

Baylor Lariat

WE'RE THERE WHEN YOU CAN'T BE

JANUARY 23, 2019

WEDNESDAY

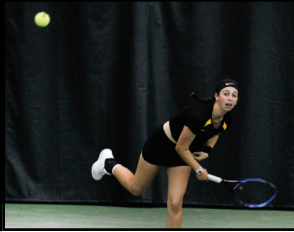
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Community continues to celebrate MLK



Shae Koharski | Multimedia Journalist

MLK Day Members of Phi Beta Sigma fraternity celebrate the memory of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. after hosting the 23rd annual peace march on Jan. 21 with the Zeta Phi Beta sorority.

Wacoans clean up during MLK Day

MADALYN WATSON
Staff Writer

A day off from classes in honor of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. did not stop Baylor's football team and other Waco residents from giving back through the MLK Day of Service: Brazos River Cleanup. Keep Waco Beautiful, a nonprofit organization dedicated to keeping Waco clean and healthy, teamed up with Waco Paddle Company along the banks of the Brazos River in an effort to clean up waste polluting the waters for Martin Luther King Jr. Day of Service.

The executive director of Keep Waco Beautiful Ashley Millerd explained why Martin Luther King Jr. Day is more than just a day off of work and school. It's also a day dedicated to service.

"MLK Day of Service is kind of our way of giving back, the way that Martin Luther King Jr. gave back to us," Millerd said.

Although this was the annual event's eighth year, Millerd was surprised by the large number of volunteers

who were using their day off to help the community in the cold weather.

"We've had many people sign up, and we have many more people here that didn't sign up. It's usually the other way around," Millerd said.

Millerd explained that the general turnout probably increased for this event because Keep Waco Beautiful's most recent clean up event in October had been cancelled due to weather.

"Generally, we only have about 60 to 70 people that show up. This year, whenever I opened the sign up link this morning, we had over 260 people," Millerd said.

Miami sophomore Tyquan Thornton attended the cleanup event with other members of the Baylor football team.

"Everybody working together just picking up trash, that's a good thing right there," Thornton said.

Many volunteers who arrived early were given the option to use a kayak

MLK celebrations hosted on campus

ALINA WONG
Staff Writer

The spirit of Martin Luther King Jr. is staying alive at Baylor University. Wednesday, from noon to 1:30 p.m., the Baylor Department of Multicultural Affairs will host a "Life and Legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr." luncheon on the fifth floor of Cashion Academic Center, and Waco ISD superintendent will give a keynote address to kickstart the event.

Monday night, Baylor Department of Multicultural Affairs also dedicated

one of its gatherings known as biweekly "Neighbor Nights" to celebrate Dr. Martin Luther King. As per custom, free dinner was served to the first 200 students who arrived.

Hundreds met on the Waco Suspension Bridge at 9 a.m. on Monday for the 23rd annual Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Peace March. On the day dedicated to service and the commemoration of a national legacy and civil rights leader, numerous organizations, church groups and school representatives made appearances to show their respects. The event is hosted by Zeta

Phi Beta Sorority and Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity.

A member from Phi Beta Sigma opened up the event in prayer before leading the crowd across the Suspension Bridge. The mood started off in somber quiet as hundreds of people made their way toward Martin Luther King Drive but grew in spirit as the crowd began to sing "We Shall Overcome" the gospel song known to be the anthem of the civil rights movement, also cited in Martin Luther

MLK >> Page 4

Government shutdown reaches record high

CAMERON STUART
Reporter

As President Donald Trump's government shutdown hits its 33rd day, government employees around the country are getting empty paychecks after weeks of work. This shutdown is the longest in U.S. history, surpassing a 21-day shutdown under President Bill Clinton from December 1995-January 1996.

The shutdown began on Dec. 22 when President Trump and the U.S. Congress could not agree on a bill to allocate funding towards the federal government in 2019. Much of the reason for the split between the two parties on the funding came from President Trump's demand for \$5.7 billion for a wall covering the U.S. and Mexico border.

Among many other governmental departments, the TSA has been hit extremely hard with employees calling in sick in protest of their unpaid labor, making for security lines with wait times measured in hours at several U.S. airports.

The Waco Regional Airport, however, has yet to really fall victim to this problem. Joel Martinez, the Director of Aviation for the City of Waco who doubles as an adjunct lecturer in the Institute for Air Science at Baylor, is wary of the impending issues if the shutdown continues.

"If and when we start to see that reduction in numbers, we will have to open our checkpoints sooner," Martinez said. "That is kind of our contingency plan right now."

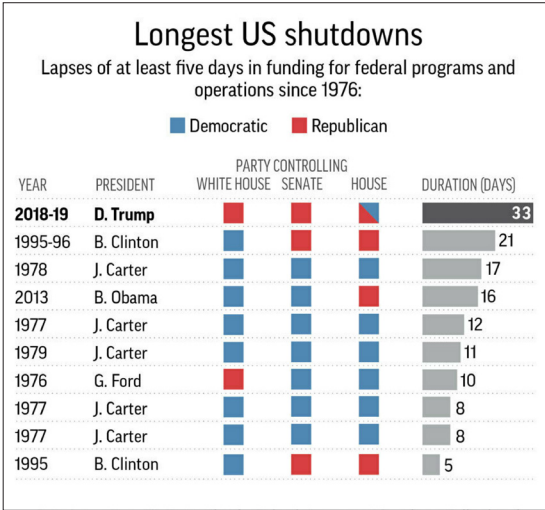
While there have not been as many issues with TSA agents absent in Waco as opposed to some other larger airports, Martinez sympathizes with those workers who are not getting paid.

"I don't know if I could sustain my lifestyle with zero paycheck for a month," Martinez said. "When you get to two months you are really pushing the envelope and making people suffer."

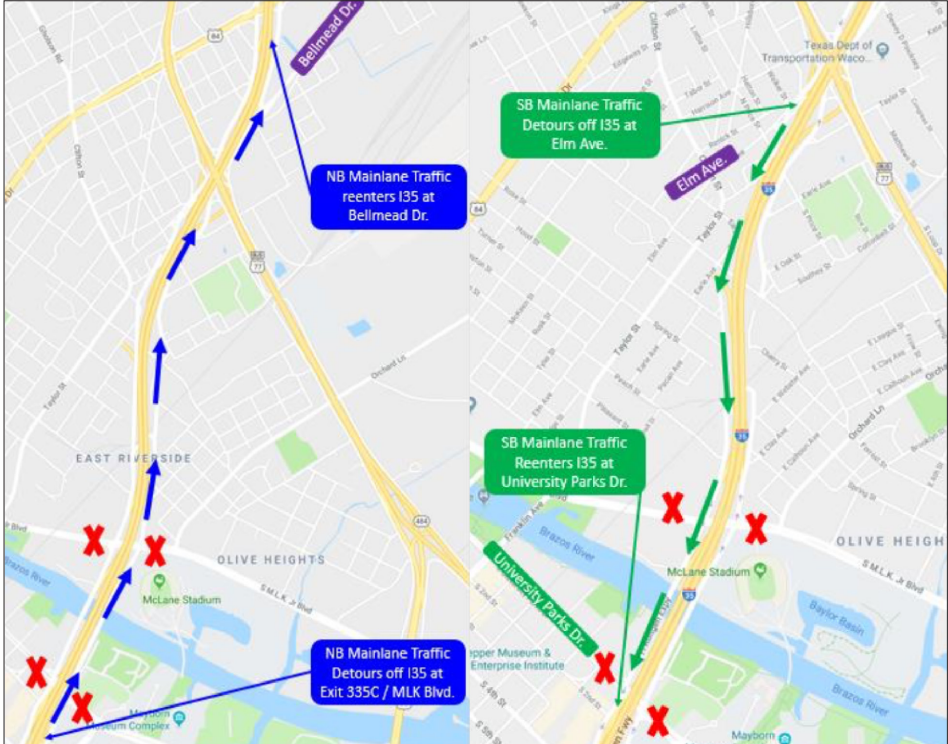
For one Baylor student and his family, the shutdown is not about hypotheticals and had very real effects. Wylie junior Holt Black's older brother, Hunter Black, is an electronic technician for the U.S. Navy currently stationed in Spain whose department was one of the first that was furloughed.

