

Thursday, September 5, 2024

baylorlariat.com



OPINION | A2
EDITORIAL:
 Horror movies aren't satanic; separate portrayal from support



SPORTS | A6
Tennis:
 Baylor alum wins gold in Paris; Doubles champs



A&L | A4
Reaching the Summit
 Student DJ chases EDM idols

Will social media make the truth hard to find?

Part one in a three-part series on the impact of social media.

JOSH SIATKOWSKI
 Staff Writer

In an Aug. 26 letter to Congress, Meta CEO Mark Zuckerberg announced that the platform succumbed to government pressure to demote potential misinformation about COVID-19 and the Biden family. He vowed that from now on, Meta will resist demands for censorship from federal officials, regardless of the administration in power.

Zuckerberg wrote, "I feel strongly that we should not compromise our content standards due to pressure from any administration in either direction — and we're ready to push back if something like this happens again."

The letter explained that the Biden administration had contacted Meta in 2021, asking them to demote content containing misinformation and satire about COVID-19. The letter has been



James Ellis | Cartoonist

MARKETPLACE OF MISINFORMATION Mark Zuckerberg's letter to Congress signals a new era of information on social media, where users will have to decide for themselves what is credible. Meta has decided it doesn't want to be involved in that decision.

controversial in Washington, being called "a win for free speech" by some and a move for "fewer guardrails against misinformation" by others.

With a high-stakes election right around the corner, Meta is promising the average Instagram and Facebook user that they will value users' right to free speech more than it does the truth of information. It grants power to the individual, but not without a price. Now more than ever, the responsibility to verify the truth of thousands of claims will be vested in the reader.

This power can be tough to exercise. Paul Yanowitch, adjunct professor at Baylor Law School, said determining the truth of a claim is harder today than it has been in previous generations.

With countless opinions entering people's phones

META MAYHEM >>
Page 8

Humane Society, City of Waco terminate partnership

MACKENZIE GRIZZARD
 Staff Writer

Boxes are piled high in the Humane Society of Central Texas' administrative office as they prepare to vacate the premises, signaling the end of a 12-year partnership with the City of Waco.

On Aug. 23, the City of Waco announced in a press release that they terminated the Animal Services Agreement, a collaborative effort between the city and the Humane Society of Central Texas.

Monica Sedelmeier, a public information officer in the city's communications and marketing department wrote in a press release that despite the termination, the city is handling the situation and all animals involved with care.

"The City of Waco is deeply committed to ensuring this transition is handled smoothly with the continued safety and welfare of the animals in our care remaining our top priority," Sedelmeier said.

The Waco Animal Shelter has been functional for over 50 years, with the HSCTX assuming sole management from 1980 to 2012. For those years, it operated as an animal shelter, not a rescue, meaning they rarely close intake, according to its website.

According to the Waco Animal Services Department, the City of Waco began contracting with the HSCTX in 2012 as the "primary Animal Care operator," assisting in staffing the shelter for maintenance and veterinary care.

This contract continued successfully for over a decade, with more than \$100,000 poured into the shelter, according to the Waco Animal Services official website.

Tom Lupfer, interim director of the HSCTX, said the shelter couldn't afford to stay in Waco after unfruitful financial negotiations.

"Unless the city was willing to step in and give us a consistent reimbursement to manage this whole thing, we told them we just couldn't

afford to stay," Lupfer said. "We just didn't want to drive ourselves into insolvency."

According to Lupfer, negotiations between Waco and the HSCTX have been ongoing since 2023. A \$1.2 million budget was proposed by the HSCTX for the next annual year, and the city could "not meet that demand," according to Waco Animal Services.

"I think the evidence is going to prove them wrong [when they] finally understand they're going to be spending at least \$600,000, if not a million more, to do what we've been doing for them for free on our own nickel for years now," Lupfer said.

According to Lupfer, the HSCTX has been responsible for animal transport, spaying and neutering surgeries, adoption events and other surgeries on their own dime. Lupfer said while the City of Waco reimbursed them, their finances are more intricate than they seem.

"Even when the city reimbursed us for the spay and neuter, they weren't reimbursing us for the driver, van, gas or transport," said Lupfer. "So between the staff here, the drivers on the road and the cost of the vans, it was about \$10,000 for 29 dogs. That's around \$350 per dog."

Data from the Waco Animal Services Department shows capacity at 106% for dogs and 62% for cats, with a total of 802 animals under shelter care. According to Lupfer, throughout the contract, there were only two veterinarians on staff taking care of the animals.

"The city has to do everything by contract, so that's why they always had us doing all of this because we're a separate entity and had flexibility," said Lupfer. "Wherever we could find an open spot, we would move over there, so we were probably using three to six different vet clinics at a given time."

The City of Waco's municipal code states that all animals must undergo spaying or neutering before being fostered or adopted. Lupfer said this policy and staffing issues keep



Cameron McCollum | Photographer

A PARTNERSHIP ON PAWS 2-year-old Tabitha the German shepherd has a striking case of heterochromia in her eyes. She has been waiting at the shelter to be adopted since Aug. 9.

capacity high.

"The onsite vet staff are only accomplishing about five to six surgeries a day," Lupfer said. "Intake is bringing in 15-20 dogs a day and usually 60-70 dogs a week."

Between financial obligations and manpower needed to support an operation this large, the Waco and HSCTX collaboration kept the lights on at the shelter for many years, but Lupfer said it wasn't sustainable for much longer.

"The shelter is running in excess of 100%," said Lupfer. "There are shelters in Dallas running at 250%. It's all over Texas, all over the South and almost everywhere else in the country."

Despite this, the HSCTX retains its no-kill status, meaning the shelter has a 90% or more live-exit rate. Achieving this status for the first time in 2016, Lupfer is hopeful it will continue

under new management.

"It's been a great success, and I think all of us are just very concerned that we don't backpedal on that," said Lupfer.

Shelter operations will still continue at the same location, according to the City of Waco's official press release. In the next year, the shelter will spend \$1 million to hire 15 new staff members, according to an update presented to Waco City Council on Tuesday.

The transition plan also includes a new clinic building, more animal enrichment, increased security, parking and more.

Lupfer said he is still hopeful for future collaborations with the city.

"I think, eventually, they'll understand they need us," Lupfer said. "I know we need them."



Mesha Mittanasala | Photographer

STUDENT STAMPEDE Running the Baylor Line often comes with its complications — heat exhaustion, trampling, dogpiles and falling phones. The class of 2028 hopes to change that.

Surviving The Line: How to run the Baylor Line safely

EMILY SCHOCH
 Staff Writer

Running the Line is one of the most celebrated Baylor traditions for freshmen and new transfer students. The 50-year-old tradition, though, faces new students with challenges like dehydration, heat exhaustion and students dogpiling over their fellow classmates.

Flanders, N.J. senior Jenna Galdi is chair of the Baylor Chamber of Commerce. Galdi said that the Chamber does their best to ensure the safety of students running the line, but they can't prevent the inevitable.

Galdi said things like heat affect students' experiences while running The Line, but the Chamber is always brainstorming ways to limit the likelihood of heat exhaustion.

