the moving vehicle. After an Aggie seemingly attacked the supposedly harmless car, the stadium erupted. Hundreds of students from each side stormed the field at the Texas Cotton Palace in Waco. Fans ripped off pieces of chairs to use as bats and clubs to attack their foes in the open air.

“The cadets just said they couldn’t take it anymore. A&M would do what they called calisthenics. They were military drills, and Baylor did fake military drills mocking the A&M rituals,” Webb said.

The mocking turned into attacking, which resulted in a cadet bleeding on the ground. Charles Milo Sessums fell to the grass after a strike, and after he was initially brought to the first aid station, he was transported to Providence Sanitarium where he later died.

After the stadium regained its composure, Lead Aggie Yell Leader J.D. Langford apologized to the fans in attendance and promised to keep his side under control, but that recognition of guilt didn’t follow through in the coming days.

“By the time the seniors of the corps of cadets release their statement in early November, there’s no admission that they had anything to do with starting the fight. It was all Baylor’s fault,” Webb said. “Baylor’s side was that they were completely innocent. They claimed they were just defending the women of Baylor. Both sides quickly dug in their heels and said they didn’t have any responsibility for it.”

On Nov. 4, the two university presidents, T.O. Walton of Texas A&M and S.P. Brooks of Baylor, released a joint statement summarizing the events of the day.

“We are profoundly saddened, as are the student bodies, and



Lariat File Photo

PANDEMONIUM In 2004, Baylor snapped a 18-game series winless streak against the Aggies. After a successful two-point attempt in overtime to secure the victory, the Baylor faithful stormed the field at Floyd Casey Stadium and tore down the goalposts.

the faculties of both institutions, by the death of Cadet Lieutenant Sessums, and sympathize deeply and sincerely with his bereaved family,” the statement said.

Later that day, the Lariat ran a second edition which included an editorial entitled “THROUGH!” alongside a news piece describing a petition to end athletic relations with A&M that had already received 500 signatures.

Eventually, that petition and the hatred from two camps won out. The two presidents met again in December and “indefinitely” canceled all athletic competition between the schools.

It could have festered. That hate could have sat in the bones of

each side for years to come until it could erupt the next time the universities faced off, but it didn’t get the chance.

On Jan. 22, 1927, 10 Baylor men were killed in a bus crash on the way to a basketball game in Austin. Webb said the Immortal Ten accident drew everyone’s minds away from the last tragedy.

“At that point, no one wanted to care about what happened to an Aggie cadet,” Webb said. “They now had their own dead to mourn. The tragedy here was on such a greater scale. It was easy for Baylor to forget about it and move on.”

It took five years for the rivalry to come back into the picture. Baylor didn’t play the Aggies again until Oct. 24, 1936, in College

Station. It was the first time since 1913 that the game wasn't played in Waco, and the first time in the history of the series that it was played at Kyle Field. Since five years had passed, there were practically no students left on campus that would have participated in the fight, and Webb said that had a lot to do with the amicable feelings going forward.

"Both sides agreed to move on from it. When



In 1924, Baylor had brought a vehicle onto the field mocking the Aggies, and it had swerved near the Aggie team during halftime, so A&M had warned Baylor, allegedly, that if they bring a car on the field, there's going to be trouble.

Baylor did it anyway.

**T.G. WEBB |
CLASS OF '97**

they reunited after five years not playing, there really was no reference to the fight. The Aggies even hosted the Baylor students for a picnic," Webb said. "Everything was kind of just like 'let's smile and just be friends,' but there were always these echoes of a riot and whispers of a murder that just lived on through the '50s and '60s, and then even when people quit talking about it, it still kind of hung like a cloud in the background over the rivalry."

By the time the two teams started their annual game back up, the all-time record between the teams was A&M 20-Baylor 6 with three ties mixed in. However, over the next 39 years, Baylor played nearly .500 ball as the record stacked to 16-19-4.

Then came legendary Baylor head coach Grant Teaff.

The all-time winningest coach in program history started off his tenure in the midst of the rivalry with a bang.

"My favorite game against the Aggies took

place during my first year at Baylor. Yet to understand the depth of the rivalry, I took it on as the next game," Teaff said. "A group of students at Baylor approached me about handing out a tract at the game. They asked that we put my testimony on the handout. A sellout crowd received the tract. My message of victory in life and the possibility of victory that day was fortuitous. We won."

For whatever reason, the approach worked as he started off 1-0 against the bitter rivals. A&M rattled off five straight wins, including in 1974 when Baylor won its first conference title in 50 years.

John Morris, assistant athletic director for broadcasting and Voice of the Bears, started his freshman year in the wake of the losing streak. He said the rivalry then was as strong as ever, if not shared with Texas a little bit.

"That was a debate that waged for a long time. Was it A&M or was it Texas?" Morris said. "It seemed like it was pretty even among people, but I don't think there was much of a question that it was one of those two."

That rivalry led to a new winning streak for Baylor starting in 1978, a famous game for one reason: two-time all-southwest running back Walter Abercrombie.

"Walter was a freshman. He sat next to me on the bus over to College Station. We drove down the day of the game because we dare not stay in College Station because of the intense rivalry. Walter had no idea that he would play, much less start that day. I informed him on the way, and the news stunned him," Teaff said. "All he did in his first college game against No. 12 Texas A&M was rush for 207 yards, establishing an NCAA record for rushing yards by a freshman."

While the future No. 12 overall draft pick was on campus, the Bears didn't lose to their foes from down the river. The four years following Abercrombie's departure were the last period of extended success for Baylor as it lost in '85, tied in '86 and won the next two years.

The Green and Gold wouldn't win another football game against Texas A&M until 2004.

The dark times finally cracked as the rivalry was coming to an end. In the 101st meeting, the Bears took the Aggies to overtime.

"We beat them in very dramatic fashion in overtime by going for two instead of kicking to go to double overtime. We went for two and beat them 35-34," Webb said. "We tore down the goal posts ... For about five minutes, the A&M fans don't blink. They don't move. They don't twitch a muscle. They had taken for granted that they would never lose to Baylor again."

Morris remembers the upset fondly.

"If I remember right, the students tore down the goal posts and marched them to campus," Morris said. "They took it all the way from Floyd Casey, all the way to campus, and they kind of ended up leaning on the front of the Bill Daniel Student Center, and it was there all weekend. Then it was cut up into rings, and I've got a



Lariat File Photo

RECORD-BREAKER Running Back Walter Abercrombie leaps an Arkansas defender in 1979. He broke the NCAA record for rushing yards by a Freshman in his first collegiate football game against No. 12 Texas A&M in 1978.

piece of that goal post from that win sitting in my office."

But after such a long losing streak, the memory of a rivalry fell even further than it had.

"When one team is dominating — like A&M was in football during that stretch — it just kind of loses its juice. On both sides, it wasn't that big of a deal," Morris said. "To A&M it was 'Oh, we beat Baylor again. OK.' From Baylor's perspective, how can you make a big deal out of a rivalry you haven't won in 18 years?"

The rivalry, gone when A&M left the Big 12 after the 2011 season, pushed a memory that was already struggling to hold on completely off

the edge, but at least some people are still willing to go searching.

"I was going into a game in 2008, and the chamber student who was selling the gameday programs — it was an Aggie game — the student made a comment," Webb said. "I said 'No, I don't need a program,' and he said, 'Well, I hope we kill an Aggie today like we did that one time.' I kind of did a double take. 'What are you talking about?' And he said 'have you ever heard of that time where an Aggie was killed at a Baylor game?' I had no clue what he was talking about."



LGBTQ community fights for rights at Baylor, in Waco

MEREDITH HOWARD

Assistant News Editor

Homosexual behavior is described as a temptation and issue by Student Policies and Procedures. However, students who are part of the LGBTQ community cannot be subject to disciplinary action or a loss of university financial aid on the basis of their sexual orientation.

The same could not be said 13 years ago.

Baylor's sexual misconduct policy in 2007 included "homosexual acts" along with "sexual abuse, sexual harassment, sexual assault, incest, adultery [and] fornication." This means that students could be subject to disciplinary action for their sexual orientation.

"The sanctions that the University may impose against a faculty member or a staff member for an act of sexual misconduct range from censure to separation," the policy said.

Faculty members could be fired for not being straight.

The policy also said that when considering sanctioning, "constructive forgiveness will guide all efforts."

Baylor was not the only institution in Waco that discriminated on the basis of sexual orientation.

Carmen Saenz, founder of InterWaco LGBTQ Community Group, lived in New York City during the AIDS epidemic in the 1980s. She compared Waco's atmosphere for LGBTQ individuals in 2002 to that of New York in 1980.

"Coming from Brooklyn, and coming from New York City,

the climate for the LGBT community in — I moved to Waco in 2002 — was significantly different," Saenz said. "When I moved here, it was almost like being thrown back to the 80s, when things were so bad in New York City."

Saenz said when she founded InterWaco, it consisted mostly of "friends' children that were queer, were lesbian or trans."

"There was a young girl who went to apply for a job at a store, and the manager actually said to a young person, 'We don't hire your kind,' meaning we don't hire lesbians," Saenz said. "I realized that there wasn't an advocacy group here in McLennan County or Waco for anybody — whether it's teenagers, same-sex marriage, housing equality, anything."

InterWaco members began meeting in early 2012, and the organization partnered with Equality Texas later that year. Equality Texas "works to secure full equality for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and queer Texans through political action, education, community organizing and collaboration."

"We did something called the Equality Project, which was bringing people together to learn about advocating at the state level with our legislators," Saenz said.

InterWaco is a political advocacy group that meets in person about once every other year to prepare for the legislative session. The group also works with schools to mitigate "LGBT bullying." COVID-19 has prevented them from going into schools for the past year.

"We've worked with a few Baylor professors about finding more inclusiveness in their classrooms when they've had a student

who's trans, and it's their first exposure to the trans community, and I think it's a good thing that some of the professors have reached out asking thoughtful questions rather than just be dismissive to students," Saenz said.

Saenz said the organization often refers these inquirers to the Transgender Education Network of Texas or other education groups depending on the nature of the question.


While InterWaco focuses primarily on LGBTQ legislative issues, Waco is also home to organizations that function more as support groups.

Central Texas Metropolitan Community Church (MCC) houses a couple of groups like this, including gatherings of women who are HIV positive and providing church space for people who are trans to get together.

Charley Garrison, who's been the church's pastor for over 20 years, said the inspiration for the trans support group came from posting resources for trans people on the church website. People began to respond to this page with a need for support.

"I began getting phone calls from people. I remember several times meeting in clandestine meetings with people from Baylor, at a location that they felt comfortable in, just to talk about what it was like for them," Garrison said. "They needed someone just to talk, and so from there, I think it evolved into an actual support group."

The church's mission is "to proclaim the truth that God's love is for everyone, no exceptions," Garrison said. He also said that the church welcomes everyone, and its services are currently



being held over Zoom at 11 a.m. on Sundays.

In 2010, another group began meeting in MCC's basement. This was the Waco Queer Alliance, now Gamma Alpha Upsilon, Baylor's unofficial LGBTQ student organization.

Dr. Ada-Rhodes Short, a Baylor alumna, co-founded the group.

Short said she hadn't thought about whether Baylor was affirming to the LGBTQ community until Welcome Week.

"I arrive as a freshman, and it was like Welcome Week, and I found out you're like not allowed to be gay here. This is bad. I'm a very queer teen," Short said. "I guess at the minute I felt like, 'Oh god, I bet I'm like the only queer person on this campus.'"

Short said she quickly realized she was surrounded by other members of the LGBTQ community. They were just "not allowed to be out."

