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THE DAILY TEXAN

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Thursday, March 31, 2016

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CITY

Ken's reopens after failed inspection

By Nancy Huang
@bana_nancy

Ken's Donuts on Guadalupe Street reopened on March 10 after closing two days earlier for failing multiple health inspections.

The restaurant had received three failing scores on separate inspections since November. It then received a passing score of 79 on March

9, making it compliant with city health policy and subject to a follow-up inspection in the next month and a half.

Restaurants are graded on a scale of 1 to 100, with a passing score of 70. Nasir Habib, owner of Ken's Donuts, said the failing grades were because of extenuating circumstances in the restaurant's health code.

"We failed a couple times

... because of some [irregular] circumstances, but before we even failed it, we already had [a score] between 80 and 90," Habib said.

Vincent Delisi, assistant division manager in Environmental Health Services for Austin said receiving three failing scores is uncommon.

"These inspections indicate a significant decrease in oversight of a part of man-

agement," Delisi said.

Delisi said it's hard to tell from one inspection report what the overall and long-term conditions are of an establishment and that Ken's Donuts had previously passed multiple health inspections.

"An inspection is a snapshot of the conditions at the time of inspection," Delisi said. "They did score a 90 on

May 28 of last year. Prior to that they had an 86, and prior to that they had a 70, and they had an 86 before that. The last three to four inspections [should be looked at] as an average, as opposed to looking at any one particular score."

Radio-television-film sophomore Lacie Block said

KEN'S page 2

CITY

City looks to community for feedback on mobility

By Forrest Milburn
@forrestmilburn

Austinites can share their thoughts on city traffic, public transit and other transportation issues in April through the city's Mobility Talks, a new initiative seeking to gauge community concerns.

Conversation Corps, a partnership of agencies that include the City and Capital Metro, is organizing each of the 11 mobility-based talks. The organization sponsors monthly conversations between community members and trained volunteers about topics ranging from affordability to recycling.

For next month's conversation, the City Council asked the organization to "gather feedback" for any possible ordinances or actions addressing mobility and transportation issues, Conversation Corps officials said.

"This is the first time that an elected official came to us and said, 'We really want to use your program for very specific feedback,'" said Julie Smith, Conversation Corps program director. "Not only do participants walk away with possibly different viewpoints and understanding the issue through the lens of other community members, but they also know that the feedback that they shared is going to be incorporated into a report ... and [sent] to City Council."

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UNIVERSITY

In C lot, more spots sold than available

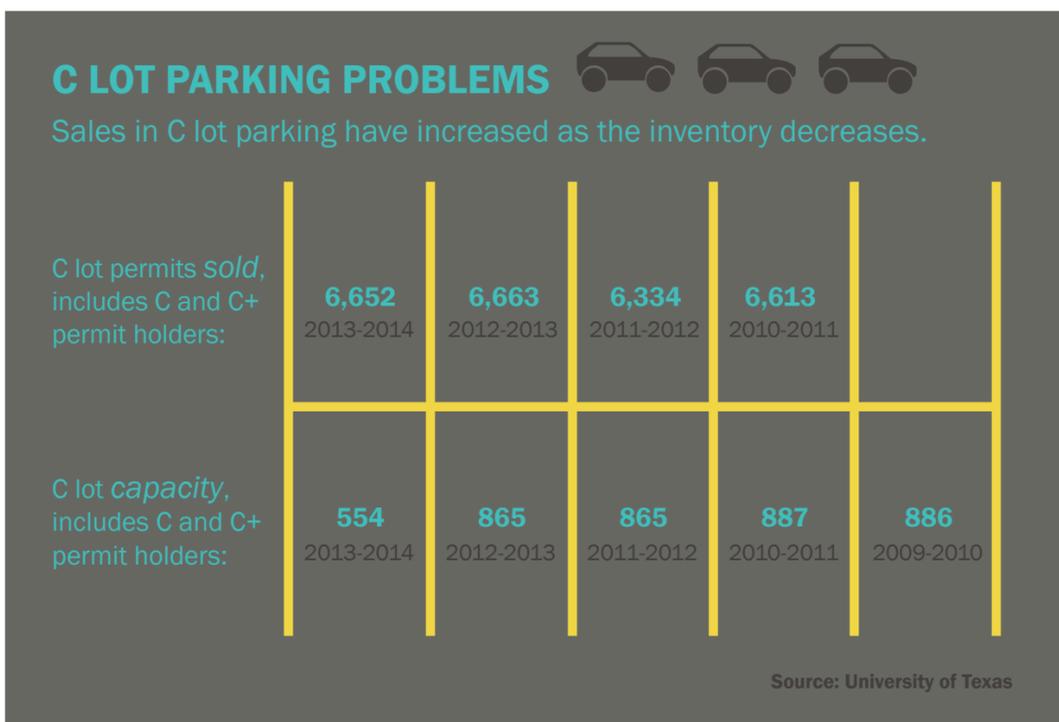
By Cassandra Jaramillo
@thedailytexan

The University has maintained strong sales of C lot permits despite a decrease in the number of spaces available, according to Parking and Transportation Services annual reports over the last four years.

