

Baylor Lariat

WE'RE THERE WHEN YOU CAN'T BE

FEBRUARY 23, 2018


FRIDAY

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Public Access


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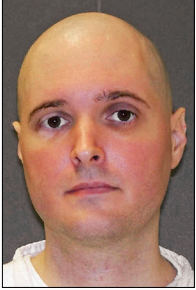
Coach Mulkey is a finalist for the Naismith Hall of Fame.

Death to Life

Former student now faces life prison sentence

DIDI MARTINEZ
Digital Managing Editor

With the fate of an inmate on death row in his hands, Gov. Greg Abbott has decided to grant clemency to Thomas “Bart” Whitaker who was scheduled for execution Thursday.



Thomas “Bart” Whitaker

The governor’s decision was made at 4:55 p.m. yesterday — almost one hour before Bart Whitaker’s execution via lethal injection was scheduled to take place.

The decision was placed on the governor after the Texas Board of Pardons and Paroles unanimously voted in favor of clemency for the 38-year-old inmate. At the time, Bart Whitaker’s attorney, Keith Hampton said he feared the opportunity to spare Whitaker’s life would “close rapidly” should the governor deny the move but was “hopeful” that Abbott would rule in favor of the board’s recommendation.

Bart Whitaker was initially sentenced to death after it was revealed that he planned to have his family killed through a staged burglary and murder-for-hire scheme in order to receive a \$1.5 million inheritance, according to court documents. The December 2003 incident took place after the family had returned home from celebrating Bart Whitaker’s graduation from Sam Houston State University — the school he had transferred to after attending Baylor University in 2011, but never actually graduated from. At the house two of Bart Whitaker’s friends, Chris Brashear and Steve Champagne, staged the robbery and Brashear opened fire, killing Bart Whitaker’s 53-year-old mother, Patricia Whitaker, and 19-year-old brother, Kevin Whitaker. Only Bart Whitaker and his father Kent Whitaker survived the attack.

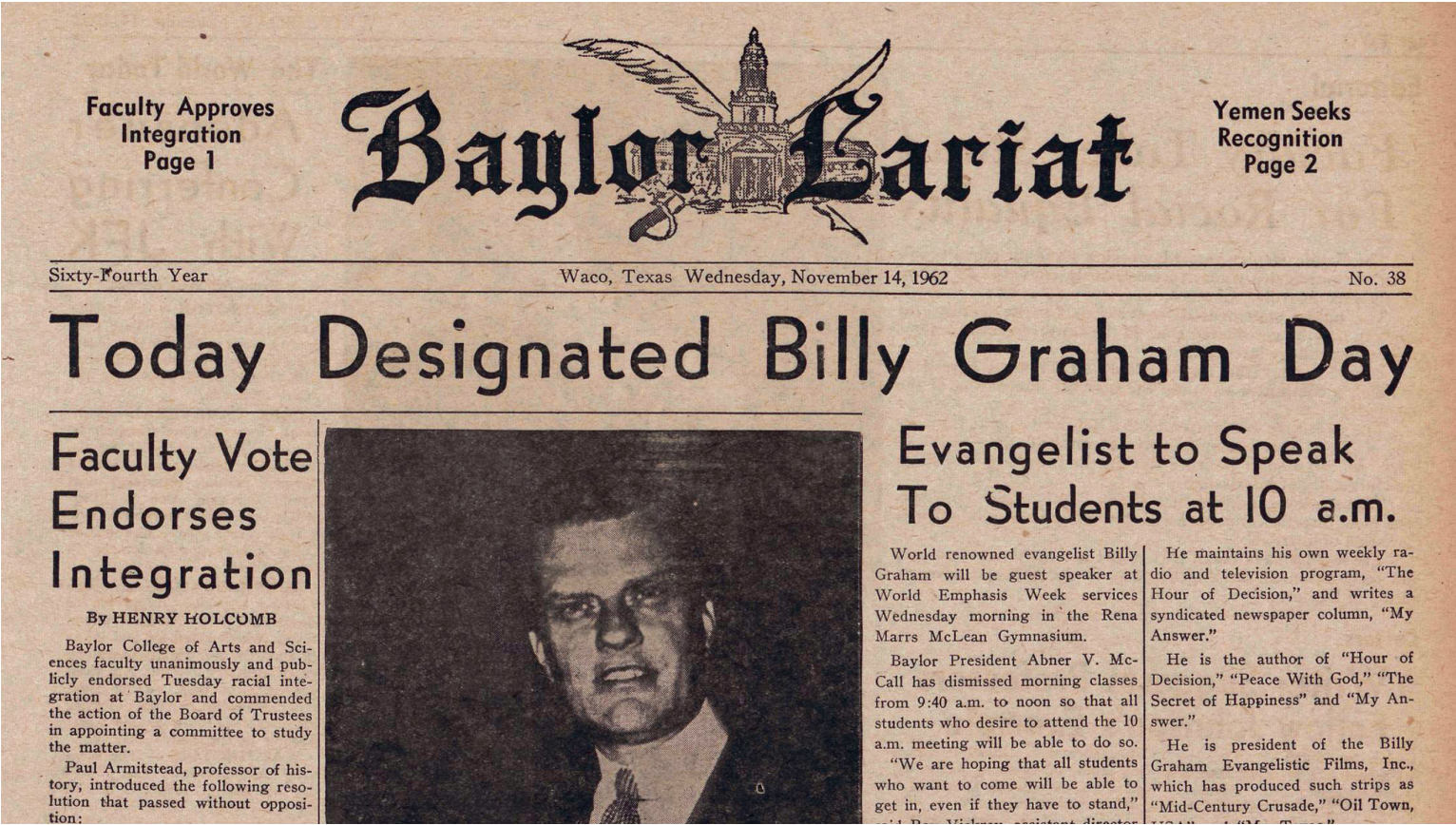
But around 5:20 p.m. today, Hampton got the call that he had been waiting for, and said he was the first person to deliver the news to the convict’s father, who has been at the forefront of the battle for his son’s life.

“I’m glad the governor followed the recommendation and did the right thing,” Hampton wrote to the Lariat via email.

As for the inmate, Bart Whitaker told prison officials he is “thankful.”

“I’m thankful for this

CRIME >> Page 4



LOOKING BACK When Billy Graham spoke at Baylor in 1962, classes were dismissed from 9:40 a.m. to noon so students could attend. The service was held in Marrs McLean Gymnasium because it could hold 1,500 more people than Waco Hall, but it still filled to capacity.

America’s pastor left big impact on BU

THOMAS MORAN
Staff Writer

After humble beginnings growing up on a dairy farm in Charlotte, N.C., no one could have predicted that William “Billy” Franklin Graham Jr. would become the most influential Christian evangelist of the 20th century. Remembered fondly by the Baylor community and millions of followers, Graham passed away Wednesday at the age of 99.

Graham’s health had been declining for several years and he

died from natural causes in his home in Montreat, N.C.

Baylor President Dr. Linda Livingstone released a statement, sharing her condolences with Graham’s family members and highlighting the close relationship between the university and the notable religious figure.

“We are deeply grieved to learn that the Rev. Billy Graham has passed away, yet we rejoice that he has been called home as a good and faithful servant of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ,” Livingstone

said. “He spoke of the University’s commitment to faith and learning and to helping our students understand their responsibility to be the hands and feet of Christ and serve others throughout the world, a commitment to which Baylor remains faithful.”

According to his website, Graham first felt called toward evangelism at the age of 15 after attending a series of local revival meetings lead by traveling evangelist. After being ordained a Southern Baptist minister and completing his education, Graham married his wife Ruth,

with whom he would have five children. Graham pastored several different communities and began to gain momentum as an evangelist, preaching throughout the United States and in Europe.