"We're meeting in the basement of the Metropolitan Community Church — just like a bunch of queer Baylor students having a potluck — and we were like, 'We should probably do something, but none of us want to get expelled.' A lot of us were freshmen, and then a few upperclassmen," Short said.

The following spring of 2011, Garrison contacted Short and connected her with a then senior at Baylor, Samantha Jones, who was interested in starting an LGBTQ student group.

"Sam and I meet, and we kind of just like immediately connect and are like 'oh, this is a great idea.' We spent a lot of time trying to figure out a name for the group because Sam had already started trying to figure out how do we get this chartered. We knew we couldn't call it gay straight alliance or anything like that; having 'queer' in the label was definitely not allowed," Short said. "Eventually we arrived at Sexual Identity Forum."

More than 50 students came to the Sexual Identity Forum's first on-campus meeting, which was held at the Bill Daniel Student Union Building. The New York Times interviewed Short and Jones about the group around that time, leading to a national spotlight being shone on Baylor's stance on human sexuality.

"We got a lot of attention, and it was a really bizarre thing

because I went from being like a little freshman who was terrified of being seen and exposed and kind of like expelled to suddenly being like 'oh yeah, we're just having a big gay riot at the Student Union Building,'" Short said.

Jones was the Sexual Identity Forum's first president, and Short was the second. Short said they met with the Board of Regents, vice presidents, the president and other administrators about getting chartered. They were rejected and have been rejected every year since (and sometimes twice a year, when they've filed each semester).

"So we would sort of apply for a charter once a year, meet with Kevin [Jackson] or whoever the person we were meeting with that term was, be denied, know we were going to be denied, just get kind of stuck in this thing where like queer students exist; queer students will continue to exist at Baylor," Short said. "We are not going anywhere. We refuse to go back to being afraid of being expelled."

Short said the size of her group provided security because she said it would not look good for Baylor to "expel 50 queer students."

LGBTQ students continue to exist at Baylor. Los Angeles senior Jake Picker is the vice president of Gamma Alpha Upsilon, and he said that the group now has almost 100 active members on its Discord channel, where groups of students will plan impromptu study times and hangouts.

Picker said that Gamma has still brought in a lot of freshmen this semester despite COVID-19, and numbers remain strong.

While Short said that she enjoyed meeting in the SUB to "take up space" as LGBTQ people, some of Gamma's current membership prefers to meet more privately, as a way to protect members who may not be out yet.

A Houston junior who is an officer with Gamma spoke on the condition of anonymity because she is not out.

"When I first learned about Gamma, from the get-go I wanted it to be more private because I was constantly concerned with who would find out because there are, I mean, a good number of people who go to Baylor, and they'll walk around on campus who know me and my family personally, and I guess I was always concerned, especially when I was a freshman, about someone

seeing me at one of the meetings," she said.

She said the first time she went to a Gamma meeting, someone who lived next to her in her dorm saw her and began to treat her differently as a result.

"She just would like glare at me in the halls, and like make a noticeable effort to go around me if she ever had to pass by me in the halls, and I thought that it was a little bit weird, and then at one point I was washing my hands in the bathroom, and she came in, she looked at me and we locked eyes, and then she just glared at me again, and she pivoted and turned around and walked away," she said. "It was just — I don't know — really kind of enhanced that insecurity and that fear that I had of not feeling like my identity was safe or private because we met in public."

A Presidential Perspective email was sent out in August 2019 reinforcing Baylor's stance on Human Sexuality. The specifications are as follows:

"Baylor is in compliance with Title IX and other federal and state regulations regarding the services and the support we provide to our LGBTQ students.

Students are not disciplined or expelled from Baylor for same-sex attraction.

In addition to the ongoing presence of many caring, trusted faculty and staff members, Baylor provides resources for LGBTQ students through the Title IX Office, Bias Response Team, Chaplain's Office and Spiritual Life, and the Counseling Center.

Baylor counselors do not practice or condone conversion or reparative therapy."

In October 2019, Gamma announced it had secured a private meeting space in Marrs McLean Science Building. Picker said the group had a faculty member book that space for them, since they are unable to as a non-chartered organization.

Gamma Alpha Upsilon's first in-person meeting of the semester was held on Oct. 1 at Common Grounds. Gamma members would like to hold another in-person meeting this semester, but due to COVID-19 concerns, future scheduling is up in the air. Online meetings have been held as well.

Picker said the group still submits a charter request every semester and continues to be denied.

"We're hopeful for the future," Picker said.

The organization will celebrate its 10-year anniversary next semester.



Sticking their NoZe in Baylor affairs

Emily Cousins
Staff Writer

Nobody NoZe exactly when the NoZe Brotherhood — founded as the Nose Brotherhood — began, but the groups' origin story is wild and mysterious.

Robert Darden, professor of journalism, public relations and new media and rumored former NoZe Brother, said a group of friends living in Brooks Hall began the NoZe Brothers.

"There was a group of guys ... that for some reason decided that a gentleman named Shoaf ... had a particularly long nose," Darden said. "And they teased him mercilessly about it."

Another rumored former member and Baylor alumnus, Thomas Ball, class of '79, said the group might have been founded in 1926.

"Friends sitting around a room in Brooks Hall, someone said, 'Shoaf, we could found a student organization on your nose.' After Shoaf retired upstairs, the joke picked up details and took on a life of its own," Ball said.

Ball said Shoaf's friends ran up the stairs to tell him they had created the NoZe Brotherhood and he was the first president.

"Shoaf responded with his



UP TO NOZE GOOD Circa 1941, the NoZe Brothers strike a pose. Notice the portrait of Brother Long Nose Shoaf, the first president of the club.

immortal abdication speech that has echoed down the halls of Brotherhood lore: 'Get out of my room, you satchel-assed sons of bitches!'" Ball said.

Today the NoZe Brothers are still an active group on campus, and they even stay in touch after graduation. Baylor alumnus David Schleicher, class of '89, said he runs the Facebook group for former members.

"On [the] Facebook closed group, we have somewhere between 10 and 30,000

members," Schleicher said. Darden said he used to be the faculty adviser to the NoZe Brothers. They used to show him *The Rope* the night before it was published to check it over.

The Rope is a satirical magazine that makes commentary on the administration, faculty, students and religion when they want to poke fun or make a statement about hypocrisy, Darden said.

"Sources indicate that last Thursday, sophomore Marcus Flounder broke up with his girlfriend, Iynglish Major, at 8th St Common Grounds. Citing his faith and devilish charm a wench could cast upon a good boy, Flounder suggested that Jesus was behind the reason for their separation," is just one example from *The Rope*.

Beyond *The Rope*, the NoZe Brothers are known for doing pranks on campus. "They hired an out-of-town

realtor and put Pat Neff Hall on the real estate market and bought a big billboard and put it on the outside of Pat Neff Hall," Darden said. "And it was placed in such a way that Dr. Reynolds [Baylor president, 1981-1995] couldn't see it because he parked on one side of the building, but the sign faced the other way, on the other side. And they were



TAKING A STAND A NoZe Brother protesting a policy that canceled 326 students' schedules who did not pay fees by the third day of class in 2005.

perplexed for weeks as all these calls came in with people trying to buy Pat Neff at this great price."

Today, the NoZe Brothers aren't as active, Darden said.

"I just haven't seen as much of them and the humor, and *The Rope's* I have seen are more general," Darden said. "At their peak, they're talking about specific administrators and specific faculty members and specific schools."

Even though President Linda Livingstone doesn't have the same public persona as former President Ken Starr, Darden said there are still things on campus to criticize, even if they're harder to find.

"They use humor and satire to hold a mirror before the evangelical movement and church and college when they're working on all cylinders," Darden said. "They're the loyal opposition — the little wasps that say, 'Just because we've always done it this way, doesn't mean it's right.' Historically, some of the smartest people at Baylor would find their way to the NoZe to use their talents for serious purposes. It would always be couched in humor."

“On [the] Facebook closed group, we have somewhere between 10 and 30,000 members.”

DAVID SCHLEICER |
CLASS OF '89

An end to boogie ban

LUCY RUSCITTO
Staff Writer

In February of 1996, Baylor President Robert Sloan Jr. — after lifting the 151-year-long on-campus dancing ban — celebrated the rule reversal with his wife, Sue Sloan, by dancing to a Beethoven minuet in front of the student center.

Breaking from the strict Baptist ways of the university and catching national attention in the process, Baylor's reversal of the rule seemed to pave the path for greater university inclusivity.

Because of Baylor's strict relationship with the Southern Baptist Convention, dancing, like drinking and tobacco use, was viewed as sinful.

In a Baylor Lariat article from 2011, Baylor University Chaplain Dr. Burt Burleson said "all the things around drinking came to be thought of as sinful. For instance, if you went to the honky-tonk to drink, that's where you also went to dance, so dancing became problematic."

According to The New York Times, Sloan "warned students against being 'obscene or provocative.' No pelvic gyrations; no excessive closeness; no 'Dirty Dancing.'"

Dr. Baudelio Garza is an associate professor of Spanish who traveled to Baylor to be a "visiting lecturer" in 1988 but has taught at the university ever since. When he arrived on campus, Garza said he noted the cultural distinctions compared to other places he had been an instructor.

"The campus culture, compared to other institutions I have taught in Mexico, was very conservative towards Christian [and] Baptist religious values and the behavior of students and teachers in campus and outside campus," Garza said.

Wendy Browder Kula graduated from the university in December of 1989, prior to the reversal of the ban. Although she grew up in a Methodist home, Kula said Baylor had always been the place for her as her mother also attended the university in the 1960s, when rules were even stricter.

She said now she laughs at the then-stern ways of the university.

Kula said while living on campus, the girls dormitories were never allowed to have boys in their rooms — except for twice a month on Sundays — with the doors swung wide open. Additionally, Kula said compared to today's modern college-student dress, she and her classmates were much more traditional.

"There was also a curfew, and the door was locked, and the lady at the front desk had to let you in and she'd get mad at you if you were late. It was a big deal," Kula said.

Kula said every day, she and her classmates did not "slum it" like the college kids are so apt to today but truly looked much more "formal" and tried to do so on a daily basis.

"We got dressed up. I wore a skirt. I looked cute. I put makeup on pretty outfits, bows in our hair, the whole nine yards," she said.

Kula said her friends at other schools had different college experiences from her own, which she believes can be attributed to the Baptist culture. When she and her friends wanted to dance, they would take a trip to downtown Waco to boogie on the Waco Suspension Bridge.

"I'm not a rule-breaker, but I could still follow the rules and



FUN FOR ALL Students step in time with big band music to ring out the 151-year-old dance restriction on campus at Baylor's "A Miracle on Fifth Street" celebration.

be my own person," Kula said. "We just questioned it a lot, like why?"

Kula said throughout her time at Baylor, she and her friends always heard a rumor that they believed was an attempt to discourage students from breaking the rule.

"It was rumored that a woman who had given money for some of the buildings said that if there was ever dancing her buildings would have to be burned down," Kula said. "But I never knew if that was really true."

Dr. Matt Gerber, associate professor in the communication department and the Glenn R. Capp Endowed Chair of Forensics at Baylor, said he experienced what he believes could have been one of the first on-campus dances at the university. He had not yet been employed by Baylor, but he was working as an employee at a debate camp for high schoolers for the Glenn R. Capp Debate Forum at Baylor in late July of 1996.

"My predecessor, Dr. Karla Leeper, was the director of Baylor's debate program at the time, and she decided to host a dance at the end of the debate workshop," Gerber said. "Her reasoning was that since the Baylor debate program was the oldest co-curricular activity at Baylor, we should continue to make history by hosting the first dance on campus."

