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THE DAILY TEXAN

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RESEARCH

UT paleontologists 'unwrap' fossils

By Jack Stenglein
@thedailytexan

Every day is like Christmas for paleontologists at the Jackson School of Geosciences' Texas Vertebrate Paleontology Collections.

Matthew Brown, Director of Museum Operations at the fossil collection, said scientists have been working for decades to open numerous fossil "presents," which contain specimens collected by the Works Progress Administration in the late 1930s and early 1940s.

Workers for the administration collected more than 10,000 fossils around the time of the Great Depression. According to Brown, some of the fossils were stored individually, while others were wrapped in plaster fossil jackets. Brown said that opening up one jacket can take months, and due to the manpower needed, approximately 40 of these jackets still remain unopened.

"It's a fairly resource-intensive process to open the jackets and clean them," Brown said. "We only do it if there is a strong research interest. Recently, there has been a resurgence. We have a couple of groups working on the various materials."

Each jacket contains a whole block of earth dug out in the field, so opening one is a process of excavation in which the researchers remove the rock from around the bones layer by layer. As well as examining the bones, they also study the dirt removed under microscopes to get a better picture of the environment at the time.

"When things die and get buried, it's not like Jurassic Park," Brown said. "We're not using a brush to uncover a beautiful, complete skeleton laid out on a flat plane. It's usually a jumble or a pile — all kind of animals take bits and pieces [before it is buried]. We want to try and tell as much of the story of that animal's life and death as we can."

About two months ago, researchers discovered a new species of reptile from the Triassic Period, called Triopticus primus, hidden in the collection. According to Brown, the fossil had originally been misidentified, but more a

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Illustration by Madi Beavers | Daily Texan Staff

NATIONAL

Austin protests Dakota Access Pipeline

By Jenan Taha & Sarah Philips
@thedailytexan

Protesters marched past the Texas State Capitol Tuesday evening, chanting, "We will stand. We will fight. Water is a human right," in an effort to call out companies such as Chase Bank and Wells Fargo for their investment with the Dakota Access Pipeline in Standing Rock, North Dakota.

Native Americans and supporters have been protesting in North Dakota since July 2016, saying the new oil pipeline will run through sacred Native American land and contaminate the drinking water for the Standing Rock Sioux tribe that live in the Standing Rock Reservation. Since the protests began, more than 470 people have been arrested, according to the Associated Press.

The Austin protest was organized through Facebook, with close to 6,000 people invited to the event and over 1,000

DAPL page 2

Angel Ulloa | Daily Texan Staff

Protesters gathered at the Capitol building to protest the Dakota Access Pipeline in Standing Rock. Jesse Schaffer, of Austin Texas Earth Justice, organized the protest, but didn't expect such a high turnout.

SG

BLM gains support of SG in new resolution

By Paul Cobler
@PaulCobler

Student Government wants black students at UT to know they stand with them by passing a resolution Tuesday night in support of the Black Lives Matter movement, said Santiago Rosales, SG Speaker of the Assembly.

Assembly Resolution 13, "In Support of Black Students and Black Lives Matter Movement," was passed by the SG assembly with 27 votes in favor of the resolution and three abstaining.

"Student Government wants to say it believes in its black students, and it wants to support them, and it wants policy changes to be made to support them," Rosales said. "I think a big reason it was introduced in the first place dealt with this message of affirmation and of support for our black students here at UT."

The resolution was originally introduced to parallel the My Black UT Matters event put on by Students for Equity and Diversity on Nov. 3, but the fast-track to vote on the bill was unsuccessful at the SG Nov. 1 assembly meeting, delaying its passage.

"The message, with or without the event, is something that's important to come from Student Government," Rosales said.

Jasmine Barnes, director of Students for Equity and Diversity, spoke in support of the resolution and said its passage was

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POLICE

UTPD leads shooter response training

By Michelle Zhang
@michelle05155

A lecture led by UTPD officers Tuesday night at Hogg Memorial Auditorium prepared students on how to handle an active shooter crisis through videos and discussions.

UTPD officer William Pieper began the presentation by mentioning the history of active shooter incidents happening at UT. The latest one took place on campus in 2010, in which the active shooter killed himself in the end.

"As you can see, it can happen, it has happened, and there's a chance that it can happen again," Pieper said.

The lecture continued with the screening of a 20-minute video, "When Lightning Strikes," which advocated for people to be more aware of their surroundings and spoke about some practical skills necessary to survive an active shooter crisis.

Key instructions include a series of tips: get out, hide out, spread out, keep out, call out, take out and help out.

Most attendees raised their hands when Pieper asked how many of them learned what a gunshot sounded like in movies or TV shows.

However, a gunshot sound can be distinctly different from those artificial ones, Pieper said.

"It's important for you to know what [a gunshot] sounds like, because in an active shooter situation, you need to act in seconds," Pieper said, pointing out that people tend to downplay suspicious sounds and pretend nothing threatening has happened around them.

Pieper said students should report any behavioral concerns they see, pay attention to the location of emergency exits and be aware of any tactics that can be used to stop an active shooter.

"If you can't hide out [in an active shooter situation], take them out," Pieper said, raising a fire extinguisher to demonstrate how people can stop an active gunman using whatever they can find around them as weapons.

Alpha Delta Pi and Alpha Epsilon Phi co-hosted the event, because they think having a plan of action in mind under a life-threatening crisis is crucial for everyone, said Plan II junior Megan Silver, vice president of programming for AEPhi.

Silver said learning self-defense skills is important, especially on a campus such

UTPD page 3

CAMPUS

Students, strategists discuss future of GOP

By Van Nguyen
@nguyen_van

About 100 students and LBJ Future Forum members interested in public policy packed a room nearly to capacity Tuesday evening to hear GOP strategists and commentators discuss president-elect Donald Trump's win and the future of the Republican Party moving forward.

The LBJ Future Forum, a bipartisan public policy organization, hosted The Future of the GOP in the Frank C. Erwin Jr. Atrium in the Lyndon B. Johnson Library with Emily Ramshaw, Texas Tribune editor-in-chief, who moderated the panel.

Ramshaw began by saying she didn't think the discussion would be about a GOP party during a Trump presidency when she was preparing for the panel.

"As we were planning this conversation, I really thought we were going to be taking a different approach," Ramshaw said. "Me and everyone else got it wrong. I thought we'd be having a conversation about how the GOP was able to rebuild

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CONTACT US

Main Telephone
(512) 471-4591

Editor-in-Chief
Alexander Chase
(512) 232-2212
editor@dailytexanonline.com

Managing Editor
Jackie Wang
(512) 232-2217
managingeditor@
dailytexanonline.com

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

Sports Office
sports@dailytexanonline.com

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

Multimedia Office
(512) 471-8618
multimedia@
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(512) 471-1865
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TOMORROW'S WEATHER

High 84 Low 60

"Tickled" a horror-suspense documentary about tickling

FRAMES FEATURED PHOTO thedailytexan

Chase Karacostas | Daily Texan Staff

Samson Bowers walks his friend's dog Abilene next to the Nike Run Plus booth on Speedway Tuesday evening. Bowers was attending the booth with his dad.

FOSSILS

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"It's a really bizarre animal," Brown said. "No one has really seen the likes of it before, especially from this time period. We hope to find out more information about this little guy. We have a tantalizing bit of skull, but we really want to see more of the skeleton."

The remaining jackets are being unpacked by a few professional fossil preparators, as well as undergraduates in the Jackson School. While some jackets have detailed field notes, others contain unknown fossils, leading Brown to describe the project as a perpetual Christmas. As more of these jackets are opened, Brown said he is hopeful of finding more information about the prehistoric ecosystem of Texas as a whole.

Steve May, a research associate at the Jackson School, is studying fossils from Beeville to determine what the fauna of South Texas looked like 10-12 million years ago. According to May, people might be surprised to learn about the creatures that roamed prehistoric Beeville.

"There were five or six different kinds of horses, ranging from large-dog size to standard, modern-day sized," May said. "There was a whole series of camels. It's pretty interesting. There were also elephant-like animals with very large upper tusks. When you think of Beeville, you don't usually think of elephant creatures running around."

Although May said the large creatures are interesting, he is more focused on studying smaller mammals such as rodents. He said he has discovered a rabbit and a rodent similar to a small pocket gopher.

"I think that's an important part of the fauna," May said. "Rodents tell us about the environment, especially since some groups evolve quickly. It's a part of the fauna that was lacking in terms of our understanding, and I'm personally interested in it."

Brown added that many others have studied the fossils and will keep doing so.

"The process of studying will continue forever into the future," Brown said. "That's one of our missions here: to make sure these things are available to the public in perpetuity. They've been here for 80 years, and we want to keep it that way for another 80 years. A facility like this serves as an archive of the history of life."