"It is definitely upsetting because he really needed those paychecks he wasn't getting," the younger Black said. "Without those, he wasn't able to come home for

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Associated Press



Associated Press

I-35 closures Wednesday

MADALYN WATSON
Staff Writer

The Texas Department of Transportation, TxDOT, announced that both lanes traveling north and south on Interstate 35 will be closed tonight, from 7 p.m. on Wednesday to 7 a.m. Thursday as the contractor continues work on the Forrest Street U-turn bridge.

Also, the MLK and University Parks intersections under I-35 will be closed during the construction.

Students received emails

last night through the Baylor News Flash system notifying them about the I-35 mainlane closing and encouraging them to plan alternate routes while the interstate is closed.

Loop 340 will be another option for travel during the closure of the I-35.

The northbound traffic will detour off I-35 at Exit #335C/ MLK Boulevard and then re-enter the interstate near US 84/Bellmead Drive while the southbound traffic will detour off I-35 at a temporary exit near Elm Avenue and re-enter the interstate at University

Parks Drive.

Drivers should plan alternate routes to get from one side of the I-35 to the other and in order to avoid the traffic caused by these changes.

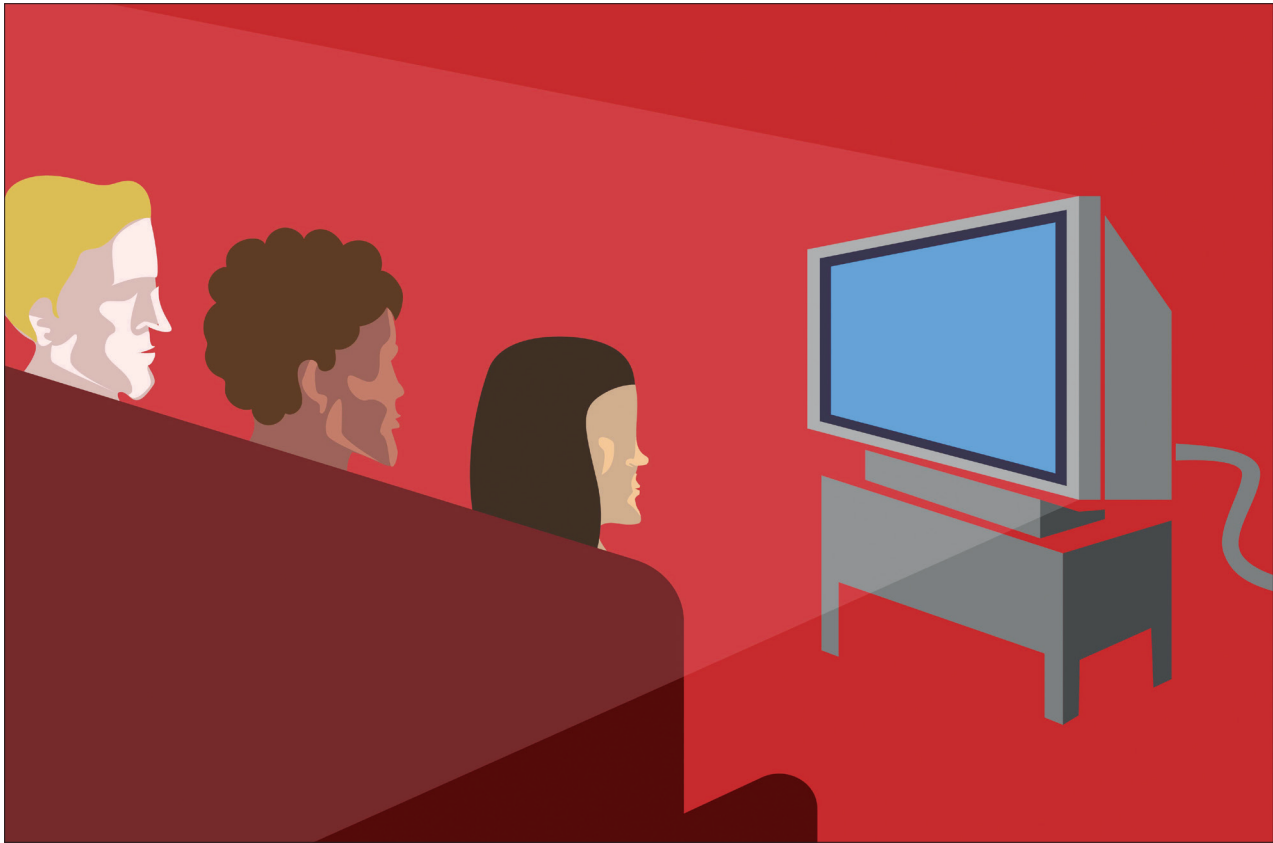
However, TxDOT reported that signs addressing the closures will be visible to traffic.

The changes in traffic will be similar to last September when the both main lanes of I-35 were closed for the construction on the same bridge.

GOT SOMETHING TO SAY?

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

EDITORIAL



Rewon Shimray | Cartoonist

Don't binge alone

Talk with friends about TV shows you watch

In a society spent streaming, it has become increasingly popular to “binge” television shows, consuming episode after episode in a short period of time.

For some shows, such as “Friends” or “The Office,” this practice seems like the natural approach — mindless humor can often be a release after a long day, and it's easy to get sucked into the sitcom shenanigans. However, for shows that deal with more somber or serious subjects, such as the newly released “You,” it is important to address the darker themes and issues before letting Netflix automatically play the next episode.

The show “You” follows a book store manager on his “romantic quest” to win the heart of the bubbly young poet Guinevere Beck. The story turns sour rather quickly, however, and the first season depicts grisly murders and intense domestic violence and questions where the line is between healthy and unhealthy relationships.

This show is just the most recent of more sobering series that have gained popularity across streaming platforms. The popular streaming service Netflix has tackled the serial killer mindset in the popular show “Making a Murderer,” covered another level of family drama in “The Haunting of Hill House” and even touched on prison reform, LGBTQ rights and relationships in the always highly anticipated “Orange is the New Black.”

With these series, as well as with shows on other streaming services, it is imperative to recognize and discuss what is going on in each episode. By changing the way we absorb our entertainment, we can shift our attitude toward a more healthy consumption.

How do we do this, though? Instead of watching these shows in the middle of the night on your laptop alone, turn bingeing into

a group activity. Watch these darker, heavier shows with a trusted friend, sibling, parent or partner, and after every episode or two, start a dialogue with one another about what you liked about the episode, and what didn't sit so well with you.

In the context of “You,” starting a conversation about domestic violence and healthy relationships makes these issues real, and something that may have seemed acceptable when it happens on a screen can appear in a different light when you sit down and discuss it with a friend.

Penn Badgley himself, the actor who plays Joe Goldberg in “You” has taken to social media to discourage audiences from lusting after his character on the show. Badgley's responses to fans' posts can also be seen beginning a dialogue on the show's more disturbing moments, and his concern for his audience demonstrates his own recognition of the line between healthy and unhealthy relationships.

Even with lighter shows such as the aforementioned “Friends,” it can be beneficial to talk about some of the more serious undertones. Ross and Rachel, for example, have a tumultuous relationship full of lies and manipulation, and just because the show does not market itself as addressing darker themes does not mean that it cannot bring up hard-to-process feelings.

This is not to say that people should avoid watching these heavier series or that streaming services such as Netflix and Hulu should not tackle big-picture issues. On the contrary, it's important for media conglomerates to provide commentary and insight into issues such as these, as long as their audiences are aware that there is a better way to consume and digest content than mindless bingeing.

newest addition, Slow Rise Pizza.

Baylor has quite a few options for students chose from, but are they really what the students want?

This past semester, Einstein Bros. Bagels was taken out of the Bill Daniel Student Center. After everyone got back to campus at the start of the school year, there was such shock and confusion as to why Einstein Bros. Bagels would have left when everyone loved it. After the bagel shop was removed from the SUB, Common Grounds took its place. The problem with Common Grounds in the SUB is that it is literally a four-minute walk from the original off-campus Common Grounds location. This change could have been put to a vote for students to choose.

