



GOT SOMETHING TO SAY?

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POINT OF VIEW

A Letter from the Editor: finding joy in growth

Hey Bears!

Welcome back to Waco and the start of the second semester. Despite the dropping temperatures and the stress of classes, I cannot tell you how much joy I have found in being back on campus.

Every time I return after a break, I am reminded of the many lessons I am learning so far during my time here. The most recent of these is that we are here to grow. College is an incredibly formative time of life, and while the fun parts are awesome, there are a lot of challenges and adversities we face every day.

Whether it's a difficult class, homesickness, insecurity, torn relationships or a number of other hardships (not to mention the impact of COVID-19), it can easily become overwhelming to get lost in everything that is going wrong. I know I do. It might feel like you're "doing college wrong" because not every day is as fun as you feel it's supposed to be.

I'm here to assure you that college is more than just Instagram moments with friends. It's about growth and learning, both inside the classroom and out.

“It might feel like you’re ‘doing college wrong’ because not every day is as fun as you feel it’s supposed to be.”

One day you might be learning quantum physics and the next day how to stop shrinking your clothes in the dryer. Maybe you're working on how to build positive friendships or manage your time better. Change is happening in all different areas of our lives because that is what college is really all about: growth.

As we go into this semester, start noticing all the ways in which you have grown here at Baylor. Every time you walk past your freshman dorm, remember the person you were when you first walked through those doors. Little did you know then what was to come, and little do you know now what is to be.

Here's to a semester of resilience, joy, growth and hopefully picking up a lot of copies of The Baylor Lariat :)

As always, thanks for reading!



Ava Dunwoody
Editor-in-Chief

POINT OF VIEW

New year, same me: It's not about the date



Hannah Philipp
Guest Contributor

shown that Jan. 14 is known as "Quitter's Day," which is the predicted day by which most people will lose their motivation to keep up their New Year's resolutions and call it quits. By this time, it's likely that the excitement of the new year will have worn off, and suddenly things will begin to feel less like a new era and more like they

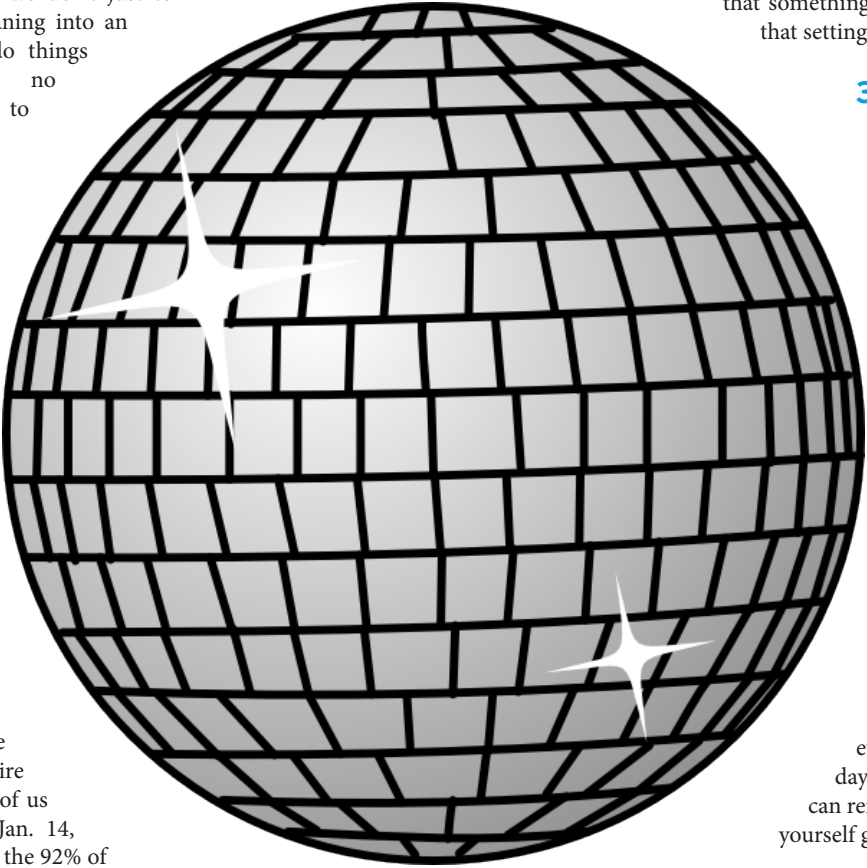
“With these statistics in mind, it’s easy to become pessimistic about the goals we set for ourselves — I mean, why even try, right? But there’s still hope.”

New Year's Eve — the dawn before a fresh start, or a useless holiday with no real value? Viewed around the world as the time to finally decide to lose that weight or take that trip to Europe, the celebration of the new year is one that is highly anticipated by most Americans, as it presents a metaphorical clean slate.

But even amid all the allure of starting fresh, you still can't help but wonder, "Where's the magic that actually makes Jan. 1 any different than Dec. 31?" Does the new year serve as motivation to change bad habits, or is it just an excuse to prolong them until the beginning of the next year? Do we celebrate New Year's in order to give ourselves an opportunity to do things differently, or do we do it just to feel like we're leaning into an opportunity to do things differently with no real commitment to change?

Research by Strava has shown that Jan. 14 is known as "Quitter's Day," which is the predicted day by which most people will lose their motivation to keep up their New Year's resolutions and call it quits. By this time, it's likely that the excitement of the new year will have worn off, and suddenly things will begin to feel less like a new era and more like they did 14 days before. In addition to this, other study reports show that only 8% of people will actually keep their New Year's resolutions throughout the duration of the entire year. And for those of us who made it past Jan. 14, we'll still likely be in the 92% of people who just can't seem to stick to their New Year's resolutions, according to Forbes Magazine.

