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THE DAILY TEXAN

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CAMPUS

Fraternity covers up obscene mural

By Anthony Green
@AnthonyGrreen

A backyard mural painted by members of the Zeta Beta Tau fraternity, known as ZBT, depicted sexually graphic images involving children's television characters and U.S. Army veterans as part of decorations for an upcoming party.

The mural, which was painted over earlier this week, depicted several graphic sexual images. In one, a naked woman was depicted from behind performing oral sex on a man dressed in an army uniform next to the words "Support Our Troops — Blow a Bubba." In another, a fully naked woman is shown masturbating atop a pirate ship. Other images included a leprechaun circled by the words "Show Us Your Clitoris" and a topless female character from Nickelodeon show "The Fairly OddParents." It is unclear how long the images were displayed at the ZBT house, located on West 28th Street and Salado.

The mural was one of many decorations on wooden platforms currently in the yard, which were designed and created by newly inducted members of ZBT for the annual "Pat O'Brien's" party named after the famous New Orleans bar. According to the ZBT website, the party traditionally occurs the weekend before Thanksgiving.

"Thousands of guests show

MURAL page 2

Alec Wyman / Daily Texan Staff

Members of the UT chapter of Zeta Beta Tau face hearings from the chapter's judicial board in coming weeks.

POLICE

UTPD discreet with underage drinkers

By Julia Brouillette
@juliakbrou

As law enforcers on a college campus, UTPD officers are highly aware of the impact alcohol charges can have on a student's future — something the officers take into account when dealing with underage drinkers, according to officer Jimmy Moore.

Moore said arrests for underage drinking are made at the discretion of the officer, but law enforcement will opt for more lenient options if possible, Moore said.

"Our officers are trained, and they know that they are dealing with kids for the most part, and they can get a sense of if someone knows they did something wrong," Moore said. "Officers try to make the appropriate decision depending on what's going on."

Consumption of alcohol under the age of 21 is a Class C misdemeanor, which guarantees a citation and fine of up to $500. Additionally, underage students caught drinking will be referred to the Dean of Students, who can then mandate an 8-hour drug and alcohol class and 20 hours of community service.

Moore said a student's underage status does not guarantee leniency.

"Just because you're a minor doesn't mean you're only going to get a citation," Moore said.

A public relations freshman, whose name has been kept anonymous, said she was attempting to leave a party earlier this semester when she and her friends, all of whom were minors, were confronted by a UTPD officer who gave them citations.

She was required to complete 12 hours of community service and an alcohol education class,. She was also fined $150.

That will not keep her from drinking illegally in the future, she said.

"I was shaken up for a few weeks," she said. "But then I

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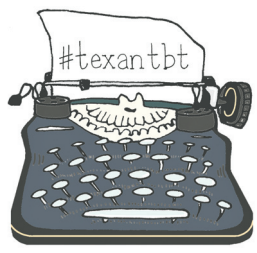
Illustration by Alex Dolan / Daily Texan Staff

THROWBACK



YCT history proves to be ridden with controversy

By Sara Reinsch
@sreinsch91

The Young Conservatives of Texas, also known as YCT, have not shied away from provocative stances and displays throughout its past, and the group's latest demonstration is no exception.

On Tuesday, after a flood of negative feedback from University students and administrators, YCT canceled its "Catch an Illegal Immigrant" event because the group was worried about University repercussions and the safety of its members. The group had planned to give out gift cards to students who could find individuals walking around with "illegal immigrant" labels on their clothes at the event.

The Daily Texan reported a slew of attention-grabbing incidents involving YCT throughout the '90s and 2000s.

YCT was the subject of ire in 2005 for trying to hold almost the same event as it proposed earlier this week. A post on the group's website and a discussion at one of its meetings led to a protest where more than 200 angry demonstrators

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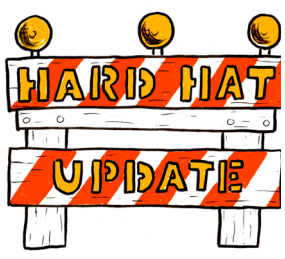
CAMPUS

Bellmont Hall to host larger space for center for recovering students



By Reanna Zuniga
@ReannaSioux

Aaron Berecka / Daily Texan Staff

Spawglass Superintendent Mick Fegan oversees construction in Bellmont Hall on Wednesday afternoon.

The Center for Students in Recovery will relocate from the basement of the School for Social Work to Bellmont Hall early next year after a larger space for the program is constructed.

While operating in the basement, center employees have dealt with sewage leaks and cockroach issues, which sometimes make the space uninviting for students who come to use recovery services, said the center's director Ivana Grahovac.

"It's already so hard for people to ask for help when they're struggling with disease — why would we make them come to a room that is so substandard when they're already so marginalized?" Grahovac said.

Grahovac said the program's new space will include a break room, a lounge room for students and four offices for the staff. Originally, center administrators planned to reduce the number of offices already existing in the Bellmont location, but Grahovac said the quality of the rooms and the anticipated growth of the program made them reconsider.

"Those four rooms were in perfectly fine condition," Grahovac said. "In fact, the original plan was to tear them down and create three offices out of four, but we walked through there,

BELLMONT page 2

CAMPUS

College of Fine Arts introduces digital interdisciplinary program

By Trevor Heise
@heisefeist

Music professor Bruce Pennycook was appointed late October to the new role of director of digital arts for the College of Fine Arts, and is in the midst of redesigning the college's interdisciplinary programs and course offerings.

Pennycook will oversee the college's efforts to provide opportunities for interdisciplinary study and collaboration. New courses and facilities will integrate technology and art to create a range of possibilities for progress, including 3-D printing labs and advanced digital technologies that would allow choreographers to work with virtual dancers.

"Everywhere I look in the art world, I'm seeing new technologies changing how art forms are made, how they're taught and how they're viewed," said Douglas Dempster, dean of the College of Fine Arts. "So why should we expect students to confine their studies within the conventional departmental boundaries?"

Pennycook was tapped for the position, in part, because of his experience as panel chairman of the Bridging Disciplines Program in digital arts and media — an interdisciplinary fine arts program that allows students take a mix of courses in computer science, fine arts and the humanities. Pennycook said the programs have provided an "ideal model" for interdisciplinary study and insights for the upcoming changes.

"UT is fairly unique in that we offer these robust interdisciplinary programs," academic adviser Rose Mastrangelo said. "They provide a place for students with passions that are too broad to study through only one discipline."

The changes will come at the expense of older art programs, said Dempster. A ceramics and metals workshop is being refurbished to make way for a new high-tech digital fabrication lab, and advanced metals courses are being dropped in favor of new offerings. The college also aims to construct a "creative commons" that provides students with audio and video editing technologies, among other resources.

"I'm excited that the College of Fine Arts is going in a new direction that acknowledges the art of the time, but I'm also disappointed that they have to do it at the expense of traditional programs," studio art freshman Connor Frew said.

Dempster said his department is working to strike a balance between new and old artistic techniques that incorporates the insights of traditional techniques while creating an environment ideal for progress and innovation.

"I think our focus on the arts

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Watch clips from Wednesday's counter-protest to the Young Conservatives of Texas.
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TOMORROW'S WEATHER

High 70 Low 39

I ate so fast I don't even remember eating.

FRAMES FEATURED PHOTO

Charlie Pearce / Daily Texan Staff

Students trek through campus on a rainy Wednesday evening.