Gerber said he and Leeper hired a DJ with a huge sound

system and held the dance in the Marrs McLean Gymnasium on campus.

"There were several hundred high school students [because] our summer debate camps were huge in the 1990s and dozens of camp staffers to act as chaperones. The students were well-behaved, and for the most part, danced appropriately," Gerber said. "Much fun was had by all, I remember lots of music by 'Ace of Base' and 'Vanilla Ice' playing over the speakers, and it was definitely exciting to be a part of Baylor's history."

Kula said she is grateful that Baylor decided to rescind its original rule, believing it truly has turned the historically Baptist school into more of an "inclusive," Christian school.

"I'm just glad that they finally did change it," Kula said.

Garza said he also thinks the dissolving of the on-campus dancing ban was a smart move by the university for its own growth.

"In general, I think that the students in the present times are more open and willing to consider dancing as an activity that allows them to be able to better understand and enjoy the cultures of other people," Garza said. "While keeping the Christian values as a distinctive feature of Baylor, the

lifting of the rule has affected positively the culture of campus by projecting Baylor more as a modern university, open to new attitudes and ways of thinking."



LET'S DANCE Former Baylor president Dr. Robert Sloan and biology professor Dr. Cornelia Smith enjoy Baylor's first dance on-campus after the dance restriction was lifted.

Lariat File Photo

Multicultural Greek organizations offer space for underrepresented students to serve campus

SARAH PINKERTON
Staff Writer

In addition to the traditional Panhellenic Council and Interfraternity Council, Baylor is also home to seven active organizations within the National Pan-Hellenic Council and nine active organizations within the Multicultural Greek Council.

In 1980, The Baylor Lariat did a series about race on campus. In its first article, it discussed the creation of Zeta Phi Beta on campus, a social sorority for Black women after they expressed fear in pursuing the white-dominated sororities on campus.

Jackson, Miss., senior Emani Sullivan is president of Baylor's National Pan-Hellenic Council and has been a member of the Alpha Kappa Alpha Inc. sorority since the spring of 2019.

Sullivan said NPHC is "big, big, big on service" and as the organizations within NPHC are historically Black, it is where she feels most comfortable.

"That just creates a safe, comfortable space for me to be completely me," Sullivan said. "That's not to say that Black people cannot join other orgs or non-Black people can't join our orgs. It's just that this was a space that was created for me, so I just feel most comfortable here."

Sherilyn Williams, president of Zeta Phi Beta at the time, said they didn't face opposition from administration when they asked to charter their sorority but were originally turned down membership in the Panhellenic Council.

They were advised to charter under the National Panhellenic Council. Otherwise, the article said, the sororities within the Panhellenic Council that filed before them would have to be chartered before Zeta Phi Beta was able to.

Zeta Phi Beta was officially chartered on Baylor's campus on Nov. 2, 1979.

In an article published by the Lariat in 2013, the first adviser, Frank Newton, recounted many instances of opposition that the group faced during its early years from the student body.

The article stated that Panhellenic sorority Zeta Tau Alpha asked Newton to change the Zeta Phi Beta name.

"I told them if they wanted to change their name that would be fine, but we weren't changing ours," Newton said.

A young Black male student also approached the associate dean for student organizations at the time, Virginia Crump, about creating a

Black student fraternity for males.

Crump said the fraternity and sorority within the NPHC would be able to work together, but they would not be able to work alongside other Pan-Hellenic groups on campus.

Sullivan is a legacy within AKA as her mother, sister and two of her cousins were also a part of the AKA sorority.

"I grew up around Alpha women my entire life, so I saw what they exemplified and the type of role model that they were," Sullivan said. "That's what led me to be like, 'Maybe this is something that I'm interested in.'"

As Baylor is a predominantly white institution and her parents attended historically Black universities, she said they noticed a difference in the prevalence of NPHC.

"At HBCUs (Historically Black Colleges and Universities), granted I have not been to one,

but I know from my parent's experience it's just a totally different environment," Sullivan said. "Everybody knows everything about the NPHC and everybody wants to be in this one and wants to be in this one."

On Sept. 24, 2011, the National Pan-Hellenic Garden was officially opened on campus. This garden was proposed in March of 2007 and final approval was given by the Board of Regents four years later.

Plots are a classic symbol of Black Greek Letter Organizations on many campuses and serve as a physical representation of the different organizations.

Sullivan said she is very grateful and honored to have that exemplified on campus.

She said the NPHC still struggles with visibility and representation on campus. She said that often students know things about

organizations within Panhellenic Council that they don't always know about chapters within NPHC.

"We are not getting the representation that we deserve," Sullivan said. "And it's not any fault of PHC; it's just the current climate we have at Baylor where they just don't know that we really exist."

Sullivan emphasized that the organizations with NPHC have a lot to offer and that the work they do often goes unnoticed.

"I'm glad we have the outreach that we do, and I don't ever want to lose that, but if we had the platform that PHC has then we can have an even greater outreach and reach even more people that need the help that we're willing to give," Sullivan said.

With the return of the Omega Psi Phi fraternity and the charter of Iota Phi Theta



Lariat Archives

WORKING FOR CHANGE Zeta Phi Beta was Baylor's first Multicultural Greek Organization, Zeta Phi Beta, was founded in 1979.



Lariat File Photo

BUILDING A MOSAIC Members of Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity Inc. perform at Mosaic Mixer 2016.

fraternity on campus, Baylor will reach the full Divine Nine status.

“Right now, we are ecstatic about having the seven that we do,” Sullivan said.

Aurora, Colo., junior Samuel Onilenla is the secretary of Baylor’s NPHC and a member of Phi Beta Sigma fraternity. He said that throughout his time in NPHC, he has become more organized as his attention to detail has grown.

“Our platform is only so big,” Onilenla said. “And being able to collaborate or even gain knowledge of more organizations on campus is what I hope to see in the future.”

In addition, the Multicultural Greek Council was founded on Baylor’s campus in 2004 and is currently the only one without a national affiliation.

The Multicultural Greek Council includes active sororities alpha Kappa Delta Phi, Delta Kappa Delta, Gamma Alpha Omega and Kappa Delta Chi, as well as fraternities Beta Kappa Gamma, Delta Epsilon Psi, Lambda Phi Epsilon, Omega Delta Phi and Hermandad de Sigma Iota Alpha.

Friendswood senior Monique Suarez is president of the MGC chapter at Baylor and said that she joined alpha Kappa Delta Phi last fall.

She said the recent involvement of the MGC in All-University

Sing has been an exciting addition, but funding and exposure are less than other organizations. She hopes to extend networking to other councils such as the Panhellenic Council.

“I feel like that would help with exposure as well,” Suarez said. “So maybe seeing those organizations reach out to us.”

Kayle Nguyen, recent graduate and current alumna adviser for the alpha Kappa Delta Phi sorority, said her time with MGC was very valuable.

“Whenever I was just an officer for my own organization, of course I learned a lot and delved a lot into the Asian community,” Nguyen said. “But as soon as I was an officer, I learned a lot more about the Latinx community and since we tried to partner a lot with NPHC, I learned a lot about the Black community as well.”

She said that throughout her time serving MGC last year, they focused on advocating for the Multicultural Alliance to get to perform at Sing, which they did for the first time in February of 2020.

“We also have Sing Alliance, but NPHC and MGC really didn’t have a voice on that stage other than Sing Alliance,” Nguyen said. “So having a Multicultural Alliance was a really cool initiative.”

Nguyen said the MGC is ever evolving and there is no limit to how many organizations can be in the council. She said each university looks different.

NPHC & MGC Timeline

NPHC Founded

MAY 10, 1930

In Washington, D.C. on the campus of Howard University

Zeta Phi Beta

NOVEMBER 2, 1979

Delta Sigma Theta

APRIL 21, 1991

Alpha Kappa Alpha

DECEMBER 1, 1991

Alpha Phi Alpha

OCTOBER 17, 1993

NPHC at Baylor

MAY 4, 1994

Kappa Alpha Psi

MAY 15, 1994

Omega Psi Phi

DECEMBER 5, 1998

Phi Beta Sigma

OCTOBER 18, 2000

“Throughout my time at Baylor, I’ve seen one or two organizations come and then some come back,” Nguyen said. “My last year, we only had nine organizations that were active and a new one that re joined.”

She said throughout the years, the events have continued to get bigger.

“My sophomore year, I think our count was maybe 50 people to go to this one event we had,” Nguyen said. “The next year, we would budget a little bit more because we see that more people are going so it was like 50, then 75, then 100 my senior year and even more than that came I believe.”

In a Lariat article from 2013, Astrid Beltran, coordinator of Baylor’s Greek Life and Chapter Development for NPHC and MGC at the time, said that without the MGC, the organizations within it would not have a place to call home.

“That’s why we have different councils,” Beltran said. “It’s not to segregate or to divide. It’s to really make sure these councils are a home for these chapters to be successful and to have resources.”

Sullivan said their main goal is to continue to serve more people.

“We are so much more than pretty faces,” Sullivan said. “We have commitment, hard work and so much more behind us and substance that we want to show people.”

As progress continues, Baylor, Waco still facing historic racial injustices

SARAH PINKERTON
Staff Writer

Linda Lewis, resident of Waco since 1946, said that growing up in Waco, she was warned not to cross the Brazos River without an adult, go downtown or ride the bus alone.

“My grandfather didn’t believe that we should get in the back, so we just didn’t ride the bus,” Lewis said.

She said the Baylor campus was referred to as a “Sundown Town” while she was growing up, an area where Black citizens were warned not to be after sundown.

Her pen pal and friend, John Westbrook, was one of Baylor’s first Black students and the first Black athlete to play for both Baylor and the Southwest Conference. Westbrook often told Lewis stories of blatant aggression and racism on campus through letters throughout the late 1960s.

“His father was a Baptist preacher, and he thought he would open doors,” Lewis said.

While Baylor has made progressive steps since then, including the launch of the Commission on Historic Campus Representations within Baylor, it is undeniable that this history played a role in the early days of the university.

Baylor University was chartered in 1845, the same year Frederick Douglass released his famous story of slave brutality and freedom in “The Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass” and just 16 years before the Civil War began in 1861.

The war ended in 1865, but former slaves in the south were still under the “Black Codes,” the root of future “Jim Crow” laws, in former Confederate states.

While the daily life of slaves in Waco was not well documented, Dr. Kenneth Hafertepe, department chair and professor in museum studies at Baylor, said in an earlier interview with the Media and Public Relations office that “in a time period with less documentation, people in political power or with wealth were more heavily documented and those who were poor or enslaved were not,” and Waco was not an exception.

In 1881, the “Jim Crow” segregation laws expanded. There were 28 of these

laws passed in Texas up until nearly 1960.

These laws separated individuals by race in public spaces such as railroads, waiting rooms, schools and libraries, barred Black individuals from marrying white individuals, with a punishment of imprisonment, and established poll taxes when voting.

In 1905, Sank Majors was lynched on the Washington Street steel bridge in Waco. An additional four other Black men were lynched in Waco until 1922.

In 1916, the infamous lynching of 17-year-old Jesse Washington occurred.

After being accused of murdering the wife of his white employer, Washington was dragged through the streets of downtown to City Hall where he was tortured, beaten and hung over burning wood.

According to the Waco Tribune-Herald, a crowd of 15,000 people watched, and nobody stepped in to intervene on the boy’s behalf. Souvenirs of his charred body and photos of the lynching turned into postcards were even sold afterwards.

