

BU BAYLOR LARIAT

News for the students by the students



SPRING BREAK EDITION

WORST
SPRING
TRENDS
PG. 14

VACAY
PLAYLIST
PG. 11

Students travel again after two years of lockdown

LUKE ARAUJO
Staff Writer

With spring break on the horizon, the first week of March is looking to be a big travel year for students.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention says domestic and international U.S. travelers should delay their trips until they are fully vaccinated and recommends that people wear a mask over the nose and check their destination's COVID-19 protocols before leaving. The website also emphasizes that people should not travel when they feel sick or have tested positive for COVID-19 in the last 90 days.

Katy junior Sunny Rajan said he will not be traveling out of the state during the break but knows friends are taking a group trip to New York.

"I think because more people are vaccinated, it is safer [to travel]," Rajan said. "It's not completely safe yet, but it is safer than last year."

Rajan said that while he is not traveling this year, he sees the ability to travel over spring break as a good break from schoolwork and exams.



Photo illustration by Grace Everett | Photographer

"I don't think there is another big break between spring break and summer," Rajan said. "It's the last chance to see your family in person without school in the way."

Regarding airports and other travel hubs, Rajan said he believes these places should continue to enforce mask mandates as a safety measure.

"Yes, people are more vaccinated, and we have been dealing with COVID-19 for a longer time now," Rajan said. "But it is

still a big issue and can spread easily in places like the airport."

In response to the spread of COVID-19, some U.S. airlines are requiring non-U.S. citizens to provide proof of vaccination to travel, according to the CDC. Rajan said he believes airlines should require passengers to be vaccinated.

"I think you should be vaccinated anyways," Rajan said. "But I think they should mandate vaccines for flying and

similar situations where you're around a lot of people."

Atlanta sophomore Cole Arndt said he is planning to fly with 30 other people split across different public flights to Cabo, Mexico.

"We have to wear a mask on the plane," Arndt said. "In the city itself, there are not any restrictions. I will need a negative COVID test before I fly back."

Arndt said he is not worried about contracting COVID-19 during his flight.

"It has never really been a big concern of mine," Arndt said. "I had COVID once, I had a fever for one night. Now this strain is even less severe, so I am really not worried about COVID whatsoever."

As a result of the number of COVID-19 cases decreasing in February 2022, Baylor announced masks would no longer be required in class on Feb. 21. Arndt said he views this as a step in the right direction and he now looks forward to spring break.

"I'm not worried," Arndt said. "I am looking forward to having an exciting spring break and getting some time off school. I'm excited to travel and have some fun."

Cover by Baylor Photography & Brittany Tankersley | Photo Editor

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BROTHERS
MANAGEMENT

Baylor Missions springs into service over break



Associated Press Photo | David J. Phillip

IDA AFTERMATH While the following image is from Hurricane Ida on Aug. 30, 2021 in Jean Lafitte, La., other local communities are still in need of service after the natural disaster.

MARIAH BENNETT
Assistant News Editor

Baylor Missions and Public Life is hosting two domestic mission trips over spring break for areas impacted by natural disasters in 2021. These include the Hurricane Ida Clean Up Mission and the Kentucky Tornado Clean Up Mission. The trips are free, with attendees only needing to pay for meals on their ways to and from their location. Applications for both mission trips closed Feb. 16.

The Hurricane Ida mission will take place from March 5 to March 9 in LaPlace, La. The 28 student team members will be helping rebuild homes and with community centers damaged by Hurricane Ida in September 2021.

Project coordinator for missions Codie Robinson is a Hurricane Ida mission team leader. Robinson said Baylor Missions and Public Life wanted to provide students with a spring break opportunity to help out their neighbors.

"We really want to help Baylor students develop their sense of what they can do in this world," Robinson said. "Part of that is helping those around them, their neighbors near and far."

The Kentucky mission will take place from March 5 to March 12 in Mayfield, Ky. The 15 student team members will be working on rebuilding homes and communities after the tornado destruction that impacted Mayfield and

surrounding communities in December 2021. Members will also be able to explore Memphis, Tenn., on March 11th.

According to the Kentucky mission program webpage and the last count, 478 homes suffered serious damage, 257 homes were completely destroyed, and the community suffered the loss of multiple churches and businesses.

Rebecca Kennedy, assistant dean for spiritual life and department head for missions, is a Kentucky mission team leader, and she said she is most looking forward to getting to know the students who are attending and seeing their eyes be opened to the things they can do to help people in need.