I understand that there is a dining advisory committee that makes these

decisions. However, that is such a small representation of who Baylor is. A reasonable compromise could be that at the end of each school year there could be a questionnaire on Canvas about the use of on-campus dining and where students go and don't go. Every student has access to Canvas and this would be a simple way to reach out to students for their opinions. I understand that there are contracts with the retail restaurants; however, this can give Baylor the option the re-evaluate what is on campus and what students would rather have.

I believe this would be a great opportunity for Baylor to give students a voice.

Julia is a sophomore communication specialist major from San Diego.

COLUMN

Research your own opinions

MADALYN WATSON
Staff Writer

According to a survey conducted by the Pew Research Center in 2018, 68 percent of American adults learn about the news through social media; however, 57 percent of these social media users view the information they receive as largely inaccurate.

If we view the news we receive through social media as inaccurate, why do we spend so much time talking politics on social media platforms like Snapchat, Twitter and Instagram?

I believe this is because social media is convenient. Students, like myself, constantly have our phones in our hands. I find myself scrolling through news stories on

Snapchat or reading Twitter debates on politics in my spare time, and I am not the only one.

Social media is also extremely appealing to students because of our busy schedules. It is difficult to find the time to watch the news or read full-length articles when we have classes, work and other activities taking up our time.

I believe that limiting ourselves to social media is habit forming. Students should take the time to research their own opinions, away from the influence of social media. When we limit our consumption of news to other people's opinion on the news, our perspective can become misinformed.

Another survey conducted by the Pew Research Center found that 84 percent of social media users surveyed feel that the statement “People say things when discussing politics on social media that they would never say in person” describes social media platforms to some degree.

I believe this means we should base our beliefs on political debates and discussions that we conduct in person. Debating politics among our close friends or in classroom settings can be intimidating, but it is better than the anonymity people hide behind when they are online.

“When we limit our consumption of news to other people's opinion on the news, our perspective can become misinformed.”

Social media also prevents people from backing up their claims with research. For example, Twitter has a character limit of 280 for each tweet. This limit, as well as the short attention span of the majority of social media users, facilitates short and oversimplified statements.

The tone of comments on social media must also be taken into consideration. The tone of a person's voice can completely change their statement, and stripping these statements of tone and inflection can lead to misinterpretation. Also, jokes about world news and politics that would be said in a comedic tone in person can be misread and taken seriously online.

A report published in Science magazine called “The Spread of True and False News Online” found that false news reaches more people on Twitter than true news.

These false news articles spread quicker online because they typically elicit more of an emotional response. Falsified stories inspired more extreme emotions in social media users because of their novel and extreme nature.

Emotions have always been a part of politics, but with social media, people are able to share their immediate emotional response to world news. This emotional response is valid, but it has driven political commentary online, especially through social media.

For example, when articles are accompanied by a tweeter's opinion in the form of a retweet, the tweeter's opinion is viewed to have the same or similar validity as the article.

These emotions ignited by news as well as the trend of commentary and fake news receiving more views on social media show that social media should not be your first and last source for news.

Madalyn is a sophomore journalism major from Anaheim, Calif.

COLUMN

Students should vote on dining options

JULIA LAWRENZ
Broadcast Reporter

On-campus dining is amazing: It's quick, convenient and easy when you are in a rush. However, I believe students should be able to choose or at least have a say when it comes to what retail dining is offered on Baylor's campus.

Currently the retail dining includes Panda Express, Chick-Fil-A, Freshii, Steak 'n Shake, Starbucks, Au Bon Pain, Moe's Southwest Grill, Which Wich Superior Sandwiches, Common Grounds, Heritage and the



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Opinion

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Lariat Letters

To submit a letter to the editor or guest column, email submissions to LariatLetters@baylor.edu. Lariat Letters should be a maximum of 500 words. The letter is not guaranteed to be published.

Baylor Bears intern in Washington

MORGAN HARLAN
Staff Writer

Baylor students have the opportunity to study and work in the nation's capital. The Baylor in Washington semester program allows students to earn credit hours while completing a full-time internship in different professional fields simultaneously.

"Each Semester Program, students will work in an internship in Washington D.C. within the field of their choice. The program structure allows students to work nearly full-time in their internship, which increases their chances of securing some of the most competitive internships," according to the Baylor in Washington web-page.

In addition to the internship, each student will conduct their own research project and paper on a topic of their choice. This research project will earn them three credit hours and will serve as a professional writing piece for future endeavors.

Sacramento junior Rory Pitts, a political science major currently in Washington D.C. Pitts is interning for the Helsinki Commission, a US government agency that promotes human rights, military security, and economic cooperation in 57 countries in Europe, Eurasia and North America. Pitts is a Max Kampelman fellowship intern, where she will work on policy issues with Congressional offices, executive branch officials, foreign diplomats, civil society, and the broader policy community; and will be helping with legislative drafting.

"I think the D.C. program will help me differentiate what I want to do because it really bridges those professional gaps," Pitts said. "I think this program is great, there is a wide variety of people here from a lot of different backgrounds and



Photo courtesy of Rory Pitts

INTERNSHIP Junior political science major Rory Pitts, is interning for the Helsinki Commission as part of the Baylor in Washington semester program.

the program did a good job of providing variety to get a perspective."

Dallas junior Briann Bardsley, an international studies major is another student in the program. Bardsley is interning at the Religious Freedom Institute and will be working with the North Africa team to conduct research, plan events and coordinate other activities.

"The program directors have done a wonderful job of giving us multiple opportunities to meet with Baylor alums in the D.C. area to ask questions about their career, life and the political atmosphere here," Bardsley said.

All undergraduate majors are encouraged to apply for the program. The student program fee is \$4,800 and

the refundable housing department fee is \$200. Students are responsible for most meals and any incidentals, but transportation and housing is included in the fees. To be eligible for the program, you must be an undergraduate, entering at least the second semester of your sophomore year and have a GPA of a 3.0 or higher.

To apply for the program, submit a resume, cover letter, letter of recommendation and a degree audit under the "Apply Now!" The Fall 2019 priority deadline is March 1 by 5 p.m. and the final deadline is April 19 by 5 p.m.

For more information, visit the Baylor in Washington program web-page.

Baylor Briefs

January 23, 2019 WEDNESDAY

Centering Prayer

When? 12:30-1 p.m.

Where? Beauchamp Recovery Center (BARC).

The event is hosted/sponsored by Spirituality and Public Life and Baylor Wellness. Students are given the opportunity to jump into weekly prayer practices, reflecting on what it means to pray towards intentionality. For additional information, email Jesse_Pyle@baylor.edu

Spring Break 2019 Interest Meeting

When? 5-6 p.m.

Where? Campus Recreation Conference Room.

The event is hosted/sponsored by Outdoor Adventure. They have trips to the Grand Canyon, Paria Canyon, Joshua Tree National Park and Bike-packing in Arizona. Students will get specific and logistical information at the meeting. For more information, contact Jeremy_Yarbrough@baylor.edu

Women's Basketball vs. Iowa State

When? 7 p.m.

Where? Ferrell Center.

Faiths Traditions Reception

When? 4-5 p.m.

Where? Barfield Drawing Room of the Bill Daniel Student Center.

The event is hosted by Office of the President, University Chaplain, and Better Together. Students of all faiths are invited to attend and refreshments will be provided. For more information, contact Sharyl_Loeng@baylor.edu.

Baylor offers new home for transfer students

MADALYN WATSON
Staff Writer

After the long winter break, returning Baylor students are falling back into old routines and their regular friend groups. However, there are new students on campus: transfer students and freshmen alike who are just now starting their Baylor journey.

Joe Oliver, Transfer Student Success Program director, said that there are typically 400 students transferring to Baylor during the Fall semester and only about 100 transfer students in the Spring semester.

"My hope is to help [transfer students] transition to Baylor successfully and then once they're here, help them persist onto graduation," Oliver said.

Baylor to question how they can continue to make policies that aid transfer students.

"Student Activities has always allowed transfer students to run the Baylor Line, but they never advertised, [and] they never intentionally sold line jerseys to them until a few years ago," Oliver said.

Oliver said transfer students add a level of diversity to Baylor's student population.

"I have had students who have worked professionally for 10 years, and they come back [to] change career paths altogether. Or they just had a terrible experience at their last school, and they know Baylor is a better place for them," Oliver explained.