"This year, we got these big fans in the tunnel. They're massive," Galdi said. "There's five or six of them, and they're hooked up to water so they have cold water misting out of them. I think it's been a big help."

According to Galdi, the Chamber provides cold water for freshmen waiting in the tunnel and encourages them to hydrate while waiting

DON'T TRIP >> Page 8

GOT SOMETHING TO SAY?

We want to hear it. Send us your thoughts: Lariat-Letters@baylor.edu

Exorcize your horror movie stigmas



James Ellis | Cartoonist

THE EDITORIAL BOARD

What do horror movie actors and Catholic priests have in common? They both perform exorcisms.

Although a large amount of horror movies have biblical imagery, some feel that they are satanic or unchristian because they contain paranormal or occult themes. The beginning of this paranoia started with the Satanic Panic in the '80s.

NPR described the panic as a time "when false accusations of the abuse of children in satanic rituals spread

across the United States." It began with "Michelle Remembers," a book co-written by a psychologist and his patient, highlighting childhood abuse from a satanic cult. This spiraled the U.S. into a moral panic focused around satanic symbols, imagery and mystic themes.

In turn, parents became increasingly concerned with censoring the media and people around their children. Rock music, daycare centers and movies were under scrutiny for satanic influence. Fast forward to today, some people of faith still have their reservations

about horror movies.

Most horror movies contain biblical imagery like holy water, bible passages, exorcisms, clergy members, prayers, the sign of the cross and much more. Even more interesting is that some of the most famous horror movies were written by Christians.

William Peter Blatty, the writer of the 1971 novel "The Exorcist," was a Roman Catholic who based the book on a series of true events. Gary Dauberman, the writer behind "Annabelle," is a practicing Christian who said "horror helps

"reveal the good." Even Stephen King, the mind behind "IT," "Pet Sematary" and countless others grew up Methodist.

Mary Ann Beavis, author of "The Bible in Motion" comments on how biblical imagery in horror movies acknowledges Christian faith.

"As one of the great repositories of supernatural lore in Western culture, it is not surprising that the Bible is often featured in horror films. Without the biblical repertoire of Satan, demons, exorcisms, plagues, curses, prophecies, apocalyptic signs, false messiahs, pagan sorcerers, evil empires, etc., horror movies would be impoverished," Beavis said.

For instance, the Book of Revelation is often the direct source of apocalyptic movies. In Revelation 6, it says God will open the first of seven seals and call down the white horse presenting the Antichrist. This will cascade a sequence of events leading to an apocalyptic world. In "A Quiet Place," this post-apocalyptic world is faced with an alien-like creature that attacks anything that makes noise. Like the Antichrist, the creature destroys the human population and turns the world into an immoral reality.

"These films often portray the end presaged by cosmic signs and catastrophes, the birth of the Antichrist, etc., as avertable through the intervention of a heroic, often

flawed, Christ-figure," Beavis said.

"Se7en" is an example of direct biblical text infused into a horror movie. The perverted murderer uses the seven deadly sins to kill those he feels have committed them. Without the Bible, this movie would be obsolete.

People who believe that horror movies go against the Bible or Christian thought have not adequately analyzed these films. Every time an anti-christian or satanic figure is featured, the direct acknowledgment of God is also present. The Antichrist cannot exist without Christ — the word itself is from the Bible.

Movies like "The Exorcist" clearly reveal that God has power in the fight against evil. If it didn't, the holy water and exorcisms wouldn't have worked. In "Annabelle: Creation," they trap the murderous doll in a closet by pasting Bible pages to the walls. Horror movies like these directly acknowledge that God is real, and He has power against evil.

It is important to make the distinction that not every movie with Christian symbolism promotes the power of the Bible and God's presence. The use of satanic characters is a representation of scripture — not an endorsement.

Satanic imagery in horror movies does not make them unchristian. It directly submits to the Bible and proves that God's power is greater than evil.

The 'pink tax' worsens gender-based inequality

ALEXA HERNANDEZ
Social Media Editor

In today's society, where gender equality is becoming more prevalent, one persisting injustice still stands: the "pink tax." This term describes the higher prices women pay for products and services, compared to their male counterparts. From feminine care products and clothing to everyday necessities, women are frequently charged more simply because they are women. This is not just an annoying extra 5 cents here and there — it's an economic burden that exacerbates gender inequality.

The pink tax is a result of gender-based pricing. Women often find themselves paying more for items like razors, shampoo and body wash. A razor marketed towards women costs more than a similar razor for men, even though the only difference may be the color or packaging. Likewise, women's workplace attire can be priced higher than men's, even when the materials and manufacturing processes are the same.

This inequality is more than a minor inconvenience — it is a financial burden that adds up over time. For women, particularly those

in a lower-socioeconomic class, these extra costs can accumulate significantly. Even for women from a higher class, the pink tax perpetuates a system that undermines gender equality and reinforces outdated stereotypes.

For low-income women, the costs of everyday products can strain their budgets. It can lead to choosing between needed feminine products or groceries. Nobody should have to choose between two necessities. Middle-class and high-class women also feel the impact, particularly in professional



contexts where business attire and grooming products can carry a premium. These added expenses not only affect their finances, but can also reinforce stereotypes that women must spend more to present themselves professionally.

The pink tax also has physiological effects on society. It reinforces the idea that women's needs and preferences

are somehow more costly and expensive, which can perpetuate gender-based discrimination and inequality.

Many people are not aware of the price disparities, and bringing light on this issue can drive informed purchasing decisions and encourage businesses to reconsider their pricing on all products.

Another thing that can massively impact this issue is legislative action. This can play a crucial role in mitigating the pink tax. People in office should bring in regulations that require companies to justify gender-based price differences.

Donating feminine products to women's or homeless shelters is a great way to help those who are in desperate need of finding everyday essentials. While the broader issue of the pink tax isn't something that can be solved overnight, any donation can help women in need. By contributing in this way, you're providing more than just essential items, you're showing support and hope that they aren't facing their challenges alone.

While the higher prices might seem like small annoyances, they add up to a significant financial disadvantage for women — no matter their income.

Eat out less: improve health and save money

RORY DULOCK
Staff Writer

Within the last year, I have realized that my enjoyment of eating out did not outweigh the consequences. I spent way too much money, developed unhealthy eating habits and in turn, I did not enjoy eating out anymore.

In my head, eating out here and there would be cheaper than making a big grocery run at the store. I was proven wrong after my bank statement came in — yikes. After receiving my bank statement, I was quick to learn that spending roughly \$10 per meal added up more quickly than I thought. A report done by the Education Data Initiative concluded that college students spend on average \$410 a month eating off-campus. I did not spend that much, but I was close.

After doing the math, I realized it would have been much cheaper to do grocery runs than to go Cane's a few times a week. Not to mention, it would have been much healthier in terms of my diet.

A Worldmetrics report released last month had

alarming results for college students' diets and eating habits. Four of the statistics that stood out was that 70% of college students reported regularly eating fast food and 42% of college students reported eating out multiple times a week. Only 10% of college students eat the recommended daily amount of fruits and vegetables; 40% of college students consume sugary beverages daily. I am unfortunately a part of those statistics, and I know many of you who are

reading this also fall under the statistics as well.