In 1949, Graham led a revival in Los Angeles that would launch his ministry toward unprecedented success. Now called “The Los Angeles Crusade,” the meetings were originally scheduled for a span of three weeks but a nightly overflow of crowds filling the tent motivated

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Sadie Perry
Niwot, Colo. sophomore



Kayla Kemp
Copperas Cove senior



Lucinda Yang
Charleston, Tenn.,
doctoral candidate



Elijah Tanner,
Keller theology student

“The only thing that I heard about his passing was in a quote on Instagram about living on in heaven after death, and I thought that related to him and was really impactful because he really tried to point out through his life that we’re alive eternally through the lord.”

“I got the chance to go to his legacy museum, and I think it’s a testament to his impact on the world and just how much God was able to use him. It’s a different time, and I don’t think we’ll see someone who had such an impact on the world in an honorable way like he did in our lifetime.”

“I think his death is a great time for the newer generations to pay respects to his legacy. Graham is one of the few people in popular culture who was really devoted to living a life of integrity. In his 99 years, there was no scandal or drama. He just really lived life for the Lord.”

“He really impacted my parent’s generation. My whole family was talking about [Graham’s passing], and my mom sent me a text and a link to an article about it. I grew up hearing about Graham, but I’m not really familiar with his sermons.”

16 defendants added to fraternity lawsuit

MICAELA FREEMAN
Staff Writer

Sixteen defendants have been added to the lawsuit against a Baylor University fraternity regarding an alleged rape that occurred at an off-campus Phi Delta Theta party in February 2016.

The civil lawsuit, which now includes a total of 24 Phi Delta Theta affiliated defendants, was filed in the 414th State District Court on Feb. 8. That list includes the

local and national chapters of the fraternity and students who were officers of the Baylor chapter.

According to the arrest affidavit, the victim, called Donna Doe in the civil suit, said a man took her “to a secluded part of the grounds behind a tent in order to get some air ... once away from everyone else attending the party” and sexually assaulted her.

The suit alleges the fraternity’s members at the incident were negligent,

allowing Donna Doe to be drugged, “failing to discover, develop and/or implement basic safeguards designed to prevent and/or minimize incidents of sexual assault,” and “failing to have adequate policies and procedures in place to prevent the provision of alcohol to persons under the age of 21.”

One of those named as a defendant is Jacob Walter Anderson, a former Baylor student who was president of Phi Delta Theta at the time of the incident. Anderson was

arrested and later indicted on four counts of sexual assault and is awaiting trial. He is currently out of jail on a \$5,000 bond.

In May 2016, Phi Delta Theta suspended its Baylor chapter after the indictment of Anderson and the incident.

University Spokeswoman Lori Fogleman said six of the 16 new defendants are current Baylor students, nine are Baylor graduates and one is a former student.

Fogleman said Baylor is not a party in the suit

and therefore the university declines to comment.

The McLennan County District Clerk’s office has not been notified that any of the defendants have hired attorneys at this point.

The Lariat reached out to Phi Delta Theta’s national chapter for a comment and was not able to receive one by the time of publication.

The lawsuit is asking for more than \$1 million in damages for physical injury, mental anguish and pain and suffering.

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GOT SOMETHING TO SAY?

We want to hear it. Send us your thoughts: LariatLetters@baylor.edu

EDITORIAL

True Transparency

Baylor Board of Regents should adopt an open meetings policy

As a private institution, Baylor’s obligation to Texas law differs from that of a public university’s concerning the rules and regulations that govern open meeting policies. This directly relates to Baylor’s Board of Regents, which to this day conducts its meetings behind closed doors. Just because Baylor’s Board of Regents is not strictly bound to Texas’s open meeting laws does not mean Baylor should not adhere to them, anyway.

The Board held its first meeting of the year last Friday in the Hankamer/Cashion Academic Center. Behind closed doors, the Board discussed the implementation of Phase II of Baylor’s Pro Futuris vision, which included the Academic Strategic Plan called “Illuminate” and President Dr. Linda A. Livingstone’s future goals for the university.

In contrast, a Baylor Magazine article outlined the Feb. 17, 2017 Board of Regents meeting, claiming the Board approved multiple measures for increased transparency: “The Baylor Board of Regents adopted new bylaws at their February meeting that will improve University governance by increasing diversity among the Regents, provide voting privileges to a second-term student Regent and give the public a more complete view of Board operations and decisions.”

A statement from then Board chair Ronald D. Murff further captured the regents’ vision. “Combined with the changes we’ve already made, these actions today will make Baylor’s governance model one of the most responsive and transparent of any major private university,” it read.

In years prior, the transparency of the board was a hot topic of debate. In 2016, nearing the climax of Baylor’s sexual assault scandal, a perceived lack of transparency among the governing board motivated individuals to build a platform equipped to tackle and inspire change. The “Bears for Leadership Reform” organization, which generated a large following of Baylor alumni, donors, faculty and students in 2016, set out to “cure the culture of secrecy that surrounds the current Board,” stating further that, “There has been too much secrecy and innuendo. We do not fear the truth and demand that the Baylor Board of Regents and administration provide total transparency about these issues.”

Since BLR’s foundation, the Board has increased its transparency as a governing body, at least to a certain degree. Beginning Feb. 17, 2017, the Board began to record and release the minutes of the board meetings on Baylor’s website, in addition to releasing agendas prior to meetings. The Board also began to host news conferences after each meeting, and, according to the Lariat’s coverage at the time, designated that of the two student regents, the one serving the second year of the two-year term would serve as a member of the board with full voting rights.

The minutes of the board meetings, however, are disappointingly vague. Outlined in numbered bullet points, each category features a generalized and condensed version of that which was discussed. This is evident in, for example, the minutes for Oct. 20, 2017’s meeting, which states the meeting was called to order at 8 a.m. and later adjourned at 11:50 a.m. With only eight bullet points highlighting the topics discussed in a nearly 3-hour time span, the lack of transparency is evident. Even if the Board adopted an open meetings policy, regents would still have the ability to go into closed executive session, as they do now when documenting minutes, in order to maintain a balance between transparency and efficiency.

The minutes of the February 2017 meeting did not mention an increased intention to improve the public’s view of the Board’s operations despite a clear correlation between changes to the Board and discontent from Baylor alumni, faculty and students. However, the minutes did address “the Governance Task Force recommendations from a student standpoint, in particular the omission of the student Regents being given a vote on the Board.”

Moving forward, the Board should make every effort to promote complete transparency by opening its doors to the public in a similar manner to that of a public university, such as the University of Texas at Austin.

The University of Texas Systems website, which outlines UT’s guidelines for open meetings for governing bodies, states in



Rewon Shimray | Cartoonist

clear terms: “The Open Meetings Act (Texas Government Code, Chapter 551) provides that meetings of governmental bodies must be open to the public except for expressly authorized executive sessions.” Baylor is conveniently exempt from these laws, as the act is “premised on providing full notice of public business.” Baylor, a private institution, can thus construct its guidelines for

meetings according mostly to its own standards and values for transparency.

Compared to UT, Baylor lags far behind the standards for transparency demanded of public institutions. Section one of Rule 10403 of the UT Regents’ rules and regulations, which was approved 14 years ago in 2004, declares that “Meetings of the Board of Regents shall be open to the public, unless otherwise determined by the Board, in accordance with law.” In addition to mere openness and transparency, section three of Rule 10403 allows members of the public to exercise their voice and express their opinions during UT’s meetings:

“Members of the public are allowed to present written and oral testimony, for a reasonable amount of time as determined by the Chairman of the Board, on any topic listed on the agenda for a Committee or Board meeting that is open to the public.”

This contrasts greatly with Baylor’s policies. Even with increased efforts to appease frustrated individuals in 2017, the Board stands firm in its decision to operate in a manner void of

public witness.

Even Randy Ferguson, co-chair of BLR’s research and policy committee and former regent, told the Lariat in 2017, “We are not proposing to follow the open meeting pact that public universities have to follow.”

Interestingly, “confidentiality” is listed under the Board of Regents’ statement of commitment and responsibilities for each of its members.

After the February 2017 Board of Regents meeting, the president of Bears for Leadership Reform, John Eddie Williams, released a statement expressing his dissatisfaction with the regents’ application of the governance recommendations.

