

**NEWS PAGE 2** 





# THE DAILY TEXAN

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**WEST CAMPUS** 

Off-campus

steady climb

By Christina Breitbeil

@christinabreit

As students rush to sign

leases on apartments in West

Campus for the coming year,

apartment complexes are

rolling out their updated

Average rent for Class A

Properties — larger, newer

complexes — in West Cam-

pus has been increasing by 6 to 7 percent each year for the past 10 years, according to Richie Gill, real estate broker at LonghornLeasing.com. Gill

estimated the value of West Campus property to be \$1.64 per square foot in 2010, \$1.75 in 2011, \$1.87 in 2012, \$2.00 in 2013, and \$2.00 in 2014.

Major competitors in the

West Campus housing market including 2400 Nueces,

The Quarters on Campus, 26 West and Twenty Two 15 have

recently released their new

prices. 2400 Nueces, 26 West

and The Quarters on Campus

have raised their prices for the

2014-15 year. 2400 Nueces

raised the monthly per per-

son price of its two bedroom/

two bathroom from \$968 to

\$1,009-\$1,019, its three bed-

room/three bathroom from

\$849 to \$899-\$909 and its

four bedroom/four bathroom

The Quarters declined to

release its pricing for the cur-

rent year. According to a rep-

resentative at Quarters, the partment complex justifies its

price raise with a market sur-

vey that compares the prices of

all apartments in West Cam-

pus and assesses the value of

**RENT** page 3

from \$796 to \$839-\$849.

prices for 2014-2015.

rent prices

continue

**SYSTEM** 

# **Burgdorf: Clear intent to rid Powers**

eath).

**By Amanda Voeller** @amandaevoeller

A former vice chancellor of the UT System was one of

many witnesses Wednesday to testify that UT System Regent Wallace Hall has been targetting President William Powers Jr. "I think there is a clear in-

tent to get rid of Bill Powers," said Barry Burgdorf, former UT System vice chancellor and general counsel, at the second day of hearings exploring the possible impeachment of Hall.

Hall might be impeached because he supposedly placed a burden on the University through the filing of multiple broad open records requests with the University. The records request total more than 800,000 pages worth of documents, which some legislators have called a "witch hunt" to oust Powers.

The relationship between the UT System Board of Regents and University administrators has grown tense in the past few years, including in November 2012, when former UT Law School Dean

Lawrence Sager received a \$500,000 forgivable loan from the UT Law School Foundation. The loan, which resulted in Sager's removal as dean, prompted a review, which Burgdorf wrote prior to stepping down.

When some regents were unsatisified with the report, the board voted for an additional external investigation by the Attorney General's office, after an original decision to hire an independent investigator proved unpopular

**HALL** page 2



Erica Reed / Daily Texan Staff

Barry Burgdorf gives testimony regarding the possible impeachment of Regent Wallace Hall at the House Select Committee on Transparency in State Agency Operations hearing Wednesday.

# High-flying felines bring fun to Austin

By Elizabeth Williams @bellzabeth

The Amazing Acro-Cats are a traveling troupe of cats that perform acrobatic tricks and play instruments. Fur real.

Samantha Martin is the Chief Human in charge of training these talented felines. The Acro-Cats started out as the Acro-Rats. Martin trained a cage full of domesticated rats to perform various tricks but soon switched over to cats.

"I quickly discovered I couldn't make a living on just rats, so I expanded my troupe and ended up with an assortment of exotic animals," Martin said. "I ended up doing educational programs for a long time, but my true love — the reason I trained animals from when I was 10 years old — was because I wanted to train animals for film and television."

The acro-cat troupe travels for performances around the country in a bus with

CATS page 5



Charlie Pearce / Daily Texan Staff

Samantha Martin is the Chief Human in charge of The Amazing Acro-Cats. Martin says a little training can go a long way in building a relationship with a cat.

space in terms of dollars per square foot, which deems the

**THROWBACK** 

## Party politics remain central to shutdown



Editor's note: This is the fifth in a weekly series in which The Daily Texan looks back at something it covered in its 113-year-old history.

> By Sara Reinsch @sreinsch91

One of the biggest competitions in party politics surfaces near the end of each fiscal year.

In a game of high-stakes political chicken, Republicans and Democrats stand

firm in backing federal budget positions they may or may not support. This year, party leaders raised the stakes, pushing the federal government into its second-

longest shutdown to date. November 1981 saw the first-ever federal government shutdown under former President Ronald Reagan. The shutdown — a result of disagreements between Reagan, the House and the Senate regarding funding cuts to social programs and foreign aid — furloughed an estimated 400,000 federal government employees for half a day, according to two United Press International articles printed in The Daily Texan on Nov. 23 and 24. The Nov. 24 article called Reagan's

THROWBACK page 2

#### **FOOTBALL**

# Government can't shut down Horns

By Garrett Callahan @CallahanGarrett

The state of Texas is quite popular for writing up petitions and referendums for secession from the United States, but for the sake of the Longhorns, it might just want to hope for more government shutdowns instead.

Texas has a 12-2 record when playing games the week of or immediately following a government shutdown. With Congress just recently voting to reopen the government after a 17day shutdown, that statistic should make the Longhorns feel better going into their road game against TCU this week, right?

"I'll have to look that up," head coach Mack Brown said with a chuckle. "I didn't know how we had done that.

But no, it doesn't make me feel any better."

Even if Texas doesn't know it, history is on its side. But that doesn't help the Longhorns prepare for their fourth conference game of the season.

"It sounds good. It's a nice little stat," senior cornerback Carrington Byndom said. "But that doesn't regard us. We're just playing football."

But technically, if there are more shutdowns, that means more wins for Texas, right?

"I guess if they keep using the debt ceiling as a bargaining chip then [shutdowns] will keep coming up more often so that's not bad for us," senior offensive guard Mason Walters said with a smile on his face.

So far this season, the government shutdown has been good luck for



Illustration by Aaron Rodriguez / Daily Texan Staff

Texas. The Longhorns are 2-0 since the halt started on Oct. 1, beating Iowa State and upsetting No. 12 Oklahoma.

The positive effect of the government shutdowns for Texas football has been fleeting in the long run, though. The Longhorns are 58-25-1 for the rest

of the season after there's been a government closure and have made it to 10 bowl games. However, their record in those bowl games is 3-7.

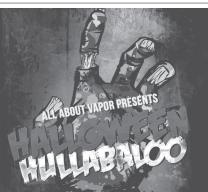
Four of those appearances have been in the Bowl Classic. Cotton

**SHUTDOWN** page 6

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#### TOMORROW'S WEATHER



She ate both the restraunts. They're both gone.

# FRAMES FEATURED PHOTO



Charlie Pearce / Daily Texan Staff

Jo Hell performs at Bourbon Grill on Wednesday night.

**CAMPUS** 

# UT hosts Magnum photographer

**By Cinnamon Cornell** @CinnamonCornell

Magnum photographer Alec Soth, who is known for his all-American approach, presented his widely showcased photos at the inaugural Campus Conversations Lecture on Wednesday.