Go to H-E-B or ALDI and pick out foods that are affordable and easy to make, yet healthy. Having healthier eating habits may even improve your academic performance.

Unless you want to spend way too much money, develop unhealthy eating habits and not enjoy eating out with friends anymore, I recommend that you eat out less.

“Unless you want to spend way too much money, develop unhealthy eating habits and not enjoy eating out with friends anymore, I recommend you eat out less.”

Meet the Staff

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF
Emma Weidmann*

NEWS EDITOR
Ashlyn Beck*

ASSISTANT NEWS EDITOR
Rachel Chiang

SPORTS EDITOR
Foster Nicholas

ARTS & LIFE EDITOR
Olivia Turner*

OPINION EDITOR
Erika Kuehl*

COPY EDITORS
Isabelle Ruff
Delaney Newhouse

PHOTO EDITOR
Michael Aguilar

SOCIAL MEDIA EDITOR
Alexa Hernandez

WEB EDITOR
Julien Hajenius*

CARTOONIST
James Ellis*

NEWS WRITERS
Rory Dulock
MacKenzie Grizzard
Piper Rutherford
Josh Siatkowski
Audrey Valenzuela
Kristy Volmert

SPORTS WRITERS
Nate Maki
Grant Morrison
Jackson Posey

ARTS & LIFE WRITERS
Katherine Hatcher
Kalena Reynolds

PHOTOGRAPHERS
Cameron McCallum
Mesha Mittanasala
Abigail Roper
Mary Thurmond

Kassidy Tsikitas

INTERNS
Katy Huth
Bella Whitmore

ADVERTISING SALES REPRESENTATIVES
Hannah Ciprian
Olivia Perry
Anthony Poto
Josie Rice

MARKETING ANALYST
Grant Plieger

SOCIAL MEDIA MARKETER
Krista McLaughlin

Lariat TV News

EXECUTIVE PRODUCER
Joe Pratt

MANAGING EDITOR
Kaitlin Sides

SPORTS DIRECTOR
Braden Murray

BROADCAST REPORTERS
Maya Dulock
Clare Goodyear
Lauren Holcomb
Nora Maciak
Marissa Muniz
Irma Peña
Gracie Savage
Claire-Marie Scott

FOCUS/DESIGN
Elizabeth Johnson
Chang Liu

*Asterisks indicate members of The Editorial Board

Contact Us

General Questions:
Lariat@baylor.edu
254-710-1712

Sports:
LariatSports@baylor.edu

Arts:
LariatArts@baylor.edu

Opinion:
Lariat-Letters@baylor.edu

Opinion

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

Editorials, Columns & Letters

Editorials express the opinions of the Lariat Editorial Board. Lariat letters and columns are the opinions of an individual and not the Baylor Lariat.

Lariat Letters

To submit a Lariat Letter, email Lariat-Letters@baylor.edu. Letters should be a maximum of 400 words. The letter is not guaranteed to be published.

New Baylor commercial features alumnus, rising music star Forrest Frank

KRISTY VOLMERT
Staff Writer

Baylor's latest commercial showcases 30 seconds of the authentic Baylor community in action to the tune of Forrest Frank's new hit song, "Never Get Used to This."

Published last Thursday, the video amassed over 6,000 views on YouTube in four days. Saturday night, it aired on ESPN+ while broadcasting Baylor's first football game of the year. It was a double success for viewers as the Bears defeated the Tarleton State Texan Riders, 45-3.

Jason Cook, vice president of marketing & communications and chief marketing officer for Baylor, said the team added a series of authentic scenes featuring students in everyday life in the commercial. According to Cook, the scenes had value because they accurately captured student life.

"We want to make sure that there's a high degree of authenticity in our videos and our commercials and our messages that we put out, so some of the scenes were captured just as part of daily campus life," Cook said.

Cook said he and the assistant vice president of marketing, Karen Kemp, put a lot of thought into ensuring that Baylor was accurately marketed.

The series of scenes, Cook said, illustrates Baylor in all the ways it enriches the lives and character of its students. The video includes several shots of sports, academic engagement, spiritual life activities, traditions and students simply having fun — everything that makes Baylor the university that it is.

"We are, first and foremost, a Christian university. Second, academic excellence is one of our hallmarks," Cook said. "And then, we are a mid-sized university. We're not a small university, but we're not a large public school either."

"And then finally, the fact that we play power for athletics, that's our formula. If you look throughout the commercial, you will see those pieces come to light in a very



Photo courtesy of Jason Cook

FORREST ON THE FIELD Baylor alumnus and singer Forrest Frank is the latest artist to be featured in a Baylor commercial.

real and authentic way."

It's the soundtrack of the video that really highlights Baylor's most highly-regarded aspect — faith.

One important aspect that sets Baylor apart from other universities, Cook said, is that it is a Christian, faith-based institution, but it is not in any way exclusive to students of other religious affiliations.

"We've made a very concerted effort to tap into that intersection of music and culture. That's a key way to reach [Generation] Z students, and it's also a way that we can demonstrate that we are a faith-based institution and can have appeal to both Christian and non-Christian students alike," Cook said.

The noteworthy thing about the newest commercial is this: The rising celebrity it features graduated from Baylor University.

Christian artist Forrest Frank, a 2017 Baylor graduate and Waco resident, released his debut solo album at the end of July. Rapidly hitting top rankings on iTunes, Frank's new songs are reaching and appealing to listeners nationwide.

Frank was asked to come to the football field in McLane Stadium to film a few shots for the commercial—which featured his and artist JVKE's new song, "Never Get Used to This."

"The response so far has just been tremendous, and he just has this ability to reach young people where they are

today. I don't see any indication of him slowing down," Cook said. "I think Forrest's success and meteoric rise is going to allow us to reach students and families who may not have been considering Baylor to begin with."

Baylor's senior video producer Johnathan Davis was the lead editor for the commercial. Davis said that this project was the first time he would be responsible for editing a video that would air on national television.

"Jason and Karen put all their trust in letting me do this for them. It felt like a huge responsibility," Davis said. "It was just a lot of fun to do. We've got a really good team of photographers and videographers in marketing and even in athletics."

The marketing team performed a test in which they watched commercials from other schools, but removed logos, colors or any other indication of the school's identity, Cook said. They were hardly able to identify any of the colleges. This really caught their attention and motivated them to seek new ways to set Baylor apart from the rest, or "stand out in the sea of sameness."

"Baylor is such a special place and we take great effort to showcase everything that makes Baylor so unique in a fun and vibrant way," Cook said. "This year's commercial seems to capture Baylor in ways that we are so excited about."

Neighbor Nights unite students of different faith backgrounds

RORY DULOCK
Staff Writer

Better Together, Baylor's only interfaith organization, will host monthly community dinners called Neighbor Nights to bring together people in the Baylor community with different faiths, backgrounds and cultures.

Neighbor Nights are held through Better Together in partnership with multicultural student organizations. They feature different traditions and stories shared over cultural cuisine.

Andre Baesa, senior coordinator of Intercultural Engagement and Student Life Initiatives, advises Better Together and helps with interfaith work on campus. According to Baesa, Neighbor Nights will be held once a month, and each month will partner with a multicultural student organization on campus.