This event did not receive press coverage by The Baylor Lariat at the time.

Lewis recounts that while she was growing up, many of her family members and friends continued to fear that they would receive the same fate.

“It is criminal. It’s mean. It certainly is evil — the whole issue of lynching,” Lewis said. “My parents and grandparents generally did not allow me to walk across the bridge ... they hung people on the bridge too.”

She said when she worked for the city, she was given a staff button that was shaped like the bridge.

“I wouldn’t wear them,” Lewis said. “[My boss would] give them to me and I’d wear them that day and then I’d bring them home and put them in my jewelry box because ... that bridge to Black people brings up memories.”

After World War II and into the mid 20th century, school integration became a topic of debate for Baylor.

According to an article written for the HESA Baylor History Project, a unanimous passage of a resolution by the Student Congress aimed to end



Photo courtesy of Baylor Proud

BAYLOR’S HISTORY WITH RACE Michael Heiskell was one of five black students during his undergraduate time at Baylor. He worked as an advocate for Black students during his time at Baylor. He was the first Black graduate from the Baylor Law School.

segregation on campus in 1955.

“Although the university would not pass its own resolution to implement integration until 1963, the message conveyed by the passage of this resolution was clear, and the university would come to debate the issue both internally and within a larger state and national context for a period of several years,” the article said.

The university president at the time, Dr. William R. White, said he desired the Board of Trustees to authorize the decision to integrate, but he himself believed it would cause harm and conflict on campus.

The article recounts a story of Baylor graduate John Mills, who traveled as a missionary to Nigeria. He brought a man to know Christ while abroad, and the man felt a call to ministry and desired to study at Baylor, just as Mills had.

“Mills had the unfortunate task of informing this man that Baylor University had no place for him among its ranks,” the article said.

The push for integration continued from alumni as the Southern Baptist Convention showed its support of the Supreme Court’s ruling that segregation in public schools was unconstitutional.

President White pushed back as he built up the religious fervor of the school and decided to act as a mediator on the issue.

“One is able to see a confluence of

faith, politics, economics, and a certain level of fear at the Baptist institution, as leaders like President White worked to bridge the gap between segregationist and integrationist factions,” the article said.

According to another article for the HESA Baylor History Project, Baylor trustee D.K. Martin thought that the Brown v. Board of Education decision was “lousy” and declared that this decision did not apply to the university.

He also wrote a letter to Earl Hankamer, benefactor of Baylor’s Hankamer School of Business and oil

man, in which Martin stated “Anti-Segregation was the dirtiest slap at the South since the Reconstruction deal and dirt.”

The university then decided to take a more “moderate” position on the topic of integration at the school in order to lessen the feeling of alienation by white Baptists, a large area of support for the university.

“But it also diminished Baylor’s moral standing in the eyes of its more progressive constituents,” the article said.

Baylor voted to integrate the school

on Nov. 1, 1963, and admitted its first Black students in 1964.

A year later, Linda Lewis’ friend, John Westbrook, attended Baylor for the first time.

Three years later, Reverend Robert Gilbert was Baylor’s first Black graduate in 1967. Barbara Walker followed shortly after him, in the same year, as the first Black female graduate.

An article released by Baylor Proud in 2016 discussed that even though he was allowed to attend the university, many students didn’t acknowledge Gilbert and even one of his first professors referred to him with a racial slur.

After graduating, he then became the first African American teacher at a local Waco middle school, and the article said that he was looked up to by many in the community.

Many of his students began to knock down their parents’ previous racist thinking.

Gilbert then returned to Baylor in 1970 to earn his graduate degree in religion, but was unable to finish his program due to health issues. He was able to become the assistant director of Baylor’s Upward Bound program, helping low-income high school students prepare for college.

Gilbert went on to become a pastor for many churches in Waco, a local civil rights leader, the first African American elected to the Waco ISD School Board in 1976 and the

organizer of a group that hired Waco’s first African American news anchor in 1979.

Gilbert passed away in 1992. In 2007, the university honored him with a memorial lamppost in front of the Bill Daniel Student Center and the Robert Gilbert Outstanding Advocate Award in 2013.

However, racial aggression did not end with his graduation from the university in 1967.

As recently as 2008, Election Day tension rose after Barack Obama was elected as the first Black president.

A rope was found on campus resembling a noose the day after the election, which was later reported to be a rope swing, but many students felt this was a cover-up for the incident.

However, instances of sign-burning outside of Brooks Village and shouting matches with racial slurs outside of Penland Residence Hall were also reported.

While this history isn’t new information, its impacts are often forgotten about in the modern day.

Even into 2016, a young Black girl attending Live Oak Classical School in Waco had a rope tied around her neck as she was dragged to the ground by classmates during a field trip. The school did not contact her parents after the incident, and was later ordered by a Texas jury to pay the family \$68,000 in damages.

Growing up in east Waco, Lewis

said she grew up in a predominantly African-American neighborhood.

“I’m from the generation that our parents and our teachers told us that they were preparing us for when integration was coming,” Lewis said. “It was something that was going to arrive.”

However, Lewis said she was also warned by family members that Waco may never change from the ways that she knew while she was growing up. After graduating as valedictorian from GW Carver High School, she went on to attend the University of Texas at Austin and returned to Waco after her father was diagnosed with cancer.

Lewis said this is often how those in her generation remain in their hometowns.

“It’s an issue that’s common with Black people of my generation,” Lewis said. “Their parents die, they may have the house or the property.”

She said she still experiences racial disparity in Waco today.

Dr. Stephen Sloan, associate professor of history and director of the Institute for Oral History, said many students don’t come into college with a solid and deep historical understanding of racial history.

“Baylor students have always struggled a bit to understand Waco or make an effort to understand Waco,” Sloan said. “If they have any sort of understanding of African American and Latino history, it’s usually a very

narrow understanding.”

He said the modern-day racial movements often aren’t understood by students because they bring it down to an individual level.

“They say, ‘I don’t feel this way’ or ‘I don’t believe these things’ without understanding more at a community level and at a cultural level, the way that these things have been real forces that have worked,” Sloan said. “They don’t acknowledge the deep ways in which it matters at a much broader level than that.”

Sloan also added that Waco has a rich history of perseverance.

“It’s not just a story of marginalization and abuse,” Sloan said. “There’s also amazing stories of resilience and overcoming and success. Anytime you try to oversimplify anyone’s experience, you’re doing them a disservice.”

Dr. Ronald Johnson, Ralph and Bessie Mae Lynn Chair of History, emphasized the importance of celebrating the achievements of our history while also identifying the errors.

He discussed an example of a student during his second week teaching a U.S. history course on campus. The class had an unpleasant discussion regarding the lynching of Jesse Washington. He said that a white student in his class then asked their roommate to visit the lynching site with them and then shared the information with their parents.

“I could not be more proud!” Johnson said. “Waco’s history of racial injustice inspired that Baylor student to become more engaged with the city they presently call home.”

Johnson said combating racism is a marathon that requires denouncing white supremacy wherever it exists within our community.

“The Board of Regents’ resolution on racial healing, President Livingstone’s conversation series on race and the Lariat’s editorial [that calls out the university’s racist history] on Sept. 23 are positive strides towards acknowledging our history of racist activity,” Johnson said. “We all must sustain the momentum.”

Dr. Sloan said the classroom continues to be a way in which these views can be challenged and examined

in a deeper way.

In the history department’s Statement on Racial Justice released on July 10, 2020, the department recognized Baylor’s rocky past.

“As historians, we are also keenly aware that, as was the case in many places around the country, at Baylor, emancipation and the end of the Civil War did not bring peace, justice, or equity to Black Americans,” the statement said.

It also recognizes the discrimination that Black Americans have faced for years and the violence that has prevented them from receiving housing, healthcare and education and how this has impacted the university.

“As teachers and mentors, we commit to examining the ways in which our own scholarly and classroom practices might perpetuate systemic racism rather than address, confront, and/or actively work against it,” the statement said.

The statement continues on to say that the Baylor community must acknowledge how the consequences of the past have shaped the modern day.

“Decades of injustice cannot be easily overcome, nor can we pretend that we live in a world — or on a campus — free from all forms of hate or inequity,” the statement said.

North Little Rock, Ark., senior and president of the Black Student Union, Mya Ellington-Williams, said the commitment to preparing students for “worldwide leadership and service” is immense, and she feels Baylor is unprepared in some areas.

“Worldwide leadership and service requires preparing students to address the inequalities and injustices in our world,” Ellington-Williams said.

Lewis urges students to look outside the Baylor bubble.

“Even in my encounters with the people who are now 40, maybe approaching 50, that went to Baylor, they may have a very good education, but they are still surprised about racial disparity and poverty,” Lewis said.

She also emphasized that the current progress being made cannot be stopped.

“You can get in the front and help lead the parade,” Lewis said. “Or you can stay behind and complain and get run over by the parade.”



Photo courtesy of Baylor University

BAYLOR’S HISTORY WITH RACE Barbara Walker was the first Black female graduate from Baylor. She began at Baylor shortly after they first integrated in 1963 and graduated in 1967.



Photo courtesy of Baylor Proud

BAYLOR’S HISTORY WITH RACE John Westbrook, graduate of the 1969 class, was the first Black football player on the Baylor team.

Baylor's Immortal Ten stand, 93 years later

Ava Dunwoody
Staff Writer

Baylor's basketball team headed for Austin on a bus that would later be hit by an oncoming train at 8:30 a.m. on Jan. 22, 1927, killing 10 young men. Their story is passed down even 93 years later to each freshman class as an example of the eternal Baylor spirit shown by the legacy of the Immortal Ten.

Baylor Director of Advancement Marketing Dr. Todd Copeland decided to write a comprehensive account of the accident in his book "The Immortal Ten: The Definitive Account of the 1927 Tragedy and its Legacy at Baylor University." During his research, Copeland said he got to see firsthand the lasting impact of the accident.

"The thing that impressed me," Copeland said, "was how much this was not just a Baylor story, but it was a Waco story and a Texas story."

Through his research, Copeland read letters and heard testimonies from survivors, victims and their families. He said he pulled articles published at that time and collected many accounts to bring out "the human side of the story," focusing heavily on the legacy left behind after tragedy struck.

When news of the crash was heard on campus, Baylor President Samuel Palmer Brooks said to the press "the

heart of Baylor University is torn to shreds at this moment."

Memorial events were held in lieu of school the next Monday and all basketball games were canceled for the season. Over 3,000 people showed up to a memorial service held on Baylor's basketball court that day to mourn the Immortal Ten.

“

It left the campus paralyzed. The emotional impact of something like that — you just can't recover from it.

**DAVE CHEAVENS |
CRASH SURVIVOR**

"Baylor was a small school at that time," survivor Dave Cheavens said later in 1970. "Everybody knew personally the athletes who were

killed. It left the campus paralyzed. The emotional impact of something like that — you just can't recover from it. You remember sitting in class with those fellows, and the next week you go to class, and they aren't there. It's quite a feeling."

Cheavens was often asked to speak of his experience later when he became chairman of Baylor's journalism department. The other survivors also went on to graduate from Baylor and work as coaches, teachers and prominent leaders of Waco.

The victims, too, left behind an important legacy through new legislation that came after the crash. At the state capital, the Texas flag was flown at half staff to honor the Immortal Ten, who the Texas House of Representatives said were "worthy in every way to be acclaimed true sons of those great spirits who died at the Alamo and Goliad."

The first railway overpass in the state of Texas, Mays Street Bridge in Round Rock, was built and dedicated to the Immortal Ten at the very intersection of the crash eight years later. In the meantime, many highways were relocated to eliminate railway crossings around the state.

