



The Baylor Lariat

WE'RE THERE WHEN YOU CAN'T BE



From **Food and Feminism**: Expand your literary horizons beyond “6 ways to a better you” articles.

Wednesday | March 4, 2015

Faculty diversity grows, but still lagging

By SHANNON BARBOUR
REPORTER

Almost 36 percent of undergraduate students at Baylor are minorities, while only 12.3 percent, or 122 out of 990, of faculty members are minorities, according to Baylor Institutional Research and Testing. “We all have different filters through which we see the world,” said Macarena Hernandez, professor of journalism, public relations and new media. “We all benefit when we get to see the world through other people’s filters and if everyone around you sees the world through the same filter, you’re missing out.”

Despite this low percentage, the faculty minority rate is 4.7 percent, higher and has 61 more minority professors than 10 years ago according to past reports by Baylor.

“We have more diversity in students than we have in faculty members. But I know that all de-

partments are working on recruiting professors of a diverse nature,” said Dr. Mia Moody-Ramirez, associate professor of journalism, public relations and new media. “It’s a process.”

According to Baylor Institutional Research and Testing, female faculty rates in fall 2014 were 38.9 percent, lower than the undergraduate female composition of 58 percent.

“You’re going to see increases in the hiring of women,” Moody-Ramirez said of faculty recruitment trends. “And then after that’s established, you’re going to see increased hiring in minorities. That’s usually how it trickles-down. It’s a trickle down effect. That’s traditionally how its been done.”

Compared to peer campuses such as Southern Methodist University in Dallas and The University of Texas at Austin, Baylor falls short in both female and minority faculty representation according to

fall 2014 data gathered by SMU’s Office of Institutional Research and UTA’s Office of Institutional Reporting, Research and Information Systems.

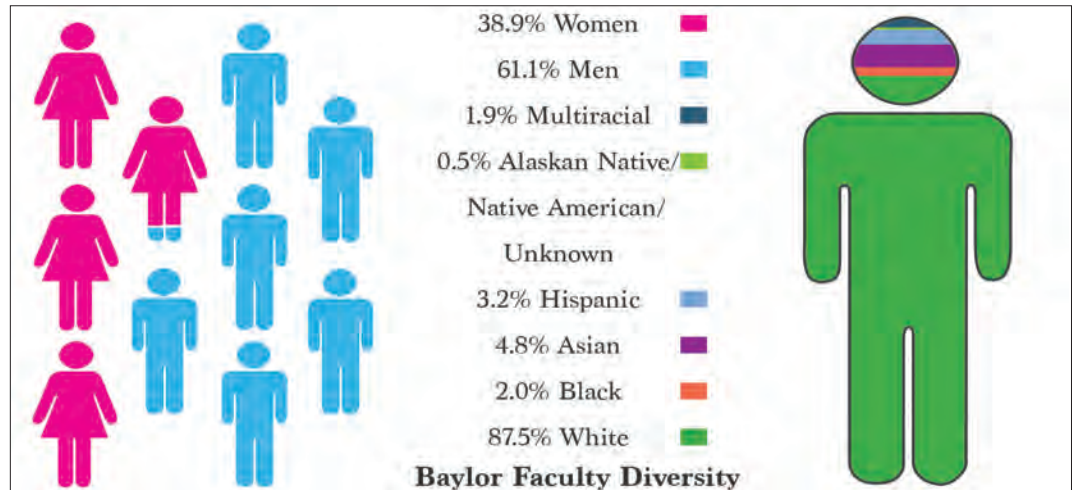
In fall 2014, SMU’s faculty minority rate was 19 percent. Baylor’s was 12.3 percent.

In the same semester, SMU’s female faculty rate was 39.2 percent, 0.3 percent higher than Baylor.

Even though SMU’s student body is less gender and ethnically diverse than Baylor, with 50.5 percent female and 26.9 percent minority rates, its faculty is more diverse.

UTA also has a higher female faculty rate. Females make up 39.1 percent of UTA’s faculty while female students make up 50.7 percent of undergraduate students.

UTA’s minority faculty rates are higher than both Baylor and SMU at 22.2 percent, although not entirely representative of its 53.1 percent minority student body.



Moody-Ramirez lists negative perceptions of Waco and competing with areas such as Dallas and Austin as reasons for a lower diversity rate among faculty.

“There is still that perception that Waco is unsafe. So we have to work against that. We have to

let people know that it’s a good place to live. Dallas doesn’t really have that negative connotation,” Moody-Ramirez said.

Dr. James Bennighof, vice provost for academic affairs and policy, said in addition to location concerns, the current faculty de-

mographic may make it difficult to recruit more diverse faculty.

“If you don’t have as diverse a faculty as you would like, that can be a factor that works against you because diverse faculty will not

SEE DIVERSITY, page 4

Hill sends DHS bill to Obama

By ERICA WERNER AND DAVID ESPO
ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON — Bitterly admitting defeat, the Republican-controlled Congress sent legislation to President Barack Obama on Tuesday that funds the Department of Homeland Security without any of the immigration-related concessions they demanded for months.

Obama promised to sign the bill as soon as he received it, while criticizing Congress for taking “far too long” to pass it.

“Sanity is prevailing,” said Rep. Peter King, R-N.Y., a former chairman of the Homeland Security Committee, before the House voted 257-167 in favor of the \$40 billion spending bill. All 182 Democrats present voted for the bill, while it received only 75 Republican “yes” votes.

“I am glad that House Republicans finally came to their senses,” said

SEE DHS, page 4



KEVIN FREEMAN | LARIAT PHOTOGRAPHER

While the sleet is away, the students will play

Alpha Delta Pi members and their crushes play kickball Tuesday at Edge Field. Even though Waco saw snow, sleet and frozen roads a week ago, the temperatures throughout Tuesday exceeded 60 degrees. The warmer weather was welcomed by student around campus, but won’t be here long. Weather predictions expect temperatures to dip as a low of 25 degrees.

TX bill calls for school reform

By WILL WEISSERT
ASSOCIATED PRESS

AUSTIN — Top legislative conservatives clamoring for Texas to adopt a school choice voucher plan proposed a series of other education changes instead Tuesday that are less controversial but could still spark heated debates.

Lt. Gov. Dan Patrick and Senate Education Committee Chairman Larry Taylor presented a package of bills including plans to issue A through F grades for individual public schools — rather than just giving letter grades to school districts, which lawmakers approved last session —

SEE SCHOOL, page 4



DANE CHRONISTER | REPORTER

Pearland sophomore Mark McComb experiments with his biodiesel full Monday in a laboratory of the Baylor Sciences Building.

Biodiesel experiments fueling students’ future

By DANE CHRONISTER
REPORTER

Pearland sophomore Mark McComb and Dr. Larry Lehr, senior lecturer of environmental science, took their biodiesel project to the Baylor Science Building’s labs for the first time last week in order to grasp better understanding its abilities.

In the next few weeks, Lehr and

McComb plan to travel to Abilene Christian University in order to work with the biodiesel reactor alongside another group of scientists to see what they need to improve or change in their own process.

Through a process known as transesterification, vegetable oils, animal fats and used restaurant

SEE FUEL, page 4

NYU professor speaks for silenced

By RACHEL LELAND
STAFF WRITER

Renowned lawyer and prisoners’ rights activist Bryan Stevenson wants Baylor students to change the world.