"We want to highlight faith, maybe what it looks like in different cultures," Baesa said.

Hispanic Heritage Month will be celebrated on Sept. 16 in partnership with the Hispanic Student Association.

"We reach out to the organizations, and they set up a meeting [to] try to talk about [whether] there any foods that they'd love to highlight from their culture that maybe



Photo courtesy of Andre Basse
HEY, NEIGHBOR Students share a smile over dinner.

are tied to a specific faith tradition," Baesa said.

The event typically lasts around an hour and a half, Baesa said many students come for the food, but he hopes to highlight the different cultures represented.

"There's a lot of collaboration involved, and we try to highlight both the culture of that student organization or just the organization in general, and then if there's a faith aspect to these events," Baesa said.

Los Angeles senior Karly Shepherd is a civic interfaith leader responsible for interfaith activism and outreach within Better Together. She said Better Together leaders established a set of values and initiatives that center around building interfaith relationships and encouraging intercultural engagement.

"[Student organizations are] more than welcome to come to us and pitch an idea about how we could collaborate," Shepherd said. "Sometimes we'll have leaders in the organization that give a more structured conversation about how culture and faith interact on Baylor's campus."

Shepherd said the event uniquely joins multi-faith perspectives.

"Better Together is exclusively responsible for creating a space for non-Christian students on this campus," Shepherd said. "I think the partnership between a multicultural org and a faith organization is unique in comparison to other events that happen."

Baesa shared his hope for people to come together and find more similarities than differences in their views.

"What I love about [Neighbor Nights] is that... it truly does bring people together of all backgrounds," Baesa said. "That could be students who don't orient around the Christian faith, but also students who do orient around the Christian faith and are just curious about other faith backgrounds to deepen their own understanding of different people so they can relate to them in multiple ways."



Baylor Lariat Radio hosts a lively sports podcast **EVERY WEDNESDAY**, discussing high and low points of Baylor athletics, students' takes on the Big 12, NCAA and professional sports.



BAYLOR LARIAT

News for the students by the students

Not just Ani-one: Student DJ returns to open for Lost Kings



Photo Courtesy of Ani Nair

SHARING THE SOUND Houston senior Ani Nair sharing the music he loves with others at Baylor GreekFest.

OLIVIA TURNER
Arts & Life Editor

Baylor has its fair share of musically talented students: those who play in the jazz band, sing in the choir and even those who may have their own band. However, there is one group of artists who are often overlooked: DJs.

Houston senior Anirudh “Ani” Nair said he started off like most other blooming musicians.

“My whole life, I’ve loved music,” Nair said. “I played the guitar, like classical guitar. [When] I was younger, I was in band, and I also just loved dissecting music, like listening to albums and dissecting certain stuff about production or lyrics and just kind of understanding it.”

He switched over to DJing his sophomore year at Baylor. He said he wasn’t in a good headspace and wanted something to occupy himself with other than school and his fraternity, Sigma Chi. To occupy himself, Nair bought a board and started picking it up.

“People always liked my aux. Like, at parties or in the car, people would be like, ‘Alright Ani, you got music,’” Nair said. “So I was like, well, if I can cue up some songs, why don’t I just learn how to mix?”

The DJ enjoys doing mainly house

and EDM, though he admitted to not being a fan of house at first.

“I was like, God, I don’t understand how people like this,” Nair said.

However, on a spring break trip to Port Aransas with some friends, he recalled the music being played on the beach, which established his enjoyment of the genre.

Nair looks up to Frank Ocean and fellow DJ John Summit for meaning in his tracks. He said he had a special admiration for Summit, though, because he’s tried to be like him his whole life.

“Just seeing his story — he was just a normal guy; he was middle class like me,” Nair said. “He went to college, studied accounting, got his CPA, but he started DJing in college for his frat and some local bars and then worked nine-to-five and was still producing and making music.”

Nair said he also wants to work full time and focus on his education unless his music blows up. He said his plan is to start off in EDM and hopefully be able to work on some R&B and rap albums for big-name artists.

For now though, Nair said he is working his way to the top. On Sept. 6, he will be DJing at the Backyard. Nair said the last time he performed there, he had one of his best experiences yet. After headlining in front of 1,300 attendees, he’s eager

to return.

This time, Nair will be opening for Lost Kings, an EDM group from Los Angeles — the biggest artist Nair said he’s ever opened for.

Andrew Schneider, Ani’s former Sigma Chi fraternity brother, said he was the one to put Ani and the Backyard in touch. He said the Backyard had a stigma of “attracting an older crowd,” and that they wanted to change that by bringing in more student artists. He said Lost Kings were looking for local artists as well and thought Ani would be the perfect match.

“It’s really more of an event geared toward the younger crowd, like Baylor students in particular,” Schneider said. “It’s not really focused on a specific sorority or fraternity or club, nothing like that. Just more of an everyone’s welcome type of thing.”

Schneider said that getting Ani’s name out there is one of his main focuses. He admires Nair’s desire to include others in his successes, referencing his collaborations with other Baylor DJs and student clothing business Fino St.

In the meantime, Nair can be found on Soundcloud and Spotify.

Nair will be opening for Lost Kings at The Backyard with doors opening at 6:00 p.m. on Friday night.

Student musician utilizes music for selective mutism diagnosis

KALENA REYNOLDS
Staff Writer

Frisco Senior Ava Bohling has turned a social disorder diagnosis at age four into a blossoming music career. Having amassed over 100,000 streams on Spotify, Bohling is not just a successful student but also a singer and songwriter.

Ava Bohling was born a gregarious and exuberant child with a bright smile and a love for people — until the age of four. Then, Ava’s mom noticed a decrease in her sociability, and after multiple doctor appointments, Ava was diagnosed with selective mutism.

Mayo Clinic describes selective mutism as “a consistent failure of children to speak in certain situations, such as school, even when they can speak in other situations, such as at home with close family members. This can interfere with school, work and social functioning.”

Bohling describes her anxiety as a force of nature.

“It’s like there was a waterfall rushing down my throat and pushing down my words and music,” Bohling said. “I think it’s so ironic that God used music to deliver me from that because ... you go on stage, and you have to be confident and do all those things, but I literally couldn’t speak to anyone.”

For Bohling, music became her therapy at a young age. Her parents bought her instruments and gave her the opportunity to take music lessons, ultimately wanting to ensure she had

exposure to music and could use it as a tool if she wanted to.

Joseph Bohling, Ava’s father, said that from a young age, Ava had a unique gift for music and could emulate notes sung to her at an early age.

“When it came to songs we would sing to her, like ‘Jesus loves me,’ or the ‘ABCs,’ she would immediately pick it up and just start repeating it on key, on tune, and it was uncanny,” Joseph Bohling said.

While Bohling has been taking guitar lessons since she was 12, she began playing piano, singing, writing, and collaborating with her friends around 15 years old.

“I think it’s so ironic that God used music to deliver me from that.”

AVA BOHLING

Tyler Heaton, Bohling’s childhood friend, also began acquiring a love for music as they entered high school. After experimenting with producing and writing, Heaton and Bohling started working together and collaborating on songs.

