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THE DAILY TEXAN

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CAMPUS

Trump fans discuss reasons for support

By Caleb Wong
@caleber96

If you ask Republican frontrunner Donald Trump, he says he gets along with everybody.

"People love me, and I've been very successful," Trump told Anderson Cooper during an interview on CNN.

However, when College Republicans Communications Director Robert Guerra asked if anyone supported Trump at a UT College Republicans meeting last Tuesday, no one raised their hands, citing concerns about Trump's comments about Muslims and his ability to unify the American electorate.

"I don't think the support we've seen Trump get is reflective of the college student demographic," Guerra, a finance junior, said. "The reasons for that is the issues he chooses to focus on and advocate for, by and large, are not the issues that students care about and support."

However, the students on campus who support Trump may disagree. All students interviewed cited Trump's stance on immigration — to build a wall along the Mexican border — as a common factor for supporting Trump. They also said his "refreshing" approach to politics stood in contrast to other candidates' "staged" speeches.

"As a conservative person, I've been betrayed by the Republican establishment," said Nicholas Pierce, government freshman and Trump supporter. "When Trump entered the race, he spoke specifically to issues that I have been worried about."

Regan Staudt, radio-televi-

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Mike McGraw | Daily Texan Staff

Government freshman Nicholas Pierce supports businessman Donald Trump for president. Pierce said Trump spoke to specific issues of concern to him.

CAMPUS

Gun laws cause dean candidate to withdraw

By Zach Lyons
@iamzachlyons

Siva Vaidhyanathan, a finalist for deanship of the Moody College of Communication, took himself out of the running in response to the University's decision on campus carry.

Vaidhyanathan became one of several faculty members who has turned down or left UT at least in part due to the passage of Senate Bill 11, which allows anyone with a concealed handgun license (CHL) to carry their handgun on college campuses. Among these is architecture dean Frederick Steiner, who cited the new law among his reasons for leaving UT in an interview with the Texan earlier this month.

As a UT alumnus, Vaidhyanathan said working for the University would've been a "dream job" — but when President Fenves released his Feb. 17 statement on UT's implementation of S.B. 11, Vaidhyanathan reconsidered. According to the statement, professors would be unable to ban guns from their classrooms. If put in a situation requiring him to discipline a professor for violating this rule, Vaidhyanathan said he'd be unwilling to make that call.

"I would have to side with the professor and therefore violate state law," Vaidhyanathan said. "That would mean I'd be fired pretty quickly, I wasn't going to put myself or my family in that situation."

Along with concerns about students having

DEAN page 3

LABELHEAD COLOR

Texas captures 12th NCAA Championship

By Adair Odom
@adair_odom

Head coach Eddie Reese stood alongside his men's swimming and diving team in front of the Littlefield Fountain on Sunday night, the tower draped in burnt orange and lit with "1."

About 24 hours earlier, those same players pushed him and men's athletics director Mike Perrin into the Georgia Tech pool in celebration of the team's 12th national championship — tied for the most in NCAA history.

The moment marked a major milestone for Reese. Saturday's title broke a tie with former Ohio State coach, Mike Peppe, making Reese the most decorated coach in men's collegiate swimming and diving.

"I've never had a goal to be an Olympic coach or win an NCAA title," Reese said. "I just want to get people to go faster. It's always the swimmers that do it."

The 190.5 point victory over second-place California pushed the Longhorns into a tie with Michigan for most in Division I history.

Reese has been responsible for the rise of the Longhorns' program since taking over in 1979, leading the team to each of those 12 titles, as well as 11 runner-up finishes.

Mike McGraw | Daily Texan Staff

The men's swimming and diving team celebrated its second straight NCAA Championship in front of Littlefield Fountain last night. Texas is tied for the most championships in NCAA history with 12.

Despite the success, he said every championship is different.

"Every year, every person is different," Reese said. "It takes different workouts and different strength programs to get them to go faster. That's my whole goal."

Sophomore Joseph Schooling tied with California's Ryan Murray and Florida's Caeleb Dressel for the CSCAA Swimmer of the Meet honor. Reese took the CSCAA National Coach of the Meet award for the second-straight year.

"It's always nice to contribute to the team," Schooling said. "Winning never feels bad. I'm happy to have done my part."

The Longhorns opened the meet in record-setting fashion, winning the first four events for the first time in school history, including earning the NCAA title in the 800-meter freestyle relay for the 13th time, as juniors Jack Conger and Clark Smith, freshman Townley Haas and sophomore Joseph Schooling set NCAA and NCAA Championship meet records.

Haas' inaugural trip to the NCAA Championships was eventful. His 1:30.46 finish in the 200-meter freestyle became

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CAMPUS

Senate opposes quizzes during add/drop

By Rachel Lew
@rachelannlew

Senate passed Senate Resolution 1512 (S.R. 1512) on Thursday to prevent professors from assigning quizzes during add/drop period unless the professor provides students with the opportunity to make-up the assignment. Current University policy allows students to add and drop courses until the 12th class day, with departmental approval.

Students who are added to courses during the add/drop period might miss quizzes and assessments assigned before they were added and start the semester at a disadvantage if the professor does not provide the opportunity to make up the missed assignment, according to the resolution.

Rachel Osterloh, Senate president and co-author of the resolution, said the idea was born out of a Senate event called "Campus Conversations" where a student shared how he received a zero for a quiz that had been given before he added the class.

Osterloh, a government senior, said she feels the resolution addresses an issue of miscommunication.

"We feel that the faculty might not be aware of the add/drop issue," Osterloh said. "By proposing the possibility for an alternative assignment to replace a missed quiz, a student won't be penalized for just adding the class," Osterloh said. "This is a fairness issue and the legislation seeks to take an active step to remedy it."

Sergio Cavazos, Senate policy director and co-author of the resolution, said he felt penalized for adding a class during the add/drop period and was forced to use a "dropped" grade for a quiz he missed before he added the class.

"It was frustrating to come into a course during the allowed add/drop period and run into

Rachel Osterloh
Senate president

a professor who tells you a quiz was already assigned, but you just have to use your drop," Cavazos said. "It felt unfair, as if I was at a disadvantage because I was penalized for being

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CAMPUS

Data shows students are more diverse than faculty

By Caleb Wong
@caleber96

Students are more diverse than the faculty members who teach them, according to data drawn from UT statistics.

77.3 percent of UT faculty are white, and 60.8 percent of faculty members are male, according to data drawn from the University's Institutional Reporting, Research and Information Systems. In contrast, slightly more female than male students attend UT, as a percentage. More Hispanic, Asian and black students attend UT than their faculty counterparts, as a percentage.

"I've taken as many chemistry courses as I can, and almost all of them have been taught by men, specifically by white males," said Jamie Lee, chemistry senior and president of the Natural Sciences Council. "I think I've had one or two female professors my entire time here for chemistry classes. It made me think, 'Oh, maybe science

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UberEATS expands to Austin area. **PAGE 3**

Students, professors present at TEDx on campus. **ONLINE**

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Aston's squad reaches Elite Eight, plays UConn. **PAGE 6**

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Jason Day wins the WGC-Dell Match Play, Jordan Spieth returns to Austin.

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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
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TOMORROW'S WEATHER

High 77 Low 66

Florida area man.

FRAMES FEATURED PHOTO thedailytexan

Emmanuel Briseno | Daily Texan Staff

A window washer cleans the windows of SkyHouse Austin, a high-rise apartment building located on Rainey Street.

CITY

New Uber app delivers food to students' doors

By Elizabeth Huang
@lizzthewiz

When leaving the dorms to go get food seems like too much of a struggle, UberEATS could offer a solution for many hungry students. On March 24, Uber launched a separate app and full delivery service in Austin, which delivers food right to the door.