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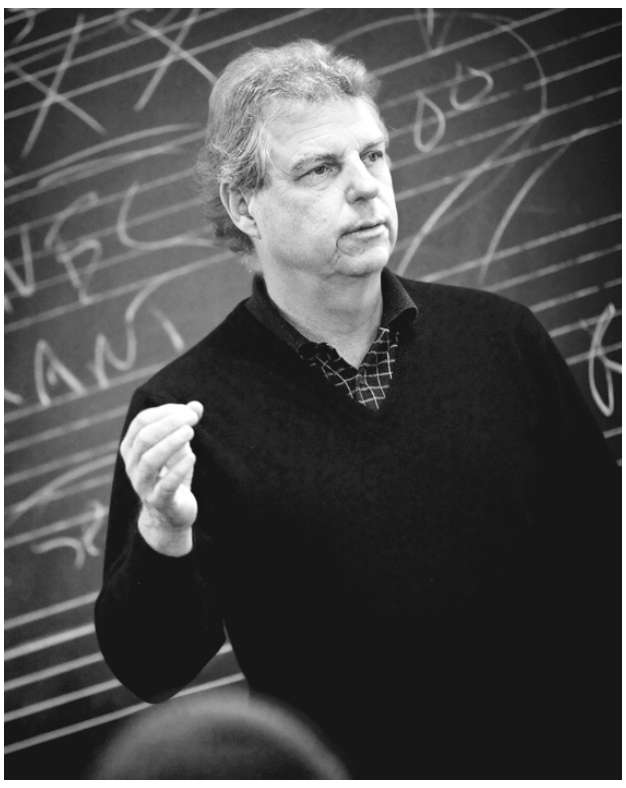

Photo courtesy of Bruce Pennycook

is often lost in a rush towards disciplines like science and business and engineering," Dempster said. "This helps us stay on cutting edge in the arts and humanities."

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up to the party — many even fly in to Austin for it," according to the website. "Months of preparation go in to making [Pat O's] one of the best parties on campus."

At press time, the party has not been canceled.

Dean of Students Soncia Reagins-Lilly said her office is looking into the matter and has reached out to ZBT officers.

Members of ZBT, including the fraternity's officers and pledge masters, refused multiple opportunities to comment.

UT alumnus Laurence Bolotin, executive director of ZBT national headquarters, said the mural was the result of poor decision making.

"It's pretty simple and straightforward," Bolotin said. "There were a few brothers within the chapter that made a poor decision with some graphics that they painted within the chapter house."

Bolotin said the mural was painted over as soon as officers realized it was inappropriate.

"The immediate action was to see that the images were removed because the chapter leadership understood that they were inappropriate," Bolotin said.

Bolotin said the ZBT members responsible for the mural are currently going through hearings conducted by the chapter judicial board. He was not able to provide names of the individuals in question.

"When a complaint is made within a chapter, the chapter's judicial board hears the complaint and determine the appropriate sanction, similar to the way the University's judicial board would function," Bolotin said.

DRINKING continues from page 1

realized it was such a chance encounter that I feel like it won't happen again … I'll just be more careful afterward."

Organizations such as Know Your Line, a campaign run out of University Health Services, try to reach students before they have a run-in with the law.

"It's about helping students who do choose to drink alcohol do so in a way that reduces negative outcomes," said Guli Fager, University Health Services health e ducation coordinator.

The penalty adults face for serving alcohol to underage students is stiffer than the penalty those students face. Violators can face fines of up to $4,000 and up to one year in prison — but UTPD typically does not track down individuals or establishments that sell alcohol to minors, Moore said.

"We include information about where they got the drinks in the report, but it doesn't necessarily mean we're going to go to that bar and start trying to find out who sold them the drink," Moore said. "It all depends on the situation."

BELLMONT continues from page 1

we were like 'Wow, we're actually going to be growing so it's better to leave it as it is, and it would help us keep in budget.'"

The project does include renovation of about 3,000 square feet of the second floor which will create a large meeting space for students to congregate.

Deborah Femat, project manager with Project Management and Construction Services, said the Bellmont space was formerly part of the kinesiology department but is now being renovated to meet the needs of the center.

"They have all these wonderful spaces now in the FAC and the SAC where everybody can sit around and work on their computers," Femat said. "That's basically what this is, but it can also be used in meetings."

Grahovac said the original project cost was $200,000, but has escalated to $390,000. "Our fundraising is built on relationships," Grahovac said. "Some organizations that are nonprofit have luncheons and events where they charge money to raise money for their operating expenses, but we prefer to raise money through relationships and ongoing partnerships, gifts from grants, donations [and] endowments."

Economics senior Lance Mixon, a service co-chair for Students in Recovery, said he is excited for the new space.

"I've only been waiting like three years," Mixon said. "[Moving is] a huge step, and its not because we're not successful [in the current building], but part of it is the facade and being in the stadium and the attitude toward Bellmont hall … It's all just different."

The Center will move into the new facility in mid-January.

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Kerry: US, Afghanistan agree on post-NATO bilateral security pact

Photo courtesy of Associated Press

U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry said Wednesday that U.S. and Afghanistan have agreed on a security pact.

Secretary of State John Kerry said Wednesday that the U.S. and Afghanistan have agreed on the language of a bilateral security pact that could clear the way for thousands of U.S. troops to train and assist Afghan forces after the NATO combat mission ends in 2014.

The agreement is far from complete. The document now goes to the Loya Jirga, a 3,000-member council of elders that has the right to revise or reject any clause of the draft agreement. Whatever they agree upon then goes to the Afghan parliament, which could make still more changes before the agreement is approved.

On the U.S. side, only the Obama administration needs to approve the agreement, but it could reject changes made by Afghan officials. If it does, that leaves open the option for the U.S. to pull all troops out of Afghanistan. Such was the case in Iraq, when the U.S. and Iraq couldn't agree on terms of a security arrangement. Sectarian violence has plagued Iraq since, and some fear Afghanistan could head down that path without a continued U.S. presence if Afghan forces cannot defend the country themselves.

Kerry said the language, agreed to after about a year of tense on-again, off-again negotiations, will be reflected in the draft proposal presented Thursday to the Loya Jirga in Kabul.

"There were some people who may have questioned or doubted whether that was going to happen. Well, it's happening tomorrow, and it's happening tomorrow with agreed-upon language between us," Kerry said during a news conference at the State Department with Australian officials and Defense Secretary Chuck Hagel.

The agreement would give the U.S. a legal basis for having forces in Afghanistan after 2014, and also allow it to use bases across the country.

U.S. officials have not yet disclosed the number of U.S. troops they want to keep in Afghanistan after 2014. U.S. officials have said the U.S. and NATO could keep between 8,000 and 12,000 troops there. Of those, the U.S. is expected to provide no more than 8,000.

Kerry said that whatever the number, the role of the U.S. military would be "limited."

"It is entirely train, equip and assist. There is no combat role for United States forces, and the bilateral security agreement is a way to try to clarify for Afghans and for United States military forces exactly what the rules are with respect to that ongoing relationship," he said.

—Associated Press

PHOTO BRIEFLY

Jonathan Garza / Daily Texan Staff

America Ferrera joins students for YCT counter-protest

Members of the University Leadership Initiate were joined Wednesday by hundreds of University students and actress America Ferrera in front of the Tower in a counter protest against the UT chapter of the Young Conservatives of Texas.

The counter-protesters rallied in of support undocumented students and comprehensive immigration reform, including HR15.

The Young Conservatives of Texas had originally planned to host an event Wednesday titled, "Catch an Illegal Immigrant." The group cancelled the event after University-wide backlash.

"I am here because I am ready for common sense immigration reform with a pathway to citizenship for the 11 million undocumented who are our family members, friends, neighbors, students and fellow churchgoers," Ferrera said.

YCT

continues from page 1

claimed YCT would be holding a "Capture an Illegal Immigrant" event on Texas Independence Day.

"We had discussed the idea because another chapter had done it," YCT treasurer Michelle Putman said in an article published on March 2, 2005. "After we realized the numerous consequences and how the event could be misconstrued, we as an organization decided not to go through with it."

In the same article, YCT Chairwoman Lauren Conner said the group did not support bigotry and hatred.

In September 1994, driven by its opposition to the promotion of the "gay and lesbian lifestyle," YCT tried to cut University funding for a series of self-help workshops for gay, lesbian and bisexual students. Sherry Bell, the Student Health Center's assistant director for health education at the time, said in a Sept. 13, 1994 article that the program had drawn between 25 and 60 students per workshop in the previous school year.

YCT's initial goal was to pressure the health center into supporting the program with gift funds rather than student fees. The health center gave in to the funding swap after the group gained a state representative's support and threatened to protest the meetings.