Last night, Stevenson spoke to students about injustice of America’s criminal justice system and his work as the Executive Director of the Equal Justice Initiative at a lecture hosted by the Academy for Leader Development in Waco Hall which has brought six speakers to campus.

Stevenson’s flight was canceled because of the fog, so the Academy for Leader Development sent a driver to meet him at the airport in Dallas. The speaker walked across the stage an hour and ten minutes after the event was planned.

Students watched Stevenson’s acclaimed 2012 Ted Talk before the speaker arrived in an impromptu attempt to pass time.

Stevenson represents clients who are victims of the criminal justice system on a racial and socioeconomic bias, including



SKYE DUNCAN | LARIAT PHOTO EDITOR

Bryan Stevenson, executive director of the Equal Justice Initiative, spoke Tuesday night about changing the world with four things: having the power of proximity, changing the narrative, holding onto your hope and choosing to do uncomfortable things. He also spoke about his clients’ experiences with racial injustice and poverty and how he is working to change that.

Walter McMillian who was exonerated from a murder he did not commit in 1993. According to the Ted Talk, for every nine people executed in the United States, one person on death row is found innocent.

“In aviation, we would never let people fly on airplanes if for every nine planes that took off one would crash,” Stevenson said. “But somehow we can insulate ourselves from this problem. It’s not our problem. It’s not our bur-

den. It’s not our struggle.”

Stevenson, a New York University law professor and Harvard graduate, said he spends most of his time visiting prison, jail, or on death row, where he says 2.3

SEE STEVENSON, page 4

No-smoking policy on campus is hazy

Editorial —

Walk around campus at dusk and, chances are, someone will either be smoking or cigarette butts are lying around where someone finished smoking. But isn't Baylor a tobacco-free, smoke-free campus?

In August 2014, the university enacted a policy that banned all forms of tobacco use on campus. This ban includes cigarettes, cigars, e-cigarettes, hookahs and all other tobacco products.

The ordinance is considered legitimate on all properties owned, leased, operated or occupied or controlled by Baylor. This includes all facilities at the main campus and Waco extensions, all stadiums, Baylor's Louise Herrington School of Nursing in Dallas, sidewalks, internal roadways, parking structures and university housing.

The university states that it is not requiring students or staff to stop smoking completely, but it is encouraging that smokers explore nonsmoking as an option. At the same time, the policy does not definitively list what will happen if someone is caught smoking on Baylor property.

Instead, the university states it expects students and staff to volun-

tarily comply with the new policy. But to enact a policy without clarifying penalties is dangerous and undermines the university's authority. If police and governments did not enforce laws, would people still respect them? More than likely not.

In addition, "funding [became]

Take the Survey

What do you think about the no-smoking and no-tobacco use policy on Baylor's campus? Tell us at baylorlariat.com.

available to the university by the Cancer Research Institute of Texas" to accelerate the tobacco-free, smoke-free policy, according to Baylor's dedicated webpage. With only minimal signage, a few webpages and no clear course of punishment, it seems that the university is merely posting a faux faux policy to receive grant money.

Baylor's webpage for the policy even states that "enforcement is not [the university's] first priority." So

if enforcement isn't, then what is? Money?

Or could it be for the university's image?

By enacting anti-tobacco policies, Baylor may seem more progressive and modern than schools who have not. Our generation has been coached that tobacco is a negative image, thanks to Nancy Reagan's "Just Say No" program and that commercial where the girl peels off her face.

Only if deemed necessary will action be taken against violators. But who determines when action is necessary? And to what extent can the administration punish detractors? Nowhere is this listed.

The tobacco-free, smoke-free policy is merely a policy of expectations. Baylor expects students and staff to follow its anti-tobacco guidelines.

And while Baylor does not require that students, staff and visitors quit smoking outright, it does expect them to self-enforce the new rules. However, when self-enforcement is not followed, the university expects bystanders to intercede.

One such suggested approach to calling someone out for tobacco use reads verbatim on the policy's FAQ page: "Hello. I want to make



ASHER FREEMAN

you aware that we are now a tobacco-free, smoke-free campus. Tobacco products and smoking are prohibited on our grounds."

The university should consider that few students want to appear as snitches, and so will rarely follow as this script directs.

Baylor is not the first to enact a tobacco-free, smoke-free policy

on its campus. There are more than 600 colleges and universities, both public and private, that disallow tobacco use on campus. The University of Texas implemented such a rule in 2012, making it the first school in the Big 12 to do so. Many of these colleges and universities employ the same vague tones about enforcing – or not neces-

sarily enforcing – their respective policies.

However, even though other universities have smoke-free policies, Baylor should not follow suit merely for funding or image.

And if the university enacts any policy, to ensure full legitimacy and respect, it should also outline proper courses of penalization.

From the Lariat blog



"I get it — we're at that age when relationships and love are at the forefront of our minds, but every time I've clicked on an Elite Daily article that someone posted to Facebook, I've been disappointed."

— Austin senior Ada Zhang

Check out Austin senior Ada Zhang's weekly blog "Food & Feminism."

Straw polls can be skewed

This past week, thousands of conservatives gathered from across the nation in National Harbor, MD for the Conservative Political Action Conference (w). People attend CPAC to network and listen to a variety of renowned conservative speakers. During the conference, attendees were encouraged to vote for their presidential preference in a straw poll. The poll included: Rand Paul, Scott Walker, Ted Cruz, Ben Carson, Jeb Bush, Marco Rubio, Donald Trump, Rick Santorum, Carly Fiorina, Chris Christie, Rick Perry, Bobby Jindal and Sarah Palin.

Winning for the third consecutive year was Rand Paul, with Scott Walker trailing only four points behind. Combined, Paul and Walker accounted for 47 percent of people's first-choice candidates.

The famed straw poll results indicate Paul has maintained his popularity and Walker is growing in popularity as he jumped from fifth place last year to second place this year.

Although the straw poll is held in high regard across conservative networks, in CPAC's 41 year history only three winners have gone on to become presidential



Rachael Oury
Guest columnist

nominees out of 20 recorded poll results.

It is important to recognize that an overwhelming majority of CPAC attendees were students or young adults, a population that tends to lean more libertarian, thus a generation that gawks over Rand Paul. Nevertheless, this is a voter range with a historically low voter turnout.

Additionally, many students were able to come to CPAC because organizations provided package deals for tickets and lodging. Some organizations were better represented than others. For instance, Young Americans for Liberty (YAL) gave each member who registered with them an "I Stand With Rand" shirt, an indicator of how the members of that organization generally voted. Even Jeb Bush based in a mass of supporters to rally for him during his speech.

The only people permitted to vote in the straw poll were registered attendees. It can be presumed that most people attending a political active conference are politically charged individuals who may not vote on the same criterion as the rest of the country.

Alas, the polls were not monitored. As voters waited in line for their chance to vote in one of the straw poll stations provided at the event, campaigners for various candidates approached voters for a last-chance opportunity to sway votes.

What do the straw poll results mean? Currently, Rand Paul and Scott Walker are extremely strong candidates, even forerunners, for a presidential nomination, but not necessarily the strongest candidates. To write off candidates who ranked low in the CPAC straw poll would be premature. Candidates, issues and the country's status are all subject to change between now and 2016.

In this scenario, time is the only thing that will truly tell who will win a presidential nomination.

Rachael Oury is a sophomore economics and marketing major from Hartland, Wis. She is a guest columnist for the Lariat.