Uber's delivery service expands on their Instant Delivery option, a lunchtime delivery service, which used to be part of the original app. From 8 a.m. to 12 a.m, the new UberEATS app offers delivery options from the full menus of over a hundred local restaurants, including Chi'Lantro BBQ, Freedmen's, Noble Sandwich Co. and Michi Ramen. The Instant Delivery service is still around and delivers prepared daily specials that range from $7 to $12 to students in less than 10 minutes. This service is also available Monday through Friday, but only from lunch hours 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Although UberEATS can be convenient, not everyone is a fan of the new app. Radio-television-film freshman Rikki Bleiweiss said she probably would not use UberEATS and doesn't like that it is now a separate app.

"I really preferred how UberEATS worked in the initial app when there was no delivery charge," Bleiweiss said.

Uber drivers have the option to deliver for UberEATS, or they can stick to driving people around the city. Aashlie Hess, who currently drives for Uber, said she would not want to drive for UberEATS.

"I make enough driving people that I don't need to deliver food too," Hess said. "I wouldn't really want to make my car smell or risk spilling food."

UberEATS is not the only food delivery service in Austin. The company has to compete with other popular services such as Favor Delivery and Postmates.

According to Maegan Wilson, a theater and dance senior who used to drive for Uber, UberEATS may be at a disadvantage because it is a newer app.

"I think it'll probably be used less for a bit just because Favor and Postmates [are] more well known," Wilson said.

Peter Jeon, a driver for Uber and mobile designer for a tech company, said UberEATS needs to set itself apart from the other competitors.

"There are too many of those apps like Favor, UberEATS, Postmates and Grubhub," Jeon said "If none of these companies can differentiate themselves, the company that offers the fastest and cheapest option will win."

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added to the class late."

Cavazos said he hopes the resolution will level the playing field for students.

"It can be especially intimidating early on in your academic career to go through add/drop," Cavazos said. "[We're] making sure that professors are aware that it's inherently unfair to allow students into their class during add/drop and tell them they have one fewer drop to use because they were added to the class at a later time."

Brent Iverson, dean of the School of Undergraduate Studies, said he appreciates Senate is proposing a student focused initiative and thinks the resolution is a good starting point.

"I'm a big fan," Iverson said. "The legislation is written to advocate on behalf of all UT students, and it highlights a really good point. I think that everybody can agree that it's best for students to start out the semester on a level playing field."

Iverson said he also sees potential obstacles in implementing the resolution.

"From a faculty perspective, the thing that worries me is the 'one size fits all' approach," Iverson said. "I think there will be problems because so many faculty do so many different and creative things, and not being able to have some sort of assessment in that first period of the course — in certain situations — could change the pedagogy of what's being done … At the end of the day, faculty should be thoughtful in structuring assignments and grades."

CAMPUS

Students organize TEDx event to inspire change

By Bharath Lavendra
@burreth

UT students and alumni came together to bring TEDx back to campus with TEDxSpeedwayPlaza on Saturday.

TED is an organization aimed at spreading ideas through conferences and talks, according to its website. TEDx events are independently organized conferences that "create a TED-like event," and have occurred all over the world. Speakers at TEDxSpeedwayPlaza included management information systems lecturer Clint Tuttle, who discussed how not be afraid of failure, and Ziyaad Khayrattee, a finance and Plan II senior, who talked about how educational reform is possible in the U.S., as well as other speakers.

Usama Malik, a UT alumnus and one of the leading organizers for the event, said the theme of the day's conference was inspiring change. Malik said the organizers wanted to convince attendees that they can make an impact as well.

"We have a lot of different topics that we want people to engage with and see how in different fields, change is tangible and real, not just idealist," Malik said. "We want to show people whether its refugees, social justice, education — there are elements that we can change, and we don't have to think that its too big of a problem or too big of an issue for us to take a part of. We as individuals, whoever attended the TEDx event, can be agents of change."

Hamaila Qureshi, a UT alumna and former president of the UT organization Liberty in North Korea, spoke at the event about refugees and how people can help change how refugees are perceived.

"We think change is this long process, but really it's small things over a long period of time that make the biggest change," Qureshi said. "That's really important in terms of refugees because there is a refugee crisis going on right now. There is such a negative narrative that we need to change how our society perceives refugees, and ultimately that will help them thrive in our society."

Maryam Ogunbiyi, a Plan II and international relations and global studies senior, attended the event and said she enjoyed the talks and felt more need to take action after hearing the speakers.

"Words are important, but you also have to do something behind it," Ogunbiyi said. "You can share an article about institutionalized racism or something like that, but you also need to work towards how you can work to change that."

TEDx speaker Don Haynes, a life coach, talks about the importance of building connections with people at the Speedway Plaza. TEDx showcased a variety of speakers who discussed the idea of "inspiring change."

Carlos Garcia
Daily Texan Staff

TRUMP

continues from page 1

sion-film senior and Trump supporter, said Trump's record of success as a businessman, his outspoken nature and strong stance on immigration would make him a successful president.

"I'm a news freak, and I watch the candidates everyday," Staudt said. "During his debates, he doesn't read off the teleprompter and he says what is on his mind."

Staudt said she didn't have any reservations about Trump's candidacy. However, when asked about Donald's Trump slow move to distance himself from the support of white nationalist and ex-Ku Klux Klan Klansman David Duke, Staudt declined to comment.

Despite Trump's sizable lead in the Republican primary, he hasn't gained much traction on campus, according to Emily Hickey, president of the UT chapter of Students for Donald Trump. The group hasn't held any activities or events on campus, she said. The group has 11 members, according to their Facebook page.

"The city of Austin as well as the University of Texas at Austin are challenging arenas for Trump supporters and that's no secret," Hickey wrote in an email.

Trump also seems to have less support among young people statewide. According to the Center for Information and Research on Civic Learning and Engagement, Trump received 19 percent of the youth vote in the Texas Super Tuesday primary, compared to 33 percent for Sen. Ted Cruz. Marketing professor Julie Irwin, who has studied Trump's appeal, said even less people support Trump who attend college.

Staudt said she is "afraid" to tell people she is a Trump supporter and fears her professors would fail her if she publicly stated her support for his candidacy. Contrary to popular belief, she said, Trump supporters aren't "racist" when they support increased border control.

"I can't tell people. No one wants to hear it," Staudt said. "I think people are really quick to judge him. They haven't taken the time to watch him on TV or have an open mind about him."

Despite Trump's rhetoric, which is viewed by many as divisive, Pierce said Trump will be able to unite the American people to beat the presumptive Democratic nominee Hillary Clinton.

"I think the contrasting personalities will work in his favor," Pierce said. "I think that he's going to show off a lot of more strength and possibly a lot more vigor to his campaign. Inflammatory language comes with large issues that the establishment tries to ignore."

FACULTY

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is just a boy's club.'"

Lee, who plans to head to law school in the fall, said if she had more role models who looked like her, she might have considered a career in science.

"Representation matters," Lee said. "We need to bring light to the fact that diversity matters and that inclusion matters."

Joey Williams, interim communications director for the provost's office, said the gap between faculty and student diversity has been steadily improving over the past couple of years through the creation of the University Faculty Gender Equity Council. The total number of tenure and tenure track female faculty has grown from 502 to 615 between 2004 and 2014, he said in an email.

"There has been significant progress in the past ten years at UT," Williams wrote in an email. "The recommendations that come out of the sub-committees will lay out how each college can improve moving forward."

The committee, which is split into three subcommittees — examining climate, family and health, and employment issues — was formed in 2014 and is set to issue a full report this spring, according to the provost's office.

"We have to continually ask ourselves what we could be doing better, and that's what I've charged this gender equity council with," said Janet Dukerich, senior vice provost for faculty affairs in a 2014 interview with The Daily Texan. Members of the committee declined to be interviewed for this article.

