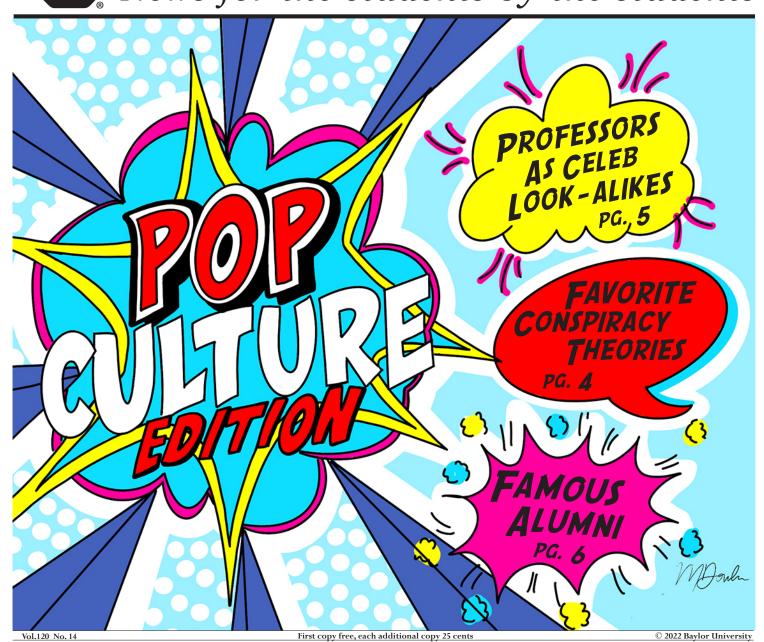
BAYLOR LARIAT News for the students by the students



Comic book movies flyin theaters

LUKE ARAUJO Staff Writer

Marvel Studios' "Spider-Man: No Way Home" was the highestgrossing movie in 2021, making a whopping \$260,138,569 in its opening week. When speaking of comic book movies, many think of the extremely successful Marvel Cinematic Universe. As of May 2021, the Marvel Cinematic Universe is the most successful movie franchise in North America, beating its runner-up, Star Wars, by almost double.

Within the Marvel franchise. however, there are outliers. "Avengers: Endgame," "Spider-Man: No Way Home," "Black Panther" and "Avengers: Infinity War" are the four highestgrossing movies by a wide margin. What sets these movies apart is the collaborative nature of their



Photo Illustration by Camryn Duffy

BOOK TO MOVIE Movies based off comic books have had massive box office success such as "Spider-Man: No Way Home."

makeup, bringing in heroes from across the shared Marvel Cinematic Universe to face a threat larger than themselves.

Dr. Greg Garrett, professor of English, said he believes comic book movies are so popular because they wrestle with humanity's biggest issues.

"What does it mean to be heroic, to sacrifice for a cause bigger than ourselves?" Garrett said. "What does evil look like, and how do we stand against it? How do we bring justice to a world full of injustice?"

Garrett said comic book films are also used to critique systems of power and justice.

"Suicide Squad' or 'Falcon and the Winter Soldier' ask tough questions about the way things are and why things cannot be different," Garrett said.

Houston sophomore DJ Scott said he thinks the rise in comic book movies' popularity is a result of appealing to people's imaginations

"Superhero movies in particular have always appealed to people because everyone at some point has had dreams of being a superhero and having superpowers," Scott said.

Scott attributes the superhero craze to the now mainstream culture of sci-fi and fantasy as well as new crossover feature films.

Looking toward the future, Scott said he hopes the genre evolves into releasing more unique movies, with each movie having its own tone and style.

Does 'Euphoria' glamorize drugs?

CLAY THOMPSON

The sophomore outing of "Euphoria" majorly contributed to its rising popularity among viewing audiences. According to Variety, it has become the mosttweeted-about television show of the decade, as of Feb. 25 - two days before its season two finale with more than 30 million tweets.

From makeup trends to parties centered on the aesthetics of the show, "Euphoria" has brought attention to issues facing Generation Z today. Time magazine reported on what the show gets right and wrong about teenage drug addiction and drug use, showing how teenage drug use isn't uncommon. The article explained how 1.6 million kids between ages 12 to 17 - about 6.3% of the adolescent population — had a substance use disorder in 2020 according to the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration.

