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WORLD

Zika virus prompts travel warnings

By Mikaela Cannizzo @mikaelac16

Students considering a spring break trip to Mexico or the Caribbean are advised to take safety precautions against the Zika virus, a relatively new disease spread through mosquito bites.

While no cases of the virus have been reported in the Austin area, Chris Van Deusen, Texas Department of State Health Services spokesper-

son, said cases have been confirmed in Dallas and Houston. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention issued an alert on Jan. 15 encouraging travelers to take extra precautions in multiple locations including South and Central America. Mexico and the Caribbean.

"The virus is transmitted from humans to mosquitos and then onto other people," Van Deusen said. "Our first line of defense is to obviously protect yourself from mosquito bites if you're traveling abroad so that you don't bring the virus back to begin with."

Van Deusen said travelers should protect themselves by wearing long sleeve shirts and pants, bringing insect repellent and sleeping in areas with screens and air conditioning to prevent mosquitos from entering the room. Once they return to the U.S., travelers should avoid mosquitos for at

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Illustration by Melanie Westfall | Daily Texan Staff

CAMPUS

Balloons show UT campus carry opinions

By Rachel Lew @rachelannlew

Members of the UT community used their breath - literally - to fill colored balloons representing their opinions about campus carry at an event hosted by the UT Graduate Student Assembly on Wednesday.

The event "Don't Waste Your Breath" is in response to campus carry that will begin on Aug. 1, a provision of Senate Bill 11 allowing those with concealed handgun licenses to carry guns on Texas university campuses. Participants filled red balloons representing an opinion against campus carry, yellow balloons a neutral opinion and green balloons an opinion in support of campus carry. The ratio of red, yellow, and green balloons was 14:1:1, resp



American studies sophomore April Arcibal and German sophomore Sarah Murray inflate balloons near the East Mall on

Study abroad office advises renewing passports now

COUNTRY

By Anusha Lalani @anusha_lalani

U.S. citizens are advised to renew their passports as soon as possible because the State Department is expecting an influx of people seeking to renew expired passports.

Students at UT who are partaking in the study abroad program know how essential it is to proactively renew passports, especially before it is time to travel internationally. The International Office at the University provides students as well as the general public passport renewal services as well as study abroad and ESL programs.

Zoila Acevedo, a passport associate at UT's International Office, said the average number of people at the office increases during peak traveling seasons, so it is important for people to come early.

"All spring is going to be busy," Acevedo said. "We're expecting at least 50 applicants a day. Spring break we're expecting 75 a day. We might even have to have a cutoff."

Study abroad peer adviser John Paul Napleton, who has gone through the study abroad program twice, said the best way to stay ahead is to renew your passport as soon as you decide to travel.

"If you're considering going abroad, whether you're an undergraduate or graduate, do it right then and there so you don't have to worry about it," Napleton, an international and global studies and public relations senior, said. Passport renewal costs \$147, which includes a \$25 processing fee and \$12 photo fee, according to John Vernon, passport office manager.

tively, by the conclusion of the event.

Michael Barnes, chair of Legislative Affairs Committee of the Graduate Student Assembly and educational administration graduate student, said GSA wanted to give students a chance to express their opinions about campus carry in a visual way.

"These balloons will be taken to the GSA assembly meeting where we will consider a

Wednesday afternoon during an event hosted by the UT Graduate Student Assembly. resolution that opposes guns in the classroom," Barnes said. "President [Gregory] Fenves has the power to decide how campus carry will be implemented at UT. We want to make sure graduate students have a voice before he makes

a decision." Barnes said the event is part of a campaign to help graduate students be politically active. "I believe it is important

for graduate students to begin thinking about how to redirect this energy toward a state legislative lobby effort in the fall, leading into the next leg-

islative session," Barnes said. UT spokesperson Gary Susswein said campus carry was approved by the legislature, but presidents of universities were given the power to decide campus specific rules.

Stephanie Martinez-Arndt | Daily Texan Staff

"President Fenves put together a council that has spent three months developing recommendations in addition to

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The expediting process costs a bit more but allows people to get their passports

PASSPORTS page 2

CAMPUS

Co-op celebrates 120 years with UT-Austin

By Bharath Lavendra @burreth

The University Co-op will celebrate 120 years since its founding with a "120th Year Birthday Bash" featuring free food, giveaways and an interactive photo booth Thursday.

The Co-op was founded in 1896 by law professor William Battle as a place for students to buy textbooks. It operated as a true co-op, charging two dollars for membership and offering the opportunity for members to get rebates on purchases at the end of the school year. Today, all students, faculty and staff are automatically members of the Co-op.

Biology junior Cameron Kerl, a student member of

NEWS

Photographer displays

graveyard art.

ONLINE

Why innovators repeat

mistakes over again.

ONLINE

the Co-op's Board of Directors, said the Co-op is not only more than just a textbook destination but an organization that has a long history of giving back to the UT community.

'This semester, we funded a record number of student organizations," Kerl said. "The Co-op has returned more than \$34 million to the University of Texas in gifts, grants and rebates since 2000."

Cheryl Phifer, the Coop's newly appointed President and CEO, said she was attracted to the University Co-op because of its charitable aspect.

"All the other companies I've worked for have been

CO-OP page 2

UT earns campus environment award

By Cassandra Jaramillo

CAMPUS

@cassandrajar

Three months after putting mulch around exposed tree roots, a barefoot Jason Pattman observed the new topsoil that has nourished the trees on the East Mall.

Such efforts to sustain the tree ecosystem at UT earned the University a spot on Tree Campus USA's list of schools dedicated to a healthy campus environment for the eighthconsecutive year. The designation comes from the Arbor Day Foundation, which recognizes universities that strive to engage students to maintain a healthy and sustainable ecosystem around campus.

Jennifer Hrobar, supervisor of urban forestry at UT, said the designation is a recognition of the hard work by stu-

dents and the forestry team, but their work means more than just an award to them.

"It shows our commitment to care for the trees," Hrobar said. "But we have [a] duty to take care of these trees, whether or not we get a designation."

Pattman said the tree soil, which was heavily exposed to the sun, concerned him.

"I had seen the problem in the fall and had been wanting to do something about it for a while," said Pattman, a psychology sophomore. "I met

Psychology sophomore Jason Pattman climbs a tree barefoot on Wednesday afternoon, three months after placing mulch around trees on campus. Pattman is part of an effort to sustain the tree ecosystem at UT.

Briana Vargas Daily Texan Staff

Jennifer at Campus Sustainability Week and asked her if we could continue to take care of the trees on campus."