DAPL

continues from page 1

saying they would attend. Social work graduate student Sheryl Lo said she attended the march because it is important to speak up for marginalized groups around the country.

"A lot of people have this idea about America having certain values, and if we're not able to put that to practice, what does that mean?" Lo said. "I think it's important that we do regard other people in other parts of the country as a part of our community, and make sure everybody does get represented in the United States."

Social work graduate student Stephanie Thorne is in a social justice class with Lo and said she considers the pipeline to be a question of social justice.

"There's a lot of problems with taking away this land to use for a pipeline that will cause environmental problems," Thorne said. "The reason why the pipeline is planned to go through Standing Rock is because other places did not want to have this pipeline going through their living places."

ABC News reported in October that Energy Transfer, the Texas-based company building the pipeline, stopped building in September as a result of a joint statement from the Department of Justice, the Department of the Army and the Department of the Interior requesting they voluntarily cease construction near Lake Oahe until further assessments could be made. On Tuesday, Energy Transfer filed a request asking to resume construction of the pipeline.

Morton Payne, international relations, global studies and French sophomore, said it's vital that people show their opposition to corporations, such as Chase Bank and Wells Fargo, who ignore Native American rights.

"There have been a lot of people trying to use their power and money to get around people's rights and get around the environment, and I think it's important to show that we're not for this," Payne said. "It's important to stand together and show your support for other groups, because otherwise, if only the people who are directly affected by it care, there's not going to be a huge impact."

Cema Tork, international relations and global studies and German senior, said that, having studied Native American history in class, she stands behind their continuing struggle.

"It's sad to see that still today, so many rights are being taken away from Native Americans," Tork said. "It's really helpful to have people who aren't Native Americans standing with them, so that there can be a greater impact."

Journalism junior Maleeha Syed said people must support the Native Americans at Standing Rock, particularly after marginalized groups were affected by the election of President-elect Donald Trump.

"When we see everything that's happening in light of last week with the election, a lot of groups are feeling affected … it's important to show that just because the government is trying to take away your rights, they won't be taken away," Syed said. "We'll stand with you."

PANEL

continues from page 1

itself after this very historical election, and it's turned out to be a very historic election for a very different reason."

Jason Johnson, chief strategist for former presidential candidate Ted Cruz, said he didn't think he'd be seeing Donald Trump as president-elect when he was first approached to talk on the panel.

Even before the election results came in, Johnson said there were already people concerned about the future of the GOP and said some of these concerns still remain.

"There are just some more unique challenges we may face going forward," Johnson said. "So much will be decided in 12 months starting in January."

Temo Muniz, chairman of the Federation of Hispanic Republicans, said the Republican Party needs to pay attention to the Hispanic vote and votes from urban areas going forward.

The LBJ Future Forum members met in front of an audience Tuesday evening to discuss the future of the Republican Party after Donald Trump won the presidential election.

Angel Ulloa
Daily Texan Staff

"I lived in California, and as a proud Republican, I'm worried that we're coming across the same trends in Texas," Muniz said.

When asked about what they learned from Texan voter trends, Deirdre Delisi, former adviser to former presidential candidate Rick Perry, said the Democratic Party could come back in 2018 and have a chance at winning the gubernatorial race.

Delisi said the loss of nearly every urban county vote in the presidential election worries her.

"It makes me concerned that if the Democratic Party ever managed to find a candidate who could be someone credible, they'll have a fighting chance in 2018, depending on what happens in Washington and also what happens in Austin," Delisi said. "We're [entering] a difficult legislative session, and if you have two bad situations going on at once, there could be a shot."

BLM

continues from page 1

important for students at UT regardless of the delay.

"It's essential because these issues aren't going away," Barnes said. "These issues have been happening for hundreds of years, and they're not going away unless we take a stance and say the University, if not the country, supports black lives … Passing legislation is an affirmation of that by Student Government. It is also encouragement for students by showing that their governing bodies care about them."

Despite his status as a Hispanic student, Rosales said supporting black students at UT is just as important to him and people of his ethnicity who he represents.

"Different marginalized groups are tied together by different forms of marginalization," Rosales said. "I think it's important for Latinx students, both here and across the state, to show their support for black students, because black rights and the Civil Rights Movement led by Dr. [Martin Luther King, Jr] created a lot of benefits for the Latinx community. I think that sense of allyship is what helps us move forward."

Julia Barber, College of Pharmacy representative, was one of the three representatives who abstained from the vote, saying her college council she represents didn't support the resolution in a supermajority.

"I polled our council, and I had like a 60, 40 split," Barber said. "I voted based on that, and it doesn't represent my actual opinion about it."

THE DAILY TEXAN

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(512) 471-8590 I advertise@texasstudentmedia.com

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STUDENT GOVERNMENT

SG votes against disbanding Young Conservatives

By Paul Colber
@PaulCobler

Student Government voted by a wide margin Tuesday night against disbanding the Young Conservatives of Texas for its affirmative action bake sale, with many representatives citing the organization's First Amendment right to hold the event.

Assembly Resolution 15, in support of disbanding Young Conservatives of Texas, failed with 26 representatives voting against, four voting in favor and two abstaining from the vote.

Ashley Choi, University-wide representative for SG and one of the authors of the resolution, said those in support wanted SG to send a message to the student body that racism would not be tolerated.

"It's legal to practice and exercise the right of freedom of speech," Choi said. "It was never about legality. We never approached this in terms of legality, but we just wanted the University and the student body to protect those who were directly harmed by the bake sale."

Those who voted in favor of the resolution were Choi, Priya Suri, College of Liberal Arts representative; Faith Carter, Cockrell School of Engineering representative; and Alex Wagner, College of Natural Sciences.

During the debate portion for the resolution, 13 different SG members stood representing the side dissenting the passage of the AR 15. Several of those dissenting condemned YCT for the bake sale and asked for the authors of the resolution to amend it to a strong condemnation of YCT, rather than calling for the total disbandment of the group.

"The reason why I said this was non-negotiable is because this incident is not an isolated incident," Choi said. "They have been condemned, they have been criticized and they have been denounced multiple times by both the University and the student body … We want to punish the source of this which is systematic racism and xenophobia and that's why we aren't willing to negotiate it."

YCT Communications Director Allison Peregory said SG made the right decision by upholding freedom of speech principles.

"YCT-UT is pleased to see AR15 fail by such a large margin," Peregory said in a text. "It is great to see so many students that, while they may not all agree with our conservative principles, understand the fundamental importance of freedom of speech on university campuses."

Computer science freshman Vignesh Chilecampalli, who is not an SG member but spoke against the passage of the resolution, said he thought there needed to be more tangible evidence of racism before drastic action like banning YCT could be taken.

"In order to basically constitute actual racism, they should have openly said that they believe certain races are more valuable and some races are less," Chilecampalli said. "They were just trying to parody affirmative action."

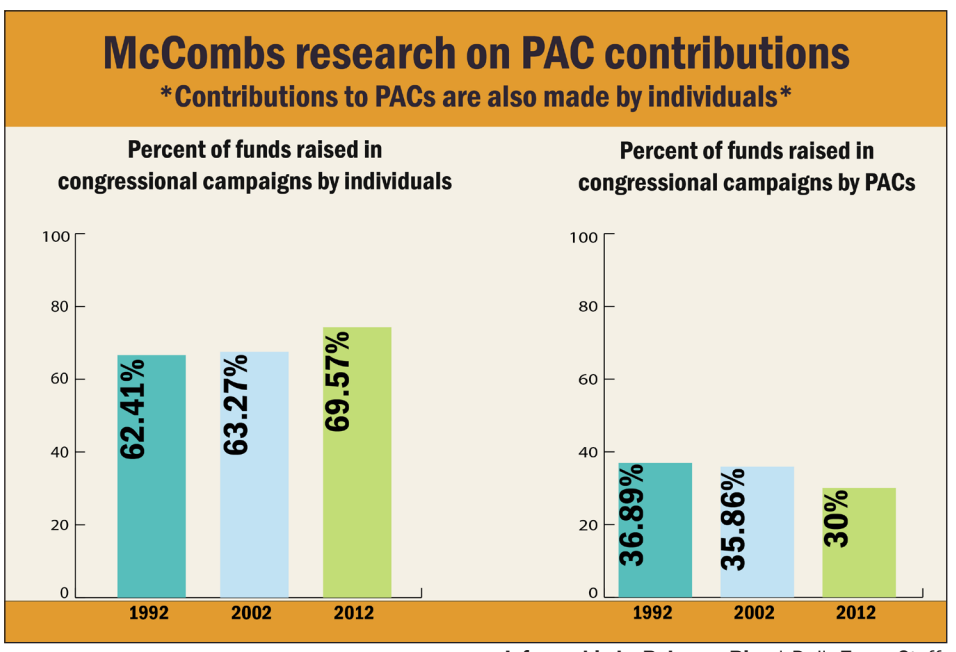
YCT member Saurabh Sharma also spoke against the passage of the resolution, saying the bake sale was simply satire to create awareness of problems with affirmative action.