During high school, Bohling

would send Heaton demos, and he would bring them to life through production. In 2021, Ava released her first song, “Not My Baby,” under the name “Adair,” with Heaton’s help.

“I recorded her playing and singing them,” Heaton said of Bohling’s songs, “and then the process is actually kind of interesting because she had written them on an acoustic guitar and was pretty flexible on how she wanted them to sound. She kind of just wanted me to do whatever came to mind.”

“Not My Baby” was followed by the release of two other singles, which ended up becoming an EP titled “4AM Headspace.” Since then, Bohling has released three other songs: “Flannels,” “I Love You, Sorry” and “ghost of you” all with the help of Heaton.

With heart-wrenching lyrics, ear-catching melodies and beautifully unique production, Bohling said she encapsulates the feelings of adolescent growing pain and the experiences that accompany it.

“I write a lot of songs about stories that people tell me about themselves because songwriting has always been a way that I’ve processed my emotions, how I understand,” Bohling said. “And what people are going through and how I connect with God best.”

Bohling’s song “Flannels,” which she wrote about a breakup with her first love, is about those feelings. With its acoustic sound, the track takes on a Phoebe Bridgers-like production.

“What she doesn’t know in your flannels darling / You kissed me underneath the stars / So when you see her in your flannels darling / Don’t forget how you broke my heart,” Bohling wrote in her song “Flannels.”

Once Bohling began posting about “Flannels” online, it immediately took off and ultimately helped jump-start her career. “Flannels” now has over 59,000 streams on Spotify.

“She’s got a gift, she really does, and she’s able to take her feelings, her emotions albeit in a very difficult situation and apply it to something that helped her heal,” Joseph Bohling said.

While Ava Bohling’s songs tell stories of heartbreak and mending that resonate so loudly with many people, at the core, they are written as vessels of healing for herself.

“Music is more than just a sound,” Bohling said. “It’s more than something that just sounds nice and makes you feel good; it’s more than me wanting to impress people. Like I said before, music is for me; it’s how I process my emotions. And I want people to know that that outlet is always there for them. And I think that anyone can get involved with music, and it can be beneficial to anyone in whatever way.”



Michael Aguilar | Photo Editor

MORE THAN MUSIC Ava Bohling finds peace in engaging with music, as it allows her to process her emotions in stressful situations.

Let’s Walk Waco event is your sign to take to the trails



Cameron McCollum | Photographer

UP AND ACTIVE Walking enthusiast and seasoned marathon runner Carter Bitticks on his way to meet friends for a walk on Baylor’s Bear Trail.

KATIE HUTH
Intern

The City of Waco is hosting an eight-week community program beginning Saturday, Sept. 7 called Let’s Walk Waco. In light of this event,

two undergraduates shared their love for going on walks together and the benefits walking brings to their lives.

Roommates Dallas sophomore Kathryn Richardson and Houston sophomore Cate Calderon said that in the spring

2024 semester, they started going on walks together. Richardson said the two of them “go on walks in the morning as a stress reliever to start the day off right.” Calderon said that beginning her day with a walk “centers and grounds [her]self to have the right mindset for the day.”

Richardson said that both roommates focus better throughout the day if they move their body even just a little. A brief “fifteen-minute walk allows [them] to get in vitamin D and reconnect with nature,” Calderon said.

Richardson shared motivation her father gave her.

“Close your rings; if you are doing that, you are doing enough,” she quoted, referencing her Apple Watch.

Positive health impacts of going on walks aside, Richardson said friendship is the real reason they have taken on this new hobby together.

Spending time outside and actively raises their moods and leads them to share deeper conversations.

Calderon described walking as a “bonding experience that allows [them] to check-in on each other at a more meaningful level.” She added that it’s the perfect time to “yap.”

That is one reason Waco-McLennan Public Health is hosting the Let’s Walk Waco program from Saturday, Sept. 7 until Nov. 2.

The mission of the community-building and fitness event, according to their website, is to “help you and your friends feel better, create community and support and increase your number of weekly walks.”

Let’s Walk Waco aims to encourage steps towards healthier lifestyle by logging and tracking how many miles across Waco teams take. The website writes, “any movement is good movement,” allowing registered teams who walk only thirty minutes per week to win prizes. When broken down, this target requires only three ten-minute walks, two fifteen-minute walks, or one thirty-minute walk per week.

Registered teams, consisting of one to eight people, can be made up of anyone: friends, family members or neighbors. Each team must have a team captain that takes on the role of cheerleader. According to the Waco city website, the team captain is to hold the group accountable of reaching or surpassing their thirty-minute minimum, check in with teammates, and make sure to “take pictures along the way.”

If someone does not have a team, no problem. This event is for anyone living in McLennan County, so participants may come alone. Registration information is listed on the City of Waco website.

In addition to registration information, the website lists numerous local Waco indoor and outdoor walking spots such as Alta Vista Park, Mountainview Park and the Baylor University Bear and Cub Trails. This list provides walkers with recommended spots to get their bodies moving and to explore Waco further. For information on stroller or wheelchair accessible walks, the website promises to update with more information, but offers a stroller-friendly walk on Sept. 7.

Calderon said walking has become “one of [her] favorite things to do.”

“The highlight of my week is going on a walk,” Richardson added. “I love walking at home, so being able to do that here is really sweet.”

For more information follow Waco Health District on Instagram and check out the Let’s Walk Waco website.

ACE!!!

GOALLLLLLL!!!



Mary Thurmond | Photographer



Kassidy Tsikitas | Photographer



Kassidy Tsikitas | Photographer



Michael Aguilar | Photo Editor

CLEAN CLEATS Fifth year defensive player Marissa Gray (18) warms up for the game against Texas A&M Friday, Aug.31 at Betty Lou Mays.



Kassidy Tsikitas | Photographer

FOR THE WIN Redshirt sophomore linebacker Keaton Thomas (11) brings a 35-yard pick-6 into the end zone to give Baylor football a 21-0 lead over Tarleton State in the first quarter Saturday night at McLane Stadium.



Kassidy Tsikitas | Photographer

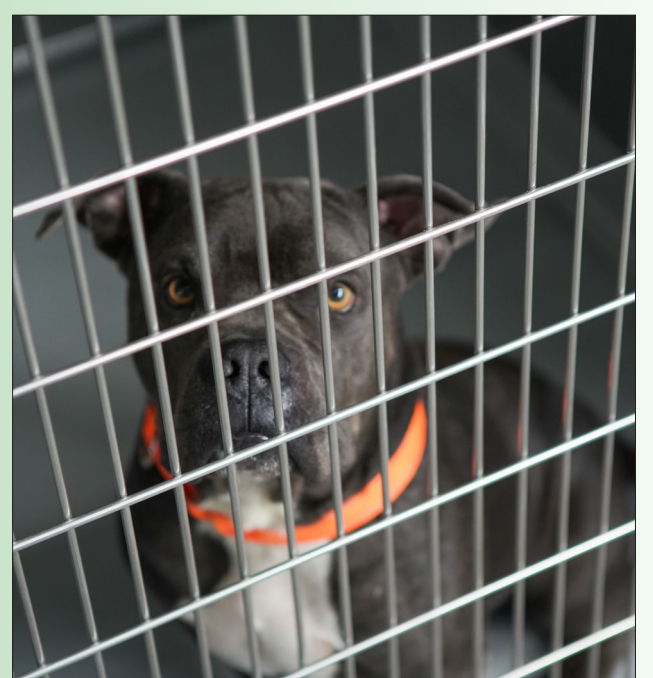
ADOPT A DOG!