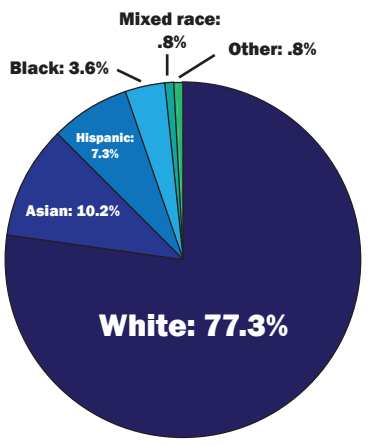
Keffrelyn Brown, an associate education professor who studies access and equity in higher education, said female and minority faculty members sometimes still feel unwelcome among their colleagues at universities.

"If you are the only person of color or the only woman or the one of a very small number, it can be isolating as well — just socially in that space," Brown said. "You may not have the kinds of mentorship that we all know is necessary to thrive at universities."

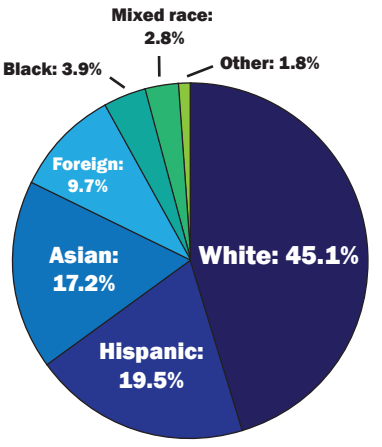
Brown said she welcomed the Rooney Rule, a recently implemented mandate from the UT System requiring faculty search committees to consider at least one female or minority candidate for senior administrative positions to make the University more inclusive.

"We can't assume that racial and gender diversity don't matter. They do," she said. "If we don't make it a priority, we can end up with not having the diversity that's needed, and we wonder what's gone on. It's something that needs to be constantly watched and looked at."

Faculty Ethnicity Breakdown



Student Ethnicity Breakdown



Faculty Gender Breakdown

Student Gender Breakdown

Source: Institutional Reporting, Research, and Information Systems

Infographic by Kelly Smith | Daily Texan Staff

DEAN

continues from page 1

firearms during heated class discussions, Vaidhyanathan said he thinks campus carry limits a professor's autonomy.

"I have the ability to say students shouldn't have laptops and cellphones out," Vaidhyanathan said. "I think that should extend to firearms."

Jacob Williamson, founder of the UT chapter of Students for Concealed Carry and a computer science and electrical engineering senior, said while he thinks those who oppose campus carry are misguided and reactionary, it is within Vaidhyanathan's prerogative to withdraw because of the rules.

"[Part of the] job requirement is firing people who disobey state law, so if you don't want to do that, if you're not up to that task, by all means find another job," Williamson said, "I have nothing against him for that."

Neuroscience professor Max Snodderly, a member of Gun Free UT, said that, beyond campus carry's effect on faculty, he was frustrated at the government's decision to pass the law in the face of collegiate opposition.

"It's insulting behavior on the part of the legislature since they've been told by every academic constituency, 'we don't want it,' and they do it anyway," Snodderly said.

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COLUMN

Brackets make America great

By David Bordelon
Daily Texan Columnist
@davbord

March is that beautiful time of the year when nearly all of the United States unites in a singular endeavor: to create the perfect NCAA tournament bracket. Everyone knows that they have a chance at perfection, despite the fact that the odds of creating a perfect bracket are somewhere as high as 1 in 9.2 quintillion. Brackets become a cultural touchstone for a month, and I think the rest of society should emulate the NCAA's wildly successful strategy.

Let's be frank, the primary reason to make a bracket is money. Glory does exist for the creator of the best bracket, but last year's $1 billion offer from Warren Buffett possesses even more allure. And naturally, every friend's 'bracket league' usually bets some amount of money to incentivize better involvement. Of course, this means oodles of money for the NCAA, which reaps the advertisement benefits from thousands of viewers who would have otherwise not watched the tournament, save to see how their picks fare.

"If I were to not make brackets I would not just sit down and watch basketball," said government freshman Eric Wise. "I would only watch games I have a personal interest in. Now I will just watch any game I can during the tournament."

> **...this is exactly what the United States needs: brackets. Brackets for everything. Brackets that force people to pay attention to things they would otherwise care nothing about, like college basketball. Brackets for children: Finally we can know whose child is better!**

Luckily, a few people have also caught onto this wondrous bracket ideology, or "bracketology." In 2014, President Obama promoted the Affordable Care Act with a bracket, offering participants the ability to make a bracket and vote for the best two reasons to get healthcare coverage. Similarly, The Wire made a bracket on a different subject, such as best American metropolis, for each week of March.

I think this is exactly what the United States needs: brackets. Brackets for everything. Brackets that force people to pay attention to things they would otherwise care nothing about, like college basketball. Brackets for children: Finally we can know whose child is better! Brackets for business: Will Apple edge out Google for the 2016 fiscal year? Doubtful. Brackets for elections: Will a reality TV star become a frontrunning candidate? Apparently.

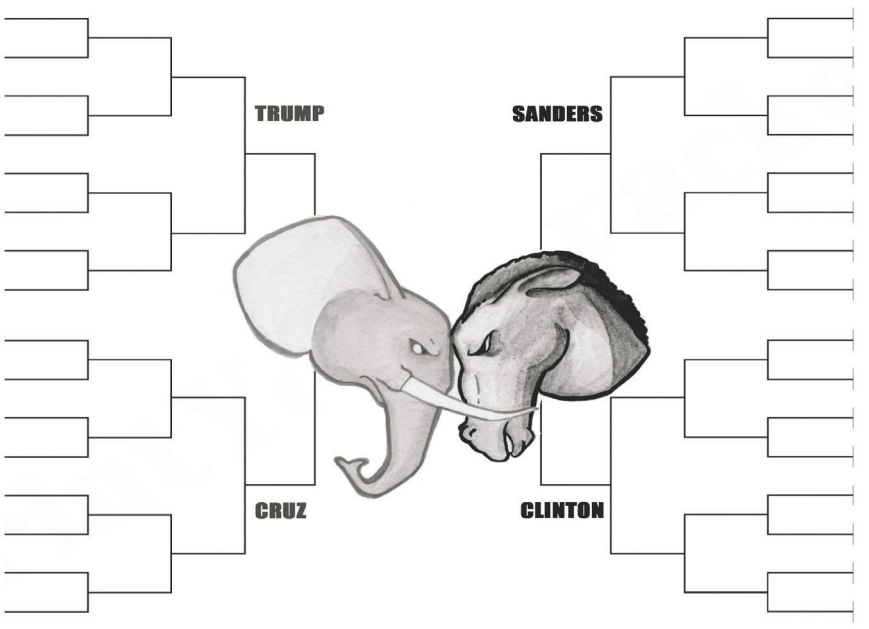


Illustration by Gaby Breiter | Daily Texan Staff

It being the wondrously civil, high-minded election year, I propose a solution to the perennial apathy of the American voter. Political brackets. Unfortunately it is a little late, but with the previous 17 Republican candidates a bracket would have surely engaged the unengaged public. And I'm sure no bracket would have accurately chosen the Republican winner (much like no one can create a perfect NCAA bracket). Luckily, there is still a little time to make your bracket for the 2016 election, so fulfill your civic duty, your democratic right and get out there and vo— bracket.

Bordelon is a philosophy sophomore from Houston.

COLUMN

Higher education benefits justify funding

By Carl Karouta
Daily Texan Columnist
@TexanEditorial

Time and time again, slashing education funds has proven to be a horrendous idea. Recently, the budget impasse plaguing Illinois, due to political gridlock, led to a complete loss of state funding for its public universities.

It's the age-old tale of divided government. But this time, the collateral damage could be as large as half a million students. Just at Chicago State University, Marketplace reported that the financial situation became so dire that "the university cancelled spring break and shortened its school year so that it doesn't run out of money before students finish their semester."