"I believe Student Government is a legitimate authority, but passing this legislation would be counterproductive to that," Sharma said. "Coddling into resolution that we're a racist organization would be a blow to the principles [SG] was founded on of freedom, liberty and justice for all."

University-wide representative Ashley Choi speaks to the Student Government General Assembly in support of A.R. 15, a resolution to request that the university disband the Young Conservatives of Texas (YCT). AR 15 was introduced to the Student Government Assembly in reaction to YCT's anti-affirmative action bake sale earlier this semester.

Chase Karacostas
Daily Texan Staff

RESEARCH



Infographic by Rebecca Rios | Daily Texan Staff

McCombs professors present new campaign finance research

By Burhanuddin Calcuttawala
@thisisfordtex

Individuals donate more to political campaigns than political action committees do, according to research from McCombs professors Brian Richter and Timothy Werner.

PACs are organizations that can raise money to be donated to federal political campaigns. According to federal campaign finance law, individuals may make donations to PACs in addition to the $2700 limit on individual donations to federal campaigns, with individual donations accounting for 70 percent of funds raised in congressional elections from 1992 to 2012. Richter and Werner conducted research about funds raised in congressional elections that appeared in a textbook, "Interest Group Politics."

In 2006, 30.54 percent of campaign contributions in congressional elections came from PACs. Of the that 30 percent, 50 percent came from corporate PACs, 23 percent from labor PACs and 27 percent from ideological PACs, according to the professors' research. Richter said campaign finance research does not demonstrate a direct correlation between donations to campaigns and election outcomes.

"The idea that campaign contributions buy elections is very hard to support empirically with rigorous statistics," Richter said.

Despite that fact, Werner said it is true that individuals can buy access to politicians.

"You might not sway their vote, but you'll have the ability to meet with them," Werner said. "There is a relationship between how much they care about an issue and how much action they're willing to take and campaign contributions."

Richter said a common misconception is that corporations give directly to politicians.

"Firms can't make campaign contributions to federal politics in the U.S.," Richter said. "That's been illegal since [the Tillman Act of 1907]. A political action committee that has a company's name on it is not money that the company earned, it is money that is made up from individuals who have an association with the company, so it's legally distinct."

Richter also said money in electoral politics is far too intricate to generalize.

"Things like caps [on contributions] are designed in theory to limit the amount of money; in practice, they probably make transparency more difficult than anything else," Richter said.

Alex Ohrn, a business administration graduate student, who has never donated to a political campaign, said she prefers to donate her money to charities rather than to campaigns.

"The first thing I think is, 'What a terrible waste of resources,'" Ohrn said. "It's astronomical amounts of money that are spent to do nothing more than get a particular person who represents certain special interests elected."

RESEARCH

Imaging study could improve cancer treatment predictions

By Meraal Hakeem
@meraal_hakeem

UT has commenced a two-year clinical study to test advanced imaging methods that predict early on which breast cancer patients would respond better to treatment.

The study will help identify which breast cancer patients will be able to achieve a complete pathological response to therapy used to shrink tumors. The study itself aims to give a quantitative account of biological responses to treatment and indicate whether the treatment will work for particular patients without painful biopsies or slower response time.

UT has partnered with Seton Healthcare Family, Texas Oncology and Austin Radiological Association. The study is funded by the National Institutes of Health's National Cancer Institute and the Cancer Prevention and Research Institute of Texas.

"The ability to accurately predict this outcome early in the course of therapy would provide a tool for optimizing treatment on the individual patient basis," said Tom Yankeelov, vice president for Research in the Department of Medicine, Dell Medical School. "We are using a set of advanced MRI techniques that we, and other groups, have pioneered over the last several years in the academic research setting."

Sandra Kumar, a health and society freshman, said it's important to focus on cancer treatment holistically.

"You need to know whether a patient actually even responds to treatment otherwise all that chemotherapy, radiation therapy or hormone therapy just boils down to nothing," Kumar said.

The partnership's goal is to take the advanced imaging methods of the study out of the lab and clinically apply them in a real-world setting to aid the public. The researchers are currently attempting to recruit patients to participate in the clinical trial all while striving to apply their methods to community providers in areas with the most patients seeking treatment.

"To the best of my knowledge, this is the first time an academic research group has partnered with community physicians to bring advanced imaging methods into the community setting to test their ability to predict the response of breast tumors to therapy," Yankeelov said. "Most such studies are executed in academic research settings, including our own previous work, which involves patients coming to the academic research setting for special procedures."

> "The ability to accurately predict this outcome early in the course of therapy would provide a tool for optimizing treatment on the individual patient basis."
>
> —Tom Yankeelov, Dell Medical School

The study also places great emphasis on Dell Medical School Dean Clay Johnston's vision of partnering with the community, according to Yankeelov. Psychology freshman Sonia Patel agrees with this emphasis.

"The fact that the study places so much focus on connecting with the community and helping those who really need the new imaging methods just makes it more innovative in my opinion," Patel said.

UTPD

continues from page 1

as UT that recently implemented concealed carry.

"If you are in an emergency situation and don't have that skill set as a student, it really could be the difference between [life and death]," Silver said. "Law enforcement officers can't be everywhere all the time, so having this kind of safety skills is really good to protect yourself."

After the presentation, students asked questions about solutions in different scenarios and what to do if they see a firearm that is not properly concealed on campus. Personal alarms were given away as rewards in the interacting session.

Psychology freshman Hayley Sureck said the active shooter scenarios presented were scary to think about, but after attending this lecture, she felt more confident about herself when facing these situations.

"I think that the whole aspect of spreading out, not huddling up [is useful], I didn't think about that," Sureck said. "Everyone should call 911, to avoid the bystander effect at a very prominent situation like that."

COLUMN

Students should use alternative realtor service

By Mehraz Rahman
Daily Texan Columnist
@MehrazR

> Students will always need somewhere to live. Due to UT's growing population and limited land, supply doesn't necessarily meet the growing demand, which drives up prices.

Illustration by Victoria Smith | Daily Texan Staff

Early in the fall semester, panic rises surrounding the dilemma of housing. Students scramble to sign leases for the next school year before they have even attacked their first round of midterms. In order to avoid this sense of panic, students must become more aware of the various housing options so that they may choose which is the most affordable for them instead of making irrational choices based on the status quo.

A West Campus realtor who prefered to remain anonymous says this panic exists because the demand for apartments is there. "There are so many students," he said. "Before, pre-leasing didn't start until March. All the big companies start doing a big push for marketing earlier, and it's created a panic."

The anonymous broker, who has dabbled in both campus and regular Austin realty, said that apartments and condominiums set prices according to square footage, amenities and proximity to campus. "Some people pay a premium to have a shorter walk," he said.

Additionally, properties that are available near campus are not listed on the Multiple Listing Service that all licensed Austin realtors have access to. All of the sources I have interviewed maintain that this withholding of listings is not to enable price gouging. It's because "it's an unnecessary cost per year to have access to the MLS when they don't have to," according to Alex Bartram, a recent UT graduate who now owns MoveGroove Realty and works for RealSavvy, a software company that provides brokers with deals for residential sales.

According to Bartram, the main reasons for the competitive market are, "One, we're in the hottest city in the U.S. for real estate. Two, there's a lot of traffic. That increases demand, because less people want to drive to campus. Three, there's the information problem. They can use a real estate agent that can save them money. There's not a lot of online platforms where they can see good deals, compare things and see what fits best for them."

An emerging student housing startup, LoftSmart, is trying to bridge this communication gap. Co-founded by UT alumnus Sundeep Kumar, the company has created a platform that allows students to search for properties and sign leases, reducing the hassle that comes with self-searching or using a realtor.

The platform works with some of the big property management companies near campus. Properties such as Rio West, Quarters on Campus, The Block, Regents West, Texan26 and many more can be found on the site.

While brokers are a helpful resource for those who want to review privately-owned condominium options, Kumar said, "Properties pay the brokers for bringing students to the property and having the students sign the lease … The issue with the broker model is that a lot of students want to cut out the middleman and deal with the property managers directly from the convenience of their couch."

"We created a way to connect two sides of a broken marketplace, allowing students to discover and sign an apartment with the sort of trust, transparency and convenience of a platform like AirBnB," Kumar said.