“We are deeply disappointed that the Baylor Board of Regents did not adopt more comprehensive reforms,” Williams’ statement read. “These changes are baby steps, not the real reform the Baylor family wants or deserves from its leadership in response to this crisis.”

Baylor has improved in recent years, given a number of influential factors, including an increased level of concern among Baylor affiliates. In large part, when the people raised their voices in 2016 and 2017, Baylor heard them out.

It is now February 2018, and little has changed since improvements were made nearly one year ago. The changes established in February of last year are not far-reaching enough when it comes to affirming true transparency.

The Lariat does not intend solely to criticize the institution which it ultimately relies upon and cares for. If a person truly cares about something, they will want that something to be the best it can be and to live up to high standards. Care about Baylor we do; therefore, we call upon its leaders to raise the bar of transparency and to a higher degree than once was — than currently is.

As a publication, we simply wish to exercise our freedom to call out governing bodies by means of the press, on behalf of the voices of the general public. To demand better of our leaders, especially given the failures and missteps of recent years, is not only justifiable, it is for the greater good of a people and of Baylor Nation. Transparency is not just the cry of the press; it is the cry of the public.

“The minutes of the board meetings, however, are disappointingly vague. Outlined in numbered bullet points, each category features a generalized and condensed version of that which was discussed.”

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Contact Us

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

Sports and Arts:
LariatArts@baylor.edu
LariatSports@baylor.edu

Advertising inquiries:
Lariat_Ads@baylor.edu
254-710-3407

Opinion

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Lariat Letters

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

Global Baylor plan aims to encourage worldly students

THOMAS MORAN
Staff Writer

Exciting initiatives designed to enhance Baylor’s global engagement will begin this spring through a new Quality Enhancement Plan.

Dr. Wesley Null, vice provost for undergraduate education and institutional effectiveness, said Baylor is evaluated and reaccertified through the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools every 10 years.

“They look at approximately 100 different areas that all accredited institutions to uphold, “principles of accreditation as they’re called,” Null said.

One of the principles that the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools evaluates is new creative ideas and programs the school is working to implement. To fulfill this standard, Baylor’s Office of Institutional Effectiveness announced this 10-year cycle’s Quality Enhancement Program, “Global Baylor: Addressing Challenges to Human Flourishing.”

The Global Baylor Quality Enhancement Program was designed to promote internationalization and global engagement among the Baylor community. Global Baylor looks to reach these goals through four primary initiatives: Global Challenges, Enhanced International Travel Experiences, Diversity Abroad and Global Baylor.

The first initiative, Global Challenges, seeks to increase student exposure to and understanding of global equity and human flourishing. The Quality Enhancement Program will focus on particular world-wide issues to promote student engagement with global challenges, starting with global health.

Dr. Jeffrey Hamilton, vice provost for global engagement, was closely involved with the process. In his view, global health is a pertinent topic for all academic disciplines and will hopefully promote student involvement in every department.

“In fact, there were discussions that started initially with deans across campus, faculty senate and a lot of different constituencies about what would be something that fit into Baylor’s mission and enhance academics and learning on campus,” Hamilton said.

Enhanced International Travel Experiences, the second initiative, will provide more travel and missions opportunities with a greater emphasis on experiential learning and for now, global health.

For example, Hamilton said the anthropology department will lead a trip to Chiang Mai, Thailand this summer to study illnesses that can transfer between animals and humans, also called zoonotic diseases. The group will focus primarily on elephant populations.

Students who attend any study abroad trip will be required to take a one credit hour on intercultural competence during their program at no additional cost to them, Hamilton said.

“The idea is that while you’re abroad, whether it’s your whole semester or a faculty-led program in the summer, we want you to be processing your experience while it’s happening,” Hamilton said. “We want them to be thinking about what’s happening while they’re there. What’s happening to them in terms of, perhaps, their career choices? What’s happening to them in their understanding of other cultures and their own culture?”

The third initiative, Diversity Abroad, will make travel and mission trips more accessible to first generation students, students of color and students from other diverse or underrepresented backgrounds. Scholarship

opportunities and innovative models for international experiences will support the initiative.

Global Baylor, the final initiative in the new Quality Enhancement Program, is geared to highlight international events and opportunities on Baylor’s campus while supporting a more consistent narrative of global engagement throughout the community. Global Baylor will help promote speakers and events coming to campus to advocate for inter-cultural competence and understanding.

Global health will be the primary focus for the next four years, Hamilton said. Whatever pertinent issues are present at the end of that period will be considered for the next emphasis.

The new Quality Enhancement Program has been under development for the past several years. Once the Office of Intellectual Effectiveness chose Global Baylor the topic, Hamilton headed the process of gathering a steering committee and drafting the Quality

Enhancement Program plan during the 2015-16 school year. The first draft was later made public to gain input and hear critique from the larger Baylor community. In December 2017, the Provost endorsed the proposal and Global Baylor has now been submitted to the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools’ for their on-campus review in April.

Null was integral to the broader, campus-wide evaluation process and helped plan campus reports for the Southern Association

of Colleges and Schools reaffirmation of accreditation. Global Baylor is one of many factors that Null helped develop and coordinate in preparation for the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools review.

The lengthy process will ultimately provide a more transformational education for students who are actively engaged in the Global Baylor initiatives.


“We want to provide educational experiences that go beyond academics,” Hamilton said. “You do have to face the

fact that the world is complex. There are different cultures, different languages. The world isn’t going to adapt to you. You have to adapt to it. But by doing that, you’ll become a stronger individual in a variety of ways academically, socially, spiritually.”

Null and Hamilton hope that Global Baylor will have a lasting impact on Baylor University and that global engagement will become a more integrated part of Baylor’s identity.

What’s Happening on Campus?









Sundown Weekend

-  **Friday, Feb. 23**
Sundown Sessions: Thor: Ragnarok, Blacklight Bowling
9 p.m. to 1 a.m. Join Student Activities in Barfield Drawing Room for showings of *Thor: Ragnarok* at 9 p.m. and 11 p.m. Enjoy Blacklight Bowling all evening in the Baylor Gameroom.
-  **Saturday, Feb. 24**
Sundown Sessions: Western Mini Golf, Blacklight Bowling
9 p.m. to 1 a.m. Bring your putt-putt skills to Barfield Drawing Room for Western Mini Golf. Blacklight Bowling available all evening in the Baylor Gameroom.
-  **Saturday, Feb. 24**
Soccer Season Opener
2 p.m. The Lady Bears are back for their spring opener against the Houston Baptist Huskies at Betty Lou Mays Field.
-  **Saturday, Feb. 24**
No. 1 Acrobatics and Tumbling v. No. 2 Oregon
7 p.m. The reigning national champion Acrobatics and Tumbling team will host the Oregon Ducks at the Ferrell Center.

Celebrate Black History Month

-  **Monday, Feb. 26**
“My Encounters with Martin Luther King Jr. and Malcolm X”
3:30 p.m. The Department of History presents John H. Bracey Jr., PhD, University of Massachusetts at Amherst, in Kayser Auditorium, Hankamer Academic Building.
-  **Tuesday, Feb. 27**
The Lost Tapes: Malcolm X
4 p.m. This Smithsonian Channel film tells the story of the man who, by any means necessary, willingly put his life at risk to bring change and equality to black America. The preview screening will take place in Kayser Auditorium, Hankamer Academic Building. A Q&A will follow.

For a full schedule of events, visit baylor.edu/multicultural.