Oliver said that there are current Baylor students who become transfer mentors or transfer ambassadors. Transfer mentors were assigned once school began, but there are also transfer ambassadors who contacted transfer students prior to their arrival at Baylor.

Chicago junior Trisha Porzycki was assigned an ambassador before she began the semester.

"She actually called me on the phone and introduced herself to me," Porzycki said. "She's been awesome because I can just text her and it doesn't have to be a big deal or anything like that. And I don't have to be embarrassed to ask questions."

Porzycki attended the University of Tennessee her first two years of college before she decided to move closer to her mother in Houston. However, she was worried that she would miss her chapter of the Panhellenic sorority, Alpha Chi Omega.

"So I actually had contacted the president [of Baylor's chapter] and asked, 'Hey, do y'all take transfers? How does that all work?'" Porzycki said.

Porzycki said that the women in AXO at Baylor helped her with the transition, and she is going to become an official member of their chapter soon.

Granbury freshman Makenzie Edwards also started Baylor this spring semester, and her older sister, who also attends Baylor, helped her adjust halfway through the year.

"I realized all the people [at Baylor] are really, really nice, and they're all good people. And I've never felt more at home than any other place," Edwards said.

Although going to the same school as her sister worried Edwards at first, she said it helped to see so many of her sister's friends when she was walking to her classes on her first day.

Edwards graduated from high school a semester early, which led to her starting college halfway through this school year.

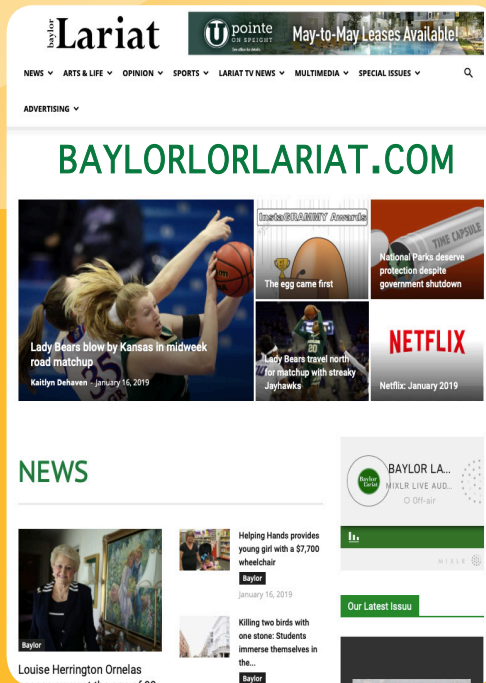
"Baylor made it possible for me to come here, because most of the scholarships were gone from fall semester, and to make up for it [until next semester] they added onto my other scholarships," Edwards said.

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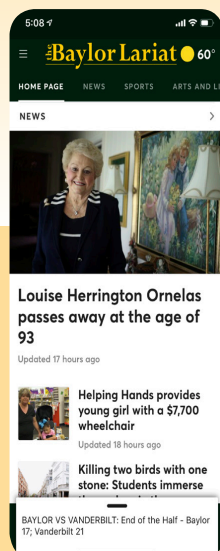
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MLK from Page 1

King’s final speech in 1968. Pausing in a grassy area, the crowd took in words of inspiration and encouragement from different leaders in their fields and organization presidents.

“When one part of the human race succeeds, the whole human race succeeds. Remember the dream but also remember what it takes to activate the dream,” Dr. Peaches Henry, Waco NAACP president said.

She said this after applauding those who voted in the election of McLennan County’s first African-American female county commissioner. She continued to remind the audience members of their duty to use their voices.

Every year, the peace walk in Waco increases in recognition as it consistently gives people a place to remember the civil rights movement and share their voices.

Rolanda Burns, graduate adviser of Baylor Alpha Kappa Alpha has attended the event several times.

“It looks like each year that we keep coming, more and more people come. The highlight of this whole thing is really the children who have caught onto the dream of MLK and appear and participate. It’s so important to teach our

children the dream that they can be anything and everything they want to be. And it does not mater what race we are. All ethnicities are here. That is what Dr. King’s dream is all about.” Burns said.

Ron English, the Waco Sigma Chapter President, spoke on organization representations and the purpose surrounding the walk.

“We joined up Phi Beta and Phi Beta Sigma about five to six years back and invite other organizations that are working for cultural equality and equity to come out to this event. Some school superintendents are here along with the children. For me, being at this event is a time to reflect- not necessarily to be against, but to be for.” English said, “My own kids usually come to this event. They just couldn’t wake up this early morning.”

After a brief reflection by Alice Pollard, Zeta Phi Beta sorority chairperson and event coordinator, the crowd walked to the Bledsoe Recreation Center. For about an hour, the audience was shown several dances, gospel songs, and pieces of poetry that all served to preserve the memory of Martin Luther King Jr. and his service to America. The event finished with a ‘Unity Circle’ and lunch was served at Bledsoe-Miller Center.

CLEANUP from Page 1

or canoe in order to reach waste that had drifted towards the center of the river. Some of the waste found by students in the river were basketballs and fishing rods. Two of the students, while reaching for trash floating in the river, flipped over their kayak and fell until the cold Brazos River.

“Some of us are walking on either side of the river and some of the kayaks flipped over,” Thornton said.

Several of the volunteers were Waco families, that planned their day around the Brazos River Clean Up and the 21st Annual Martin Luther King Jr. Peace March and Observance earlier that morning.

“It’s fun to play outside now. I’m a Waco native and you know, back in my day when I was in high school, you didn’t go into the river. It was disgusting and you wouldn’t even go near it,” Millerd said.

SHUTDOWN from Page 1

Christmas like he had planned.”

The absence of a family member at the holiday season due to the shutdown took put things into perspective for the Black family.

“It just seems like it almost doesn’t matter the reasoning [for the shutdown],” Holt Black said. “I know my mom was really down about the whole thing.”

Hunter Black, who expects to get a full paycheck during his next pay period, shared the same sentiment as his family did.

“It was just super frustrating,” Hunter Black said. “Having to spend Christmas away from home is never ideal or anything, but under these circumstances especially.”

According to the Huffington Post, Black is one about 420,000 federal employees who have been working without pay the last month, including over 50,000 servicemen and women, a key demographic President Trump won over in his victory in the 2016 election.

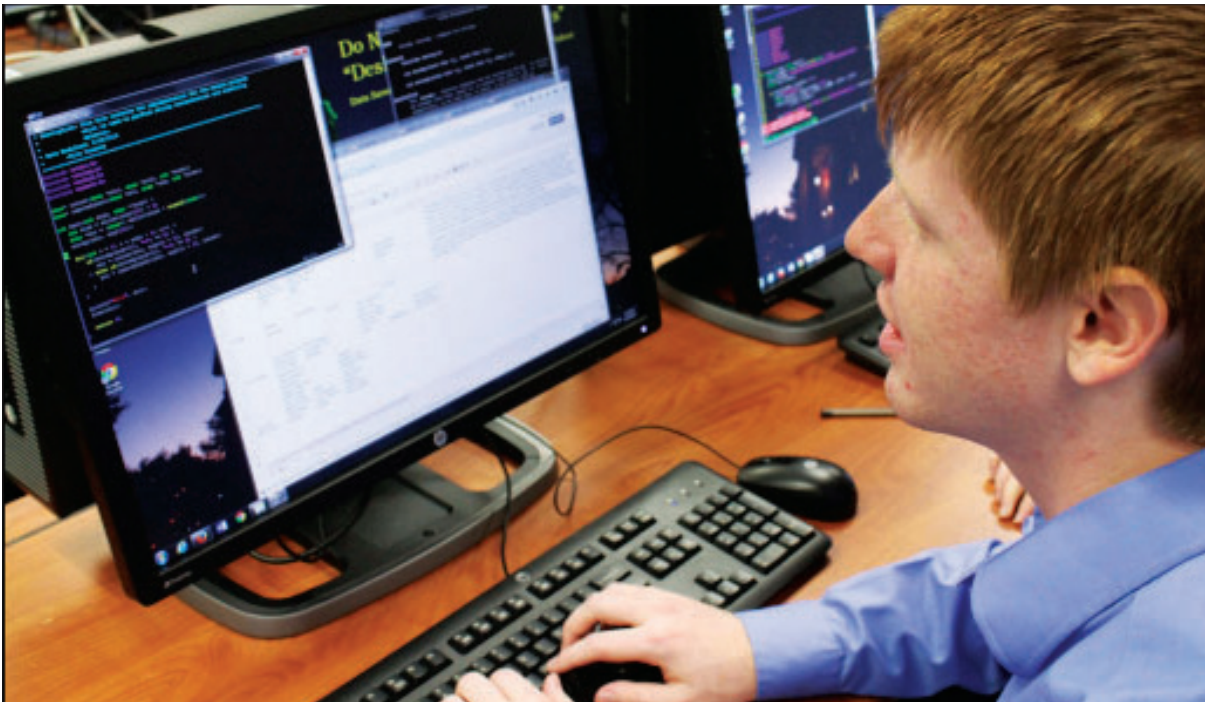


Photo courtesy of Baylor University

COMPUTER SCIENCE Computing for Compassion members provide services to local nonprofits by erasing sensitive information from hard drives.

