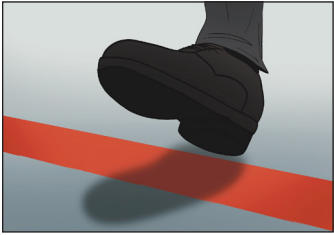




Thursday, October 10, 2024

baylorlariat.com



**OPINION | A2**

**EDITORIAL:**  
What can't politicians get away with?



**SPORTS | A6**

**FOOTBALL:**  
Bryson Washington finds success in father's image.



**A&L | A5**

**THE SHOW MUST GO ON**  
Theta looks to prove their worth at Pigskin.



Associated Press

**"ACTUALLY WIPED OFF THE MAP"** A car drives past a pile of debris from Hurricane Helene flooding, along a street that had already begun flooding from rain ahead of the arrival of Hurricane Milton, in Gulfport, Fla., on Wednesday

## Hurricanes Helene, Milton rip across students' home states

**RORY DULOCK**  
Staff Writer

Before the debris settled from the damage of Hurricane Helene, Floridians are being urged to evacuate in preparation for Hurricane Milton, which is expected to bring even more destruction than its predecessor.

Helene made landfall on Sept. 26 as a Category 4 storm, and communities were urged to evacuate this week as Milton made landfall on Wednesday evening.

The six states that have faced casualties due to Helene are Florida, Georgia, North

Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee and Virginia. As of Saturday, the death toll is over 227 people, making Helene the deadliest since Hurricane Katrina, according to the Associated Press.

Helene was strong enough to sweep away homes, destroy roads and flood communities. Its destructive winds are what were able to cause the most damage, leaving millions without power.

Gastonia, N.C., junior Allie Guy said she remembers calling her family on Sept. 27 and figuring out they had lost power. Guy's sister couldn't go

to school due to outages and flooding, and local colleges had to shut down because the loss of power and cell service.

"My family is very lucky that they weren't too deeply impacted," Guy said. "Unfortunately, we know a lot of people that were impacted and a lot of towns. It's been really sad to read about and really kind of hard."

Guy saw pictures on social media of whole cities wiped out. She said it was hard to wrap her brain around the idea of places she grew up

**STORM SURGE >> A8**

BearAid readies for relief

**NATALIE FRENCH**  
Reporter



## 'A toddler with a Ph.D.'

Series teaches AI's possibilities, limits

**KRISTY VOLMERT**  
Staff Writer

AI Week is set to bring discussions to campus on the limits, possibilities and responsible uses of artificial intelligence.

Hosted by the Office of the Provost and Rogers College of Engineering and Computer Science, the events will take place Monday through Wednesday in Foster 250. All sessions are free and open for all students.

As AI becomes a staple in many aspects of everyday life, it is developing abilities beyond what many ever imagined computers could do. Because of this, some worry that it will "take over the world." A Forbes Magazine article refers to this universal fear as 'the doom loop' — the paranoia amongst employees that AI will take over their job.

However, it's not the AI technologies that develop these abilities for themselves — it's the human minds behind them. And these human minds have the ability to feel, experience, live

and be creative, things that anything born by programming will never be able to do.

As AI is a relatively new technology and remains unfamiliar to most people, anxiety and nervousness are bound to

It's really smart, but it still needs supervision.

**DR. ROBERT MARKS | DISTINGUISHED PROFESSOR**

surround it. However, the prevalence and necessity of AI in the workforce is steadily increasing, and is predicted to continue in that direction in the next

**IS AI REALLY TAKING JOBS? >> A8**

## Baylor lab creates lunar manufacturing method

**JOSH SIATKOWSKI**  
Staff Writer

At the end of a hall in the Baylor Research and Innovation Collaborative is the Point-of-Need Innovations Center. Inside the 5,000 square foot space is a team of researchers set on changing the way manufacturing happens, equipped with massive machines and tools made from moon soil.

Baylor's Point-of-Need Innovations Center is a laboratory housed within the Baylor Research and Innovation Collaborative. The lab hosts researchers from various subfields within engineering. Unlike most labs, PONI works directly with companies to develop specific solutions to logistical challenges.

PONI began in 2022 when Dr. Brian Jordan and Dr. Paul Allison came from the University of Alabama. Since it began, researchers from the undergraduate to doctorate level have worked on numerous projects such as repairing aircraft wings, creating portable runway surfaces and combining metal with lunar soil for in-space repairs.

Jordan, who is a director of PONI and the Kenneth and Celia Carlile Chair in Materials Science, said that one of PONI's main purposes is to create solutions to supply chain logistics challenges. Much of their research focuses on finding ways to repair machinery rather than returning broken parts to a factory or making a new one altogether.

"We focus on problems at [PONI]. So we're focusing on challenges that might be in austere locations. It might be manufacturing situations that suffer from supply chain logistics issues. It could be something on the moon," Jordan said.

The technique that the lab uses is

called additive friction stir deposition. Essentially, this process allows technicians to print or spread metal without melting it.

Jordan said that with typical welding, metal melts. But metals like aluminum lose a lot of strength after melting.

"When you melt [metal] and it solidifies again, it creates cracks," Jordan said.

The AFS-D process heats the metal up by rapidly spinning rods called feedstocks. The friction created by the rotation softens the metal enough for it to be spread across a surface like butter. But importantly, it doesn't get hot enough to melt.

"You're basically smearing the rods wherever they go. Wherever it goes, it leaves some [metal] behind. It's almost like you're water skiing — you've got your wake behind you," Jordan said.

In the laboratory, AFS-D is done with a large BOND GL7 machine, one of the lab's many pieces of equipment. While the machine is quite large, Jordan said it is scalable and can ultimately be used for projects of various sizes.

Fort Collins, Colo., graduate student and PONI researcher Andrew Ikeler explained one of the many implications of this method.

"Currently, if an F-35 wing gets damaged, you have to take off the whole panel and send the plane back and they replace the wing. But with [AFS-D], you can repair it on the wing instead of taking the whole thing apart," Ikeler said.

Jordan and Allison have a \$15 million contract with the Department of Defense to advance their studies of FSAM and implement them into

**MANUFACTURING THE FUTURE >> A8**



Michael Aguilar | Photo Editor

**JOIN THE PARTY** Though the Democratic and Republican Parties hold the most power in the United States, alternative options such as the Libertarian, Green and Constitution Parties do exist.

## Not seeing red, feeling blue? Look at policy, professors say

**OLIVIA TURNER**  
Arts and Life Editor

During election season, an abundance of red and blue flood the ballots.

However, the occasional third-party voter can be found amongst the main two parties.

Voters belonging to the Libertarian Party, the Constitution Party and the Green Party to name a few often go third-party due to failure to align with either extreme of the two-party system, according to Dr. Aric Gooch, a professor of

political science.

"Those votes can be meaningful if you're hoping to send some type of signal," Gooch said. "You're really displeased with the two major parties, and you think that is the way you want to vote."

According to a recent Gallup Poll, 58% of American voters believe a third party is needed.

Gooch said the two-party political system has been in place since the Civil War, with third parties pushing the Democratic and Republican Parties in different directions, but otherwise playing minor roles. He said he predicts third parties will never gain enough power to break the two-party system — at least not in the near future.

While third parties can bring issues to light, there's

a reason Democrats and Republicans are the dominant parties of the national political scene, Gooch said.