"We had to kill 'Living With Pride,'" YCT Chairman Ashley Callahan said in a Sept. 22, 1994 article. "It was intolerable … I want to save these people. I don't want to encourage them in a lifestyle that is a one-way ticket to hell."

Despite this funding "victory," a few weeks later, YCT filed an open records request to obtain the names of the private donors who had contributed to the gift fund.

"I have a strong intuition that the people donating money to the Student Health Center didn't intend for their gift funds to be used for something as objectionable as 'Living With Pride,'" Callahan said in an article published on Sept. 29, 1994. "Once the donors to the University see what kind of program UT is sponsoring, they will take care of the problem for us."

An Austin counseling center that worked with gay, lesbian and bisexual students said it would cover the costs of the workshops a week later, according to an Oct. 7, 1994 article.

YCT was involved in another debate three years later, when, at a September 1997 news conference supporting a ban on affirmative action, UT law professor Lino Graglia said blacks and Mexican-Americans were not academically competitive with whites. Graglia's comment led several opponents to call for his job, but YCT stood by him.

"I think it's an atrocity that our elected officials would suggest that a tenured professor should be removed from his job simply because he expressed a view that may be unpopular," YCT Chairwoman Sonia Mohammed said in a Sept. 16, 1997 article.

As illustrated by this week's incidents and the group's past involvement in debates over immigration, gay and lesbian rights and a broad range of other political issues, YCT has never shied away from stances and actions that make the group a vehicle for occasional controversy.

CAMPUS

Charlie Pearce / Daily Texan Staff

Monica Milonovich, department of nutritional sciences lecturer, speaks about her background as a registered dietitian nutritionist.

Nutritionist speaker provides healthy living advice at event

By Cinnamnon Cornell
@CinnamonCornell

> "My goal is not to make people feel bad, but to help them change their eating habits for a healthier lifestyle.
>
> —Monica Milonovich
> Department of nutrional sciences lecturer

It would be easy to assume registered dietitian nutritionists believe in strict eating habits, but at a talk Wednesday, a woman in this profession revealed that this is not the case.

At the event presented by the Food Studies Project, Monica Milonovich, department of nutritional sciences lecturer, said registered dietitian nutritionists, also known as RDNs, are nutrition experts who help people get on track to live a healthy lifestyle, instead of people who enforce rigid dietary rules.

"Registered Dietitian Nutritionist help manage chronic diseases and provide guidance in what to eat," Milonovich said. "We spend most of our time with calculations."

Milonovich said RDNs base nutrition information on facts, not on fads.

"All fads right now are not necessarily healthy nutrition habits," Milonovich said.

According to Milonovich, RDNs work in clinical, college faculty, home care and school services professions, to name a few. Milonovich said the clinical aspect of a RDN's profession is to educate patients about nutrition therapy, as a part of the health care team.

Milonovich said all dietitians are nutritionists, but not all nutritionists are dietitians.

"My goal is not to make people feel bad, but to help them change their eating habits for a healthier lifestyle," Milonovich said.

As part of the Food Studies Project meetings, Paula Toro, anthropology junior and secretary of the project, presented their "food of the week," guava.

"Guava can bear fruit as soon as two years, or as long as eight years," Toro said. "Guava leaves have been used in folk medicine."

Lillie Leone, Plan II junior and editor of the food blog for the Food Studies Project said members are given the opportunity to share blogs about different food on the organization's website.

"The blogs are not formal articles, but are creative expressions for all members to describe their ideas and thoughts," Leono said.

NEWS BRIEFLY

UT to implement new EID verification system

The University plans to implement a new system to verify EIDs. UTLogin, a project that Information Technology Services has been working on for a few years, will enter its last implementation stage in June 2014.

"The main difference users will notice between the current EID authentication system and UTLogin is that the look-and-feel of the login page will be changing," said C.W. Belcher, an associate director for the ITS applications department. "However, behind the scenes UTLogin includes a completely new set of technical infrastructure components designed to make EID authentication services as reliable as possible."

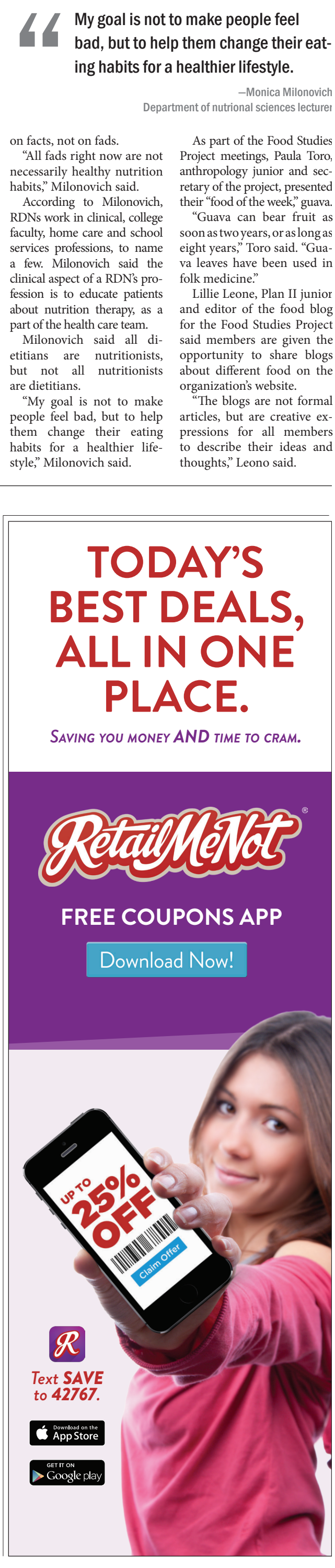
The new system also addresses concerns that have been raised by users over the past few years.

"UTLogin also addresses the most reported complaints about the current EID authentication system," Belcher said. "Namely, the pop-up window that appears after login will be eliminated, all applications that make use of UTLogin will handle authentication sessions consistently, the inactivity timeout period will double from 30 minutes to one hour and users will be able to roam campus on mobile devices without having to reauthenticate as they move from between buildings."

UTLogin will include new security measures to make sure UT EID credentials are being used properly, Belcher said. In addition to these new safety features, the system has features that will allow for more security precautions to be created for more sensitive material.

While the look of the login page will change, there will not be changes made to the policies regarding UT EIDs, such as reset policies for passwords and EIDs.

—Wynne Davis



HORNS DOWN: PERRY'S LATEST CONFLICT OF INTEREST

AAA Texas, a subsidiary of the Automobile Club of Southern California, is currently in negotiations to receive an economic development funding grant from the governor's office. The only problem? AAA Texas' CEO Thomas McKernan has donated more than $23,000 to Gov. Rick Perry since 2002, according to The Texas Tribune, creating a clear conflict of interest. The grant would be awarded by the Texas Enterprise Fund, which awards millions of tax dollars to businesses looking to relocate or expand existing operations within Texas. The three leaders who control the fund — Perry, Lt. Gov. David Dewhurst and House Speaker Joe Straus — have all received campaign contributions from executives, political action committees or investors associated with companies that received Texas Enterprise Fund awards. According to a Texans for Public Justice Report published in April, Perry collected more than $2 million from such contributions. Dewhurst received more than $1.3 million, and Straus received $232,800. The governor is supposed to represent all the people in the state of Texas — not just the select few who have thousands to spare on his campaign. If the grant is gifted to AAA Texas, Perry should take the time to explain why the company deserves it, independent of their generosity to his campaign.

HORNS UP: TEXAS STUDENTS STAND UP TO YCT

Filling the space that might have been occupied by roving "illegal immigrants," an estimated 500 people gathered on campus Wednesday to protest a canceled "Catch an Immigrant" game that was organized by Young Conservatives of Texas. We're glad YCT had the good sense to call off the event after the justifiably brutal response from the national media and the University community at large. But we're even gladder that the counter-protesting students had the good sense not to call off their event. Although YCT's infantile game never materialized, the feelings behind it continue to harm both undocumented students who are given in-state tuition under Texas state law and non-student immigrants who have come here for a better life. Those attitudes can't change if those affected don't stand up and fight for dignity and respect, so we applaud the students who protested on Wednesday for not giving up this opportunity to chip away at the rigid wall of hate and xenophobia that is keeping many from living safe and happy lives.