However, Lilly Ettinger, assistant director of wellness, recovery services at Baylor Beauchamp Addiction Recovery Center (B.A.R.C.), said she has only seen an episode and a half of "Euphoria," and has observed the different issues portrayed on the

"It wasn't particularly realistic



GLAMORIZE With a third season announced, "Euphoria" has quickly gained popularity despite its hard-hitting content.

in some of the ways, like the lack of hangovers and downtime. It showed all the dramatic parts. It didn't show all of the painfully boring parts that come with a lot of drug use," Ettinger said.

Recovery chaplain at B.A.R.C. Kaitlyn Campbell said she has only read about and seen clips of "Euphoria."

"I don't think the creators of 'Euphoria' were going for educational statement," Campbell said. "But at the same time, it felt a little more like it was trying to glamorize certain aspects and downplay outcomes and repercussions. I believe in informed decision making, and if 'Euphoria' is your only interaction with the concept of drugs and alcohol, I don't think that's very

Zendaya's performance as Rue Bennett, violently shouting at friends and family, "Euphoria" shows the volatility and chaos of teenage drug addiction several times.

"I think it has had an impact on some people who think, 'So I'm not as bad as this glamorized fictional portrayal, so I don't really need this kind of help.' And I've had some people be like, 'It makes me remember the good times," Ettinger said.

Despite the ups and downs, "Euphoria's" popularity and influence have caused a ripple.

Cover by Morgan Dowler | Cartoonist

Meet the Staff

DIGITAL MANAGING EDITOR

SOCIAL MEDIA EDITOR

NEWS EDITOR

ASSISTANT NEWS EDITOR

COPY EDITORS

Kourtney David ARTS & LIFE EDITOR

SPORTS EDITOR

PHOTO EDITOR

OPINION EDITOR

CARTOONIST

STAFF WRITERS

Luke Araujo Ana Ruiz Brictson Clara Snyder Sophia Teieda

ARTS AND LIFE WRITERS

Avery Ballmann Emma Weidmann

SPORTS WRITERS Gio Gennero

AnnaGrace Hale EXECUTIVE PRODUCER BROADCAST MANAGING EDITOR

BROADCAST REPORTERS Kaity Kemnt

Pierson Luscy Danika Young Alexandra Laurence Ine Pratt

SALES REPRESENTATIVES

MARKETING REPRESENTATIVES Emmalyn Oscarso

> PHOTOGRAPHERS Grace Fortier

Camryn Duffy

INTERN

Contact Us

General Ouestions: Lariat@baylor.edu

254-710-1712

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

Advertising inquiries: Lariat Ads@baylor.edu 254-710-3407

* Asterisks indicate members of Editorial Board

Opinion

The Baylor Lariat welcomes reader viewpoints through letters to the editor and guest columns. Opinions expressed in the Lariat are not necessarily those of the Baylor administration, the Baylor Board of Regents, the student body or the

Editorials, Columns & Letters

Editorials express the opinions of the Lariat Editorial Board. Lariat letters and columns are the opinions of an individual and not the Baylor Lariat.

Lariat Letters

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



Photo illustration by Camryn Duffy

Why Hollywood loves its remakes, reboots

MATT KYLE

Staff Writer

REUSE, RECYCLE Hollywood often relies on

making reboots and sequels of already-existing franchises instead of producing original content.

It seems almost every movie that comes out is part of an already existing franchise. Of the top 20 films at the domestic box office in 2021, only "Free Guy" and "Encanto" were original films not based on something that had already been released; the rest were remakes, reboots and sequels.

Going back, the last top-grossing movie in the U.S. that was not a sequel or based on something that already existed was 2009's "Avatar." The last original top-grossing movie that wasn't a part of a franchise was 1998's "Saving Private Ryan." Forty years ago, original films made up most of the box office hits, but now the script has flipped. So what happened?

According to James Kendrick, professor of film and digital media, this isn't a new phenomenon. Kendrick said this trend grew out of adapting written stories to film, with some of the earliest movies ever made being adaptations of biblical stories and novels. He said remakes of movies happened as early as the 1930s.