Arbor Day Foundation spokesperson Danny Cohn said applying universities

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REASON TO PARTY HANK

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OPINION SPORTS Huey Fischer is the candi-

date students need. PAGE 4

Cultural appropiation of Indian culture is wrong. PAGE 4

Longhorns close strong on National Signing Day. PAGE 6

Goalie Abby Smith leaves notable Longhorn legacy. PAGE 6

LIFE&ARTS

to cancer patients. PAGE 8

UT students donate hats

Professors, students discuss textbook prices. PAGE 8

ONLINE

Young Conservatives of Texas celebrate President Ronald Reagan's 105th birthday. Read more at

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CONTACT US

Main Telephone (512) 471-4591

Editor-in-Chief Claire Smith (512) 232-2212 editor@dailytexanonline.com

Managing Editor Amy Zhang (512) 232-2217 managingeditor@ dailytexanonline.com

News Office (512) 232-2207 news@dailytexanonline.com

Sports Office (512) 232-2210 sports@dailytexanonline.com

Life & Arts Office (512) 232-2209 lifeandarts@dailytexanonline.com

Multimedia Office (512) 471-7835 multimedia@ dailytexanonline.com

Retail Advertising (512) 471-1865 advertise@texasstudentmedia.com

Classified Advertising (512) 471-5244 classifieds@ dailytexanonline.com

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TOMORROW'S WEATHER

High Low 62 20

FRAMES FEATURED PHOTO Sthedailytexan



Maddox Price | Daily Texan Staff Leydi Anguish performs at Cheer Up Charlie's as "Lucian Anguish" in her drag king debut with local drag troupe Boiz 4 Now.

universitycoop.com

Amy Zhang | Daily Texan file photo The Co-Op will celebrate its 120th year with a birthday bash this Thursday featuring free food and giveaways.

CO-0P

continues from page 1

publicly traded, and while profits are important, shareholder value is the main thing," Phifer said. "I liked that everything we produce goes back to the University."

The Co-op's first contribution was a \$10,000 donation towards the completion of Gregory Gymnasium. The Co-op's corporate secretary, Julan Swain, said this contribution was the start of a long history of giving to the University and the University's

"When you want to express your pride for the University, you want to wear burnt orange — you want to be a part of this burnt orange family and that's why [people] come to the Co-op first."

Thursday's event will feature a new photo-sharing app known as Arcivr. William Kelleher, promotions manager for the Co-op, said the app will help the Co-op aggregate attendee-submitted pictures and download them in high resolution.

"Rather than using a hashtag or a location to find pictures that people took at the event, Arcivr provides a place for users to upload those pictures, share them with other event attendees and be able to download high quality copies of them," Kelleher said.

ZIKA continues from page 1

least a week in order to prevent the virus from spreading, Van Deusen said.

UHS medical director David Vander Straten said the virus is relatively mild, and flulike symptoms such as fever, rash, muscle aches or pink eye typically remain for only a few days or a week. Vander Straten said patients diagnosed with Zika rarely require hospitalization and most of the time do not show symptoms at all.

However, the infection poses serious concerns for pregnant women, such as early miscarriages or giving birth to a baby with microcephaly, a condition that inhibits development and results in an abnormally small head, Vander Straten said.

"Women who are pregnant or who are considering preg-

BALLOONS continues from page 1

getting input from faculty and huge community of young people at risk." students across campus," Susswein said. "President Fenves will finalize his decision withPASSPORTS

continues from page 1

quicker, Vernon said. "Expediting is an additional \$60," Vernon said. "So it's 2-3 weeks [versus the normal 4-6 weeks], but during the peak season, which is from now to July, it takes the full 3 weeks. Anyone can apply here; it's open to general public, you just have to have the right documents to apply for a passport," Vernon said.

Government senior Andy Cerecero, who is also a study abroad peer advisor, said although the renewal process can be tough, covering the cost of renewal is more difficult.

"The thing for me specifically is being able to gather enough funds to be able to renew it because renewing the passport costs just as much as buying the passport initially," Cerecero said. "It may not seem a lot to an established, working adult, but being a college student, that's like an entire paycheck that I have to use up for that."

anyone traveling should always look at the travel precautions before they travel," Howarth-Moore said.

According to the UHS website, Zika virus is most frequently transmitted through mosquito bites. Despite this commonality, the virus's ability to spread via infected blood makes it possible to contract the disease in other ways.

Texas Department of State Health Services released a report on Tuesday describing a Zika case in Dallas that was most likely the outcome of sexual contact.

Van Deusen said increasing numbers of the virus within the country could lead to public health interventions.

"If we get to a point where we see the virus being transmitted by mosquitos in Texas, there may be steps that can be taken at that point," Van Deusen said.

who are just people like concealed handgun license holders, and I don't think it's an educated position."

Biology freshman Uyi Evbayiro said he can see reason on both sides of the cam-



I wanna fly the American flag! It matches our house!

athletic programs.

"The Co-op has always been source of tradition for the UT campus," Swain said.

THE DAILY T

This issue of The Daily Texan is valued at \$1.25

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Arcivr will join other businesses such as Favor, Alamo Drafthouse and Tiff's Treats at the 4 p.m. event Thursday at the Co-op food court.

in the next few weeks?

Katherine Doerr Morosky, graduate student in STEM education, said the presence of guns on campus presents a danger to those who attend the University.

"I feel really strongly about this because there is overwhelming evidence that more guns means more death," Doerr said. "This is misguided legislation that is catering to

people who have concealed handgun licenses as much as he trusts police.

Computer science senior

David Sipos said he trusts

nancy should make sure they

try to avoid mosquito bites,

and if they are pregnant, they

should notify their health

care provider upon their re-

turn," Vander Straten said. "If

they are able to avoid or post-

pone their travel until after

their pregnancy, that would

Adrienne Howarth-Moore,

director of Human Resource

Services, said the University is

taking proactive measures to

educate students and faculty

members about Zika. By post-

ing information in accordance

with Centers for Disease Con-

trol and World Health Orga-

nization, the UHS and Inter-

national Office websites can

keep everyone updated on the

virus and how it is affecting

traveling to the Caribbean for

spring break, and that's defi-

nitely going to be a time where

a tiny minority of essentially

NRA lobbyists, and it's re-

ally putting the safety of a

"Some students may be

travel, Howarth-Moore said.

be great."

"A lot of people that are against students having guns on campus assume that concealed handgun license holders don't have the training that is necessary, but they give all the trust to the police officers that are walking around with guns anyways," Sipos said. "We have trust in police

pus carry issue.

"I feel like there are positives to both sides. Allowing people to carry guns on campus could possibly prevent a mass shooting," Eybayiro said. "At the same time, I understand the risk involved Having guns on campus could also pose a risk or danger to other students in class because we can't really predict how people feel."

THE DAILY TEXAN



TREES

continues from page 1

must meet five standards. The standards include a tree advisory committee, tree campus care plan, a list of annual expenditures, an arbor day observance and a student service learning project.

A team of six arborists are the primary caretakers of nearly 5,000 trees that are worth about \$25 million on the 40 Acres.