Feminism isn't 'us vs. them'

"Umm ... I don't think so," I said hesitantly and ignorantly when my English professor asked me if I was a feminist during my freshman year of college.

While feminism simply means equality of the sexes, and that means equality for all races of women, why do so many flee from being labeled feminist?

Maybe they're how I used to be and think feminists are intimidating, aggressive, bra-burning man-haters.

Twenty percent of Americans call themselves feminists, according to a 2013 poll by The Huffington Post and You Gov, and 82 percent said "men and women should be social, political and economic equals."

Perhaps we should start calling feminism something different, so people will no longer fear being labeled a radical.

Changing the way people think about feminism and how they perceive feminists must change. Feminists don't have to act one way or behave another. There is no specific image for feminists, and once this misconception goes away, the easier it will be for women to embrace feminism.

The different forms that femi-



Shannon Barbour
Reporter

nism can take are beneficial because it makes room for more people to have a place within the movement. Whether they are in favor of a gradual or a more insistent approach, they can be a part of the conversation and bring new ideas to the forefront.

Women do need feminism or they will be treated unequally. This is especially true in the case of minority women who are most affected by the wage gap and other social, political and economic issues.

According to the 2010 US Census, minority women made only 64 cents to the dollar paid to white men. In the same report, white women made 77 cents to the dollar paid to white men.

This isn't to pit white feminists against minority feminists, but to show the need for feminism among all races, but especially minorities.

Because when women like Pa-

tricia Arquette make statements that suggest feminism and minority rights are not related, it sets back the movement altogether because it implies that these issues are separated when they aren't in the case of many women.

It's important that all women support each other in this movement. After all, if women can't come together for themselves advancing, why would men, who often benefit from this inequality?

When women such as Taylor Swift say they aren't feminists because they don't think of gender issues as "guys versus girls," it confuses me because feminism isn't an "us versus them" issue. It's an issue that affects everyone and therefore should concern everyone.

Thankfully, movements such as He for She suggest that men don't fear feminism. Women shouldn't, either.

Feminism should be embraced, and women should be free to participate in society, the workplace and their homes, and enjoy basic rights such as equal pay.

Shannon Barbour is a senior political science major from Harbor City, Calif. She is a reporter and regular columnist for the Lariat.

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.

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To submit a Lariat Letter, fill out the Letter to the Editor form at baylorlariat.com/contact-information. Letters should be a maximum of 400 words. The letter is not guaranteed to be published.

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Waging Opinion

Baylor professor says Wal-Mart's decision to raise wages is strategic

BY AMANDA YARGER
REPORTER

Following Wal-Mart's decision to raise its starting wage from \$7.25 to \$9, Baylor economist Dr. Charles North, associate professor of economics, said the company may have acted to improve customer perceptions of the company, in addition to benefitting associates.

Executives of Wal-Mart Stores Inc. announced last month the company's plans to implement a \$9 minimum wage and allow flexibility in scheduling to promote a higher quality of life for associates, according to Doug McMillon, the company's president and CEO.

North said Wal-Mart's wage increase can also improve the company's reputation with customers.

"Economists assume when we model firm behavior they are profit maximizers — wages that does a pretty good job of assuming what firms will do. It's not perfect, but it does a pretty good job," North said. "My suspicion is, Wal-Mart is doing this because it will help their business."

Wal-Mart has faced scrutiny over the past years from economists and labor activists who believed the wage rate was too minimal for the requirements of the job.

"It might actually help on the customer side," North said. "If customers think 'Oh, Wal-Mart is being nice to their workers, I'll go shop there,' it might actually be a little mild stimulant on demand."

In McMillon's letter, he addresses the necessity of investing more in their associates this year — a benefit Rockdale senior Patrick Mitchell said would be a welcome addition.

Mitchell has worked for Wal-Mart since he was 16, continuing his job into his freshman and sophomore years at Baylor. Beginning as an hourly associate, Mitchell has secured a management position at the company's



Wal-Mart President and Chief Executive Officer Doug McMillon speaks during an interview with The Associated Press on Feb. 17, in Bentonville, Ark. Wal-Mart Stores Inc. is spending \$1 billion to change how it pays and trains hourly staff in a move it hopes will help reshape the image that it only offers dead-end jobs.

headquarters in Bentonville, Ark., post-graduation.

"I'll be becoming a replenishment manager for them," he said. "My job is to work with the suppliers and get the merchandise to the stores, all the stores in the U.S. — that's over 4,000."

After his sophomore year of college, Mitchell did not return to Wal-Mart as an associate to pursue a higher-paying job. Instead, he chose a job as a waiter and worked on his double major in distribution management and technology and management information systems.

"On my reports when I didn't do something as great, they always found some reason to not give you that extra cent raise," he said. "But I always got 50-cent raises every year... I was working an average of 25-30 hours a week at that point. Thinking about the schedule I had at school, plus that — it's crazy, and I wasn't making enough money."

Prior to the start of his senior year, he accepted an internship with Wal-Mart.

"I did an internship with them over the summer for replenishment," he said. "I pretty much just had fun."

During his internship, Mitchell said the interns met weekly with upper management. During

one session, a female associate expressed that her current pay was not enough to support her grandchildren to whom she was guardian, even with federal benefits like food stamps.

McMillon released the news of the wage increase in a letter to store associates with the promise of proving the company's dedication to their employees.

"Our statistics show that about 75% of our U.S. management teams began in an hourly role," McMillon wrote in the letter. "Every one of us is writing our own career story, and there are some powerful stories coming to life right before our eyes."

In 2014, Americans for Tax Fairness reported Wal-Mart received, on average, \$6.2 billion in mostly federal taxpayer subsidies because "Wal-Mart pays its employees so little that many of them rely on food stamps, health care and other taxpayer-funded programs."

As the economy picks up after the recession of the early 2000s, stores like Wal-Mart that capitalize on cheap products may decline in sales.

"With the economy improving, Wal-Mart may not be as popular a place to shop for people who have more income," North said. "If

that's the case, then maybe we get them back like the same way Costco does, 'We treat our employees so well,' and Wal-Mart might say, 'Look, we're treating our employees well, too.'"

In addition to the new \$9 an hour minimum wage for employees, McMillon also shared that by 2016, the wage would increase again to \$10 an hour. This figure has both impressed and surprised many critics who hope Wal-Mart may start a nationwide trend to increase the starting wage.

"I think it would increase productivity," Mitchell said. "You get a raise to \$9 working 30 to 40 hours per week? That's a do-able job. It could improve company morale."

McMillon said although only an estimated 6,000 associates were on minimum wage, most associates made more than that.

"Wal-Mart is so big. There are 2.2 million associates within the company, let alone within the store," Mitchell said. "Hours are always a problem. Like, I always got my hours cut just because they always had new associates, or they had some kind of week where they didn't have a projected sales amount where we couldn't have so many people on the sales floor working — it's complicated."

THE BOTTOM LINE

A STUDENT ECONOMIST'S VIEW Federal Reserve: Let's keep politics out of it

BY REUBIN TURNER
CITY EDITOR

Last week, Federal Reserve Chairwoman Janet Yellen testified before Congress and was questioned by Sen. Elizabeth Warren, Rep. Jeb Hensarling who serves as chairman of the House Financial Services Committee, and others. During the hearings, Yellen was asked about inflation, the unemployment rate and the Federal Reserve System's top legal counsel. At the hearing, Yellen made one thing abundantly clear — interest

rates aren't ready to go up, and the Fed will not raise them yet. Some lawmakers disagree with Yellen about whether or not to increase interest rates and out of frustration, are working to get bills through Congress that would make Yellen more accountable for the Fed's actions. Before passing such legislation that would ultimately reduce the autonomy and power of the Fed, however, Congress should consider the consequences political interference could have on the nation's highest economic policy-making institution.