-  **Monday, Feb. 26**
Movie Mondays: I, Tonya
7 p.m. Visit the downtown Waco Hippodrome for a free screening of the Oscar-nominated film, *I, Tonya*. Tickets are required for entry and can be picked up with a student ID at the Hippodrome Box Office or Baylor Ticket Office.
-  **Monday, Feb. 26**
Women’s Basketball v. West Virginia
8 p.m. The Lady Bears will shoot for an undefeated conference record as they take on West Virginia for the last home game of the season at the Ferrell Center.
-  **Tuesday, Feb. 27**
Anna Villarreal, LifeStory Health
3:30 p.m. Anna Villarreal, founder and CEO of LifeStory Health and strong advocate for women’s healthcare, will present “Novel Approaches to Diagnosis and Treatment of Women’s Disease” in Room D109 of the Baylor Sciences Building.
-  **Tuesday, Feb. 27**
Bella Voce with Men’s Choir
7:30 p.m. The *Bella Voce* women’s ensemble will perform alongside the Men’s Choir, in preparation for the upcoming ACDA Southwest Division Conference, in Jones Concert Hall, Glennis McCrary Music Building.
-  **Tuesday, Feb. 27**
Men’s Basketball v. Oklahoma
8 p.m. The Bears will make a push for the NCAA tournament as they take on the Oklahoma Sooners at the Ferrell Center for their last home game.
-  **Wednesday, Feb. 28**
Federal Day
2 p.m. to 6 p.m. Learn about career paths with the federal government and network with agency professionals in the second-floor lobby of the BDSC.
-  **Wednesday, Feb. 28**
Liberated: The New Sexual Revolution
7 p.m. Attend a showing of this documentary film that explores attitudes about dating, the “hookup culture” and interpersonal violence. Screening will take place at the Waco Hippodrome, followed by a panel discussion with the film’s producers, including associate professor Sarah Jane Murray, PhD.
-  **Thursday, March 1**
Sam Houston the Texas Legend
11 a.m. Celebrate Sam Houston’s 225th birthday and Texas Independence Day at the Mayborn Museum as history enthusiast Clifton Robinson educates and entertains with stories of the Republic of Texas.



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GRAHAM from Page 1

Graham to continue the revival for a total of eight weeks.

From that point on, his success in spreading the Gospel grew exponentially until the end of his career as an evangelist. Before his retirement, Graham is estimated to have preached live to around 215 million individuals in more than 185 countries and territories around the world. He reached hundreds of millions more through his presence on television and his authorship of countless books and publications.

Dr. Todd Still, a Christian Heritage professor for Baylor’s George W. Truett Theological Seminary, said he remembers Graham’s rise to world renown.

“I remember as a young child hearing Billy Graham on television and found his message magnetic,” Still said. “I remember from my earliest days to his dying day thinking how grateful I was for someone who preached the gospel so clearly, so simple, so accessibly, so faithfully and so impactfully.”

In Still’s view, it was Graham’s unmatched accessibility and conviction of speech that made him such an effective preacher and revivalist — a skill that would eventually allow him to influence some of the most powerful individuals in the world.

After his first meeting with President Harry Truman, Graham would go on to counsel and minister to several presidents of the United States, including former Presidents Richard Nixon, Jimmy Carter and Ronald Reagan. Graham’s lasting impact on the presidents is reflected in their statements released since his passing.

“Tirelessly spreading a message of fellowship and hope, he shaped the spiritual lives of tens of millions of people worldwide,” Carter said in a press release. “Broad-minded, forgiving, and humble in his treatment of others, he exemplified the life of Jesus Christ by constantly reaching out for opportunities to serve. He had an enormous influence on my own spiritual life, and I was pleased to count Reverend Graham among my advisers and friends.”

President Donald Trump called Graham “God’s Ambassador,” offering his condolences to the Graham family. This is just one of the many titles and labels Graham earned throughout his remarkable life. An impressive 55 times, Gallup Organization counted him among the “Ten Most Admired Men in the World.” Graham earned other unofficial label and titles through his ministry, not the least of which was as an advocate for racial equality.

Graham, who considered Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. a close friend, was open in his opposition to segregation and racism. Graham lead a series of crusades in Alabama and emphasized the importance of racial equality throughout the meetings. King praised



DYNAMIC EVANGELIST Billy Graham spoke at chapel in 1951 as part of a tour of Texas towns sponsored by the Baptist General Convention of Texas.

Graham’s anti-racism efforts and credited him with helping reduce racial tension in the South.

“Christianity is not a white man’s religion and don’t let anybody tell you that it’s white or black,” Graham said during the Civil Rights Movement. “Christ belongs to all people; He belongs to the whole world.”

Graham spoke across the globe and filled notable venues like Yankee Stadium. Despite his high demand and colossal following, Baylor University hosted him on multiple occasions, according to a statement released Wednesday.

During his first visit in 1951, Graham spoke to students during Chapel and preached at the First Baptist Church of Waco later that evening.

“A general awakening is occurring on college and university campuses throughout the country,” Graham said during his speech in Waco Hall. “College students are hungry for God.”

He would return to campus three years later to participate in Baylor’s second Conference on American Ideals and received an honorary doctoral degree from Baylor. During that same trip, he recieved honorary membership to the Noze Brotherhood. In 1962, Graham visited Baylor a third time as a featured speaker for “Baylor’s World Emphasis Week.”

In February of 1970, Graham made his last visit to Baylor and addressed 10,000 people for the “125th anniversary convocation.” Graham affirmed Baylor’s Christianity, highlighted Baylor as an exemplary Christian collegiate institution and urged the community toward social advocacy.

“There is no reason for Baylor’s existence as an

educational institution without spiritual emphasis.” Graham said during the convocation. “That is one thing we’ve got that makes us unique. That is why there will always be a Baylor ... Blessed is the man who stands with the gospel of the Bible in one hand and social concern in the other.”

In his youth, Dr. William Pitts, Baylor professor of religion, had the opportunity to hear Graham speak and remembers his unparalleled ability to connect with the audience, regardless of size.

“There was a clear conviction,” Pitts said. “He conveyed his message urgently. He wanted people to follow Christ. He made his sermons very simple and easy to understand so from a rhetorical point of view, his simplicity was really what allowed him to connect with so many people.”

Graham emphasized the importance of encountering Christ and, unlike other preachers of the time, denominationalism was not his priority, Pitts said. This gained Graham popularity and credibility across many denominations.

However, Graham’s influence is not limited to those who were able to see and hear him during the peak of his life as an evangelist. His conviction has transcended generational boundaries and influenced the current youth generations.

Nash, Okla. freshman William LeForce inherited an affinity for Graham’s sermons and writings from a young age and upholds Graham as a role model.

“He was a big influence on my grandparents’ lives and that of course translated to my parents lives and that then had an impact on me,” LeForce said. “He just opened people’s mind and people accepted what he said. He changed a



INFIDEL WAKEFIELD; Bro. Pill Noze Carter, Bored of Graft; Bro. Church Noze Key, Future Board of Graft; Bro. Tine Noze Clements; Bro. Cracker Noze Graham; Bro. Fish Noze Gillis, and Bro. Soap Noze Suggs are performing ceremonies of Onery Membership in the inner sanctum of Dr. White’s office.

Lariat Archives

ONERY MEMBERSHIP After Billy Graham spoke at Baylor in 1954, the Noze Brotherhood awarded him honorary membership, Noze brotherhood pins and certificates.

lot of people’s lives to where they could accept Christ and live their best life. It makes me want to do good things in the world and try to do what he did as much as I can.”

Graham’s connection to Baylor has continued through his daughter, Anne Graham Lotz, who served as a Baylor Regent from 2005-2008, and three of his grandchildren, who graduated from Baylor. The Baylor community mourns the death of the modern day Christian hero.

Graham’s work destroyed racial barriers, surpassed international borders and overcame denominational differences. Graham’s powerful commission remains

his legacy and continues to influence Baylor today.

Dr. Burt Burleson, Dean of Spiritual Life and Missions, said the Graham was undoubtedly the most impactful modern day

evangelist. “Billy Graham was a connection to vibrant faith,” Burleson said. “He was someone who introduced millions of people to the gospel.”

Luikart's Foreign Car Clinic
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Truett Seminary to host memorial pizza lunch honoring Billy Graham’s life and ministry
Friday at noon in the Truett Seminary Great Hall

CRIME from Page 1

decision, not for me but for my dad. Whatever punishment I might have received or will receive will be just,” Bart Whitaker said in his statement. “I deserve any punishment for my crimes, but my dad did nothing wrong. The system worked for him today and I will do my best to uphold my end of the bargain.”