According to the most recent data available online from 2013-2014, a total of 6,652 C and C+ permits were sold for an inventory of 554 surface spaces. In 2010-2011, permit sales were 6,613 for 887 spots. As construction projects have taken over campus, PTS has lost spaces, causing some issues for students who commute to campus and hold C lot permits.

Journalism sophomore Brianna Stone lives in

PARKING page 2



Infographic by Iliana Storch | Daily Texan Staff

CAMPUS

Texans for Israel hosts block party to highlight heritage

By Janelle Polcyn
@janellepolcyn

Texans for Israel hosted their 18th annual block party, where participants ate traditional Jewish food, took pictures with camels and learned about the nation of Israel yesterday on the East Mall.

The purpose of the event is to educate students about Israeli culture, government, new technology and military. Texans for Israel is an affiliate of Hillel International, a Jewish organization that is present on 550 campuses worldwide.

"[It] is a celebration of the culture and heritage of Israel in an environment that encourages growth and understanding of the reality that is Israel," said Jacob Prizada, co-chair of Texans for Israel and international relations and global studies sophomore. "What we're trying to do is help people understand the shared values between the United States and Israel."

About 100 volunteers worked the event answering questions, serving food and welcoming people.

Anthropology freshman

Zoe Waloszko, volunteer at the block party, said even after living in Israel for a year, the country's political situation is too complex to explain.

"It's not as black and white as it seems right now," Waloszko said. "There's a lot of bad media about Israel. It's easy to take a side without personally experiencing something. I lived in Jerusalem for a couple months, and I did see checkpoints, and I did see the wall they're calling the apartheid wall. ... Only 10 percent of it is a concrete wall;

BLOCK PARTY page 2

A student pets a camel at the Texans for Israel Block Party. Students had the opportunity to experience the cultural and culinary products of Israel at the party.



Edward Torres
Daily Texan Staff

CAMPUS



Students protest against Israeli apartheid across from yesterday's Israel Block Party. The protest was a part of Israeli Apartheid Week, which includes a mock checkpoint in The West Mall today.

Edward Torres
Daily Texan Staff

Palestinian student group hosts Israeli Apartheid Week

By Bharath Lavendra
@burreth

The Palestine Solidarity Committee hosted its third annual Israeli Apartheid Week this week, as a part of the international movement to bring awareness to Palestinian liberation struggles in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank.

The week coincided with the Israel Block Party hosted by Texas Hillel and Texans for Israel. About 25 members of the PSC protested the block party on the East Mall. The PSC also holds other events as part of the week, such as

a panel discussion on intercommunal solidarity on Tuesday and a mock checkpoint and performance night on Thursday.

English junior Josephine Lawson, who volunteered and spoke at the protest, said the week is designed to raise awareness on campus of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

"[The week] is a series of events that are dedicated to telling the story of Palestinians under occupation. We seek to draw attention to the humans rights violations that the Israeli government commits against Palestinian

people," Lawson said. "We seek to shift the discourse in the United States away from a prominently pro-Israel narrative that completely erases the violence that Israel and the United States have carried out against the Palestinians."

Lawson said the PSC was protesting the Israel Block Party not because of its celebration of Israeli culture but because of its inclusion of booths dedicated to the Israeli Defense Forces, Israel's military and an image of Benjamin Netanyahu, Israel's prime

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Does money help increase happiness? Find out in our Science Scene video at

dailytexanonline.com.