When the Fed was created in 1913, legislators were clear in their intent to create an institution that could effectively guide the nation's economy without political distractions. Instituting policies that call for the head of the Fed to be appointed rather than elected and establishing that the Fed's board of governors do not have term limits all help ensure that the leaders of the Fed are not subject to the political pressures of the day. They could make decisions based on their experience and superior knowledge of economy. Nothing else.

This idea of subjecting the Fed to Congress even in the slightest of ways threatens that entire idea. The Fed's viewed power has increased tremendously since the 2006 Great Recession, but as for-

mer Fed governor Sarah Raskin stated in a hearing to Congress, they did nothing that was outside their scope of authority. Desperate times call for desperate action, and the Fed had to take unprecedented action to prevent economic calamity.

Perhaps its Yellen's refusal to adhere to the Taylor Rule that Congress disapproves of when it comes to the Fed's policy decisions. The Taylor Rule is a rule proposed by economist John B. Taylor that determines how much the Fed should change the nominal interest based on economic conditions, like inflation and real GDP. Yellen said last week that although she agrees with certain principles set forth in the rule, the Fed will not be "chained" to a formula when it comes to monetary policy. Yellen stressed that she was not a proponent of the rule in 1995, and 20 years later, she

stands by her choice. And if I've learned anything as an economics student, it's that this is probably a wise decision on Yellen's part.

Variables within the nation's economy, and life in general, make it extremely hard to follow a strict rule. If it was as simple as this, make me the next Fed chair. I think I could manage a 2+2=4 approach to monetary policy. But I along with Yellen, agree that it's not that simple. Years of training in the field, study and a great intuition are needed for a job like Fed chairman. Yellen's Ph.D. in economics from Yale, coupled with her experience as the vice chair of the Fed and chairman of the board in San Francisco, qualify her quite well for the position. In addition to her credentials, Yellen was credited by her nominator, President Barack Obama, and other peer economists as "sounding the alarm" of an impending financial crisis if policy did not change in the housing markets. A formula can't tell you that. Only experience and intuition can.



Reubin Turner

US stocks drop after historic mark

BY BERNARD CONDON
ASSOCIATED PRESS

NEW YORK — U.S. stocks fell from record highs on Tuesday and the Nasdaq dropped below 5,000 a day after passing that milestone for the first time since the dot-com era 15 years ago.

The losses were modest but broad, with eight industry sectors in the Standard and Poor's 500 index falling. Higher oil prices helped oil drillers and other energy companies buck the trend. They eked out a 0.2 percent rise for the day.

With no major economic news and few earnings reports, investors were at pains to point to a catalyst for the stock slump other than jitters that sometime follow big gains.

"It's only natural we would get a little flutter after a milestone like yesterday," said Wells Fargo Funds' Chief Equity Strategist John Manley, referring to the Nasdaq closing above 5,000. "It may very well go on for a few days."

The Dow Jones industrial average fell 85.26 points, or 0.5 percent, to 18,203.37. The Standard & Poor's 500 declined 9.61 points, or 0.5 percent, to 2,107.78. The Nasdaq gave up 28.20 points, or 0.6 percent, to close at 4,979.90.

Ford Motor slumped after reporting U.S. sales from last month that disappointed investors. Ford sales fell 1.9 percent as dealers lacked the inventory to meet demand for the new F-150 pickup truck. Ford dropped 40 cents, or 2.4 percent, to \$16.17.

Oil rose on reports that Saudi



People walk past the Nasdaq Marketsite on Tuesday in New York's Times Square. The Nasdaq fell below 5,000 a day after passing that milestone for the first time since the dot-com era 15 years ago.

Arabia raised prices for Asian customers and fears of heightening tensions with Iran after Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu addressed Congress. Several oil drillers surged. Denbury Resources, an oil and gas producer, jumped 28 cents, or 3.4 percent, to \$8.58.

With nearly all companies in the S&P 500 having reported their fourth-quarter results, earnings per share for companies in the S&P 500 index are expected to have risen a healthy 7.7 percent, according to S&P Capital IQ.

Liquor giant Brown-Forman

reports earnings on Wednesday, followed by Costco Wholesale on Thursday. Staples, the nation's biggest office supply chain, reports on Friday.

Financial analysts expect earnings to drop compared with the year-earlier periods for the next two quarters, but that is mostly because of a drag from energy companies as oil prices have fallen more than 50 percent since last June.

Anastasia Amoroso, global market strategist for J.P. Morgan Asset Management, said she wasn't surprised by the pullback.

"We're seeing a market that is fairly valued, earnings are behind us and no major catalysts are coming up," she said. "It's a market ready for a pause."

The slump in the U.S. followed losses in European markets. France's CAC 40 and Germany's DAX each lost 1 percent. Britain's FTSE 100 dropped 0.7 percent.

On Monday, the Nasdaq rose to just 40 points from its 5,048.62 peak reached March 10, 2000. The index has changed significantly since then. Gone is the heavy weighting of telecommunications stocks and big bets on Internet companies with little or no earnings.

Among other stocks in the news:

— Personal finance company Springleaf Holdings rose \$12.19, or 32 percent, to \$50.23 after it said it would buy Citigroup's OneMain Financial for \$4.25 billion. OneMain provides personal loans at more than 1,100 branches across 43 states.

— Best Buy gained 55 cents, or 1.4 percent, to \$39.18 after the company said it would raise its dividend 21 percent and give shareholders an additional one-time payment. The nation's biggest electronics chain also reported fourth-quarter earnings that were higher than financial analysts had expected.

Benchmark U.S. crude rose 93 cents to close at \$50.52 a barrel in New York. Brent crude, a benchmark for international oils used by many U.S. refineries, rose \$1.48 to close at \$61.02 a barrel in London.

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DHS from Page 1

Rep. Loretta Sanchez of California, a top Democrat on the Homeland Security Committee.

The outcome averted a partial agency shutdown which would have begun Friday at midnight. It was a major victory for Obama and the Democrats, and a wholesale retreat for Republicans, who have spent months railing against an "unconstitutional overreach" by Obama in extending deportation stays and work permits to millions of immigrants in this country illegally.

In the end, Republicans who'd tried to use the DHS spending bill to undo Obama's actions had little to show but weeks of gridlock and chaotic spectacle on Capitol Hill in the wake of assuming full control of Congress in the November midterm elections. The turmoil brought the Homeland Security Department to within hours of a partial shutdown last Friday before Congress passed a one-week extension, and raised questions about Republicans' ability to govern responsibly.

On Tuesday morning, addressing an uncharacteristically subdued gathering of House Republicans, Speaker John Boehner indicated he was out of options.

"I am as outraged and frustrated as you at the lawless and unconstitutional actions of this president," Boehner told his caucus. "I

believe this decision — considering where we are — is the right one for this team, and the right one for this country."

"Our Republican colleagues in the Senate never found a way to win this fight," he said, noting that the matter is now in the courts. A federal judge last month put Obama's directives on hold, a ruling the White House is appealing.