Cameron McCollum | Photographer

LEND A PAW A 14-week-old Australian Cattle Dog, who has never received a name, awaits a forever home before the Waco Humane Society's contract expires.

CODE RED!
Call Humane Society
of Central Texas at
254-754-1454



Cameron McCollum | Photographer

GIVE A DOG A BONE Three-year-old Pittbull mix, Big Head Ed was surrendered by his previous owner and has been awaiting adoption since Aug. 23.

FOLLOW US ON SOCIAL MEDIA >>

INSTAGRAM: @baylorlariat

X: @bulariatsports

Smiles all around: Brostrom Poulsen and Miladinović shine as unexpected doubles duo

FOSTER NICHOLAS
Sports Editor

Baylor men's tennis has been known to feature funny, energetic and emotional players who light up the court with excitement. Seniors Oskar Brostrom Poulsen and Marko Miladinović are no different.

During the summer, the Bears flashed talent all over the world. Former and current Baylor players racked up 2,715 ATP Summer Points, the most of any Big 12 program, as well as an Olympic Gold Medal and Pro Circuit successes. While some green and gold alums excelled internationally, Brostrom Poulsen and Miladinović opted to stay in Waco and train.

"We both wanted to get the best opportunity to have a great senior year, and we decided to come back early, work really hard for two months together," Brostrom Poulsen said. "And then we ended up qualifying for summer nationals and winning the doubles there."

The dedication led to the pair conquering the doubles ITA Summer Championships, 6-4, 6-2, which netted them invitations to one of the biggest qualifier tournaments for the NCAA Fall Individual Championships, which Baylor will host in November.

In an international sport like tennis, family time is already limited. Brostrom Poulsen, a native of Helsingor, Denmark; and Miladinović, from Belgrade, Serbia, only get to visit home twice a year while studying and practicing at Baylor. Choosing to stay in Waco during the summer meant that they would only spend one month of the year with their families.

"We spent the whole summer together. We've been working really hard with them, and I've been really impressed with their dedication," head coach Michael Woodson said. "To come back and spend the summer with us was not easy to do. [It was] long days, tough sessions, and a lot of

work put in. Not to mention taking summer classes as well. "So those guys,

you could really see them improving, and you want them to have that opportunity to see the hard work pay off?"

Day and night, Woodson helped the duo focus on "intensity, mindset and mentality." With smiles on their faces and jokes cracked at least twice throughout each drill, the players worked not only to improve themselves, but to help their team.

"We're all great tennis players here, but when we looked back at the season, what we saw was the best players using their intensity," Brostrom Poulsen said. "We wanted to push the limit of our intensity, which was so tough in the beginning, but we could really see a quick change of how our level actually got better so much faster by having that high intensity all the time."

Through the entire summer, each player focused on their individual play before pivoting to doubles practice. With the players participating in both singles and doubles during the ITA Summer Championships, they only stood next to each other once before they faced a serve from another team.

"That's actually really funny; we had never played doubles together, ever. We hadn't even practiced more than once, just one time, nothing special," Brostrom Poulsen said. "It's funny because we're very different players, but we really complement each other well. I think that's why it ended up working on such short notice. I guess both of us being open to just go out there and leave it all out there; it helped a lot, too."

The unlikely pairing ran through the competition behind the intensity and energy.



Miladinović joked about Brostrom Poulsen being "the boss" on the court and never surrendering a point. To both their teammates and coaches, the ITA win was the expectation rather than an exception, making the trophy even sweeter.

"These guys come here to compete for championships and be the best," Woodson said. "You'd have to go back to the early 2000s, maybe 2000, to find the last time a player that was at Baylor didn't win a Big 12 Championship, and that's the standard for us. They come here to play the best schedule in the country, to win championships."

"Nothing's changed there. We're going to take it up a notch here this fall and get ready for a championship run in the spring."

After the summer success, it was back to work for the entire crew and teammates quickly made their way back to Waco. And while there wasn't the chance to go back to Serbia, home was already where Miladinović was, just like when he chose to go to college at Baylor three years ago.



Photo courtesy of Baylor Athletics

MATCH POINT Seniors Marko Miladinović (left) and Oskar Brostrom Poulsen (right) celebrate securing the final point during the finals of the ITA Summer Championships in Memphis, Tenn.

"I didn't have to think, immediately, I was like, 'This is a place for me,'" Miladinović said. "I loved it, and of course I still love it, but I never thought it was going to become this close to me. Now, when I'm looking back and toward this season, it really is a second family. It's a second home, and I wish I can stay here for another four years."

Behind an infectious smile and comforting goofy laugh, Miladinović could recall everyone who had made his Baylor time special. Whether it was the gardener in front of the Herd or a fellow athlete, everyone wearing green and gold has a place in Miladinović's esteem.

"Yesterday, for example, when I was eating in the dining hall, this football guy came to me. He's a really nice person. He was like, 'Hey man, when does your season start? I want to come and watch,'" Miladinović said. "It's that community that makes Baylor really special. We're so thankful for the fans and so thankful for the opportunity to play the biggest events in our sport at home."

Baylor men's tennis will host five fall tournaments, opening the season with the Waco Fall Kickoff Classic from Sept. 13-15 at the Waco Regional Tennis Center.

"Tennis is an individual sport, but, for me personally, there is nothing I want more than us lifting the trophy [at the] Big 12 [Championship] and NAAs," Miladinović said. "We're gonna work really hard. Of course, it's not gonna be easy, but we're gonna give everything we've got."

From Nov. 19-24, Baylor tennis will host the NCAA Individual Championships for the first time since 2015 — the second time in program history.



Lariat File Photo

Azul Alvarez: Baylor Soccer's unbreakable blue bulwark



Michael Aguilar | Photo Editor

NOTHING GETS THROUGH Junior goalkeeper Azul Alvarez (1) encourages her team after recording a save during Baylor soccer's 1-0 win over Texas A&M on Friday at Betty Lou Mays Soccer Field.

NATE MAKI
Sports Writer

Sitting at 4-1 through the first five games of the season, Baylor Soccer is off to its best start since the 2017 season when it opened 4-0-1, in great part due to junior goalkeeper Azul Alvarez.

After transferring from TCU, Alvarez showcased her potential in four games of the 2022 season but didn't play in 2023. So far, in her brief stint with the green and gold, she's seen significantly more playtime: 405 minutes in the first five games, as opposed to her 181 minute total during her two years at TCU.

"Being a goalkeeper is hard because you only get one opportunity," Alvarez said. "It's either a goal or a save; there's no in-between, so you really have to focus. At the end of the day it's your mental that makes the difference."

Since joining the Bears, she has earned the title of Big 12 Goalkeeper of the Week and hasn't allowed a

single goal past since their season opener against Mississippi State, which adds up to more than 400 minutes of playtime without a goal allowed.