With added construction and bark-munching squirrels threatening the health of trees on campus, the urban forestry team seeks to inform the University community on the easily stressed ecosystems at events such as Arbor Day. Sometimes even the shortcut to campus that requires walking across a tree's roots can cause damage, Hrobar said.

"They're doing a good job at maintaining their urban forest care and keeping students informed," Sheereen Othman, program assistant for Tree Campus USA, said.

Hrobar, who has worked with UT urban forestry since 2012, said the team is looking forward to seeing more UT students involved in the next year.

"It's not just to promote healthy trees but to get the student community involved," Hrobar said.

Texas Student Media Board of Operating Trustees Meeting

Friday, February 5th, 2016

Board of Operating Trustees Meeting 1 p.m.

Jesse H. Jones Communication Center CMA 5.136 2504A Whitis Avenue

Visitors Welcome We encourage any community member who has any kind of temporary or permanent disability to contact Texas Student Media beforehand so that appropriate accomodations can be made. Anyone is welcome to attend.



WELCOME TO THE FIRST PAGE OF SCIENCE&TECH.

SCEENCE& COME TO THE FIRST PAGE OF SCIENCE& TECH. ELLEN AIRHART, SCIENCE& TECHNOLOGY EDITOR Thursday, February 4, 2016

Healing gel may lengthen lives of electronics

By Zia Lyle @Zia_Lyle

The future of electronics depends on the capabilities of next-generation batteries.

The materials of these batteries typically expand during charging, which eventually damages battery electrodes. UT engineers have created a self-healing gel that repairs broken circuits and conducts electricity.

Guihua Yu, assistant mechanical engineering professor, contributed to the solution of this battery problem.

"Scientists and engineers really want to mimic what human skin can do," Yu said. "We know that small wounds take a couple days to heal, but it is a natural process."

This gel has potential use in flexible electronics and complex next-generation batteries, according to a paper published in Nano Letters.

This gel contains two parts: a conducting polymer gel and a supramolecular gel, a group of bonded molecules that provides the self-healing properties. Yu said that the combination of these materials makes this gel unique.

"Most of the conventional self-healing gels don't have good electronic conducting properties," Yu said. "This limits their applications in electronics."

Yu's team worked with

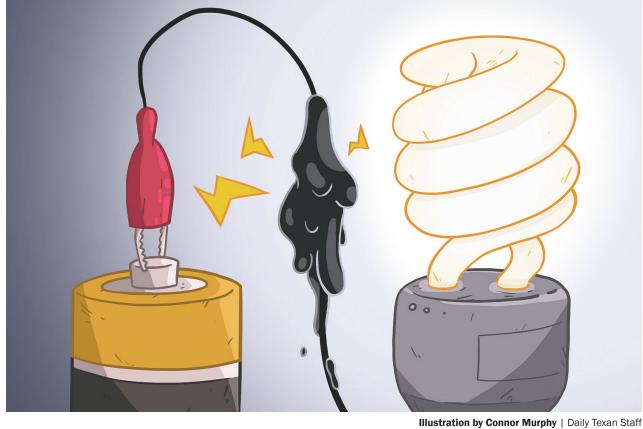
a special class of polymer, called a conjugated polymer, which is adept at conducting electricity. This polymer then combines with the supramolecular gel to form the hybrid substance. The supramolecular gel contains zinc ions and terpryidine, which together eliminate the need for external pressure or heat for the gel to heal.

The next step after synthesizing this supramolecular gel was binding it to the conductive polymer. Ye Shi, a material science postdoctoral student and member of the Yu lab team, said that this took time to accomplish.

"Our material is a hybrid containing two parts," Shi said. "So the difficulty was finding the perfect combination of elements, adjusting the ratio between the two components and finding good methods of synthesizing and combining them."

The current product takes just minutes to repair itself. The gel is applied to circuit junction points, places in the battery that often break. When damage occurs, the supramolecular components of the gel allow it to reform and continue the flow of electricity without any changes to the mechanical properties. Yu says this gel has applications in many different electronics.

"Today the base material



for electronics is silicon, but we know from basic chemistry that silicon is a semi-conductor and is brittle," Yu said. "Often when using silicon for flexible electronics, the electronic parts will break. Here is where our self-healing gel is very helpful."

More advanced inventions such as wearable electronics and robots can also benefit from this gel.

"Robots have lots of different electrical wiring inside, and if anything breaks, very extensive work is required to fix it," Yu said. "We want these robots to do things in a human manner, and not having to manually fix every broken element can achieve this and help such devices last longer."

The team published their work in multiple papers last fall but continue working on more efficient ways to synthesize the gel. Yu said that the process currently takes a few weeks and is not scalable. He is uncertain about the cost and implementation into consumer markets.

"It just depends on how the gel is synthesized and how efficiently it can be processed," Yu said.

Despite his reservations,

Yu said that the gel will have a serious impact in the field of electronics.

"I see great potential in many areas," Yu said. "Because this gel is conductive, it is relatively straightforward to apply to flexible or wearable electronics. This gel allows parts to heal, which in turn makes your devices last longer and more cost effective."

VIRTUAL REALITY Students experience virtual reality on campus

By Lawrence Goodwyn @Tyler_Goodwyn

Students leapt, dodged and gasped as they experienced virtual reality for the first time.

The HTC Vive team visited the UT campus last week and offered students a look into the world of virtual reality.

Although virtual reality already has a well known position in the entertainment world, VR companies have steadfastly worked to get it into the classroom. Companies like Immersive VR Education are working to allow students to go back in time and sit in on historic moments, such as Einstein's lectures on the theory of relativity, all in a 3-D-simulated environment. Neely Droessler, an HTC Vive college field manager, said that VR technology opens many doors as inventors could use the technology to design buildings

and perform walkthroughs of their creation using one of their programs, Tilt Brush.

Business freshman Farrein Kahn said she is enthusiastic about the possibilities of VR.

"I would definitely be excited to see virtual reality technology incorporated into my classes," Kahn said. "One thing I really love about this technology is how immersed one feels when inside a virtual setting."

that students are only in class for a limited time, so virtual reality equipment needs to work quickly. He added that VR might be more effective if students used it on their own time.

However, Herrin says that he would use VR to help students visualize difficult topics in a biology courses, such as the structures of specific proteins and DNA.



engineering Electrical sophomore Devin Amatyga said that it may allow doctors to practice without having to operate on real patients.

However, not all students are sure they want to use VR in school.

"Virtual reality is cool, but it may be a little distracting in classes," said aerospace engineering freshman Syed Mahmood. Molecular biosciences professor David Herrin said

"Applying that same experience [VR] into a classroom setting could really enhance learning and allow students to understand the application of certain principles in courses that both focus on STEM and the liberal arts," Kahn said.

Kahn said it would be interesting to see virtual reality incorporated into one of her business classes. A virtual corporate environment would be an interactive way to learn about various aspects of her subject.