Conservative lawmakers who humiliated Boehner last week by voting down a three-week spending bill he proposed did not speak up in the private meeting to dissent or ask questions, people present said.

Afterward, they said they were disappointed but had no more moves to make.

"I don't know that there is one," said Rep. Steve King, R-Iowa. "This is the signal of capitulation."

In a statement, Homeland Secretary Jeh Johnson thanked Democrats and Republicans who voted for the bill and, "in particular, those in Congress who showed the leadership necessary to get the job done."

In his own statement, Obama praised Homeland Security employees as "law enforcement professionals and brave patriots who do a remarkable job, and deserve our gratitude and respect. Today, after far too long, Congress finally voted to fully fund their mission."

SCHOOL from Page 1

and expanded online learning.

There are also proposals linking teacher pay raises to annual evaluations, and allowing parents to petition to close failing schools after just two years, instead of the current five.

"Education is not a partisan issue," said Taylor, a Republican from Friendswood.

Indeed, less outspoken Republicans and even Democrats and teachers groups have cheered some of those ideas in the past. But much of what was listed, especially teacher evaluations that would clash with traditional, seniority-based pay scales, and issuing individual schools around Texas 'Fs' should prove contentious.

"None of the proposals offered by Senator Taylor and the Lieutenant Governor would give teachers

and students the time and resources they need to improve teaching and learning," Texas State Teachers Association President Noel Candelaria said in a statement. Instead the group would like to see lawmakers fully restore \$5.4 billion in cuts to classroom approved in 2011.

Taylor also called for scrapping rules that students enrolled in online classes also be enrolled in public schools. He ducked a question, however, about educational accountability standards for online courses if they don't follow state benchmark set for public schools.

Taylor also noted that the Senate last session passed a bill allowing a majority of parents in school districts to petition to shutter schools that fail to meet state academic standards faster.

FUEL from Page 1

grease are converted into biodiesel form of fuel that can be used in diesel engines as an alternate, renewable form of energy.

"This chemical reaction conversion long-chain mono alkyl esters or fatty acid methyl esters which compose biodiesel when used as a fuel," McComb said.

The B20 blend is 20 percent biodiesel and 80 percent petroleum. With the use of this form of biodiesel, engine upgrades do not need to be made because the majority of the biodiesel is still petroleum.

For Baylor's environmental goals and for McComb's experimental purposes, B20 would be the most cost-effective and available form of biodiesel.

Pure biodiesel is the cleanest form of fuel that burns the least amount of pollution, but would call for engine conversions.

Using this B20 version of fuel allows for the extension of current oil supplies by reducing the percentage of petroleum diesel that is consumed, since 20 percent of the product is biodiesel.

According to the Environmental Protection Agency's website, "Biodiesel will gel in cold weather, just like regular diesel fuel. But B20 can be treated for winter use,



DANE CHRONISTER | REPORTER

Pearland sophomore Mark McComb examines a solution in while experimenting with his new biofuel.

in similar ways that No. 2 diesel is treated. Using B20 throughout the winter months just takes a little preparation and good fuel management practices."

McComb said he hopes that Baylor's campus transportation could one day run primarily on this form of renewable energy.

Ingredients in his experiment included a stock solution for the titration, which consisted of one liter of distilled water and one gram of catalyst, which is a Potassium Hydroxide solution. He also

DIVERSITY from Page 1

find it to be as attractive of a place to be because there aren't other diverse faculty there," Bennighof said.

The Baylor administration and each academic department have developed ways to recruit more gender and ethnically diverse faculty.

"When assembling the pool, we can make every attempt that we might want to make to get as diverse a pool as possible, but when we are deciding about who moves on to different levels, those decisions always need to be based on ability to perform the job duties," Bennighof said.

While attempts can be made to have diverse faculty, Bennighof said Baylor does not have any quotas in favor or against of diverse candidates.

tees, department chairs and deans all go through training sessions each year to learn fair and effective ways to recruit and retain diverse faculty.

"At those meetings we talk about a lot of things that have to do with effective search techniques ... how we can make for as diverse a pool as possible, in some cases how to avoid discriminating in favor of diverse populations, that's something you can't do either," Bennighof said.

Among these search techniques is current faculty knowledge of diverse candidates at other institutions, in school or in academic and professional organizations, and eliminating unconscious biases that the committees may have.

"A diverse faculty increases the likelihood that University will recruit diverse students, particu-

Report reveals bias in Ferguson

By ERIC TUCKER
ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON — A Justice Department investigation found sweeping patterns of racial bias within the Ferguson, Missouri, police department, with officers routinely discriminating against blacks by using excessive force, issuing petty citations and making baseless traffic stops, according to law enforcement officials familiar with its findings.

The report, which Ferguson city officials said would be released Wednesday, marks the culmination of a months-long investigation into a police department that federal officials have described as troubled and that commanded national attention after one of its officers shot and killed an unarmed black man, 18-year-old Michael Brown, last summer.

It chronicles discriminatory practices across the city's criminal justice system, detailing problems from initial encounters with patrol officers to treatment in the municipal court and jail. Federal law enforcement officials described its contents on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to speak publicly before the report is released.

The full report could serve as a road map for significant changes by the department, if city officials accept its findings. Past federal investigations of local police departments have encouraged overhauls of fundamental police procedures such as traffic stops and the use of service weapons. The Justice Department maintains the right to sue police departments that resist making changes.

The city of Ferguson released a statement acknowledging that Justice Department officials supplied a copy of the report to the mayor, city manager, police chief and city attorney during a private meeting Tuesday in downtown St. Louis.

The investigation, which began weeks after Brown's killing last August, is being released as Attorney General Eric Holder prepares to leave his job following a six-year tenure that focused largely on civil rights. The findings are based on interviews with police leaders and residents, a review of more than 35,000 pages of police records and analysis of data on stops, searches and arrests.

Federal officials found that black motorists from 2012 to 2014 were more than twice as likely as whites to be searched during traffic stops, even though they were 26 percent less likely to be found carrying contraband, according to a summary of the findings.



ASSOCIATED PRESS

A police tactical team moves in to disperse a group of protesters on Aug. 9, 2014 in Ferguson, Mo.

The review also found that blacks were 68 percent less likely than others to have their cases dismissed by a municipal court judge. And from April to September of last year, 95 percent of people kept at the city jail for more than two days were black, it found.

Of the cases in which the police department documented the use of force, 88 percent involved blacks, and of the 14 dog bites for which racial information is available, all 14 victims were black.

Overall, African-Americans make up 67 percent of the population of Ferguson, about 10 miles north of downtown St. Louis. The police department has been criticized as racially imbalanced and

not reflective of the community's demographic makeup. At the time of the shooting, just three of 53 officers were black, though the mayor has said he's trying to create a more diverse police force.

Brown's killing set off weeks of protests and initiated a national dialogue about police officers' use of force and their relations with minority communities.

The report says there is direct evidence of racial bias among police officers and court workers, and details a criminal justice system that issues citations for petty infractions such as walking in the middle of the street, putting the raising of revenue from fines ahead of public safety.

STEVENSON from Page 1

million people currently await the end of their sentences, or in the case of those who await execution, their lives.

Stevenson, an African-American, does not ignore the asymmetry in sentencing and execution of black people versus white people.

"In the states of the Old South, we execute people -- where you're 11 times more likely to get the death penalty if the victim is white than if the victim is black, 22 times more likely to get it if the defendant is black and the victim is white," Stevenson said.