"Azul is making huge plays," head coach Michelle Lenard said. "She's keeping us in it. There are some saves you're expected to make as a goalkeeper and some you're not, but Azul is doing both for us. She's reliable when she needs to be, and she also shows up in those intense moments when we really need her."

Outside of the college realm, Alvarez has also played at the international level with the Mexico U20 National Team and has even won a golden glove from the Confederation of North, Central America and Caribbean Association Football (CONCACAF) for her U15 season with Mexico.

"All I have to say is that Azul is back," fifth-year senior defender Marissa Gray said. "She's been out for a while with TCU and coming

back here, but she is phenomenal. I feel so secure with her back here. There were a couple of corners where I was worried, and she just rises up and gets the ball like she always does. She is a phenomenal player, and a phenomenal leader on and off the field."

With Baylor, Alvarez has reached some career highs, including breaking her personal record with seven saves during a 1-0 win over Portland on Aug. 24. She also secured the Bears' 1-0 victory against Texas A&M with a big save in the 89th minute.

"[Beating A&M] was an amazing feeling," Alvarez said. "I know I wasn't here last season, but I think this shows how hard we've all been working. It's an amazing experience to win with them."

Baylor soccer will head out on the road for a pair of matchups: first against SMU (4-1) at 7 p.m. Thursday in Dallas, then to Iowa City, Iowa to clash with the No. 22 Hawkeyes (3-0-2) at 5 p.m. on Sunday.

The Golden Wave bands together to prepare for the 2024 season

GRANT MORRISON
Sports Writer

For most fans of the green and gold, football season starts when hundreds of jersey-clad freshmen rush the field to fill “That Good Old Baylor Line.” For members of the Golden Wave Band, however, it starts in the sweltering August heat across from the Baylor Science Building a week before classes begin.

For band leadership, it starts even earlier than that.

“It starts right when the year ends. As soon as the last game ends, it’s ‘what’s next,’” said San Antonio senior recruiting chair Nicholas Karavantos-Schnur. Karavantos-Schnur also serves as a piccolo squad leader and a senior representative for the largest graduating class in recent history.

Months of preparation go into a successful band season, including ordering equipment, developing schedules and participating in “call-athon,” a summer-long outreach program to get to know incoming members.

“It’s mostly about showing that we care, that we want to make connections even before school begins. It’s about finding family, having a group ready for them when they get here,” Karavantos-Schnur said.

The Golden Wave, more than 300 members strong, creates the essential soundtrack of Baylor Athletics. The swelling brass, pounding drums and blaring horns back up the Bears and deafen opponents, on the field as well as the court.

“Music is a necessity for the college football experience,” said Newcastle, Wash. junior saxophone squad leader and band videographer Katie Fuchs. “Sometimes it’s volleyball, or soccer, but we’ve been told countless times, ‘We perform better when we have that hype track.’”

Game day for the band is a full day affair. For football games, its members arrive around five hours before kickoff, and spend every second leading up to the game preparing for the big show.

“It’s kind of like the day before a test — you have fun during class, but now it’s a review class, it’s time to lock in and put your game face on,” Karavantos-Schnur said.

Each section has their traditions to embrace the game day atmosphere — chants, dances, war paint, exercises — before they march over to contribute their part to the home field advantage.

“You really see it courtside, with the



Roundup File Photo

BANDING TOGETHERThe Golden Wave Band consists of more than 300 students who serve as the hype music for Baylor Athletics.

basketball band right there,” Karavantos-Schnur said. “If Ja’Kobe Walter dunks on a guy, we’re gonna play in your face. It’s an entire momentum shift. If there’s a timeout on the field, we play a song for the student section and get them to vibrate.”

As college football and the NFL become increasingly similar, one of the biggest remaining differences is the presence of the full band. Some NFL teams may have a brass section backing them up, but nothing that compares in size to hundreds of students taking the field in support of their team.

“Musically, we do our best to get in the other team’s face... maybe it’s only five notes, but we hold it out to make sure the other quarterback can’t hear,” Karavantos-Schnur said. “We twist at the end, and everyone plays a different note. Musically, it creates dissonance, but confuses the other team even more.”

In the 2021 Big 12 Championship against

Oklahoma State, the final drive culminated in seven consecutive goal-line stands. The Cowboys had driven the ball down the field, and after three stops by the Bears, drew a pass interference call that gave them a fresh set of downs. But for all seven downs, the Golden Wave played loud and proud to “Bear down” on their opponents until safety Jairon McVea made the final stop.

Away games present a different challenge for a band hoping to bring the home field advantage on the road.

“They always put us at the highest point of the stadium, and it’s difficult to feel like you’re contributing when the players can barely hear you,” Fuchs said. “Consistently, fans will throw water and beer at you on the field, but as a band we have to radiate God’s joy.”

Getting booed is a challenge for the band, but travel gives the band an opportunity to be the heart of the Baylor faithful.

“When we’re in the nosebleeds, the

other Baylor fans and families are with us. Everyone centers around the band,” Karavantos-Schnur said.

It also gives an opportunity to connect with other bands around the country.

“We make friendship bracelets, trade pins and just try to be as hospitable as possible,” Karavantos-Schnur said.

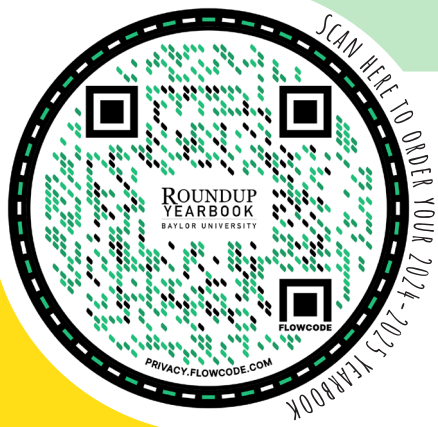
But perhaps the biggest benefit the band provides is to each other, strengthening relationships and community at Baylor. The saxophone section hosts a weekly movie night. The piccolo section has a nationwide group chat called “Picconation.”

Given the band’s size, there are representatives from countless majors and concentrations who gather and find community in their shared love for music, performance and the Baylor Bears.

“It’s a safety net,” Karavantos-Schnur said. “If you have a terrible day, you can go to rehearsal, and everyone’s there for you.”

GET YOUR BAYLOR ROUNDUP YEABOOK

2024-2025
YEARBOOK ORDERS
NOW AVAILABLE



Want to advertise?
EMAIL US AT
LARIAT_ADS@BAYLOR.EDU



There are SO MANY MORE WAYS to get BAYLOR NEWS from the Lariat.

THE BAYLOR LARIAT'S
MORNING BUZZ
In your inbox every Tuesday-Friday

Now printing every week!

Look for a Lariat newsstand near you.

LARIAT TV NEWS
BAYLOR
On YouTube every Friday

DON'T FEED THE BEARS
BAYLOR LARIAT RADIO
On Spotify every Wednesday

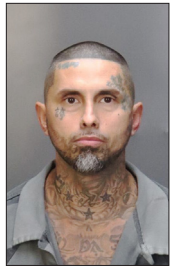


WWW.BAYLORLARIAT.COM

Fugitive arrested at off-campus apartment had prior conviction

EMMA WEIDMANN
Editor-in-Chief

The Texas Department of Public Safety arrested 36-year-old Brandon Fritze of Waco for parole violation and unlawful possession of a firearm around 5:50 p.m. Tuesday at the Baylor Arms apartment complex on 9th Street.