"Film as a medium has always been about adaptation and using pre-existing properties because they already had name recognition," Kendrick said. "Hollywood as an institution, what they typically do is find something that works, and then they try to do it as much as possible. Innovation is not always one of their driving ambitions."

Kendrick said he has seen the film industry shift to an increase in the number of prequels and reboots. He said this started with horror films, which were also some of the first big movie franchises

"The horror genre has always been one of the leaders in sequels," Kendrick said. "All of the slasher films in the '80s — 'Halloween,' Nightmare on Elm Street,' 'Friday the 13th' — those are some of the first modern franchises where you had six, seven, eight films in a series in almost as many years. Additionally, a lot of those have been rebooted. In the last 20 years, virtually every major horror film from the '70s and '80s has been remade or rebooted."

Chris Hansen, film and digital media department chair, said the name recognition of major franchises means the films have a readymade audience who will likely see the movie. By having a built-in audience, the movies are a safe bet for studios to invest in.

Hansen said the Harry Potter franchise and the Fantastic Beast movies are a good example of this.

"[Audiences] know what that is, and they want to see more movies in it," Hansen said. "As long as there's an appetite, people will go see it."

Hansen also said original movies typically make less money at the box office than franchise movies, making them a bigger risk for studios to produce. As an alternative, Hansen said he sees streaming platforms as being the home of original films in the future.

"While I wish that all movies would release in theaters because I like the theatrical experience, I'm glad that movies that might otherwise not get made in the current climate of Hollywood can get made, because they don't have to make the same kind of money on streaming that they have to make at the box office to justify their existence," Hansen said.



Cut the mic: Not everyone should make a podcast

JENNA FITZGERALD

Copy Editor

As society has moved further into the digital age, we have witnessed the rise of many new forms of digital media, from e-books and streaming services to blogs and social media. Perhaps one of the greatest technological innovations of our time, though, is the podcast.

According to Statista, the proportion of the U.S. adult population that's aware of podcasting rose from 22% in 2006 to 78% in 2021. Additionally, the nation's estimated 120 million podcast listeners from 2021 are expected to grow to over 160 million by 2023.

I've hopped on the podcast bandwagon myself, and while I would by no means consider myself a fanatic, I've found a few niche series that I like to keep up with. For example, "The Daily" by The New York Times gives a reliable 20-minute rundown on the news Monday through Friday, while "Called to Communion" by EWTN is an ever-changing call-in show that helps me learn more about my Catholic faith. And, of course, true crime podcasts never disappoint.

I love how this new medium has become not only popular for consumers but also accessible for creators. Notably, the everyday person can gain their own platform at little to no cost, and doing so can be as simple as making an Anchor account and hitting the record button. What I don't love, though, is how seemingly frivolous and meaningless this venture now appears to be.



I look at podcasts like I look at businesses. Before you start one, you need to have a solid idea that has a specific goal - perhaps solving a problem or bringing light to a particular topic. Additionally, you need to make sure you're qualified to speak on whatever your subject matter is. Finally, you need to have a plan for episode structure and possibly even guest speakers. The bottom line is this: Treat your podcast like a business, nothing less. When you enter the world of digital media and have influence over an audience, vou're accepting a profound level of responsibility to provide high-quality, accurate content. Have a detailed plan, and don't treat it as an inconsequential side hobby.

This issue isn't helped by the fact that many high-profile reality stars have picked up the mic and used their already existing platforms to gain automatic listeners. Yes, I'm talking about the astonishing number of Bachelor Nation contestants who have gone on to start podcasts after the show.

While I'm sure Jared Haibon and Dean Unglert's "Help! I Suck at Dating" and Jade Roper and Carly Waddell's "Mommies Tell All" have some useful tips to share, I'm skeptical of the pipeline that appears to lead from the set of "The Bachelor" and "The Bachelorette" directly to the recording studio. It's almost as if these high-profile reality stars are using a name to enter an industry they really don't know much about.