Steven Hoelscher, the Harry Ransom Center's academic curator of photography, said Soth's works achieve the characterization of the American culture.

"Soth was once a highly successful blogger that displays his work in an innovative way," Hoelscher said. "His works represent the community life in all its uniquely American varieties."

Soth is one of more than a hundred photographers that are part of the Magnum agency, which promote alternative mediums for photography other than magazines and combines the roles of reporter and photographer.

Soth talked about his entry into photography and how he created his photo-taking style. Soth also explained the changes occurring in photography in the digital age.

"The reason I became a photographer is I liked being alone and wandering around," Soth said. "In the digital age, people are hungry for human interaction."

Soth said his approaches in photography have changed throughout the years. His new project is focused on photographing Texas, and he explained photography he has shot across the nation, in places such as New York, Michigan and Mississippi.

"I take a different approach with each dispatch," Soth said. "The Kings of the Road inspired me in my photography."

Soth said photography allowed him to explore areas and capture what he wanted with each snap of the camera. He discussed a commission he made in Texas while photographing a young woman's parents. Soth was flown out to Texas for the commission and was able to personally connect with the family. Soth's current project consists of taking photos of cinemas throughout Texas, most of which have been transformed into modern day buildings and facilities.

"I become the photographer, producer and distributor," Soth said. "Selfdistribution will be large in Magnum's future."



Aaron Berecka / Daily Texan Staff

Magnum photographer Alec Soth speaks at the Belo Center for New Media on Wednesday evening as part of the Campus Conversation Lecture series.

Margaret Askey, senior graphics designer in the Office of Graduate Studies, helped organize the lecture.

"Soth talks about how magazine journalism is not the only platform for photography," Askey said.

Hoelscher said the Mag-Collection, which consists of images created between the 1930s and 2004, is now on display at the Harry Ransom Center.

"The collection displays some of the world's most iconic photos," Hoelscher said.

The lecture series is sponsored by Harry Ransom Center, the Graduate School, the College of Communications and the College of Liberal Arts.

# THE DAILY TEXAN

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#### THROWBACK

continues from page 1

quick shutdown of nonessential government services

a "dramatic gesture." Reagan signed a \$400 million temporary funding bill on Nov. 23, ending the shutdown less than 12 hours after he vetoed a \$427.9 million congressional compromise.

"Several members of Congress said approval of the three-week stopgap was as much a sign of Congress' desire to go home for Thanksgiving holiday as it was a major win for Reagan," the Nov. 24 article said.

Prior to 1980, government agencies' nonessential duties were only minimized when the president and Congress failed to agree on an aspect of the federal budget, a period known as a funding gap. But in the early '80s, Attorney General Benjamin Civiletti issued two interpretations of the 1870 Antideficiency Act — which had, up until that point, prohibited the government from spending more than was allotted in the budget. This led to the creation of government shutdowns, as the attorney general's opinions asserted that, in accordance with the act, nonessential government agencies must be suspended during funding gaps.

In the 30 years since their inception, only a few shutdowns have occurred in the U.S. — the longest and most memorable being the December 1995 to January 1996 shutdown. In November 1995, the government shut down for six days because of disagreements between former President Bill Clinton, the House and the Senate about cuts to social program funding, including education cuts.

Tensions between the two parties manifested during the shutdown, with House Speaker Newt Gingrich, a Republican, claiming that Clinton's mistreatment of him and Senate Minority Leader Bob Dole during a recent trip had contributed to the budget standoff, a Nov. 16 Daily Texan article said. Alternately, Democratic Senate Minority Leader Tom Daschle blamed Gingrich.

"He wants chaos," Daschle said of Gingrich in the article. "He wants collapse of the government, and now he's got it."

The November 1995 shutdown ended when Clinton and Congress agreed to attempt to balance the budget in seven years, continue debates about the budget and temporarily continue government agency funding in an agreement known as a continuing resolution.

The continuing resolution expired Dec. 15, and a second shutdown began — this time spanning 21 days. In January, Clinton and Congress agreed to a seven-year budget plan with modest spending cuts and tax increases. The shutdown came to a close at a cost to the Republican Party, which a majority of Americans blamed for the shutdown.

In this year's shutdown Democrats and Republicans held tight to opposing agendas, resulting in a temporary extension on the debt limit and halt on the shutdown. So while the players may change over the years, results stemming from political differences many times don't.

### HALL

continues from page 1

with the Texas Legislature. Hall's massive open records requests came in the weeks following this controversy.

Barry Burgdorf, former UT System general counsel, said Hall was displeased with the law school report Burgdorf produced because he thought it was not critical enough.

"It's my understanding that Regent Hall wanted it to be more of a look at President Powers's involvement," Burgdorf said.

In his testimony, Burgdorf said the role of the regents changed when Gene Powell became chairman in 2011.

"Chairman Powell took the view that individual regents had the right to pursue whatever they thought as best, and he did not shape or constrain that," Burgdorf said.

Burgdorf said he asked Hall about Hall's motivation for requesting so many documents, but, as the former System counselor, Burgdorf could not elaborate to the committee under attorneyclient privilege. During his testimony

Tuesday, Kevin Hegarty, UT's executive vice president and chief financial officer, said he expressed concerns at the legality of responding to Hall's multiple open records requests, but the UT System did not allow him to get outside counsel from the Attorney General's Office.

Burgdorf said when he was general counsel, he would always grant requests for outside counsel. Rep. Trey Martinez

**Chairman Powell took** the view that individual regents had the right to pursue whatever they thought as best, and he did not shape or constrain that.

> -Barry Burgdorf, former UT system general counsel

Fischer, D-San Antonio and a member of the House Select Committee on Transparency in State Agency Operations that is conducting the hearings, expressed frustrations that System general counsellor Dan Sharphorn was not there to testify.

Officials have also questioned whether Hall failed to include information about lawsuits he was involved in when applying for the regent position.

Burgdorf said if there is evidence a regent is using his office in a detrimental way, that is grounds for impeachment. During testimony Tuesday, Rep. Jim Pitts, R-Waxahachie, said he thought there was sufficient evidence to impeach Hall.

As was determined by the committee in September, Hall's attorney Allan Van Fleet would not be allowed to cross-examine witnesses during the hearings. The committee will reconvene Nov. 13 to continue discussions and hear testimony from additional witnesses.

**CAMPUS** 

# UT builds eco-friendly fountains



By Reanna Zuniga @ReannaSioux

Eco-minded students will have more hydration options around campus with 13 new installations specifically designed to refill water bottles.

The installation project, which was initiated by Student Government and Staff Council and started in early September, has taken existing water fountains and created a space to accommodate water bottles. The project will be completed next week with the last two water bottle fillers being installed in the Communications Building A.

Shannon Hanney, project planning and production control manager, said he thinks the installations will be well-received because of the student initiative behind the installation.