With these statistics in mind, it's easy to become pessimistic about the goals we set for ourselves — I mean, why even try, right? But there's still hope. While New Year's resolutions might be a bust, that doesn't mean that there isn't a time for change. In fact, setting goals for yourself is a healthy part of human nature. Goal setting can motivate you to push through some of life's toughest challenges and become more resilient and successful. So if you're planning on changing something in your life, make sure to follow through. Just know that change isn't dependent on a new year, but rather on how willing you are to strive to do what is important to you.



POINT OF VIEW

Set realistic objectives

KOURTNEY DAVID
Copy Editor

I know there's nothing really new about New Year's, but I've always loved the idea of a fresh start. Most people (myself included) use this rite of passage as an excuse to make resolutions, only to forget about them by March. Maybe our goals were too lofty or we just got lazy, but my plans never see December. This year, let's make our resolutions work for us. Here's how:

1. Appreciate others without comparing yourself to them

I often catch myself admiring what others have, but rather than learning from them or being happy for them, I start to feel like something is wrong with me. Change your perspective; it's important to learn how to love others and yourself without comparing the two.

2. Set clear boundaries and standards for yourself

A new year is the perfect time to look back on what went wrong last year, what mistakes you made and what you're willing to do again. Maybe you'll find that something you've put up with can't be acceptable anymore and that setting a hard boundary would greatly improve your life.

3. Try a planner

It's common to start a planner at the beginning of the year, only to forget about it in a few months. There are many types of journals that can work for different types of people, such as bullet journals or pre-printed planners. Try a different style that maximizes what you need when organizing.

4. Complete those annoying tasks you've been avoiding

Sometimes we avoid something and make the mountain of work so high that the task seems impossible. What I've found is that buckling down and handling them first on my to-do list usually relieves my anxiety enough to get going with the rest of my day.

5. Let go of your grudges

You can either reconcile with the past or dwell on it every day. I don't know about you, but I've let too many days go by worrying about the things I can't change. You can remember the past and let it fuel your future, but don't let yourself get stuck living in it.

6. Be grateful more often

In his TED Talk, author and monk David Steindl-Rast said each moment is a gift full of opportunity and that in itself is something to be grateful for. "You haven't earned it," Steindl-Rast said. "You haven't brought it about in any way. You have no way of assuring that there will be another moment given to you, and yet, that's the most valuable thing that can ever be given to us, this moment, with all the opportunity that it contains."

7. Spend some time in the sun

Even if it means you crack the blinds for the first time in a week, a little bit of sunlight can go a long way. An article from Tri-City Medical Center explains the biological reasons why some sun can improve your health, including lowering your blood pressure and improving your sleep.

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Student DJ works way up to dream gig

MATT KYLE
Staff Writer

San Antonio junior and DJ Henry Barajas said he thinks music can make or break an event. Often, the responsibility of what to play falls on the shoulders of a DJ, who must ensure the momentum of a party is never lost by guiding the energy of the crowd with the music they play. Barajas said he likes to think of himself as “the captain of the ship,” taking the people in the crowd on a journey.

Barajas has performed as a DJ under the stage name “DJ King Henry” for just over a year. He has performed at a multitude of events, including fraternity parties, sorority events, bars and even the block party celebrating Baylor’s Big 12 Championship victory. This past weekend, Barajas performed at Scruffy Murphy’s, which he said took a lot of hard work to achieve.

Barajas said he performs to express himself creatively. He said performing as a DJ is the perfect way to connect his passion for music with his people-loving, extroverted personality.

“Being a DJ is an art because people are having a good time, and I can make them feel some type of way — especially on the dance floor,” Barajas said. “I think art is whatever moves you. So I’m able to really express myself creatively whenever I want to make the crowd feel a certain way, like a euphoric feeling, or I want them to feel like they’re the main character or like they’re at a club in Miami. That’s the way I’m able to express myself.”

Barajas said he started off by performing at small events hosted by friends, which allowed him to begin in a safe environment and develop his skills. He later moved on to fraternity parties and began performing regularly at Cricket’s Bar and Grill last summer.

Barajas said his big break came when he performed at several back-to-school events last fall. This included Zeta Tau Alpha’s



Photo courtesy of Henry Barajas

PUMP UP THE JAMS San Antonio junior Henry Barajas smiles as he performs at ZTA and Sigma Chi’s Welcome Back Bash.

“Being a DJ is an art because people are having a good time, and I can make them feel some type of way — especially on the dance floor. I think art is whatever moves you.”

HENRY BARAJAS |
SAN ANTONIO JUNIOR

(ZTA) Welcome Back Bash, which was his first paid Greek event — something Barajas deemed “monumental.”

Copperas Cove junior and ZTA president Ashley Wilson said she hired Barajas when he was recommended by a member of the sorority.

“He was super interested and so excited to do it,” Wilson said. “He did an amazing job at our first event. Everyone had so much fun. Then, it became our goal to have him at all of our events.”

ZTA isn’t the only Greek organization that loves DJ King Henry. Minneapolis junior and Phi Beta Sigma treasurer John Deutsch said Barajas is Sigma’s go-to DJ for events because of his versatility and how he interacts with the crowd.