Students will always need somewhere to live. Due to UT's growing population and limited land, supply doesn't necessarily meet the growing demand, which drives up prices. To prevent unnecessary price inflation by panic-signing leases outside their price range, students must become more aware of all the housing options available.

Rahman is a Plan II and business sophomore from Austin.

COLUMN

West Campus realty practices cost students extra

By Olivia Griffin
Daily Texan Columnist
@OGlikesdogs

Joshua Guerra | Daily Texan Staff

In wake of the President-elect Donald Trump winning the election, UT Austin students organize a protest around the city of Austin on Nov. 10th, 2016.

In the past week, my Facebook feed has been filled with non-stop rants and events for protests throughout the Austin area: "Banish the electoral college!" "Stop racism!" "Encourage electors to vote for an alternative Republican president!" "Ted Cruz is (still) the Zodiac Killer!"

The problem is that, as a generation, our attention span in regard to social issues is far too short. During the first week of school, everyone was focused on Cocks Not Glocks. Now, save for a few dedicated core members, students have largely forgotten the movement and what it stands for. I've not seen a single student carry a dildo after about the third week of school. Additionally, we sometimes are vague in our demands, particularly in the anti-Trump protests. Motivations are rare, and lawmakers cannot reply to protests that have no clear and highly specific — and achievable — demand.

This inattentiveness allows lawmakers to be more extreme in the laws they pass. If lawmakers know that students will lose their focus and stop protesting a few weeks after the law takes effect, then what incentive is there for lawmakers to respect the demands of protesters?

In combination with this challenge of maintaining focus is the emergence of "slacktivism," which is composed of actions performed via the Internet in support of a political or social cause but regarded as requiring little time or involvement, such as signing an online petition or joining a group on Facebook.

This slacktivism has eroded our ability to enact real change. Slacktivism quells our thirst for social justice through pseudo-activism that has minimal impacts. For example, Change.org petitions have minimal impact on actual policy outcomes. Most likely, a Supreme Court decision or Congressional legislation to abolish the electoral college will take place with or without a Change.org petition — instead, activists should take a more focused stance, such as letter-writing campaigns to representatives, protesting in front of the U.S. Capitol (for an extended period of time) or connecting with lobbying firms to network with representatives and pressure for more change.

That's not to say that social media and effective activism are mutually exclusive. On the contrary, social media is a key strategy to activism in the 21st century. Yet social media activism without coordinated and directed efforts will prove ineffective.

For example, social media is a great way to build brand recognition of important charities, and can encourage others to donate. Yet sharing and "liking" a charity's post — another form of slacktivism — has come under fire in recent times. UNICEF Sweden recently launched an advertising campaign stating "Like us on Facebook and we will vaccinate zero children against polio." In the U.S., Vice columnist Brian Moylan had a strong opinion against the popular online movement in support of gay marriage where users changed their profile picture. "Right now, gay activism needs all the help it can get," Moylan said. "But do you know what's not helping? Changing your Facebook profile to a silly red-and-pink equal sign."

In the wake of the election, many feel furious, and have every right to protest and make their opinions heard. Yet, in doing so, protesters should be careful to avoid "psuedo-activism" that becomes words without action to back it up, focus on the issue over long periods of time or clear demands. My greatest fear for the anti-Trump protests is that they will quickly be abandoned and Trump's behavior will eventually go unchecked and unprotested because the initial wave of demonstrations died down.

Griffin is a Plan II and government sophomore from Dallas.

COLUMN

Americans must elect women into political office

By Janhavi Nemawarkar
Daily Texan Senior Columnist
@janhavin97

> It's important to have women in the room when discussing equal pay and people with uteruses in the room when making decisions on reproductive rights.

We knew that racism and misogyny have always festered under the surface of American society. It doesn't make the result of this election any less devastating.

The result — including the revelation that 53 percent of white women voted for a man accused of sexual assault by multiple women and bragged about sexual assault on tape — is a stinging confirmation of how much further we have to go. Moving forward, we can take time to mourn and reflect, but then we must work to elect women into office.

We don't elect women to office for the sake of being women — we elect them because it plays a role in empowering young women. It bolsters their career ambitions and academic achievement and subverts the stereotypes that threaten their career success. Furthermore, minority legislators tend to better represent the concerns of their groups.

It's important to have women in the room when discussing equal pay and people with uteruses in the room when making decisions on reproductive rights.

Last week saw the limited number of women who represent Americans in the U.S Congress diversify — a record 38 women of color were elected to the House. Two particular women elected to the Senate became notable firsts: Catherine Cortez Masto (D-Nevada) is the first Latina woman, and Kamala Harris (D-California) is the first Indian American woman and second African American woman. But still, only 20 percent of the U.S Congress is made up of women. In Texas, around 80 percent of the seats in the Legislature are still controlled by men.

Laurie Felker Jones, the director of communications for Annie's List, a statewide organization that works to support and elect progressive women into office, noted that in order to make progress we must remain politically active and move forward.

"Democracy works for those who show up," Jones said. "So keep showing up. I'm a believer, and even for me the election last week was hard. I am included in the people who were really disappointed with the election results and had a hard time getting out of bed the next day, and I had to keep telling people to keep believing and moving forward. But I am going to continue to work. We have new champions."

Jones went on to cite the positive results for progressive women in the elections across Texas, with Democratic women gaining five seats in the Texas House. On the local level, Zena Stephens in Jefferson County was elected as the first black female sheriff in Texas, and Anna Harris Bennett was elected as the tax assessor-collector for Harris County. As tax assessor, she is now responsible for voter registration in the most populous county in Texas.

"Here in Texas, where we have invested cycle after cycle, we've seen results," Jones said, citing the work that organizations such as Annie's List do to support candidates, including voter registration efforts and informing constituents about officials' platforms and voting records. "If you want to see change in the causes you care deeply about, you need to get involved."

If we want to elect women into office, especially those who champion progressive causes, we have to put in the work with campaigns and groups that help them become viable candidates. We have to keep showing up.

Nemawarkar is a Plan II sophomore from Austin.

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MOVIE REVIEW | 'THE EDGE OF SEVENTEEN'

'The Edge of Seventeen' sparks laughs, nostalgia

By Grace Speas
@gracespeas

Audiences of the teen angst film "The Edge of Seventeen" will find themselves chuckling at the sarcastic quips of Nadine Byrd (Hailee Steinfeld). They'll also be silently screaming at the protagonist to get her life back in control.

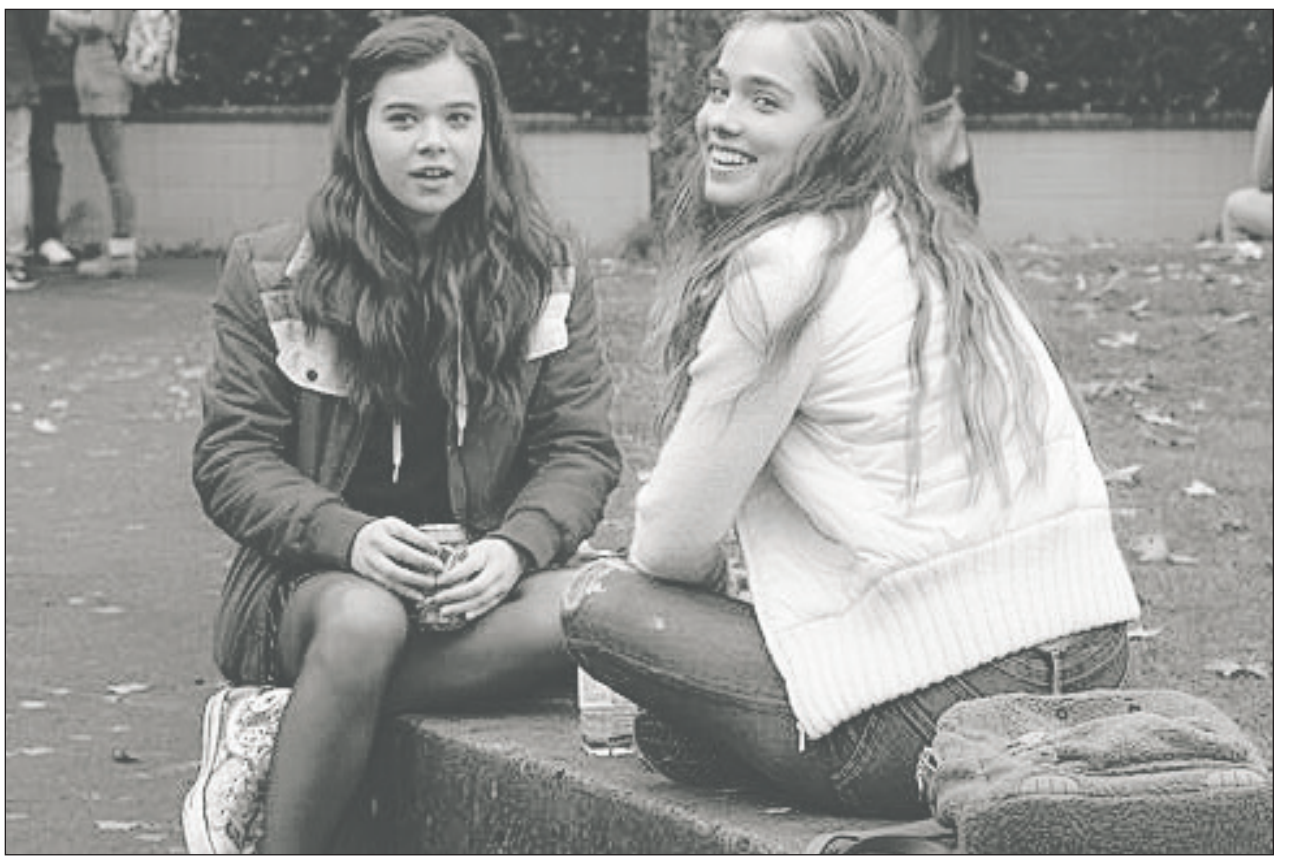
While many films portray high school characters who feel and appear invisible, "Seventeen" follows a female adolescent who remains just as self-centered as she is self-doubting. Nadine's teacher Mr. Bruner (Woody Harrelson) is a blunt yet reassuring safety valve who keeps Nadine from combusting altogether under the weight of her experience at Lakewood High School. Director Kelly Fremon Craig employs a narration by Nadine in the beginning of the film, but that voice soon fades away as the plotline takes over. The story jumps time periods, traveling back in Nadine's life to explain the root of her social anxiety.