"Facilities that have those water fountains installed and have the monitoring feature [to track usage] have shown



his water bottle at a filler station outside of RLM on Monday afternoon. The multi-level fountain is one of 13 locations where students can refill bottles.

Van Herd fills up

Amy Zhang Daily Texan Staff

to be popular with students," Hanney said. "We're certainly glad to support it."

Hanney said Staff Council and Student Government worked together to identify the 13 water bottle filler locations. He said the project cost to date, including materials, is \$1,437, which was funded by the UT Green Fee Committee. The Green Fee account includes the \$5 fee added to every UT students' tuition during each long semester.

Collaboration between the UT Green Fee committee and Student Government resulted in an outdoor water fountain project that implemented a multi-level water fountain and water bottle filler station outside the RLM building.

Mike Debow, associate director of Project Management and Construction Services, said the fountains will help make the campus more environmentally sustainable.

"We've installed what I call the upside-down J fountain," DeBow said. "Someone can take a personally-owned water bottle and fill it up, which cuts down on trash and [disposable waste]."

Student body president Horacio Villarreal said the project was undertaken as part of an effort to have more accessible water options across campus.

"We're very excited to see the hard work of Student Government members come to fruition after the long, dedicated work that each put in," Villarreal said.

Villarreal said he hopes the water bottle fillers will influence student health and wellness.

"By providing these bottle fillers, we certainly hope that more students are utilizing these services so that we may continue to implement water bottle fillers across campus," Villarreal said.

Villarreal said there are not any plans right now to implement more fillers, but Student Government will monitor the frequency with which the fountains are being used.

"If we see a high demand, then we will certainly make a case for more water bottle fillers," Villarreal said.

**SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY** 

## Mars mission planned by professor, students

**By Trevor Heise** @heisefeist

Aerospace engineering professor Hans Mark is working with students to develop a blueprint for using current technology to visit Mars without exceeding the United States' space exploration budget.

Mark, also a former UT System chancellor, said he thinks the U.S. has an obligation to go to Mars, The group aims to show that putting humans, and not just robots, on Mars is both feasible and economic.

"The critical reason for putting people on Mars is that it's fairly easy for people to identify things like fossil rocks," Mark said. "Designing a robot to sort through and identify those debris would be even more expensive than merely sending people."

Mark, who spent 12 years working in the Pentagon, is no stranger to government delays in space exploration. Following George H.W. Bush's 1989 call to visit Mars, Mark and a group of UT researchers put together a report arguing for a more ambitious timeline to keep the Mars mission from being pushed back.

No president is going to take up something like that, so we dropped the ball," Mark said.

But recent research has renewed interest in a Mars landing. New techniques have made possible the imaging of large swaths of Mars' surface, and shown the need for further discovery.

Though skeptical of the necessity of an immediate return to Mars, Jack Holt, research



**Hans Mark** Aerospace engineering professor

professor in the Jackson School of Geosciences, said

there is much more to learn about Mars' surface. "The more we look, the more we're finding ephemeral

ice deposits on Mars' surface," Holt said. "[But] we don't know enough about these ice deposits to know if they could maintain habitats." Mark said he sees investigat-

ing the origins of life as a major motivation for a visit to Mars. "I don't think we'll find

life on Mars, but I do think we'll find signs of the origin of life," Mark said.

But Mark said he hopes the benefit of his work won't be only scientific. Stressing what he said is America's penchant for innovation, Mark argued that part of the obligation to explore Mars is ethical. Trey Curran, an aerospace

engineering freshman and student of Mark's, said he is thrilled by the prospects of working on a Mars mission.

"Going to Mars is certainly the next big step forward in space exploration and it's really invigorating to me as an aspiring aerospace engineer to have that possibility on the horizon," Curran said.

Designing a robot to sort through and identify those debris would be even more expensive than merely sending people.

> -Hans Mark, Aerospace engineering professor

continues from page 1

RENT

new prices competitive in the current market. The survey resulted in the Quarters' pricing system based on two pricing areas in West Campus, the first applies the Sterling, Cameron and Montgomery buildings valued at \$1.98 per square foot, and the second applies to the Nueces and Grayson buildings valued at \$2.07 per square foot.

Zach Garcia, real estate specialist and operator of Mr. West Campus, a local apartment locator, said the price of housing in West Campus should be declining, not rising.

"I think the prices will eventually fall, mainly because so many high rises have been added recently — Calloway, the Crest at Pearl, Axis," Garcia said. "At some point, something's got to give. We have this early rush of students signing leases in the fall, but in the spring semester the apartments will need to reassess their prices based on available occupancy."

Housing in West Campus remains significantly more

expensive than in Riverside, which requires a commute to campus. Students can find a four bedroom/four bathroom starting at \$490 at Village at Riverside, compared to \$835 at Quarters at West Campus.

21 Rio is one of the apartment complexes in West Campus that has not yet released its pricing for the coming year, though 21 Rio representative Ashley Gray said the complex under new management is considering lowering prices based on the addition of new properties in the area.

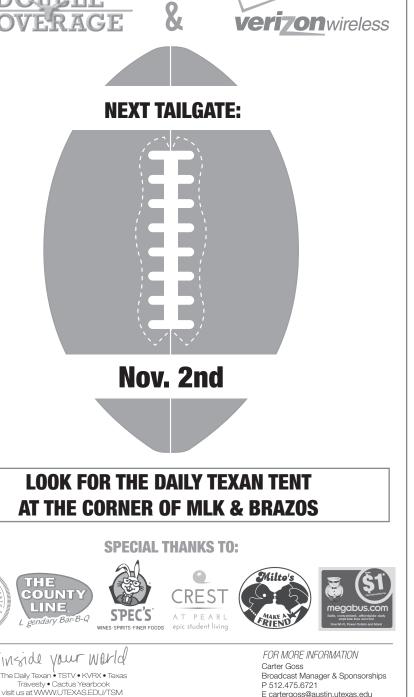
Nicole Stankus,

architecture freshman who is paying her own living costs in West Campus for the 2014-15 year, said she will deal with the high prices by attempting to work within the complex she chooses to live.

"For me it is difficult to afford West Campus, but the convenience of proximity to campus is appealing, and that is the draw for most students whether they can afford it or not," Stankus said. "Personally, I'm looking into getting a job within the building to offset the cost of rent and possibly cover it."

Division of





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FDITORIAL

## Quotes to Note: Impeachment

Editor's note: This week, the Texas House of Representatives' Select Committee on Transparency in State Agency Operations has heard public testimony concerning UT System Regent Wallace Hall's conduct vis-a-vis UT-Austin. Beginning in the fall of 2012, Hall overwhelmed UT officials with open records requests for over 120,000 documents, leading many at UT and in the state legislature to allege that he was on a "witch hunt," with the goal of creating sufficient grounds for the dismissal of UT-Austin President William Powers Jr. The Committee will attempt to determine whether, as his opponents have argued, Hall should be impeached and removed from office. On Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday the Committee heard from several witnesses, including lawyers for Hall and the UT System, Rep. Jim Pitts, R-Waxahachie one of Hall's most prominent critics — and former UT System General Counsel Barry Burgdorf, who resigned in 2013 after submitting a report on unfairly favorable loans granted to UT law school faculty. Burgdorf claims he was encouraged to leave after several regents, Hall foremost among them, wanted his report to lay more blame at Powers' feet. What follows are some of the hearings' highlights.