Mahmood said that he

Carlos Garcia | Daily Texan Staff

A student experiences virtual reality on campus on Friday thanks to the HTC Vive on Friday. Recently, VR companies have steadfastly worked to get it into the classroom.

would even pay for VR for on top of his usual academic fees such as textbooks, iClickers and other supplies.

VR equipment ranges from Google Cardboard at \$600, according to the company websites.

Google has already shipped off over 5 million of their low-cost devices, which

\$20 to the Oculus Rift at consumers can use with only a cell phone, according to Google's official blog.

"It's incredible - there really are no limits," Droessler said.

ENERGY

UT study finds different way of capturing carbon dioxide

By Kate Thackrey @KateThackrey

Efficient carbon capture is one of the best ways to cut down on greenhouse gas emissions, but it could cost energy companies more than they're willing to spend.

A new UT study has found that coal-burning power plants could capture carbon dioxide gas with significantly less energy by implementing an improved carbon capture system. Carbon dioxide is one of the main greenhouse gases in the U.S. and contributes to climate change, according to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

All carbon capture systems consist of a series of chambers connected by pipes that capture fumes from burning coal as they exit the power plant. This study used a computer model to find the best chamber configuration to separate pure carbon dioxide from

coal exhaust fumes, which contain other gases such as nitrogen and oxygen.

Yu-Jeng Lin, co-author of the study and a chemical engineering graduate student, said that the problem with current carbon capture systems is that energy is lost in the form of excess heat.

"Our goal is to reduce the energy consumption that we spend on capturing carbon dioxide," said Lin. "Basically, when we heat up solvent to regenerate carbon dioxide, we evaporize a lot of water, but that's not actually necessary."

In a traditional carbon capture model, a liquid solvent first absorbs carbon dioxide where it comes into contact with exhaust fumes, then funnels to a hot chamber where the pure carbon dioxide gas evaporates.

To counteract heat loss, Lin split the carbon dioxiderich liquid into cold and hot streams, and then pumped the cold liquid through the top of the hot chamber so it absorbs the excess heat as it moves downward.

Although the technology has held up under physical testing at the Pickle Research Campus pilot plant, it may still be too expensive to interest most power companies. According to Dr. Gary Rochelle, head of the Rochelle Research Group and co-author of the study, it might be one to two decades before plants adopt carbon capture systems.

'The first round of regulations to address global climate change is not likely to cut deep enough to require CCS [carbon capture and storage], but the next round will probably require it. As a consequence ... our industrial interest is not really high right now," Rochelle said.

Rochelle said that the point of the research is to make the technology available when regulations and politics do force companies to further cut down on greenhouse gas emissions.

"We just need to have someone who has the courage and the guts to say 'yes let's do it,' and that requires the public's support," Rochelle said. "It's important for the layman to appreciate that we have this technology."

Dr. Carey King, a lecturer and research associate for the Center for International Energy and Environmental Policy, has published work on the economic potential of carbon capture.

King said he doubts coal plants would adopt carbon capture, even with increased energy efficiency, because of the burdens that other environmental regulations have already placed on them.

"I'm still not sure it would be economically viable," King said, adding that coal



Stephanie Tacy | Daily Texan Staff

Yu-Jeng Lin, Chemical Engineering graduate student, is the coauthor a new UT study has found that coal-burning power plants could capture carbon dioxide gas with significantly less energy.

companies are less competitive because they have had to make investments in infrastructure to meet environmental standards.

Lin still believes that coal will continue to be a major source of energy for the United States, at least for the foreseeable future, despite the popularity of inexpensive natural gas and oil as fuel as well as clean energy sources such as solar and wind power.

"The reason we think coal is going to be the major fossil fuel to generate power is because it's cheap, the price of coal is relatively stable ... and we still have an abundance of coal in the states for a while," Lin said.

WALKER FOUNTAIN, FORUM EDITOR | @TexanEditorial FORUM Thursday, February 4, 2016 A WEEKLY PUBLICATION OF

THE DAILY TEXAN EDITORIAL DEPARTMENT

FORUM

Fischer's UT focus buoys strong candidacy

By Walker Fountain Daily Texan Forum Editor

@wf_atx Where would you expect to find a

candidate for State Representative on a Monday? Perhaps a fundraiser or a speaking engagement. Or, in the case of HD-49 candidate Huey Fischer, spending 17 hours on campus registering hundreds of students to vote. I met Fischer, 23, who is running in the Democratic primary for Texas House District 49, at 10 p.m. on Monday night. He was 15 hours into his shift registering voters on campus and was strolling through the PCL, reminding students to register to vote before the midnight deadline. This serves as just one indication of how seriously he views student engagement, not only his campaign for House but in the electoral process as a whole.

As rates of student participation in the electoral process remain stubbornly low, it is commendable to see a candidate for State Representative work to harness the power of students. As Fischer put it, it makes sense for a candidate for State Representative in Central Austin to focus on students: "Young people are not being represented in the Capitol properly. If I am elected, I would be the only House member under 30. ... Tuition is on the rise at UT, rent is going up and the legislature is not responsive to our needs, forcing things

on us that we don't want. Students are turning out in this election and are going to decide on a candidate who best reflects their values."

Fischer is banking on enthusiasm among Democratic college students for either Hillary Clinton or Bernie Sanders to give him momentum down ballot - and is hoping to demonstrate to progressive students at UT that he is the torchbearer for their causes. That is clearly the case. His platform points include advocating for lower student debt and better management of public universities, combatting homelessness and mental illness amongst LGBT youth and raising the state minimum wage.

While these may seem pie-in-the-sky in a state decisively controlled by Republicans, Fischer argues that the Legislature needs the fighter for progressive causes that it currently lacks.

"I'm going to be the most liberal member [of the Texas House]. [HD-49] is the most liberal district — it deserves the most liberal member. I'm tired of seeing Democrats play defense against the Republicans. It hasn't worked."

Texas students would be wise to consider Fischer - not only does he have extensive experience working in the Texas Legislature as an aide. He is the only candidate who has clearly shown he prioritizes the University and its students. Given the rising costs for students and the issues of



race across the campus and state, Fischer would be a smart choice. He is not far removed from the University where he spent his four years on the 40 Acres as a student activist, working to register students to vote and getting them engaged in the political process.

While Fischer's opponents - perhaps most notably AISD trustee Gina Hinojosa and UT law professor Heather Way have progressive bona fides of their own, only Fischer has the experience in

Mike McGraw | Daily Texan file photo

the legislature and campus connections to make him the most competitive candidate for UT students. Even more importantly, Fischer is the only candidate who understands that the heart of HD-49 - the University of Texas - deserves to be engaged at the same level as neighborhood associations and chamber of commerce meetings. Wouldn't it be nice if all our candidates for elected office recognized that?

Fountain is a government senior from Pelham Manor, NY.