REASON TO PARTY



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THE DAILY TEXAN

Volume 116, Issue 128

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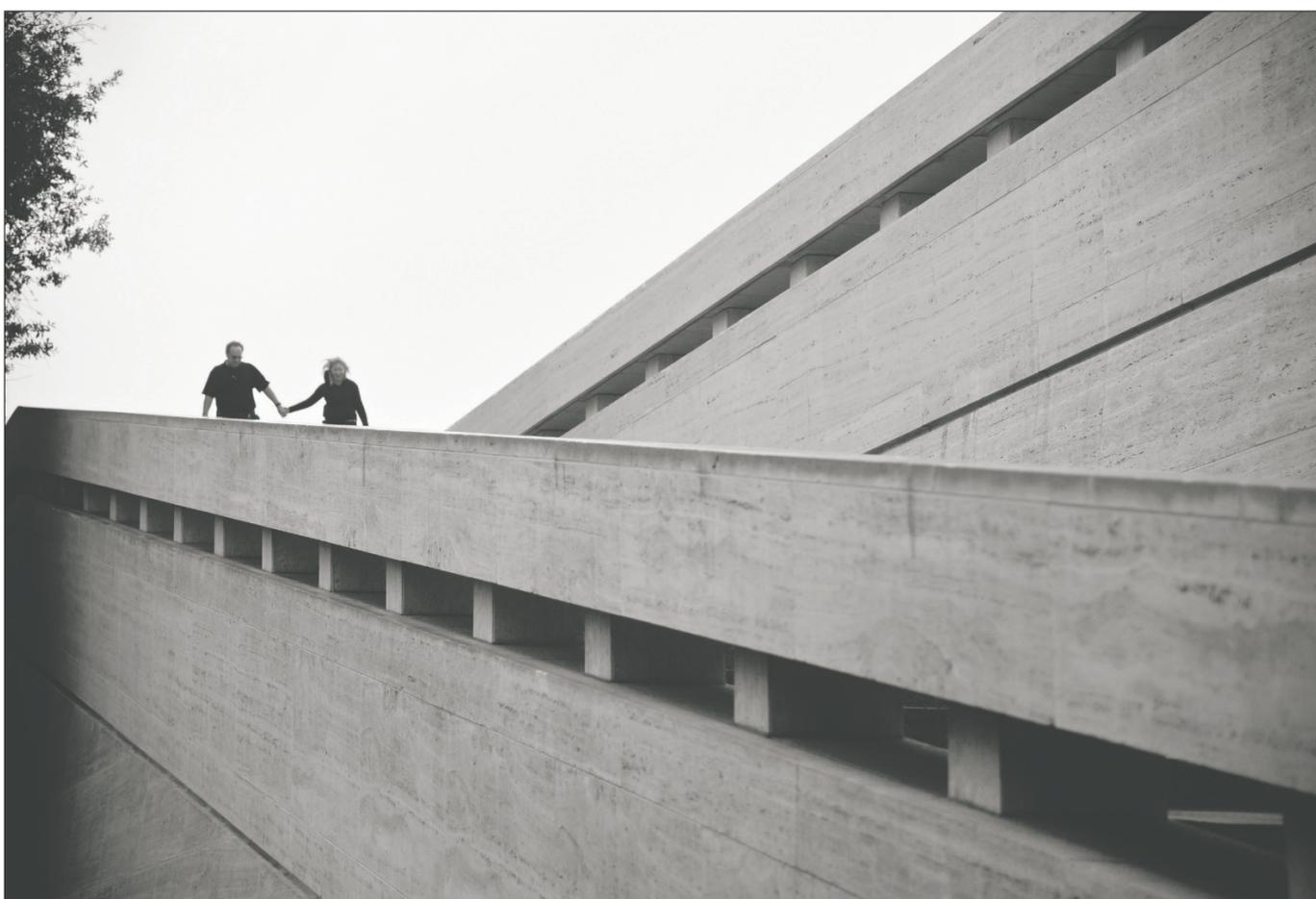
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TOMORROW'S WEATHER

High 64 **Low 46**

I don't have a drinking problem.

FRAMES FEATURED PHOTO thedailytexan



Alan and Eve Hyatt leave the Lyndon B. Johnson Presidential Library after their visit on Wednesday.

Zoe Fu | Daily Texan Staff

PARKING

continues from page 1

Riverside and said she commutes to campus because she does not like taking the bus. For her, it was worth the price for a permit.

When she drives to campus during weekdays, Stone said she typically gets to campus early to get a spot and avoid paying more money.

“The main issue with C parking is that there are not enough parking spots and way too many people with C lot passes,” Stone said. “Every day, the C lots usu-

ally fill up by 8 a.m., so unless I plan to wake up and get to campus early, I usually can't find a parking spot and end up paying to park in the parking garage.”

PTS director Bobby Stone, who is not related to Brianna Stone, said the department knows it sells more permits than spots available.

“The way the University runs, its classes are spread out throughout the week so not everyone is here all at once,” Stone said. “So we end up issuing more permits than there are actual spaces.” Stone said in the past it

has not been a problem. However, as this year's Dell Medical School construction and graduate student housing construction began, there have been some issues, especially during sporting events.

Journalism senior Amy Botelho has had a C lot permit for two years. This year, she found the construction and baseball games caused her much more frustration. Next year, she's debating whether to get a C lot permit again.

“The carnival-romp-a-roo that is the graduate housing

project is going to take away more C lot parking. That's the future upset,” Botelho said. “The current upset is that during baseball season and spring semester, they are blocking off three or four large parking areas by the baseball areas and you're not allowed to park there all day even when the games are starting later at night.”

Stone said the athletics department is currently paying for vouchers for C lot permit holders affected by baseball events. However, he also added there's been confusion with find-

ing the employees giving the vouchers.

Some students mentioned frustration with sporting events taking away lot spaces, but Bobby Stone said it's important for the department's finances. He said the department makes approximately \$150,000 for baseball and softball parking events, using the lot for this purpose on 20 weekdays and 14 weekend days.

The total revenue collected last year for C permits for the entire 12-month period was around \$500,000, Bobby Stone said.

MOBILITY

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Anyone interested in participating can take an online survey, attend a City board or commission meeting, or sit in at any of the scheduled events throughout the city — listed at ATXtalks.org. Interested Austinites can find more information on public hearings

and online surveys at MobilityTalks.org.

Communication studies senior Larissa Stephens, who bikes around campus as her main mode of transportation, said she sometimes feels unsafe when she has to move into the car lanes on the road and is always concerned with her safety.

“What I would like to see in the city is protected bike lanes,” Stephens said. “A lot of times, bike traffic is blocked by trash

cans or something, or a car is parked there, or there's no way for me to get around it.”

Stephens said she does use her car to drive farther out north or south of the city and that she would like to see some focus on highway traffic during peak times, between 3 and 6 p.m.

“I feel like I can't go out of the house at that time,” Stephens said.

For other students interested in sharing mobility con-

cerns, the Conversation Corps is hosting a talk near campus at the University Presbyterian Church on April 17 starting at 1 p.m.