Woody Harrelson's supporting role forces Nadine to face her problem of being unable to connect with others. His character starts out as sarcastic as Nadine's, but later takes on more depth when Nadine learns he has a family and is not the fellow loner she imagined him to be. The humor in their conversations lands gloriously as they breach uncomfortable topics like sex and his near baldness.

Nadine's classmates and peers don't accept her, heightening her self-consciousness, which stems from jealousy towards her older brother, Darian (Blake Jenner). Darian developed confidence and physical perfection in his high school years and has maintained the favor of their mother from a young age. While the film revolves around Nadine's quirkiness as she continually misunderstands her brother, it also does an effective job of conveying two sources of her happiness: her best friend and her father.

Nadine's father's gentle character is established in a scene where the two discuss her middle school troubles while grabbing burgers. Later, her father experiences a heart attack while driving and loses control of their car. While traumas in most teen films seem fabricated and unnaturally placed, this is not the case in "Seventeen." It soon becomes clear that Nadine's demons will wreak havoc on herself and the family when they go unchecked by her father's voice of reason.

Oddly dressed and equally introverted, Nadine's childhood best friend Krista (Haley Lu Richardson) blossoms in high school and takes up with Nadine's brother one night. But when Nadine finds the two in his bedroom the next morning, she childishly demands Krista choose between them, causing a series of escapades which only lead Nadine further into disillusionment.



Courtesy of STX Entertainment

"The Edge of Seventeen" tells the story of Nadine Byrd (Hailee Steinfeld), a self-conscious high school student, and how she overcomes her teen angst.

Witty and sardonic, Craig's film is an honest depiction of teenage existence in a modern world. Reminiscent of angsty flicks such as "The Breakfast Club," "Seventeen" is presented to the viewer without polished moments or perfectly timed quotes, which contributes to the film's main message that life is messy and unplanned.

Viewers older than the millennial cutoff will enjoy classic and universal moments of teenage angst, such as when Erwin Kim (Hayden Szeto), who has an obvious crush on Nadine, watches her chase after the bad boy. But beyond awkward interactions and relatable messages of sacrifice for family, "Seventeen" leaves an older audience in the dust. Instead, the film prioritizes those watching the movie who are around the age of its title.

Steinfeld's performance is convincing as she personifies how it feels to be cheated by the cruelties of high school romance and the genetic lottery won by her brother. Despite this success, "The Edge of Seventeen" gears itself more toward millennials who can laugh at the seemingly hopeless Nadine, someone who may resemble a piece of themselves.

"THE EDGE OF SEVENTEEN"
Rating: R
Runtime: 102 minutes
Score: ★★★½

LONGHORNS

continues from page 8

We can help that dialogue."

To keep up with each other's busy schedules, Garcia and Gonzales use synchronized calendars to keep track of each other's commitments. They do their best to set aside time to spend with one another.

"After we're done for the day, we turn our laptops off," Garcia said. "Even if it's just sitting there watching the TV together, we try to turn those things off."

Between learning to balance their academic lives, raising two children and maintaining their relationship, both professors feel they have learned valuable lessons about life.

"All intimate relationships need to have a kind of patience with each other and with the kids," Gonzales said. "If you aren't already naturally patient, you need to become patient. There's going to be friction at times, but you have to make it work because you want to make it work."

CAMO

continues from page 8

sending love too, you are not just sending items, you are sending appreciation [and] all of these other values."

When participants arrive at the event, they will receive a box that includes the name and a few facts about the soldier they are supporting. Additionally, they will receive a list of which items belong in the box according to the needs of the military member. The most common elements will include energy shots, protein shakes, soap, magazines and snacks like beef jerky.

Aside from reaching 1,000 troops, Smirnis said Caring for Camo's larger goal is to engage the campus and Austin community and act as a reminder of unification.

"A lot of it is morale and bringing people together to remind ourselves that there are people fighting for our freedoms right now and that it comes at a cost," Smirnis said.

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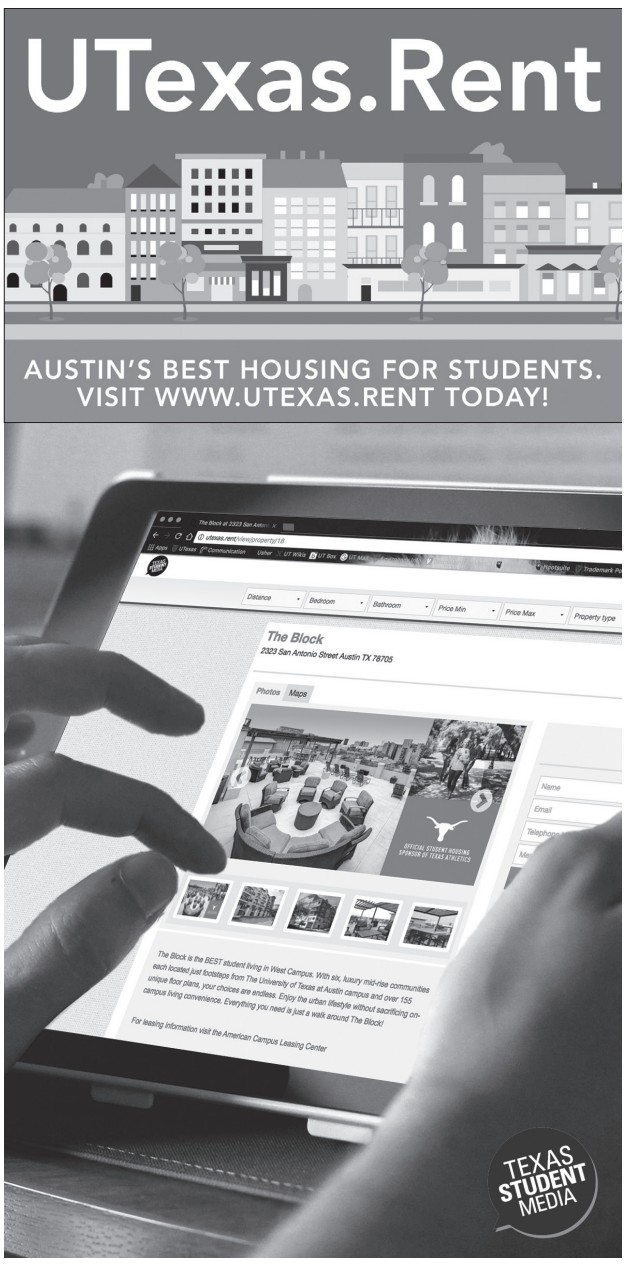

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FOOTBALL

Domingue finds mixed success with Texas

By Tyler Horka
@TexasTy95

Daulton Venglar | Daily Texan Staff

Senior kicker Trent Domingue has experienced highs and lows as Texas' kicker this season. Through the mixed success, Domingue has been able to lean on his teammates for support and their confidence in him hasn't wavered.