"It's the first real hearing, but we don't have a clue what's going on ... It's kind of like they're throwing an impeachment, but we're not really invited."

—Allan Van Fleet, lawyer for UT regent Wallace Hall on Monday

"It will be a step toward public disclosure as to what happened and description from live witnesses, as opposed to people announcing their own side of the issue ...

The committee's name is 'transparency,' and I think the public will get a chance to look and see what happened and judge for themselves, as will the committee."

—Committee special counsel Rusty Hardin

"In my opinion Mr. Hall has gone on a fishing expedition in hopes of finding something, anything with which he can use to oust President Powers. If he was truly trying to measure compliance, why would he only target one institution out of the fifteen in the University of Texas System?"

—Rep. Jim Pitts, R-Waxahachie, on Tuesday

"Are regents above the law? Transparency in government does not trump the privacy of those involved."

-Pitts on Tuesday

"We do not have to show Mr. Hall broke the law, we only have to show misconduct and abuse of power."

—Pitts on Tuesday

"I do believe that there is enough evidence to show that Mr. Hall should not be allowed to continue in his current capacity as a regent."

—Pitts on Tuesday

"The chancellor [Francisco Cigarroa] met with me and told me that Regent Hall was unhappy with me and the regents aligned with him were unhappy, they were going to make my life difficult."

—Former UT System general counsel Barry Burgdorf on Wednesday

#### HORNS UP: SG VOTES TO SUPPORT UNDOCUMENTED STUDENTS



Last night, amid a crowd of protesters, the Student Government Assembly passed by a vote of 18-9-2 a heavily-debated resolution in support of undocumented students at UT-Austin. The resolution had been twice sent to the Legislative Affairs Committee, where the portion of the resolution that called for SG's support of immigration reform was contested by

some as too overtly partisan and political to be within the purview of SG. We appreciate the perspective brought by SG Vice President Ugeo Williams during the debate, who was quoted in a Daily Texan news story on the debate as saying, "Remember, we don't make laws. They're just asking for support." In choosing to pass a resolution that did nothing so much as make undocumented students feel welcomed on this campus, SG did a good job of representing the campus community and serving students. Horns Up.

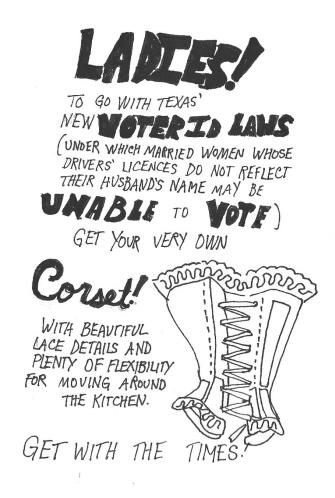
#### HORNS UP: UT AND A&M ARE TOGETHER AGAIN (IN SPACE)



Researchers from UT, in partnership with researchers from Texas A&M and other universities, have discovered the oldest and most distant galaxy yet identified. According to the researchers, observers on Earth see the galaxy as it appeared 13 billion years ago, only 700 million years after the universe itself was born. The galaxy is estimated to now be 30 billion light years away, which

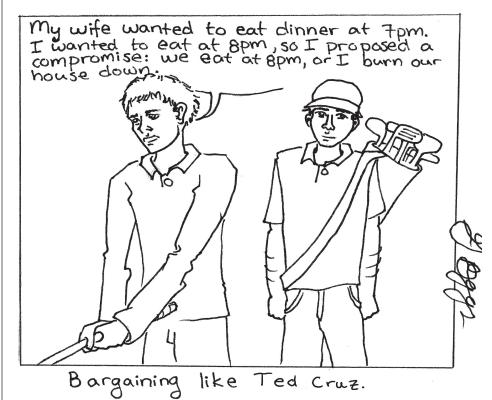
is such a difficult distance to grasp that you'll just have to take our word that it's quite a bit further than your friend's place in Far West. Hopefully the inhabitants of the galaxy came up with a better name for it than z8\_GND\_529, which is apparently the best we Earthlings could come up with. We like to imagine the scientists settling on that uninspiring moniker only after a bitter fight over whether to name it after Vince Young or Johnny Manziel.

#### GALLERY



Lauren Moore / Daily Texan Staff

#### **GALLERY**



Grace Biggs / Daily Texan Staff

#### HORNS DOWN: DAN PATRICK STILL CAN'T PLAY NICE WITH OTHERS



As the lieutenant governor's race revs up, it appears that Sen. Dan Patrick, R-Houston, is the clear leader — in contention and misinformation. The Patrick campaign released its second televised campaign ad yesterday, hot on the heels of his previous spot condemning in-state tuition for undocumented students. In the ad, Patrick touts his vote against the 2013 Texas budget,

saying, "The only thing you need to know about the lieutenant governor's current budget is every Democrat praised and voted for it." Problem is, so did almost every Republican too — the bill passed the Senate 27-4 (19 Republicans and 12 Democrats) and the House 118-29 (95 Republicans and 55 Democrats). In previous discussions, Patrick claimed that his no vote was in response to inadequate education funding. But that, too, proved problematic, when Senator Tommy Williams, R-The Woodlands, pointed out that Patrick, as chair of the Senate Education Committee, didn't actually propose or advocate for extra education funds, and even amended out one provision that would provide them himself. We know bending of the truth and being quarrelsome is kind of Patrick's schtick, but we'd rather have a politician than a shock-jock at the Lt. Gov's mic next session.

**COLUMN** 

# Stop sexualizing breast cancer

By Sonali Kalvala
Guest Columnist

October is National Breast Cancer Awareness Month, and last October, millions of dollars in donations flooded through various cancer awareness organizations for the purpose of raising public interest in the detection, treatment and research of breast cancer. Unfortunately, not all those efforts at raising awareness were necessarily productive.

In many cases, contemporary breast cancer awareness strategies instead create a problematic, overtly sexualized rhetoric of women's health. Slogans for breast cancer awareness campaigns such as "Save Second Base" and "Save the Ta-Tas" sexualize the third-leading cause of death among women. In doing so, they alienate the thousands of patients who have experienced first-hand the ruthless and exhausting consequences of breast cancer. This October, we should be careful to encourage only those awareness campaigns that avoid this dangerous and limiting trap.

Equating patients' breasts with sexuality and femininity has serious implications for the discourse on women's health. Breast cancer awareness ploys that sexualize the disease refocus awareness efforts on preserving femininity, instead of saving the lives of the actual women themselves.