"Because there are only two parties, a positive is they do have to try to create a broad coalition to capture a majority and to win elections," Gooch said. "And so the benefit of that is, we do have these parties that do try to find segments of the electorate to reach out to that they can't find something to latch onto, to support that party."

Round Rock senior and political science major Ryan Pascarella said that while he can admit he doesn't believe former President Donald Trump has done "everything perfectly," he feels he best aligns with the

**THIRD WHEEL >> A8**





GOT SOMETHING TO SAY?

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

# Make politicians polite again

## When did we start letting our politicians say whatever they want?

### THE EDITORIAL BOARD

You might have heard this before — “politicians are liars.”

What that used to mean was that they can't be trusted and that constituents should keep them accountable and be the watchdogs. Since when did it start to mean that we should accept what they say and move on?

Politicians' careers — or at least, their campaigns — have been ended for much less than lies and offensive statements. In 2004, Democratic presidential candidate from Iowa Howard Dean was running a hot campaign when it all came crashing down once he made a strange yelp at a rally. A little yodel was enough to kill a campaign in its tracks.

20 years later, look where we are now.

In 2016, then-candidate Donald Trump was exposed for a 2005 Access Hollywood tape where he stated matter-of-factly that when you're rich, you can do anything to women, and they'll let you.

“I've got to use some Tic Tacs, just in case I start kissing her,” Trump said. “You know I'm automatically attracted to beautiful — I just start kissing them. It's like a magnet. Just kiss. I don't even wait. And when you're a star, they let you do it. You can do anything ... Grab them by the pussy. You can do anything.”

He became president anyway.

Let us be clear, Trump isn't the only one who has said unsavory things about groups of people. Republican vice presidential nominee JD Vance, when addressed about Trump's anti-immigrant rhetoric, said he's willing to “create stories” so that American media will pay attention. He also echoed a racist stereotype against Black people, quipping that the White House may smell like fried chicken if Kamala Harris wins.

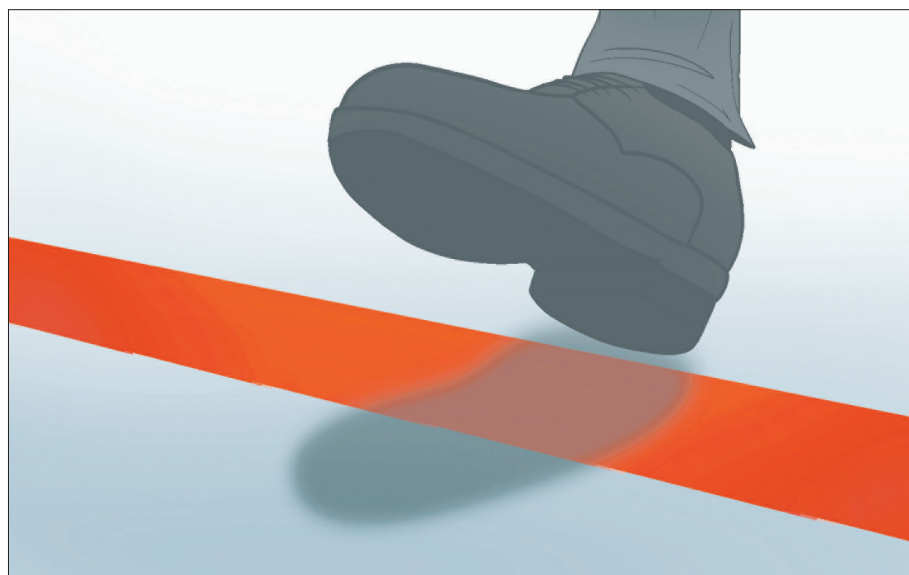
Children create stories to get attention, and they get their toys taken away. Grown men make things up for political campaigns and are met with “hurrahs” from their base.

After the Parkland, Fla. school shooting in 2018, Rep. Marjorie Taylor Greene said a survivor of the shooting was an “idiot” who “only talks when he is scripted.” She is still serving in the House of Representatives.

In 2020, President Joe Biden called a voter a “lying dog-faced pony soldier.” That's definitely weirder than the “Howard Dean Scream,” but he won the election that year anyway.

Politicians — the ones who craft our laws and run our government — should be held to the highest standard of speech imaginable. Yet, we are constantly letting them get away with it every time. For a country who claims open disdain for almost all politicians, how are we so lax on keeping them accountable?

Average people have scholarships revoked



James Ellis | Cartoonist

and their college enrollments nullified when similar video or audio resurfaces. In the real world — the world of everyday citizens — words have meaning and consequences. But in the world of politicians, words are just an opportunity to spin an event one way or the other.

Voters are in complete control of where the line is drawn. The thing is, there will be a

point where politicians can say whatever they want, good or bad, without any repercussions. If parroting racial epithets and slewing insults against one another — and towards large groups of people — isn't a dealbreaker, what is? If you're tired of hearing just one more headline about the latest thing a politician has said, take your power back. Tell your politicians if they cross the line, they don't have your vote.

# Don't live in swissful ignorance: Eat more cheese

JACKSON POSEY  
Sports Writer



There's nothing quite like the sweet aroma of perfectly-aged cheese.

It's a vital piece of a beautiful symphony. The

dazzling hues of the morning sunrise, the taste of freshly cut lemons and honey, the inexplicable salve of a cool breeze or the soft crash of waves in the morning. Life, with all of its twists and turns, is positively magical.

Contemporary society finds its “grounding” in a full-throated denial of transcendence. In a twisted echo of art history, philosophical romanticism has given way to a sort of emotional neo-minimalism, one which dulls the liminal tones and brings into focus nothing more than the small, rectangular metal of an iPhone. Our lives — and our perception of splendor — have been beaten to a pulp.

In other words, we need to stop and smell the cheese.

“Cheese has another quality, which is also the very soul of song,” G.K. Chesterton wrote in his

succinctly-named 1936 essay, “Cheese.” “The substance itself is imaginative. It is ancient — sometimes in the individual case, always in the type and custom. It is simple, being directly derived from milk, which is one of the ancestral drinks ... You know, I hope (though I myself have only just thought of it), that the four rivers of Eden were milk, water, wine and ale. Aerated waters only appeared after the Fall.”

Chesterton's England, rocked by the Great Depression and unknowingly nestled between two World Wars, nevertheless produced a man so enchanted by cheese of all things that he could ascribe to it “every quality which we require in exalted poetry.” But Chesterton's hope for a poetic life didn't rest in cheese itself. Rather, he saw cheese as an exalted vessel: one of a million portals to the enchanted life, portals accessible to anyone with clear eyes and a pure heart.

Life's “pulp-ification” has taken a number of forms. Most striking on college campuses are the scores of students walking outside with bowed heads and covered ears, too enthralled by a 6.3-inch OLED display's representation of the world to recognize the beauty around them. And yet, the Luddite's cry of “It's the darn cell phones” fails to recognize the breadth of the problem.

Just six in 10 Americans born since 1980 participated in “at least one outdoor activity” in 2023. The number of daily walkers in the US dropped by 36% between 2019 and 2022.

The nation just hit its all-time low ranking in the World Happiness Report, falling one spot below the

United Arab Emirates even as it maintained its stranglehold on the global economy. Anecdotally, people seem less fascinated by the world around them than ever before.