Trent Domingue lined up from the right hash marks. He took three steps back and two to the left — just as the senior kicker always does when lining up to boot the ball.

But this kick weighed heavier on Domingue's right foot than any other he had previously attempted in a burnt orange jersey. When the ball sailed end over end through the uprights, Domingue had just nailed a 39-yard attempt to beat then-No. 8 Baylor.

He bumped fists with senior tight end Caleb Bluiett, stepped back and leaped into the air to fake a last-second jump-shot.

"As a kicker, you're not supposed to think 'Don't miss,'" Domingue said. "But I was thinking, 'Don't miss.' But I was confident enough in practice it made it almost easy because we do it so much."

Unfortunately for Domingue, his heroics against the Bears don't epitomize the rest of his season. It hasn't come easy for the transfer from LSU, and his struggles are well documented.

His woes started with a blocked extra point against Notre Dame in the season opener. The Fighting Irish returned the block for two points, ultimately sending the game to overtime.

He's missed three other extra points this season — all in the same contest. Oklahoma State blocked three point after attempts on Oct. 1, and the Cowboys returned one of them to the house for two points, too.

This past weekend against West Virginia, Domingue had another field goal blocked. Through all his troubles, senior offensive lineman Connor Williams said Domingue isn't doubting himself.

"I mean, that's his job," Williams said. "That's his job, to kick it. So I think he has confidence in what he does."

It'd be easy for any kicker in the nation to lose trust in himself if they were to endure the type of season Domingue has. He's only made one of four attempts from beyond 40 yards this year.

He missed a crucial attempt against Kansas State in the fourth quarter of a tight contest on the road. A true kick would have given the Longhorns enough points to force overtime as Texas went on to lose by three.

Still, his teammates have his back. Unlike Domingue, sophomore punter Michael Dickson is enjoying a favorable season booting the ball. His punting average of 47.8 yards per kick places him No. 3 in the nation in that category. Dickson said Domingue works hard and it will show during the Longhorns' final two matchups of the season.

"He's very calm about it," Dickson said. "We all trust in him. He has great belief in himself… Not everyone's perfect, and we all basically motivate each other to work hard. So he's fine."

Texas sits at 5–5 on the year, needing one win to become bowl eligible for the second time during the three-year Strong era. Every point matters on the Longhorns' quest for the postseason, and they just might need another clutch kick from Domingue to get them there.

"Even through all the misses and blocks [Strong] had my back and he's told me how confident he is in me and same with everybody else," Domingue said. "They've always had confidence in me and it's really helped me get through whatever."

VOLLEYBALL

Joshua Guerra | Daily Texan Staff

Junior libero Cat McCoy said Texas has the best fans in the country, but Gregory Gym hasn't been full lately. The Longhorns hope for big crowds in their final regular season home games.

Texas looks for student support in final home conference games

By Leah Vann
@Vanntastic_Leah

After a road loss to Iowa State, the No. 7 Longhorns return to Gregory Gym for their last three regular season matches.

But head coach Jerritt Elliott isn't sure if Texas' home court is living up to its potential.

"We need a better student following," Elliott said. "I don't think they're showing up based on us having 50,000 students very well. This team deserves it."

The Longhorns hope the big crowds pour in as they start their string of home contests with a matchup against Texas Tech on Wednesday at 7 p.m. Texas can still earn the ability to host some postseason matchups with a strong close to the season — it all depends on where the Longhorns are seeded in the NCAA Tournament.

And the team likes its chances playing on its home floor.

"We play really well at home," junior libero Cat McCoy said. "It puts us in a good position to win out."

Gregory Gym has an average attendance of over 1,500 spectators per match. Since 1982, the Longhorns have won 82 percent of their matches at home, with their sole loss on the 40 Acres this season coming to No. 3 Wisconsin.

"Our fan support is the best in the country," McCoy said. "I've noticed we haven't gotten as much support this year."

The players say Gregory Gym's energy makes a difference. The Longhorns' only losses in the Big 12 have been on the road, against Kansas and Iowa State. Texas swept Baylor last week, whereas it dropped one set in Waco. The Longhorns also dropped sets to Texas Tech on the road, resulting in a five-set win over the Red Raiders in Lubbock. This time, the Longhorns look for a sweep at home.

Texas Tech (10–18, 0-13 Big 12) enters the matchup looking for its first conference victory. Senior middle blocker Lauren Douglass leads Tech with the Big 12's No. 4 hitting percentage. In their last meeting, the Longhorns held Douglass to 14 kills with a strong blocking scheme. Texas racked up 84 total digs in the contest, with three players reaching double-digits.

Texas hopes to boost its momentum starting with a strong win against the Red Raiders. And if fans come out in the droves the team hopes for, the Longhorns are confident they will make the experience worth it.

> "We need a better student following," Elliott said. "I don't think they're showing up based on us having 50,000 students very well. This team deserves it.
>
> —Jerritt Elliott, Head coach

"When I was a recruit here, they brought us to games," sophomore middle blocker Morgan Johnson said. "You really don't understand how fun they are until you're in the gym and you feel how loud it is and the energy and how fun it really is in here. If you can tell someone that and bring them in here, they would never miss a volleyball game."

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

Longhorns chase first win in home opener

By Sydney Rubin
@sydneyrrubin

The No. 8 Longhorns look to bounce back Wednesday following a stagnant defensive performance in their season-opening loss to No. 11 Stanford Monday night.

Texas faces a quick turnaround as it hosts Houston Baptist on Wednesday at 11 a.m. at the Frank Erwin Center for its home debut.

The matchup marks the first-ever meeting between the two programs and just the third time the Huskies have played against a ranked opponent in the last 10 seasons. Houston Baptist enters the matchup coming off a 118-43 blowout loss to No. 2 Baylor in its season opener on Friday in Waco.

Following the Longhorns' 71-59 loss to the Cardinals, head coach Karen Aston said some of her preseason concerns became reality in Palo Alto, California, especially on the defensive end.

"Some of the things that I saw tonight were really what I've been afraid of," Aston said. "We haven't executed things in practice the way that we need to."

Texas allowed a break-out performance from Stanford guard Brittany McPhee, who scored a career-high 28 points and exploited the Longhorn defense from start to finish. Aston said her team needs to be more disciplined on the court and go back to the drawing board to make necessary changes in practice.

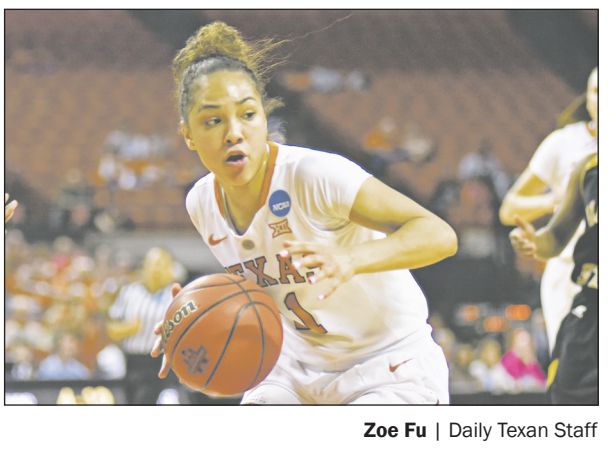
"We went through a stretch [against Stanford] where we fouled too much," Aston said. "We went through a stretch where we weren't helping each other defensively … It looked actually a little similar to some stuff I've been seeing in practice that has really concerned me."

Junior guards Brooke McCarty and Ariel Atkins were the only two Texas players to score in double figures against the Cardinal, notching 20 and 14 points, respectively.

Texas' Wednesday morning matchup against Houston Baptist is part of Texas Athletics' annual 40 Acres Field Trip experience, where kids from elementary and middle schools across Central Texas come to campus to experience college athletics with free admission to the game.

"It's always fun to play in this [field trip] game," Aston said in a statement.

The Longhorns have four more ranked opponents on their non-conference schedule, including an Elite Eight rematch against No. 3 Connecticut on Dec. 4. They hope to work out some of their kinks against Houston Baptist before their marquee matchups in the next few weeks.



Zoe Fu | Daily Texan Staff

Junior guard Brooke McCarty and the Longhorns take on Houston Baptist on Wednesday in their home opener.

SIDELINE

NCAAM

OREGON	49
BAYLOR	66
KENTUCKY	69
MICHIGAN ST.	48

TODAY IN HISTORY

1962

Wilt Chamberlain, playing for the San Francisco Warriors, scores 73 points in a victory over the New York Knicks.

SPORTS BRIEFLY

Foreman talks Heisman chances

Junior running back D'Onta Foreman has burst onto the Heisman scene with his breakout campaign this season.