Many other universities and community colleges have reported that they are in danger of closing, including Eastern Illinois University, with an enrollment of 8,913. Some of these schools have even begun to lay off administrative and academic staff in order to stay afloat.

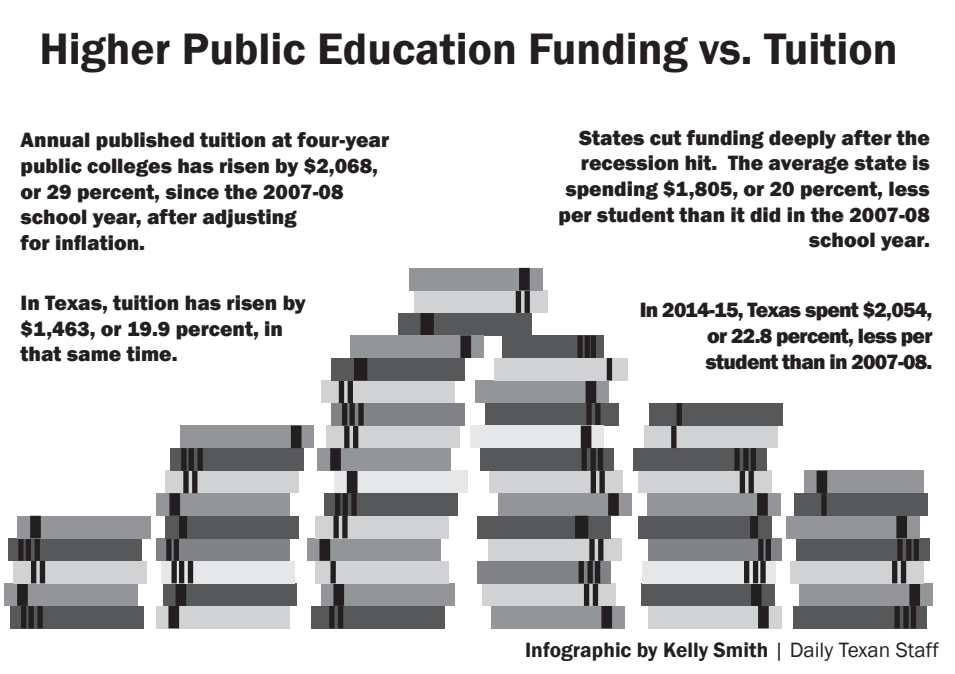
It's unacceptable that lawmakers see no problem with students losing their professors halfway through the semester. It's unacceptable that they don't do everything in their power to ensure that students at Chicago State, primarily from lower-income black communities, who are working so hard to escape poverty and embrace opportunity, have the resources they need to graduate.

Further, this matter is not exclusive to Illinois. The University of Wisconsin saw its state funding slashed by 13 percent, which amounts to $300 million, under the governorship of former Republican presidential frontrunner Scott Walker. Even for Texas public universities, state appropriations per student have actually decreased by over 10 percent over the last fifteen years. It's worse in Kansas, where there exists the possibility that public K-12 schools will not open on time next fall because of a budget impasse. Incredibly, it has happened before.

> **It's possible that lawmakers fail to realize that education is probably the most sound investment in a state budget; however, it is far more likely that they simply care more about maintaining stalemate for political reasons and cutting spending to give their donors tax breaks.**

It should be a state's priority to subsidize the education of its citizens as it is a matter of economic development that a more educated workforce is a more productive one. It's possible that lawmakers fail to realize that education is probably the most sound investment in a state budget; however, it is far more likely that they simply care more about maintaining stalemate for political reasons and cutting spending to give their donors tax breaks.

Legislators are essentially admitting that they have no concern for the future of their constituents or their state's economy. This problem is not at all exclusive to Republicans, either. After all, Illinois is a Democrat-controlled state, and the Democrats there should be willing to submit to the governor's terms if it means keeping schools up and running.



Infographic by Kelly Smith | Daily Texan Staff

On the other hand, many argue that the problem lies in spending. Genuine concerns exist about the growth of university administration and administrative salaries. While these concerns are valid, "starving the beast" is not the proper approach here. It is true that universities have seen larger and larger endowments, but this money is necessary to provide a rapidly increasing number of students with the education necessary to compete with those from other universities. This may raise different issues about the state of higher education and the root of these costs, but cutting funding will solve nothing.

Karouta is a chemical engineering freshman from Plano.

COLUMN

With Texas' presidential primary done, vote in primary runoff

By Noah M. Horwitz
Daily Texan Senior Columnist
@NmHorwitz

It has now been nearly a month since the Texas primary took place. We don't have Marco Rubio to kick around anymore, but the presidential contest looks more or less the same as it did back then. Donald Trump still battles with this state's mendacious junior senator, Ted Cruz, in the Republican contest. Young men, rowdy and sententious as ever, still deride Hillary Clinton on behalf of Bernie Sanders on the Democratic side.

Indeed, with the state of Texas almost certainly voting for the Republican nominee for president in the fall, along with all 38 of the votes in the Electoral College for Texas, the days of most Texans having a say in the presidential contest are all but over. Short of phone-banking for a candidate, or getting out your checkbook, there's not a lot left to do.

The primary, however, is not over in Texas. On May 24, both the Democratic and Republican parties will hold primary runoff elections.

Concurrent with the presidential nominating contest on March 1, Texans also voted to nominate candidates for lower offices, from Congress down to local school boards. But some of the contests in both parties failed to produce a candidate with a majority of the vote, prompting the need for a runoff. If you voted in one party's primary though, you cannot vote in the other party's primary runoff.

Statewide, Republicans can pick their nominees for one of the state's highest courts, the Texas Court of Criminal Appeals, as well as for Railroad Commissioner. (These nominations will be tantamount to election.) Democrats, meanwhile, can choose their sacrificial lamb of a nominee for Railroad Commissioner.

More locally, Democrats have more big decisions to make. The next county commissioner in Precinct 1 will be determined by those who show up to the Democratic runoff electorate here in town. Democrats in Harris County can choose their nominee for sheriff.

Upon first glance, these lower-ballot nominating contests may seem rather unimportant. They are anything but. In fact, nominating totally unqualified people for high office — because of low turnout or voter apathy — has been one of the single biggest causes of embarrassment for this state in recent years.

Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton is an unqualified partisan hack currently under indictment for securities fraud. Republican primary runoff voters selected him in 2014 over Dan Branch — a universally-respected lawmaker who chaired the House Higher Education Committee — because of a commercial where Cruz said some nice things about him. (I'm not joking).

In 1976, the Democrats nominated Donald Yarbrough for the Supreme Court. Voters confused him for Ralph Yarborough, a senator who had supported the New Deal. Donald Yarbrough was elected, resigned the office in disgrace six months later and eventually evaded federal authorities by fleeing to Grenada.

Today, the Democrats, in their hopeless primary for railroad commissioner, face the prospect of yet another totally unqualified individual being nominated for high office because of a fortuitous surname. Grady Yarbrough, a retired schoolteacher, is vying to be one of the state's top regulators of oil and gas.

> **Upon first glance, these lower-ballot nominating contests may seem rather unimportant. They are anything but. In fact, nominating totally unqualified people for high office — because of low turnout or voter apathy — has been one of the single biggest causes of embarrassment for this state in recent years.**

The presidential primary continues to slog on, with all its wretchedness and dishonesty. But in Texas, it is firmly in the rear-view mirror. The primary runoff, however, is still up ahead. Make your voice heard and vote in it too.

Horwitz is a government senior from Houston.

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TRACK & FIELD

Women place second, men place fourth in preparation for relays

By Leah Vann & Spencer Soicher
@TheDailyTexan

Texas track and field traveled to Los Angeles over the weekend to compete against some of the top teams in the nation — Ohio State, University of Southern California and Florida — in the Cardinal and Gold Challenge. The Texas women finished second, while the men turned in a fourth place outing.