At Baylor, the Immortal Ten live on as well. Every basketball season, there is one game dedicated to the tragedy where players wear the names of the Immortal Ten on the back of



Photos Courtesy of Roundup 1927

LEGACY The 1927 edition of the Baylor Roundup yearbook devoted an entire section to commemorating the legacy of the Immortal Ten.



James Clyde Kelley
Waco Junior



Sam Dillow
Fort Worth Junior



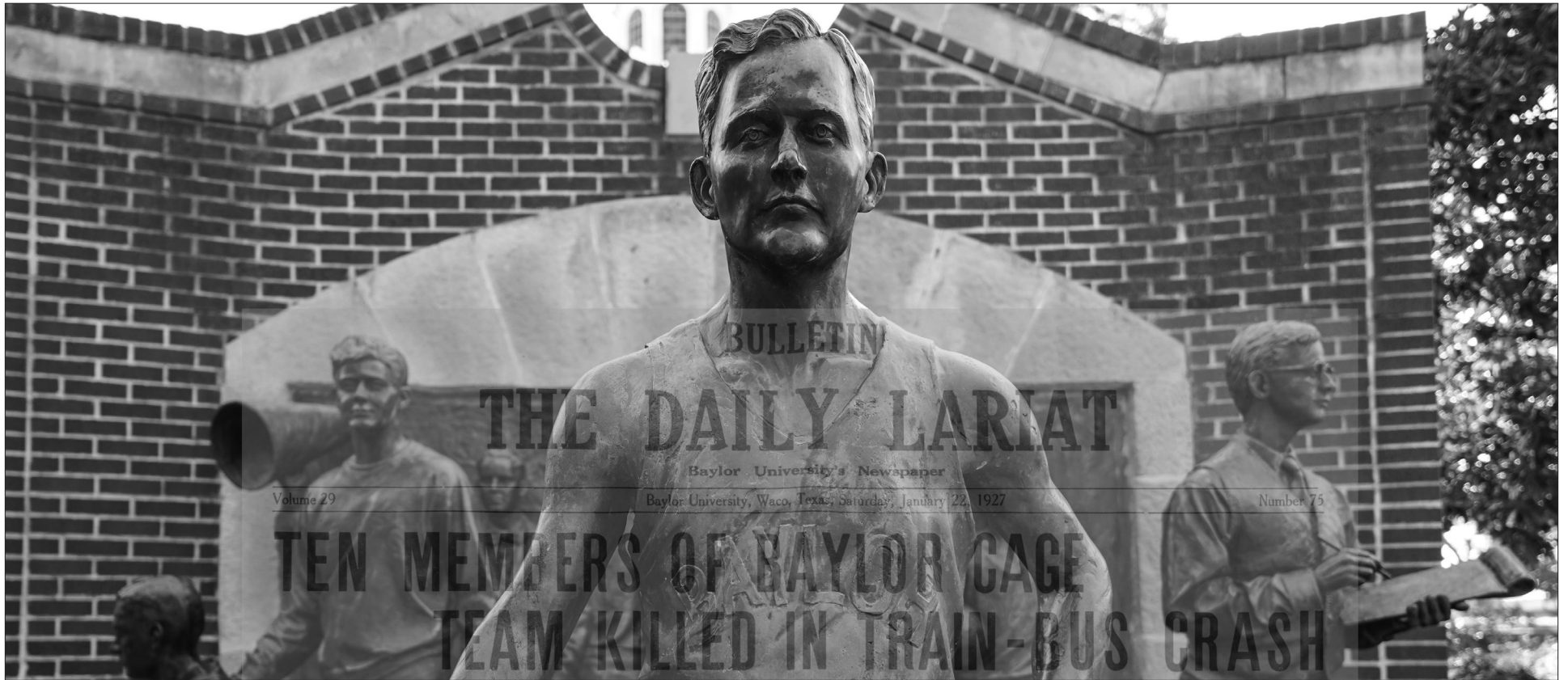
James Stephen Walker
Gatesville Junior



Robert L. Hannah Jr.
Waco Junior



William Penn Winchester
Waco Senior



Brittney Matthews | Photo Editor

IN STONE Baylor's Immortal Ten stand forever enshrined on campus both on Fountain Mall and in the Lariats and Roundups recorded by the Riley Digitization Center.

their jerseys. Jack Castellaw's mother donated the funds to build Castellaw Communications Center in memory of her son. Even the Baylor class ring depicts a railroad spike on the side to pay tribute to their legacy.

In 2007, Bruce Greene crafted the bronze statues of the Immortal Ten found on Baylor's campus near the SUB. The idea for the monument began when Chase Palmer, 1996 senior class president, announced that they would begin using class gift funds to save for an Immortal Ten

statue. Now the monument stands with Clyde "Abe" Kelley in front, basketball on hip, leading his team to eternity.

"Without the story being told," Copeland said, "I think the memorial wouldn't have a lot of meaning. It could just be another statue people walk by and don't know anything about or have a particular bond with." That is why, he said, the next tradition is the most important.

What started from the 1928 memorial became what is now the

annual Freshmen Mass Meeting, which is held at 10 p.m. during one night every Homecoming Week. Here, the Chamber of Commerce — who Copeland calls the "guardian of the Immortal Ten story" — tells the freshmen class the story of the tragedy and represents each of the players with an empty chair on the basketball court.

Neil Knighton, 1975 Baylor graduate, has spoken at many Mass Meetings and is often charged with sharing the story.

"The hero is the spirit of Baylor tradition," Knighton said. "What we celebrate is acknowledging one another as important. Tradition is bound up in our relationships that we carry on for a lifetime. The stories help us enhance those relationships. That is the Baylor tradition."

Copeland said as long as the Mass Meeting continues, he believes the story of the Immortal Ten will live on. He said it is a story that "demonstrates the sense of community that flows through the Baylor family, both

back then and now," and it stands as a reminder of the support offered to each member of it.

"I think it's particularly relevant for college kids, especially college freshman, to hear this story," Copeland said. "It's a reminder to treasure every day that God gives us to be alive because none of us know when that will end, and it will end. We need to do as much with our lives as we can. I think that's the other part of the story that is relevant today, and it still matters."



Robert R. Hailey
Lott Sophomore



Willis Edwin Murray
Gatesville Junior



Jack Castellaw
Ennin Senior



Merle Dudley
Abilene Law



Ivey R. Foster Jr.
Taylor Freshman

THE MIRACLE ON 13TH STREET



Photo by Duane A. Laverty | Courtesy of the Waco Tribune-Herald

TRIP OF A LIFETIME Players on Baylor baseball's 2005 team celebrate their comeback walk-off victory over No. 1 Tulane in the College World Series on June 21, 2005 in, Omaha, Neb.

An underdog team fights for comeback win on baseball's biggest stage

DJ RAMIREZ
Sports Editor

There are moments that define a baseball program — moments that stay in the minds of players, coaches and fans alike and add to their love of the game.

One of those defining moments in Baylor baseball history happened on June 21, 2005. On that day the Bears came back from a 7-0 deficit to beat top-ranked Tulane 8-7 in the College World Series.

The story of that comeback victory, which took place at Johnny Rosenblatt Stadium on South 13th Street in Omaha, Neb., on a muggy 90-degree summer night, actually began two years before in 2003.

The Bears were facing off against LSU in Baton Rouge, La., at Alex Box Stadium in a

Super Regional championship after splitting the series with a win in game one and a loss in game two. The Tigers sent Baylor home that night in a 20-5 blowout.

That next season was a rough ride for the Bears. In 2004, Baylor missed the postseason altogether with a 29-31 overall record. Out of 23 one-run games, 16 of them were losses for the Bears.

Baylor had something to prove coming into 2005, especially with 21 letter winners returning.

"We got back in 2005, and they kind of had a chip on their shoulder," said former Baylor assistant coach Steve Johnigan.

The Bears battled their way into a split conference title with Nebraska that spring — anchored not by their offense — but by a veteran pitching staff and strong defense. John Werner, who covered Baylor baseball for the Waco

Tribune-Herald for 25 years, said the team had the most well-balanced staff of any he'd ever seen at Baylor.

"It was a lights-out pitching staff," Werner said. "They had a lot of good hitters, but they only hit .269 as a team, which is kind of low, but they played really good defense [and] hit in the clutch."

After defeating Stanford in extra innings thanks to a game-winning home run and stellar relief pitching by first baseman Jeff Mandel, Baylor hosted Clemson in a Super Regional. The Tigers took game one 4-2, but the Bears came back to take game two 7-1 behind a double-digit strikeout performance by Mark McCormick, Baylor's only first-round draft pick in 2005.

Then, on June 13, 2005, Kevin Sevigny hit a three-run double in the fourth inning to put Baylor ahead in a 6-1 win over Clemson. The

Bears were going to Omaha for the first time in 27 years.

Entering the College World Series, the Bears were matched up against a familiar foe. The Texas Longhorns had finished 16-10 in Big 12 play — good for third — and had already lost to Baylor four times that season, getting swept to open conference play and falling by one run in the Big 12 Tournament. However, Texas refused to lose to Baylor a fifth time that year and took the opening game of the CWS 5-1.

It was win or go home for the Bears from then on out. Baylor faced Oregon State the next day, coming out on top with a 10-inning win and another successful outing by Mandel in relief.

The stage was set for the Bears to face the Tulane Green Wave. Tulane held on to the No. 1 national ranking for most of the season, starting

the year with an eight-game win streak before falling 5-2 to Steve Rodriguez's second-year Pepperdine squad in late February. The Green Wave bounced back to take the series from the Waves and sparked another win streak.

Tulane had beaten Oregon State 3-1 to start the CWS but was shut out by Texas to fall into the loser's bracket and the game against Baylor.

Baylor was the underdog. All year they had battled through games, the pitching staff pulling them through. But there they were, on the greatest stage in collegiate baseball, against the No. 1 team in the country, knowing they had what it took to beat them.

"They played the same there as they had played the whole year," said former Baylor baseball head coach Steve Smith. "Sometimes you get to Omaha and just the arena itself — just the environment itself — can really cause players to get out of who they are, but that was not the case. We were very much who we were ... the ballpark and the circumstances of the situation didn't really determine the outcome of the games."

Starting for the Bears was sophomore lefty Cory VanAllen, who had been Big 12 Pitcher of the Week for two consecutive weeks to start the season and had become a mainstay in the starting rotation. As good of a pitcher as VanAllen was, the Green Wave hitters shelled him that day.

"You got to give credit to Tulane, too. Tulane was an impressive offensive ball club," said Johnigan, who was the pitching coach that season. "They were a really explosive ball club."

Tulane scored six runs in the second inning, which included a two-run home run by left fielder Mark Hamilton. A double by right fielder Brian Bogusevic made it a 7-0 game in the fifth.

The Bears didn't panic.

"The guys had been there before," Smith said. "And you know, sometimes when you get that far down in a baseball game it can really help relax you."

After 4.2 innings, six hits, seven runs and two walks, VanAllen gave way for Abe Woody to take over the mound. Werner said Baylor started to gain confidence when Woody began to close the door on the Tulane offense. Over 4.1 innings, the relief pitcher allowed only two hits off the Green Wave bats. Smith and Johnigan said Woody had always been a consistent competitor.

"When we recruited Abe, he was kind of a shortstop-pitcher," Smith said. "He hadn't pitched a lot ... but Abe's best tool was his arm. He had a good live fastball. He threw from really more of a three-quarter squat — it wasn't a normal, typical flat, so from a hitter's perspective, they didn't see that kind of arm all the time."