The junior running back has run wild through opposing defenses, ranking No. 1 in the nation in yards per game and No. 9 in rushing touchdowns. And to top it off, Foreman reached over 100 yards on the ground for the 11th straight week in Saturday's loss to West Virginia, tying Earl Campbell's school record.

Foreman has let his teammates do the talking for most of the season regarding the nation's top prize. But he addressed the idea on Tuesday, telling the media he deserves to be sent to New York for the Heisman ceremony on Dec. 10.

"I feel like I have the numbers to be there," Foreman said. "I'm just as good as those guys they have up there right now."

While Louisville quarterback Lamar Jackson has distinguished himself as the outright favorite to win the award, Foreman isn't far behind on watch lists.

Foreman's statistics this year compare favorably to last season's Heisman winner Derrick Henry, who took home the prize while playing for national champion Alabama. The Texas City product has over 350 yards more than Henry through his first nine games last year, and he will get a chance to pile on the yards against 1–9 Kansas on Saturday.

Despite Foreman's Heisman hopes, offensive coordinator Sterlin Gilbert said he will not go out of his way to pad rushing stats. Gilbert will continue to coach Texas' remaining two games based on the scoreboard, not Foreman's stat sheet.

"[Foreman] would rather have the win than the numbers," Gilbert said. "If we're fortunate enough for him to have those kind of numbers that's just icing on the cake."

But Foreman may not have to rely on his offensive coordinator through the rest of the year. If he continues to put up similar numbers to what he's done over the past nine games, Foreman may be well on his way to New York at the end of the season.

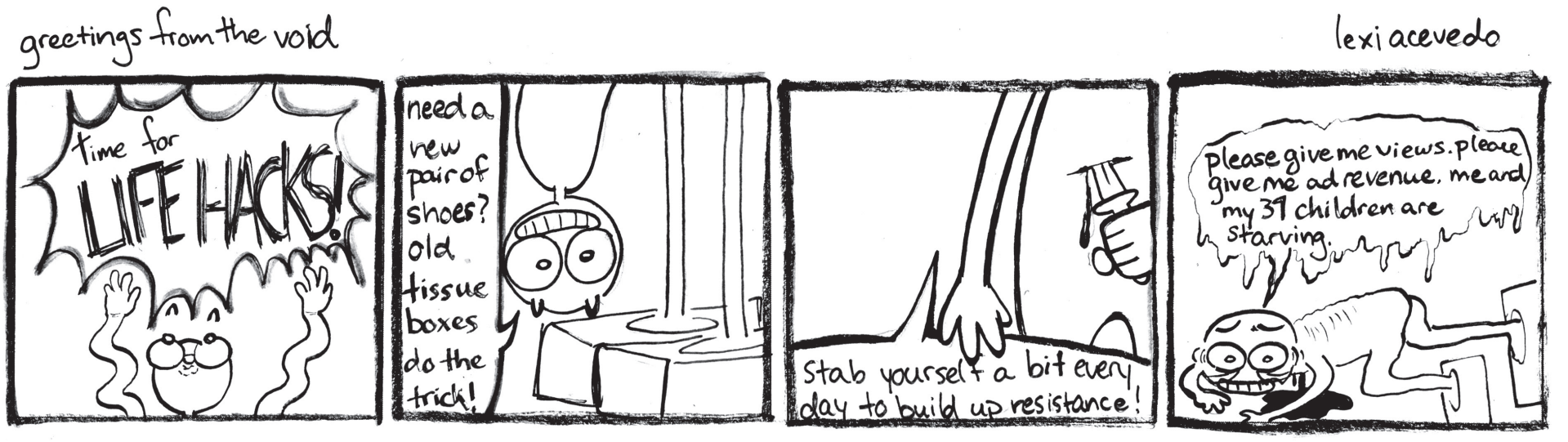
"I'm excited for the people that do have me in the race," Foreman said. "For the people that don't, that just adds to my fuel."

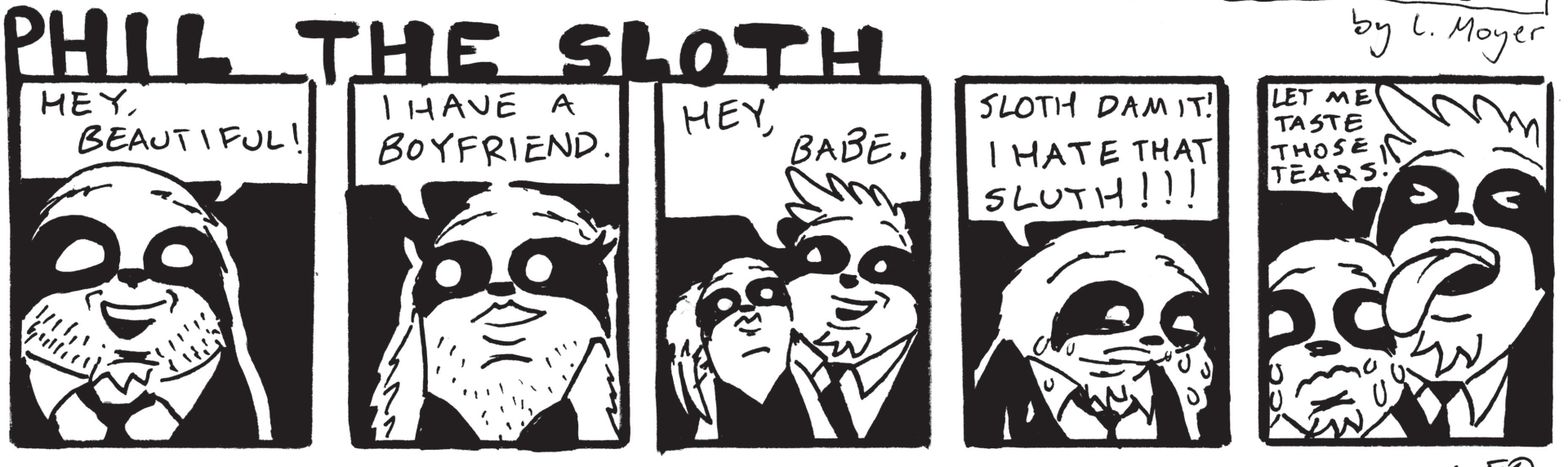
—Michael Shapiro

DAILY EGGS AND COMICS

peep

Don't count your comics before they hatch.





Today's solution will appear here next issue

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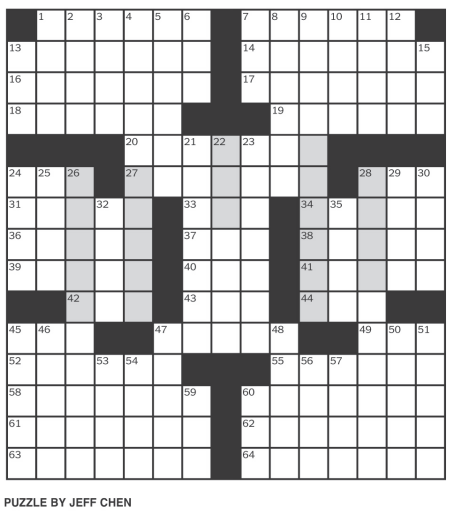
The New York Times Crossword

Edited by Will Shortz No. 1012



PUZZLE BY JEFF CHEN

ACROSS

1 Ladies' night attendee
7 "It's all good"
13 Light-colored brew
14 Condo building employees
16 Canada's first province alphabetically
17 Prepare, as a musical score
18 Lack of supply
19 Join
20 Possible response to "Can you pick up the kids from school?"
24 Like Beethoven's Symphony No. 6
27 What an Ironman has to battle
28 Place
31 Mazda roadster
33 "___ out walkin' after midnight" (Patsy Cline lyric)
34 Boxer Ali
36 Model in 10 straight Sports Illustrated swimsuit editions, familiarly
37 Summer setting in Seattle: Abbr.
38 Get tats
39 Big name in precision cutting
40 ___ capita
41 Asparagus spears, e.g.
42 "___ durn tootin'!"
43 Luau souvenir
44 Bottom of bell bottoms
45 Like a zoot-suiter
47 A Marx brother
49 Possessive often containing a mistaken apostrophe
52 Color of the Dodge Charger on "The Dukes of Hazzard"
55 Land created by C. S. Lewis
58 Surgical asst.
60 Insects on a 17-year cycle
61 Exciting romantic prospect
62 Ones defrauding museums
63 Weaponry storehouse
64 Vitamin brand with an instructive name

DOWN

1 High wind
2 Actress Jessica
3 Satyr's stare
4 Item in a swag bag
5 Gibson who was the first person of color to win a tennis Grand Slam event
6 Bucolic locale
7 Journalist Wells
8 Title "Dr." in an H. G. Wells story
9 Southern side dish made with kernels off the cob
10 Spoken test
11 Marriott competitor
12 Last parts drawn in hangman
13 Crib
15 Something cut down during March Madness
21 Go completely dotty?
22 Push oneself to the max
23 Bout of swellheadedness
24 Where to see pictures on the big screen?
25 Ship of 1492
26 Pretentiously high-class
28 Thinking similarly
29 Many a college applicant's interviewer, for short
30 Flaps one's gums
32 Spot for un chapeau
35 Pay to play
45 Hullabaloo
46 Wild throw, e.g.
47 Keebler saltine brand
48 Sometimes-caramelized food
50 Part of Wonder Woman's outfit
51 Impertinent
53 Like Venus in "The Birth of Venus"
54 Nickname for Mom's mom
56 A lot of land, maybe
57 Bit of Bollywood music
59 Jellied delicacy
60 Exec. money manager

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE

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

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THEATER & DANCE

Students discover passion for swing dancing

By Lisette Oler
@LisetteOler

Cole Weaver, co-president of the Texas Swing Dance Society, warms up the swing dance team with a social dancing game at the beginning of their practice on Nov. 8. He and his co-founder of the group John Jennings first learned swing dancing at UT by practicing together.