Both missions are working with local churches, with the Hurricane Ida team working with New Wine Christian Fellowship and the Kentucky team working with His House Ministries.

Kennedy said the Kentucky mission team was asked to hold a youth event on Wednesday, which is expected to feed 30 to 40 people from the community.

Robinson said if someone has the capacity to spend their spring break serving, it is a fantastic option.

"You get to take a break from normal life and help make the lives of someone else a little easier or a little better, even if it is hard work for you during the week," Robinson said.

"
We really want to help Baylor students develop their sense of what they can do in this world.

**CODIE ROBINSON |
PROJECT COORDINATOR
FOR MISSIONS**

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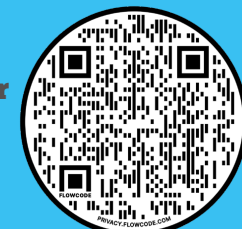
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**Applications for the Kentucky
Tornado Clean Up and Hurricane Ida Clean Up
mission trips closed Feb. 16.**

**Scan the QR code to look out for
future mission trips.**



How to staycation the right way this spring break

EMMA WEIDMANN
Staff Writer

Many college students will be struggling with FOMO, or the fear of missing out, this spring break. For students who aren't traveling far, it can be hard to stay close to home while watching friends take big, out-of-state vacations. Here are some tips to avoid that restless feeling and come back to campus ready to finish the semester strong.

1. Take a day trip

Surrounding nearly every major city are small towns like Fredericksburg, just outside of San Antonio, or Grapevine, which is near Dallas. These towns are full of quirky, small businesses and lots to do. Whether you're in search of boutiques or bookstores, a day trip outside of the city is always a good choice.

2. Pick up a new hobby

When staying at home, it's easy to get bored. But, by picking up a new hobby, like painting or reading, you can find ways to learn something different every day and keep yourself on your



Photo Illustration by Camryn Duffy | Photographer

toes throughout the week. When I'm off from school, I love to be able to go home and paint or do other creative things that I don't have the space for on campus. I also have no time to read for fun when I have work to do for all of my classes, so vacations are a great time for me to

catch up on that.

3. Talk to friends

It's important to stay connected to friends from school over break. Texting daily and sending each other TikToks is a great way to maintain the same humor and closeness even though your friend group may be hundreds of miles apart. When you and your friends from high school are all home for break, it's a great opportunity to coordinate a time to get together and catch up with each other's college lives. However, spring breaks at different schools don't always line up. In that case, a simple FaceTime works just as well. While it may not be in person, just having a conversation with an old friend is a great way to get in touch with the part of your life that you may not think about so much while at school.

4. See the new movies that are hitting theaters

This month, there have been a number of new movies coming to theaters. From romantic comedies like "Marry Me" starring Jennifer

Lopez and Owen Wilson to action flicks like "Uncharted" starring Tom Holland, there is something for everyone playing right now. There's nothing like the experience of actually going to the theater as opposed to streaming a movie on your couch. Take the opportunity to go to a theater and help an industry that has been hit hard by the pandemic.

5. Take a self-care day

College can create an environment that makes it hard to take care of yourself. Many students pull late nights at the library and wake up early in the morning to make it to class. Take the time over spring break to catch up on the sleep you may have missed out on over the semester and to find ways to relax that take up a little more time than you can afford when class is in session. One of my favorite ways to do this is to dedicate an entire day to cleaning my room, exercising, doing skincare and doing loads of laundry all at once. It makes for a nice feeling of resetting for the rest of the semester and coming back to school with a clean slate.

Free day trip ideas

ERIANNE LEWIS
Arts & Life Editor

AUSTIN

~1.5 hours
from Waco

South Congress Avenue:

I like visiting this area because it is lined with vintage, antique, candy and coffee shops. It's usually busy, but sometimes there are unique street vendors and markets in between the stores or live music coming from the backyard

Zilker Park:

Zilker is on this list because it is free. Every time I've gone to Austin I have visited Zilker simply because of the view of the Austin skyline, the ability to go swimming in Barton Springs or the occasional live concert.

DALLAS

~1.5 hours
from Waco

Dallas Museum of Art:

Located in the largest arts district in the nation, this museum is one of the biggest art museums in the nation. This allows for it to foster creativity within the community and makes it a worthwhile experience.