FORUM

Even Beyoncé cannot appropriate culture

By Janhavi Nemawarkar Daily Texan Guest Columnist @janhavin97

When the presence of Beyoncé compelled us to actually watch Coldplay's new music video for "Hymn For The Weekend" last Friday, the Internet erupted with a debate about appropriation of Indian culture - and what Beyonce's involvement meant.

The fetishization of India, at least, is familiar. While Beyonce's presence brings up interesting questions about black populations in India, she nevertheless participates in the Western reductive oversimplification of Indian culture. The music video follows Coldplay's lead singer, Chris Martin, as he soaks in the beauty of an exotic and colorful India while Beyoncé dons an Indian costume and plays a Bollywood actress. The video teems with Hindu religious symbols divorced from their significance. Holi, the Hindu spring festival, is reduced to a colorful mess in which beaming brown children dance in the streets. This is a calculated aesthetic. India has been presented as a romantic and poor destination for foreigners to find themselves countless times. Far more confusing is Beyonce's participation in this imperialistic construction of India. When Beyoncé puts on a floral headdress and waves her arms in ways that are presumably meant to evoke Bharatanatyam, it is natural to wonder if we should be mad at Queen Bey. Beyoncé has aligned herself strongly with the modern feminist movement as a powerful black celebrity who openly embraces the term. Her impact can especially be seen in discussions of intersectional feminism, or feminism that takes into account overlapping identities such as race and gender. Beyonce's feminism appeals to many women of color, even those who are not black.

India's rich and deep narrative must be told by actual Indian people. The narrative should not be centered around a white band.

> Rachana Jadala. Business freshman

Even Bollywood, India's gargantuan movie industry, is guilty of reducing outside cultures to stereotypes and routinely ignores



FORUM

5,123international students attended UT in Fall 2014. Of those, 3,217 were graduate students.



international students attended U.S. universities for the 2013-2014 academic year.



85,000 H-B1 Visas are granted to foreign workers each year.

20,000 are reserved for for professionals with a Masters or Doctoral degree from a U.S. university.

Infographic by Iliana Storch | Daily Texan Staff

There is some hypocrisy associated with South Asians accusing Beyoncé of appropriation, especially considering and rampant anti-black racism in Indian communities.

the stories of darker-skinned Indians.

In an email, radio-television-film associate professor Madhavi Mallapragada explained Beyoncé's act of appropriation as unique.

"...As a black woman dressed up as a Bollywood queen, we can read [Beyoncé's] act as a subversive moment given the Indian fetishization of white and fair skin," Mallapragada said. "I think it is significant that people are calling out Beyoncé for what they think she could never have done - reduce another minority culture to a series of cliches."

Indeed, Black populations in India certainly exist, but they have been consistently unacknowledged and marginalized. While some argue Beyoncé could provide some much-needed representation, her lack of Indian roots remains problematic.

Business freshman Rachana Jadala argued she was not the right person.

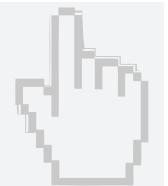
"India's rich and deep narrative must be told by actual Indian people," Jadala said. "The narrative should not be centered around a white band."

Ultimately, accounts of India from outside — including those from Beyoncé should challenge themselves to engage in this complex cultural narrativ instead of resorting to appropriating objects of religious and spiritual significance. Only in this way will we be able to truly represent Indian culture.

Nemawarkar is a Plan II freshman from Austin.

ONLINE

Our commentary doesn't stop on the page. For more of our thoughts on the issues of the day, check out our blog, A Matter of Opinion, at dailytexanonline.com.



Dash for visas hurts international students

By Giselle Suazo Daily Texan Guest Columnist @Giselle_suazo

Universities across the United States are filled with students working to reach the ultimate goal - graduation. While the thought of transitioning from slightly functioning college student to full-blown competent adult can be frightening, life on the other side is full of positives. Entering the workforce is an exciting time in a young professional's life. But for over 800,000 international students, graduation is the beginning of a whole other set of problems.

The United States is an attractive option for many foreign students when the time to apply for higher education comes around, and colleges welcome these students with open arms. In the 2013-2014 academic school year alone, 886,000 students from outside the U.S. enrolled in schools across the country. However, a graduating foreign student enters a limbo of costly legal processes to acquire an H-1B visa, a document allowing them to stay in the U.S. after graduating to pursue a professional career.

The H-1B visa program, also referred to as work visas, began in 1990 so companies in the United States could hire foreign workers. But only 85,000 work visas are available to the nearly 1 million potential applicants. Plus, 25,000 of these visas are reserved for students with a graduate or higher-level degree. There has always been a cap, but it has remained the same since 2005 despite ever-increasing demand.

Large corporations, most of them technology-focused, look outside the do-



mestic workforce when they have trouble finding qualified applicants. Microsoft's CEO, Bill Gates, is a well known supporter of the H-1B program and campaigns for its much-needed expansion. With rapidly advancing technology providing a portal for businesses to the world, the United States needs to make certain that we have sufficiently skilled employees to meet workforce expectations.

Immigration lawyer Mario Flores recognizes that the current state of the H-1B program needs to be fixed.

International students put in as much work, time and a lot more money than students who are citizens of the United States. According to the University of Texas at Austin's International Office, international students contributed \$1.46 billion to the Texas economy alone in the 2013-2014 school year. The U.S. economy clearly benefits from these students, so it is only right for their training and contributions the labor pool to be met with the opportunities they deserve.

Giselle Suazo is an international relations junior from Honduras.

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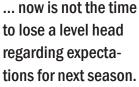
RECRUITING

continues from page 6

up the defensive line. They went out and signed five DTs in this class alone, three of which are fourstar recruits. This should be considered good news, but any expectation that any of these freshmen could immediately replace an NFL-level talent would be misguided.

Recruitment rankings aren't exactly a crystal ball. Texas's 2009 recruiting class ranked sixth in the nation based on the 247Sports composite rankings. The class featured two five-star recruits, one of whom was Garrett Gilbert, the No. 1 overall quarterback in the class. Texas finished the 2009 season with a loss in the national championship. They followed the loss by recruiting the second best class in the nation for 2010.

The combination of the No. 6 and No. 2 classes was not enough for Texas to return to the national



championship in 2010. In fact, it was not even enough for the Longhorns to return with a winning season; the Longhorns finished 5-7 that year. Gilbert, the top quarterback, had a lackluster season and eventually transferred to SMU.

Texas fans should be excited that talent is returning to Austin, but they should also allow Charlie Strong and his staff time to mold these young recruits before expecting a 10-win season. When it comes to recruiting, nothing is certain. The one thing we do know is that Strong has put together an outstanding class in exciting fashion. What he can do with that class won't be evident till kickoff next season.



Derek Stout | Daily Texan file photo Despite being the No. 1 quarterback in the class of 2009, quarterback Garrett Gilbert failed to impress Texas.