BU’s Computing for Compassion project helps CASA protect kids

MICHELLE PEREZ
Reporter

Baylor’s computer science organization, Computing for Compassion, has recently wrapped up a project with Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA). The project helps the advocates erase sensitive information to provide safety for children within the court system.

CASA helps support children who experience abuse or neglect and helps find them a safe and permanent home. Through donations and gifts from partners and the public, CASA has been able to grow to 49 states and nearly 950 programs.

Due to the volume of private information that CASA receives, they need a way to delete private information that is no longer required. That is when executive director of CASA, Anna Futral, reached out to Computing for Compassion asking for their help in erasing private information and repurposing the computer parts.

Computing for Compassion helps

different nonprofits throughout Waco who need tech support and with their help have saved hundreds of dollars for these organizations. Formatting a computer — erasing everything from the hard drives can cost up to \$300 per computer, and with the limited amount of donations they receive, the organizations don’t have the luxury on high-tech equipment.

With 10 computers to work with, Houston senior Mario Lopez, president of Computing for Compassion, led the organization in this project. The organization met up a couple of times a month throughout the semester and worked through each computer. With help from their sponsor, Google, the organization was able to safely erase all of the information on the hard drives and refurbish the computers.

“Waco is a very underserved area, and we want to fill in that gap and show what the tech is all about,” Lopez said.

The computers were taken to a safe place, where the organization was able to finish formatting all of the computers by December 2018. The 10 computers

were then refurbished and donated to Tennyson Middle School in Waco.

Lopez explained that different types of organizations reach out to computing for compassion throughout the year to help them with their technology, due to how expensive the technology world is. Although they have worked with many nonprofits over the years, this project has been one of the most successful.

Scott Air Force Base, Ill., sophomore Meghan Bibb is currently working on different types of projects with Computing for Compassion. She works with their tutoring program at Harmony Science Academy.

“It was awesome to be able to contribute to a program that helps so many children,” Bibb said.

Computing for Compassion is now working on a community event in March called “Wacode.” It will be the first computer science event in Waco and will include workshops, startup competitions and technology conferences.

Weighing the cost, benefit of taking loans for college degree

RAEGAN TURNER
Staff Writer

Attending Baylor University is more expensive than it has ever been. On-campus living costs in total come out to \$63,220 for the nine-month academic year, with off-campus total expenses calculated to be a little lower at \$62,516. At this cost, students could eventually spend a quarter of a million dollars getting a four-year degree. Though a significant number of students do receive a scholarship from Baylor, the amount is often only a fraction of tuition costs.

As a result of this, a little over half of all Baylor graduates leave the university with student debt. The average amount of this debt is \$44,859, according to the Student Loan Debt by School by State Report, a rundown of data provided annually by LendEDU.

Baylor alumna Lynden Scott graduated in May 2018 with a bachelor’s degree in political science and is now living and working in Waco. Despite earning a substantial scholarship and receiving help with tuition from her parents, she is still having to pay back student loans. Scott said she is grateful for her education, though the most applicable things she learned during her time at Baylor in regard to her future were not about political science.

“If I’m honest, I’m not sure that I am going to use my degree, but I think that the skills that I learned, even just people skills and managing my time I’ll carry with me for the rest of my life along with the friendships I’ve made as well,” Scott said.

Though attending the university is expensive and many at Baylor will have a loan payment waiting for them six months after they graduate, the benefits of higher education seem to outweigh the cost in most students’ eyes.

This sentiment is reflected by a statement in a recent Wall Street Journal

article that described most college graduates as living longer, healthier and wealthier lives than their counterparts who earned no higher than a high school diploma.

Dr. Scott Cunningham, an associate professor of economics at Baylor provided some explanation as to why, other than having a heftier wallet, this could be true:

“If I’m honest, I’m not sure that I am going to use my degree, but I think that the skills that I learned I’ll carry with me for the rest of my life.”

LYNDEN SCOTT |
BAYLOR ALUMNA

“The causal effect on a college degree on crime, your incarceration rate, probability of being a public assistant, your ability to buy a house and even your marriage market opportunities, is significant. The ripple effects of a college degree are gigantic. That said, I don’t know if the returns on college are the same for every major, but you can go into certain majors purely for consumption reasons, like

the love of learning, and then when you graduate you’re just going to have to hustle,” Dr. Cunningham said.

Cunningham’s comment stemmed from personal experience. Having majored in English at the University of Tennessee in Knoxville, he graduated without having a related career lined up and started waiting tables in Louisiana. Eventually he landed in a job doing market research, and this eventually led him an interest in economics. He now has a Ph.D. in Economics and does extensive research while teaching at Baylor.

Despite Cunningham’s story that ended in success, many do not. Statistics from the WSJ article present the possible danger of being unemployed even after graduating from college. According to the data, 32 percent of college grads end up in a position that does not require a degree. This means that jobs that do not require a college degree are being filled, often for 10 or more years, by those who did spend the money, time and effort on a degree.

In order to try and prevent these possible underemployment and debt problems later down the line, students are urged to think realistically and prepare for the future.

“Experts say students should be sure they have the wherewithal to finish, pick a major that is likely to prepare them for a solid career and avoid taking on too much debt,” the article said.

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WACO TO NEW YORK

Check out some of the Baylor students who traveled to New York for auditions.
pg. 6



WHAT TO DO

Take a look at some of the things going on around Waco this week.
pg. 6

“I’m so thankful for the people I have met in this community. They validate this dream I have to pursue music as a career.”
Ejay Mallard

HOT RIGHT NOW>> Fans are accusing Ariana Grande of ripping off Princess Nokia and Soulja Boy in her new song “7 Rings.”

Baylor’s underground sound

Student community collaborate, cultivate artistic appreciation

LINDSEY REYNOLDS
Reporter

He sat there bobbing his head up and down and strumming his fingers on the table next to a giant pad of paper. It was adorned with hieroglyphic-looking scribbles that, to an onlooker, seemed to have no order or purpose. However, far from meaningless, these scribbles were the highly poetic thoughts of an artist with a purpose.

Temple junior Jhefferson Blunt, who’s stage name is “Judah,” is not only a corporate communications major on the pre-law track, but also an audio engineer and rapper in Baylor’s underground music scene—a community of artists that unite in efforts to support, improve and promote each other’s art.

“All of us, in one way or another, have stepped in foot in each other’s artistic lives,” said Blunt. “I feel like because of that, we are able to propel not only ourselves, but one another a little bit further.”

This growing community of Baylor students represents a deepening network of musicians, writers, visual artists, poets, songwriters, rappers, singers, spoken-word poets, audio engineers, videographers, photographers and graphic designers. They are not an official Baylor organization. Rather, these students are united independently by one thing: self-expression.

Baylor alumnus Ejay Mallard, a 2018 graduate in computer science, is a singer and songwriter from California. He was one of the prominent advocates for the new recording studios on the garden level of Moody Library.

“Baylor has done some things to advocate for the underground music scene here,” Mallard said. “One of the main things was the recording studio in Moody. The recording studios have given many of Baylor’s underground artists the tools needed to create anywhere from a single song to a full album.”