With Woody keeping the Tulane hitters at bay, it was time for Baylor's offense to get creative. The Bears scored three runs in the seventh, starting with a run by shortstop Paul Witt on a wild pitch. Second baseman Michael Griffin then drove in Seigny with a double and came around to score on a single by first baseman Kyle Reynolds.

In the eighth, right fielder Seth Fortenberry and Witt got on base with back-to-back singles off Tulane reliever Daniel Latham. With Seigny at the plate, the Baylor base runners took the chance on a double steal and pulled it off, coming in to score on Griffin's bouncing two-run single in the next at-bat. Smith said going for the steal was a decision he made knowing the risks, but he knew it was what it would take for the Bears to have a chance.

"We weren't going to get two or three hits an inning. That wasn't who we were as an offense," Smith said. "So, we've got two guys that can run on, and I thought it was there."

Smith said his decision even drew criticism from Harold Reynolds, who was calling the game for ESPN, but it paid off and Griffin allowed Fortenberry and Witt to score, cutting the lead to two. Reynolds came into the dugout the next day to apologize for "bad mouthing" the Bears. Smith said it hadn't really mattered to them. They were just trying to win.

The score was 7-5 in favor of the Green Wave in the bottom of the ninth inning. Baylor veteran catcher Josh Ford earned a leadoff single that spelled the end of Latham's outing in relief. Tulane sent in Sean Morgan who immediately gave up a single to Baylor left fielder Reid Brees, the younger brother of New Orleans Saints quarterback Drew Brees.

Then came the moment that shifted the momentum in Baylor's favor. Designated hitter Zach Dillon stepped up to the plate and squared around to bunt.

"I can still picture that fake bunt," Werner said. "[Dillon] pulls back at the last minute and then just slashes it down the first base line for the double."

Dillon's hit bounced over first, giving Mandel, who came in to pinch run for Ford, enough time to reach home and cut the lead to one. With Brees at third and Dillon at second, Brandon Gomes replaced Morgan and walked third baseman Kevin Russo to load the bases and then got Fortenberry out on a fly ball.

Witt came up to the plate, living the moment that every ball player dreams of (or dreads). Bottom of the ninth, bases loaded, one out, Baylor's fate lying on the handle of his bat, Witt sent a hopping tailor-made double-play ball straight to second base.

Brees came home as Tulane second baseman Joe Holland stepped on the second-base bag and turned to throw to first. Dillon was heading to third, looking to find the ball as he rounded the bag. Johnigan, who was coaching third base in that game said it was a big-time moment because of Dillon's baseball smarts.

"One of the things you teach your base runners is that when they get to third base, and they're not going to score, to find the ball immediately," Johnigan said. "[Dillon] got to third, and he turned and found the ball immediately, saw that it got past the first baseman and went to the screen... he reacted immediately to get to home plate."

Holland's throw to first went out wide. First baseman Micah Owings hurried after the ball and threw home. But it was too late. Dillon had already scored the winning run and Rosenblatt Stadium erupted.

The Bears would get knocked out of the tournament by the Longhorns in a 4-3 loss, but their comeback win against a talented Tulane squad, which later came to be known as "The Miracle on 13th Street," has gone down in history as Baylor baseball's most memorable game. Werner said it was the most fun he had covering a Baylor baseball game, and that it was funny that out of all of all the years and out of all the squads that could have made it to Omaha, it was the team that everybody counted out that broke the drought.

"I remember Steve Smith saying at the end of that [2004] season, 'I'll take my chances with these guys next year,'" Werner said.

The Bears haven't made it back to Omaha since, but that, folks, is just baseball sometimes.

"There's just so many variables in the game that you can't control," Smith said. "As a coach, it's a very difficult thing because there's just very little you can do. As a player, you try to get a good pitch, put a good swing on it ... You can do all the right things in a game and still lose. I'm sure Tulane feels like that. You know, they didn't do anything wrong in that game. We just did a few things right and we got the last at-bat."

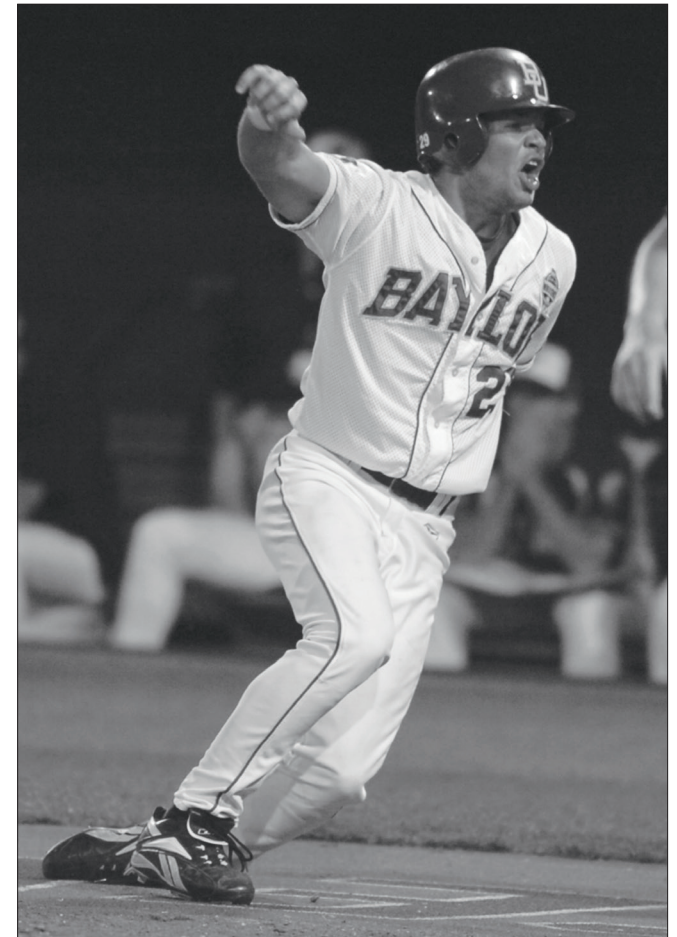


Photo by Duane A. Laverty | Courtesy of the Waco Tribune-Herald

HEADS-UP BASE RUNNING Former Baylor catcher and designated hitter Zach Dillon yells after crossing home plate at Rosenblatt to score the winning run on an error by Tulane second baseman Joe Holland after a hit by BU shortstop Paul Witt.

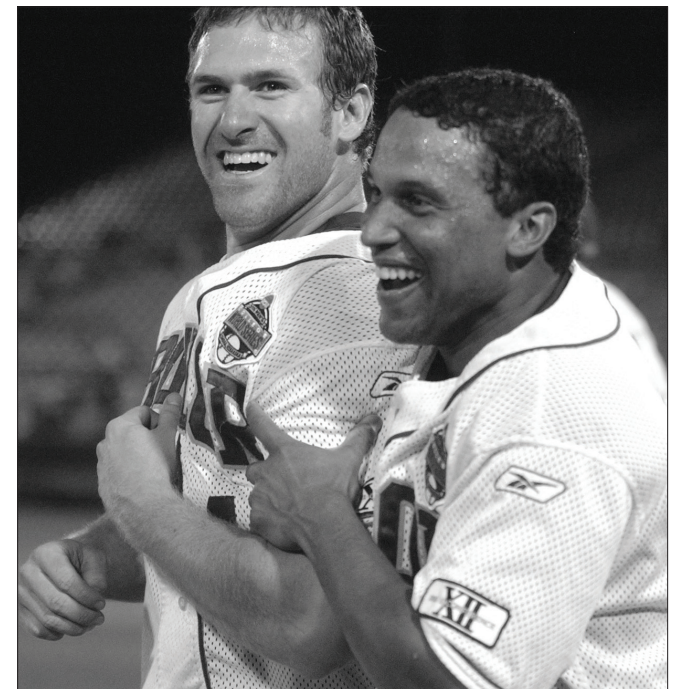


Photo by Duane A. Laverty | Courtesy of the Waco Tribune-Herald

BREESING IN Baylor outfielder Reid Brees (left) celebrates with infielder Michael Griffin after scoring the tying run against Tulane.

The blast heard 'round the country

Baylor supported West after 2013 chemical explosion

MEREDITH PRATT
Staff Writer

On April 17, 2013, just 20 miles north of Waco, a fire at the West Fertilizer Company turned into an ammonium nitrate explosion. The facility burst at the seams approximately 20 minutes after the fire was first reported to emergency dispatchers.

West, a town of about 2,800 at the time, felt the impact of the explosion both physically and emotionally. Following the incident, the town received an outpouring of support from Waco and the surrounding communities, including Baylor University.

The explosion resulted in the death of 15 people, 12 of whom were first responders. Over 160 people sustained injuries and more than 500 buildings were damaged or completely wrecked by the catastrophe. The McLennan County Judge at the time, Scott Felton, issued a declaration of disaster for the entire county.

Amber Adamson, lecture of journalism, public relations and new media, captured the stories of countless individuals who put their lives on the line in her book, "The Last Alarm: First Responders' Stories of the West Explosion." The explosion happened during her first year of teaching at Baylor.

The book's title comes from the tradition of firefighters ringing the "last alarm" at a bell-ringing ceremony in honor of the firefighters who die in the line of duty.

"The event happened, I think ... two or three days after the Boston Marathon bombing. And so, immediately people thought, 'OK, this is an act of terror,'" Adamson said. "Not only were all the local agencies involved, but ATF [the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives] got involved, and so it became a crime scene — was shut down. The bodies couldn't be removed right away, and so they sat for at least 36 hours."

Adamson said both her husband and brother are career firemen, which gave her better access to the affected population.

"I started asking people if they would talk to me, and every person I would ask, I'd ask for two or three more people ... and it kind of became this snowball effect where I would leave each interview with multiple names and phone numbers," Adamson said.

Adamson said she recalls talking to a Waco firefighter from West that works with her husband and was at the wall of honor when they finally brought out the bodies.

"Some of the things he talked about were not really knowing who was being brought out each time," Adamson said. "Knowing that he knew some of them and just the realness of that, and the fact that they were indeed dead and some of them were full body bags and some of them were just very small body bags because there was only parts of people left just really made



Associated Press/LM Otero

WRECKAGE Firefighters check a destroyed apartment complex near the fertilizer plant that exploded in West in April 2013.



Lariat File Photo

MOURNING FALLEN HEROES A woman mourns at The Firefighters' Memorial Service held in the Ferrell Center on April, 25 2013.



HELPING HANDS Volunteers work to gather goods for victims of the West fertilizer plant disaster the day after the explosion. Lariat File Photo



SALUTE Changing of the guard occurs during the Firefighters' Memorial Service held at the Ferrell Center on April 25, 2013. Lariat File Photo



MEMORIAL President Barack Obama offers presidential remarks to families and friends of the firefighters killed during the West explosion at the Firefighters' Memorial Service in the Ferrell Center. Lariat File Photo



PROCESSION Countless firefighters known as the Patriot Guard Riders led the procession to the Ferrell Center for the memorial. Lariat File Photo

it very real in his mind that he had lost some good friends.”

Because so much wreckage had been caused by the explosion, the West community was in dire need of help. Baylor decided to change Diadeloso, the day after the explosion, to DiadelWest and students donated supplies and gave blood to support the cause.

“I remember that Baylor students jumped in and were ready to help,” Adamson said. “I mean there were a lot of efforts to collect food supplies, bottles of water, clothing, things like that and take them down there. Baylor and the Waco community found ways to fill the needs, like the physical tangible needs, of the people in the community really quickly and that was cool to see.”