Once April is over and the City has collected information from community members, a report will be made and presented to the City Council's Mobility Committee on June 8 at 3 p.m., according to Sara Behunek, a Capital Planning Office public information specialist.

Behunek, who is closely working on the mobility talks, said the city manager's office will present the Conversation Corps' report to the City Council on June 8 to inform members on potential ways of funding community priorities.

“The City Council has called out several ways and goals that they have for this public conversation,” Behunek said. “They really want to have a very diverse, broad spectrum of ideas and voices and input.”

THE DAILY TEXAN

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

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The Daily Texan, a student newspaper at The University of Texas at Austin, is published by Texas Student Media, 2500 Whits Ave., Austin, TX 78712. The Daily Texan is published daily, Monday through Friday, during the regular academic year and is published once weekly during the summer semester. The Daily Texan does not publish during academic breaks, most Federal Holidays and exam periods. News contributions will be accepted by telephone (471-4591), or at the editorial office (HSM 2.120). Entire contents copyright 2016 Texas Student Media.

The Daily Texan Mail Subscription Rates

One Semester (Fall or Spring)	\$60.00
Two Semesters (Fall and Spring)	\$120.00
Summer Session	\$40.00
One Year (Fall, Spring and Summer)	\$150.00

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3/31/16

Monday	Wednesday, 12 p.m.	Thursday	Monday, 12 p.m.
Tuesday	Thursday, 12 p.m.	Friday	Tuesday, 12 p.m.
Wednesday	Friday, 12 p.m.			

KEN'S

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she regularly frequented Ken's Donuts and still does.

“I went about once a week, usually on late nights,” Block said. “I actually went just last

night. It's hard to keep me away from donuts, especially since I live so close to the shop.”

Block said she spotted a bug during one of her visits to the shop.

“Before they closed, I was in the shop getting donuts,

BLOCK PARTY

continues from page 1

the rest is a chain link fence.”

Every year, the Palestine Solidarity Committee has protested at the block party.

This year, they stood on the stairs across from East Mall and yelled chants against the apartheid.

“We view the Israel block party as an event to hide some of the crimes by the state of Israel,” said Ahmed Khawaja, electrical and computer engineering graduate student. “We can't have people just hearing one side of the story.” Texans for Israel have

come to expect this group every year and in response, moved their question booth closer to the protesters so it is easily accessible for anyone who wants clarification on the Israeli-Palestine conflict.

“[They are] one of the reasons we put our controversies and questions tent right up front,” said Jenna Conwisar, co-chair of Texans for Israel and government sophomore. “There's so many different organizations, different Israel groups and ways that we're involved to try to better Israel, to try to better the relationship and build the community.”

PSC

continues from page 1

minister, which attendees of the event could take a picture with.

Government sophomore Jenna Conwisar, co-chair of the Israel Block Party, said the event is often criticized for the IDF booth and others, but she would argue that the booths could be considered part of Israeli culture.

“Israel Block Party is meant to celebrate Israeli culture [but also] Israel and our general love for Israel ... and how we get involved,” Conwisar said. “We aren't hiding that, we're proud of it.”

Habib said Ken's Donuts has complied with all inspection requests.

“We reopened and corrected everything that was supposed to be corrected,” Habib said. “We are fully operational. We have everything [working].”

Ahmed Khawaja, electrical and computer engineering graduate student, said for a conversation to occur between PSC and TFI, TFI would have to acknowledge “ethnic cleansing” experienced by Palestinians and acknowledge Israeli occupation of Palestinian land.

“If you are Arab in the West Bank, you are subject to Israeli military law,” Khawaja said. “If you're a brown Arab in Israel, and you throw a rock, you can spend twenty years in Israeli prison, ... and they can hold you for up to six months without providing any evidence because the evidence is considered ‘secret.’”