The Bishop Arts District:

This district has a diverse nightlife and many independently owned fashion stores and colorful murals. The dining choices span many types of cuisines, and the district also has theaters where local bands perform live music.

HOUSTON

~3 hours
from Waco

Art Car Museum:

The museum showcases automobiles that each have their own meanings, whether that be social, political or personal. Each art car represents "the degree to which minorities, subcultures and modern artists continue to influence the cultural life of the United States," according to its website.

James Turrell's Twilight Epiphany Skyscape:

The best time to visit this monument is near dusk or dawn to really be able to see its beauty. It is meant to be calming and soothing.



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Phi Kappa Chi takes on service in Tennessee

ANA RUIZ BRITSON

Staff Writer

After two years of not being able to plan the traditional trip, on March 5 Phi Kappa Chi will be returning to Tennessee for its annual mission trip.

According to Little Rock, Ariz., junior and chapter president Luke Hankins, the Christian fraternity has organized this trip every spring break since 1999, with the exception of 2021 given there was no spring break.

The organization will stay at Camp Living Stones, a Christian summer camp located in Englewood, Tenn., that was founded in 1998.

"What we do is we help them prepare for the summer," Hankins said. "So each week throughout the summer, they have about 100 kids that come and stay there for the week and get to have fun and also learn about Jesus."

Houston junior and Phi Kappa Chi member Trent Smith said he had the opportunity to go on this trip once before.

Smith said those who are attending the trip go through a 14-hour drive to get to Tennessee, and members volunteer their cars to get there.

"While we're there, we'll go to church with the camp, we'll do some hiking trails and, most

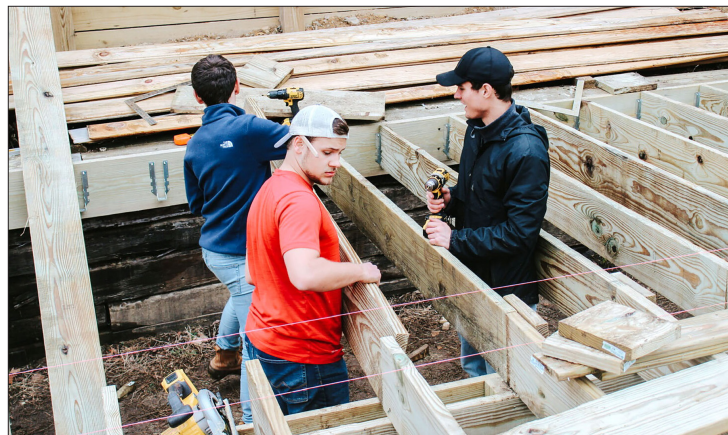


Photo courtesy of Trent Smith

BUILDING A FOUNDATION Phi Kappa Chi members work on fixing and maintaining Camp Living Stones' facilities by building a deck.

importantly, we have the opportunity to serve them and help them in any way," Smith said.

One thing both Hankins and Smith emphasized is the strong bond the trip creates

among the brothers.

Smith said he got to learn how amazing the brotherhood is while focusing on two major aspects: the founding of being brothers of Christ and their Christ-like service.

Hankins said in the past, Phi Kappa Chi has helped with some of the camp's projects, including building decks, pavilions, cabins and more.

According to Smith, members will bring some tools with them but Camp Living Stones will provide most of the supplies and material they need to build the amenities.

This year, 30 Phi Kappa Chi members will be attending this trip for the entirety of spring break. They will be taking off on March 5 and will return on March 12.

Hankins said he looks forward to getting to know his brothers better throughout this trip. He said he has heard stories from former brothers about how they get closer during the trip because they get to serve together.

"They always come back way better friends than they were before, and I'm really excited for that," Hankins said.

After having to skip a year for the first time since its start due to the pandemic, Hankins said this is a tradition the fraternity is trying to restart.

Spring into cleaning by getting organized

AVERY BALLMANN

Staff Writer

Spring break begins this weekend, and before students realize, finals will be approaching quickly. So to help students out, a pre-spring break cleaning should be on the docket before they return home. Spring cleaning can be a daunting task, but it's not impossible.

The main points of contact will be the kitchen, bathroom, closet/bedroom and drawers. Supplies that will be helpful are your favorite cleaning products, trash bags, paper towels and a whole lot of patience.