The Longhorn women finished tied for second despite keeping their distance runners and horizontal jumps group back in Austin to stay fresh for Texas Relays next week. The home team, No. 4 USC, won the meet with 159 points. No. 7 Texas and No. 10 Florida tied with 115 points, and No. 16 Ohio State finished in fourth with 110 points.

The Texas women were triumphant in four events. Sophomore Shay Petty took home a field event win for the women, clearing 3.90m in her pole vault victory.

Fellow sophomore teammate Ariel Jones set a new personal record in the 400-meter hurdles as she sprinted ahead of the rest of the field with a time of 56.55. Junior Chrisann Gordon also cruised to a victory for Texas in the 800-meter with a time of 2:06.81.

The 4x100 team made up of freshman Teahna Daniels, senior Courtney Okolo, sophomore Shania Collins and senior Morolake Akinosun continued to impress. They beat their second place time at the TCU Open by almost two seconds with a mark of 43.55 seconds, taking first place in the event.

After much anticipation throughout the indoor season, junior Byron Robinson and freshman John Burt showed off their talents in the hurdles events. Robinson placed second in the 400-meter hurdles with a time of 49.48 seconds, just behind Florida's junior Eric Futch at 49.45 seconds. Burt ran the 110-meter hurdles with a time of 14.18 seconds, also earning a second place spot.

Junior sprinter Charles Anumnu won the 100-meter dash with a time of 10.40 seconds. He also placed second in the 200-meter dash with a time of 20.86 seconds. Junior Senoj-Jay Givans and junior Carlton Anumnu followed behind in third and fourth place, respectively.

On the field, the throwing group showed depth. Redshirt sophomore Alan Zapalac placed fourth in the hammer throw at 59.62 meters. Redshirt freshman Brian Peterson placed second in discus with a throw of 52.65 meters. Junior Spencer McCloud represented the jumpers by placing second in the high jump at 2.08 meters.

Texas gets to play host this coming week for the first time this season. The 89th Nike Clyde Littlefield Texas Relays begin Wednesday at 10:30 a.m. at Mike A. Myers Stadium and will run through Saturday.

Lauren Ussery | Daily Texan Staff

Junior sprinter Byron Robinson came up 0.03 seconds shy of a victory in the 400-meter hurdles. His time of 49.48 seconds placed him in second place in the event behind Florida junior Eric Futch.

ROWING

Daulton Venglar | Daily Texan Staff

The Longhorn rowing team is ranked No. 8 in the nation, and it showed why over the weekend with multiple wins.

Texas blows by Notre Dame and San Diego

By Noah Brooks
@NTBrooks1011

No. 8 Texas rowing continued its strong start with wins over No. 16 Notre Dame and San Diego in the second day of the Longhorn Invitational on Saturday morning.

Both sessions featured four 2000-meter races each, with the second and first varsity four teams and second and first varsity eight teams competing.

The Longhorns dominated the Fighting Irish, sweeping them with wide margins in each race. The day got off with a good start in the first race for Texas, as they beat Notre Dame by over 22 seconds with a 7:27.44 time in the second varsity four race.

Texas posted impressive times in each race, including an invitational-best time of 6:26.95 in the first varsity eight race. The Longhorns beat Notre Dame by at least eight seconds in each race.

Texas continued their strong start against San Diego later in the morning, again taking all four races. But this time the races were much closer.

Texas rowed a slower time in each race than the corresponding time in the Notre Dame races. The Longhorns' margin of victory in each race was between three and seven seconds.

Head coach Dave O'Neill said the wind conditions and the toughness of the Tritons played a factor, but he was happy with Texas' ability to come back when initially down.

"[One] of the good things was seeing how boats respond under pressure," O'Neill said. "San Diego is definitely a team that can be really tough, so seeing some of our boats down to them and having the resilience to come through was definitely good."

The Longhorns will head to Southern California next weekend to take part in the San Diego Crew Classic. O'Neill said they hope to build upon its strong start to the season by increasing their readiness.

"The intensity for our training is going to pick up; we'll do some more higher rate pieces, and we certainly have some figuring out to do in terms of who sits where," O'Neill said. "[But] some of these kids, they never raced before. So just building on and having this experience, it's going to get better."

SWIMMING

continues from page 6

the new NCAA, American and NCAA Championship meet record, as Haas became the first swimmer to clear the 1:31 mark in the event.

Texas capped the second night with a neck-and-neck race to the wall with California in the 400-meter medley relay. Strong splits by Schooling and Conger helped the Longhorns earn their second consecutive title in the event, as well as set new NCAA, U.S. Open and NCAA Championship records.

Licon's dominant performance in the 200-meter medley made him the only Longhorn to win NCAA titles in both the 200-meter and 400-meter individual medleys. But he said the 400-meter medley relay win means the most to him.

"That was a group effort, all four of us together rather than individual effort," Licon said.

Schooling conquered the seven-year-old NCAA record in the 100-meter butterfly previously held by Stanford's Austin Staab, earning the U.S. Open record as well.

An exciting final day consisted of Licon and Schooling setting individual NCAA records in the 200-yard breaststroke and 200-yard butterfly, respectively.

The focus for the swimmers now shifts south towards Rio de Janeiro and the 2016 Summer Olympics. But Reese's eyes are on setting up his team for a run towards a 13th title.

"I get halfway through the meet, it looks like we're winning, and I'm figuring out how to make us better for next year," Reese said. "You [enjoy it] at the moment and then you move on."

BASKETBALL

continues from page 6

Huskies tonight.

"I think the experience from last year and trying not to have that deer in headlights look that, obviously, everyone seems to have against them hopefully will help us," Aston said.

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WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

Aston gets another shot at No. 1 UConn

By Tyler Horka
@TexasTy95

No. 1 Connecticut smashed No. 5 Mississippi State by 60 points in Bridgeport, Connecticut on Saturday afternoon, setting a NCAA Tournament record for margin of victory in the Sweet 16.

Just minutes after the Huskies demoralized their latest victim, the No. 2 Longhorns took the court, determined to reach the Elite Eight for the first time in 13 years.

With a 72-64 victory over No. 3 UCLA, Texas did just that. The reward? The Longhorns have a date with Connecticut tonight at 6 p.m. with a trip to the Final Four on the line.

Connecticut has reached the Final Four in eight consecutive seasons and is eying its fourth straight championship, which would be a school record for the historic program.

"I think any time you get to this point in the season, it's exactly where every player wants to be from the time school starts in September to today," Connecticut head coach Geno Auriemma said. "Everything you work for is to put yourself in this situation and to be able to play for a National Championship."

In his 31 seasons as head coach at UConn, Auriemma has reached the Final Four 16 times, winning ten NCAA Championships. Texas head coach Karen Aston is bidding for her first Final Four appearance in her fourth season in Austin.

"There's no denying that all of us in the coaching ranks have an enormous amount of respect for not only wins, but the way his teams play the game," Aston said of Auriemma. "I think when you're a coach, that's what you look at more than trying to pay attention to how many wins or championships he's had."

Basketball is more than just coaching, and Auriemma knows that. After beating the Bulldogs 98-38 Saturday, Auriemma made it clear what accounted for the large point differential.

"It's not much difference between me and Vic," Auriemma said of Mississippi State head coach Vic Schaefer. "There's a lot of difference between his players and my players. So at this time of the year, if you've got the right players, you just have to get them in the right mindset."

Connecticut senior forward Breanna Stewart is averaging 20.3 points per game in the tournament. Texas senior center Imani Boyette said she can't stop Stewart on her own.

"I don't think there's anything I can do that's going to change her game," Boyette said. "I think it's going to be a team effort on the defensive end."

Texas has played UConn before — a 105-54 defeat for the Longhorns in last year's Sweet 16. A game that, despite the crushing defeat, might help Boyette and Texas slow down Stewart and the

BASKETBALL page 5

Zoe Fu | Daily Texan Staff

Senior center Imani Boyette recorded a double-double with 18 points and 10 rebounds against UCLA to help send Texas to the Elite Eight for the first time since 2003.