“He’s a great DJ,” Deutsch said. “He has such a wide variety of music tastes that he can really do any event. He’s very versatile. He can do weddings, he can do parties, he can do any event. He really feeds off people’s energy. And conversely, it’s very easy to feed off of his. He’s very fun-loving and outgoing. He’s just out here trying to have a blast.”

After a year of hard work, Barajas said he managed to land a gig at Scruffy Murphy’s through the bar’s old DJ, a friend of his. Barajas said that performing at Scruffy Murphy’s was his ultimate goal when he first started and that playing the gig was him “living the dream.”

“I could feel the heat from the DJ booth — people singing

along and just enjoying themselves and having a good time,” Barajas said. “I can’t describe the feeling you get whenever you play a song that everyone wants to hear, especially somewhere like Scruff’s. It’s a common place where everyone goes and where there are no cliques. People don’t really care what fraternity or sorority you’re in. It’s the one bar we have in Waco that has just a culture behind it.”

While Barajas said he takes pride in his progress, he also said there is still room for improvement. Barajas said that he wants to continue raising his profile as a DJ and that he plans to organize and host his own events in the future instead of simply being the entertainment at other people’s events.

Barajas said he loves performing because it allows him to bring people together to have a good time.

“Music is the greatest invention of our society because of its diversity and how it makes us feel,” Barajas said. “It’s a really interesting phenomenon. Even though you may find a song really entertaining, the person next to you might hate it. That concept is fascinating to me. I really want to bring everyone together and be able to play music that everyone likes. You know that feeling whenever you’re at a party and singing along with somebody, and everyone knows the words to a certain song? That’s how it feels for me being a DJ. When I turn down the music, and I hear everyone singing, I get this huge hit of dopamine. It makes me so happy.”

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DIA

from Page 1

Former Diadeloso chairman and current Chamber of Commerce member Jayla Hall was a member when the hazing occurred and said she thinks the organization did not pay enough attention to hazing within its ranks.

“From the outside looking in, we keep up this wall,” Hall said. “But I do think that looking back, a lot of the things that we have done have crossed those lines, and I think as an organization, we tend to turn a blind eye to it because it’s something all of us have had to go through. But I think looking back on it, there were some things that were not OK and crossed those lines, and it is sad that we feel like we should not speak up.”

Regarding the prohibition of the organization hosting new member education, Hall said the organization is working to keep the program afloat with unclear plans.

“It’s a back-and-forth between Student Activities and the Chamber and how we are

going to move forward with so little members,” Hall said. “It’s up in the air. The things that need to get done are starting to get done as far as trainings and workshops, but an ultimate decision hasn’t come yet.”

As Diadeloso chairman, Hall said she was disappointed that Diadeloso involvement was prohibited despite it not relating to new member education.

Speaking on the organization’s future, Hall said she has hopes for the organization’s growth and improvement.

“I hope the best for them in the coming years,” Hall said. “I don’t want to see the Chamber disappear. I think they do a lot of important things, but I do know that the organization has a lot of growth to do, and I hope they take this time to grow. I hope they lean into that and become a better organization for the people that come after them.”



LEAD IN Chamber of Commerce loses right to host Diadeloso because of hazing incidents.



NOW IN SESSION Baylor University holds a student council meeting.

Student government

outlines semester plans

ANA RUIZ BRICTSON
Staff Writer

Baylor’s Student Government Senate Executive Council will be working on a number of projects this spring to help improve academics and organizations for students, staff and faculty.

Dallas senior Harper Taylor, chair of Academic Affairs on the council, said this semester, her team will be working in the academic realm with students, teachers, faculty, graduate students and even teaching assistants.

Taylor said one of the projects her team has been working on is within the ROTC department. Their current goal is to have a minor or secondary major designation for ROTC and Air Force. She said most other schools have one, while Baylor does not. She said she has been working closely with the lieutenant colonel at Baylor to work out this matter.

Taylor also said other members of her group are making an effort to see the cheer teams have the same credits as other sports teams.

“A few of my members are working with the cheer team to somehow work out to get them a lifetime fitness credit, similar to how the other sports get one,” Taylor said.

Some other projects Taylor said her team is working on are adding more resources to the syllabus and working out different breaks for this semester.

Additionally, the council is working on the possibility of adding a program for a scholarship or funding relief for graduate students, professors and teaching assistants.

San Francisco junior Clay Jeha, senator and finance committee chair for student government, said he is working to get the Student Government Allegation Funds to pass on to next year’s incoming team rather than having them go back to Baylor.

“Essentially, right now or in the past years, it’s been whatever we don’t spend from the SGAF goes back into Baylor’s general fund,” Jeha said. “Student government kind of loses the ability to have a say in what general fund goes to.”

Jeha said this has been one of his individual goals that will also benefit the incoming students who join student government. He also said this project is currently being discussed with the university.

Jeha said another one of his main goals is to target multicultural organizations that have not received enough funding from student government due to Greek organizations receiving more funding. He said they will focus more on these organizations this semester.

The judicial branch will continue to deal with student parking tickets and decide whether tickets should be appealed or if they need to be reversed, said Jefferson City, Mo., sophomore Betsy Morello, associate justice.

Morello said there is a spot on the judicial branch of student government that is yet to be filled and that applications are open for students who are interested to join.

Student government will be working on several projects throughout the semester to improve student, staff and faculty life on campus.

FINANCE

from Page 1

as part of the value of their degree: things like getting to run the Baylor Line, attending a well-known university and having access to amenities like the McLane Student Life Center.