The studio in Moody is also a place to network. Many times two artists will meet while they are in the studio area. One may be a part of the underground music community, while the other completely unaware, thus expanding the reach of this community.

“There’s definitely a huge underground music scene at Baylor,” said Mallard. “I think there’s a lot of talent here that goes unrecognized, and I’ve been very blessed to be surrounded with

some dope people.”

Although not formally recognized by Baylor as an organization, these students impact the community around them. Many members are a part of other groups, such as Greek organizations, Baylor athletics, choirs, church worship teams and other student associations.

Both Blunt and Mallard said they have received invaluable feedback and advice from their fellow artists in the community. The advice is often times very specific, suggesting that the artist pitch up a drum or fix the cadence when he or she is off by a syllable. Because this community has cultivated a trust in each other’s creative discretion, it is a safe place for the artists to exchange ideas, gain support and refine their art through constructive criticism.

“I’m so thankful for the people I have met in this community,” Blunt said, “they validate this dream I have to pursue music as a career.”

You can find Mallard’s music on Spotify and SoundCloud at Ejay Mallard and Blunt’s music on SoundCloud at Judah.



Photo courtesy of Maryse Bombito

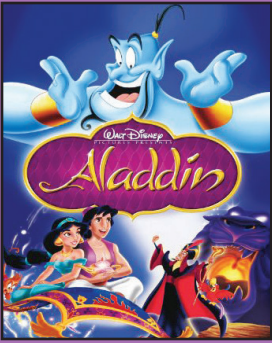
ARTISTIC FLOW Temple junior Jhefferson Blunt found support and community in the underground music scene at Baylor, a group he says challenges one another to improve their art.



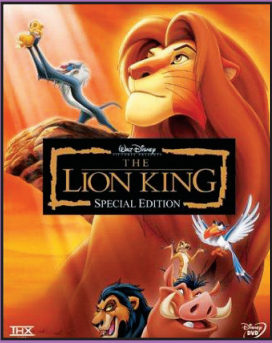
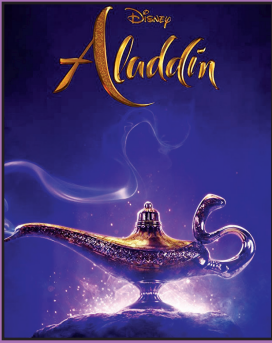
Photo courtesy of Hunter Williams

THANKFUL Ejay Mallard’s involvement with the underground music scene at Baylor has extended beyond his graduation in 2018. Since moving on from Baylor, he has continued to cultivate his craft along some of the other aspiring student artists in the unofficial Baylor group.

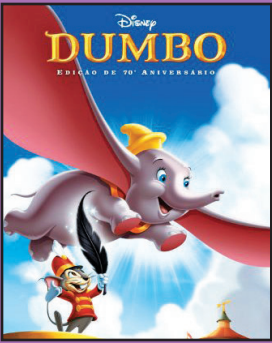
Disney Do-overs: Remakes of 2019



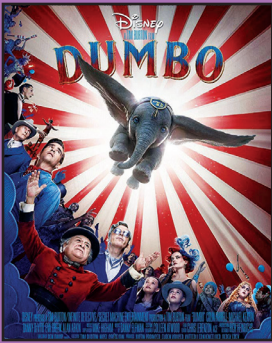
Aladdin - May 24, 2019
The remake is being directed by Guy Ritchie with Mena Massoud as Aladdin, Naomi Scott as Princess Jasmine and Will Smith portraying Genie.



The Lion King - July 19, 2019
Jon Favreau, who also directed The Jungle Book remake in 2016, will direct the remake of the Disney classic. Donald Glover is to voice Simba with Beyonce Knowles as Nala and James Earl Jones as Mufasa.



Dumbo - March 29, 2019
Tim Burton is directing the remake with Colin Farrell, Eva Green, Danny DeVito and Michael Keaton starring in the film.



Remakes of Lady and The Tramp, Peter Pan, The Sword in the Stone, Pinocchio, Snow White, Mulan and The Little Mermaid are also in the works.

Baylor Theatre students travel to New York City for auditions

THOMAS MORAN
Arts and Life Editor

A group of Baylor Theatre students traveled to New York City last weekend to participate in an audition weekend designed to get as many students as possible in front of scouts for theaters and schools across the nation. The students participated in a variety of auditions, from dance to acting to vocals.

Washington, D.C., senior Hanna Rose Hunt traveled with the group to the Big Apple. Like many of the students who attended, Hunt auditioned through the University Resident Theater Association, or the “URTAs.”

“Twenty to 50 schools will register, and then artists, actors, tech people and other people will come audition in front of these schools,” Hunt said.

Those auditioning are required to prepare monologues for their auditions, which only last for two minutes, Hunt said.

“I did two monologues,” Hunt said. “A monologue from ‘Romeo and Juliet’ and I also did a monologue from this show called ‘Eggs and Bones.’ If you run over two minutes, there is a person who literally has a stopwatch and they’ll say, ‘thank You,’ and you have to leave.”

The benefit of these auditions is that students are able to audition for over 20 graduate programs at once, rather than traveling all around the nation to get a shot at a slot at one of the schools, Hunt said. It also helps expose students to schools they might not have considered previously.

However, it is not solely undergraduate seniors auditioning at the URTAs. Anyone interested in pursuing graduate studies is welcomed to audition.

“The thing about

graduate school is, it’s not just students graduating from college,” Hunt said. “There were people of all ages.”

Although there was plenty of camaraderie, everyone attending is fully aware of the scarcity of spots available at each program, and the competition is intense, Hunt said.

“[It’s] insanely competitive,” Hunt said. “From basically 8 a.m. to 2 p.m., every two minutes exactly, they have someone go in and audition.”

Beyond the URTAs, Hunt also auditioned for New York University and London Academy of Music and Dramatic Art.

Murphy senior Kelsey Ward headed to the Big Apple for both URTA auditions and dance auditions.

“I signed up as a dancer specifically. We started with a dance call at 8 a.m. We finished done at about 4 o’clock.”

The dance auditions hosted around 40 entities, all seeking dancers to add to their companies, Ward said.

“It’s a good way to be seen by people in the industry,” Ward said. “There were some casting agents. There were a bunch of regional theaters from around the U.S. There were some cruise ship lines. Disney casting agents were there.

One challenging element of the theater business is that individual organizations are not always looking simply for talented actors and actresses. They are specific hair colors, body shapes and acting styles, among a plethora of other characteristics that can ultimately determine one’s acceptance or rejection, Hunt said.

Shortly after auditioning, some of schools and organizations attending URTA released their callback lists. According to Jasper senior Carson Shofner, the waiting period between the audition and the callback list being posted is extremely stressful.

“It was so stressful because we essentially just sat in a room, then went and auditioned for about 30 people,” Shofner said. “Then we waited for about five hours for the first round of callbacks to come out. Then after that, we waited for two and a half hours for the second round of callbacks to come out.”

Callbacks might entail anything from more monologue performances to sit-down interviews with representatives.

“That is the time for them to talk to you and get to know you because that’s a pretty big part of them extending that invitation—your personality,” Shofner said.

The time frame during which a school or company might contact an actor after an audition can vary greatly.

“I could hear back in a couple days, or I could hear back in a couple months,” Ward said. “They said that last year they had someone hear back from a theater company six months after their audition,” Ward said.

Another challenging element of the audition process can be the order in which you are set to audition. For one of hers, Ward was the first individual to audition, so she was unable to hear from other applicants about what to expect upon entering the audition space.

Though the audition process is intimidating, Baylor Theatre overprepares its students, which ultimately lead to a huge boost of confidence, Hunt said.

“When I actually got to New York and I was surrounded by other people auditioning, I realized that the Baylor students were some of the most prepared students,” Hunt said. “I felt completely confident. I had multiple monologues ready. I had no doubt that we were overly prepared, and that definitely has to do with Baylor.”

WHAT TO DO IN WACO

Wednesday, Jan. 23

The Neoclassical Gaze | Martin Museum of Art | Free | The Martin Museum is opening a new exhibit featuring a series of early nineteenth-century engravings of Greek and Roman sculptures.

Touch of Red | Cultivate 7twelve | Wednesday - Friday | 10 a.m. - 6 p.m. | The exhibit features small works of art by the Professional Artists of Central Texas. Most pieces are for sale.