The Baylor family raised over \$290,000 of relief funds. A midnight vigil was also held at Waco Hall for students to come and pray for those impacted by what happened in West.

“Baylor students know about West because of the kolaches,” Adamson said. “It was cool for me to see that Baylor students got a sense of what the community was about beyond just the delicious treat they’re known for.”

Adamson said every year she plays audio from her interviews in her journalism classes.

“They need to be retold and retold every semester,” Adamson said. “I think just to kind of, one, get students excited about what storytelling can be like and what interviewing can do, but to just to keep the stories alive because that means that they didn’t die for nothing. You know, it means that their sacrifices aren’t in vain. I think that’s — to me — that’s important and that was the whole heart behind the book.”

The audio from Adamson’s interviews with first responders is available at Baylor’s Institute for Oral History for students and faculty to listen to.

Both the explosion and the

first responders’ efforts in West became national news, and on April 25, 2013, just days after the incident, then-President Barack Obama made his way to Waco to speak at a memorial service held at Baylor. First lady Michelle Obama and Gov. Rick Perry were also in attendance.

President Obama told those from West that he knew there would be “moments of doubt and pain and the temptation to wonder how this community will ever fully recover.”

“But today I see in the people of West, in your eyes, that what makes West special isn’t going to go away. And instead of changing who you are, this tragedy has simply revealed who you’ve always been,” Obama said. “You have been tested, West. You have been tried. You have gone through fire. But you are and always will be surrounded by an abundance of love.”

Perry also spoke at the memorial in remembrance of those who lost their lives.

“These are volunteers. Ordinary individuals blessed with extraordinary courage and a determination to do what they could to save lives,” Perry said. “They’re the ones who proudly said ‘not on my watch’ in the moments immediately following that explosion.”

In the years following the incident, West made strides to rebuild and overcome the losses it experienced.

ATF investigators ripped off the Band-Aid with their announcement in 2016 that said the fire at the West Fertilizer Co. had been set deliberately. No suspects were ever named and many questioned the legitimacy of the ATF’s findings.

Baylor social work professor Jim Ellor told the Waco Tribune-Herald in 2018 that he still saw signs of long-term stress among the West community. Ellor was one of Baylor’s Crisis Intervention Team that volunteered its services in counseling to the people of West for several years.



Rounding Up Campus News Since 1900

Odd headlines

'Hey Mom, I'm a freshman University Scholar.'

Student held at gunpoint

Freshman survives
200-foot cliff fall

Sophomores spoil

Bear attack victim sent home

freshman attempt

Crises director discusses prevention

to kidnap officer

'Baylor Bubble' does not offer rape protection

Prof dies of heart attack at dance

Clothes in dryer set Collins afire

**Wreck Checked
For Hazing Tie**

Student lies in coma
Anniversary of a killing

Former professor murdered

Student stalks campus 'commie'

Inch-long lizard becomes catalyst for serious family discussion

*Ghosts Appear on Plains of
Gulf of Mexico But Reports
May be False and Then--*

*Best propaganda
ultimately truth*

Sociology prof explains fear of dying
'Once dead' victims recount experiences

EXES MAY BE CONFUSED

Sidewalks Same, Students Different

It's hip to flip

EDITORIAL

Baptists, dancing, CNN: What does it all mean?

Give President Robert B. Sloan Jr. credit for pulling off, intentionally or not, a great publicity stunt.

Today is the day of the dance. The end of 151 years of no-dancing on campus.

It's a popular move that has irritated only the staunchest of the staunch. The media glare will reach full intensity as camera crews and reporters roam campus questioning students and trying to assess the meaning of the whole thing.

The question they'll all be asking is:

What does it mean?

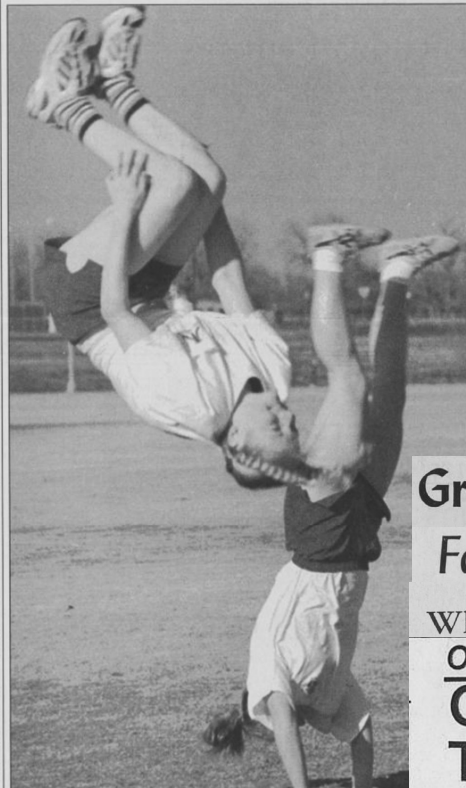
- Well, it means students can dance on Baylor property.
- It means the death of a silly rule. Let's hope restrictive visiting hours and the attendance policy are on the chopping block as well.
- It's another event that apathetic students can blow off.
- It's a distraction from real concerns, such as student body diversity, increasing the endowment, moving into the Big 12, etc.
- It means we're one step close to Armageddon.
- It means student body president Collin Cox gets to be on CNN and in *The New York Times*.
- It means the Rev. Miles Seaborn can stop prattling on about "slippery slopes" and "lewd gyrations."
- It means that a few mediocre local bands will get national exposure.
- It means that a lot of students will skip class Friday morning.

But — for a journalism student, anyway — the real meaning comes down to this:

It means *The Lariat* editorial page has lost one of its most reliable, sure-fire topics.

Generations of editorial writers have argued in favor of removing the ban. For decades the one thing that has remained constant is the call to have dancing on campus.

What are we going to write about now?



Students, pigs get down and dirty

RABIES TEST TO BE MADE

Bruno, Baylor Bear, Dies; Found Hanging From Tree

Tuesday, April 11, 2000

News

Police escort student away from party

Grad Students Finally Coming Out of Their Holes

Facial Muscles--Rush Asset

Medium

Where have all the slime caps gone?

On the Staff

Cool:

Or, How to Put The Paper to Bed

more

Are BU Students Awake?

lukewarm

Stolen mailbox returned

Now, Children!

mediocrity

Baylor females tinkering on their cars, checking fluids

Hanging trees, goats prepare geologists for trips

Is Baylor stuck in educational mud?

Hip preacher -- 'Jesus is the best trip

Baylor Women Can--Wear

Home, Home On the Catacombs

Slacks During February,

They shoot horses -- a marathon of life

Except Sundays at Noon

Playboy controversy climaxes with Lariat firings

MATTHEW MUIR
Copy Desk Chief

In January 1980, Playboy photographer David Chan's planned trip to Baylor was generating a low rumble. By March, it snowballed into a controversy that made national headlines and left a gaping wound in Baylor's Department of Journalism.

Having previously completed features on "Girls of the Pac 10" and "Girls of the Ivy League," Chan set his sights on the Southwest Conference, which included Baylor at the time. Chan had already visited the University of Texas – where he interviewed more than 350 women – and Texas A&M when he confirmed his intent to come to Baylor.

Dr. Doug Ferdon, a former chair of Baylor's journalism department, said he thought Playboy saw an opening in Texas as societal values shifted.

"Most places like Waco and Huntsville, two places where I've taught, they became wet [loosened restrictions on alcohol] around 1974 ... and I think that had something to do with it, the loosening of standards after the 1960s," Ferdon said. "I think this Southwest Conference issue of Playboy was an attempt for them to move into Texas."

From the outset, the Baylor administration viewed Chan and Playboy with apprehension. W.C. Perry, then the dean of student affairs, said in a Jan. 28, 1980 statement that the administration "would be concerned about" students posing for nude photographs, and would "want to talk to [Chan] and find out what he has in mind."

By Feb. 1, 1980, Baylor President Abner McCall had said any student who posed nude for Playboy would face disciplinary consequences. Perry added actions would not be taken against any students who posed clothed. A Playboy spokesperson told the Baylor Lariat that Playboy would assist any student model with legal aid if they faced disciplinary action.

Ferdon thinks politics led McCall to take a harsher stance than he otherwise would have needed.

"Baylor was in the midst of a struggle between the fundamentalists ... and the [conservatives]," Ferdon said. "The fundamentalists wanted to take over Baylor, and they didn't succeed but they were doing a lot of things to try at that time. So it forced Abner McCall to be even more strict than he needed to be."

Lariat editors soon made their views clear. In a Feb. 19, 1980, editorial penned by editor-in-chief Jeff Barton, city editor Barry Kolar and assistant city editor Carla Wood, the three editors said students should make the decision whether or not to pose for photos based on their own morals, not "vague threats of sinner's scorn" or the supposed "crumbling of society [or] the downfall

of the West." They also criticized the politics of McCall's stance.

"Conservative politics are an omnipresent fact of life lately, and that theological politicking also presents perhaps the strongest rationale against posing – the not-so-subtle threat of unpleasantness from an encircled administration," the editorial said. "It is disappointing that the administration perceives this more as a rallying point for fundamentalist support, than as a chance to exercise restraint and demonstrate its independence from the Criswellites [fundamentalists] of the world."

On Feb. 21, 1980, McCall was unhappy with coverage of the Playboy saga. He took "especially strong exception" with the editorial, which he felt was contrary to Baylor's Christian

"We voted to quit Wednesday night, [Feb. 20] to walk out. We have not left this newspaper, obviously, but that does not mean we are happy or content," the editorial said. "We are not."

The full-page editorial revealed a staff exasperated by what they called "wholesale censorship," and it refuted the idea that the Playboy coverage was an attempt to undermine the university's values.

"We often disagree with the president, and when we do, it is because we have an honest difference of opinion with his policies – not because we have any dislike for Dr. McCall as a man," the editorial said. "As for Baylor? We have criticized many aspects of the school in the past – not because we have any disagreement

with its ideals – but with the way some have chosen to interpret and carry out these ideals. President McCall, for his part, argues that we do not have the right to interpret or even question these ideals."

McCall fired back on Feb. 25, 1980, saying in a statement "if any student editor or reporter sincerely feels that he or she cannot work within the policies herein set forth, he should resign from the Lariat staff." McCall also called the editors' behavior "deplorable" and stated that Baylor was within its rights to have final say on what content was published.

"Historically and legally freedom of the press has always been freedom of the publisher," McCall said.

Journalism chairman Loyal Gould backed McCall, promising to "terminate anyone who does not conform" to standards for the publication.

Texas newspapers like the Waco Tribune-Herald

and Houston Chronicle flocked to cover the unfolding events, and wire services kept the Lariat phone ringing off the hook in search of updates. News was spreading around the country, with publications like the Lantern at Ohio State University picking up on the story which started as "a flap over women possibly posing for skin shots."

Students organized a show of support outside of Pat Neff Hall on the morning of Feb. 27, 1980. Between 50 and 100 students attended.

In protest, the local Society of Professional Journalists chapter canceled an event which would have brought prospective journalism students to Baylor. In an interview with KWTX, McCall said students who were deterred by Baylor's actions should not bother coming to the university.

"These students who, because of policies like this, don't want to come to Baylor – I'd much prefer they go someplace else," McCall said. "I'd prefer some of these students here that don't agree with the policy to go elsewhere."



Photo Courtesy of 1980 Baylor Roundup

ORIGINAL STAFF The 1980 Lariat staff poses for a group photo prior to three editors being fired later that spring.

commitment and encouraged students to disregard university policy and pose for Playboy. In a meeting, he told Lariat editors they could continue to cover any news stories, so long as they were the "right kind" of news stories. McCall also suggested future editorials focus on less serious and less controversial topics.