When the speaker arrived he greeted the well-packed Waco Hall before quickly diving into his speech which he tailored for the Baylor audience.

"I get excited when I go to college campuses like Baylor because I believe that many of you come to college with something that's rare and precious, and that's heart, that's vision, that's hope," said Stevenson.

Stevenson said he hoped the words he imparted to the auditorium would inspire the audience to change the world.

Stevenson, now 55, grew up in rural Alabama during segregation until a group of lawyers forced the local high school to honor desegregation policies. Stevenson attended college in Pennsylvania before attending Harvard Law school. He said he was disappointed to find did not explore racial or socioeconomic injustice enough.

"I ultimately found my way to an organization providing legal services to people on death row and it opened up this new world where things were changing," Stevenson said.

Many of the people he represented were children. According to Stevenson there are currently 10,000 children serving time in an adult prison where they are eight times more likely to be raped.

"We've allowed this big gap to exist between where we are and where are most vulnerable children are," Stevenson said.

The Equal Justice Initiative provides legal counsel to those whom the criminal justice system fails. One of the most common reasons the justice system fails is

racial-bias, Stevenson said.

Stevenson said he attributes lingering injustice to the wounds of slavery and white-supremacy.

"We are heavily burdened by the legacy of racial inequality. This country has never really confronted the difficult challenges that have been created by our history of slavery and terrorism," Stevenson said. "I'm talking about slavery, because I think we are still haunted by it."

The Initiative released the Lynching in America report earlier this year documenting the 3959 people who were lynched between 1877-1950 including the 20 lynchings that took place in Waco between 1880 and 1920.

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Is it 'Appropriate'?

Baylor Theatre shines light on sin with newest award-winning play

By ALLIE MATHERNE
REPORTER

"Make them feel how uncomfortable you are — you think having the sex talk is hard? Try giving it," Stan Denman, director of upcoming play "Appropriate," told his cast during rehearsal Tuesday night.

It only seems atypical for a Baylor production, Denman said. The show is ultimately about sin — our ability to deal with our own and accept the depth of others', Denman said.

Tickets for Baylor Theatre's newest production, "Appropriate," went on sale earlier this week. The dark, comedic play scrapes the complexities of truth, forgiveness and grace.

"This play doesn't behave well," Denman said. "Too often, whether it's in our plays, movies or even churches, we believe that people need to dress right or speak right

before they are worthy of redemption."

"Appropriate" tells the story of three siblings' return to Southeast Arkansas to settle the estate

March 24-28, 7:30 p.m.
March 28 & 29, 2 p.m.

Tickets are \$18.

Purchase tickets at
www.baylor.edu/theatre.

of their father, who passed away. During this time they uncover things about their father's past that shock them. The artifacts linger as the characters try to decide what to do with them, Denman said.

"It's about the legacy of sin," Denman said.

If the objects are a part of their father's life, they are a part of theirs

by extension, Denman said.

It forces the characters to deal with the sin in their own lives, as well as the forgiveness of other people's sins, and shows the worst parts of humanity, said Aledo senior Jennifer Nickell, who plays a lead character named Toni.

"You have to show the fallen before you can show the redeemed," Denman said.

The story revolves around one fallen family, but typifies the emotions that an individual can feel about their own sin, Denman said.

"I hope [people] would leave respecting other people's stories more," said Los Angeles junior Devin Perry, who plays River. "It's so beautiful and powerful the depth that people feel and the amount people can ignore that depth. This story gives them a voice."

The playwright, Branden Jacobs-Jenkins, won an Obie award for the play in 2012. This award is given to off-Broadway produc-



KEVIN FREEMAN | LARIAT PHOTOGRAPHER

Tickets for Baylor Theatre's newest play, "Appropriate," went on sale Monday. Lucas McCutchen and Kat Wilson, as Rhys and Cassidy, (left) rehearsed parts of the production Monday night. Marco Munoz and Devin Perry, as Frank and River, were also present for the rehearsal. (bottom right)

tions; past recipients include Samuel Beckett and Morgan Freeman.

Sonora senior Colyer Dermody recalled a compelling quote made by his lead character, Bo: "I didn't choose to be white and Southern."

This moment in the play is significant because it shows the tension between choice and legacy, Dermody said.

"You've been handed a legacy of sin or a life of sin. Okay, what do you do with that?" Denman said. "How do I redeem that?"

Denman said the play appeals to the South — it is a relevant story that many people can resonate with.

The understanding that humans need to be redeemed is at the

core of humanity, he said.

"It resonates with all people, not just Christians," Denman said.

It is important that audience members realize that this is not expository preaching, Denman said. Good plays are a platform to begin the conversation.

"I want them to go away from the theater talking," Denman said.

Lewinsky shadows Clinton portrait

By MARYCLAIRE DALE
ASSOCIATED PRESS

PHILADELPHIA — A Philadelphia artist has disclosed that his museum portrait of former President Bill Clinton contains a shadow reference to Monica Lewinsky's infamous blue dress.

Nelson Shanks told the Philadelphia Daily News that a shadow beside Clinton is a literal reference to the dress and a nod to the shadow the affair cast on his presidency.

"If you look at the left-hand side of it there's a mantle in the Oval Office and I put a shadow coming into the painting," Shanks told the Phila-



Former President Bill Clinton, left, unveils his portrait with Lawrence M. Small, secretary of the Smithsonian Institution, on April 24, 2006.

delphia newspaper. "The Clintons hate the portrait," he said. "They want it removed from the National Portrait Gallery. They're putting a lot of pressure on them."

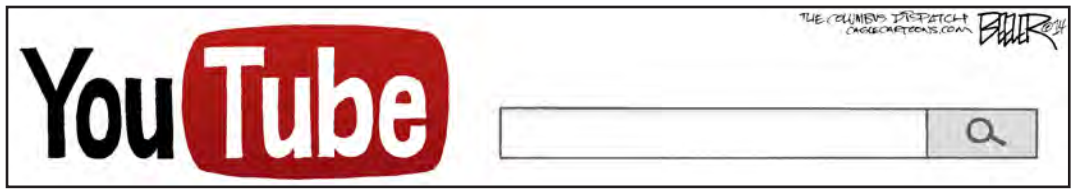
The National Portrait Gallery in Washington, D.C., commissioned the 2006 painting and had it on display until about three years ago. It's one of 55 images of Clinton that rotate on and off display, spokeswoman Bethany Bentley said.

She said she is unaware of any pressure from the Clintons to have it removed from the collection. Nor had she heard the artist previously comment on his use of imagery.

"That's the first time we've heard of those comments," Bentley said.

A Clinton spokesman did not immediately return an email message seeking comment.

The stained dress became a piece of evidence in Ken Starr's special investigation of the 42nd president.



TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

YouTube Music Awards to return

By GERRICK D. KENNEDY
LOS ANGELES TIMES (TNS)

After taking a year off, YouTube is set to bring back its awards show on March 23.

However, the format for the 2015 YouTube Music Awards is slightly different.

There are 50 winners, selected by number of views — so all those people who watched Beyoncé's selfie-driven video for "7/11" to learn the dance moves just helped her win an award. Rihanna, Taylor Swift, Drake, Kendrick Lamar, One Direction, Pentatonix, Lady Gaga, Sam Smith and Katy Perry are also among the winners.

Beyond clicks, winners also

showed the biggest growth in views, subscribers and engagement over the last six months on the popular video site. Collectively, the winners have more than 146 million subscribers and 44 billion views from 10 different countries.