BASEBALL | NO. 6 TCU 9-5 TEXAS

Rachel Zein | Daily Texan Staff

Senior pitcher Travis Duke has appeared in a team-leading 15 games for Texas this year. Duke let the Longhorn lead slip away after giving up a run in the fourth inning Saturday.

Texas begins conference play hot despite loss in series finale

By Michael Shapiro
@mshap2

Tres Barrera stomped on home plate during Saturday's contest with No. 6 Texas Christian University as his mammoth home run tied the game at 5-5. The junior third baseman smacked his second dinger in as many days, and once again soaked up a raucous cheer from the UFCU Disch-Falk Field crowd.

Unfortunately for the Longhorns, that would be the last ovation of the day. Texas failed to score another run after Barrera's blast, falling to TCU 9-5 in the series finale.

Saturday's loss dropped Texas' season record to 11–13. But after taking the series' first two games on Thursday and Friday, the Longhorns stayed positive after the game.

"We took a step forward this weekend," head coach Augie Garrido said. "Two and one to start the conference and we move forward with an opportunity to build off of the positive innings we've had."

Neither starting pitcher lasted long on Saturday. TCU pulled junior pitcher Rex Hill after just two innings of work, while sophomore Kyle Johnston went just two-and-one-thirds innings for the Longhorns. With a two-day break ahead, Garrido showed no hesitancy in going to his bullpen early and often.

Texas turned to reliever Travis Duke in Johnston's absence, making his team-leading fifteenth appearance of the year. But Duke proved unable to hold the Longhorns' early lead, allowing a run to score in both the third and fourth frames. Heading to the fifth, the Horned Frogs held a 4-3 lead.

TCU tacked on another run in the fifth. In a departure from the previous two games' stellar defense, Texas committed an error as sophomore catcher Michael Cantu flung a ball down the left field line on a stolen base attempt. The errant throw allowed the runner to advance to home, placing the score at 5-3.

"We understand that when you give them extra bases and don't get your outs on time, and you throw to the wrong base, it adds up," Garrido said.

Barrera ensured the contest would be a back-and-forth affair. His homer tied the game in the fifth, but was quickly erased as the Horned Frogs plated three more runs in the next half inning to grab the lead for good.

The Longhorns threatened in the seventh with runners at second and third, but the rally fell short. The hopes of a sweep eluded Texas, as TCU scored an additional run in the ninth and took the series finale 9-5.

Despite the loss, the Longhorns held their heads high as they walked off the field. The start of conference play provided the Longhorns with a reset button. And for the first time this season, Texas took advantage.

"It was a big step for us," Barrera said. "We're taking steps in the right direction, and we gotta keep rolling heading into Tuesday and next weekend."

SOFTBALL | TEXAS 5-6 NO. 20 BAYLOR

Errors sink Longhorns against Bears in Waco

By Claire Cruz
@clairecruz5

Texas and No. 20 Baylor brought March Madness to the softball diamond Saturday night in game two of their Big 12 opening series.

The game was slow and scoreless through the first two and a half frames, but the rest of the matchup was full of drama. The teams battled back and forth, but Baylor earned the walk-off, 6-5 victory.

Baylor got on the board first behind redshirt senior right fielder Linsey Hays' two-run home run in the bottom of the third. Junior pitcher Tiarra Davis walked and hit the next batter up, but solid defense ended the frame.

Senior designated player Erin Shireman got the Texas offense started in the top of the fourth with a two-out bloop single to left. Sophomore catcher Randel Leahy followed with a deep shot off the center field wall that rolled into the right field corner and resulted in a two-run, inside-the-park home run.

"Really, I just wanted to help my team out," Leahy told 105.3 FM after the game. "I felt really confident up there, and it definitely felt good."

The Bears, however, got a bounce to go in their favor in the bottom half of the inning. Leahy dropped a third strike from Davis and her throw to first bounced off the runner's helmet, allowing Baylor's freshman designated player Kyla Walker to round the bases and score on a strikeout.

On the first pitch of the fifth inning, senior center fielder Lindsey Stephens ripped a solo home run to right field. Baylor pulled its senior ace Heather Stearns after the hit and the Longhorns took advantage.

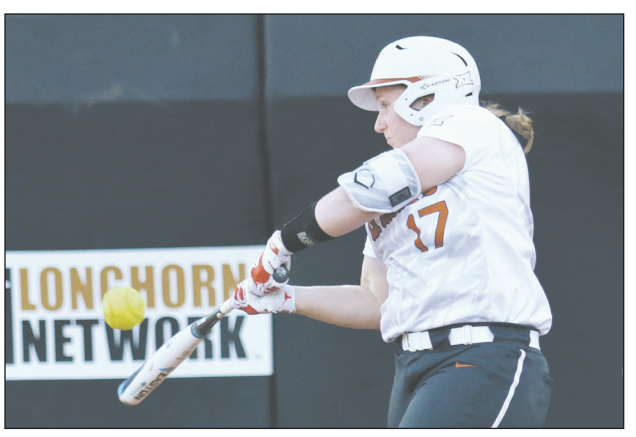
Junior third baseman Celina Felix recorded a RBI-triple to give Texas its first lead. A sacrifice fly from senior right fielder Holly Kern scored Felix to give the Longhorns some cushion.

But Hays opened the bottom half of the inning with her second home run of the night, this time a solo shot to left-center. The sixth inning was scoreless and Texas was unable to add any insurance runs in its half of the final frame.

Davis walked the first two batters in the seventh, and a well-executed Baylor bunt loaded the bases with no outs. The Bears tied the game on a passed ball and won on a misplayed ball at shortstop. Baylor's sophomore pitcher Kendall Potts earned the win in relief.

Texas dropped to 19–8 on the season and 0–2 in Big 12. The series finale will be played in Austin on May 14.

"We just need to keep our heads up," Leahy said to 105.3 FM. "Not all of the pieces fell together tonight, but I'm really proud of my team and proud that we played positive throughout the whole game."



Joshua Guerra | Daily Texan Staff

Senior designated hitter Erin Shireman ignited the Longhorn offense Saturday night, but Texas still fell 6-5 to Baylor.

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TODAY IN HISTORY

1972

NBA Hall of Fame inductee Wilt Chamberlain plays in his last professional basketball game.

SPORTS BRIEFLY

Women's tennis plays to remain unbeaten at home

Texas welcomes Northwestern to Whitaker Courts on Monday where the Longhorns will fight to keep their undefeated home record alive.

No. 34 Texas might pose a threat to Northwestern. The Wildcats are 3–7 overall against ranked teams, with only one of their three victories being against a team ranked higher than the Longhorns.

Texas faces Northwestern just after its first Big 12 win against Kansas State last week.

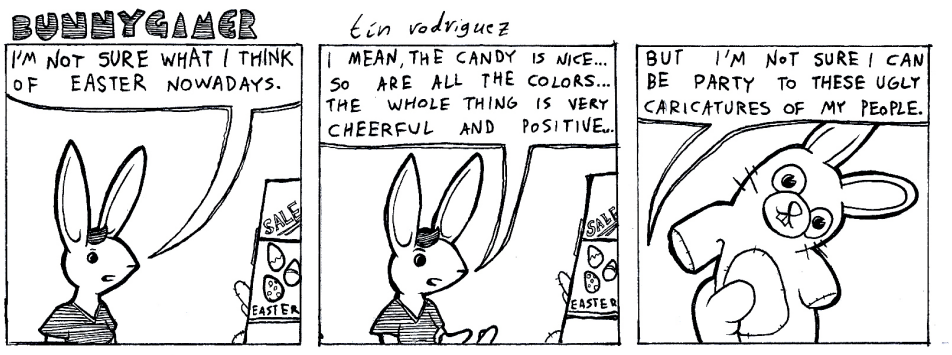
Currently, the Wildcats are 3–5 in away matches and are coming to Austin riding a two game losing streak.