RECYCLE your copy of THE DAILY **TEXAN**



GOALIE

continues from page 6

Farley, when she was 8. Abby was good, but she

wasn't the headliner of the team. "We found out how far be-

hind she was at her age from the select side," Mitchell said. Abby continued to work

with Llamas on her own until he became too committed to his own club soccer team. That's when Sagu came in to help.

Like Llamas, Sagu continued to drill her on the fundamentals of goalkeeping: "how you position your legs, how you position your body," Sagu said.

She caught up and passed her teammates. Her club team went undefeated in the State Cup.

Ryan Higginbotham met Abby when she was 13, when Abby was moved up in age group with the Texans. Farley would no longer coach her; now it was Shawn Cantrell's turn. Higginbotham was the director of the girls and Shawn's assistant.

When Abby was his goalkeeper, Higginbotham knew something others didn't.

"When I knew that I had Abby Smith in goal, I didn't think you could beat me," he said. "And the team felt the same thing." Higginbotham win every game when Abby

didn't

played for him. "If I did, I would have won four national championships

with her," he said. "But you still had the feeling, you still had the feeling."

Under Higginbotham's coaching, Abby began to blossom into the defensive force she is now. There was the time she practically won a game by herself - "She did it a lot," Higginbotham interjects - at U16 regional quarterfinals. A majority of the team was injured.

"I wanna say we had, like, seven healthy bodies," he said. "But we had to get 11 on the field."

Higginbotham scrapped 11 players onto that field. What ensued was one of the best exhibitions of goalkeeping and managing a game he had ever seen.

"So, the game was 90 minutes long. I think Abby wasted probably 40 minutes," Higginbotham says. "I can tell you - that day she won a game that we probably shouldn't have won."

He became Abby's head coach when she was a freshman in high school — a time when most protégés are a year away from being discovered. But by that point, Abby

was already being recruited and recognized, having received her first recruiting letter when she was in seventh grade. The first one opened the floodgates for more.

The schools that seem to contend for national championships every year began calling. She could have gone to UCLA, Notre Dame, North Carolina or Stanford.

"I thought it was going to be UCLA. I did," Higginbotham said.

But during Abby's visit to Texas, former Texas head coach Chris Petrucelli and Abby connected immediately. On the ride back home, Abby told her parents, "I want to be a Longhorn." It surprised her parents.

Petrucelli was fired Dec. 3, 2011. Abby was a senior at Plano West High School and was two months away from signing her letter of intent to Texas. Angela Kelly was hired Dec. 19, 2011.

The first time Beth spoke with Kelly, they didn't talk about soccer.

"We talked about Alzheimer's," Beth said.

Beth's father died from Alzheimer's. Kelly's mentor and good friend is former Tennessee women's basketball coach Pat Summitt, who was diagnosed with early-onset dementia in May 2011. Beth

Following her historic stint as a Longhorn, Abby Smith was drafted by the Boston Breakers with the 27th pick in the National Women's Soccer League draft.

Rachel Zein Daily Texan Staff

fell in love with her. Abby bonded with her as well when she met her in person for the first time.

UT's proximity to home also played a part in Abby's decision to commit to Texas, something she didn't tell her parents until later.

Abby started as goalie all four years she was at Texas. She earned a spot on the the first or second All-Big 12 teams three of her four years. Abby broke Dianna Pfenninger's career shutout record on senior night of her senior year - the final home game of the season. When she was honored before the game, she had tears in her eyes.

"It's something no one else can experience if you're not here, so this place has been our home, and it's always sad when you have to move forward, but it's been a great ride," Abby said after her final home game Oct. 30.

It's currently the offseason, so Abby can train and get ready to make the move from the south to the northeast. Texas's leader in shutouts will keep working hard and pushing herself. Kelly said she's the future of the Women's National Team.

"I think it's gonna be a good change," Abby said. "Just because you gotta get out of your comfort zone."

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Think before you trash it!

JACOB MARTELLA, SPORTS EDITOR | @texansports Thursday, February 4, 2016

FOOTBALL

SPORTS

Longhorns close Strong



Head coach Charlie Strong addresses the media on National Signing Day. Strong and the Longhorns racked up 24 players over the recruiting period. Texas ended with the No. 11 recruiting class in the country according to 247Sports composite rankings.

Texas ends with recruiting frenzy

By Mark Skol Jr. @markskoljr

Thirty-two players in the Longhorns' 2016 recruiting class took an official visit to Texas. At the end of National Signing Day, head coach Charlie Strong landed 24 of them.

"It was a great day today," Strong said. "A great finish, and our coaching staff, players included, did an unbelievable job."

Unlike past years, Strong didn't want recruits to commit to the University right away, so other schools wouldn't make a push to flip them.

While college football analysts across the nation doubted Strong's recruiting tactics, Strong said the haul of recruits was worth the wait. "Just looking at the national exposure, the way it took off, everybody kept saying, 'What's happening in Austin?" Strong said. "It became big-time news just because it was falling for us today. But we needed that, and we've just got to continue to build on it."

Strong used that motivation to build Texas' needs on defense.

The Longhorns brought in four defensive tackles — four-stars Jordan Elliott, Chris Daniels and D'Andre Christmas-Giles, as well as three-star Marcel Southall. Texas bolstered its secondary with commitments from safeties Brandon Jones and Chris Brown, a four-star and three-star, respectively. Strong also landed two commitments from four-star outside linebackers Jeffery Mc-Culloch and Erick Fowler.

Texas' recruiting cycle finished with the 11th-best class in the country after being ranked outside the top-30 on Tuesday night, according to the 247Sports composite class rankings.

Strong says the incredible finish wasn't his own doing. The involvement of the players on the current roster was what truly fueled the recruiting process.

"The best sales in was our players," Strong said. "We had workouts this morning, and when I called them all up, they were all saying, 'Hey, coach, big day today. Are we going to get it done?' I said, "You guys know more than I know, so you should know more about it.""

Current Texas players

Malik Jefferson, Charles Omenihu, P.J. Locke and DeShon Elliott all played an active role in the process, talking with recruits through Twitter and Periscope.

"It's very exciting," Jefferson said on Longhorn Network's Recruiting Day Special. "We want to see kids come here, want to lift this program and be excited."

While Texas is enthusiastic about the direction the football program is going, Strong said the team has have a lot to work on before they play Notre Dame on Sept. 3 to open the 2016 season.

"We know we have to win some football games," Strong said. "We just have to continue to work and continue to build and continue to put [the players] in the right place."

Signing Day should be met with caution

By Samuel Williams @smwilliams27

National Signing Day is officially over. The Longhorns had a lot to be happy about, but success should come with caution. Texas had a wild, thrilling finish to the recruiting season by snagging seven players on National Signing Day, five of which were four-star recruits. But now is not the time to lose a level head regarding expectations for next season.

Texas head coach Charlie Strong is no stranger to recruiting success. Last year he landed the No. 10 class in the nation, according to the 247Sports composite rankings. This year, his class lands at No. 11, narrowly behind the previous year. Longhorns fans should be excited - bringing in more talent is never a bad thing. But anyone expecting Texas to contend for a national championship immediately may want to rethink their logic.