In one sense, our language has failed us. Beautiful writing and eloquent speech affect the heart in ways little else can. The interplay between orator and audience can at times become beautiful, like a dance between a master choreographer and



Let the splendor of the world evoke hope for a brighter tomorrow. There's life in the cracked teapot, in the wandering ladybug, in the man searching the snack aisles at 7-Eleven.

a chorus of energetic participants. But digital communication, like the physical technology that makes it possible, has created a stark distinction between speaker and receiver.

Language can allure the heart and feed the brain. Great writing summons imagery grander and more powerful than any blockbuster film could ever hope to imitate. Humans have been imbued with imagination, a thirst for something transcendent. From spiderweb cracks in the sidewalk to a beehive-shaped cloud,

the wonder of creation is near to all who seek it.

But we don't.

Samuel Taylor Coleridge once wrote of the “film of familiarity and selfish solicitude” laid over our eyes when we look at the world. Rather than recognizing “the charm of novelty” in everyday life, we veil ourselves to what lies beyond. “We have eyes, yet see not, ears that hear not and hearts that neither feel nor understand.”

We veil our eyes to avoid loss. We haven't merely become cynical — the reality is much, much worse. We're too scared of disappointing ourselves to choose cynicism. Commitment itself is nothing more than a future letdown.

“We have dulled our own vision of the world, both by over-familiarity and by what Coleridge calls “selfish solicitude,” that is to say, we are treating nature not only as a familiar and easily dismissible background but also as an agglomeration of stuff for us to exploit,” poet Malcolm Guite wrote in his book, “Lifting the Veil.”

“To make that exploitation easier, to avoid being challenged by the radiant beauty and otherness of nature, we throw over it this ‘film of familiarity and selfish solicitude.’ Then ... we forget that the veil, the film of familiarity is there at all and think that nature is just as dull as we are,” Guite said.

With a mental health crisis mounting and the only apparent remedy a constant stream of therapeutic self-help advice, it's no wonder we've chosen to look inwards for answers. And yet, before we have time to realize it, the emotional fabric we bury ourselves in begins to choke away the very light we were searching for. The same veil we raised to protect

us now blinds us from the beauty we once sought.

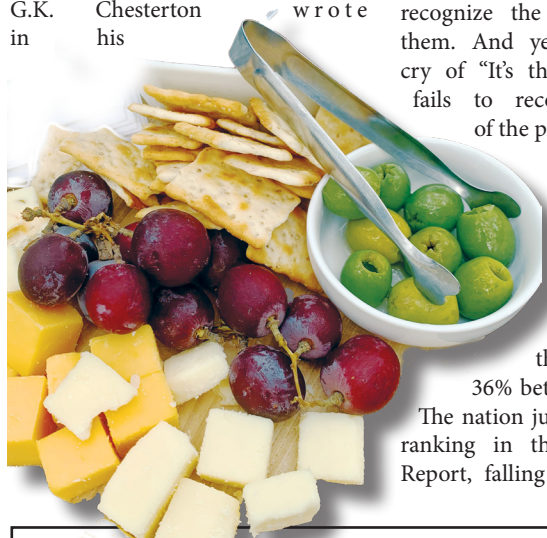
All of life holds the enchanting possibility of looking beyond or of recognizing the transcendent nature of the world around us. Trees hold secrets only the truly curious among us will ever know. The endless journey of a funny-looking bug can join the plot line of the Homeric epics. A closet door left ajar? In the most “Sherlock Holmesian” voice I can muster, this must be a clue.

We live in an indescribable world, surrounded by captivating stories of fascinating people. We awake to indescribable beauty and sleep beneath a blanket of twinkling stars. Life itself should be enough to awake our souls to the awe and wonder such a glorious creation deserves. And yet, far too often, we live beneath a veil of our own creation — awake to ourselves, asleep to the world around us. Living totally predictable, utterly unimaginative lives.

Let the veil fall from your eyes. Like scales from the blind man, it will fall away if you'd only be willing to look beyond the cloak. Let the splendor of the world evoke hope for a brighter tomorrow. There's life in the cracked teapot, in the wandering ladybug, in the man searching the snack aisles at 7-Eleven. There's a story there, if only we could imagine it.

Perhaps, as Chesterton mused, the moon really is made out of cheese — its waxing and waning is merely the result of some cosmic cheese-eater returning to his midnight snack. Maybe it's a ball of fire, or a bat signal gone awry.

Life as we know it is just a shadow of a much grander reality. In our quest to understand it, we have failed at our most basic assignment: standing in awe of that which we do not understand. Perhaps a round of Parmigiano Reggiano is just that: a wheel of cheese. But what if cheese itself is a great deal more?



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# Orientation, Line Camp leader applications open, give students ministry opportunity

**PIPER RUTHERFORD**  
Staff Writer

Summer 2025 applications for line camp leadership, a program which provides students with a heart and love for Baylor the chance to practice leadership and customer service skills with the new freshmen and transfer students, are now open.

Megan Lassiter, assistant director for leadership and curriculum, said that the application can be found on the New Student Programs website and includes information about the role's responsibilities and compensation.

"Our leaders will typically work 10 to 12 hours a week for orientation program support and work about 50 hours a week during the week of Line Camp itself," Lassiter said. "We also just increased the wages to \$12.50 an hour plus overtime, which students consistently hit during the summer."

As for other benefits and perks of being a Line Camp leader, Lassiter said that leaders can expect to form close bonds and relationships with one another as they make sure that guests and families of incoming students are well-taken care of.

"This is many people's first time stepping foot on Baylor's campus, so our leaders become the face of



Cameron McCollum | Photographer

**A SUMMER OF SERVICE** Students can pay forward their own experiences at Baylor Line Camp and Orientation by becoming a leader themselves.

the university, which is why we ask leaders about their major, year and involvement on campus on the application, since we want to share the wealth and allow for incoming campers to see all of the different parts of Baylor that students are involved with," Lassiter said.

Important aspects of the application process include a short video submission as well as an applicant's

relationship with their faith, according to Lassiter. The video ought to be two and a half minutes long and show who applicants are before their actual interview.

"The role does require that you have an active, personal Christian faith affiliation, since you spend the entirety of the job pouring into the campers and their families, which is a great place to practice

ministry," Lassiter said.

After prospective leaders find out if they have been chosen, Lassiter said they will be prompted to sign up for a training course over the spring semester.

"In this class — which I teach — they learn more about how to practice leadership skills," Lassiter said. "They also get insight into mastering conflict resolution scenarios when

having potentially difficult conversations, building customer service traits and realizing that this job is a safe space for students to grow in their job portfolio."

Former line camp leader and Port Arthur junior Jaden Nguyen said that some of his favorite memories were his interactions with new students and parents.

"I got to get closer to the campers during small

group sessions where we would play team games, visit Independence and participate in fun traditions like having the campers create their own Sing acts," Nguyen said.

While most of these activities include a lot of icebreakers, Nguyen said that Orientation and Line Camp are important to Baylor's overall community, since they allow new students to ease their nerves about either going to college or starting at Baylor.

"This is a lot of campers' first time going away from their support system at home," Nguyen said. "So our goal as leaders is to cultivate a belonging for them in college so that Baylor feels like their home, which helps when the stressors of school or feelings of loneliness arise."

As for the relationships that Nguyen made as a leader, they are still present in his life over a year later.

"I still get to see my line campers all of the time around campus, and many of them are now sophomores," Nguyen said. "I ran into a couple of them this past weekend, and they gave me a hug, which shows how being a Line Camp leader lets you walk with these students not only during Orientation, but also after camp is over."