Common Grounds Open Mic Night | 8 - 10 p.m. | The local coffee shop will host its weekly open mic night with slots given on a first-come, first-served basis.

Thursday, Jan. 24

Distinguished Artist Series: Third Coast Percussion | 7 p.m. | Jones Concert Hall | The Grammy-winning quartet of percussionists are based in Chicago. The ensemble has since traveled the globe sharing their passion for percussion.

Photo courtesy of Pixabay.com

COMICS



PUZZLES

Sherman's Lagoon

By: Jim Toomey

LAST DAY OF YOUR COMIC BOOK CONVENTION.

YEP.



Sally Forth

By: Greg Howard

SWEETIE, WHY THE SUDDEN INTEREST IN SLEEPAWAY CAMP?

I FEEL LIKE I'M ALIENATING EVERYONE, MOM. I FEEL ALIENATED FROM MYSELF...



PREMIER Crossword

By Frank A. Longo

21 AND SINGLE ACROSS

- 1 Alcatraz Island locale, for short
- 6 Info-filled
- 11 Subjective paper pieces
- 16 Yeshiva student, e.g.
- 19 Land, in Italy
- 20 Fast Amtrak service
- 21 Salsa singer Cruz
- 22 Pal, in Nice
- 23 Concerning the effects of drugs on the mind
- 27 Maestro — -Pekka Salonen
- 28 12:00, half of the time
- 29 South, in Spanish
- 30 Flinch in fear
- 31 Squid feature
- 34 “Chill out!”
- 37 Amply skilled
- 38 Belief in a national power structure
- 42 Acting signal
- 43 Blarney Stone’s land
- 44 “Sometimes you feel like —”
- 45 Get moving
- 48 Org. for tooth drillers
- 50 Lid
- 52 Bullfight yell
- 55 Official endorsement via an amendment, say
- 61 Savings acct. addition
- 62 Days before holidays
- 63 Rises
- 64 Heaps
- 65 Ornamental hairnets
- 67 Jogged
- 69 — Pointe, Michigan
- 71 Gazpacho, e.g., in Spanish
- 72 Talisman
- 73 Cookie for 100+ years
- 75 He’s a doll
- 76 Ear, nose and throat doctor
- 81 B-ball official
- 82 Sneak off to say “I do”
- 83 The same: Prefix
- 84 — Carlo
- 85 Street — (popular acceptance)
- 86 Video file format, in brief
- 89 Wrestling win
- 90 Quality among identical things
- 100 TV’s Griffin
- 101 Oaths
- 102 Swiss city on Lake Geneva
- 103 Shelling out
- 106 Moo goo — pan
- 107 Short comic sketch
- 108 Fist bump, colloquially
- 109 Machine for a brain test

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- 115 Palme — (film award)
- 116 Coiled
- 117 Sprightly
- 118 China’s Zhou
- 119 Mil. officer
- 120 Taunts in fun
- 121 Swift
- 122 Nation south of Sicily

DOWN

- 1 Fla. Gulf city
- 2 Admits guilt, with “up”
- 3 Kobe of hoops
- 4 Curved path
- 5 “Boo—!” (“All right!”)
- 6 Port southeast of Roma
- 7 Canyon comebacks
- 8 Stop nursing
- 9 35mm camera type
- 10 Thanksgiving staple
- 11 Like mystical practices
- 12 City in Illinois
- 13 Added wing
- 14 Fashionable Christian
- 15 Stuffing herb
- 16 “I. Claudius” star Derek
- 17 PC-to-PC letters
- 18 Actor Dafoe
- 24 Aunt’s spouse, in Paris
- 25 Unified
- 26 “Sorry, already have plans”
- 32 Cantina snacks
- 33 Bordered on
- 34 Roman 901
- 35 Above, in verse
- 36 Country crooner Randy
- 39 Fire output
- 40 Mother of Don Juan
- 41 Magical glow
- 45 Clip out, as a coupon
- 46 Imply in its definition
- 47 In addition to
- 48 Gorged on
- 49 Fluffy floor-cleaning tool
- 50 Walking aid
- 51 They can’t be taught new tricks, in a saying
- 52 Raincoat material
- 53 Most baggy
- 54 Pact among nations
- 56 ER hookups
- 57 Bit of land in l’ocean
- 58 Mink relative
- 59 In smart garb
- 60 Eastern spiritual path
- 66 Crew tool
- 68 Precept
- 69 Salon goop
- 70 Suitemates, say
- 72 Like one of a battery’s terminals

- 74 Pal of Piglet
- 77 That girl’s
- 78 “How did — this happen?”
- 79 Close by
- 80 Fixin’ to
- 85 Longtime Honda model
- 86 Rock or jazz
- 87 Thanksgiving staple
- 88 Suffix with host or lion
- 89 Mickey’s dog
- 90 Obstruct
- 91 Kevin of “Aliens in the Attic”
- 92 Maytag products
- 93 Rocker Ted
- 94 Big pianos
- 95 High-pH substance
- 96 Skipped out (on)
- 97 Ultimate purpose
- 98 Be short with
- 99 Old compact Kia model
- 104 Abbr. on a food carton
- 105 Escalate
- 107 Clipper, e.g.
- 110 “Sure,” in Soissons
- 111 Pointy part of Mr. Spock
- 112 Links gp.
- 113 Ruby or onyx
- 114 Stuff in some viral genes

CAUSE A RACKET >> Follow along with Baylor men’s and women’s tennis all season at BaylorLariat.com

Men’s Tennis
Weekend Brief

Men’s tennis sweeps
season-opening games

ELISABETH THARP
Sports Director

The 11th-ranked Baylor men’s tennis team dominated in its doubleheader season opener against Prairie View A&M and UT Arlington Friday at the Hawkins Indoor Tennis Center. Baylor has won 22 of its last 23 season openers dating back to 1996, and Baylor head coach Brian Boland said this season opener was really special. “We’ve been waiting a really long time to compete,” Boland said. “I love this group of guys. They are such a good team, and they’ve worked really hard on the culture and spent so much time together anticipating the opportunity to compete as a team. This was a great start.” Boland said UT Arlington was certainly a challenge and had a lot of grit and fight. “This was exactly what we needed to get ready for [The University of Pennsylvania] on Monday,” Boland said. Senior Jimmy Bendeck said winning the season opener is nice, but it’s just the beginning. “I think the team did an unbelievable job staying focused,” Bendeck said. “It was competitive and just amazing how we didn’t lose one match.” Being Baylor’s first dual match with a semi-new team, Bendeck said it felt like they had been playing together for two to three years already. “I thought it was super special,” Bendeck said. “The guys who were off the court showed they are just as important as the guys who were playing on the court.” After this doubleheader, Bendeck said fans can expect to see a lot of fight, pride, and toughness from them this season. “There are a lot of guys who are disciplined, grateful and respectful,” Bendeck said. “There are also guys out there who are wanting to be competitive and ready to win.”

Men’s Basketball
Brief

Bears defeat Mountaineers
for third straight victory

DJ RAMIREZ
Sports Writer

The Baylor men’s basketball team picked up its third straight conference win on Monday night with an 85-73 victory over West Virginia in Morgantown. It was the Bears’ second straight road win after defeating Oklahoma State last week. Baylor played a highly physical game against a West Virginia team that had the advantage in terms of height. The Bears have had to play smaller since losing sophomore forward Tristan Clark to a knee injury on Jan. 8. The difference in height did not stop senior guard Makai Mason from dominating against the Mountaineers. Mason posted a game-high 29 points to continue his hot streak. Sophomore forward Mario Kegler also posted a season-high 18 points and was 5-5 from the free throw line. The Bears led the Mountaineers by 21 points with 15:10 left in the second half, but things turned sloppy as West Virginia mounted pressure against Baylor. After only allowing two turnovers in the first half, the Bears turned over the ball to West Virginia 16 times in the second. The Mountaineers cut the lead down to eight points with 3:26 remaining in the game, but the Bears continued to find a way as Kegler converted a couple of free throws to extend Baylor’s lead and secure the win. Baylor will return home to face the Alabama Crimson Tide in the SEC/Big 12 Challenge at 11 a.m. Saturday at the Ferrell Center.