Podcasts are meant to have concrete, meaningful purposes, and just because making a podcast is easy doesn't mean everyone should sit down to record one. If you feel like you have unique experiences or an eccentric interest to share with the world - and if you are willing to put in significant time, effort and planning - go for it. If you don't, though, join me in the audience and learn to be content with sitting back and watching the success



Illustration by Brittany Tankersley | Photo Editor

Talk conspiracy to me: Baylor students' favorite conspiracy theories

EMMA WEIDMANN

Staff Writer

Conspiracy theories are a cornerstone of pop culture, especially with how easy they spread on social media. They don't always have to be serious or too political to be a fun talking point or a way to playfully float outlandish ideas.

Waco's history with fringe ideologies - specifically the Branch Davidian cult that brought national news to Waco before "Fixer Upper" put us on the map — leaves Baylor students in a unique

ponder

conspiracies.

The theories I hear most about on campus range from political to relatively harmless. Pick virtually any dead celebrity and there is more than likely a theory that they either faked their death and are truly alive somewhere in South America, or that there was foul play involved with their passing. I hear this most often about the rapper Tupac Shakur, king of pop Michael Jackson and political donor Jeffrey Epstein, who is said to have committed suicide in a maximum security jail cell in August 2019.

"There's no telling what celebrities will do to keep the mystery alive," Houston freshman Natalie French said. "Michael Jackson not being dead is like real-life "Thriller."

However, not everyone buys into celebrity death theories, considering them more of a gag than a legitimate worldview.

"I always thought those theories were a joke," Abilene freshman Arianna Taylor said. "In my house, we always joked that you could find a celebrity hiding in Brazil."

Straying from celebrity theories, many people believe certain historical events were staged or faked, or simply did not happen. One of the most famous conspiracy theories

all time fits into this category: the idea that the moon landing in July 1969 was filmed on a set somewhere rather than on the actual moon.

As this theory is more than half a century old, it has somewhat fallen out of fashion. But the spirit lives on in other theories, such as the question of who actually killed president John F. Kennedy, or the idea that aliens were the real builders of the pyramids.

of any category of conspiracy, these are the least likely to be taken seriously, but it also brings them among the most inflammatory.

Other theories like the



the idea that time travelers or other supernatural and strange agents act and change things in our time - float around. People say they remember something being spelled a certain way, such as the old TV show "Berenstain Bears," being originally spelled "Berenstein Bears," and more.

Regardless of what you choose to believe or not to believe, it's important to remember that conspiracy theories should all be taken with a very generous grain



FACULTY STARRING AS ...

FOSTER NICHOLAS Reporter Though most professors haven't been in a Hollywood film, many of them could be. especially as a stunt double. After asking several students if they think any of their professors look like celebrities, the most popular five responses are below.

Professor of Law Larry Bates as Kenny Gorelick



Professor of law Larry Bates stars as musician Kenny Gorelick, or Kenny G. Four students thought Bates greatly resembled the smooth saxophonist.

Five students also said he looks like musician Ozzie Osborne.

Postdoc Research Associate Nicholas Norman-Krause as **Brian Stepanek**

Dr. Krause could star in "The Suite Life of Zack & Cody" as the janitor played by actor Brian

"The first day of class when Dr. Krause walked in I immediately thought he looked familiar. Later on I figured out that he very much resembles Arwin from 'The Suite Life of Zack and Cody," San Antonio freshman Madi Hayden said.

Senior Lecturer of Journalism Sharon Gripp as Reba McEntire



Bloomfield, N.J., freshman journalism major Kass Tsikitas said, "Professor Gripp reminds me of the southern singer Reba McEntire. It's the hair and the smile."

If Gripp wants a singing career after her time as a professor, then maybe she could start a Reba McEntire tribute band

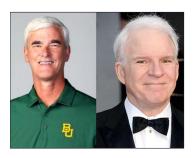


Lecturer of Public Health Emmanuel Akowuah as Daniel Kaluuya



Dr. Akowuah would be a perfect stunt double for Academy Award winner Daniel Kaluuya. Several students in Akowuah's classes agreed that he could, without a doubt, play any part Kaluuya could.

First Gentleman Brad **Livingstone as Steve Martin**



There is no better fit than the First Gent assuming any role played by Waco native Steve

Think about the possibilities. Imagine the first gent in a "Pink Panther" film, or starring in his own acting as Martin. Livingstone would be great in just about any Martin movie, including but not limited to "Dirty Rotten Scoundrels," "Bowfinger" and "Roxanne."