Chase Karacostas Daily Texan Staff

Spreading his arms as if he were flying, Cole Weaver executes a move he calls "the bird," for the fifth time. It's one of 100 sequences he learned in one month this summer.

Weaver, an economics junior and co-president of the Texas Swing Dance Society, started swing dancing in high school and will participate in the Austin Lindy Exchange, an opportunity for swing dancers from around the world to show off their talent while dancing to live bands. The event, hosted by Austin Swing Syndicate, will be held Nov. 17-20 at The Texas Federation of Women's Clubs.

Weaver became interested in swing dancing while he and his father were on a transnational hitchhiking trip in 2013. While traveling, the pair met an aerial swing dancer who showed them swing dancing videos, piquing Weaver's interest and inspiring him to learn himself.

The woman he met in St. Louis recommended he learn Lindy hop, an eight-count dance with swing outs, because it has a high energy and is popular among students. When he returned home, Weaver tried a few classes, but was disappointed to find there weren't many other dancers his age.

"It was more young professional-aged people, in their late 20s [and] early 30s," Weaver said. "That was a little discouraging, and might have been one of the reasons I didn't go back for a while. The only people my age were the people I ended up bringing, but the dancing was still fun."

When he began classes at UT in 2014, Weaver found Texas Ballroom's "Free Week," where students can try different dances for free. He gravitated to dances like Lindy hop and East Coast swing. By the end of the semester, Weaver started dancing at The Texas Federation of Women's Clubs, or the "Fed," which has hosted weekly swing dance nights since 1999.

It was during this time that Weaver met John Jennings, a mechanical engineering junior and his current TSDS co-president. Like Weaver, Jennings joined Texas Ballroom to swing and ended up at the Fed to get his fill.

"You just start going all of the time," Jennings said. "You may have homework due on Friday, but if you miss going to the Fed, then you're going to feel terrible and not want to do the homework. You might as well dance for three hours and then stay up late."

Over lunch one day, Weaver and Jennings discussed a podcast about deliberate practice, or the belief that with time and dedication anyone can become an expert in any given field. Both wanted to be the best swing dancer at UT and put the theory to the test. In one month, the two learned 100 new swing dance moves with each other as partners, something they called the "Lindy 100 Challenge."

"We don't remember a lot of those moves, but we can have the feel of them," Jennings said. "It gave us a really good idea of what was out there and it made it a lot easier to make up moves."

Both dancers now have partners and are preparing to compete at Lindyfest, a competition in Houston next year. Weaver and Jennings have found their passion in swing dance, but know it wouldn't have been possible without practice.

"People tend to think that you have to be passionate about something in order to do it," Weaver said. "Everyone starts with an interest and you're not passionate about it until you've lived with it and grown with it. The key is to pick an interest and decide to get good at it."

DATING

Briana Vargas | Daily Texan Staff

CMAS director John Gonzales and English professor Patricia Garcia found love at a book release party and bonded over their love for literature. They consider each other intellectual equals and the balance in their relationship helps them grow personally and professionally.

Literature professors find each other through the written word

By Mae Hamilton
@thedailytexan

English professor Patricia Garcia wasn't expecting to be introduced to the love of her life at a book release party. As the night progressed, she began to realize this was the kind of person she had been looking for all of her life.

"We have a lot of similar growing up experiences," Garcia said. "But the fates just didn't happen to pull us together until that particular moment."

Garcia and her husband John Gonzales, associate professor and CMAS director John Gonzales, met at a book release party in 2004. They immediately began to bond over their deep love for their South Texas roots and their love of literature, specifically, for the work of the great bard — Shakespeare. They were hooked. Subsequently, they married in 2006, but it took a lot of effort to make it work. Garcia taught at a university in San Antonio, making a daily commute while pregnant with their daughter at the time.

"I look back and think 'Wow, that was dumb,' even though I had a good job" Garcia said. "But, he had this sort of idea of the type of life that he wanted to have here in Austin and how I could be part of that."

Experiencing the beauty of the arts and literature with one another were the little moments that kept them going.

"We have a mutual love for the aesthetic," Gonzales said. "The beautiful, as it were. That's one of the reasons why we're literature professors. Whether it's food or style or what have you, I think that is something we really do share. I love that about her."

Garcia said she values having someone to process artistic and literary material with.

"We love going to plays, lectures," Garcia said. "To go see and talk about how they put things together and take our training as literary scholars to look at what sort of narratives [there are] is awesome."

Garcia and Gonzales consider themselves to be intellectual equals and said they appreciate the way they are able to bounce project ideas off one another. When they first met, Gonzales was working on his first big book project and Garcia was finishing up her dissertation.

"That book feels very much like the book of our relationship," Garcia said. "I can look at the last parts of my dissertation and I can say, 'Oh, we talked about this on this walk.' It became a way to pull our research and our working lives together."

Currently, they are editing a European journal on Latino literature together.

"It's part of our intellectual project," Gonzales said. "It's one way for European audiences to consider an analogous situation to what they're currently experiencing with the current influx of immigrants to Europe. It's a parallel experience that I think they're hoping to gain some kind of understanding.

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WORLD

Caring for Camo helps bring love, care to overseas troops

By Acacia Coronado
@acaciatree18

While their families opened Christmas presents at home, a deployed troop took a picture celebrating abroad wearing the Santa hats they had just received. When another troop felt hopeless, they boosted their morale by looking at the drawing sent to them by a little girl who wanted to thank them for keeping her safe.

On Nov. 17 from 6-8 p.m. at Scholz Garden, Caring for Camo will host their fourth annual "1,000 Reasons to Care" event. Volunteers will come together with the purpose of making 1,000 troops smile by sending them a slice of home through care packages.

"The people that we are sending these packages to are in very high stress environments," said graduate business student Erik Honore, Caring for Camo's Finance Director. "Obviously being deployed is not easy for the troops or their families, so just being able to provide something from home to ease their minds and boost morale is why what we do is important."

UT alumni Jacob Guss, Alan Dukor and Andy Smith founded Caring for Camo in December 2012 in order to support currently deployed troops by sending care packages and letters to them through packing parties. This Thursday, Caring for Camo's event will be their largest packing party of the year.

"These packages reach them right before Christmas — that is one of the most difficult times [to be] away from your family," said journalism and advertising senior Reanna Zuniga, Marketing Director for Caring for Camo. "We want to make sure that they know we are thinking about them and appreciate all that they are doing, making the sacrifice of being away from their family over the holidays."

Social work sophomore Amelia Fuentes said she feels proud, honored and grateful when she sees volunteers coming together in support of the troops and their sacrifices. Her father recently retired from serving in the military after undergoing several reconstructive surgeries for facial injuries suffered in Iraq.

"I feel like it is just a great way to give back and be a part of something that helps others," Fuentes said. "[During the surgeries], I remember feeling kind of hopeless because there is nothing I could do except be there and support him, but with joining this group and with the packing party that is coming up I feel like it is a great way to commemorate everything that happened."

Caring for Camo will send 250 boxes to groups of four or more members of the military. Caring for Camo's president Mary Smirnis, government and international relations and global studies senior, said they try to send care packages to soldiers who don't receive as much support to remind them people are thinking of them too.

"It is nice to share experiences with people and to share this unifying experience," Zuniga said. "You are

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Jenan Taha | Daily Texan Staff

Erik Honore, left, Mary Smirnis, middle, and Reanna Zuniga, right, are the chief organizers of Caring For Camo, a student group that sends care packages to U.S. troops. The group will host an event this Thursday to pack boxes that will reach the troops by Christmas.