# Suspect arrested in connection with February homicide

**AUDREY VALENZUELA**  
Staff Writer

25-year-old Amani Gibson was arrested in Arlington, Texas, on Oct. 1 in connection with the murder of 39-year-old Winfred Talley Jr. Now, Gibson faces murder charges and is being held in the Tarrant County Jail pending extradition to McLennan County.

Tim Ciesco with the Arlington Police Department's strategic communications department

said that on Oct. 1, officers received a tip about a suspect potentially located in Arlington who was wanted in Waco.

"Task force officers quickly located Gibson and initiated a traffic stop on him in the 2600 block of River Hills Circle," Ciesco said. "He was taken into custody without incident and booked into the Arlington City Jail on the Waco PD warrant."

According to the arrest warrant, Gibson and Talley were involved in an altercation at a nightclub on the night of Feb. 24. The altercation escalated, and Gibson was ejected from the venue twice by security staff.

Cell phone footage

captured parts of the incident, including a video showing Gibson being restrained on the ground near the club's entrance. Despite being removed from the venue, the conflict continued outside and ultimately led to the tragic shooting that took Talley's life and injured two others.

An 18-year-old female and a 19-year-old female were also taken to the hospital and are now in stable condition. Talley died from his injuries.

Waco Police are continuing their investigation and urge anyone with additional information regarding the incident to come forward.



Have a tip?  
Contact Waco PD at  
**254-750-7500**  
or anonymously through  
Crime Stoppers at  
**254-753-HELP**

## HUMANS V. ZOMBIES

Emma Weidmann | Editor-in-Chief

**TAG TRADITION** The Honors Residential College's annual competition takes campus by storm this week. Don't be shocked if you see Romans and knights donning bandannas and wielding pool noodles on your walk to class.

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Members of Alpha Chi Omega.



Caleb Garcia | Photographer

# Block Party on the Brazos

Alpha Chi Omega Block Party



Kassidy Tsikitas | Photographer

**BELONG TOGETHER** New York singer Mark Ambor performs his song "Belong Together" at Alpha Chi Omega Block Party Friday night.



Costa Rica junior Sophia Chaves plays baseball at Alpha Chi Omega Block Party.

Kassidy Tsikitas | Photographer



Kassidy Tsikitas | Photographer

**POOL PARTY** Alpha Chi Omega Block Party has many fun events for students such as a ball pit, baseball, frisbee and cornhole.

# Fun at the Heart O' Texas Fair & Rodeo

**HOT N' COLD**  
The Heart O' Texas has many refreshing drinks to offer a deal where you can have free refills all day at the rootbeer tap.

Emma Weidmann | Editor-in-Chief



**TOSS IT LIKE IT'S HOT**  
The Heart O' Texas Fair offers fun carnival games for all ages such as Ring A Duck and Bottle Toss.

Kassidy Tsikitas | Photographer



Kassidy Tsikitas | Photographer

**YO YO** The Heart O' Texas offers carnival rides for everyone of all ages including the Yo Yo swing ride.



Kassidy Tsikitas | Photographer

**REFRESHING** Fair food vender April Cox pours watermelon lemonade and greets costumers with a smile at the Heart O' Texas Fair.



Cameron McCollum | Photographer

**PACKED PARK** Record breaking crowds flood Zilker Park for the annual Austin City Limits music festival.

# Slay-CL Music Festival Weekend One



Cameron McCollum | Photographer

**FESTIVE FLAGS** The iconic landmark and photo-op in the heart of Zilker Park during Austin City Limits waving in the wind.



# The KAT's meow: Theta returns for Pigskin with flapper-themed routine



Kassidy Tsikitas | Photographer

**IN THE SPOTLIGHT** Flappers in “The Great KATsby” party in front of a lavish mansion all night long — until the lights go out. Then, the electricians, the heroes of the act, swoop in to save the day.

**OLIVIA TURNER**  
Arts & Life Editor

With two weeks left until the first Pigskin performance of 2024, groups are putting in the hours at practice and putting final touches on their acts. After three years, Kappa Alpha Theta will be back on the Pigskin stage.

Waco junior Amanda Strahler, a KAT member and performer, said the hard work and time commitment has been worth it all.

“It was just amazing, hearing our name being called for Pigskin,” Strahler said. “It’s like a feeling I’d never had before — like we all really had just put our blood, sweat and tears in it.”

Their “The Great KATsby” act features flappers partying the night away and electricians — one of whom Strahler plays — who come to save the day when the lights go out at the party. The set includes a backdrop of a grand house to set the scene of what Strahler said was a “New York ‘Roaring ‘20s type-of-vibe.”

Strahler described her role in the performance as full-time, as she is in all five dances of the act.

“As soon as I got on the stage, I didn’t come off the stage,” Strahler said.

Similarly, Houston sophomore Annabeth Slagle, who plays a flapper, said she ends up going to Pigskin practice for multiple hours a day, Sunday through Wednesday. Even though she had ample experience in studio dance, Slagle said performing in Sing and Pigskin was much more challenging than expected.

“I think a lot of people underestimate how hard it is to put together an act with 200 people,” Slagle said.

The rehearsals have been collaborative in the realm of choreography, according to Houston senior Stephanie Shaub, KAT’s head of choreography for Pigskin. Shaub said in practicing, performers make sure not only

to know the dance well but also to help the performer next to them.

“Rather than having this very leadership-followers kind of a thing, we’re all just working together,” Shaub said. “I literally sat down with them yesterday before rehearsal, and I was like, ‘Tell me all this feedback.’ We just had our first open stage and I was just like, ‘I want to hear from y’all.’”

Strahler said that during the time gap from Sing to Pigskin, the KAT group has been able to tweak their act to create an even better performance.

“That’s been really cool to kind of just see different takes that we maybe couldn’t have added in last year, and now that we have the time, we can do it this year, because the Pigskin timeline is two weeks longer than the Sing timeline,” Strahler said.

Amid the chaos of other Greek life activities such as Panhellenic preview or recruitment workshops, Strahler mentioned that Pigskin practices can be canceled around once a week.

“That’s kind of been nerve-racking as we’re getting closer and closer,” Strahler said.

For Slagle, the setting in which their group practices take place can make the seemingly far-off date much more of a present and sometimes overwhelming reality.

“I feel like when you’re practicing just in the chapter room, there’s not really the pressure of the audience and the stage lights, but as soon as you step in Waco Hall, it’s a completely different ballgame,” Slagle said.

Despite canceled practices, both Strahler and Slagle said they’re feeling more anticipation than nerves for their upcoming performance.

“I’m just more excited to kind of see how everything else turns out,” Strahler said. “I’m excited to see what people’s opinions are and see if they can notice certain things that we change.”

## Review: Coldplay’s new album ‘Moon Music’ transcends this universe

**KATHERINE HATCHER**  
Staff Writer

Three, two, one... blastoff! Coldplay’s new album, ‘Moon Music’ is out of this world, with a unique and fresh sound that still incorporates nostalgic elements of the band’s style.

The album came out on Oct. 4 and has 10 new songs that create an otherworldly experience for listeners through the band’s use of various sounds and instruments. For example, adding to the space theme of the album, the song titled with a rainbow emoji transports listeners with technological sounds that include sonar beeps, chimes and more.

Along with new sound effects, a range of instruments such as drums, piano and strings adds to the diversity and freshness of the album.