Charlie Pearce / Daily Texan Staff

Students protest a canceled "Catch an Immigrant" game in front of the Tower Wednesday.

COLUMN

Using test banks goes against the spirit of University's core mission

By Rachel Osterloh
Daily Texan Columnist
@ranneoster

Inscribed on the Tower's main facade are the words, "Ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free."

The sentiment behind this quotation is supposed to drive the philosophy behind UT's core values, as well as the University's recently rewritten honor code. But it's not clear that the University consistently upholds this view in all its values. Consider test banks — do the principles of academic integrity align with the usage of test banks?

Organizational test banks are compiled amounts of old tests, assignments and quizzes that are held by academic or social organizations for their members to review.

The University's rules state that "divulging the contents of a test for the purpose of preserving questions for future use" is academic dishonesty, but only if "the instructor has designated that the test is not to be removed [from the classroom]." The rules appear to imply studying from test banks does not qualify as prohibited conduct unless specified by the professor overseeing the exams.

Still, college students who do not have access to organizational test banks tend to frown upon their use. Nick Gatz, a Spanish and liberal arts honors junior, said he finds that test banks promote a sense of privilege among students who should have an equal footing in the classroom. He also said that they are against the spirit of academic integrity and create additional work for the professors who will have to continuously modify tests to prevent unfairness in the classroom.

> Test banks can inflate grades without increasing understanding. Regardless of the murky nature of institutional rules, students with access to test banks have an unfair advantage.

On the other hand, one could argue that it is the professor's responsibility to frequently create new examinations if they give out the old tests. Moreover, if an examination truly tests a student's knowledge, it will be comprehension-based, and therefore not purely based on memorization. In such a case, access to test banks would not guarantee an "A."

Test banks can inflate grades without increasing understanding. Regardless of the murky nature of institutional rules, students with access to test banks have an unfair advantage. Unequal access to test banks not only affects the overall quality of their individual education, but it also affects the classroom on the whole. Curves may be reduced or eliminated due to an isolated performance that was influenced by access to a test bank.

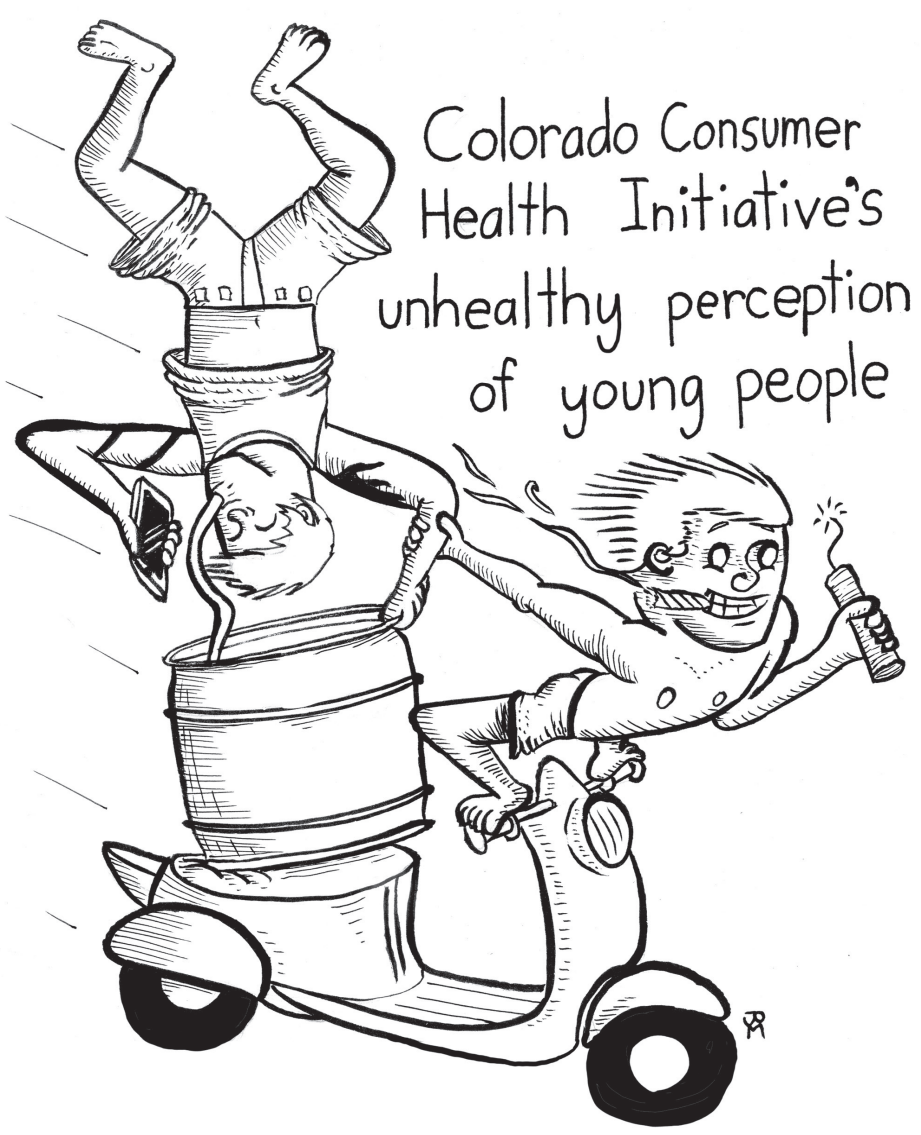
UT's institutional rules may not condemn the use of test banks, but if the University wants to promote its core values, it must either expand access to test banks or modify the institutional rules to prohibit their use.

The UT School of Law has implemented the former solution successfully, as it places all former exams in the library, where all UT law students have access to them.

A high GPA is important to the majority of students, but if students truly wish to embrace the core tenets of the University and expand their knowledge, they will refrain from using test banks and attempt to learn for the sake of learning. UT has two choices to create academic equality in the test room: clearly ban test banks in the institutional rules, or embrace test banks and facilitate their use in a public library or an online portal.

Osterloh is a government sophomore from Austin.

COLUMN



John Massingill / Daily Texan Staff

Health care needs of young people need to be taken more seriously

By Chuck Matula
Daily Texan Columnist
@chucketlist

Obamacare has been a controversial policy since its inception in 2009, but now, one particular advertisement for Colorado's state health exchange has been drawing scrutiny.

The ad features a young woman standing next to a young man, excitedly brandishing a package of birth control pills. The ad's copy, presumably from the point of view of the young woman, reads, "Let's get physical: OMG he's hot! Let's hope he's as easy to get as this birth control. My health insurance covers the pill, which means all I have to worry about is getting him between the covers."

This ad came out hot on the heels of another ad spot by the same group, titled "Brosurance," in which college-aged men doing keg stands express gratitude that their health care costs won't cut into their beer money.

These ads have been subject to a slew of criticism and defense since they were released by Got Insurance?, a website funded by two advocacy groups, the Colorado Consumer Health Initiative and ProgressNow Colorado Education. In a congressional hearing on Obamacare's botched rollout, Rep. Cory Gardner, R-Colorado, slammed Secretary of Health and Human Services Kathleen Sebelius for the Brosurance ad — despite the fact that Sebelius was not involved in the ad's creation — and liberal Slate magazine rushed to the defense of the ads after conservative commentator Rush Limbaugh attacked them as promoting promiscuity.

Given the politicization of Obamacare, it's not surprising that the conversation about these ads turned into partisan attacks. But what is concerning is the lack of attention paid to the portrayal of young people in the ads.

Young people as a group have not traditionally spent a lot on health insurance, but Obamacare aims to change that. According to an article this month from Time magazine, in order for the individual mandate provision of the Affordable Care Act to work, 2.7 million out of the 7 million people who sign up for Obamacare need to be young people who will, on average, put more money into the system than they get out of it. Looking at these statistics, it's understandable why a state health care exchange feels the need to appeal directly to the young. But the way the Got Insurance? campaign trivializes the health care needs of young adults is unacceptable.