As to-go and Tupperware containers stockpile at the back of our fridges, it's time to assess their damage. Take every item out of your fridge and place it on the counter. If the container is growing a new bacteria, it might be best to throw the whole thing out. Wipe down all of the shelves and drawers

with a wet washcloth. If your fridge doesn't smell the best, put some baking soda in a small bowl to get rid of the unwanted odor. Try your best this week to cook all of your perishable food so it doesn't spoil while you're away for spring break.

Next to clean is the bathroom. This is a great time to replace hygiene items such as razors, toothbrushes and hairbrushes that haven't been changed since you moved in. Use that old toothbrush to scrub around the sink and hard-to-reach places.

This is a gentle reminder to really deep clean places that have been neglected. Also, check the quality of

your shower curtain; if it looks yellow or is growing mold, it's time to purchase a new one.

While you're next to the shower, you probably have bath rugs, so throw those in the washer while you're cleaning.

Be sure to read the tags and follow the wash instructions. A product I like to use while cleaning the bathroom is a bleach multi surface cleaner in order to get soap scum out

of the shower and sink. Also, using glass cleaner to clean mirrors and sink fixtures gives the room that extra sparkle.



The next room in the house to clean is your bedroom and closet. While you're cleaning, throw your sheets and pillowcases in the wash, be sure to flip your mattress, which improves its longevity.

For the closet, get rid of winter items that you have not worn yet. This can include clothing, accessories and shoes. If you take your unwanted items to Goodwill at 1700 S. New Road, you will get a 20% off coupon when you donate. If you have items that are worth something, you can take them to Plato's Closet and try to make some extra cash while you clean.

In your room, get rid of items that no longer serve a purpose or bring you joy. According to the Mayo Clinic, decluttering your space can have positive effects on your mental health such as reducing stress levels and working more efficiently.

Spring cleaning doesn't have to be a chore. It can be a form of self-care and respecting the space you live in. Pick out a fun playlist and get to scrubbing, you deserve a clean environment.

WTDW: Spring Break



ERIANNE LEWIS
Arts and Life Editor

First Friday Market | March 4 | 5 – 9 p.m. | Cultivate 7Twelve | 712 Austin Ave. | Free | Come out to the First Friday Market, which features local artists and music. This event is open to the public.

"Perspectives" Exhibit on Display | March 4 | Susan L. Sistrunk Fine Art Gallery | 2120 Washington Ave. | Free | This new exhibit by artist Michael Donahue will be on display until March 11.

Waco Downtown Farmers Market | March 5 | 9 a.m. – 1 p.m. | Courthouse Parking Lot | 500 Washington Ave. | Free | This weekly event includes an assortment of local vendors that provide products such as produce, meats and greenery.

The Edison Marketplace Vendor Fair | March 5 | 10 a.m. – 4 p.m. | The Edison | 2601 Franklin Ave. | Free | This event is family-friendly and will include music, a bounce house, face painting, food, craft vendors and more.

Battle on the Brazos Ax Throwing Tournament | March 5 | 10 a.m. – 9 p.m. | Waco Axe Company | 1526 Washington Ave. | \$20 - \$40 per person | Waco Axe Co. hosts its first ax throwing tournament featuring all three disciplines: standard hatchet, big ax and duals.

Spring Break Scavenger Hunt | March 5 – 20 | Monday to Saturday 9 a.m. – 5 p.m., Sundays 11 a.m. – 5 p.m. | Cameron Park Zoo | 1701 N 4th St. | \$20 per team to play | Learn about the animals at the Cameron Park Zoo through this interactive hunt.

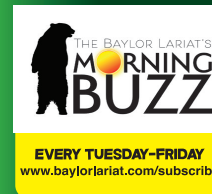
Barbecue, Crawfish, Music and More at Sunday's | March 5 | 2 p.m. | Sunday's Caribbean Oasis Sports Bar & Grill | 13960 China Spring Road | No cover fee | Sunday's will be offering barbecue plates for lunch and a crawfish boil starting at 4 p.m. There will be a bounce house for children and live music.

First Saturday Improv Comedy Night | March 5 | 7:30 p.m., doors open at 7 | Brazos Theatre | 7524 Bosque Blvd. | \$15.50 | Come out and watch a fully improvised show based on audience member suggestions.

Music Bingo | March 9 | 7 p.m. | Brotherwell Brewing | 400 E Bridge St | Free | Come out and participate in this specially curated bingo game board with fun prizes.

Spring at the Silos 2022 | March 10 | 9 a.m. – 6 p.m. | Magnolia Market | 601 Webster Ave. | Free | Celebrate the beginning of spring at the Silos with artisans and vendors from across the United States.