“GOOD FEELINGS,” is a catchy banger brought to life all due to its wonderful beat from the drums. In contrast with the drum’s fast beat, the song “MOON MUSIC,” has a long, beautiful string section that leads into piano before the vocals come in.

Although the use of the instruments adds more than one kind of vibe to the album, the band’s nostalgic style is still present. Coldplay is known best for songs like “Yellow,” “A Sky Full of Stars” and “Viva La Vida.” These songs are so memorable because Coldplay adds as much life to the instrumentals as they do the lyrics.

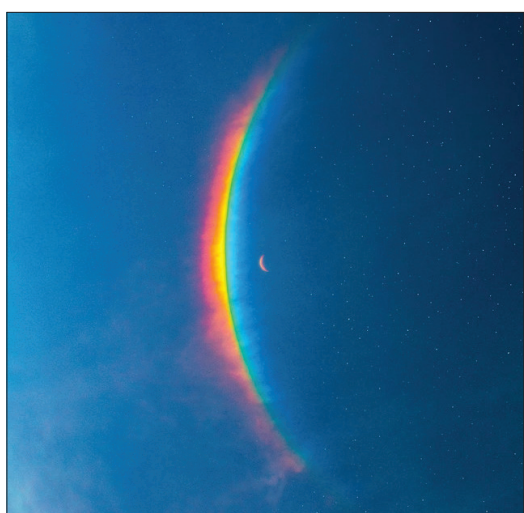


Photo courtesy of Spotify

Incorporating nostalgia from the album, the song “AETERNA” has a beat that is so satisfying to listen to that it could remind listeners of Coldplay’s “Clocks.” In “Clocks,” the music can stand alone without the words. The same can be said for “AETERNA” because the music builds with the words and individually reminds listeners of some of Coldplay’s most famous songs.

The band’s new album does well in embracing the fresh and old tactics, but even this album has flaws. Some might argue that this album’s problem is its shallow and repetitive lyrics. In the song, “ONE WORLD,” for example, the song starts with lyrics that repeat over and over, “One world/Only one world.” After the solo instrumental part, another set of lyrics repeat, “In the end it’s just love.” The only other words said in this song are a series of la la las, which are also featured in “feelslikeimfallinginlove” and “ALL MY LOVE.”

“... ‘Moon Music’ creates a fun and refreshing experience for new and long-time Coldplay listeners alike.”

On the other hand, while it seems like repetitive components of this album are sometimes there to take up space, people can’t forget that Coldplay have always been able to say a lot through saying a little. They do this through their unique music and sounds, and sometimes repetitive phrases help better communicate their message. For instance, almost three minutes of “MOON MUSIC” is instrumental, yet it sounds like a movie soundtrack conveying emotion through its build up.

Vocalist and pianist Chris Martin, explained the message of the album in a video he posted on Instagram on Sept. 4.

“I think what Moon Music is trying to say is maybe love is the best response, even when that feels difficult to do — which I definitely find it hard to do a lot of the time,” Martin said. “In a way, it’s a reaction to feeling so powerless in the face of so many crazy things happening internally and externally.”

The band definitely achieves this through the entire album but specifically in the song, “iAAM.” Lyrics in the song depict the theme of the album, “Let it rain, let it rain, let it rain/My love for you will remain/’Cause I am a mountain.”

Whether the emphasis is shifted on the music or the lyrics, “Moon Music” creates a fun and refreshing experience for new and long-time Coldplay listeners alike.



Cameron McCollum | Photographer

**HOLD THAT NOTE** “Mean Girls” star Renee Rapp sings her heart out during her night set at Austin City Limits in Zilker Park.

## 5 must-see ACL acts

**BELLA WHITMORE**  
Intern

following with their seductive sound and bilingual lyrics.

**CHRIS STAPLETON**

On Friday, country music powerhouse Chris Stapleton will take the stage at ACL, and fans are in for a soulful, gritty performance.. Stapleton, known for his deep, resonant voice and genre-blurring sound, blends traditional country with blues, rock, and soul. His ability to transcend genres while maintaining a raw authenticity has made him one of the most respected figures in modern country music.

**RENEE RAPP**

Reneé Rapp is one of the most exciting new voices in pop, and her ACL debut on Saturday is highly anticipated. Originally breaking onto the scene with her Broadway role as Regina George in “Mean Girls”, Rapp has quickly pivoted to a thriving music career, drawing fans in with her bold, heartfelt lyrics and a voice that is as powerful as it is vulnerable.

**TYLER, THE CREATOR**

Tyler, The Creator, known for his groundbreaking creativity and bold, genre-defying music, is set to electrify the ACL stage on Sunday with a performance that will undoubtedly push the boundaries of what a festival headlining set can be. Tyler’s eclectic style which blends hip-hop, jazz, funk and R&B, along with his dynamic, often theatrical live performances, has made him one of the most compelling artists of his generation. His energetic performance will surely set the tone well for ACL’s closing act.

As Austin City Limits (ACL) heads into its second weekend, festival-goers are gearing up for another round of unforgettable performances from some of the biggest names in music. While the entire roster promises to deliver, there are undoubtedly a few standout acts to keep an eye on. Here are some of the most anticipated artists lighting up the stages at ACL Weekend two.

**CHAPPELL ROAN**

One of the most exciting new voices hitting the stage this year is Chappell Roan, an artist whose distinct blend of pop, theatricality and unapologetic empowerment is turning heads. Performing on Sunday, Roan is riding a wave of momentum thanks to her recent album “The Rise and Fall of a Midwest Princess.”

With tracks like “Pink Pony Club” and “Casual,” Roan’s set will deliver an energetic mix of humor, emotion and showmanship that should not be missed. She’s emerging as a strong voice for individuality and self-expression, and ACL offers the perfect stage for her vibrant, engaging presence.

**THE MARIAS**

If you’re in the mood for sultry, cinematic vibes at ACL this year, The Marias are a must-see. Performing on Friday, the LA-based band brings a unique blend of indie pop, jazz, and dreamy psychedelia, all wrapped up with a Latin flair. Fronted by Puerto Rican-born María Zardoya and multi-instrumentalist Josh Conway, The Marias have been steadily building a



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Kassidy Tsikitas | Photographer

**TAKE IT FOR SIX** Redshirt freshman running back Bryson Washington stumbles into the end zone for the first time during Baylor football's 31-3 win over Air Force on Sept. 17 at McLane Stadium.

# Baylor football's Bryson Washington carries father's legacy with every play

**FOSTER NICHOLAS**  
Sports Editor

When Bryson Washington sprinted out of the tunnel and through the Baylor Line before football's non-conference clash against Air Force, it was just like any other game. Under his pads he had tucked a note written to his dad, who he lost at 3 years old. Then, he jogged onto the field as he had done since high school.

The only difference was that the redshirt freshman running back was slated for his first collegiate start. Even with excitement building, his pregame routine was the same as it always was.

Washington weaved his way through teammates stretching in the end zone and set up shop at the back pylon. There, the Franklin native bowed his head, prayed and whispered a message to his dad, Bobby Washington, before jogging over to the sideline.

From the first row of the bleachers behind the Baylor bench, his mom Sherita Anderson looked on, knowing her son was about to have the moment he was waiting for. And in the moments leading up to kickoff, she could feel her husband's presence leading Bryson toward his breakout.