Photos courtesy of IMBd & Baylor University



5 FREE **BONELESS WINGS WITH MINIMUM** \$5 PURCHASE

WACO: 5201 West Waco Dr. 254-776-1324 919 South 6th St. 254-752-2929



One coupon per customer/visit. No substitutions. Not valid with any other offer. Cannot be copied or sold. Internet distribution prohibited. Must surrender coupon at redemption. One coupon per transaction. Valid only at participating locations. Expires 12/31/22



Price and participation may vary by location. Limited time only. Fazoli's and logo are federally registered trademarks of Fazoli's System Management, LLC Copyright © Fazoli's 2470 Palumbo Drive, Lexington, KY 40509-1117

Famous alumni of Baylor University

ANA RUIZ BRICTSON

Staff Writer

Throughout the years, Baylor has had notable alumni. Here are some facts about several of them.

JEFF DUNHAM

Dunham is an American ventriloquist from Dallas. He attended Baylor in 1980 and began to do ventriloquism during those years. By the time Dunham was at Baylor, he was already earning \$70,000 a year. He then moved to Los Angeles in 1988 and became a successful stand-up comedian.

Dunham has performed on sold-out tours worldwide. Tickets Sold for a Stand-Up Comedy Tour."

ANGELA KINSEY

Kinsey is an American actress from Louisiana, Texas. She graduated from Baylor in 1993 with a degree in English. After taking roles in many movies and TV shows, she became well known for her role in "The Office" as Angela

CHIP AND JOANNA GAINES

Joanna Gaines is a television presenter from Wichita, Kan. She graduated from Baylor

He holds the record for "Most in 2001 with a degree in communications

> Chip Gaines is a construction/real estate lead from Albuquerque, N.M. He graduated from Baylor in 1998.

> Although both alumni went to the same university, they did not meet while they attended

After getting married in 2003, they began their business, Magnolia Market, and they opened several businesses under the Magnolia name. They opened their headquarters in Waco in 2015.

Additionally, the celebrity couple stars in the hit show "Fixer Upper," in which they work together to renovate

GRETCHEN ROSSI

Rossi is an American actress from Michigan who graduated with a degree in psychology from Baylor.

Rossi is known for her reality TV show role on "The Real Housewives," where she starred for four seasons. Rossi has approximately 923,000 followers on Instagram.

BROOKLYN & BAILEY MCKNIGHT

The McKnight twins are American YouTubers from Dallas. They both majored in entrepreneurship and graduated

When they were nine years old, they began their YouTube



Photo Illustration by Brittany Tankersley | Photo Editor

Gretchen Rossi (Top Left), Bailey McKnight (Bottom Left), Angela Kinsey (Center), Brooklyn McKnight (Top Right) and Jeff Dunham (Bottom Right).

have 6.91 million subscribers. several businesses, including a Since being involved on social mascara and scrunchie business.

channel, which has grown to media, they have developed

CATCH UP ON ALL THINGS



Are movie theaters dying?

NAME OF THE OWNER, WHEN

SOPHIA TEJEDA

Staff Writer

As streaming services offer more options to watch new releases or nostalgic reminiscences of childhood, they draw audiences away from theaters, leaving them crawling to a slow death.

Despite this, Forth Worth sophomore and film fanatic Ethan Gonzales said he still enjoys

going to the movie theater with friends. He utilizes AMC's membership that offers up to three movies a week for \$20 a month

Gonzales said he looks forward to the buttery movie theater popcorn but sometime opts to sneak in his own s to save from the expensive He admitted that movie theater pricing nas increased to an expensive price point.

"It depends on how nice of a theater you go for. but it is definitely worth it to go to a nicer theater." Gonzales said. "I like to sit in the third or fourth row, so I'm right in front of the huge screen; it's a more immersive experience, especially with the speakers. It is better than streaming from home."

Gonzales said he and his friends will go see a movie in theaters several times if they think it is good enough.

Yet, despite his love for the movie theater, Gonzales said he sees a decline in audience attendance at movie theaters and believes it is because of streaming platforms like Netflix, HBO Max, Hulu and more.