Because Baylor is a private university, these weren't empty requests to be ignored. Dr. Sara Stone, former chair of the journalism department, said the Lariat deals with restrictions that papers at public schools generally won't have to face.

"Understand that Baylor is a private school and as such the president of the university is the publisher of the paper," Stone said. "Free speech at Baylor is not exactly free speech at a public university."

Barton appealed to Student Congress, asking the body to make the administration reconsider the decision. He also lobbied for Baylor's policy on Lariat content to be made public. On Feb. 22, 1980, another editorial ran, this one signed by Barton, Kolar, news editor Cyndy Slovak and 23 other staff members.

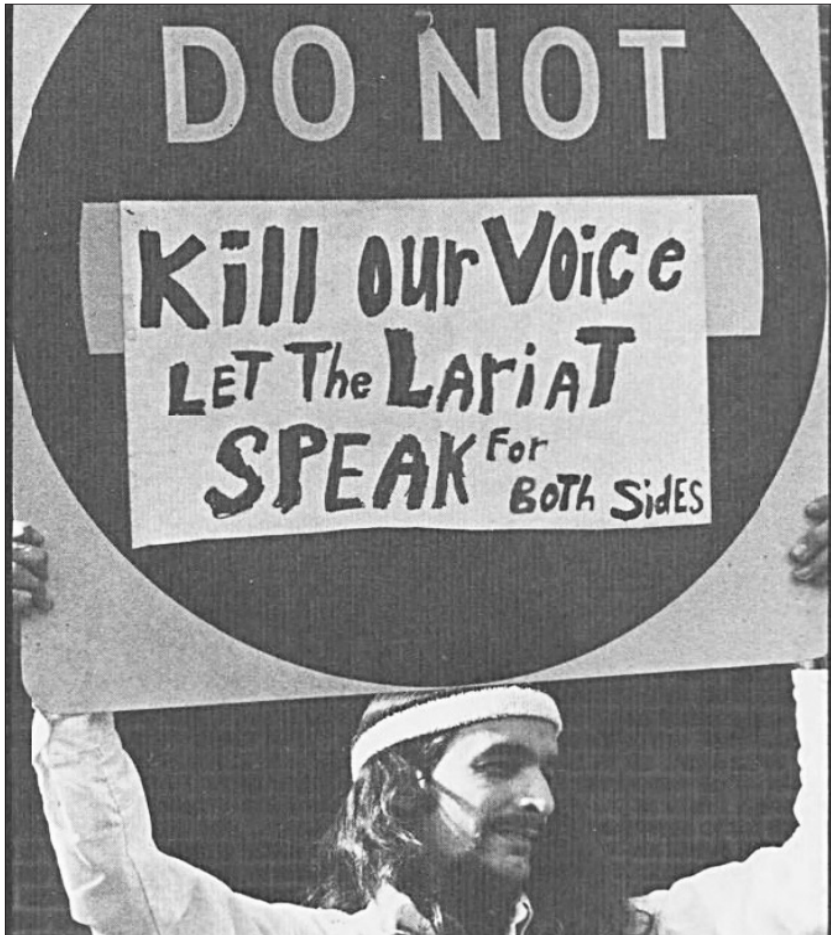


Photo Courtesy of 1980 Baylor Roundup

SIGN OF THE TIMES Baylor student Jimmy Pucket joins a student body protest against the university's censorship of the Baylor Lariat.

These comments further inflamed tensions. Slovak said McCall "obviously" wanted the Lariat staff to quit, but she "wouldn't give him the satisfaction."

Student Congress voted 20-1 to support McCall and the Baylor administration on Feb. 28, 1980. One congressman, John Cullar, affirmed McCall's sentiment that freedom of the press meant freedom of the publisher. Cullar also accused The Lariat of only publishing favorable letters and not ones disagreeing with the editors' stance.

On Feb. 29, 1980, Barton, Kolar and Slovak wrote one more editorial defending themselves and criticizing the university's position.

"If there's one thing we can probably all agree on, it's that the press coverage of the past week hasn't done Baylor's reputation too much good," the editorial said. "Whatever the motives or sincerity of the administration's reaction, Dr. McCall's recent statements will be perceived by much of the nation as small-minded and provincial."

It was almost harsher. Shortly before publication and without consulting the

editors in advance, Lariat adviser Ralph Strother removed a section which said "we hope the time has come when the student body will no longer accept the smugness of Dr. McCall's interpretations. We hope the (Feb. 27) protest is a sign that students are tired of the arrogant position taken by the administration."

When the editors objected to the last-minute edits, Strother recommended firing Barton, Kolar and Slovak.

Dr. Don Williams, a journalism professor who had written a letter in support of The Lariat staff, handed in his resignation to be effective at the end of the semester. Williams called McCall's and Gould's treatment of the editors "childish and bullying."

On March 3, 1980, Baylor's Board of Publications voted unanimously to fire the three editors. Publication of The Lariat was suspended for three weeks. The Baylor Line magazine reported roughly 200 students gathered to protest.

17 members of the Lariat's staff soon resigned in protest. Williams was told by Gould he would not finish out the semester. Another journalism professor,

Dr. Dennis Hale, resigned after Williams' sacking, saying he opposed the "whole series of events."

Two editors and the president of Baylor's chapter of the professional journalism society all had their scholarships canceled. Barton called it "vindictive." Gould said the withdrawal of a scholarship fund was a significant contributor. McCall later described the controversy as "kind of like a wart on my toe." Ferdon said it's a blemish on an impressive legacy.

"McCall was probably ... the greatest president Baylor ever had because he took them from being a college to a university and put a vision forward," Ferdon said. "But that was one instance where I think he got caught in internal politics as much as anything."

McCall did, however, share that he'd received hundreds of letters and phone calls voicing support for his actions by the time the Lariat resumed publication on March 26, 1980.

Ferdon and Stone both came to Baylor to teach in 1982 — not long after the fracas, but eons on the scale of college life. While not often talked about, the aftershocks of the scandal still reverberated around the journalism department.

"When I was finishing my doctorate and Baylor was one of the schools I applied to ... I had people say to me, 'You don't want to go to Baylor; that's a terrible place. They censor their students, they censor their publications, the First Amendment doesn't exist there,'" Stone said.

Stone also mentioned the professors who resigned.

"I personally side with all those people, I think it was wrong," Stone said.

Baylor was kicked out of a couple of collegiate press groups in the wake of the spring 1980 controversy. Ferdon said he was thrust into the role of a "guinea pig" trying to get Baylor back into these groups as the department moved on.

"When I came we were already into the next things," Ferdon said. "We were going forward rather than looking behind. We were trying to rebuild the Lariat's status."

Long after the dust settled, Chan's Playboy feature was published. About 80 Baylor women had been photographed. The preliminary photos were not taken in the nude, and if Ferdon's secondhand information is correct, none of the Baylor women completely disrobed for the final portraits either.

"I never really saw a copy of the Playboy," Ferdon said. "But people who have told me that the Baylor girls were wearing ... they weren't wearing a lot of clothes, but they were wearing clothes."

Lariat cries 'censorship;' Congress listens to plea

Staffers 'hang tough;' students plan protest

The question is—

Playboy? To pose or not to pose



Where does that leave us? Confused, disappointed, mad. But with a staff and, with a Lariat.
For now.

Playboy to seek Baylor's beauties

Baylor beauties better not bare it
Administration reacts
to Playboy proposition



February 1, 1980

page 3

More than pictures

Playboy stresses variety

(Green &) Gold Medals: Hart builds Olympic factory at Baylor

HARPER MAYFIELD
Sports Writer

Michael Johnson. Trayvon Bromell. Tiffany Townsend. Stacey Bowers. Felix Obi. Jeremy Wariner. Rachel Johnson. Todd Harbour. Willie Caldwell. Annie Rhodes.

Baylor track legends one and all, and that's only a sample of the history of Baylor track and field. Baylor has produced a staggering nine Olympic gold medals, 36 NCAA championships and 606 All-American seasons. Runners from Baylor have gone on to compete on some of the biggest stages in the world, leaving their names etched into the annals of athletic history.

Rachel Johnson, a six-time All-American during her four years at Baylor, said she feels that there's something in the water at Baylor.

"The coaches and the mindset and atmosphere that they built on the team is a really, really good one," Johnson said.

Johnson is far from alone in this sentiment. "Every program has a reputation," said Kirsten Stepick Howard, a 1994 graduate of the program. "Baylor has a legacy."

Many of these athletes point to one man as a key point of their success: coach Clyde Hart. Now the director of track and field at Baylor, Hart coached the Bears from 1963 to 2005.

The resume he left behind is nothing short

of legendary.

Hart coached Olympic gold medal winners in six straight games, including the champion in the men's 400 meters from 1996 to 2004. That unforgettable streak in the 400 led to Baylor becoming known worldwide as "Quarter-Miler U." Michael Ford, associate head coach of the Baylor men's track team and a member of the national champion 4x400 meter relay team in both 1995 and '96, said Hart taught the team togetherness above everything else.

"We're more of a family ... [that's] one of the things Coach Hart did well," Ford said.

Tony Miller, another member of Hart's 400 squad, said the coach was very devoted to seeing his athletes succeed off the track, as getting a degree was always the No. 1 focus, no matter how fast they ran.

"Coach Hart's impact on that team was immeasurable. You can't put one thing that Coach Hart meant to that team. He embodied what that track team stood for," Miller said.

Those values persist in the team today, as associate women's head coach Stacey Smith, formerly Bowers, said they care about the athletes as more than what they can do for the team.

"When you bring in the type of kids [Hart] was recruiting at that time, it was just fireworks," Miller said.



Photo courtesy of the 1990 Roundup

BEST OF THE BEST Michael Johnson hands the baton to off to Lee Miles in a 4x400 relay race in 1990. Johnson won four Olympic gold medals and eight World Championship gold medals.



PIONEER Clyde Hart was named head track coach at Baylor in 1963. After 56 years, he retired his position and became the director of track and field in June 2005.

But what was it that made Baylor so appealing to all these top-shelf talents?

"Coach Hart had made a tradition of excellence there. ... I wanted to be the best, and be coached by the best," Miller said.

"I bleed green and gold, so when the opportunity came with the offer, I decided to come back," Ford said on his return to Baylor as a coach.

Every corner of the Baylor track program has Hart's fingerprints all over it — from the short sprints, to the world-renowned quarter miles, to the long-distance events. Even after he stepped away from coaching, Hart has continued to have a strong influence on the team.

Hart had a heavy hand in the first women's Big 12 track title in Baylor history, coming in 2017.

"You could see the women start to evolve.

You could see them start to really enjoy what they were doing," Smith said.

In the post-Hart era, Baylor has continued to be the program that Hart designed it to be. The family dynamic, strong basis in faith and heightened sense of team camaraderie remain core tenets of the program. A specific point of head coach Todd Harbour's vision for the team is making sure that program strives to "build the total person."

Going back more than 60 years, Baylor has been a fixture in the collegiate track and field landscape, producing champions and elite competitors time and again. From Jack Patterson to Clyde Hart to Todd Harbour, Baylor has been led by coaches that combine their strong desire to win with a strong desire to see their athletes grow as people and in their faith.



Photo courtesy of the 2017 Roundup

BIG 12 CHAMPIONS Leticia De Souza runs the relay in the 2017 Michael Johnson Invitational. The women's track team won the Big 12 Championships that year.