“The question is, when you go to a place like Baylor, what is it that you’re buying?” West said. “Are you buying an experience, or are you investing in acquiring skills that will enable you to earn a higher salary when you get out?”

Being a private institution, Baylor’s tuition numbers are higher than average, with tuition costing \$49,246 in 2021. Baylor students cited several reasons why they chose Baylor over another cheaper option for school. Thousand Oaks, Calif., freshman Joshua Soto said he wanted to attend a Christian university. Fairfax, Va., sophomore Lilly Flanders said Baylor offered her many opportunities for scholarships.

“I would not be here without those, especially as an out-of-state student,” Flanders said. “I really liked the programs Baylor had and the University Scholars Program, which is really helpful in what I want to study.”

The willingness to meet higher prices has also been supported by the increased access to student loans. Federal student loans are given out no matter the ability of the borrower to repay them, which West said only incentivizes universities to increase prices.

“I think a lot of higher ed economists are worried,” West said. “You have people willing to pay, and the federal government is basically

subsidizing this by offering plentiful loans. Higher ed has many elements of a classic bubble. This is worrisome. There’s very little incentive for cost containment. This is the reason why top schools are so hideously expensive. There are a finite number of seats available. A large number of people want to get those seats, and you have what amounts to a bidding war. Federally guaranteed student loans in general have made that possible.”

Currently, the amount of student loan debt in the U.S. has ballooned to a \$1.6 trillion burden shouldered by 44 million Americans, according to Federal Reserve Economic Data. President Joe Biden has canceled \$11 billion of student loans and recently extended the pause on student loan repayments until May 1, 2022, but student debt still looms over many Americans.

While Thousand Oaks, Calif., freshman Grace Viso said the price tag of attending Baylor and the idea of loans were initially concerning, she said she feels confident in her ability to repay the loans she took out.

“It was stressful at first when I was picking schools, but my scholarship has helped me out a lot,” Viso said. “On top of that, I kind of see myself as an investment. I’m confident in myself and my work ethic, so honestly the money isn’t that big of a deal. Baylor has a really great alumni program, which I plan to utilize, and Baylor has a lot of great resources in order to make me successful.”

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HIDDEN TALENT

Kermit Oliver’s, a Waco postman turned artist, has a new exhibit at Art Center Waco from now until Jan. 22. **pg. 6**



WACKY WEEKEND

Looking for something to do this weekend? Check out WTDW! **pg. 6**

“The plot of the newest Tom Holland ‘Spider-Man’ movie falls flat, traded in for nostalgia and tear-jerk moments.”

New Spider-Man movie lacks substance, but not emotion..... **pg. 6**

BaylorLariat.com

Czech this out! Pivovar

AVERY BALLMANN
Staff Writer

Pivovar, a Czech-inspired brewery and restaurant, is an exciting new addition to Waco’s food scene. Pivovar’s ambiance and unique dishes will keep me coming back because it is just that good.

As I walked in, I was greeted by warm lighting and a kind host. The booth was dark forest green leather and the menus were made of wood. The tables were surrounded by tall ceilings and looming brew kettles that are positioned behind glass windows. My parents, boyfriend and I were soon greeted by our waitress, Angel. She was very helpful in her knowledge of what dishes were the best to try and she made her selling point on the dessert menu

Pivovar brought free bread to each table that comes with butter and house-made hummus. The bread was topped with mixed seasonings, and I spread a thick layer of butter over it which made it taste even better. I ultimately had to force myself to stop eating bread because I was planning to order a full-course meal, from appetizers all the way to the dessert.

For the first dish, I tried the spinach artichoke dip with crostini. The cheese pull on this dip went to the full extension of my arm. It was gooey and creamy and all good things that should be associated with an artichoke dip. The crostini were long thin pieces of crunchy bread that held the dip quite nicely and those two contrasting textures worked well together. However, I am biased to my

mom’s artichoke dip and would have liked to have tasted more flavor depth to Pivovar’s dip. For my main dish I had sausage, sauerkraut and corn ribs. This dish came with two house-made sauces, a mustard and a BBQ sauce. The mustard sauce was quite spicy, but after a couple of bites with the sauerkraut and sausage together I took a liking to it. The BBQ sauce was not what most Texans typically think of, but it was delicious nonetheless — it was smoky, sweet and fresh. The sausage was delicious; it did not taste greasy or heavy, and it was a perfect portion too.

However, I was disappointed with the corn ribs because they did not have much flavor on them at all. I can maybe understand the blandness of the corn due to the sauerkraut and unique sauces. This also was my first time trying sauerkraut, and I can see why it sounds like ‘sour’ is in the name. It was perfect when tried with the sausage, but I wouldn’t advise people to eat it by itself if they are not a fan of pickled flavors. Overall, this dish tasted authentic to the Czech cuisine and I enjoyed trying a new worldly food.

After all of the bread, cheese and sauerkraut I consumed, I really thought there was no way I could finish my goal of a full-course meal — until Angel told us the dessert menu. My stomach magically became empty when she said they were serving a creme brulee cheesecake. I immediately made eye contact with the waitress as she brought the cheesecake out of the kitchen; We both squealed in excitement.

There was a hard, sugary layer



Avery Ballmann | Staff Writer

SIZZLING ON THE SCENE Pivovar, a Czech-inspired brewery and restaurant, is an exciting new addition to Waco’s food scene.

dripped over the top of the cheesecake. A dollop of whipped cream and a ray of strawberry preserve hugged the cake from the side. I was so excited to dive in, but I had to check how crunchy the layer of sugar was, so I tapped my spoon on top and heard a hearty tap echoing back. I caught all three layers on my spoon and had a delicious bite of creamy, lemony, sugary confection that made me

smile. Suddenly the entire table became hungry again and we all enjoyed bites of this decadent creme brulee cheesecake.