"When it comes down to his father, I'd just say that's going to be the way Bryson wins because he really thrives off making his father proud," Anderson said. "Whatever he's done, whatever he's going to do, it's just going to be a bonus."

## KEEPING THE MEMORY ALIVE

Like his son, Bobby was a football star in his own right. Donning the No. 47 with "Washington" etched on his back, Bobby suited up for Wilmer-Hutchins High School in Dallas, where in his senior season, he helped the Eagles to an undefeated 5-0 campaign.

On the day after Thanksgiving in 2007, at just 27 years old, Bobby was shot and killed while working the door at a party to help out a friend. Though he passed when Bryson's siblings were 5, 2 and 1, the memory of their father never faded.

"Their father was a light. No matter where he went, he always brought sunshine around him," Anderson said. "People say, 'Oh, you can't remember who your father was because you were so little.' But in the little time that God allowed their father, Bobby, to be with us, he was there."

Bobby would spend quality time picking pecans with his 5-year-old daughter as he walked her to and from school every day. As for boy time, they could almost always be found outside playing ball. Whether that be football, baseball, soccer or basketball, it didn't matter. He was there.

"Bryson played baseball. He was a great baseball player, but he said it was too slow for him," Anderson said. "But it was always me just keeping their minds focused on something, just keeping them busy. I never wanted to flush the memory of their father at all. So every single day, it was something that reminded me of their father, even with just looking at them."

Threading the memories of a man who lived his life to the fullest, Anderson ensured that her children would be just as much of a light as her late husband. Through sport, faith and character, the Washington family tree has stayed strong.

"My dad is really my motivation behind football," Bryson said. "My mom told me a lot of stories about him. He was a football player, and he stepped out of football to take care of his kids, and that's what led to him getting killed. But it motivates me. When I think about it, I just

want to live out his dreams through me."

From late-night games of hide-and-go-seek ending in tickle fights to shooting hoops or throwing a football in the front yard, each memory and story strengthened an already unbreakable bond. So when Bryson started playing flag football when he was 4 years old, every juke, touchdown and tackle meant something more.

"It lives forever. I don't know how a kid can be so young and still have such a great memory of their father, but I think it comes from just sharing those great memories with them," Anderson said. "I would personally encourage anybody that has lost their father or mother, that has lost her husband, just keep the memories alive. That actually helps Bryson to keep going."

## FAITH AND FOOTBALL

For eight years, Anderson led the family of five on her own, and sports served as an outlet for her children. But as important as football, baseball, basketball and soccer were, faith was just as important.

"I grew up in the church," Washington said. "We used to go every Sunday. With football, we really don't have as much time to go to church and stuff. So sometimes I get on YouTube, listen to some gospel, get in my mood and get the godly spirit going."

Even with a loaded travel schedule or an early practice following a late night of studying, Bryson finds a way to connect with his spiritual side as he did growing up, even if he only has enough time to turn on his favorite gospel song, Kirk Franklin's "Stomp." When Anderson calls to check in and Bryson doesn't answer, a quick text usually follows with Bryson explaining the Scripture he is reading or Bible study going on.

And of course he calls her back later. With a mixture of faith and football, Baylor was always set up to be a perfect landing spot for Bryson's personality.

"Once I got that offer, it was over. I was ready to go to Waco," Washington said. "My platform is football, and I can spread the word of God."

## FRANKLIN STANDOUT

The process of finding college offers wasn't straightforward. As a varsity starter since day one of his freshman year, Bryson took snaps at quarterback, running back, cornerback, safety and linebacker. Sometimes, he'd even play the entire game on both sides of the ball. But the now hard-nosed running back's first love was playing the defensive side of the ball.

"I just love coming downhill and hitting somebody. It just made me feel happy," Washington said with a grin. "I like to be the aggressor... If I could help anywhere, that's where I want to play. Mentality-wise, I'm a defensive player, but I love to run the ball."

"That's what I was thinking about coming out of high school. I was like, 'Man, do I want to go play running back or defense?' I love them both."

Bryson wasn't the only one thinking that, as most of his collegiate interests surrounded his play on the defensive side of the ball, even Baylor at first. Washington was recruited as a playmaking, hard-hitting linebacker with safety versatility due to his success on defense while at Franklin.

Anderson wasn't deeply invested in sports before Bryson lit up the stage at Franklin. Even during his freshman season, she didn't quite understand the gravity of how good her son could be. Every time he went on the field, he made big plays and trotted off with a smile, but it wasn't Bryson's style to talk about his talent. Instead, he let his playing speak for itself.

"He didn't come home and say, 'Oh, mom, I'm a beast!' or 'I'm good.' I never got that. And

so when I got to hearing other people talk about, 'Oh, your son is going to go far,' that's when I'm like, 'Oh, we got something,'" Anderson said. "We got something!"

The four-year starter at running back and safety broke through in his senior season with over 2,000 rushing yards and 30 touchdowns, improving on his 1,480 rush yards and 20 touchdowns in his junior year. From there, Washington was carrying the ball at the next level and Baylor's running back offer set that in stone.

The rest was history.

## REPPING THE GREEN AND GOLD

Just a month after leading the Lions to a second straight undefeated Class 3A state championship, Washington was on campus as an early enrollee at Baylor. Working in a room with Richard Reese, Dominic Richardson and fellow freshman Dawson Pendergrass, Washington was fighting an uphill battle for playing time next to some of the best backs in the Big 12. But his freshman year didn't go as expected.

Bryson took snaps in three games early in the season as he shone behind the scenes in practice but never found a groove on Saturdays. Beaten up by injuries and no clear path to immediate play time, Washington redshirted. As he battled through questions of whether football was still his passion, he worked harder than ever to make sure the 2024 season would showcase his talents.

"I couldn't get unfocused. I just had to keep my head down and working," Washington said. "I used to have talks with my mom because there were times where I feel like football wasn't meant for me at the time. But my family, they reminded me constantly, 'Yeah, you love that. You love football. Don't let anyone take it away from you.' And that's one thing I had to realize in the offseason. If you love something so much, don't just let anything just take it away from you."

The grind paid off as head coach Dave Aranda singled out Washington as one of the team's premiere performers throughout training camp. Washington worked with the first team leading up to kickoff until a lingering injury held him out for the season's first two games.

## CAPTAIN OF THE BACKFIELD

The redshirt freshman wasn't going to let a small setback stop him. The hard work he had put in before and during camp helped shorten the recovery time, and he was slated to start his

first game in Week 3.

When the opportunity presented itself, he rattled off 12 carries for 106 yards and a touchdown en route to a Baylor win against Air Force.

"He was really a starter going into the season, so to have him back and healthy is a big difference," Aranda said. "The violence that he plays with, his vision and his feet, makes a big difference. I think he's a great complement as an inside guy to the outside guys that we've got at the running back spot. I think we can venture more into those spaces, in terms of how guys are used."

Surrounded by faith and family through football, every time Washington lines up in the backfield, he remembers the note for his dad tucked under his pads with No. 47 somewhere on the page. Each time he writes the note, it could be different, but in a way, Bobby is right there with him.

When Bryson swerved through defenders and stumbled into the end zone with 12:38 in the third quarter of Baylor's 31-3 blowout win over Air Force on Sept. 14 at McLane Stadium, of course there was only one thing that crossed his mind.