RESEARCH

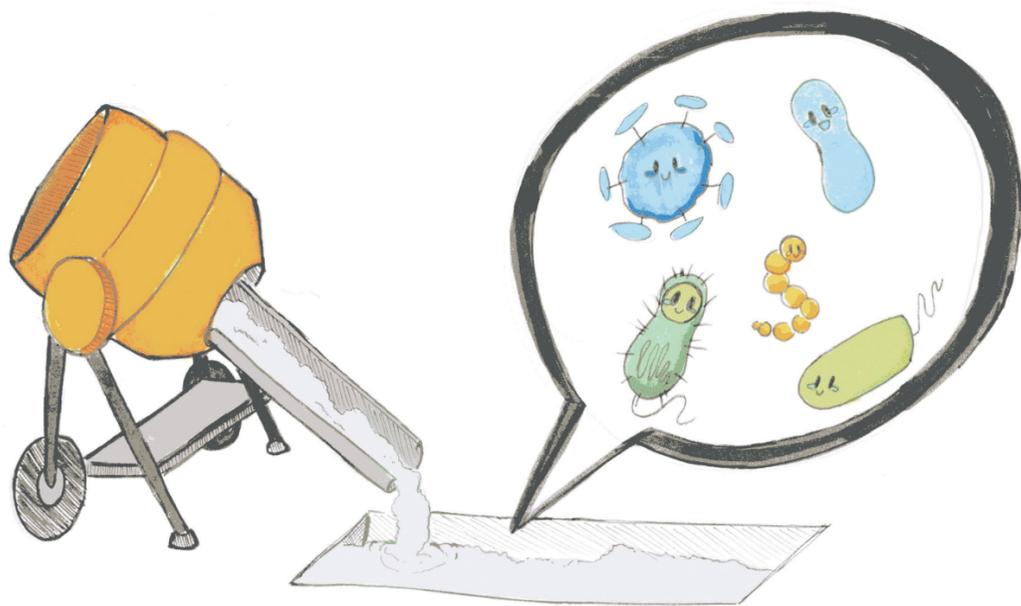


Illustration by Lexi Acevedo | Daily Texan Staff

UT researchers explore how to improve self-healing biocement

By Freya Preimesberger
@freyapreim

Cement technology is not set in stone.

Civil and environmental engineers at UT are researching how to make better living cement. This biocement is capable of healing its own cracks, according to a study published in the *Journal of Industrial Microbiology and Biotechnology*. The cement is made from the same materials as standard cement with the addition of the bacteria *Sporosarcina pasteurii*, which increases the biocement's durability and gives it self-healing properties.

Scientists typically make biocement by replacing mixing water with bacteria and yeast, which feeds the bacteria. This biocement usually takes longer to harden, which delays the construction process. The UT researchers replaced the yeast with a combination of meat extract and sodium acetate, which doesn't

slow the hardening process, according to the study.

The addition of microbial organisms strengthen cement and other construction materials through a process called microbial-induced calcium carbonate precipitation. The bacteria fill cracks in concrete with a material similar to limestone.

"The idea is that once you put these bugs inside concrete and you supply the right nutrients, it should be able to be a living system throughout the lifespan of the concrete's life," said co-author Raissa Ferron, an assistant professor in the department of civil, architectural and environmental engineering. "These bugs are strong, they know what they're doing and they are able to survive."

Scientists insert actively growing bacterial cells directly into the cement mix. In the study, bacteria survived for nearly a year in the concrete and some of the cells went into a dor-

mant state. The researchers did not investigate what the cells used as long-term carbon and energy sources, according to co-author Mary Jo Kirisits, an associate professor in the department of civil, architectural and environmental engineering.

Biocement preempts instability caused by cracks in standard cement, even after workers have repaired them, according to Ferron.

"By the time you see the crack, it's probably at the point that it may start causing damage to your structure," Ferron said. "But if you have a concrete system that has even a nanocrack form and is able to fill that crack with calcium carbonate, you're increasing the durability of your concrete."

Ferron was fascinated by biocement when she arrived at UT in 2009. She shared this interest with Kirisits, who then joined as the other author of the study.

"I contacted Dr. Kirisits

and told her about this idea that I wanted to look into developing concrete that can heal itself," Ferron said. "She agreed to sign off on this crazy project, and I think the rest is history."

Sarah Williams, who also authored the study, studied ways to use biocement to repair cracks in older concrete for her graduate thesis. Williams used biocement with sand, which acted as a bonding material and filled cracks in historical structures in Europe, where cultural buildings and monuments are much older.

Biocement is still a novel technology with a lot of potential, according to Ferron. Engineers need to conduct more research before it can be used on a large scale.

"I can count probably on two hands the number of groups around the world that are doing this work," Ferron said. "It's exciting to be at the cutting edge of infrastructure material and technology."

RESEARCH

Language barriers lead to certain health issues

By Kate Thackrey
@thedailytexan

A series of new studies by UT researchers found that older Korean immigrants with limited English skills are significantly more vulnerable to health problems and social isolation than English speakers.

The studies found that 70 percent of Korean-American immigrants over 60 years old have limited English proficiency, and 25 percent showed marked social isolation. According to the National Council on Aging, only 17 percent of the older American general population is socially isolated.

The study's lead author, Yuri Jang of the School of Social Work, said the amount of Korean-Americans with limited English proficiency has been increasing over recent years and complicates access and use of healthcare.

"If [Korean-Americans] don't have language capacity, but they have to use health services, imagine the challenges," Jang said.

The studies showed that Korean-Americans who struggle with English were significantly more likely to have limited physical activity, poor health and depression than English-speaking peers.

Limited language proficiency was also a significant barrier to forming friendships, which correlated with higher levels of overall social isolation.

Jang said the representation of Asian ethnic groups as the 'model minority' often doesn't take into account limited English speakers.

"The impression of all Asian-Americans is that they are highly educated, problem-free [and] they have good social network systems in their families," Jang said. "The reason is that national sur-

veys usually capture English-speaking Asian-Americans."

Jang's surveys included both English and Korean versions, but she said that all of her participants preferred to take surveys in Korean, regardless of English proficiency.

Environmental science junior Zihao Zhang, from Nanjing, China, said she struggles to keep up when professors expect students to share a common culture.

"During the lecture the professor will speak very fast — it does influence my quality of learning," Zhang said.

Over 20 percent of UT students identified as Asian for the 2015–2016 school year, according to the UT Admissions Office.

Jang is also finishing up on a separate report on Asian-Americans in Austin as part of a study requested by the City of Austin Asian American Quality of Life Advisory Commission, which will be available to the public soon.