These ads portray college-aged individuals as a demographic driven entirely by their most basic impulses. Instead of paying attention to actual portrayals of the young who need health insurance, the Colorado Initiative and ProgressNow made the disappointing choice to focus on crass caricatures straight out of MTV reality shows.

Real college-aged people can be bankrupted by accidents, diseases and assaults, and it does those people a disservice to be portrayed as idiots whose actions are governed solely by sex and alcohol.

ProgressNow Director Amy Runyon-Harms told the Denver Post, "The whole intention of these ads is to raise awareness, and that's what we're doing. It's great that more and more people are talking about it."

It's fine that Runyon-Harms wants to raise awareness about health insurance for young people, but several of the ads released deemphasize the reasons why it's important for everyone to have insurance and instead paint college students in broad, unflattering strokes. Although we don't live within the scope of the Colorado state health exchange, it's problematic that any influential person thinks young people will be motivated by messages about alcohol and sex more than any other sentiment. Health insurance is a real issue. People on college campuses across the country need to demand a more delicate and respectful approach to the issues that face young people if we want the national perception of youth to evolve beyond the lowest common denominator.

Matula is a finance junior from Austin.

HORNS DOWN: LCRA CLEARLY DOESN'T READ THE TEXAN

Tuesday, the same day we published an editorial criticizing the Lower Colorado River Authority for denying more water to rural areas than urban ones, LCRA's executive board voted to limit lawn-watering in several Central Texas cities to once a week — as it has done in Austin already. But the board also voted to cut off fresh water from the Highland Lakes to rice farmers further down the river for the third year in a row. Limiting lawn-watering in cities would be a responsible measure under normal circumstances, but in the face of the current drought, we wonder why it hadn't been restricted already. We understand why LCRA has prioritized urban lawns over the livelihoods of those living further downstream — there are, after all, far more people in Austin than there are rice farmers in Texas — but we wish that LCRA would better address the devastation this lack of water will cause in farming communities. Maybe LCRA should take into consideration a suggestion offered via Twitter by Julia Montgomery, a UT-Austin alumna and current program coordinator at the LBJ School of Public Affairs, and make a one-time investment in helping rice farmers switch to a different crop. It's the best we can do if LCRA is determined to leave them high and dry.

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VOLLEYBALL

continues from page 6

have the better overall game — her defense and service skills trump Webster — Webster may be the more lethal offensive player, committing fewer errors and executing at a higher percentage.

"Honestly, I'm just working on hitting in practice and being smart," Webster said. "Every set isn't going to be perfect. Those moments when you can choose to swing your hardest or play it smart helps your hitting percentage"

Now in her fifth and final season, she looks back on everything that has happened.

"I've grown a lot. A lot," Webster said. "Especially after my knee injury. This program has made me a better person."

And with the tournament just around the corner and her time winding down, Webster has enjoyed every minute of her time donning burnt orange.

"It's really exciting and especially being my fifth year," Webster said. "Every season is exciting and different. We have a chance to be a better team by the time it comes. We have a lot to work on."

And that work continues Thursday when West Virginia (18-11, 4-9 Big 12) comes to Gregory gym at 7 p.m. A win and an Iowa State loss would guarantee Texas at least a share of the Big 12 title.

BIG 12

continues from page 6

hosts Oklahoma .

Six meaningful Big 12 matchups over the next three weeks means there are 64 different ways this can play out. Twenty-five of these scenarios result in Baylor winning its first-ever Big 12 championship and its first conference title since 1994. Twenty-two scenarios have Oklahoma State winning its second Big 12 title in three years and 14 have Texas capturing the conference crown.

The remaining three scenarios result in a three-way tie atop the Big 12 standings at the end of the regular season — two of them between Baylor, Oklahoma State and Texas and the other between Oklahoma State, Texas and Oklahoma. In those scenarios, the highest-ranked team in the BCS standings wins the Big 12 unless two of them are within one spot of each other, then the head-to-head winner of those two higher-ranked teams would get the Big 12's automatic BCS bowl berth.

Obviously some scenarios have a better chance of happening than others. Baylor still has three games left. But Art Briles may have a better chance of being struck by lightning than of his Bears ending the regular season on a three-game losing streak.

While the two Dec. 7 matchups between Texas and Baylor and between Oklahoma State and Oklahoma will be pivotal, the Longhorns' chances to win the Big 12 could get a boost this weekend even though they don't play.

If Baylor beats Oklahoma State, Texas' chances to win the Big 12 go from 6.4 percent to 7.6 percent, not a big jump. But, more importantly, the Longhorns would once again control their own destiny in the conference title chase. The Cowboys would have two losses in conference play and Texas would have only one loss in conference play if it won out, giving Baylor its only defeat in the process, meaning the Longhorns would hold the tiebreaker over the Bears.

Also important is the drastic impact on Baylor's and Oklahoma State's chance to win the Big 12 their game will have. If the Bears triumph in Stillwater, Oklahoma State's chances to win the Big 12 drop to 0.1 percent while Baylor's jumps to 92.3 percent.

But if Oklahoma State finds a way to pull off the upset at home, OSU replaces Baylor as the heavy favorite to win the conference as its chances would soar to 76.9 percent while Baylor's drops to 20.2 percent.

While Texas' percent chance to win the Big 12 isn't impacted much by a Baylor victory this Saturday, if the Cowboys beat the Bears, the Longhorns' chance to win the Big 12 drops from 6.4 percent to 2.9 percent.

At that point, Texas still would not control its own destiny and would still need to win out and have either Oklahoma to beat Oklahoma State — possible but not likely — or TCU to beat Baylor — nearly impossible).

Bottom line: Texas did not do itself any favors last weekend. The Longhorns left themselves little to no error by falling to the Cowboys. They don't play this week but they will watching Baylor's game against Oklahoma State closely — and not just to get another look at the Bears, who they face in three weeks.

SIGNING DAY

Fall signings for class of 2014

By Matt Warden
@TheMattWarden5

Texas athletics has been busy lately recruiting a solid batch of talent for the class of 2014. Here's a look at the signings from each sport.

Baseball

Last Thursday, the Longhorn baseball team secured 10 National Letters of Intent for the class of 2014. The group includes four pitchers and six positional players with eight of those players playing high school ball in Texas.

The four pitchers, all right-handed, include Kyle Johnston (Flower Mound), Connor Mayes (Austin), Parker Joe Robinson (Coto de Caza, Calif.) and Tyler Schimpf (Citrus Heights, Calif.). A pair of catchers will be added in Michael Cantu (Corpus Christi) and Michael McCann (Round Rock), two infielders in Joe Baker (McKinney) and Travis Jones (Humble), while outfielder Patrick Mathis (Venus) and shortstop Kaleb Denny (Baytown) comprise the remaining recruits.

Softball

Alyssa Angel, Kristen Clark, Randel Leahy and Erica Wright all inked National Letters of Intent with Texas for the 2014-15 season.

The squad will gain two right-handed pitchers in Wright and Clark with the latter boasting a decorated resume, winning the District 23-4A Pitcher of the Year in 2012 and 2013 while gathering a 28-1 record with an ERA of 0.67 over the last two seasons.

Angel and Leahy both played a bit of outfield in high school, while Angel will most likely see time at shortstop for the Longhorns.

Men's Basketball

The men's basketball team received a pair of commitments from forwards Jordan Barnett (St. Louis, Mo.) and Obie Oleka (Washington, D.C.), both of whom will join the team for the 2014-15 season.

Barnett, a 6-foot-7-inch senior from Christian Brothers College High school in Missouri, is ranked 83rd in the nation by ESPN. As a junior last season, Barnett led CBC High with 17.1 points, 7.7 rebounds and 1.7 blocked shots per game while hitting 37.6 percent of his three-point attempts.

Oleka is a 6-foot-7-inch forward from State College of Florida and will enroll as a junior at Texas next season. He averaged 10.9 points and 6.2 rebounds per game as a freshman last season.

Women's Basketball

Karen Aston has notched another Top 10 recruting class, with her 2014 class rated No. 10 by ESPN.