Instead of a conventional award show — although it should be noted its inaugural 2013 event was far from conventional — YouTube will simultaneously premiere a collection of music videos from both emerging acts and some of the night's winners.

Ed Sheeran, Charli XCX, Migos, Martin Garrix, Max Schneider, Cahoots, Megan Nicole, Nicky Jam and Shamir will premiere videos directed by "some of the most

original music video directors alive today," according to a news release. YouTube has also tapped Vice Media to produce the online event.

The inaugural event was livestreamed from New York's Pier 36 — and it was a beautiful disaster.

Aside from honoring stars of viral videos, the show staged eight "live music videos" from the likes of Eminem, Arcade Fire, Lady Gaga and Tyler the Creator.

The show was completely unscripted. Gaga wept through one performance. One winner's envelope was buried in cake.

And there were crying babies. Despite the mess, or probably because of it, the show attracted 54 million views.

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DAILY PUZZLES

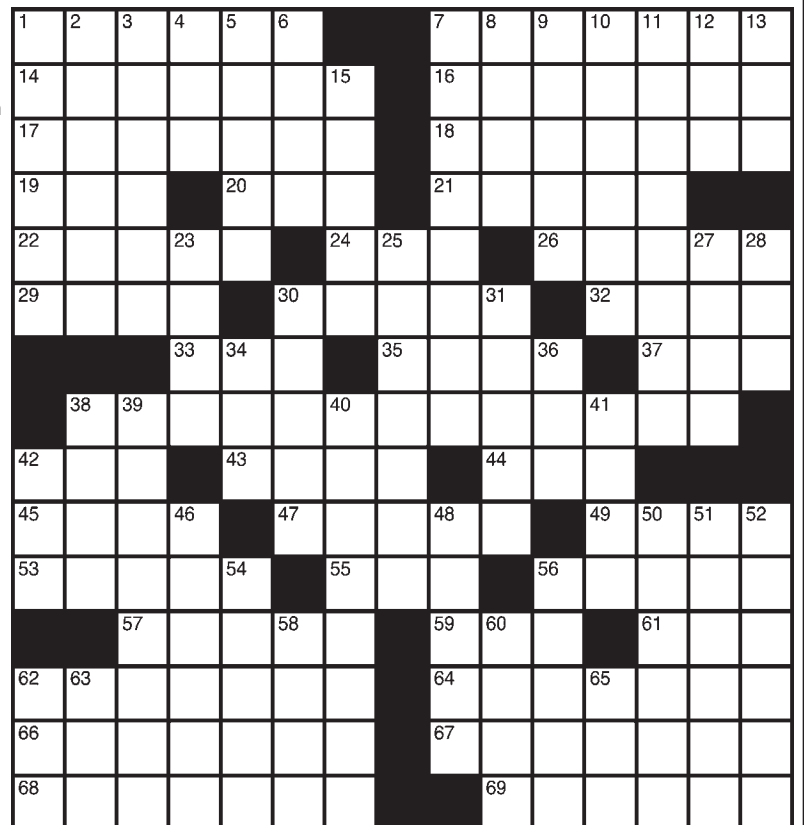
Answers at www.baylorlariat.com

Across

- With 69-Across, subject of this puzzle
- Portrayer of 1-/69-Across in "Sherlock Holmes" (2009)
- Not straying from the subject
- Satan
- "The Diary of Anne Frank" police
- Muscle-to-bone connectors
- Audio jack label
- Took charge of
- Wise folk
- Rewrite for the screen
- Set a price of
- Northern California town that once had a palindromic bakery
- Mentally sound
- Live, in the studio
- Kool-Aid instruction
- Ostrich kin
- "I ___ Fine": Beatles hit
- Antlered beast
- Portrayer of 1-/69-Across in the BBC's "Sherlock"
- World games org.
- A bit open
- "C'est la ___"
- Cry for seconds
- Battery end
- Rise dramatically
- Sticking point
- Game won by discarding all your cards
- Iditarod jacket
- Wood finish
- DKNY rival
- Press ___
- Dannon yogurt brand
- Natives of Tibet's capital
- Unlisted candidate
- Erode, as savings
- Portrayer of 1-/69-Across in CBS' "Elementary"
- See 1-Across

Down

- Rigid beliefs
- Tableware company named for a New York town



- ER diagnostic tool
- Day care attendee
- Eyeball-bending gallery display
- TV host Kelly
- Watercraft rider
- Eye layer containing the iris
- Dull-colored
- Senior officials
- It's brewed in infusers
- Political writer Coulter
- Director Anderson
- With 48-Down, 1-/69-Across creator Arthur
- Jury member
- Paella spice
- Ceramics oven
- Noah's flood insurance
- Message-spelling board
- Superman player Christopher
- Former Boston commuter org.
- "Welcome to Hawaii" gift
- Secure in a harbor
- Quotation puzzle
- Mork's sign-off
- Southwestern tableland
- Tough kid to handle
- 46 Thing
- See 15-Down
- Mork's people
- Quite like
- Gives away to the cops
- "Sold!" punctuator
- Spanish silver
- Four, on some sundials
- "Major Barbara" playwright
- Hole-making tool
- French wine word
- "Grab a chair"

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Difficulty: Difficult

	3		6	8				
2								1
		4		2		6		9
		1						4
8	2		4		3		6	
	5				1			
6	8		1		5			
	1							8
			6	9		2		

No. 5 tennis sweeps TCU

By **CODY SOTO**
SPORTS WRITER

The Baylor vs. TCU rivalry is alive and well, but for the No. 5 men's tennis team, the argument is one sided. The Bears swept the Horned Frogs 4-0 Tuesday night at the Hawkins Indoor Tennis Center for their 15th-straight win over TCU.

The Bears (10-2, 1-0 Big 12) were shaky in the beginning of doubles play, and the Horned Frogs looked in control midway through the match when Baylor trailed 3-1 on each court. The Bears fought back and used the energy coming off the rafters at the Hawkins Indoor Tennis Center.

"They absolutely jumped on us in doubles," head coach Matt Knoll said. "They have a great doubles tradition at TCU, and their guys were more aggressive and decisive at the beginning. All three courts dug in and got tough."

It sounded like an old-fashioned yelling contest between Baylor and TCU fans, and junior Felipe Rios and sophomore Vince Schneider stirred up the crowd with a three-game comeback to take a 6-4 win on court three.

After that, seniors Mate Zsiga and Tony Lupieri dropped a close 6-4 loss on court one to No. 20 pairing of Nick Chappell and Will Stein to tie up doubles, forcing court two to decide the doubles point.

After being down 3-1, senior Diego Galeano and junior Julian Lenz fought back to tie up the score 4-4. Lenz slammed the ball at the net and sent it soaring in the stands for the exciting 6-4 win, giving the Bears their 12th-straight doubles point of the season.

"We got off to a slow start in doubles," Zsiga said. "We had to pick it up. It was a good test; it helped us realize that we've got to step up from the first point."

The momentum was knocked out of the Horned Frogs at the beginning of singles play, and Baylor kept

on top of their opponents quickly. While the crowd still erupted after each big play, the Bears also showed their emotions on the court.

Rios looked unstoppable in his opening set. His decision making at the net forced TCU's Trevor Johnson to hit too many long shots, and the Vina Del Mar, Chile native walked off court six with a dominant 6-0, 6-2 win for the 2-0 Baylor lead.