Chair of the commission Richard Yuen said the study is the first city-wide research project looking at the Asian-American population in the U.S.

"So many people are unaware that the Asian-American Austinite community is quite large and is growing exponentially," Yuen said. "But nobody actually understands who they are, what their needs are, where they are and how the city and other organizations can help increase their quality of life here in Austin."

Looking to the future, Jang said she hopes her work will create benefits in the real world.

"As a researcher, there is a limited capacity that I can actually act on," Jang said. "In terms of the action side I was severely limited, and I feel so bad because there is a population in need of service."

HEALTH

Vaccines needed in low-income countries

By Zia Lyle
@ZiaLyle

While vaccines have been effective in lowering childhood mortality, disparities still remain between high-income countries and low-income countries.

On March 29, Penny Heaton, director of vaccine development at the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, gave a lecture about further reducing global childhood mortality and the current status of vaccine research and implementation. This lecture was part of the annual LaMontagne Lecture hosted by the UT Institute for Infectious Disease.

Heaton said that of the 6.6 million childhood deaths every year, about one-third can be prevented by vaccines and technologies that already exist. Heaton explained which of these technologies the Gates Foundation chooses to prioritize.

"We focus on the areas of greatest need where we can have the greatest impact," Heaton said.

The Gates Foundation vaccine development division currently prioritizes eradicating polio, distributing more vaccines and treatment for pneumonia and rotavirus (which causes severe diarrhea), protecting babies through maternal immunization and looking to long-term solutions to HIV.

Heaton said that one big challenge is the time gap between vaccine approval in the United States and when these drugs get to the developing world. This gap is caused by insufficient and inappropri-



Maddox Price | Daily Texan Staff

Penny Heaton, director of vaccination development at the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, speaks on the importance of vaccination research and progress on Tuesday.

ate vaccine supply. For example, some vaccines require lots of space in the refrigerator. Lack of refrigerator space isn't a problem in the United States, but is a serious issue for healthcare outposts in the developing world.

"Vaccines are made for the first world or high-income countries without thought as to whether or not that is the right thing for a low-income country," Heaton said.

Marvin Whiteley, director of the UT Institute for Infectious Disease and attendee, was intrigued by the social nature of these issues.

"It was interesting to learn that many of the challenges associated with providing vaccines to the developing world are not necessarily scientific challenges," Whiteley said.

During the talk, Heaton highlighted the fact that newborn baby deaths are decreasing at a much slower rate than general children mortality. Heaton said one solution is a maternal immunization strategy, which was approved by the FDA last year.

"What you can do is vaccinate the mother when she is pregnant with the infant, and she helps transfer antibodies across the placenta," Heaton said. "Then you can then protect the infant in those first few years of life, when they are most vulnerable."

Heaton also discussed the development of herd immunity, by which vaccinating one person causes rates of disease around them to decrease, both in pneumococcus and rotavirus.

"Not only do you see

this huge disease reduction among children who got the vaccine, you also saw a similar reduction in their grandparents, and that has just been absolutely amazing," Heaton said.

Heaton ended with current goals of adapting existing vaccines for children in low-income countries. She emphasized how collaborations between vaccine producers and developers would eliminate certain mistakes, such as inefficient dosage, drugs that are so expensive that they are unaffordable and not including the correct virus strains in the vaccines.

"These things sound simple, and they actually can be simple, but it's a matter of making sure we are working together in an integrated fashion," Heaton said.

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FORUM

Exploring the nuances of TNCs

By Walker Fountain
Daily Texan Forum Editor
@wf_atx



Uber and Lyft argue that these regulations are overly burdensome and will hamper a business model that provides a better service to Austinites.

The battle between the Austin City Council and the transportation network companies Uber and Lyft has hit a crucial moment, which will not only define ride-hailing in the City of Austin, but will also help to define the relationship between TNCs, consumers and local governments around the country. At issue is the council's regulations on TNC drivers, at various points mandating and encouraging background checks that include fingerprinting for all drivers.

Uber and Lyft argue that these regulations are overly burdensome and will hamper a business model that provides a better service to Austinites. However, proponents of these regulations point to public safety concerns — with several notable instances of assault by Uber drivers across the nation and a well publicized instance just last week of a Lyft driver being arrested for driving under the influence with a passenger in the car.

Internal machinations in the City Council, along with proposals from Mayor Steve Adler, have shifted the dynamic in the debate. After some TNCs' public rebuke of the first TNC regulations draft, written by Ann Kitchen, Mayor Adler promoted a 'thumbs-up' policy toward ride-hailing companies. This policy would encourage TNC drivers to get a fingerprinted background check and provide them with incentives to do so, including a potentially higher rate for fingerprinted drivers. The end goal seems to be near-universal compliance among drivers.

However, this proposal did not go far

enough for TNC companies, who launched a public petitioning drive to put regulations up for public referendum through the organization "Ridesharing Works for Austin." The group set a goal of over 20,000 signatures, enough to get the current regulations on the ballot and said that they had surpassed them, collecting over 60,000 signatures of Austinites, pushing the issue to the ballot.