But not all were in favor of commuting his sentence to a life in prison. Fred Felcman, the original prosecutor on the case, told the Houston Chronicle that he opposed the board’s recommendation. Felcman said the board undermined the work of law

enforcement and the jury system.

“They [the board] also ignored the Bartlett family, Patricia’s side of the family, who wanted him executed, who feel threatened by him and scared of him,” Felcman told the paper on Tuesday.

The decision to commute the sentence was an unusual one for the state of Texas given the board’s clemency recommendation — a move that hasn’t been done since 2009 — and Abbott’s track record with death penalty cases.

“In just over three years as governor, I have allowed 30

executions,” Abbott wrote in a statement. “I have not granted a commutation of a death sentence until now, for reasons I here explain.”

In his statement, the governor cited the “totality of circumstances” in the case such as the father’s pleas for his son’s life, the fate of the shooter in the case and the board’s unanimous recommendation as reasons for his decision.

As part of the commutation, Bart Whitaker agreed to spend the rest of his life in prison without the possibility of parole.

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“ I think it’s really powerful when people share their stories.”

Liv Nortello | Slam Poet **pg. 5**

REVIEW OF THE OBAMA PORTRAITS

Find out why the iconic paintings deserve praise, not criticism on **pg. 7**



DAILY CROSSWORD

Answers can be found under “Puzzle Solutions” at baylorlariat.com

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Young student launches slam poetry club

MICAELA FREEMAN
Staff Writer

The dreary weather did not stop performers from getting on the Common Grounds stage for open mic night on Wednesday. Despite being relocated to the side patio, Common Grounds’ open mic night proved to be a suitable atmosphere for Chicago native Liv Nortello, who performed spoken word on behalf of her newly-founded slam poetry group, Ivory Lion Poetry.

Upon completion, Nortello’s passionate performance warranted a lengthy applause, compelling many to react approvingly throughout the performance as well.

Nortello said she founded Ivory Lion Poetry to allow people to come together and talk about spoken word and the effects it has on their lives.

Nortello said she wants this group to not only gain an interest among Baylor students, but the Waco community as well.

“That’s what this is for, and I’m hoping that people will want to join to share their personal stories,” Nortello said.

Nortello said she wants the slam poetry group to be grounded in Christian-based principles — a reason for people to come together to share their stories, as well as their love for God.

“I think it’s really powerful when people share their stories,” Nortello said. “I believe that the hard things in life don’t negate the goodness in God.”

Ivory Lion Poetry meets weekly at Common Grounds to discuss its group goals. Nortello is the only member that consistently performs at Common Grounds open mic night, but she said the members of the group will perform in the future. Nortello said she hopes her performances inspire listeners to know the truth about their identities and their worth.

“For me, it means the opportunity to speak truth to places where people have heard lies about who they are or what is possible for them,” she said.

Waco senior Dakota Henry said Ivory Lion Poetry encourages Baylor students to take advantage of the opportunities it offers as a group, and said the club has given him an outlet from his regular Baylor activities.

“For me, Ivory Lion Poetry has been an opportunity to have a more intentional platform to really hone in on my writing. It’s something I really enjoy,” Henry said.

Waco native and Texas State Technical College graduate Aaron Moldovan is also passionate about Ivory Lion Poetry and attended Wednesday’s open mic night at Common Grounds.



Baylee VerSteeg | Multimedia Journalist

SLAM Chicago, Ill. native Liv Nortello performs spoken word at Common Grounds’ open mic night Wednesday night. Nortello recently founded the slam poetry club Ivory Lion Poetry.

Moldovan said that he enjoys the passion Nortello expels in her performances and that her poetry speaks volumes to him personally.

“She’s very impassioned in what she believes, in the poetry she writes. She just found that space and that Savior and, at the end, she offers that,” Moldovan said. “She would ask questions that would make you feel kind of special.”

Moldovan and Henry both said they are grateful that they are involved with Ivory Lion Poetry and with Nortellom, because

they feel the opportunities it brings are applicable to their lives.

“Her poetry meant a lot,” Moldovan said. “But, the way she takes it and makes it applicable is what makes it great.”

Nortello said she encourages anyone who enjoys writing about their passion for Jesus to join the Waco club and to find Nortello at Common Grounds because she “practically lives there.”

REVIEW



ComicBook.com

Black Panther breaks box office

DIDI MARTINEZ
Digital Managing Editor

***This review contains spoilers**

The box office numbers are in, and “Black Panther” has already earned its place among the second largest four-day gross in history, raking in \$263,013,041 domestically.

Studio earnings, however, are a mere afterthought compared to the social buzz the film has created prior to and after its release. Featuring a primarily black cast, this superhero movie was faced with high expectations by crowds who saw it as the first film of its kind.

True enough, on opening night, many black moviegoers arrived wearing African or African-inspired clothing, positioning “Black Panther” as more than just a movie, but part of a cultural moment.

For those who have yet to see the film or unfamiliar with

Famous animator welcomed to Waco

JP GRAHAM
Reporter

What do Scooby-Doo, the Rugrats, Winnie the Pooh, the Flintstones and George of the Jungle all have in common? Animator and cartoon director Ron Campbell helped create each of these cartoons throughout his 50-year career. Campbell frequently tours the country to exhibit his work and meet his fans, and his collection is currently on display right here in Waco.

“The Beatles Cartoon Show,” Campbell’s one-man traveling exhibition, is a collection of Campbell’s work throughout his career. The Beatles Cartoon Show travels every other month and visits two cities during each respective outing.

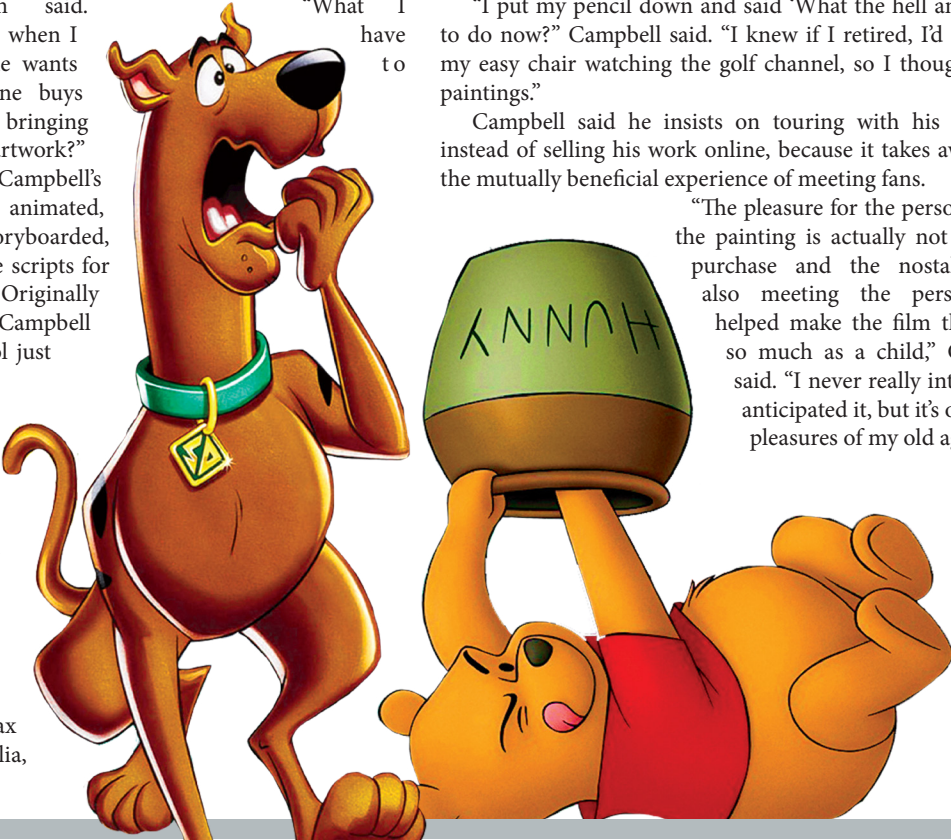
Campbell planted himself and his work at downtown art gallery and event space Cultivate 7twelve Tuesday afternoon for the first of a two-day-long event appropriately titled “Meet the Artist.” In addition to being able to purchase his work, visitors are invited to meet and interact with Campbell.