Moreover, sexualizing this disease does not provide support for a woman who has had one or both of her breasts surgically removed. It does not offer sympathy to a woman whose chances of having children dwindle with every chemotherapy session. And it certainly does not provide compassion for a patient whose life is facing a potential end.

The recent online video, "Motorboat for Breast Cancer Awareness," in which men motorboat women for \$20 donations to breast cancer research, is a perfect example of an effort that unnecessarily equates this disease with sexuality and femininity. Such movements assert that the female body serves as a mere means of sexual utility. Not once do the

44

Sexualizing this disease does not provide support for a woman who has had one or both of her breasts surgically removed.

creators of the video discuss the lives of cancer victims or gauge dialogue about cancer research. Ultimately, when they attempted to donate the \$7,000 earned through the event to The Breast Cancer Research Foundation, its executive director responded by willfully refunding

Several of my college peers defended similar campaigns on the basis that the inherent humor of the campaign helps to generate awareness. Common arguments included, "It's for the greater good of cancer research. Why complain?" or "They are just spreading awareness in a creative way."

their contribution.

Despite the vast viral viewership these campaigns gain, these sources of cancer cognizance do so in a way that perpetuates the objectification of the female body and gender-based stereotypes. Diseases that affect a majority of the male population, such as prostate cancer, do not elicit nearly as much sexual rhetoric — a clear double standard.

There are several less offensive means of spotlighting Breast Cancer Awareness Month. For example, directly contributing to research-based institutions like the Breast Cancer Research Foundation eliminates these offensive middleman organizations.

Additionally, cancer campaigns that focus on the interpersonal challenges and livelihood of survivors provide a deeper understanding of what it means to be a victim of breast cancer.

"The SCAR Project: Breast Cancer is Not a Pink Ribbon" is a recent undertaking that provides hundreds of autobiographies in which breast cancer survivors describe their experiences without reinforcing unrealistic stereotypes of femininity. The SCAR Project enables public awareness through empowering images of young breast cancer survivors. The national campaign helps women reclaim their identity and power after a tortuous time in their lives.

Yes, it is laudable that breast cancer is no longer hidden in the dark, but at what cost do we value a woman's "ta-tas" over her actual life? Since the inception of National Breast Cancer Awareness Month, society has de-stigmatized the disease and women are no longer compelled to seek treatment in silence behind closed doors. This new recognition of women's health has its merits, but demands a serious reexamination of its discourse.

Kalvala is an economics and government senior from Coppell, Texas.

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#### FILM

continues from page 8

and I had to make sure I left some of those in to keep it unbiased.

#### DT: What initially drew you to film?

RA: I used to live in Los Angeles and I lived there for four years of my life. I was a commercial child, and I was on Nickelodeon and little things like that. After that, when high school came along, I stopped getting parts and we moved back to Texas. I was like, 'Well, I kind of want to work behind the camera now.' I use all of the knowledge I learned in L.A. as an actor and I put that into filmmaking.



**Photo courtesy of Austin Film Festival** 

Elena Maeurer's short film, "A Story Unfolds" screens at this year's Austin Film Festival.

#### SOLAR

continues from page 8

extreme amount of heat required to extract silicon from sand and rock, the carbon and methanol required to complete this process and the construction of factories to support solar panel production all contribute to the panels' carbon footprint. Alternatively, while CIGS materials are not at risk for overuse, the extraction and mining of these materials require the power of oil and gas technologies. As the demand for CIGS materials rises, so too does the demand for unsustainable technologies.

Currently, solar panels require a significant amount of energy to produce for their 20 to 25 years of output. While the energy debt accumulated in this process is paid back over time — typically one to four years later — this takes away from the energy profit that makes solar technology so attractive. While there isn't yet a solution for eliminating the need for all non-renewable materials in the production of solar energy, using solar technology to manufacture solar technologies may be a good first step.

The answer to the question of solar energy as a green technology is based on perception. If the question is whether solar energy is cleaner than oil and gas technologies, then the answer is a clean "yes." If instead we are asking whether solar energy is a completely sustainable solution to our energy demands, then the answer becomes a little more polluted.

#### **FESTIVAL**

continues from page 8

current students. Dy, for instance, is a 2005 graduate from the radio-televisionfilm program and said he essentially trained for his current position as an intern during his time at UT.

"I told the guy who ran the competition that I was gonna take his job one day," Dy said. "And I did. It took less than 10 years."

Another of Dy's coworkers and a fellow UT alumna, Allison Frady, had a less direct interest in working in the film industry but a surprisingly similar experience.

"I graduated from UT in 2009 with a degree in PR," Frady said. "I was an intern [with AFF] in 2008 and then officially became full-time in 2009."

As the development director of the festival, Frady is in charge of everything from corporate sponsors to event planning and reservations, but before that, she worked as Morgan's assistant. Frady said these kinds of jobs are so vaulable for students who want to work in film because "you really go through the nitty gritty everday tasks, and in the film industry, those are all over the map."

When asked if she has ever had a moment where she realized that she made it, festival director Barbara Morgan admits she's had them from the beginning.

"We were very lucky. I mean, the very first year we started we had five Academy Award-winners," Morgan said. "But I have to say, when Oliver Stone agreed to come in 1998 ... that was

something that presented itself as the difference between something that was a smaller local event and something that was national."

Morgan isn't sure what the festival will look like in another 20 years, but she hopes it will still keep the same focus on growing new writers.

"I hope we'll be very much an iteration of what [we are] today," she said. "What I'd like to see is more people who have come through our competition ... be able to break into the industry because that's what our intent always was when we started. Was to be an access point."

#### **CATS**

continues from page 1

cat face painted across the front. Martin's love for cats has made them the perfect traveling companions.

"I love waking up covered in cats," Martin said. "Especially if it's a little chilly. I think, 'Oh I'm cold. How about two more cats?"

The cat troupe began as tool for Martin to train her cats for television and film appearances.

"In the early days, the show was terrible," Martin said. "The band was always good. But with the cat portion, there was always something — 'Why isn't the cat getting out of the carrier? There's a clown and they don't like clowns, there's a balloon and they don't like balloons.' I had to figure things out."

Audiences responded far better than Martin expected, so the Amazing Acro-Cats graduated from performing in art galleries to touring theaters around the country.

"If I see that a cat is climbing a lot or jumping a lot, I'll try to come up with a trick that's based on what the cat naturally does and on what they like to do," Martin said.

While it is fun to watch these four-footed fur balls instruments play jump through hoops, the Amazing Acro-Cats show

#### Multimedia

Want to see these performing cats in action? Check out our video at

dailytexanonline.com

functions as an educational opportunity for cat training.

"Cats are trainable but most people think they're not," said Lana Fraley Rich, a local cat behavior specialist. "People are just not aware that cats are not as domesticated as dogs. Their hardwiring is still much like the big cats."

It's easy to assume all cats are capable of is being the indifferent mainstay on a BuzzFeed listicle, but Martin said that a little training could bring about a whole new animal.