Proposition 1, launched after the public petitioning process mentioned above, seeks to either approve or deny the existing rules that guide TNCs in the city. Effectively, a yes vote on the resolution will keep existing regulations intact — allowing Uber and Lyft to keep their current business model, which largely relies on on-boarding a significant amount of drivers to keep pace with demand — especially as many drivers leave or work only a few hours a week.

However, a loss on Prop 1 will leave the City Council with a clear mandate to forge ahead on the regulations that they initially proposed — and would represent a major setback to TNCs in Austin, possibly prompting them to make good on their promise to leave town if fingerprinting regulations are put in place.

In many ways, the vote in Austin will be



Illustration by Tina Hinojosa | Daily Texan Staff

a bellwether for TNC regulations across the country. While Austin is in many ways a unique city — with a heavy reliance on ride-hailing applications because of a spotty public transportation, and a city filled with college students and young professionals, this is the first major case of TNC regulations appearing before the general public. Perhaps this is why Uber and Lyft have lavished resources upon the vote — with many canvassers surrounding the UT campus over the last few days, pushing support for the proposition.

This week, our forum contributors, Steven Hester, a student proponent of ride-hailing, and Noah Horwitz, a former lobbyist for Yel-

MULTIMEDIA

Listen to this week's "Texan Talks: A Forum for the 40 Acres" podcast online at dailytexanonline.com.

low Cab, will discuss the merits of Proposition 1. We will also discuss the Proposition with Noah in our Daily Texan Forum podcast. At issue is the opportunity for City of Austin voters to choose their path forward on ride-hailing — an opportunity they will have on May 7. Fountain is a government senior from Pelham, New York.

FORUM

Convenience outweighs safety risk to Uber, Lyft

By Noah M. Horwitz
Daily Texan Forum Contributor
@NmHorwitz

Let us get something straight: Uber and Lyft did not invent anything. There is no comparison to typewriters and horses-and-buggies. They provide the same service as traditional taxicabs; they just openly flout the law. In doing so, they can provide a cheaper service.

The young and the young-at-heart who dominate this city do not think about such complexities in the midst of inebriation, when attempting to procure transportation to and from watering holes on Sixth Street or elsewhere. The public assumes the government will ensure and enforce pertinent laws on safety and competitiveness, but the City of Austin has abdicated its responsibility.

Perhaps the most controversial of these is a requirement for cab drivers to have fingerprint-based background checks. Any driver of Yellow Cab, Lone Star Cab or the myriad other traditional taxi companies has to be fingerprinted. It is not cheap, but it is a much more effective way of determining whether someone is suitable to provide this service.

Uber and Lyft, unsurprisingly, contend that their non-fingerprint background check is better. Of course, these assertions are not based in reality.

Take the case of Duncan Burton. Last year, while driving for Uber, he was accused of raping a female passenger who had passed out drunk in the backseat of his car. He did not have a city license. Worse yet, Uber's fingerprint-free background check somehow overlooked Burton's 14-year stint in federal prison for drug dealing.

Uber and Lyft complain about being forced out of the market, but they really just do not want to play by the same rules everyone else must follow. Instead of paying for fingerprint background checks to protect the public, a \$68 billion company wants to pick up its ball and go home.

But first, Uber and Lyft are attempting to railroad over the Austin City Council, which rightly sought to impose reasonable safety regulations, by compelling a referendum on this fingerprinting issue.

Astroturf and right-wing groups are going to attempt to frame this issue with fancy buzzwords like "innovation" and "technolo-

gy," but don't buy it. This is just another lame attempt by Uber and Lyft to skirt the law and cut corners.

This is not the way that the world works. Private companies, especially those among the largest in the world, are not supposed to extort municipal governments into falling in line. It is especially shameful that the City of Austin, which ostensibly prides itself on being progressive and otherwise pure from improper corporate interference, has been so desperate to placate these bullies.

Everyone should play by the same rules. Either they all follow the vehicle-for-hire regulations, they all don't or they all follow some mixture. But Uber and Lyft want to ignore the rules their competitors must follow. Perhaps the most significant of these are the aforementioned fingerprint background checks. That is why Uber and Lyft are attempting to change the rules to just benefit them. They win, and everyone else loses.

Vote No on Prop 1. Vote against this laziness, and vote for equity in the law and safety for the general public.

Horwitz is a government senior from Houston. He formerly lobbied on behalf of Yellow Cab.

FORUM

Ride-hailing works for students, Austinites

By Steven Hester
Daily Texan Forum Contributor

Your designated driver is already three Fireball shots into the night, and you are left wondering how to get home safely. Texas Exes and graduating students probably remember the limited options before ride-hailing. You could wait for an overcrowded E-Bus, endure the 45-minute trek from Dirty Sixth to campus, or take your chances with the unacceptable — trusting a drunk driver behind the wheel. Uber and Lyft changed all that.

Today, you can summon a car within minutes to take your crew home safely. You can trust the driver because they have already undergone a comprehensive background check. Before getting in the driver's car, you see their name, photo, license plate number and rating by other passengers. At the end of your GPS-tracked ride, you pay through the secure online app without handling cash or cards.

Taxi companies hate this. A 21st-century technology is hurting their bottom line, and they are getting desperate. That is why they asked the Austin

City



Nobody in this election is arguing to scrap regulations entirely. We need reasonable and strong ordinances on the books to keep both consumers and drivers safe.