Hollister, Calif., freshman and film major Emma Hoffman said she also sees the movie theater industry fading away.

"It is sad; I think they are dying partly due

to COVID," Hoffman said. "It is possible they could come back, but theaters these days seem empty. Streaming is definitely taking over. It has its pros and cons. There definitely is a great benefit to watching at home, and it is more ervone. I do think that

streaming will ultimately take over."

Waco offers several theaters, including AMC on Valley Mills and Cinemark off I-35.

"I like going to the movies because it is a fun activity to do, and it makes the movie-watching experience more immersive," Hoffman said. "It's how the movie was made to be viewed. It is a different type of experience to watch a movie on a big screen in the theater than to watch one at home on your computer."

Add POPS of variety to your wardrobe

AVERY BALLMANN

Arts and Life Writer

Pop culture is all around us via social media, ads and what we watch on TV. It can be overwhelming to find your style and feel confident in the popular trends. There is no shame in following trends — if done right, it can make for a unique wardrobe. Here are the current trends I have frequently seen around campus and in stores.

Mini purses

For an on-the-go woman, it's annoying to have a crossbody purse get in the way of everyday tasks. The switch to the mini purse has been life-changing. They're cute, lightweight and only carry essential items. I have seen plenty of black mini purses as well as some in bright colors or patterns. These purses are also great because they're good to use for special outfits when your normal purse doesn't exactly match the aesthetic. They can be considered the across-the-body waist bags, which to me look great on guys as well. It's 2022. Guys can have purses too.

Platform Converse

Converse has made a comeback, and it has taken over closets everywhere. With updated styles and fun prints, these shoes look great with flare pants, another common trend. Specifically, the high-top Converse has two forms that are most popular: the Platform 2X and the Run Star Hike style, which has a rigid sole. I think platform Converses have become

popular because they have an option to design your own. My roommates designed theirs, and they looked great. To have the power to customize your own shoes is exciting, which is why I think this shoe has taken off.

Fisherman beanies

Fisherman beanies can best be described as a shorter beanie that rests on the back of the wearer's head. I've seen these stylish hats become popular among guys. They go well with casual outfits, khaki pants and button-ups. This trend has not caught on quite yet, but I can predict it will be popular soon.

Color blocking

Color blocking is when an outfit has two to three bright, contradictory colors. This trend can either be extremely tacky or done well. It is great for a diverse wardrobe because it enables the buyer to get quality staple pieces like a blazer, pants or a fun skirt. With warmer weather making its way to Texas, color blocking will be making its way into summer outfits.

Cutouts

The cutout trend has appeared in shirts, skirts, swimsuits and pants. This trend can be controversial because if it is done poorly, it looks like you took scissors to your favorite shirt. I think the minimal cutouts around the shoulder or between the breasts look the best. Cutouts along the sides of jeans give an outfit an edgier look. This trend has not made it over to

men's fashion, and I am not expecting it to. It will probably upset the older members of your family since they still can't fathom why a person would buy ripped jeans, but don't let their jokes deter you.

Buying on a budget

Scrolling through TikTok, I find myself constantly seeing fashion trends, dupes and new shipments of clothing into big-name stores. I find that my shopping addiction has become terminal for my bank account, so here are some places where you can find the trends I mentioned above at a cheaper price.

Target has a wide assortment of mini purses in fact, that is where I purchased mine. They average about \$15, which is a great deal for a purse. Another deal I found is on Amazon. Its variety of colors for fisherman beanies is abundant, so grab a \$17 four-pack from Amazon and share with your friends before this trend takes off. The other trends I mentioned are not a specific item rather than a style, but if you're looking for color blocking or cutout clothing, Marshall's has a lot of clothing articles that fit these trends and for a great price.

Trends can come and go quickly, so be wise when purchasing your next wardrobe piece. If you feel as though your closet is becoming full of old styles, take them to Goodwill or a clothing donation site where they will be reused and not wasted. Enjoy shopping for these new trends and remember to express your style in the way that fits you best.



WALK THE WALK New trends are in for the spring semester, including fisherman beanies, platform Converse and mini purses.