The Longhorns signed one forward in Diani Akigbogun (Aurora, Colo.), who was named the 2012-13 Gatorade Colorado Player of the Year after recording 13 double-doubles and averaged 14.2 points and 8.1 rebounds per game as a junior.

Texas also signed three guards in Ariel Atkins (Duncanville), Tasia Foman (Duncanville) and Brooke McCarty (League City). All three are highly ranked by ESPN, with Atkins and McCarty coming in at No. 4 and No. 29 respectively.

Above: After securing the No. 2 recruiting class in 2013, which included infielder Brent Boswell, Texas baseball will add 10 accomplished players in 2014. Left: Kristen Clark is a right-handed pitcher who will look to build on Texas softb tradition of dominant pitchers in 2014-2015.

Photos courtesy of Texas Athletics

Men's Golf

The Texas men's golf team notched three signees for the class of 2014 in Taylor Funk, Doug Ghim and Scottie Scheffler.

Funk is a 2013 2A Florida State Champion who played for Ponte Vedra High School in Florida. Ghim, from Arlington Heights, Ill. was ranked the No. 5 junior of the class of 2014 by Golfweek. Scheffler, a native of Dallas, was ranked No. 1 by Golfweek and won the 2013 U.S. Junior Amateur at Martis Camp Club in July.

Men's Tennis

The Longhorn men's tennis team signed one player to the class of 2014 with the addition of John Mee, a senior from Highland Park.

Mee is ranked No. 21 by TennisRecruiting.net and No. 14 by the USTA in the class of 2014.

Ed Reed denounces Texans, Wade Phillips

Ed Reed insists that Houston Texans defensive coordinator Wade Phillips is doing a poor job, and the safety was released by the team earlier this month because Reed spoke up about it.

Now with the New York Jets, Reed said in a conference call with the Baltimore media Wednesday that the Houston defense "is not a good fit for a lot of people who are still down there."

Reed was waived by the Texans in the wake of a loss to Arizona on Nov. 10. After the game, he said, "Certain situations we just got outplayed and outcoached."

On Wednesday, Reed said, "The truth is the truth. You've got to put your players in a position to make plays."

When asked if he talked to Phillips, Reed said, "(He) basically just made sure I was leaving. Honestly, of all people, he's probably the guy, the reason I'm not there."

The Texans said Phillips was not available Wednesday for comment, but would be available to speak on Thursday.

Reed spent his entire career with the Ravens before signing as a free agent with Houston during the offseason. This will be his second game this season in Baltimore.

Houston wide receiver Andre Johnson, who also played with Reed at Miami, said, "People feel certain ways. Maybe that's how he felt when he was here. Other than that, I really can't speak on it. That's Ed's feelings."

—Associated Press

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M I I H E S M C I T U R E E L
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VOLLEYBALL

Charlie Pearce / Daily Texan file photo

Bailey Webster has made the most of her career at Texas, earning All-American honors last season. As a senior, Webster is hitting at a .295 clip on the offensive end and ranks second on the team with 270 kills.

Webster earns her praise

By Evan Berkowitz
@Evan_Berkowitz

Five years ago, it looked as if the 6-foot-3-inch outside hitter from Maryland, Bailey Webster, was ready to take over the Texas program. Webster was the nation's top recruit, earned All-Big 12 freshman honors and was slatted to replace All-American Destinee Hooker in the lineup, becoming the star everyone expected when she signed.

But in preseason workouts the next season, in her short-lived sophomore campaign, Webster went down with a knee injury. Surgery cost her an entire season, and a chance at helping her team.

"Obviously we miss her, and we knew that she was going to be a huge part of the team," then-captain Juliann Faucette said after the injury. "We hope that her recovery is fast and she's set up for next year."

That's exactly what happened. Webster came back the next year in dynamic fashion, earning AVCA All-America first team honors. Then she repeated her production the next year, taking home first-team honors once again and sporting her signature leg brace in the process.

But her accolades and play are sometimes overshadowed by junior Preseason Player of the Year Haley Eckerman, who plays the same position.

Webster's .326 career kill percentage trumps Eckerman's .270 mark. And in every year the two have played together, Webster outhit Eckerman in terms of percentage. But Webster doesn't think she's being overlooked.

"I don't ever think of it like she is overshadowing me," Webster said. "Haley and I are really good friends and we are teammates first and foremost. All the honors she gets she deserves."

Although Eckerman may

VOLLEYBALL page 5

FOOTBALL | COLUMN

Shweta Gulati / Daily Texan Staff

Marcus Johnson carries the ball after a catch in a 38-13 loss to Oklahoma State, dropping them into a tie for second in the Big 12.

Longhorns still among four teams vying for Big 12 title

By Christian Corona
Daily Texan Columnist
@ChristianCOrona

The Longhorns no longer control their own destiny in the conference title race and really hurt their chances in what was the worst home loss of the Mack Brown era this past Saturday. But they're not out of it.

Four teams have a mathematical shot to win the Big 12 right now. Baylor, the conference's lone undefeated team, is obviously the odds-on favorite with Oklahoma State, followed by the Longhorns and Oklahoma, who have a miniscule chance to win a conference title.

There are six games — two each week for the next three weeks — that will determine who wins the Big 12 this year. This week, it's Oklahoma-Kansas State and the Baylor-Oklahoma State showdown that ESPN College GameDay will be taking its talents to this week.

Next week, it's Texas Tech-Texas on Thanksgiving and Baylor-TCU two days later. The conference champ might not be known until the final weekend of the regular season, when Texas faces Baylor in Waco and Oklahoma State

BIG 12 page 5

Team	Record	Chance to win Big 12	Comments
Baylor	9-0 (6-0)	74.253%	Never won Big 12 title, about 60% chance to win out and finish 12-0
Oklahoma St.	8-1 (6-1)	19.306%	10-point underdogs vs. Baylor (likely 10-point favorites vs. OU)
Texas	7-3 (6-1)	6.436%	Controls own destiny again if Baylor beats Oklahoma State
Oklahoma	8-2 (5-2)	0.005%	Needs to win out and have Baylor lose out, among other things

WOMEN'S SWIMMING AND DIVING

Texas picking up slack without Maren Taylor

By Scarlett Smith
@ScarlettRSmith1

Texas will compete in its final meet of the semester Thursday: the UT Diving Invitational — the first meet of the qualifying season. The women's diving squad runs deep in talent and experience with a few members having competed in the world championships in Barcelona this past summer.

Redshirt senior Maren Taylor won her first national title on the 1-meter board and finished 11th in the 3-meter final at this summer's World Championships — her first international meet. This success follows a productive junior season in which she won the 3-meter event at the NCAA Zone D Championships.

"It has started a new part of my career because it has made me have new, bigger goals and it allows me to look beyond just this year," Taylor said. "I definitely want to build on this past summer."

Despite her success on the international stage, Taylor prefers to focus on the short term and her impending return to competition, as a plethora of injuries has kept her out of competition this season.

"The [2016] Olympics remains one of my biggest goals, but I am taking it one day at a time and not looking too far ahead," Taylor said.

Fellow divers, junior Emma Ivory-Ganja and freshman Murphy Bromberg have made some waves of their own with combined first place finishes on the 3-meter event four out of their five meets this fall. Ivory-Ganja is a transfer this year from UCLA, despite being initially recruited out of the Woodlands High School by Texas head coach Matt Scoggin. Bromberg won the 10-meter platform event at this summer's national championships after placing seventh at the world championships in the platform synchronized event.

> **We have a really strong team this year, probably one of the strongest teams in the country with the combination of everybody's individual talents on the different boards.**
>
> —Maren Taylor, Senior diver

"We have a really strong team this year, probably one of the strongest teams in the country with the combination of everybody's individual talents on the different boards," Taylor said.

The UT Diving Invitational attracts notable big names Miami (Fla.), Arizona State, Hawaii and UC-Berkeley — the current team of 2012 Olympic champion Missy Franklin.

Scoggin is quite pleased with his team's performance this fall season and entertains high hopes for the week's competition.