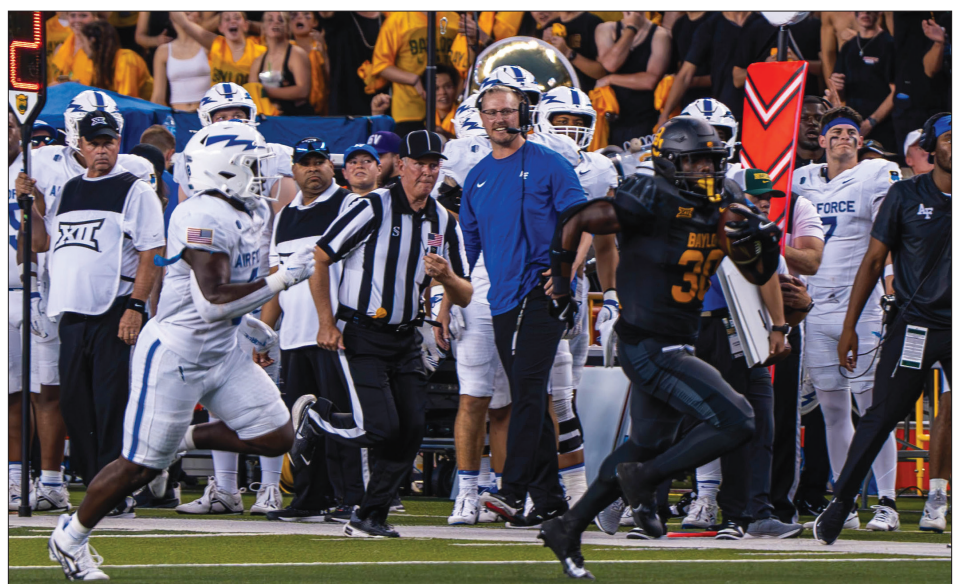
"My dad was just the first thing that came to me because he's literally my why," Washington said. "I just want to be the best me, and I don't feel like I was the best me even [against Air Force]. So I'm just still working to get better. I honestly don't know what the best me is. Realistically, you'll probably never see the best me."

The path to pay dirt wasn't easy for Washington, but with a taste of success, his football flames burned on high.

"When he executed and scored that touchdown, I celebrated. I just knew that's what he needed," Anderson said. "It really wasn't the Air Force game for me, it was the moment that I had been waiting on for him. That's what I was celebrating... That's exactly what he needed to get over the hurdles he had gone through."

After battling back from several nagging injuries to record a 100-yard game in his first collegiate start, rush for more than 2,000 yards and accumulate 30 touchdowns in a single high school season, Bryson Washington is still hungry for more. It's never been about the stats, touchdowns or takeaways, but honoring a memory that is so ingrained within him that failure was, and will never be, an option.

So when Bryson walks over to the back pylon before each game, the prayers are never asking for success but to keep the team "out of hurt, harm and danger." And when he talks to his "pops," he knows Bobby is smiling down with a glowing pride that only a father can feel for his son.



Cameron McCollum | Photographer

**LEADING MAN** Redshirt freshman running back Bryson Washington has 186 rushing yards and a touchdown on the year. He's added 10 receptions for 97 yards, the most of any back on the team.



**Sports**

# Sports Take: Baylor Lariat Sports Desk reflects on preseason football predictions, current stats

After opening Big 12 play with three straight losses, Baylor football is 2-4 for the second straight season. It's the first time the Bears have opened a season 2-4 in back-to-back seasons since 2000-01, when Kevin Steele and Co. went a combined 5-17.

This Baylor roster is a lot more talented than those teams, but has struggled to put together complete games in narrow losses to then-No. 11 Utah, 23-12, Colorado, 38-31 in overtime and a 34-28 loss to No. 22 BYU. A path back to the postseason still exists, with six games against unranked teams remaining on the schedule.

At the midway point of the season, the Baylor Lariat Sports Desk reflects on its preseason predictions.

**Jackson Posey**  
Sports Writer

**Preseason prediction: 6-6**

I fully expected Baylor to be 3-3 right now, and though 2-4 looks daunting on its face, the peripherals are — for the most part — pointing up. Sawyer Robertson's breakout has breathed new life into an offense still dealing with expected growing pains on the offensive line. The Bears' special teams excellence has continued, and aside from the an unfortunate penchant for slow starts, the defense has taken steps forward from a year ago.

If Baylor can stay mentally locked in, there are a lot of winnable games left on the schedule. Oklahoma State has looked uncharacteristically vulnerable as the Cowboys have struggled to get star running back Ollie Gordon II (51.6 yards per game against

FBS teams) in a groove. Texas Tech's 5-1 record smells fluky. TCU, sitting at 3-3, has been streaky at best. Houston has been shut out twice in three conference games. Kansas needs to be turned off and back on again.

This team is talented enough to make a bowl game, especially with the bulk of a front-loaded schedule in the rearview mirror. But the Bears will have to avoid falling into the same mental potholes that seem to have plagued them since the 2021 Sugar Bowl. If they put the early losses behind them and play one game at a time, they'll have a chance to finish above .500 for the first time in three years. But if those old ghosts make a reappearance, the road ahead will only get bumpier.

**Grant Morrison**  
Sports Writer

**Preseason prediction: 7-5**

Through six games, the team has performed just below my initial expectations for the season. It was a very rigorous first half of the schedule, and there's still plenty of time to right the ship. Having Sawyer Robertson at quarterback has significantly raised the ceiling of this offense, but the team's inability to run the ball is still a real concern.

Baylor is a couple of bad plays away from 4-2 right now. The losses have come against a ranked Utah team, a ridiculously talented (although beatable) Colorado and two undefeated conference foes. While 2-4 isn't a great start, it's way too early to throw in the towel on the season.

I still think the Bears have



Mary Thurmond | Photographer

**VICTORY** Junior Quarterback Sawyer Robertson (13) celebrates with senior Wide Receiver Ketron Jackson (11) and others after scoring the Bears' first touchdown on Saturday, Sept. 28 before a close 34-28 loss to No. 22 BYU at McLane Stadium.

the opportunity and ability to make a bowl game. This team has played some really good football, but just hasn't been able to put it together for four quarters at a time.

That being said, time is running out. The upcoming game at Texas Tech is the biggest opportunity to turn the ship around, and if the team can bring some of that momentum to Homecoming against Oklahoma State, Baylor has a much more favorable back half of the schedule.

**Foster Nicholas**  
Sports Editor

**Preseason prediction: 4-8**

Halfway through the 2024 campaign, the Bears are exactly where I initially thought they would be. However, to give credit where credit is due, the green and gold have played extremely talented teams a lot more tightly than I had initially expected. But close can't be good enough anymore.

Wins go in the win column and losses still count against

you no matter how well a certain aspect of the game has gone, and there has been a ton of good to go along with the bitter taste of the first half of the season. Baylor football is finally exciting again with a gunslinging quarterback who takes deep shots down the field and excels on fourth down. Offensive coordinator Jake Spavital has rebranded and rejuvenated the Bears' offense, and although it hasn't been his typical tempo, it's been right up redshirt junior quarterback Sawyer Robertson's alley.

Look, missing a bowl game

for the second year in a row is a sting that no Baylor fan wants to experience, which is why I feel that there is still far too much enthusiasm about this team.

The Bears aren't going to win out, and although scraping together a positive record in the second half of the season isn't impossible, it's extremely improbable considering this team has already shown its identity. Nobody really wants head coach Dave Aranda to lose his job just because a bad November and December only set this team back further.

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## STORM SURGE from A1

visiting completely devastated by the flooding.