"It enhances your cat's life and your relationship with your cat," Martin said. "A lot of people have an open-door policy with their cats and it's no wonder so many of them get left in shelters because there's no relationship there."

While the educational, training aspect of the show is rewarding in itself, Martin said that the best part of being chief human is simply being with her pals.

"I'm working 24/7 with animals I love," Martin said. "Most people have to leave their pets when they go to work, but I get to take my pets with me."





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### WONDERWORD

By DAVID

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spell the Wonderword. 'DOCTOR WHO' (BRITISH TV SERIES)

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Solution: 8 letters LADR Ε R I S SG L Τ I O N AΑ Τ Ε Ε (E)(M)(I)(T)DRG 0 0 S S В G  $\circ$ F Ε G D

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# TEXAS VS. WEST VIRGINIA Longhorns win 10th-straight

By Evan Berkowitz

@Evan Berkowitz

West Virginia was no trouble for Texas on Wednesday night, highlighting the wide gap between the top of the Big 12 and the bottom.

The offense powered No. 1 Texas to its 10th consecutive win with a 3-0 (25-15, 25-20, 31-29) victory in Morgantown against a Mountaineer team that failed to win a single Big 12 game last year.

Texas (14-2, 7-0 Big 12) hit the ground running as it never trailed in game one. West Virginia (16-5, 2-5 Big 12) hung around though, until an 8-2 run propelled the Longhorns into the driver's seat. The Longhorns hit a rate of .517 without committing a single hitting error in the opening stanza.

The second set, like the first, saw the Longhorns take an early lead taking advantage of Mountaineer errors. And they never looked back.

After an 11-5 lead midway through the set, the Mountaineers went on their lone run of the set. A 6-3 spurt helped them claw back into it, but the Longhorns never let the Mountaineers get to within three, and the set ended in a fitting manner with a Mountaineer service error,



Charlie Pearce / Daily Texan file photo

Senior outside hitter Bailey Webster notched a team-high 15 of the Longhorns' 48 kills in a three-set victory over West Virginia on Wednesday night. Webster leads the Longhorns with 213 kills this season.

their fifth of the match.

West Virginia took a 17-14 lead late in the third set before Texas rallied three straight points with the help of another Mountaineer service error and a block assist from freshman middle blocker Chiaka Ogbogu and junior middle blocker Khat Bell. After pushing the lead to 21-17, West Virginia fought back pushing the game to extra points. The game went point-for-point the rest of the way before junior outside hitter Haley Eckerman's kill clinched a 31-29 Texas win.

The trio of sophomore middle blocker Molly Mc-Cage and the All-American outside hitters Eckerman and Bailey Webster combined for 40 of Texas's 48 kills as Texas swung at a .384 (48-10-99) clip, its best since opening up the conference season.

West Virginia, on the other hand, struggled, hitting just .239 thanks to 19 errors, which don't even include its nine service errors.

Texas will attempt to push its Big 12 Conference win streak to eight Saturday evening at Kansas State.

#### **FOOTBALL | COLUMN**

## Success rests in Texas' ability to stop the run

By Drew Lieberman Daily Texan Columnist

@DrewLieberman

The Red River Rivalry is biggest annual challenge on Texas' schedule. The emotions are high, and there is significant pressure on the coaching staff to have its players perform well. But despite the grand stage of the weekend before, Texas has always bounced back from the effects of the Oklahoma game well during the Mack Brown era.

From 1998-2010, Texas went 13-0 immediately following the Oklahoma game and did so primarily with stout defense. The Longhorns defeated their opponents by an average score of 38-17 while holding opponents to 94.5 yards per game on the ground. Similar to the Red River Rivalry, running efficiency has been the key to these games.

Over the 13-year stretch Texas held its opponents to 3.1 yards per carry and 0.92 rushing touchdowns per contest. Overall, Texas surrendered just 4.09 yards per play.

Despite those astounding numbers, the way Texas has played after the Oklahoma contest the past two seasons has been drastically different. In 2011, the Longhorns faced Justin Blackmon-led Oklahoma State the week after OU. Despite having a defense that would finish the year among the national elite, the 2011 squad was outmatched resulting in Mack Brown's first post-Oklahoma defeat.

The 2012 Texas defense

was historically inefficient because of the failure of Manny Diaz's blitz-happy defensive system. Baylor's offense torched the Texas defense, and only six touchdowns from Joe Bergeron allowed

Texas to escape with a victory. Combining statistics from these two games, Texas' defense allowed 6.44 yards per carry, over double its average surrendered from 1998-2010. Oklahoma State and Baylor ran wild for 228.5 rushing yards per game and 3.5 scores. During this time the Longhorns allowed 513.5 yards on 76.5 plays per game, an average of 6.71 yards per play while surrendering 44 points per contest.

Piecing this all together, it seems that this game will likely be determined on how the Texas defense handles the TCU run game. Last season TCU gained 217 yards on the ground, averaging 4.5 yards per carry - numbers that, if repeated, could prove fatal to Texas' chances.

The Longhorns, despite the impressive showing against Oklahoma, still allow 228.67 yards per game on the group, the highest average among all BCS conference teams. TCU rushes for only 139 yards per game, which is 95th in the country. Despite TCU's struggles, it may find success running with quarterback Trevone Boykin, who rushed for 77 yards on ten carries last season against Texas. TCU is an opponent Texas should topple, but if the Longhorns struggle to stop the run TCU will emerge victorious.



Charlie Pearce / Daily Texan Staff

The Texas defense showed a greatly improved run defense against Oklahoma, holding OU to 130 total rushing yards.



McCoy left a distinguished legacy at Texas. Case McCov has been just as clutch. Case is 2-1 in rivalry games while Colt struggled in similar contests.

Although Colt

# Numbers make strong Case

By Stefan Scrafield

Daily Texan Columnist @stefanscrafield

For students who arrived at the 40 Acres in 2010 just in time for the football program to spontaneously combust - there is an understanding that the definition of a "big game" at Texas has changed.

While students of the Vince Young and Colt Mc-Coy eras were regularly treated to Top-10 matchups, conference championships and national title games, Texas' current crop of students hasn't been so fortunate. Early season losses have led to uninteresting conference matchups and meaningless bowl games over the past four seasons.

As a result, the experience of watching marquee matchups has been reduced to just one thing: rivalry games. You know, those fiery contests against the Aggies and Sooners that are highly anticipated, regardless of either team's standing.

The Longhorns are 2-4 in rivalry games since 2010, with a 2011 victory over Texas A&M in the schools' final Big 12 meeting and a shocking upset of Oklahoma just a couple weeks ago. While those two victories were separated by nearly two years, they did have something in common: Case McCoy was quarter-

back in both of them. Whether he was leading the comeback drive to set up Justin Tucker's game-winning kick over the Aggies — a moment that seemed almost as big as Young's run to the corner — or playing pitch-and-catch with senior wide receiver Mike Davis to seal a blowout victory over the Sooners, Mc-Coy looked comfortable in the spotlight.