Scan the logo using the Lariat
Alive app for highlights from the
Bears’ upset of Texas Tech



Megan Powers | Multimedia Journalist

FOLLOW THROUGH Sophomore Katelyn Parker watches the ball after returning a shot against New Mexico on Saturday at the Hawkins Indoor Tennis Center. The Bears won all four of their matches over MLK weekend to move to 4-1 on the season.

Women’s tennis kicks off home
schedule with dominant weekend

KAITLYN DEHAVEN
Digital Managing Editor

Baylor women’s tennis was picked to finish middle-of-the-pack in the Big 12 this season, but it opened up its 2019 home slate strong by dominating four matches on MLK weekend. The Bears competed in two matches on Saturday and two on Monday. All matches were played at the Hawkins Indoor Tennis Center. Head coach Joey Scrivano said he’s proud of the way the team played and looks forward to the rest of the season. “I feel incredibly proud of our team,” Scrivano said. “Our girls just fought really hard this entire weekend. I’m a proud coach right now.” The team started out the weekend hot, winning its first match against University of Texas-Rio Grande Valley, 5-2. Sophomore Livia Kraus and sophomore Dominika Sujova won the first set for the Bears 6-3 on court two, while junior Jessica Hinojosa and sophomore Kristina Sorokolet followed shortly behind with another 6-3 set win on court one. Sophomore Katelyn Parker and freshman Stephanie Adames took a loss on court three, making the Bears 1-0 at the end of the doubles match. Sujova clinched the win for the Bears with a 2-0 singles win. The Bears started the second match against the New Mexico Lobos strong with Sorokolet and Hinojosa crushing the Lobos on court one, 6-2. However, junior Angelina Shakhraichuk and Parker lost on court three 1-6. Kraus and Sujova were very evenly matched with their New Mexico opponents but ended up taking away the win 7-6. This brought the Bears ahead to 1-0 before the singles sets. In the first set of singles sets, Kraus, Hinojosa, Sorokolet and Sujova took the win. Parker and Adames did not fair as well and lost their sets. Kraus was the first one to secure another match point for Baylor, beating her opponent 6-1. Sujova pulled the Bears forward with another match point on court four, bringing the Bears to 3-0. In the end, the second match win was confirmed by Sorokolet with a 6-0 win, and Baylor ended the match 5-2. The Bears’ third match of the holiday weekend was on Monday aagainst the Rice Owls. Baylor put up a strong fight and ultimately it paid off as they took home the gold. The Bears were a bit shaky at the start of the match, losing two of three doubles sets. Kraus and Sujova were the redeeming court, keeping Rice at bay and only letting them add one point to the board. After their rough start, Baylor defeated the Owls 6-5 in their first singles set, with Kraus, Sorokolet, Shakhraichuk, Baranano and Sujova all conquering their opponents. The match continued as Kraus scored the first match point for the Bears with a 6-1, 6-1 win. Sorokolet followed quickly behind with a 6-3, 6-2 victory, bringing Baylor up to 2-1. Shakhraichuk came in hot with the next singles victory, and

Sujova finished the match with a 6-4. With this set the team won their third match 4-3. Scrivano said the win over in-state rival Rice was huge for the team.

“Our girls just fought really hard this entire weekend. I’m a proud coach right now.”
JOEY SCRIVANO | HEAD COACH

“Obviously the win over Rice was really big,” Scrivano said. “[It was] just a great team effort. I really felt like Rice was the heavy favorite and for our team to find a way to win was just really incredible. Really proud of all the girls.” In the last match of the weekend,

Baylor played Prairie View A&M and kept a steady lead the entire match. In the doubles portion of the match, Kraus and Sujova defeated their team 6-3 on court two while Hinojosa and Sorokolet took a 6-4 victory on court one. Parker and Adames took a loss on court three, but the Bears were still up 1-0 at the end of the doubles set. Kraus was once again the first one to pull the Bears up to a serious lead by gaining a singles match point 6-0, 6-1. It was a big night for Adames as she took home her first singles set win ever 6-4, 6-1. Another impressive play was by Sujova, who had a 6-0, 6-0 singles victory against her Prairie View A&M opponent. Both of these sets brought the Bears to 3-0. As the night continued, Baylor continued to dominate as Sorokolet and Adames took down Prairie View A&M to bring the Bears to 6-1 at the end of the night. Shakhraichuk said that as the season continues, she looks forward to playing her best and improving as a team as time goes on. “I’m looking forward to being united as a team and showing the best we can be,” Shakhraichuk said. “The result isn’t important. You just need to come to the court and show your best.” The Bears return to the court to face Wichita State at 11 a.m. Saturday in Austin.



Megan Powers | Multimedia Journalist

WIND IT UP Baylor sophomore Dominika Sujova gets ready to return a shot against New Mexico on Saturday at the Hawkins Indoor Tennis Center.



Josh Aguirre | Multimedia Editor

DOUBLE TEAMED Baylor senior guard Makai Mason looks to drive the ball against two Texas Tech defenders on Saturday at the Ferrell Center. The Bears have won three straight games and Mason leads the team with 16 points per game this season.

Mason, Cox guiding Baylor basketball to midseason success

JESSIKA HARKAY
Sports Writer

Coming off big wins this long weekend, the Baylor basketball programs go into their next matchups full steam ahead with confidence. The Lady Bears advanced to 15-1 on the season and the men's basketball team is on a three-game win streak. The two teams continue to prove themselves as threats and honorable contenders in the Big 12.



The women's team takes on Iowa State Wednesday and the men play Alabama on Saturday morning. Going into these matchups, an important thing to consider is the influential roles that individual players have each week. In a dynamic sport, every game is an opportunity for any athlete to pull through for their team and to stand out as the playmaker of a successful game.

With that said, as the men's 18th and women's 17th game rolls closer, two notable players to keep an eye out for in the upcoming games are the men's senior guard Makai Mason and women's junior forward Lauren Cox.

Mason led the Bears on Monday night against the Mountaineers in points and assists and had all-around promising statistics. Notching nearly 30 points and having a 63 percent field goal success, Mason was crucial to the Bears' offensive explosion against West Virginia.

Not only was his scoring impressive during the West Virginia game, but he's scored an average of 16 points per game, leading the Bears with 235 points on the season. Along with 43 assists for the year, Makai is an important factor as the men play Alabama this weekend.

SPORTS TAKE

With Alabama scoring an average of 76 points per game compared to the Baylor's 69 point average, creating an explosive and consistent offense is an important factor to pull off a win this weekend. Both teams come into the matchup with six losses, but the momentum sides with Baylor as the Crimson Tide are on a one-game losing streak.

Baylor women's basketball faces Iowa State Wednesday night. The Cyclones come to the Ferrell Center at 14-4 and off a dominating game against Oklahoma (114-78).

The Lady Bears are no stranger to tough matchups as they notably have beat teams such as Arizona State, South Carolina, and then-No. 1 UConn.

In the Lady Bears, latest game against West Virginia, Cox shot 6-of-7 from the field and came up with 13 points to give Baylor an edge. Her consistent shot and accuracy make her a reliable player.

She currently has a 53 percent field goal rate, and came into the season ranked sixth on Baylor's all-time block list with 145. Well-rounded with defensive and offensive capability, Cox is someone to keep an eye on during the Lady Bears' next game.

The two basketball teams have a handful of impressive players and weapons as they prepare for their games this week. Through both of their recent wins and ongoing development and growth, it's hard to count the Baylor Bears and Lady Bears out of any matchup going forward.

As each player finds their rhythm and begins to break out and capitalize on their strengths, the excitement and explosive dynamic of each team continues to grow more exciting to watch and cheer on.



Lariat File Photo

ROLL TO THE RIM Baylor junior forward Lauren Cox prepares to catch a pass against Nicholls State on Nov. 6 at the Ferrell Center. Cox is averaging almost 12 points per game and a team-high 2.5 blocks per game for the Lady Bears.

Season Statistics

Makai Mason - Senior Guard

15.7 points per game
2.8 assists per game
35% 3-point percentage
83% free throw percentage

Lauren Cox - Junior Forward

11.7 points per game
6.5 rebounds per game
2.5 blocks per game
53% field goal percentage

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