Pivovar was refreshingly unique. The inside is gorgeous and so romantic making it, this is a wonderful place for date night. I loved the warmth of the staff and of the historic building. The menu at Pivovar is so large and broad it is a great place to try new things. Pivovar also has

a hotel and bakery, so for parents visiting Waco this is a convenient one-stop shop. They also have a happy hour and serve craft Czech beers and cocktails. Pivovar is a great addition to Waco and I would recommend it to anyone wanting a nice and unique dining experience. It is located at 320 South Eighth St.



What I Eat in a Day: Quarantine Edition

RACHEL ROYSTER
News Editor

Instead of going to my classes this week, I’ve been laying in bed and creating below-average meals to fill the endless time I now have because of quarantine. Don’t get me wrong, I’ve zoomed into a couple here and there and have watched my fair share of recorded lectures, but you can only do so much when most classes don’t offer an online option. Plus, that really only takes up about three to five hours out of the 15 hours I’m awake.

So, on my first day of quarantine, my very kind boyfriend retrieved my short list of groceries to get me through the week. With \$32 worth of items, I’ve masterfully created these sub-par meals. Some of these meals were a pleasant surprise, while others made me wish I had lost my sense of taste and smell.

Ham & cheese sandwich

I started the day off with a classic lunch of a ham and cheese sandwich. Typically, I’ll add avocado and salt and pepper, but this week, we’re really balling on a budget. Instead, I added a thin layer of mustard to both slices of my honey wheat bread and added a slice of cheddar cheese and a few cuts of ham.

1 out of 5 stars. It really just gets you by when you need something to do but you’re also very hungry.

Ground beef tacos with shredded cheese

This is a huge comfort food for me because my boyfriend will often make me tacos when I’m at his house. I made these with ground beef out of a tube — appetizing, I know. I seasoned the ground beef with the limited spices I have in my cabinet and it

turned out awful, to be honest. I put the ground beef in corn tortillas I warmed up on my skillet and topped with shredded cheese.

1 out of 5 stars. This meal HUMBLed me. Tacos are probably the easiest cooked meal you can make, and yet, I failed. It has been a struggle this week to eat this ground beef, I’m not kidding. As soon as I’m out of quarantine, I’m making a bee line for my boyfriend’s house and will be requesting tacos immediately.

Yogurt with strawberries, raspberries & granola

After the cooking fiasco, I opted out of cooking anything for the rest of the day and instead created a true masterpiece. While the added sugars in this yogurt is terrifying, I chose to write it off as my nightly dessert so it’s fine, right? I got my happy little red bowl and added in a helping of Greek yogurt. I then washed and cut up some strawberries and raspberries to throw in along with granola.

4 out of 5 stars. This was definitely one of my better creations. It’s super simple and makes you feel healthy as long you don’t look at the yogurt nutrition facts. I highly recommend it!

Spinach, strawberry & peach smoothie with granola

Once again, I’d like to stress that I simply am not one to cook except on special occasions. Thus, I make lots and lots of smoothies. I have a super handy Nutribullet that I use all the time and this week, I’ve stuck to using frozen strawberries and peaches. I always add in spinach for some protein and soy milk to help smooth it out.

I give this meal a 3 out of 5 stars given the ease of it. I would give it a four, but you just have to dock points for the noise. I feel awful for my roommates every time, but at least I’m not out here making smoothies at the crack of dawn.

Nachos with leftover ground beef & shredded cheese

I was sick and tired of the tacos that never ever gave me any joy, so I crafted a wonderful plate of nachos with the leftover ground beef and shredded cheese I had. I garnished my new meal with cholula, a dash of lime juice and salt.

These I would give a solid 1.75 stars only because when you’ve been having the same old thing over and over, anything new is exciting — even if it is made with the same things another meal was made from.

Fancy Lunchable snack

This darn thing takes the cake for best meal of quarantine. Yes, one can argue that I didn’t make this meal, but I sure as heck had to fight to pull the packaging off of it, so I deserve some recognition for that at least. I have no idea how much this fancy Lunchable cost, but I urge you to sprint to H-E-B and get yourself one of these lovely little things. Think of the charcuterie version of your middle school lunches, minus the love letter from mom.

5 out of 5 stars for sure. If you can get a friend to write on a sticky note and slap that sucker on your new favorite snack, you’ve got yourself a 10 out of 5 star meal. That’s unbeatable.



Morgan Dowler | Cartoonist

Review: ‘Spider-Man: No Way Home’ is all emotion, little substance

EMMA WEIDMANN
Staff Writer

The highest-grossing film of the pandemic, “Spider-Man: No Way Home,” has managed to both unite audiences and split them. There are those who consider this movie to be equal to 2019’s “Avengers: Endgame,” and then there are those who see the film as no more than a nostalgia-filled money grab.

I am of two minds when it comes to this movie. On one hand, there is nothing like sitting in that dark theater, completely engrossed in the action, eyes glued tightly to the silver screen. It also helps that Marvel has masterfully choreographed fight scenes with Tom Holland who has a background in ballet, making him an adept stuntman as well as a talented actor.