STAY IN THE KNOW BY KNOWING WHERE TO GO!



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Abby Smith

Eden Prairie, Minn. Junior

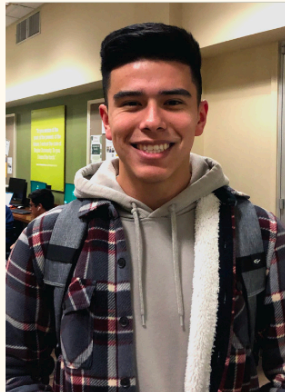


"I'm going to Florida. I'm going with my church on a mission trip there. We're going to Panama City Beach. Essentially, it's a retreat and also evangelizing and sharing the Lord with people. We want to be able to be kind and friendly to people and show them Jesus. I'm excited to learn how to do that."

Jeremy Guerra

El Paso Freshman

"I'm going back home for spring break. I really miss family and I'm going to see them. I feel like there's just been a lot of stress with all the work that I've just been doing all the time. So I feel like this will be a nice time to just relax. It's a mental reset kind of thing."

**SPRING BREAK
ADVENTURES****Joshua Thompson**

Sherwood, Ore. Senior



"I'm just excited for a break from school. It's been kind of a stressful semester. I'm going back home to Oregon."

Maddalena Dimartino

Round Rock Freshman



"I'm going home. I'm going to relax on my own, probably watch TV and catch up on homework. Just like a break from school and from the stress this semester."

ADVENTURES

Burke Owens

Nashville Freshman

"I'm going home and then I'm also going on a lake trip. It's awesome. [It will be] time to rest and get on my homework and stuff, and figure out how to get ready for next semester."



Tyler Semler

McKinney Sophomore

"Me and a couple friends are getting an Airbnb type thing in Florida for a couple days. It provides a total mental health reset and kind of refocus on what I want to do and get priorities back in line."



Megan Hayes

Houston Freshman

"My friends and I are going back to Houston. This weekend we're going to the rodeo, and one of my good friends here is going to stay with me for the whole week. So I'm excited to show her little areas and just getting back home."



Ashley Cabeza

Miami Sophomore

"I'm excited to go home, see the sun, go to the beach and hang out with my friends. It just kind of gives me a break, No. 1 to catch up on things and then also just kind of relax because tests just happened and I still have tests to take."



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ABOUT THE FLATS

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Top 10 shows and movies to binge during spring break 2022

By Clay Thompson | Reporter

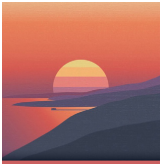




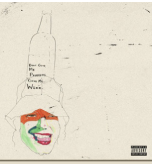
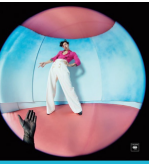
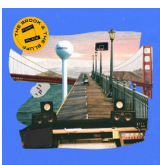
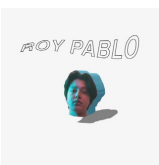

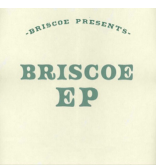
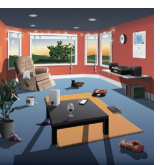

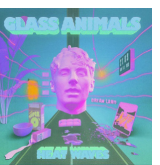

- 1  Doctor Who
- 2  Harry Potter series
- 3  The Lord of the Rings
- 4  Law & Order: SVU
- 5  Invincible
- 6  Monty Python and the Holy Grail
- 7  The Cabin in the Woods
- 8  Criminal Minds
- 9  The Marvelous Mrs. Maisel
- 10  Palm Springs

WHY
THESE
PICKS?



52 minutes and 22 seconds of spring break

By Rachel Royster | News Editor

- | | | | | | | | |
|--|--|---|--|--|--|--|--|
|  Feels The Same Surfaces, Public Library Commute |  Do You Wanna Do Nothing with Me? Lawrence |  this is what falling in love feels like JVKE |  Lazy Sunday No Fun Haus, Sack Lunch! |  3 Nights Dominic Fike |  Sunroof Nicky Youre, dazy |  Head In The Clouds BabyJake |  Golden Harry Styles |
|  Halfway Up The Brook & The Bluff |  Dance, Baby! boy pablo |  Girl Jukebox The Ghost |  Sailing Away Briscoe |  Buttercup Hippo Campus |  Last dAy oN EaRTh Tai Verdes |  Heat Waves Glass Animals |  West Coast DVBBS, Quinn XCII |

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POINTS OF VIEW

Top five worst spring trends

Clay rings, high-waisted bikinis and more

CLARA SNYDER
Staff Writer

With Paris Fashion Week 2022 now halfway over and spring break quickly approaching, the trends of the season have been solidified. Since the rise in trendiness of Birkenstocks, my hope for humanity's sense of style has been rapidly diminishing. To say I'm horrified would be an understatement — and don't get me started on the combination of socks with Birkenstocks.