Campbell’s manager and agent Scott Segelbaum initially came up with the idea for The Beatles Cartoon Show. Segelbaum began his “Rock and Roll Art Show” working at a radio station and later quit his job to pursue this opportunity with Campbell.

“At some of [the rock and roll art] shows, I would sometimes have Ron Campbell come in as a special guest,” Segelbaum said. “What I started to realize is, when I Ron there, everyone wants to meet Ron. Everyone buys Ron. So why am I bringing 200 other pieces of artwork?”

Throughout Campbell’s 50-year career, he animated, directed, storyboarded, produced and wrote scripts for numerous cartoons. Originally from Australia, Campbell graduated art school just as television began to gain popularity. His career in cartooning took off in 1958 when he began to animate commercials to be aired on Australian television.

A few years later, television producer of “King Features” Al Brodax arrived in Australia,



bringing with him the cartoons “Krazy Kat” and “Beetle Bailey” in hopes of producing them locally. Campbell said he was one of the only animators in Australia, which made it easy for Brodax to find him. Not long after Brodax arrived, Campbell was working as an animator for the aforementioned cartoons.

Brodax liked Campbell’s work on “Krazy Kat” and “Beetle Bailey,” so he brought “The Beatles” television series to Australia for Campbell to work on, shortly followed by “Yellow Submarine,” an animated motion picture. These commissions received attention from Bill Hanna of Hanna-Barbera Productions, an American animation studio, who relocated Campbell to Hollywood, Ca. to work on shows like the Flintstones, the Jetsons and Scooby-Doo.

In 1971, Campbell opened his own animation studio, Ron Campbell Films Inc. Campbell would later direct and produce the Emmy and Peabody award winning children’s shows “The Big Blue Marble” and “Sesame Street.” Despite owning his own studio, Campbell continued to animate for Disney and Nickelodeon throughout his career.

After directing the final scene of the final episode of Ed, Ed and Eddy in 2008, Campbell retired and faced the new challenge of staying busy.

“I put my pencil down and said ‘What the hell am I going to do now?’” Campbell said. “I knew if I retired, I’d melt into my easy chair watching the golf channel, so I thought I’d do paintings.”

Campbell said he insists on touring with his art work instead of selling his work online, because it takes away from the mutually beneficial experience of meeting fans.

“The pleasure for the person buying the painting is actually not only the purchase and the nostalgia, but also meeting the person who helped make the film they liked so much as a child,” Campbell said. “I never really intended or anticipated it, but it’s one of the pleasures of my old age.”

REVIEW

The Portraits of the Century

MEREDITH WAGNER
Arts & Life Editor

Former President Barack Obama selected artist Kehinde Wiley to paint his presidential portrait over one year ago at the same time Former First Lady Michelle Obama selected Baltimore-based artist Amy Sherald. Extensively reported by news outlets at the time, the media soon fell into a spell of silence regarding the portraits and their creators. The artists worked devotedly for over one year to create what likely would be the highlight of their careers. After the reveal of the portraits over one week ago on Feb. 12, the silence was broken and the buzz surrounding their names reemerged, this time much louder than before.

Wiley, 40, who painted the portrait of Barack Obama, grew up in South Central Los Angeles during the '80s. His knack for replacing historically significant figures in his paintings with stylized, young and modern African Americans propelled him into the spotlight some years ago. Before being chosen to paint the Barack Obama portrait, Wiley was awarded the U.S. Department of State Medal of Arts in 2015.

Sherald, 44, who was raised in Columbus, Ga., harnesses a creative use of color to depict everyday, modern African-Americans, ultimately, according to the National Museum of Women in the Arts, “challenging the concept of color-as-race.” Before winning the National Portrait Gallery’s Outwin Boochever Portrait Competition, which landed her the commission for Michelle Obama’s portrait, Sherald’s subsequent work was hardly familiar to the average person and the art critic alike.

An unknown name to the gallery curators before the selection process began, Sherald’s prior work served as a strong and sufficient testament to her artistic abilities. According to a 2017 article from the New York Times, “The choice of Ms. Sherald adds a tantalizing element of risk to the commissions by virtue of her relative obscurity.”

Much of the general public has no doubt at least witnessed the portraits, whether in passing or in study. The dissemination of snapshots of the artist’s respective works have sparked a frenzy of discussion, much like a controversial



Associated Press

OBAMA DRAMA Left: Kehinde Wiley’s portrait of Barack Obama, Right: Amy Sherald’s portrait of Michelle Obama.

political topic. Be they art historians or average people, it seems almost everyone has formed an opinion about the arguably revolutionary depictions of the Obamas.

And yet, the Obama portraits pose somewhat of a mystery to the general public. A surprise to those uninterested in art history or the study thereof — and even to some knowledgeable art enthusiasts — these portraits stand tall, both literally and symbolically, as a symbol for a new era in art, in politics and in portraiture.

Wiley’s Portrait of Barack

Placed in front of a collection of symbolic, brightly-hued flora, Barack Obama sits comfortably in a vintage-carved wooden chair.

The exhibition label in the gallery defines the symbolism of the flowers for in-person viewers: “The chrysanthemums, for example, reference the official flower of Chicago. The jasmine evokes Hawaii, where he spent the majority of his childhood, and the African blue lilies stand in for his late Kenyan father.”

Beyond hidden messages, Wiley’s realistic precision in his rendering of Barack Obama establishes a clear message for the viewer. Contemplative and lost in thought, Barack Obama’s face is a near-perfect adaptation both of his philosophical tendencies and his real-life facial features.

The glow in his skin tone and the greens of the background create a sense of lightheartedness despite his serious gaze and posture, capturing well the essence of his contemplative and compassionate personality amid the heaviness and seriousness required of his position as president.

Critics claim that, though impressively detailed, Barack Obama appears to be floating in front of a wall of leaves, lacking depth and, to some, sophistication. Jokes and memes about Barack Obama emerging from a bush have circled the internet since last week’s reveal; whether in a spirit of play or of seriousness, this criticism missed the overarching point of the portrait. Barack Obama’s presidency was

atypical in many respects, and the originality of his portrait will set him apart from past presidents on the museum wall, and in history books, for years to come.

Sherald’s Portrait of Michelle

One of the pertinent questions being raised is whether or not the portraits accurately captured the leaders’ personalities, presence and positions in American history. Criticized more than Wiley’s depiction of Barack Obama, Sherald’s portrait has been especially ridiculed for failing to capture the first lady’s warm persona, turning a light-hearted, fun Michelle Obama into a gray, lifeless figure.

The Baltimore Sun stated otherwise, claiming that the application of monochrome hues for Michelle’s skin “doesn’t so much erase her subject’s race as declare its irrelevance.” Perhaps off-putting at first glance, her toned-down radiance is actually a powerful statement by the artist, which is evident in the style of her previous paintings, and which Michelle Obama was likely aware of in selecting this artist in 2017.

Among other topics of debate is whether or not Sherald’s portrait depicts Michelle realistically. Critics claim that, though perhaps executed well in general, the resemblance between the portrait and its subject is far from similar — an unforgivable disparity albeit a fairly original composition. But, in the words of a tweet from CNN White House Reporter Kate Bennett, “It’s not supposed to “look like her” in the traditional sense of portraiture. These portraits break the mold of how we as the viewer consider the depiction of a person.”

Just as art has evolved in waves of style and execution, the portraiture of this century, captured through these historic paintings, will be remembered as one of a turning point, representing the dramatic societal, technological, political and economic shifts of the twenty-first century.

The Obama portraits will be featured in the exhibit “America’s Presidents” at the National Portrait Gallery, which is the only place, aside from the White House, that houses a complete collection of presidential portraits.