"I came to this university to play in games like that," McCoy said. "Over my career, I've been able to play in some awesome, historical games that I will never forget. And we've performed in those games, so it's fun to talk about."

And while Case is certainly no Colt, their performance in high-profile games is comparable.

Case has a winning record as a starter against rivals, 2-1, and is hardly to blame for his lone loss, against OU in 2011. He was replaced early-on by David Ash, who he was splitting reps with at the time, and by the time McCoy returned to the game, Ash had already thrown an interception and it was 20-3 in favor of the Sooners.

Colt, on the other hand, often struggled in big-time contests. He lost three times against the Aggies and Sooners, including a 2006 loss to Texas A&M, in which he threw three interceptions, that cost Texas a shot at the Big 12 title. Add to that the 2008 loss to Texas Tech and a three-turnover performance in the 2009 conference championship game against Nebraska, and it's clear that he didn't exactly relish the big moment.

Sure, as far as overall results and the legacy he left behind, Colt McCoy was certainly more successful as a Longhorn. But when it comes to clutch performances, you could argue that the younger McCoy has been equally as impressive, and you might just have

### SHUTDOWN continues from page 1

Coincidentally enough — or maybe it's not a coincidence at this point Texas is projected by ESPN's Mark Schlabach to make it to the Cotton Bowl this year to face none other than former rival Tex-

Nevertheless, Texas still

doesn't seem to put much stock in these facts.

"I don't know," junior running back Malcolm Brown said laughing. "We're still going to go in the same way. Work hard and keep

it rolling." While the majority of the games Texas has played the

week after a government shutdown have been at home, the Longhorns will see this weekend in Fort Worth whether or not the end of these closures really is beneficial to them. If not, maybe Texans will just have to go back to signing those secession petitions.

#### **SIDELINE**

#### **MLB**





#### **NCAA Women's Volleyball Rankings**

- 1) Texas
- 2) Penn State
- 3) Florida
- 4) USC
- Creighton 5)
- 6) Washington Missouri 7)
- 8) Stanford
- 9) Hawaii

10)



Kansas



lose sixty seconds

of happiness."

**SPORTS BRIEFLY** 

# Texas swimmer, diver

#### earn Big 12 Honors Senior swimmer Saman-

tha Tucker and junior diver Emma Ivory-Ganja earned conference player of the week honors Wednesday for their performances against Texas A&M and North Carolina last week.

Tucker was named Big 12 Swimmer of the Week after claiming the 200-yard freestyle against the Aggies with a time of 1:47:95, a time which was good enough for 10th-best in college swimming this season. In the Longhorns' victory over North Carolina, Tucker was runnerup in both the 50-yard and

200-yard freestyle events. Ivory-Ganja, who is a transferred to UT from UCLA, notched Big 12 Diver of the Week honors by winning the three-meter diving event against Texas A&M. The junior also tallied individual runner-up finishes in both the one-meter and three-meter diving events

against the Tar Heels. The awards were the first conference player of the week honors for both Tucker and Ivory-Ganja in their careers.

#### Texas Baseball has No. 2 recruiting class

Baseball America announced Tuesday the Texas baseball Class of 2013 was the second best in the nation, trailing only the Florida Gators. The rankings rate classes based on the players who are attending campus in

Just like the Gators and South Carolina, Texas tallied five recruits ranked in the Baseball America 500: right-handed pitcher Lukas Schiraldi (No. 162), infielder Andy McGuire (No. 198), catcher Tres Barrera (No. 200), infielder Bret Boswell (No. 221) and right-handed pitcher Blake Goins (No. 256).

The Longhorns have 13 total recruits joining the team this season, five of which were drafted in the most recent MLB Draft but deferred to play college baseball.

This is the 12th time in the last 14 years that Texas brought in a Top-12 ranked class.

–Matt Warden

# AFEXAN: CO













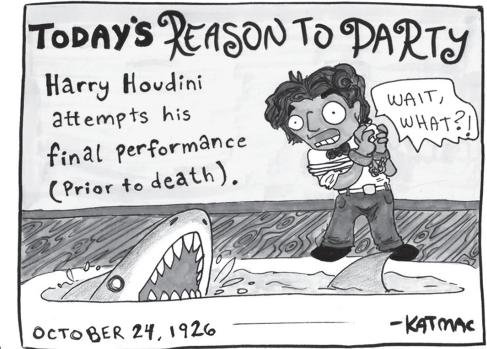




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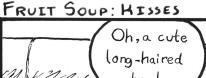
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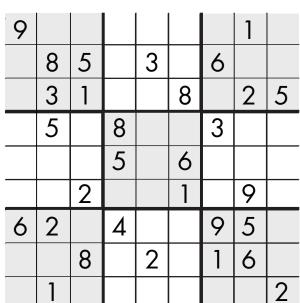












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Today's solution will appear here next issue

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ACROS S Sports star who lent his name to a clothing line

8 Rental car

extra, for short 11 Flipper, say 14 Culminations

15 Mauna 16 Bucolic setting 17 Ability to survive freezing

temperatures? 19 Copier page size: Abbr 20 Cette fille, e.g.

21 Con 22 "Shoo!"

Bator

S elected a certain fabric softener?

27 911 maker 29 Roof window

30 Family pet name 31 Beauty

34 Tests that consist of five subjects, for short

**ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE** OCTOPI T H R O N E O P E N T E N A O N E N T E N A O N E N T E N A O N E N T E N A O N E N T E N A O N E N T E N A C E N T E N A C E N T E N A C E N T E N A C E N T E N A C E N T E N A C E N T E N A C E N T E N A C E N T E N A C E N T E N A C E N T E N A C E N T E N A C E N T E N A C E N T E N A C E N T E N A C E N T

1 Sneakers,

typically

10 Get hitched "Here, you needn't do that"

24 Lead role in "Clueless"

25 Toffee bar brand 26 Bacchanalia

28 One concerned

with co. money 32 One concerned with co. money 33 Salma of "Frida"

Sprite who helps you find a shopping vehicle? 62 Grp. advising the president "From \_\_\_\_ Zinc" (vitamin slogan)

One shouldn't have a big head Posthumous 64 FedEx form 65 Narcs' org. 66 S.F. hours inductee into the Poker Hall of Fame, 1979

42 Lifesaver, briefly

45 Opposite (from) 48 Lose face 50 Super-choosy about timepieces?

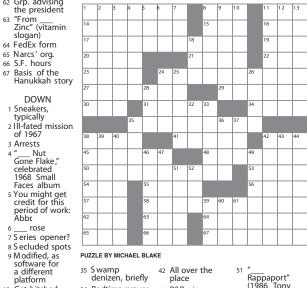
timepieces?
53 English
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54 Help for a
do-it-yourselfer
55 Pince,
librarian at
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Hogwarts 56 Fill