Growing up with the role model of my aunt Holly Dunlap — an international fashion designer — I became a relentless fashion critic. Now at the age of 19, I have begun a career of my own in the fashion industry. I love fashion and I study it more intensely than any class I've ever taken. So, without further adieu, here are the worst fashion trends of spring 2022.

The first trend I would like to slander is high-waisted bikini bottoms. This trend is one that I largely blame Emma Chamberlain for starting. It's OK, Emma — we all make mistakes. An article from Who What Wear said belts are now being added to the trend of high-waisted bikinis. If we're adding belts to our swimsuits, where do we draw the line? The future of this trend scares me; I fear next year it will be trendy to swim in jean shorts.

Second, micro-bangs: I truly didn't think we would ever need to have this conversation. The bangs we all gave ourselves with craft scissors as a child are now in style? Micro-bangs are such a dark road to walk down. Having 1-inch bangs encroaching on your forehead is a very bold statement and a major leap of faith. Cutting bangs that take up half of your forehead takes major commitment skills, as there is no going back from there. In some ways, the mental commitment of this trend is inspiring.

The third unfortunate trend is clay

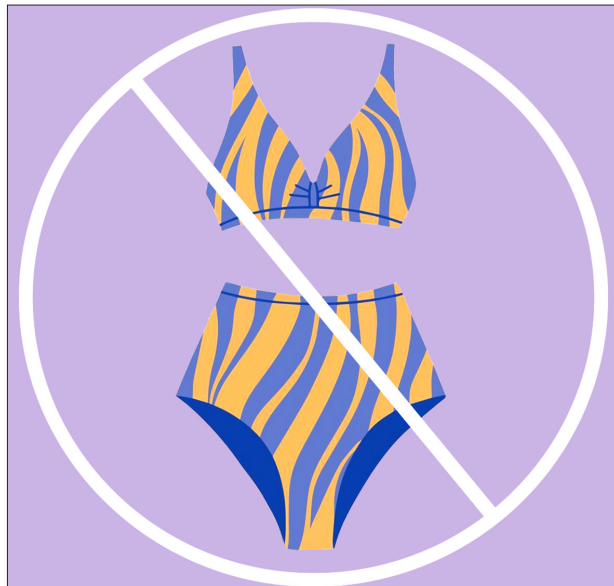


Photo illustration by Brittany Tankersley | Photo Editor

HOT TAKES High-waisted bikinis, clay rings and micro-bangs were some of the most controversial trends this spring.

rings. I don't intend to make any friends with this opinion because I know this trend has all my peers under some kind of trance, but it needs to be said. Clay rings look like elementary school art projects. What are the micro-bang and clay ring trends trying to tell us? Are we all missing the free-form styles of our adolescence?

The fourth trend I despise is one that makes me think we all need to take a step back from fashion and reevaluate our choices: excessive layering. This trend does not make a lot of sense to me because it is so rarely well-executed. The ratio I see is that 10% of the time it works, and the other 90% of the time it looks like the person got dressed in the dark. That may be a little harsh, but it

had to be said.

Lastly, wrap tops: Although this trend can occasionally make individuals look like they got tangled in a piece of fabric, it doesn't necessarily make me nauseous — it's just overdone. If you go out on the weekend in a wrap top, it is virtually guaranteed that you will see a multitude of people in a wrap top as well. Despite the fact that hundreds of variations exist for these tops, they always look the same to me.

I am quite confident that all of these opinions will be unpopular ones. The important lesson to be learned here is that we are all human. We all make mistakes. I invite everyone to join me in prayer for the summer trends this year.

Spring break: not always restful

ANA RUIZ BRICTSON
Staff Writer



As we approach the middle of the semester and look forward to a full week of break from school, it may be challenging to go back home after not being there for a while.

Experiencing the college life away from parents or guardians can be very liberating at times. Making our own decisions and learning to live more independently can be a routine most of us get used to; however, at the end of the day, while we are still in school, many of us rely on going back home during breaks to reminisce.