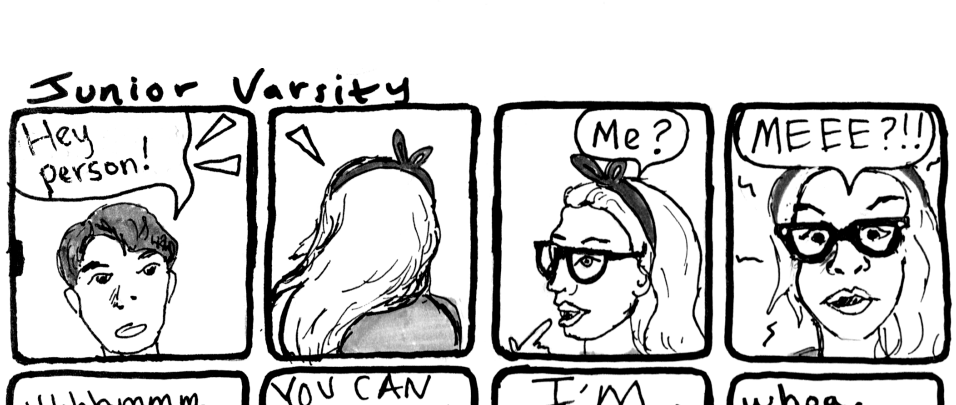
The Wildcats have a pair of ranked players, sophomores No. 40 Maddie Lipp and No. 81 Erin Larner, who are also part of the two ranked doubles tandems Northwestern has.

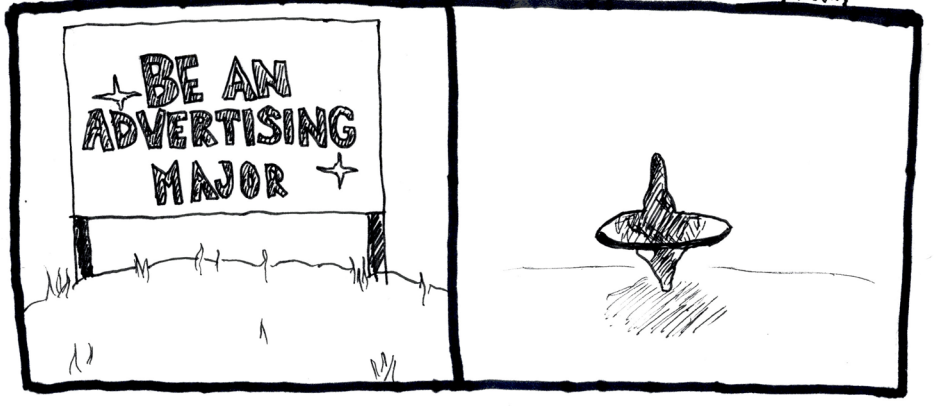
In terms of rankings, Texas' standout senior Breaunna Addison dropped from the top ten to No. 12. The doubles duo of Addison and sophomore Dani Wagland also fell four spots to No. 17.

Play begins at noon on Monday in Austin, Texas.

—Aspen Detrick







Today's solution will appear here next issue

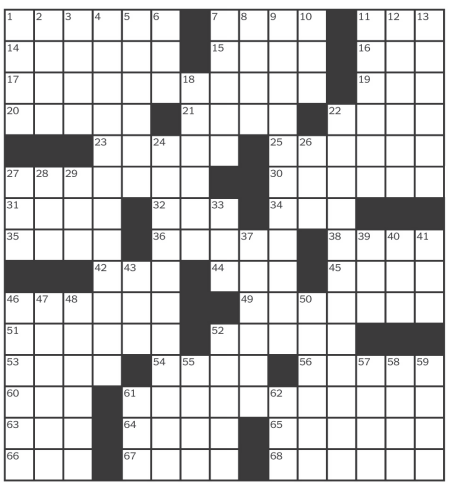
5		3					7	
	2				5	6		4
		7		2				1
	8	6			9	5		
4		2	3				9	
			7	4				
9	6							8
2	5					4		3
7			4	6	1		2	5

SUDOKUFORYOU

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

The New York Times Crossword

Edited by Will Shortz No. 0222



PUZZLE BY ED SESSA

ACROSS

1 Indian in many an old western
7 Prix ___ (restaurant offering)
11 "Who cares"
14 More ritzy
15 The Almighty
16 "___ Baba and the 40 Thieves"
17 Teasing
19 Decide not to join, with "out"
20 Put-ons
21 The first "R" of R&R
22 1/8 fluid ounce
23 Things "counted" when taking attendance
25 Fictional Plaza Hotel girl
27 The "R" of I.R.S.
30 Former "Family Feud" host Richard
31 Like a game that's played on the road
32 155, in ancient Rome
34 When Presidents' Day is always celebrated: Abbr.
35 747s, e.g.
36 Japan's so-called "City of Ten Thousand Shrines"
38 Immediately, on an order
42 Like Willie Winkie
44 Las Vegas's home: Abbr.
45 "Uh-uh"
46 Come into view
49 State of thinking
51 Fabricated
52 Miles per hour, e.g.
53 Fall over one's feet
54 Russia's ___ Mountains
56 Bone below the knee
60 "Cool, man!"
61 Coalition with no infighting
63 Interject
64 Start of a play
65 Power failure
66 C minor, for Beethoven's Fifth
67 Word following "If not now"
68 Presidential palace in Paris

DOWN

1 iTunes Store purchases
2 Winnie-the-___
3 "___ silly question . . ."
4 *One "as lucky as lucky can be," in "Mary Poppins"
5 Kermit creator Jim
6 Unit of work
7 Fireplace smoke escapes through them
8 + and – particles
9 *Showing at an adult film theater
10 Summer hours in N.Y.C.
11 Native New Zealanders
12 Texas city on the Mexican border
13 Ones used by the Mafia
18 Without restraint
22 Done in a quick but effective manner . . . or like the answers to the three starred clues?
24 *Sudden, unprovoked slug
26 Mekong native
27 Period of British rule in India
28 Mother sheep
29 Winery container
33 ___ Trapp family ("The Sound of Music" group)
37 The Parthenon, for one
39 Emergency transmission
40 Gorilla
41 Animal with a collar
43 Water: Fr.
46 Northeast Corridor service
47 Veterans Day event
48 Onetime stage name for Sean Combs
50 Shrimper's catch
52 Smooth sheet material
55 Bar mitzvah or communion
57 Constrictors
58 Playwright William
59 Suit to ___
61 Detroit labor org.
62 Buck's mate

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE

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

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FOOD

Former UT baller cooks hamburgers for homeless

By Elena Mejia
@elenamejialutz

Each day, UT alumnus Drew Gressett's burgers help improve the lives of 100 members of Austin's homeless community.

In 2009, Gressett's Hat Creek Burger Co. partnered with the Austin Ridge Bible Church and nonprofit Mobile Loaves and Fishes to distribute his "100 most important burgers" to homeless people six days a week. Hat Creek employees cook the burgers in the afternoon, and up to 700 volunteers distribute them every month.

"There aren't enough burgers out there," Gressett said. "Putting food in empty stomachs and the opportunity to go out and serve [the homeless population of Austin] creates a culture of caring about others. That, for me, is the most important thing."

Gressett played basketball for the Longhorns before graduating in 2004. Four years later, he opened his first food truck, which later evolved into four restaurants around Austin. During that transition, Gressett met Matt Freeman, ex-pastor at Austin Ridge Bible Church, and Alan Graham, CEO and co-founder of Mobile Loaves and Fishes, at the Austin Ridge Bible Church. As Gressett's food trailers evolved into brick-and-mortar restaurants, the church began looking into connecting with the homeless community.

The trio united under a shared desire to give back, and Gressett and Freeman co-founded the "100 most important burgers project."