Ever since 2018’s “Avengers: Infinity War” in which Holland’s Peter Parker utters the famous line, “Mr. Stark, I don’t feel so good,” audiences have been well aware of the emotional range of the newest Spider-Man. “No Way Home” is no detour from that. In fact, Holland and his co-stars lean into this as much as possible, especially in the most impactful scenes in the movie, including the death of Aunt May and Doctor Strange’s final spell at the end.

The question is, does it rely too much on nostalgia and emotional value rather than a coherent plot that’s free of holes and unexplained inconsistencies?

I’m inclined to say it does.

Truthfully, the whole thing is contrived to be able to introduce former Spider-Man actors Toby Maguire and Andrew Garfield into the movie. Many of Parker’s choices seem to make little sense overall. He takes the hard route in attempting to fix the multiverse villains, and in doing so knowingly compromises the integrity of the timeline. As a witness of the events that transpired because of Thanos — the events that cost his beloved mentor, Tony Stark, his life — I find it hard to believe that Parker would risk causing more damage than Thanos by potentially unleashing timeline anomalies across the multiverse.

Instead of trusting Doctor Strange, Parker takes the altruistic advice of his Aunt May in attempting to cure the villains, ultimately at the cost of her life. When Aunt May is dead at the hands of



the Green Goblin, which would not have happened had Parker allowed Strange to send the villains back to their respective universes to be dealt with, Parker digs in harder rather than immediately sending them back.

Tom Holland’s Peter Parker enlists the help of Maguire and Garfield’s Peter Parkers in order to cure the villains once and for all. In the end, this causes more damage because Green Goblin unleashes the bad spell from the start of the film, thus inviting all those who know the identity of all Spider-Mans across all universes into theirs. Because of this, Holland’s Peter Parker must say

goodbye to his girlfriend, best friend and his last connection to Tony Stark so that all universes will forget the identity of Spider-Man.

I loved the thrill of seeing all three Peters fight members of the “Sinister Six” together, and I appreciated Maguire and Garfield taking a more active role in the plot rather than just a cameo. Garfield seems to agree after having to keep the appearance secret since production of the film. However, I can’t shake the idea that the plot is flimsy and could be solved entirely within the first 45 minutes of the film if Peter had only allowed Strange to send all the villains back.

What to Do in Waco: Jan. 21 - 23

ERIANNE LEWIS
Arts and Life Editor

- Brazos Brothers Concert | Jan. 21 | 7 p.m. – 9 p.m. | Torchy’s Tacos | Come out to eat and enjoy local musicians performing live music.
- Kermit Oliver: “New Narratives, New Beginnings” exhibit | On display until Jan. 22; Tuesday-Friday 11 a.m. – 5 p.m., Saturday 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. | Art Center Waco | Free | Artist Kermit Oliver, the first American to create designs for the luxury brand Hermès, has art on display for a limited time at this exhibition.
- Waco Downtown Farmers Market | Jan. 22 | 9 a.m. – 1 p.m. | Courthouse Parking Lot | Free | This weekly event includes an assortment of local vendors that provide products such as produce, meats and greenery.
- Waco Poets Society Open Mic Night | Jan. 22 | 6 p.m. – 8 p.m. | Jubilee Theatre | Free | Come out to the Waco Poets Society’s first open mic night of the year to share in the love of spoken word. Participation is not required to attend.
- The Office Trivia Night | Jan. 22 | 7:30 p.m., Doors open at 7 | Brazos Theatre | \$25 | Come out to enjoy some fun trivia from the popular TV show, “The Office.” Prizes will be given to the first-place team and winner of the costume contest.
- Tanner Usrey Concert | Jan. 22 | 8:30 p.m. – 11:30 p.m. | The Backyard Bar, Stage and Grill | Tickets are \$15-25 | Singer-songwriter Tanner Usrey will be performing live at The Backyard.
- Floating Mercado | Jan. 23 | Noon – 3 p.m. | Cen-Tex Hispanic Chamber of Commerce | Free | This monthly market will showcase local Wacoan businesses and feature food, drinks, goods and more.
- Eastside Market | Jan. 23 | Noon - 5 p.m. | Brotherwell Brewing | Free | Come out to Brotherwell to kick off the new year with Eastside Market’s new vendors, music, art, food and more.



Review: Postman’s art exhibit shows change to luxury designs

AVERY BALLMANN
Staff Writer

In 1984 Kermit Oliver moved to Waco and began working at the post office. According to Jason Sheeler, a reporter for NPR’s “All Things Considered” podcast, “He doesn’t believe he can make a living as a painter.” Oliver’s humble comment about himself does not attribute to his success in the art world.

Not only has Oliver’s art been displayed in several exhibits in Houston, but he has also designed 16 scarves for the luxury brand Hermès in Paris. The exhibit “New Narratives, New Beginnings” at Art Center Waco showcases multiple of the silk scarves and many of his paintings from his personal collection and his clients.



Photo by Avery Ballmann | Staff Writer

GATHER UP Art exhibit displays silk scarves and lifelike portraits of Texas wildlife.

The exhibit is tranquil. Somber paintings of fruit and birds were displayed right by the entrance. “The Last Meal at Jerusalem” and “Still Life with Birds” sold for a combined \$27,000 at this exhibit. Walking through the individual rooms, the paintings were different sizes and had unique frames. Each seemed to have a continuous theme, a view of how one man sees the world.

A self-portrait of Oliver, painted in 1975, was displayed in the first room. The portrait seemed mysterious and not as detailed, which could resemble Oliver’s notorious reputation of keeping his personal life private.