According to Sgt. Ryan Howard of the Texas DPS, a parole warrant was obtained by the DPS, who then called Waco PD and the McLennan County Sheriff for assistance in case of a

need for backup. "We put in the arrest, and that was it," Howard said. "No injuries to us or him."

According to an affidavit, a Waco PD officer was dispatched to Lacy Lakeview on Sunday because of a "report of another subject brandishing a firearm at the caller."

A parole warrant was obtained by Texas DPS after a records check revealed that the defendant "had a 2019 conviction for a felony offense to which he received a 30-year sentence of confinement and was paroled" since June 2023, according to the affidavit.

Lori Fogleman, spokesperson for Baylor University, said no danger was posed to Baylor students, and the situation was swiftly resolved. Fogleman said no Baylor students

were involved with the arrest. "Because there was police activity near campus, Baylor police were notified and assisted with ensuring the safety of any students or others who may have been in or near the area," Fogleman said.

Howard said since parole warrants go through the Texas Department of Criminal Justice, those in violation of parole are sometimes transferred to state penitentiaries after a decision by the parole board.

"The way parole warrants work is we just put [them] in McLennan County, and then the parole board has to say, 'Okay, you go to federal prison, you have to go to state prison,'" Howard said. "They determine where [they] go from there."

Fritze is currently being held in McLennan County Jail without bond.



Emma Weidmann | Editor-in-Chief
ON SCENE Multiple law enforcements vehicles were seen at the Baylor Arms apartment complex on 9th Street near Speight Avenue on Tuesday evening as the arrest took place.

SOCIAL MEDIA from Page 1

every day, the process of filtering truth from untruth becomes even more challenging.

"Younger generations have this added obligation we didn't have, which is that you have to be much more purposeful and diligent in finding reputable sources of information," Yanowitch said.

In 1919, Supreme Court Justice Oliver Wendell Holmes called this surplus of sources the "marketplace of ideas," Yanowitch said. Citing Justice Holmes, Yanowitch said "the best test of truth is whether it will win out in the marketplace of ideas."

The marketplace that existed in Holmes' time, however, is not the same one that exists in our technology-dominated world. Voters today have much more work to do when it comes to evaluating truth. There are infinitely more accessible news sources than there were in the days before social media. Because of this, readers must be far more diligent to verify the accuracy of the information they consume.

There's also the issue of the social media algorithm. Since Meta's platforms are designed to promote content similar to the things users interact with, social media can easily become an echo chamber.

"Everyone goes to the place on the internet where they can get the information they want," Yanowitch said.

When that's the case, the tradeoff for Zuckerberg's call for free

speech becomes clear: In some cases, the truth takes ages to reach a user, and it sits on the outside of a bubble of misinformation.

"If everyone gets a chance to talk, the truth will come out, [according to the marketplace of ideas]," Yanowitch said. "The problem is, if everyone gets to say what they want... then maybe truth will win out 50 years from now, but in the short run, a lot of people are going to believe a lot of things that are wrong."

Sommer Dean, the Fred Hartman Distinguished Professor in Baylor's journalism department, said she also noticed the dangers of this hyper-democratized marketplace. Through social media, the few existing "barriers to entry" for journalism have been broken down, Dean said.

"Journalism isn't like other fields," Dean said. "To be a doctor, you have to pass certain tests and you have to do certain things. For me to be a lawyer, I had to pass the bar, and I have to do certain things, or else I'll get disbarred. Journalism doesn't have that same sort of method of checks and balances."

Although anyone can become a journalist, Dean said, it doesn't mean that all social media reporters are created equal.

"I certainly think that in today's age where everyone can be a journalist and everyone can spread news and disseminate information, the need for that skepticism is heightened," Dean said.

Zuckerberg's letter is a reminder that there is no infallible

authority protecting people from believing potentially dangerous falsehoods. It affirms that on social media, truth is in the eye of the beholder.

From the editor:

This semester, look out for weekly series in the Lariat. This story is the first of three installments in the social media series, which focuses on how platforms influence our lives personally, politically and societally.

The next three series this semester will feature Greek orgs as they prepare for Pigskin, odds and ends from the Texas Collection and honor Native American Heritage Month.

Next week: How does long-term social media use and touch screens impact Gen Z's keyboard typing abilities?



Lariat File Photo

THE RUNNING OF THE FRESHMEN The Baylor Line started as a tradition in 1970. Ever since, freshmen have donned golden jerseys with their graduation year, signed The Line the night before the home opener and stampeded across the field to welcome the players. They get one more opportunity to run The Line as seniors.

ON YOUR MARKS from Page 1

to run. "We give out free water vouchers so students can go get water up in the stands, but there's really nothing we can do once they get into the stadium," Galdi said.

The heat and dehydration aren't the only things students need to watch out for during the experience, though. According to Santa Anna, Calif. junior Bethany Spur, vice chair of the Chamber of Commerce, falling and dogpiling becomes a big concern once students start running.

"Once you fall in the beginning, it's like a major pile up, and more people are prone to getting hurt," Spur said. "I would say [to] have a plan. Pick a side, because there's a fire arch in the middle. So make sure that you have your eyes set on what side you want, either the right or the left."

Once students have survived the heat of the tunnel and managed to stay on their feet, Galdi said there's another issue that causes problems while running: students dropping their phones. According to Galdi, one of the biggest reasons for pileups on the line is students dropping their phones and stopping to pick them up.

"If you drop it, leave it! We have people at the very back running to pick up stuff, and then they'll go to Lost and Found, which is in the stadium," Galdi said.

According to Spur, it's best for students to not even have their phones out while running.

"If you have your phone out, you're prone to run into somebody, drop it or even lose it. Just have a plan and have all your belongings secured on you," Spur said.

Cypress freshman Betty Jefferson said that running The Line was a great experience for her, despite the challenges that arose.

"It was hot, but it's also August in Texas," Jefferson said. "I thought that there were plenty of opportunities to get water. They even gave out free water vouchers to have at the stadium."

Running The Line is an essential Baylor student experience, according to Jefferson. Participation is worth it despite the Texas heat, dehydration and the slight possibility of losing one's phone.

"I think it's a fantastic tradition," Jefferson said. "I love being able to run across the field and then going straight from the field to the seats and being able to cheer on the Bears."

S E N I O R S

THIS YEAR'S TO-DO'S

- GET MY BOOKS
- FIND MY
- UPDAT
- GO TO
- BUY S
- TAKE
- PUT
- LOOK FOR A JOB!
- HANG OUT WITH FRIENDS

TAKE MY SENIOR YEARBOOK PORTRAIT

DON'T FORGET

WWW.LAURENSTUDIOS.COM
"SCHEDULE APPOINTMENT"
CLIENT ID - 25BAYLOR-ID NUMBER

SIC 'EM!

ROUNDUP YEARBOOK
BAYLOR UNIVERSITY