"Felipe getting off the court early was big for us," Knoll said. "Momentum plays a big role in matches, and we got off quick there 2-0. It puts a lot of pressure on the team, and we rode that momentum."

Sophomore Max Tchoutakian shook off his two-set loss on Sunday and played a competitive match on court three. No. 40 Tchoutakian gave up three straight games after leading 5-0 in the opening set but closed out the set in a memorable fashion. He won four straight games in the second set to win 6-3, 6-2 to push Baylor out to the 3-0 lead over TCU.

Fans had to wait awhile longer to figure out who would deliver the final point for the Bears. Schneider took a big 6-4 win on court four but fell in set two which forced him to play a third and final set. No. 23 Lupieri dropped his opening set 6-3 but forced a third set on court two while No. 11 Lenz was fighting off No. 28 Cameron Norrie on court one.

Zsiga delivered the final punch in the in-state rival matchup on court five. The 6-foot-2 senior dominated the opening set and didn't drop a single game heading into set two. No. 110 Facundo Lugones changed up his speed and took an early advantage, but Zsiga outlasted the TCU player for the match-clinching 6-0, 6-4 win.

"In the second set, he slowed it down and I had a hard time there," Zsiga said. "It was really close, but it was a challenge. I had to serve really well and got some good first serves when I needed it. It was really good because he pushed me, and it brought the best out of me."



SKYE DUNCAN | LARIAT PHOTO EDITOR

Senior Mate Zsiga returns a ball during Baylor's match against No. 11 Virginia on Sunday. The Bears opened Big 12 Conference play with a win after sweeping in-state rival TCU.

Longhorns announce ticket plan

ASSOCIATED PRESS

AUSTIN, Texas — Getting the best seats for University of Texas sporting events will be based on a new loyalty points system tied to how much a fan donates or spends on tickets.

The school on Tuesday said the plan won't affect current season ticket holders or their seats. But it will be used to reward top loyalty earners when new seats or special event tickets, such as bowl games, or other postseason or high-demand events.

The 2015 football season tickets will be the first use for loyalty points. Totals are based on full-season ticket history, seat-related contributions and philanthropic gifts.

Renewing foundation and season-ticket members earn points from past contributions and purchases since 1986. That's when the Longhorn Foundation was established.

Five points are awarded per \$100 contribution for philanthropic gifts received since Sept. 1. One point will be awarded per \$100 contribution for all ticketed sports since 1987.

Lady Bears buck rebuilding in surprise Big 12 title season

By **JEFFREY SWINDOLL**
SPORTS WRITER

Baylor women's basketball has been one of the most consistent sports in the school's athletic program in past six years or so. It seemed as if those high points would be counter-balanced with rebuilding years.

With a young, undeveloped team, a Big 12 conference championship was not really in the script for the Lady Bears this season. Yet, just a few days removed from the Lady Bears clinching the Big 12 regular season title with every reason to believe Baylor head coach Kim Mulkey can lead her team to another deep run in the NCAA tournament in a couple weeks.

Mulkey admitted she had no idea how she would line up her team this season. She knew she had great players like sophomore forward Nina Davis and junior guard Niya Johnson, but even how those players would contribute was in question at the beginning of the season. It was like Mulkey was opening puzzle for the first time this season and started by searching for the corner pieces to frame the solution.

At first Mulkey was distraught by the issue of her team not being an overly vocal group. She searched for a flag-bearer to no avail. This was a bit of blessing disguise that become an overarching theme for the Lady Bears this season.

"I don't have just that one dominant player, that one big leader. So they're all just kind of chipping in and doing their part," Mulkey said. "Improvement is shown in a lot of areas, but we still have a long way to go. Sometimes I have to make people and myself realize we're [ranked in the top 10], [27-3], but my gosh we're still young and still have so much more to improve on. We'll just keep working, keep recruiting and hope to stay up there and maintain the level we're used to playing at."

If one was to pinpoint exactly who the impact players were for the Lady Bears this season, they would probably end up on sophomore Nina Davis and junior guard Niya Johnson. Mulkey used seven different starting lineups in the 2014-15 season, but those two



SKYE DUNCAN | LARIAT PHOTO EDITOR

Head coach Kim Mulkey and her staff applaud their team during the Lady Bears' 79-51 win over the Mountaineers on Feb. 15 at the Ferrell Center. Baylor won its fifth-straight Big 12 Championship in 2014-15.

players started every game. Much of the Lady Bears success this season rested on the shoulders of Davis and Johnson.

Davis completed a record-breaking season for herself in many areas this year. She averaged approximately 20 points a game, scoring in double figures 29 times in 30 games, 18 of which were 20 or more points. Johnson leads the country in assists and broke single-season records in the Big 12 and on Baylor's all-time list of assists.

Baylor's attack needed more than just two players doing the work though. The Lady Bears would

not have been successful without the improvement of the rest of the roster, Mulkey said. Freshmen players like Kristy Wallace and Dekeiya Cohen ended up being staples in the Lady Bears' lineup. Wallace earned a starting role early on in the season and maintained it for the most part. Cohen impressed Mulkey with her reserve minutes at the ends of games so much that she eventually functioned as a favored alternative for the semi-injured senior post Sune Agbuke.

Sophomores Imani Wright and Khadijah Cave also played big parts in the Lady Bears' extraordinary season. Returning from a season in the shadows cast

by Odyssey Sims and Makenzie Robertson last year, Wright was given room to blossom this year in a more open field of point guards.

Wright had clearly improved her jump-shot from last season and increased her confidence level. Cave often found herself in the starting lineup because of her athletic superiority over Agbuke and junior post Kristina Higgins.

"The gelling has been tremendous. This team, they are who they are," Mulkey said. "What I mean by that is sometimes as a coach you can make them more vocal. You can make them talk more. You can help them become a leader. This one challenges me because they're very low-key, but they're competitive. So I can't misread a Nina or a Niya and think they're not competitive and giving their all."

The Lady Bears faltered in two of their final three games, snapping an unprecedented 25-game winning streak and an undefeated run in conference-play. Both conference losses came after the Lady Bears had already clinched the Big 12 title.

"You're going to see [fatigue] this time of year," Mulkey said. "You have desperate teams who have to play out of their mind to host, to even get to go to the tournament, not to mention that there's Baylor across the front of the jersey. Not to mention that we already won the championship. There are so many things I could come up with - youth. Maybe I'm tired. Maybe the team's tired. I don't know, but it's not anything any different than you see happening everywhere."

The Lady Bears are the No. 1 seed in the 2015 Big 12 Conference Tournament hosted at the American Airlines Center in Dallas. The Lady Bears look to win their fifth-straight conference tournament title.

"I have trust in my teammates and I believe we're ready for the post-season," Davis said. "Honestly, we don't have a choice. It's here now. We can be beat on any given night, which I think we've opened our eyes to in last few games. I just feel that at the young age that we're at that you shouldn't be tired. You should be excited to play in this part of the season. This is what you live for. It's 'March Madness.'"



SKYE DUNCAN | LARIAT PHOTO EDITOR

Davis named Naismith semifinalist

Junior forward Nina Davis goes up for a basket during the Lady Bears' 79-51 win over the Mountaineers on Feb. 15 at the Ferrell Center. Davis was just named a semifinalist for the Naismith Trophy as the top player in women's basketball. The Memphis product is one of 10 finalists and the only one Big 12.

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