Past the self-portrait in the Laura Dossett Smith Gallery was the collection of Hermès scarves. For those of you who do not know the luxury design house Hermès, they sell the Birkin Bag and other high price items. A silk scarf can sell anywhere from \$115 to \$7,250.

Oliver’s scarves displayed in the Smith Gallery depict Texas wildlife, Native Americans and key events in American history. Featured designs are “Faune et Flore du Texas,” “The Pony Express,” “Marquis De Lafayette,” “Madison Avenue,” “Pani la Shar Pawnee” and others.

In the back of the art center, the Bradley Hulse Gallery displayed Oliver’s paintings from his personal collection and others who have purchased his work.

Moveable white walls had a piece of art work on each side. This backroom was laid out beautifully because of the natural lighting and mazelike displays of the walls. Oliver’s art stares back at the viewer. The images of children with angels and animals were serene and peaceful.

Each portion of his paintings had its own dialogue going on. In “Untitled” (1975), each animal surrounding the child had its own emotion and role. I could have stared at this painting all day and I would have found something new each time. The Bradley Hulse Gallery was my favorite part of the exhibit because of this certain collection of paintings and their detail. The people inside the frames seemed oddly real and like they could hop out of the canvas after the gallery closed at night.

What made Oliver’s art and himself so intriguing was that he was incredibly humble about his talent. A man who can design for Hermès and show up to his postal job on Monday is something so mysterious that I don’t think an average person will ever be able to understand.

My words and camera could never capture Oliver’s symbolism hidden in his brushstrokes, so people will have to see his work in person. The Art Center Waco is holding the exhibit “New Narratives, New Beginnings” free to the public until Jan. 22.



Photo by Avery Ballmann | Staff Writer

CHECK IT OUT Oliver scarves displayed in the Smith Gallery depict Texas wildlife, Native Americans and key events in American history.



Photo by Avery Ballmann | Staff Writer

BE AMAZED Kermit Oliver’s “New Narratives, New Beginnings” exhibit.

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Camryn Duffy | Photographer

POWERING THROUGH Senior center Queen Egbo, prepares to make a shot against Oklahoma State University, eventually leading the team to a 67-49 victory on Jan. 19 at the Ferrell Center.

WBB cultivates culture amid adversity

MARQUIS COOLEY
Sports Editor

Losing is never easy, especially when you're accustomed to winning. Such is the case for No. 15 Baylor women's basketball, which created an expectation of success under the reign of Kim Mulkey. Thirty seasons filled with blowouts and deep tournament runs became the norm for women's basketball at Baylor and anything less was unfathomable. However, this season, after a rough month filled with adversity, Baylor sits at 12-4 with a 2-2 record in Big 12 matchups.

One of the challenges that made the past month difficult for head coach Nicki Collen and her squad was a COVID-19 outbreak at the start of the new year that caused them to have a complete shutdown of all activities for six days and postpone two games.

"Knowing that I live, dream, breathe basketball, those six days were very long for me honestly, but sometimes you do need time," senior forward NaLyssa Smith said. "That time, I really did reflect on myself and reflect on how I wanted to help this team and what I wanted to change about myself internally. So I feel like those six days were negative and positive at the same time."

Things didn't get any easier once they returned to action either, as a top-25 conference matchup with the University of Oklahoma on Jan. 12 resulted in an 83-77 loss, putting the Bears at 10-4 and 0-2 to start Big 12 play.

To make matters even worse, fans who were skeptical of Collen and the team at the start of the season began to fully turn on them and let their opinions be known on social media. Collen hopes to gain the full support of the Baylor family at some

point, saying, "The bus will always have room for fans." In the meantime, she asks that everyone keep things in perspective.

"I would just ask people to think about the fact that these guys are 18 to 22 years old," Collen said. "I signed up for this, I get paid well and so I can handle the criticism. ... I'm always going to have their back, but I would ask fans to understand that these guys are 18-to-22-year-olds and love to play basketball. ... I hurt more for them than I hurt for myself when I read negative comments."

Transfer guard Ja'Mee Asberry, who left Oklahoma State University over the summer to accomplish great things in the green and gold, said she ignores the naysayers who say she should've stayed at OSU.

"I'm really good at blocking out the noise unless someone says it to my face, and no one's ever done that, so I really don't feel the pressure," Asberry said. "I do want to be able to be in the history books like 'Baylor this, Baylor that,' on the more positive side, but the negative side I can easily cancel it out."

However, blocking out the noise and pressure doesn't mean the team is lacking accountability. Every player knows what part of the game they need to work on to be successful and are continually trying to improve.

"One of my weaknesses is my help defense. I'm good with my man, but I need to help my teammates more," Asberry said. "I need to be in the gap more, have the V-back, which is helping the helper. So being a helper is my biggest weakness right now."

While the Bears had plenty of excuses at their disposal, such as playing three straight weeks on the road, Collen took the situation as an opportunity to challenge her team

to be better and she said they have responded.

"I asked each of them, I looked at them in the eye and said, 'Are you ready to quit or are you ready to figure this out?'" Collen said. "Our practices have been great. Our energy has been great. Our positivity has been great. We're really starting to get the culture component."

That culture being built in practice and in the locker room is starting to translate on the court. Four days after their loss to OU, the Bears rallied to beat the University of Kansas 82-79 after being down four with 25 seconds to go, followed by a dominating performance against OSU on Wednesday night in which they won 67-49.