"I expect that they physically are feeling a little bit better because of the lighter weights they are on this week," Scoggin said. "I expect them to have multiple signs of positive progress. They have worked very hard this fall and I think in each of the events they will see their progress happening."

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SPORTS BRIEFLY

President Powers backs Mack Brown

With rumors swirling week after week about the status of Mack Brown as the Longhorns' football coach, University of Texas President William Powers Jr. offered his own words in a story by the Austin American-Statesman.

"Mack's our coach. He's been a great coach. He is a great coach and has done a great deal for Texas," Powers said Wednesday when asked about Brown's future at UT,

Given the inconsistent performance by the team the last few seasons, with this season included, many have expressed their desires for Brown to be released from his duties as the head coach moving forward. Although Powers offered an ambiguous answer to Brown's credibility as the head coach, he seems to stand behind him amid the calls for change.

Rangers trade Kinsler to Tigers for Fielder

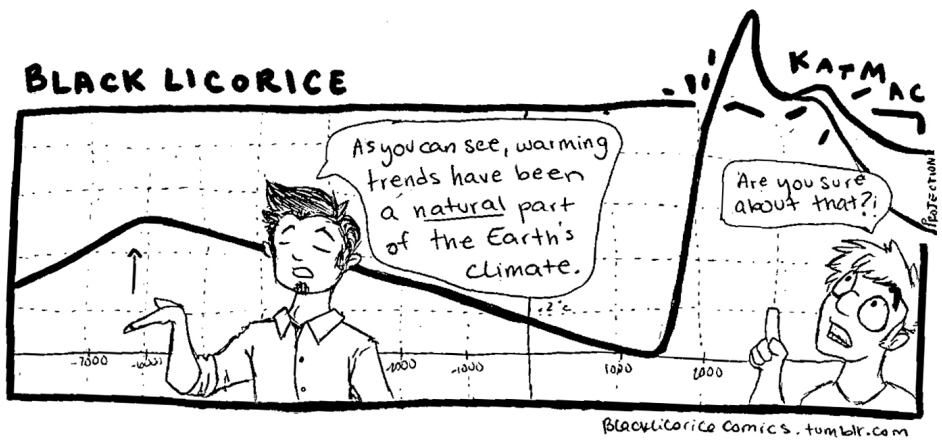
A source confirmed to ESPN on Wednesday night that the Texas Rangers have agreed to trade second baseman Ian Kinsler to the Detroit Tigers for first baseman Prince Fielder.

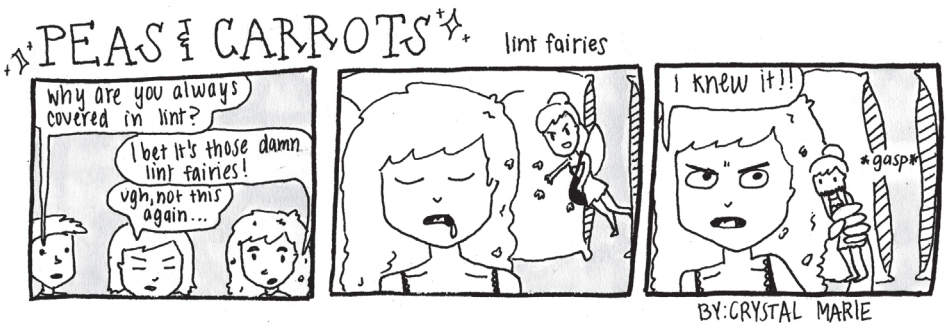
Physicals are still needed before the deal is complete, but both teams have reached a full agreement.

Fielder reportedly listed the Rangers as one of the teams in his no-trade clause. At 29 years old, Fielder hit .279 with 25 homers and 106 RBIs last season in his second year with the Tigers. Prior to the 2012 season, he signed a nine-year $214 million contract which the Rangers will inherit.

Kinsler, 31, hit .277 with 13 home runs and 72 RBIs last season after dealing with injuries at the beginning of the year.

—Matt Warden





SUDOKUFORYOU

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	3							
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	9	2		7				4
9		6	7		4			2
							4	
	2		8		6		7	

Today's solution will appear here next issue

3	6	8	1	7	9	2	5	4
9	4	2	8	6	5	1	7	3
1	7	5	2	4	3	6	8	9
6	1	9	7	5	4	3	2	8
7	5	4	3	8	2	9	1	6
2	8	3	9	1	6	5	4	7
5	9	1	4	3	8	7	6	2
8	2	6	5	9	7	4	3	1
4	3	7	6	2	1	8	9	5

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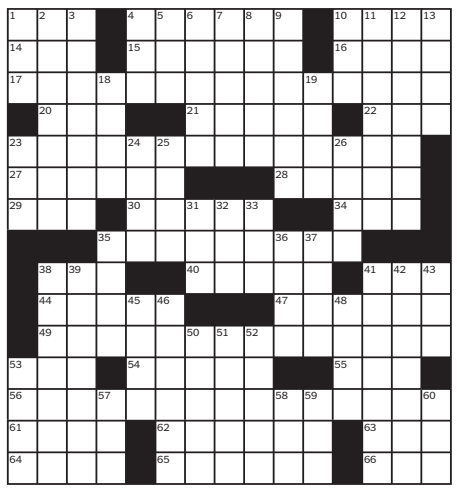
The New York Times Crossword

Edited by Will Shortz No. 1017



PUZZLE BY GARY J. WHITEHEAD

ACROSS

1 Z3 maker
4 Onetime N.F.L. star nicknamed Joe Willie
10 Challenge in "Legally Blonde," for short
14 "Phooey!"
15 San ___, Argentina
16 D-Day objective
17 Distance at St. Andrews golf course?
20 Org. of which 18 U.S. presidents have been members
21 Hindu life lesson
22 Base figs.
23 Cost of mail from Manhattan?
27 Statue in the Parthenon
28 Itching
29 "___ Nature, red in tooth and claw . . .": Tennyson
30 Arcturus, e.g., spectrally
34 Places docs wear smocks
35 Wing, e.g. . . . or a hint to answering 17-, 23-, 49- and 56-Across
38 White House fiscal grp.
40 Stuffed animal option
41 "The Beverly Hillbillies" dad
44 One way to play something
47 One on a Facebook News Feed
49 First-aid supply for Springsteen?
53 Morsel
54 Summer camp sight
55 Aunt in "Bambi"
56 Top-secret proverb?
61 Drain
62 Actor Martin of 1960s-'70s TV
63 "___, non verba" (Latin proverb)
64 Vase handle
65 Looks bad?
66 Forerunner of Bach?

DOWN

1 Shot from a certain gun
2 Source of the line "Something wicked this way comes"
3 Elite group
4 Zip
5 "___ reminder . . ."
6 Capital whose main street is Nezavisimosti
7 Tally
8 "___ Remember"
9 Like a speaker with a 25-Down
10 Trip inits.
11 Reel
12 Locale of a 1956 fight for independence
13 Low digits
18 Diggs of "Rent"
19 Pro ___
23 Writer Hentoff
24 Like a private peeling potatoes
25 See 9-Down
26 Pulitzer winner James
31 William Shatner's sci-fi drug
32 Year abroad
33 Dietary std.
35 Aid in a scam, e.g.
36 ___ Romeo
37 Only U.S. senator with a unit of measure named after him
38 Noted Ohio conservatory
39 "Good heavens!"
41 Dada pioneer
42 Listening, say
43 Onetime White House inits.
45 Slow pitches have them
46 Adjusts one's sights
48 Picked out of a lineup
50 In conclusion, in Cannes
51 Decorative fabric
52 Designer Geoffrey
53 Numerical prefix
57 One of two possibilities to Paul Revere
58 German article
59 "___ Poetica"
60 Abbr. after some professionals' names

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE

A	L	C	A	P	P		O	H	M	Y		S	Y	L
M	O	O	S	H	U		F	A	R	E		C	O	E
F	L	O	O	R	M	A	T	H	I	S		A	U	G
M	A	P		E	I	R	E				C	R	A	G
			B	A	C	O	N	F	A	T	H	E	R	S
I	C	H	O	K	E	D		I	R	A	I	S	E	
N	O	O	N				A	S	I	F		A	H	S
T	H	R	O	W	I	N	T	H	E	T	O	W	E	L
O	A	S		H	S	I	A				D	A	R	E
	B	E	G	O	O	D		A	N	N	O	Y	E	D
H	I	S	P	A	N	I	C	R	O	O	M			
U	T	E	S				A	C	H	T		M	A	C
M	A	N		H	E	R	S	H	E	Y	B	A	B	Y
O	N	S		E	V	A	C		L	E	O	N	A	S
R	T	E		X	E	N	A		P	T	B	O	A	T

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CITY

Studio haven for disabled artists

By Lauren L'Amie
@lamelamie

Lauren Ussery / Daily Texan Staff
Lydia Ward, who suffers from Schizo-Affective disorder, works on a self-portrait in the studio. The Imagine Art organization provides a space for disabled artists to complete their work and train as professionals.