Following the recruitment of last year's No. 10 class, the team went 5–7 in 2015. Inexperience from the freshmen class greatly contributed to the sub .500 record. While last year's freshmen should develop into better players for the upcoming season, the need for Strong to complete his roster might bring result similar issues.

With defensive tackle Hassan Ridgeway heading to the NFL, Strong and his staff knew they had to shore

RECRUITING page 5

SIDELINE

6







TOP TWEET

Charlie Strong @Strong_TexasFB Excited to welcome the Class of 2016 to

the Longhorn Family!

#LetsRide #Believe

today in history **2007**

Peyton Manning and the Indianapolis Colts beat the Chicago Bears 29-17 to claim Super Bowl XLI. Manning threw for 247 yards and one touchdown en route to winning the game's MVP award.

Smith succeeds after legendary career

By Aaron Torres @aaron_torres95

Abby Smith crumpled on a couch at the Richard Mithoff track and soccer field house the morning of Jan. 15, 2016. The National Women's Soccer League draft was about to start.

"I literally had no idea where I was gonna go," Abby Smith, UT's former goalkeeper and career leader in shutouts with 30, said. The Boston Breakers drafted her with the 27th overall pick.

Abby's journey to Texas began when she was 7 years old. Fifteen years later, the evolution of mind and body turned Abby Smith into a 22-year-old college supernova and the first soccer player to be drafted in UT history.

She racked up 300 saves in her four years as a Longhorn and was First-Team All-Big 12 Conference her junior and senior seasons.

"It's just been a slow process of working to get better," she said. "I've gone over humps of working through fitness and being critiqued."

Before she was UT's star soccer player, Abby Smith, born in Portland, Oregon, in 1993, moved to Dallas with her parents, Mitchell and Beth Smith. She was 4 years old.

There, Beth worked at North Dallas Athletic Club from 2000 to 2002, a training site for members of the Dallas Sidekicks. Mitchell and Beth became friends with members of the team and took Abby to their games on weekends.



Daulton Venglar | Daily Texan Staff

Goalie Abby Smith started three years in front of the net for the Longhorns. In that time, she racked up numerous accolades, inlcuding First-Team All Big 12 as a senior in 2015. Smith finished her Texas career as the all-time shoutout leader in school history.

The Sidekicks brought her into the locker room. She scrimmaged with some of the players on the field after games.

The goalie, Sagu, caught her eye.

"Seeing Sagu play indoor, that's when she knew she wanted to be a goalkeeper," Mitchell Smith said. "She didn't really care about watching the players on the field. She just loved the goalkeeper — that's all she cared about."

In 2001, Beth switched jobs from North Dallas

Athletic Club to the Baylor Tom Landry Fitness Center, taking employee Jesse Llamas with her. Before he worked with Beth, Llamas was a professional goalkeeper, who bounced around between Mexico, El Paso and Dallas in his 10-year career.

Beth brought Abby to work on weekends, and during Llamas's lunch break, he took Abby to a lush backyard garden outside the Landry Center. Llamas became Abby's friend and her personal goalie coach. He drilled the fundamentals of goalkeeping into her head.

"I've always worked with professional goalkeepers, you know, 18-and-above my whole life — well, for 10 years," Llamas said. "And to work with her was challenging because I was like, 'OK, I can't do the same things I do with professional goalkeepers.""

At an age when most children were watching cartoons and playing with toys, Abby was perfecting goalkeeping technique. That level of commitment is necessary for any athlete, but rare in a

7-year-old.

"You are always very tentative as a goalkeeper coach because you don't want to burn them out," Llamas says. "But she really enjoyed it and really wanted always to do more."

When Abby was younger, she jumped around club teams, playing for the Texas Longhorns Club soccer team, which then changed its name to Solar Soccer Club when she was 7, and the Dallas Texans, coached by Ian

GOALIE page 5

SPORTS BRIEFLY

Longhorns take down Incarnate Word 7-0

No. 38 Texas dominated in its dual-match today against Incarnate Word, winning 7-0.

The No. 28 doubles tandem of senior Breaunna Addison and sophomore Dani Wagland came out strong against Incarnate Word sophomore Rachel Sadig and freshman Victoria Kareh, winning 6-0 in the No. 1 position. At No. 2 doubles, senior Lana Groenvynck and junior Neda Koprcina controlled throughout, claiming a 6-0 victory and clinching the doubles point going into the singles matches.

In singles play, Koprcina dropped one game to Kareh, taking the win 6-1, 6-0. Freshman Katie Poluta followed Koprcina's lead, sweeping her match 6-0, 6-0 at No. 6 against sophomore Maria Batchinsky. The streak continued at the No. 4 spot where freshman Daniella Roldan edged senior Taryn Strahl 6-3, 6-4. Groenvynck went head to head with junior Sarah Savedra 6-0, 6-3 at the No. 5 spot. The other two matches continued, but Texas had secured the win 5-0.

The win gives the Longhorns a 2-1 record this season. Texas will return back to action this Sunday at home against UTSA.

—Alana Kaufman





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ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE



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LIFE&ARTS

CAT CARDENAS, LIFE&ARTS EDITOR | @thedailytexan Thursday, February 4, 2016

CAMPUS

High textbook prices flatten students' wallets

By Cameron Osmond @CameronOsmond

Overcome with frustration, a student thumbed through her red ink-laced test, while government professor Shannon O'Brien explained the questions she missed were in the required textbook. But her student hadn't purchased the textbook. It was too expensive.

With textbooks prices increasing 82 percent in the last decade, students may find themselves facing difficult decisions: shell out money or face academic consequences.

O'Brien said her conversation with the student nearly 13 years ago shaped how she researches prospective textbooks.

"I have noticed over the last 10 years or so that students are increasingly willing to not buy a book if the price is too high," O'Brien said. "So, I figure I can either bang my head on the wall in frustration or accept that a certain percentage of my classes will [act] this way. So I've adapted my classes to minimize this behavior."

In a recent survey of 2,000 students conducted

by the U.S. Public Interest Research Group, more than 65 percent said they had not purchased a textbook at some point in their college career because of cost.

Other professors remain unaware of the costs of the textbooks they're assigning. Chandler Forsythe, an international relations sophomore, said his professor was surprised at the cost of the German textbook he required for the class.

"On the first day of class, [my professor] found out that the book he usually assigns had risen in price from \$90 to \$200," Forsythe said. "He had no clue why. Lucky for me, purchasing textbooks is not an issue, but I know it is for a lot of students."

Ethan Senak, a higher education associate at the USPIRG, said in addition to rentals and downloads, a main cause of the textbook problem is the control publishing companies have in regulating textbook prices.

"[F]ive companies ... dominate upwards of 85 percent of the market," Senak said. "There's less competition now."