"I think we're heading in the right direction, to be honest," Collen said. "I'm not sure that results always show in the midst of that. I think it takes time to keep getting better, but these guys know they're going to get everybody's best shot. We have to go in and win games. People aren't going to be afraid. They're going to look at it as an opportunity and everyone's going to play with a freeness that comes with being the underdog, and feeling like regardless of our record, it's still toppling Baylor. Whether it's in their home gym or here, we know we've got to take everybody's best shot."

At the same time that they're taking everyone's best shot, the Bears are still looking to put together their best game as a unit.

"I feel like if it's not one person's game, it's another," senior center Queen Egbo said. "Just because it's not your game doesn't mean you can't help us and I feel like that's what we're doing: acknowledging when somebody else has the hot hand and



Camryn Duffy | Photographer

RIISING UP Senior forward NaLyssa Smith comes up for a jump shot against Oklahoma State University on Jan. 19 at the Ferrell Center.

feeding them and continue to go to them, while keeping your shot and playing aggressive. One day, we're going to have a game where we all play great together and we're just waiting for that."

Collen figures that type of game where everyone is at their best will be common come tournament time.

"I know I'm not perfect, and I'm going to get situations wrong and plays wrong, but I just think this team is going to be better in March," Collen

said. "I've said that since September, that it's going to take time for them to mesh. It's going to take time. You're not talking about freshmen that absolutely understand that they're going to defer and play off someone. You're talking about players who are used to being the best player on their team, and are certainly more than willing to sacrifice, but are trying to find out how to sacrifice but then how to lead at the same time."

No. 5 Baylor MBB battles tough conference with key injuries

GIO GENNERO
Sports Writer

No. 5 Baylor men's basketball is looking to right the ship following a much-needed 77-68 win over West Virginia University Tuesday afternoon after dropping back-to-back games at home against Texas Tech University and Oklahoma State University. The defending national champions kicked off the season red hot, racking up 15 straight wins and recapturing the No. 1 spot for five straight weeks before their two losses.

Junior forward Jonathan Tchamwa Tchatchoua said he believes it's a matter of getting back to playing their game with the "same anger."

"Just get back to being us," Tchamwa Tchatchoua said. "Just play with the same anger we've been playing with since the beginning of the season, and sharpen up our offense. Just make sure everything is really sharp when we run sets, and just play defense like we really want to kill the other team."

In both losses, the Bears had two key players battling injuries. Freshman forward Jeremy Sochan is currently out with an ankle injury that he suffered in their victory over Texas Christian University. Sochan is one of seven players averaging over 20 minutes per game, and is putting up 7.9 points and 5.9 rebounds per contest. Sochan's absence has been felt most on defense, where the 6-foot-9-inch forward showcased his versatility, switching onto any position and playing elite defense.



Photo courtesy of Baylor Photography

GET BACK UP Senior guard Matthew Mayer pushes through a hard fall against Texas Tech University on Jan. 11 at the Ferrell Center.

Senior guard James Akinjo is fighting through a lower back injury he acquired from a hard fall against Tech. He played with limited minutes in both of Baylor's losses and struggled to play at his normal level, leading to him being held out of the WVU matchup. Akinjo has been a vital part of Baylor's offense, averaging 13.9 points and 5.7 assists. After their loss to OSU, head coach Scott Drew said Akinjo looked noticeably different and that they have to push through while waiting for the return of the two.

"That obviously affected [Akinjo]," Drew said on the injury. "We didn't think he was going to play today, and he gutted it out. But

that obviously wasn't the same James. In this league, everyone's banged up, and you only have so much margin for error. We've got to get him and Jeremy back and in the meantime, figure out a better way to put guys in positions to be successful."

Baylor is playing in one of the strongest conferences in college basketball. Five Big 12 schools are currently nationally ranked, including three in the top 15. While the Bears are 16-2 overall, they are just 4-2 in conference play. Without their point guard in top shape and Sochan being sidelined, they've had problems taking care of the ball. In their past three outings

the team is 1-2, while averaging 12.3 turnovers per game. In their first half of playing without the transfer guard and the freshman forward, the Bears gave the ball up nine times.

Drew said the team has to focus on controlling what they can control, and not turning the ball over is key.

"At the end of the day, the health of your team affects it," Drew said. "Jeremy was three to one assists to turnovers. If he's healthy, that helps with it. Then that adds to your rotation. Guys aren't as fatigued out there, so we know fatigue makes cowards of us all. That leads to more turnovers. We were very ineffective shooting the ball for a vast majority of the game; You look at the analytics and the shot charts, and our shots were pretty good shots and we missed them ... Control what we can control to begin with, find out who we got healthy and come up with a plan that can work."

After snapping their two-game losing streak, Drew said losing makes you appreciate winning more, especially as a team battling injuries.

"No one likes to lose," Drew said. "You're that much more appreciative and blessed when you do win. You got to thank God for every opportunity you get when you win because you sleep a lot better, I can promise you that, but it's tough when you're a banged-up team."

Baylor will look to continue to improve while they await the return of Sochan and Akinjo when they face the University of Oklahoma (12-6, 2-4 Big 12) at 2 p.m. Saturday in the Lloyd Noble Center in Norman, Okla.

BY MICHAEL HAAG
Sports Writer

“Coach Jobson and his staff have shown that [success is] very

For the 2022 fall season, fans can expect a new-look team that continues to build off what Jobson left in place. Lenard said



Photo Courtesy of Baylor Athletics

The team is coming off an 8-5-6 season where they went into the Big 12 tournament as a three-seed. Lenard will have a full offseason to get acclimated with the team, bring in the staff she desires and recruit talent. Be on the lookout for the revamped Bears when they kick things off in the fall of 2022.



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