PANTHER from Page 5

the series, the movie tells the story of T’Challa (Chadwick Boseman) who assumes the kingship of the technologically-advanced African country of Wakanda following the death of his father. Shortly after assuming the throne, T’Challa’s reign as king and Black Panther is put in jeopardy by his cousin, who has discovered the death of his father at the hands of former King T’Chaka (John Kani) and is now seeking revenge. Picking up on his father’s mission to disperse weapons across the world, the film’s antagonist, Erik Killmonger (Michael B. Jordan), overthrows T’Challa and attempts to kill him. T’Challa and his allies then battle to halt Killmonger’s plans and reclaim the throne.

Over the course of its two hour-long run, “Black Panther” was able to build a fantastical narrative founded on elements of reality. This is perhaps the most distinguishing part of the movie’s conception. Other Marvel Studio films such as “Captain America” or “Iron Man”

include moments of reality, but clearly hinge on the suspension of disbelief for most of the film. “Black Panther” is different because in order to understand the characters and the problems presented in the film, the viewer must be able to draw on their own knowledge of colonialism, regime overthrows and racism.

Early film critics have called the movie “unapologetically black,” and that is exactly what it is. Applying lighthearted cultural references like Shuri’s (Letitia Wright) “What are those?” line and Killmonger’s “Hey, auntie” greeting, the film doesn’t shy away from references that only a portion of the audience would understand. But there are also moments when the film pulls no punches at critiquing aspects of the black experience today, such as Okoye’s (Danai Gurira) rejection of the wig she must wear to blend into the “outside world” and Shuri’s insistence on calling white CIA agent Everett Ross (Martin Freeman) a “colonizer.”

“Black Panther,” for all the praise it has

received for bringing black people greater prominence on screen, also elevates women in a big way. Women drive the film’s action in various moments throughout and serve as T’Challa’s primary allies when he returns to fight Killmonger. Characters like Okoye, who leads an entire tribe of female warriors, and Shuri, who is the mastermind behind Wakanda’s latest technology, give women significant screen time and character depth. Even T’Challa’s love interest, Nakia (Lupita Nyong’o), is primarily portrayed as the king’s friend and partner, not letting their former romance get in the way of their mission to save Wakanda.

No movie is perfect, and there is definitely one aspect of “Black Panther” that lacks a sense of resolution. Namely, the treatment and ultimate death of Killmonger. The film’s antagonist, despite his plans to create a racial revolution using Wakanda’s weapons, is a deeply complex character scarred by both personal and social experiences. Growing up in America,

Killmonger repeatedly alludes to the injustices faced by black people within the country — a fact that T’Challa and company seem less than interested in empathizing with.

This is mostly problematic because the film’s very premise lies in a sense of pan-Africanism — that black people around the world are tied by a claim to Africa and therefore, can share a bond regardless of experience. T’Challa denies Killmonger’s demands because it could destabilize peace in the region, but it’s clear that T’Challa never fully understands the motivations behind Killmonger’s call for revolution. One of the most memorable lines of the film was Killmonger’s final words following T’Challa’s offer to save his life: “Bury me in the ocean with my ancestors who jumped from ships, ‘cause they knew death was better than bondage.” Even then, it’s unclear whether T’Challa ever fully grasps the vast degree of separation between his and Killmonger’s experiences in the world.

INTELLIGENT LIFE

Right A comic strip featured weekly on our pages. >>

CROSSWORD PUZZLE

Below Also featured on each issue of the Lariat is our weekly crossword puzzle. Answers can be found under “Puzzle Solutions” under the drop-down Arts & Life tab at baylorlariat.com.



PREMIER CROSSWORD/ By Frank A. Longo

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SMALL FRUIT STARTERS

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NOTES:

Hall of Fame finalist Mulkey reflects on career

BEN EVERETT
Sports Writer

Baylor women's basketball head coach Kim Mulkey is one of four women who are finalists for the Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame Class of 2018.

Mulkey, who boasts 532 career wins as head coach of the Lady Bears, took a moment to reflect on her career after Baylor's 88-51 win over Kansas on Saturday.

Mulkey won the NCAA Tournament title in 1982 as a player for Louisiana Tech, and again in 1988 as assistant coach. Mulkey said coming to Baylor was a curveball at her after Louisiana Tech did not renew her contract.

"I came to Baylor to get a paycheck and to try to get them out of the cellar of the Big 12," Mulkey said. "Remember the story about how I got here and Louisiana Tech not giving me a 5-year deal? Life throws you curveballs and you either hit those curveballs or you strikeout, and I'm not one that's used to striking out."

The Lady Bears were 7-20 in 1999-2000, the season before Mulkey arrived, and had never made the NCAA Tournament. Mulkey has led them to the NCAA Tournament every year she since became head coach.

Mulkey said the expectations were at an all-time low when she showed up, but after a quick turnaround that included a 2005 National Championship, the fans wanted more.

"I came here with a vision to build a program," Mulkey said. "Little did I know that we would be able to build it as fast as we did and win a National Championship in five years. So then we had to keep feeding that old monster."

Mulkey and the Lady Bears have continued to feed the monster, winning the 2012 National Championship and winning the Big 12 Conference eight times in a row.

Mulkey said she is not alone in making Baylor a powerhouse women's basketball program.

"I couldn't do it by myself," Mulkey said. "I've been blessed with unbelievable coaches that have remained committed. People see that this program is not going to go away. If I'm ever fortunate enough to make it in there, I hope Baylor helps me pay for every kid I've ever coached to go there because I'm only as good as they are. At the end of the day, they make a coach. I'm humbled, I'm honored, all the things I can say."

In addition to her potential



Ryan Barrett | Multimedia Journalist

LADY LEGEND Lady Bears' head coach Kim Mulkey, who was recently named as finalist for the Hall of Fame, watches as her team executes against Kansas State on Jan. 20.

Hall of Fame selection, on Wednesday Mulkey was named one of 10 semifinalists for the Werner Ladder Naismith Women's College Coach of the Year.

Mulkey has won the

Naismith Coach of the Year award once before (2012) and she also won AP College Coach of the Year (2012) and USBWA Coach of the Year twice (2011, 2012).

As for the Hall of Fame,

Mulkey said she isn't sure if she's deserving, but if she is, it's because Baylor gave her the opportunity to coach.

"Am I worthy? I don't know," Mulkey said. "It's a Baylor deal. It belongs to

Baylor if I ever make it in the Hall of Fame. Baylor took a chance on me."

Her players disagree, however, as Senior guard Kristy Wallace noted, "she's worthy."



Photo courtesy of Baylor Athletics



Photo Courtesy of Baylor Athletics



Photo courtesy of Baylor Athletics



Photo courtesy of Baylor Athletics

TAKING THE SWING From top left: Groves junior Braden Bailey, Austin sophomore Cooper Dossey, Southlake sophomore Colin Kober and 2017 graduate Hunter Shattuck track their shots during spring 2017 play.

Texas roots helps men's golf team grow closer together

MAX CALDERONE
Sports Writer

When Mike McGraw took over as head coach of the Baylor men's golf team, he set out to take the program to new heights. After carefully constructing the roster, results on the links have been astounding.

In just three seasons, McGraw's Bears have won nine team titles and had four players named All-Americans.

There's something special, however, about this year's roster that sets the team apart: all nine Baylor men's golfers are from Texas.

McGraw said it was a purposeful effort to bring players in that were familiar with the area and grew up competing against each other.

"It was very intentional," McGraw said. "I've known that Texas is one of the greatest states for producing junior golfers and has been for 45,50 years. Waco is in the geographical center of Texas, so it made no sense not to recruit here."

The team boasts players from all over the state, including

the big cities of Austin and Dallas and the nearby suburbs of Lewisville, Plano and Southlake.

Groves junior Braden Bailey said he was familiar with every player on the Baylor team before they all came to compete as a team.

"I grew up playing junior golf with every single one of these guys, so I knew all of them before I even got to Baylor," Bailey said.