Among the hundreds of galleries in the East Austin Studio Tour is a small, inconspicuous church on Real Street. The church is a shared space, home to a Congolese refugee church, community kitchen and an outdoor vegetable garden.

It also houses a collective studio called Imagine Art — a community where physically and mentally disabled artists can access resources and hone their professional skills.

The East Austin Studio Tour gives opportunities to smaller studios such as Imagine Art to be seen by a much broader audience, allowing its artists a window into the business side of the art world. Debbie Kizer, executive director and founder, said Imagine Art wasn't always in such an established space.

"When I started [Imagine Art], it was really simple," Kizer said. "It was basically 10 people and I was their attendant, helping them go to art class. And in the process, I learned about art. Then we kept growing and growing, so we finally decided to move to a studio."

The sounds of lively French and Swahili sermons drift through the gallery space as artist Nicole Cortichiato prepares for day two of the local arts tour. Cortichiato has been a part of Imagine Art since 2009 but has been doodling for as long as she can remember.

"It wasn't until I came here that I really painted," Cortichiato said. "It was intimidating. I came here and saw all the other work, and when I had my interview I thought they were never going to accept me. You're in this very loving environment, but there's no time to feel sorry for yourself."

When diagnosed with narcolepsy at age 19, Cortichiato said she became active in educating people and expressing her independence, despite her disability. This idea is expressed in the bulk of her colorful sketches, which she explained are influenced a great deal by her day-to-day experience with narcolepsy.

"I'm totally connected to the creative forces of sleep," Cortichiato said. "The average person takes an hour and a half to sleep but I take two minutes, so I wake up and I remember my dreams much better than most people."

Imagine Art also gives disabled artists the opportunity to use their talents in a career-oriented atmosphere. Artist John Howard MacPherson, a Texas State fine arts graduate, said he was faced with a challenge of overcoming mental and financial burdens.

For a time, MacPherson was homeless and struggling to find work while keeping his disability benefits. Now in charge of the vegetable garden on the property and a former kilnmaster in the ceramics studio, MacPherson found a position where people can come to him for help and expertise.

"You can hear as soon as I open my mouth that I'm an art teacher," MacPherson said. "So I substitute teach and get paid for it. But because I'm on disability, I've got to watch very closely how much I make, where I make it. I've got to be extremely careful of that."

Imagine Art is funded partially by grants and donations, but it mostly maintains its facilities by redirecting the spending of state disability dollars.

Kizer explained that the dollars tagged for personal attendant care are redirected toward establishing disabled artists as professionals and allowing members of Imagine Art to access supplies, attend receptions and display their work in galleries.

"They're still getting their needs met, but we're really serving them as an artist," Kizer said. "We're taking the state dollars and making sure they're leveraged to pursue the arts."

Lauren Ussery
Daily Texan Staff
Nicole Cordichiato displays a small version of her book, "The Independent Hand," a story about living with narcolepsy. Cortichiato has been with Imagine Art since 2009.

In a studio environment as productive and encouraging as Imagine Art, it is no surprise that all the members feel as though they have found a place where they're capable and are understood. "We know it really benefits our community to just have more artists and more creatives in our space," Kizer said. "It'll help keep a balance and make us all healthier."

The Imagine Art studio is open Tuesday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. and will be featured in the East Austin Studio Tour on Nov. 23 and 24 from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m.

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

JFK conspiracy theories dubious under scrutiny

SCIENCE SCENE

By Robert Starr
@robertkstarr

Fifty years ago, Lee Harvey Oswald, a 24-year-old high school dropout, brought a high-powered rifle up to the sixth floor of the Texas School Book Depository and with three shots, changed the course of history — at least according to the official story, which only about 30 percent of the population accepts. As we accumulate more evidence and technology to analyze this evidence, the picture zeros in on the unavoidable conclusion that there was no conspiracy, but just one man with a gun.

About 88 percent of the earwitnesses claim to have heard exactly three shots, which would match the findings of the Warren Commission, the group in charge of investigating the President John F. Kennedy's death. Many of those espousing a conspiracy theory insist that there had to have been more, based on where the victims were shot and in how many places they were shot. Since testimonial evidence is often shaky, investigators looked elsewhere to find something more substantial to support the claim that there were only three shots.

An audio recording of the event would have helped, but the only one we know of was accidentally — some may say conveniently — erased. Additionally, while the famous 8 mm footage taken by Abraham Zapruder features many of the iconic images from the day and provided a wealth of information for the investigation, it doesn't feature any sound.

We can see exactly when the assassination occurred, but determining the number of shots is still hard. The Warren Report assumed that the first shot fired was the first one that hit and assumed that the shooter missed his second, since witnesses unanimously agreed that the head shot coincided with the final bullet.

This gives a time frame of no more than 5.6 seconds for Oswald to fire three shots with his 6.5 mm Carcano Model 91/38 bolt-action, which many conspiracy theorists claim is impossible. It's not, but it's irrelevant because the Warren Commission made a mistake in assuming Oswald landed his first shot.

It is difficult to keep a camera steady, particularly when it has a zoom lens, and if the operator is startled while holding it by something like a gunshot, a hand jerk can affect the image. By analyzing these movements in the Zapruder film, we learned that the first shot did not coincide with any human impact and that there was actually a time difference of eight seconds or so between the first and final shots, leaving more than enough time for Oswald to fire all three.

Could there have been more than three shots? If they came at nearly the same time, absolutely — at least based on this single piece of analysis. But we also have forensic evidence in the form of bullet fragments recovered from the bodies of President Kennedy and Texas Gov. John Connally.

By bombarding these fragments with neutrons, forensic scientists can create radioactive particles which produce a signal that gives a clear indication of the concentrations of certain elements in the fragments, which can be used as a kind of bullet fingerprint. Since the type of bullets used in the assassination have almost no uniformity from one to another, even among those made in the same production line, these tests confidently determined that there were only two different bullets that struck Kennedy and Connally.

But did they both come from the window of the depository?

Illustration by Ploy Buraparate

The most shocking piece of the Zapruder film, and what most believe is the most compelling evidence that there had to be a second gunman, comes around frame 313. This is when the third bullet struck the president in the skull and Kennedy's head moves back towards the direction the shot came from. It looks like the only way to induce that kind of movement would be for there to be a second gunman in the grassy knoll facing the front of the automobile.

But gunshots don't work the same way in real life as they do in the movies. To simulate what a high-powered rifle does to a human head, Nobel Prize winning physicist Luis Alvarez bought a melon, wrapped it in tape and shot it.

This caused the insides of the fruit to explode and leave the melon by way of the hole the bullet made when it left the fruit. With all that mass leaving in the direction of the bullet, the rest of the melon reacts by falling in the opposite direction. This "Jet Effect" is completely counterintuitive, but it follows from high school-level physics.

We all react differently to tragedies and many are still trying to make sense of the events of Nov. 22, 1963. It's also natural and patriotic to question the government. The more extreme the claim, though, the better the evidence required. There's not nearly enough to support the idea that anyone other than Oswald was involved in the death of the 35th president.

MULTIMEDIA

This weeks Science Scene takes a look back at the JFK assassination.