"It really all began with [Gressett] as the chief visionary," Freeman said. "He's an entrepreneur with compassion."

Four to five volunteers show up to Hat Creek Burger Co. on Burnet Road every morning to cut vegetables and, with the help of Hat Creek employees, load the burgers into Mobile Loaves & Fishes' trucks before driving to regions around Austin with the highest homeless rates. Hat Creek, Mobile Loaves & Fishes and the church's partnership now feed more than 30,000 people every year.

"This project has had the most [impact] of any project I've been involved in," Freeman said. "It's not only about the hamburgers, it's about the human-to-human, heart-to-heart interaction."

Gressett said people tend to think the homeless population is made up of lazy people who choose to not work or suffer from mental illness, but it is more common for Austin's homeless to wind up on the streets after losing family.

"When I think about the friend and family support that I have and how they don't have it, that's heartbreaking," Gressett said. "That allows you to go out to the streets and develop relationships."

Rachel Zen | Daily Texan Staff

UT alumnus Drew Gressett, the founder of Hat Creek Burger Co., paired his restaurant with nonprofit and church organizations in order to provide burgers to the Austin homeless population. Gressett said that giving back to the community with the "100 most important burgers project" creates a culture of caring within the Austin community.

Hat Creek Burger Co. will open a fifth location in Lakeway this year.

"I always wanted Hat Creek to grow and build a company, but I never really knew the twist and turns it would take," Gressett said. "By the time you come back from handing out the burgers, you've blessed yourself and you've blessed them."

ALBUM

Zayn finds his own direction in debut album, bad boy image

By Hunter Gierhart
@HeartGears

After half a decade of family-friendly pop, Zayn Malik fully and successfully invests in a bad-boy image.

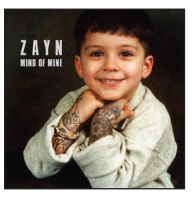
After leaving One Direction in March of last year, Zayn Malik, now simply known as Zayn, needed to show his decision was worth it — he wasn't crazy for leaving the biggest boy group in the world. In an interview with the FADER, Zayn boldly declared One Direction's music "generic as fuck," asserting his dissatisfaction with not being able to express his creativity. With *Mind of Mine*, Zayn not only proves he was right, but reveals an artist who has been lying dormant underneath senseless pop for years.

The lead single, the salacious "Pillowtalk," with its overly commercial sound, was thankfully a misleading representation of the rest of the album. Banging listeners over the head with a bombastic chorus and unnecessarily lewd lyrics like "So we'll piss off the neighbours … In the bed all day/Fucking and fighting on," "Pillowtalk" was a blatant attempt to propel Zayn into commercial success. Though it succeeded commercially, the single wasn't enough to justify leaving a pop culture juggernaut like One Direction.

The rest of the album, however, invests in restraint and ingenuity.

The hypnotic "BeFour" is the album's centerpiece, with the title's spelling representing the four members of One Direction he left behind. Strutting over a driving electric guitar and layers of vocals, Zayn describes the scrutiny and apprehension he endured after leaving his group, proclaiming, "So say what you wanna say, what you want/Shame is you won't say that to my face" and "I've done this before/But not like this." Zayn also jabs his former groupmates with gut-wrenching honesty on the vanilla mid-tempo "Truth," singing, "Don't know how many times I've had to say this to you/This ain't my scene/This wasn't my dream/It was all yours."

Much of the album isn't as vulnerable or expressive, focusing heavily on one thing — girls. Aside from "Pillowtalk," there are still heaps of sexuality to wade through, with tracks like "TiO" (which stands for "Take it Off"), "Wrong" and "She." While these are all strong pop songs, they keep the listener at arms length instead of allowing them to truly enter Zayn's mind. When Zayn does let his guard down on ballads like "It's You" and "Fool For You," the album breaks apart. Zayn's delivery isn't passionate enough, and the production is so empty that it functions more like a vacuum of emotion.



MIND OF MINE
Tracks: 14
Genre: Pop, R&B
Rating: 7.5/10

Zayn's delivery is strongest when he doesn't have to open up to his lover, an ironic twist given the album's title. The album's second single, bonus track "Like I Would," capitalizes on the Weeknd's dance/R&B sound that dominated airwaves in 2015. With a familiar sound and straightforward lyricism ("He won't love you like I would"), Zayn uses his bravado to propel an otherwise average song into an impressive pop feat. He continues his shocking display of confidence on the Kehlani collaboration "Wrong," crooning lyrics like "I'll get her wetter than ever/Four letters is never the question" without a hint of hesitation.

Courtesy of Miller Mobley

Zayn, an ex-member of boy band One Direction, debuts as a solo artist with break-out album *Mind of Mine*.

Perhaps the greatest aid to the album is Zayn's vocals, which prove to be stronger than his contemporaries Justin Bieber and the Weeknd. With a roaring and flexible falsetto, a strong upper-belt and rapid agility, Zayn strings together vocal lines that his foes wouldn't dare attempt.

Though he has yet to master the ballad and doesn't entirely open up to his listeners, Zayn's debut is a strong one. Rarely faltering and consistently pleasant, *Mind of Mine* is a record beyond Zayn's years. One can only hope this will teach an entire demographic what an artist can do when left to their own devices.

MUSIC

White Denim's new LP lacks originality, disappoints fans

By Chris Duncan
@chr_dunc

As one of Austin's more recent music success stories, southern rock outfit White Denim sets the standard for the perception of the city's ever-evolving music scene. However, with their new album *Stiff*, the band might give the wrong impression.

Formed in 2005 as a combination of several local bands, White Denim broke out in 2008 after receiving the Austin Music Awards' "Best New Band." Since then, they've released several albums, combining indie rock with southern tendencies to create songs centered around extended jams. On *Stiff*, the band continues with this style but lacks the surprises that once made their music memorable.

From the get-go, *Stiff* does very little to distinguish itself, lacking in the variety to keep the attention of the listener. The album's first song and single "Had 2 Know (Personal)," is fun with its catchy and looped riffs, but the next two tracks sound almost exactly the same. "Ha Ha Ha Ha (Yeah)," incorporates some soul elements but lacks any distinguishing characteristics from the previous song, and the third track "Holda Ya (I'm Psycho)," sounds as if it could be your new favorite TV show's lackluster theme song.

The rest of the tracks on this album include little quirks in an attempt to stand out, but few deliver. Whether it's failing to capitalize on the slow-paced "There's a Brain in My Head" or mind-numbingly repetitive lyrics in the album's well-named concluding track "Thank You," there's always an element or two in each song that keep it from reaching the heights it could reach.

There are even a couple of tracks — "Real Deal Momma" and "Mirrored in Reverse" — that sound far too much like they could have been ripped straight off of a Gary Clark Jr. album. The record has an overall vibe that lacks originality, unlike many of their previous releases, making it a difficult pill to swallow for longtime listeners.

The one exception to this trend is the album's fifth song, "Take it Easy (Ever After Lasting Love)." There is clear influence here from Austin blues, but the more intriguing element is a Marvin Gaye and Isley Brothers vibe that draws the listener into the track's somber message on love. Beyond this diamond in the rough, there's little to no replay value on *Stiff*.

STIFF
Genre: Indie/Southern Rock
Tracks: 9
Rating: 4/10

Taken individually, the majority of tracks on *Stiff* are actually quite fun. Bluesy riffs are riddled throughout almost every song, and with their simple and straightforward messages, White Denim is able to draw in listeners on a track-by-track basis. However, as a whole, these tracks blend into one simplistic experience, making it a forgettable rendition of the stereotypical southern rock sound.

FREE SPEECH
WHO NEEDS IT

Featuring Kevin D. Williamson
of the National Review Institute

Wednesday, March 30th, 7 p.m.
University of Texas at Austin
Mary E. Gearing Hall (GEA), Room 105
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