Because of that, both McGraw and Bailey said they have seen improvements in team chemistry, which translates to better results in team tournaments and events. Bailey said this year's team is unlike any other during his time at Baylor.

"This is probably the closest team that we've had since I've been here," Bailey said. "Everybody being from Texas and knowing each other before they got here is great for the program."

McGraw said that recruiting locally has been a huge part of the team's growing chemistry.



Jessica Hubble | Multimedia Editor

ROAD TRIP Sophomore lefty Cody Bradford delivers a pitch in Baylor's season opening 1-0 win over Houston Baptist. Bradford will need to be great again as the Bears battle UCLA.

Baseball travels west to take on UCLA Bruins

MAX CALDERONE
Sports Writer

Baylor baseball (2-1) got off to a nice start in the 2018 season by winning a three-game series over Houston Baptist (1-2). Next up, they'll head west to Los Angeles to square off against the No. 11 UCLA Bruins (4-0).

Sophomore left-handed pitcher Cody Bradford threw eight innings of shutout baseball to give the Bears the win on opening day. Head coach Steve Rodriguez hopes his team gets more of the same this Friday night.

"It's going to be a matter of how he feels and what he's doing," Rodriguez said. "Being able to come in off the starts he made last year and going out and doing what he did [against Houston Baptist University], that's really impressive. It shows you what kind of

character and poise he has."

Bradford took a no-hitter into the seventh inning and turned the ball over to senior closer Troy Montemayor in the ninth with the Bears ahead 1-0 to shore up the victory.

"I peaked at the scoreboard once or twice," Bradford said to reporters following the game. "But I really try to push that out of my head and just focus on each batter."

The Bears will send Bradford to the mound tonight to face off against a Bruins lineup that scored 35 runs in a three game sweep of Portland last weekend. UCLA is hitting .338 as a team through four games with four home runs and 33 RBI.

Rodriguez was more focused on the Bruins pitching and defense, which has only surrendered six runs over its

PyeongChang 2018 Winter Olympics

USA Medal Count*

Gold

8

Silver

7

Bronze

6

Norway

13

12

10

Germany

13

7

5

Canada

10

8

8

*Medal count as of 10:30 p.m. Thursday

Track & field prepares for Big 12 Indoor Championship



Photo courtesy of Baylor Athletics
POWER RUN Baylor freshman Isaiah Cunningham and senior Malik Wilson compete in the 60 meter sprint against Miami and Michigan at the Power Five Invitational in Ann Arbor, Mich.

BEN EVERETT
Sports Writer

Baylor track and field heads north for the 2018 Big 12 Indoor Championship today and Saturday in Ames, Iowa.

For the first time ever, the women's team will go into the meet as defending champions.

Head coach Todd Harbour said he still relishes the championship from last season.

"I've gone back and relived some of the moments from last year," Harbour said. "It was so much fun to experience that with a great staff and great group of young ladies that have worked so hard."

The women have been ranked as high as No. 12 this season, but because of injuries, currently sit at No. 74.

Injuries to junior sprinters Leticia De Souza and Taylor Bennett as well as sophomore distance runner Lindsey Bradley have put a damper on Baylor's title hopes.

Harbour said the injuries are part of the sport and the team must compete with who they have.

"You go in with what you got," Harbour said. "You can't feel sorry for yourself and you just got to do it. It is what it is."

The Lady Bears are returning eight All-Big 12 performers from last season, including first place finishers in senior Kiana Hawn and junior Kiana Horton. Hawn and Horton teamed up to take first in the 4x400 meter relay with Bennett and De Souza in both 2016 and 2017. Hawn added a first place finish in the 600 yard race in 2017.

In addition to losing three key athletes to injuries, the Lady Bears graduated their top-three field event competitors in Annie Rhodes, Brianna Richardson and Cion Hicks.

Horton said the Lady Bears are approaching the Championship like they can win it all despite being shorthanded.

"We're going in with confidence that we can definitely do it again," Horton said. "We lost a lot of seniors last year, but we haven't let that stop us during the offseason."

Among the others who placed last year for the Lady Bears are sophomore Alison Andrews-Paul (6th: 800m, 7th: DMR), junior Alex Lord (7th: High Jump), sophomore Aaliyah Miller (4th: 1,000m), sophomore Victoria Powell (7th: DMR), sophomore Gabby Satterlee (7th: DMR) and sophomore Anna West (4th: 3,000m,

7th: 5,000m).

The men, who finished seventh last season in Ames, return six All-Big 12 performers to the event.

Junior Wil London is currently the only Baylor athlete who has qualified for national competition. London has the second highest mark in the Big 12 in the 400m race, having posted a 45.95 at the Tyson Invitational on Feb. 10.

London and Harbour said they have not decided if he will compete at the Big 12 Indoor Championship, as he is battling a hamstring injury.

"Right now we're just taking it easy," London said. "I've already qualified for nationals so we're just going to chill out now. We're doing everything we can to make sure I'll be ready to go [for nationals]."

Other athletes who placed for the Bears last year include junior Caleb Dickson (2nd: 4x400, 5th: 600m), junior Danny Leland (6th: DMR), sophomore TJ Sugg (7th: Mile), sophomore Maxwell Willis (1st: 200m, 2nd: 60m, 2nd, 4x400m) and senior Malik Wilson (6th: 60m).

The Indoor Championship kicks off at 10 a.m. today with the women's pentathlon and runs through 5:25 p.m. on Saturday.

GOLF from Page 8

"It's pretty close," McGraw said about the bond his team has off the course. "Every year we've added more and more Texas players, so I think that's part of it. Chemistry has improved as we've continued to recruit locally."

After coming off a second-place finish at the All-American tournament outside of Houston, all seven golfers who competed got to see their parents. McGraw said the support was helpful and that he loves having so many people come out to watch his team play.

"All seven sets of parents were there, watching their kids play," McGraw said. "That's a big benefit. I would say Braden had about 25 people from his hometown that were there last week watching."

Baylor often competes in Texas or Oklahoma, making it a short trip for family members who want to come watch the Bears in action. Bailey said the proximity of Baylor to his hometown made it an easy choice when deciding where he wanted to play collegiate golf.

"That definitely was a pretty big factor," Bailey said.

BASEBALL from Page 9

first four games.

"They're going to compete in the zone, throw all sorts of pitches for strikes. They've made one error this year in four games which is really impressive. And this might be the best offensive team they've had in a while," Rodriguez said. "On paper, they're probably on of the most well-rounded teams we're going to play right now."

Baylor will need production from all throughout the lineup, but the combination of catcher Shea Langeliers, third baseman Davis Wendzel and first baseman Andy Thomas should spark the Bear's bats.

The trio of sophomores hit a combined .484 in Baylor's opening series against HBU,

"Being from Texas and having the weather we have here, it just didn't make sense to go to a northern school. With the weather we have here in Waco and the great facilities, it was a no-brainer for me."

McGraw said having every player being from Texas raises the attention of the team because it's a great talking point.

"I think it helps when I'm talking to a donor or an alum, just anybody who might be thinking about finding out more about our golf team," McGraw said. "If they're all from Texas, it's a lot easier to talk about."

With the program's success, even more attention will be placed on the Bears as they finish out their spring season.

Baylor will travel to Mexico from March 4-6 to compete at the Querencia Cabo Collegiate tournament before coming back to the states for three more events in preparation for postseason play.

The Big 12 Tournament will be held in Tulsa, Okla. from April 23-25 as the Bears will try to qualify for their third consecutive NCAA Regionals appearance.

including three home runs, one apiece. But the rest of the batting order was fairly quiet and will have to step up against a top opponent.

Rodriguez attributed the slow start to the early timing of the season, saying it always takes time for the bats to warm up.

"Pitchers are always ahead of the hitters, just until they get their timing down," Rodriguez said. "You just have to make sure you can make those adjustments."

Rodriguez, a California native, is excited for the team's first road trip of the season. He said traveling with a group of guys is the best time to get to know what everyone's really like away from home.

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4:00 PM Screening Begins
5:00 - 5:30 PM Audience Q&A

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