Because of the lack of cell service, companies in North Carolina are combining efforts to give people access to cellular data, Guy said.

"It's been really amazing to see just the outpouring and the unity of the communities around North Carolina and honestly even from other states," Guy said. "[There are] so many people donating supplies and working to get supplies — as much supplies as they can up to the mountains."

Spartanburg, S.C., senior Kaleb Patterson said his community faced power outages and severe weather as well. He said Helene

inflicted a lot of damage that will take time to rebuild from.

"The communities that I interacted with, they're actually wiped off the map. They're no longer existing, unfortunately, and that was something that took a big toll on [me and my family]," Patterson said. "I think for my family, the effects of the hurricane showed a true testament to what my family is, which is a group of people that come together and help one another in times of distress."

Less than two weeks after Helene, southeastern states — mainly Florida — prepare to face Milton, once a Category 5 and now a Category 3. According to the Weather Channel, Florida will be affected by Milton "with destructive storm surge, devastating wind damage, potentially catastrophic flooding rainfall and several tornadoes."

Patterson said he doesn't think that Milton will affect S.C. as much, but if anything were to happen, it would be "catastrophic" for the state because it is still recovering from Helene.

Guy said there was panic in N.C. communities at first about Milton, but that local meteorologists are certain it won't affect them as badly as Helene. According to Guy, going through Helene helped them be more sympathetic to states facing Milton. She is reminded that even after the coverage of the hurricanes end, communities are still impacted by them.

"I've seen a lot of posts about [N.C.] coming together to pray for the [people] of Florida and offer support in any capacity, which is beautiful to watch. While we're dealing with our own stuff, we're still being compassionate and trying to help others," Guy said.

## IS AI REALLY TAKING JOBS? from A1

decade.

College students should be aware of its benefits and complications as well educated on how to use AI both ethically and strategically, according to Dr. Robert Marks, distinguished professor of electrical & computer engineering.

Marks is one of four speakers that will share presentations throughout the week. He will discuss the limits of AI's potential and where we must draw the line with these technologies.

"AI is like a toddler with a Ph.D.," Marks said. "It's really smart, but it still needs to be supervised."

AI will stay that way no matter how much we develop it, and giving it ruling authority is an absolute dead end, Marks said. The

important line to draw on this subject, he believes, is to define the limits of where AI can even replace a human role. Can AI perform work that meets or even potentially exceeds human ability?

According to Marks, the answer lies in "human exceptionalism."

"We are more than computers made out of meat. We have a soul, we have a spirit and we have a mind," Marks said.

Human exceptionalism is our capacity to perform tasks in such ways that any nonhuman entity cannot, Marks said.

"AI is going to replace jobs, there's no doubt about it. But I think it's going to create more opportunities that allow us greater freedom to

do things we enjoy doing," he said.

According to Marks, the idea of AI replacing a few roles is reality, but the paranoia of the doom loop is highly unnecessary. There are many benefits of AI, the main one being its ability to carry out simple every-day tasks that are burdens to us rather than productive tasks. AI is not poised to overtake any of the different creative passions of humans.

Marks said the assumptions of AI's overpowering abilities are assumptions of atheism, and that as Christians believing in a higher power, these assumptions seem to negate the existence of God.

CEO of AI startup Worlds, Dr. David Copps, will speak on how to prepare for and adapt to AI's rapid evolution. Dr. Collin Stultz, electrical and computer engineering professor at MIT,

will speak about AI in healthcare. University of Binghamton's Distinguished Teaching Professor and Vice Provost for Online and Innovation Education Dr. James Pitarresi will introduce the ethical and strategic use of AI within education.

Finally, the week will wrap up with a panel discussion including all four speakers, moderated by Dr. Daniel Pack, dean of the school of engineering and computer science.

"The technology is taking more and more of a role in what we do and how we interact and how we spend our time. Generative AI is one of those technologies that really disrupts the way we have been living," Pack said. "This is an opportunity for our faculty, students and staff to learn more about AI technologies, what is coming over the horizon and what kind of things we can do today in preparation for that."

## THIRD WHEEL from A1

Republican Party due to their immigration reforms.

"I mean, the main thing that [voters] can do is just vote for the candidate that most represents their views and consistently vote on like those lines and continue to try and push candidates more towards their direction," Pascarella said.

Gooch said his advice to voters caught between the red and blue is that 100% agreement isn't necessary to support a candidate.

"You have to determine what's important to you [and] which party [most closely] aligns," Gooch said.

Dr. Dave Bridge, a professor of political science, said focusing on specific issues or policies can be helpful in determining what is important and decide on a candidate.

"It's entirely okay to be a single-issue voter," Bridge said. "It's entirely okay to vote based on the character of the candidates. All of those things are good cues and good reasons to show up to vote on Election Day."

## MANUFACTURING THE FUTURE from A1

of AFS-D and implement them into industry. The researchers have also been working alongside NASA and the National Science Foundation to explore AFS-D applications in outer space.

The researchers used AFS-D to essentially 3D print a wrench made of synthetic lunar soil. In space, access to pure metal rods wouldn't be easy, so the researchers simulated the extraterrestrial conditions that they hope their research would be applied in.

Wrenches are not the only thing made out of this soil. In fact, Allison said he was contacted by the retired Surgeon General of the U.S. Space Force, who is now a Baylor professor.

"We just made some surgical instruments out of that same way," Allison said. "Sparky Matthews, who's the first surgeon general of the Space Force... he was like, 'Can you make me a scalpel handle so that we could think about how to manufacture medical equipment in space?'"

Not only is the research unlimited to earth, it's also not limited to engineering. Faculty across many disciplines help with research.

Aside from numerous Ph.D. and master's students in the lab, there are over 20 undergraduate students working at a given time.

This abundance of student work is because of a desire to help teach the next generation of researchers, Allison said.

"Our goal is to really help the students who are working to be able to contribute here as soon as they can to solve these challenging problems, and we expect their input," Allison said.

For Ikeler, working closely with companies and government agencies has been great for his development. Because of this, Ikeler — among other students — said job opportunities have been as abundant as research experience.

"We're working with the consumers," Ikeler said. "Most labs publish a paper and don't go anywhere near consumers."

Provost Nancy Brickhouse said the new strategic plan for Baylor makes a specific "call-out" for the program.

"We have a very small engineering program that we need to invest in," Brickhouse said.

Some of these objectives have already come into effect, with a new cybersecurity major starting this fall, a new endowed chair in cybersecurity, an electrical and computer engineering chair and Jordon's position, which began in 2022.

"We're coming from a different university, so we have experience in academia. I think the rate of growth has been amazing. There's a lot of change happening on the engineering side and it's been exciting to see," Jordon said.

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BAYLOR

The image shows a YouTube video player interface. The main video is a news segment featuring a man in a white shirt speaking into a microphone. Below the video, there are several smaller thumbnail images: a football game, a group of people in yellow hoodies, and a woman in a cheerleader outfit. The text is overlaid on a dark background with a white and green color scheme.

**SENIOR ROUNDUPS**

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

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BAYLOR UNIVERSITY

The graphic is designed to look like a page from a yearbook. It features a teal and white color scheme with a large, stylized 'S' on the left. The text is arranged in a list-like format, with a yellow sticky note and a speech bubble. At the bottom, there is a drawing of a person's head and shoulders with a speech bubble. The overall aesthetic is clean and modern.