After my first semester at Baylor, I went back home the next summer excited to see my friends and family. Don't get me wrong, it was great at first. But after the first month of being home, I kept dreading the thought that I had two more months to go.

Thinking through it, I realized that going back home meant I was not living the normal life I was used to while I was away in college. Most of my friends stayed in my hometown for school, and therefore many things hadn't

changed for them.

Family-wise, I had five months without having to think of the drama that would sometimes go on inside the house, and it was overwhelming having to deal with it all over again.

To be fair, it is no one's fault that I occasionally feel worried about going back home. Everyone is living their own life, and feeling like I am about to walk into a scenario different from the one I left — which sometimes is the case — is what keeps me from wanting to go back for a longer span of time.

I know spring break is just a week, but we all live different lives, and for many, seven days is just enough time for things to fall apart.

My suggestion for those who are dreading going back home is to make the most out of the situation. Soon enough, those seven days will pass by and you will return to your life at Baylor.

One of the things that has helped me get through the days at home is always keeping myself busy. I get that the point of a break is to spend it relaxing and not having things to do, but this can be done through small tasks each day. This helps me by making me feel like I am doing something and distracting me from other things that may be going on.

I sincerely hope that for everyone going back home, this break is actually a break and not an overwhelming load of emotions and situations you hopefully didn't have to go through this semester.

A guide for going solo on spring break

EMMA WEIDMANN
Staff Writer

Many students will be traveling with friend groups or with family this spring break. However, many will be striking out on their own and traveling solo. While this may be an exciting and memorable vacation, it's also important to make sure those memories do not take a stressful turn. Staying safe should be just as much of a priority as having fun.

Firstly, it's important to pick the right destination. If you're an outdoorsy type and staying in Texas, choose a location near lots of nature trails, like the Turkey Creek Trail near Austin. These are just a couple of great in-state options for those not looking to go super far. A good tip is to stick to popular hiking trails that aren't too tough of a terrain (depending on how experienced of a hiker you are) and also aren't secluded. Choose a trail with a lot of foot traffic so that you're sure not to get lost, and to maintain visibility.

City lovers will want a place with lots of shopping or sightseeing potential like landmarks or famous buildings, potentially a city with famous museums like the Dallas Museum of Art or Perot Museum of Nature and Science. Keep in mind that walkable cities tend to be safer in terms of not needing to worry about passing through traffic and having lower crime rates.

Once you've chosen a location, accommodations are the next step. Airbnbs are a great choice for college students as they can be more affordable than a hotel room per night and are sometimes located in an up and coming neighborhood that makes for great Instagram pictures. Make sure to check the ratings thoroughly – no ratings is usually a sign to stay far away from that listing. Reviewers tend to give an honest evaluation of both the accommodations and the location itself, such as

how helpful the owner of the listing is, if the site is clean and secure and what the surrounding area is like.

To save time, it's always a good idea to do some research about the area beforehand. Look up a few restaurants in the area before leaving and read the reviews. There's nothing worse than sitting in your hotel or Airbnb for hours trying to find a place to eat that is open, has seating and looks good. Rather than waiting until you're hungry, plan ahead and save yourself the frustration. Places that aren't extremely packed but aren't mostly empty may be the safest for lone travelers, seeing as you wouldn't disappear in the crowd entirely but would still be surrounded by people.

On that note, don't go places where people wouldn't notice if you were in danger. This is especially important for female travelers but applies to anyone. Don't walk alone while using your phone – be aware of your surroundings. When getting into the car, lock it immediately and limit interactions with strangers.

Remember, you can do a lot of things wherever you're staying, whether it be in a hotel or Airbnb. It's not always necessary to go out at night, especially if you don't feel safe.

It goes without saying that this spring break will be the first since 2019 where many college students will actually be able to travel. With possibilities opening up and an average of one in four undergraduate students planning to travel, you can expect lots of travel. With higher vaccination rates and a 37.7% decrease in COVID-19 cases according to the CDC as of Feb. 23, more businesses will be willing to be open. Still, travelers should be checking local COVID-19 protocols to make sure they aren't blindsided by certain rules or mandates that may be in place. Safety includes not only staying out of harm's way but also making sure you can return to campus in good health.

“Don't go places where people wouldn't notice if you were in danger. This is especially important for female travelers but applies to anyone.”



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