After buying unnecessary textbooks in the past, Plan II freshman Cade Stone said he changed his buying strategy.

"I ended up spending \$120 for [a textbook] and used it pretty minimally," Stone said. "This semester, if a professor says we absolutely must buy the book, then I'll spend the money. But otherwise, I'll wait."

This tactic could be potentially harmful to students. Biology freshman Kayla Blackmon said stalling to buy a textbook last semester jeopardized her grade.

"I waited to purchase an expensive science textbook, wanting to see first if it would be necessary to getting a good grade," Blackmon said. "My professor assigned homework the second day of class out of the book, and we had a test the next week. Luckily, I found the textbook in one of the libraries on campus, but it could have been costly."

The risk of a student not completing their required reading is why Professor O'Brien said she hesitates to assign certain books. She said she believes other professors should not only assign their students the best books but ones students can and will buy.



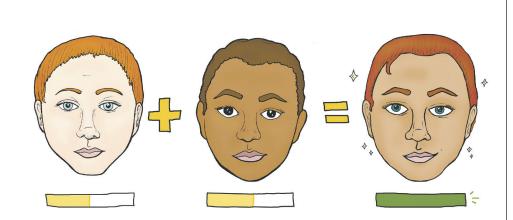
Illustration by Victoria Smith | Daily Texan Staff

"If the best book is expensive, many professors will continue to use it because they are committed first and

CAMPUS

foremost to the educational aspects of the class," O'Brien said. "I would just rather have students read one book thoroughly than have them not buy anything at all and come to me asking why they did not do well on the test."

SCIENCE SCENE



'Love Your Melon' organization sells hats to share positivity

By Stephen Acevedo @thedailytexan

Education sophomore Maddie Friedman recalls scrolling through pages of a friend's blog that chronicled the journey of her 8-year-old son, who was dying of cancer. Inspired after hearing the daily struggles of a suffering cancer patient, Friedman launched the UT chapter for Love Your Melon.

"His life and his journey in-

charity organization like this sets you apart because you get experiences and emotions directly out of it," Friedman said. "It makes me feel grounded and gives me a sense of purpose."

When they aren't visiting hospitals or patient's homes, the UT Love Your Melon crew works to spread awareness through social media challenges and hat-selling events. They recently participated in a social media challenge that called all university-led crews to get celebrities to post pictures wearing Love Your Melon hats on their social media page. Ilaria Tare, psychology sophomore and the crew's vice captain said they were excited to receive photos from Patrick Dempsey and Ashton Kutcher. "It's really cool to actually see how you're immediately affecting people," Tare said. Winners of the crew challenges are awarded credits that add up to house and hospital visits, which allow crew members to visit the children they are helping and deliver the hats donated by Love Your Melon. The UT chapter recently accumulated enough credits to visit the Ronald McDonald House where they supplied each child a hat and spent the whole day with the kids. They are currently working on gaining enough credits to do a hospital donation event in Dallas.

"It was really rewarding to first-hand be with a child who was undergoing treatment in a hospital and hang out with him," Friedman said. "We brought cookies to decorate, but we ended up just sitting there and talking with them. It made me feel like there was a real purpose to all of this work that we had put in."

Illustration by Mel Westfall | Daily Texan Staff

Study illustrates link between average faces, attractiveness



By Keun-Woo Lee @thedailytexan

Students who want to be perceived as smarter, kinder and healthier don't need to work harder — they just need to be average.

The Langlois Lab in the Department of Psychology at UT-Austin conducts research challenging common definitions of beauty and seeks to understand the greater implications of the averageness theory of facial attractiveness. This theory suggests that the more a face resembles mathematically average facial configurations, the more attractive it seems. As a face starts to deviate from the average, people consider it less attractive.

Scientists create these average faces with image morphing technology called Morph Age, which aligns and blurs images of faces. Once a twoface morph is created, it can be combined to a four-face morph, eight-face morph, 16face morph, and even a 32face morph. At the 32-face morph the faces start to look the same.

One study demonstrated that college students rate the

male and female morphs as more attractive than the individual faces that composed the morphs.

In a more recent study, Judith Langlois compared the neurophysiological response to attractive, unattractive and averaged faces. Scientists did this by measuring brain activity as a direct response to the faces via electroencephalography, a method used to record electrical activity of the brain through electrodes placed on the scalp.

The results suggest it is easier to process high attractive and mathematically averaged faces. This is because less neurocognitive responses are evoked, according to the study published in the journal Cognitive, Affective and Behavioral Neuroscience. Participants were also asked to discriminate between human and chimp faces. High attractive and average faces were categorized as human more quickly than the unattractive faces.

The applications of this research have major social consequences. For example, attractive individuals make more money, have more job mobility, are considered more healthy, smart, nice and athletic, according to the American Psychological Association.

Stevie Schein, psychology graduate student in the Langlois Lab, elaborated on the significance of attractiveness bias.

"It's an interesting intellectual question. ... It's an issue of figuring out what's happening in the human brain because we know it has such imporIt's an interesting intel-

lectual question. ... It's an issue of figuring out what's happening in the human brain because we know it has such importance.

> -Stevie Schein Psychology graduate student

tance," Schein said. "Adults are shockingly consistent in how they perceive attractiveness."

Schein further said that people prefer faces that are more prototypical, or faces participants are more experienced with. This concept also applies to other objects as well, even patterns and animals. Evidence suggests the potential for this prototype to shift as a result of varied exposure, according to the journal Social Cognition. As experience with different faces increase, attractiveness preference shifts to the new average of the diverse faces.

This knowledge is a gateway to better accept different faces and address attractiveness bias.

"A big step would be to acknowledge bias, that we all have it and are acting on it," Schein said. "If people are conscious of the bias and are motivated to change it, they are pretty good at not acting on it." spired me to become a part of this," Friedman said. "I wanted to be able to help other kids that were in a similar situation to him even though I couldn't really help him."

Launched last fall, the UT Love Your Melon crew is one of hundreds of university-led divisions of apparel company Love Your Melon. The philanthropic business sells beanies, T-shirts and accessories, donating a new hat to a child with cancer for every hat purchased. After a university-led crew sells a certain amount of hats, the company sends them on trips to patient's homes and hospitals to deliver the hats directly to the kids. While Love Your Melon apparel is currently sold out, their new collection arrives on Feb. 8.

"Being involved with a

Friedman said the UT chapter has exceeded predicted sales this semester, so they have extra hats on standby ready to donate to children in Texas as they are diagnosed.

Psychology sophomore Megan Burke said she joined the UT Love Your Melon crew because she has always been involved with charity organizations, some of which pertained to similar cancer-related causes. She said she enjoys getting to see the direct results of her sales on the faces of the children who receive the hats.

"We get to actually give the hats to the children and spend quality time hanging out with them," Burke said. "We just get to raise their spirits. We get to make an impact on their lives, but they make a much larger impact on our lives."