56 Fill
57 Anesthesia option, for short
58 Like M&M's ... or four words to describe 17-, 24-, 35- and 50-Across?

Edited by Will Shortz

No. 0919



35 Swamp denizen, briefly 36 Bedtime prayer words after "Now"

37 Abbr. in many a

12 Like pianos, periodically 13 Ones making sacrifices

military title 38 Caboose 18 Way of the East

39 Shadow maker 40 "Fifty Shades of Grey" genre

music 46 Winter Olympics wear

47 Nursery rhyme couple 49 Certain melon

43 R&B singer

Jordan

44 Entice with 52 Blackguard 59 Starchy vegetable 60 Early second-century year

Rappaport" (1986 Tony winner for Best Play)

61 Hockey's Bobby For answers, call 1-900-285-5656, \$1.49 a minute; or, with a credit card, 1-800-814-5554. Annual subscriptions are available for the best of Sunday crosswords from the last 50 years: 1-888-7-ACROSS. AT&T users: Text NYTX to 386 to download puzzles, or visit

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Gabriella Belzer / Daily Texan Star

Barbara Morgan, founder and executive director of the Austin Film Festival, is preparing for the opening day of the festival, currently in its 20th year. The festival has grown from a screenplay competition to a nationally recognized event which includes 150 panel discussions.

# Film fest grows in 20th year

By Lee Henry @leehenry220

Austin Film Festival has a red carpet and celebrity appearances, but since its inception, the festival has celebrated the hard work behind the glamour.

The Austin Film Festival began 20 years ago and has grown from a screenplay competition to a nationally recognized festival filled with world-renowned films and guests. Its founder and current executive director, Barbara Morgan, believes the genesis of the festival was a case of kismet.

"I was doing some music promotion in addition to having a finance company in Austin," Morgan said. She was at a dinner party with a friend who started talking about how Austin had no public film festival.

"I said 'Hey, what if I started a film festival? Would you guys help?' And the ball just rolled from there," Morgan said.

The ball never stopped. Today, the Austin Film Festival screens high-profile films, including Steve McQueen's "12 Years a Slave" and the Coen brothers' "Inside Llewyn Davis."

"We would never have gotten those 20 years ago," Morgan said. "It was probably four or five years into our existence before we got some really solid big films. But we fall right after Toronto [International Film Festival], so

it's a great trickle down for us to be able to have a lot of U.S. premieres."

The Austin Film Festival

is divided into two parts: the film series and the conference, which consists of various panels featuring well-known producers, directors and writers as well as film scholars and historians. The centerpiece of the conference is the screenwriting competition, a contest that this year alone brought in 8,600 submissions across all categories.

"It takes all year to do it," competition director Matt Dy said. "We got about 1,000 submissions our first year, and the winner got optioned and made into a movie"

and made into a movie."

It is this competition that makes AFF a writer's festival

above anything else and is a perfect example of its governing ethos: fostering new creative voices and giving them feedback and ways to break into the industry.

"We do 150 panels on every topic imaginable, but it is focused on story, on narrative storytelling," Morgan said.

Despite the presence of A-listers such as Susan Sarandon and "Breaking Bad" creator Vince Gilligan, it is work by inexperienced filmmakers, some of whom are UT students, that is the central focus of AFF.

The Festival's staff boasts a surprising number of UT alumni, and many of its interns and volunteers are

FESTIVAL page 5

CITY

# Winning student films shown at local festival

By Hillary Hurst
@hillary\_hurst

Students from around the country submitted short films to the Young Filmmakers Program in hopes of having their work showcased at the Austin Film Festival this year. Fourteen winners were selected to screen their films and participate in the festival. The Daily Texan spoke with three of the 2013 winners who wrote and directed their own short films.

## Elena Maeurer, 16 "A Story Unfolds"

The Daily Texan: What is your film about?

Elena Maeurer: It's a short film about four kids who are locked in a library and they find a book, which is completely empty inside so they begin writing their own story. It's all about them trying to come up with this story [when] one of the kids doesn't really want to cooperate.

# DT: What was the most challenging part about making the film?

EM: It was my first experience directing, so it was a completely new side of filmmaking for me being in charge of the whole film.

DT: What aspect of "A Story Unfolds" do you think gives your film an edge over other young filmmakers?

EM: I think it's important to have a cohesive story. I've seen a lot of student films that really confused me because I wasn't able to see the point of the film at all, good story.

and I feel that [mine] has a

Alec Brown, 19 "Out of Order"

DT: What is your film about?

Alec Brown: Basically it's like a "Twilight Zone" episode. Two students in love living with the threat of nuclear war find paradise in their school's dysfunctional elevator.

## DT: What initially drew you to film?

AB: I think every family has that one nostalgic movie that they can watch time and time again. My family's movie is "Raising Arizona" from 1987. The first time I watched it I laughed so hard, and I thought that it had excellent cinematography and editing. Then I realized, I kind of want to make a movie like this.

#### Ryker Allen, 16 "Lovesoup"

DT: What is your film about?

Ryker Allen: "Lovesoup" is a documentary about the question: What is love? I wanted to answer that question, and midway through I discovered you can't really answer it.

# DT: What was the most challenging part about making the film?

RA: I had to go find and cue out the people with the best points. I interviewed over 100-something people. There were a few people that had viewpoints that I completely disagreed with,

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#### SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY



Illustration by Ploy Buraparate / Daily Texan Staff

# Solar power technology not a profitable way to save energy



By Paepin Goff @paepin

Public support for sustainability is fueling the rise of solar energy in both residential and industrial spheres. In an effort to reduce the amount of pollution emitted from oil and gas technologies, people often turn to solar power to harness the energy of the sun.

UT is home to the largest solar power system in Austin installed at the J.J. Pickle Research Campus in 2011. According to Facilities Services, the system has the potential to produce more than 400,000 kilowatt hours of renew-

able energy annually. This amount is the equivalent of powering 40 average homes for one year.

The science behind solar panels supports the claim that solar energy is cleaner than the dominant oil and gas methods that exist today, but a provocative question remains: Has solar energy truly earned the "green" title?

The journey of a photon, a packet of energy, starts at the sun eight minutes and 20 seconds before it reaches Earth. When the photon hits a solar panel, it loosens an electron. The electrons that fall off of each photon in this process bump into each other, pushing their way through the semiconductor material such as a lane of cars in rush hour traffic. The line of electrons, called a direct current, is then used to power homes and businesses.

Look at it this way: If a solar panel is a peanut butter and jelly sandwich, the two pieces of bread are metal

#### Multimedia

This week in Science Scene, we discuss solar energy at dailytexanonline.com

or glass and the filling is the semiconductor material, usually made of either silicon or a combination of copper, indium, gallium and selenium (CIGS). Light has to travel through the sandwich to change into energy; without the filling, this process wouldn't work

wouldn't work.

In general, the more efficient the solar cells, the higher the production cost. This contributes to either a rise in the price of solar technology on one end or a notable amount of waste on the opposite end. Either way, the consumer is losing out.

The issue of sustainability is a clear concern at the manufacturing level. The

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