Council to impose unnecessary and misleading regulations on ride-hailing companies. Our City Council — well-intentioned but misguided — complied.

The regulation in contention is whether fingerprint-based background checks should replace the current Social Security-based background check process. The answer is clearly no. There is no empirical evidence that they will reduce crime, and the information searched is not always reliable.

To complicate the conversation, fingerprinting is highly discriminatory. The background checks taxi companies are pushing only look at arrests, not final convictions. This means over-policed communities — Austinites of color — would be disproportionately held back from signing on as drivers. Considering our City Council just championed the first Fair Chance Hiring Ordinance in the South, this is hypocritical, if not outright offensive.

Why is this even on the table? Because taxi companies know that they are costly and timely impediments to the ride-hailing model we rely on.

That is why over 65,000 Austinites signed a petition to have this election on May 7. It is our opportunity to overturn poor policies driven by even poorer politics.

Nobody in this election is arguing to scrap regulations entirely. We need reasonable and strong ordinances on the books to keep both consumers and drivers safe. Ride-hailing companies agree. If Uber and Lyft had the reputation of being unsafe, then you would not be giving them your business.

The ordinances pushed by the taxi companies are not designed to make you safer. They are designed to push ride-hailing out of Austin.

Our quality of life as students is on the ballot on May 7. Let's vote for Proposition 1 and keep safe ride-hailing in Austin.

Hester is a mathematics sophomore. He is the president of Students for Ridesharing.

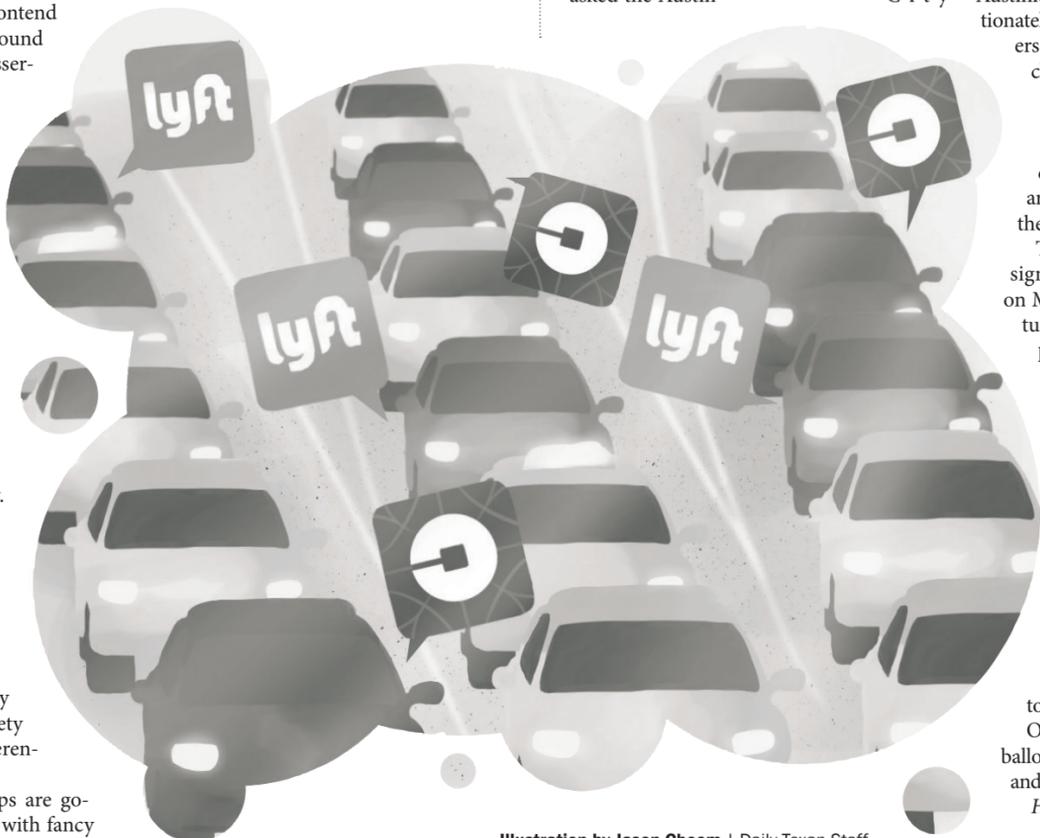


Illustration by Jason Cheom | Daily Texan Staff

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TEXAS RELAYS

Texas Relays begin with a bang

By Spencer Soicher
@spencersoicher

The 89th running of the Clyde Littlefield Texas Relays began Wednesday with the women's heptathlon and men's decathlon at Mike A. Meyers Stadium.

In the men's decathlon, Texas freshman Reese Thompson got out to a fast start, finishing second in the 100 meters with a time of 10.94 seconds. He also fared well in the long jump, with a mark of 6.99 meters, a foot better than any previous jump in Thompson's career.

But Thompson slowly moved back in the standings, and after five events sits in 10th place out of 18. Stanford's Harrison Williams is currently in the lead.

"I felt like Reese did a great job," head coach Mario Sategna said. "The decathlon is still very new to him. He wasn't a guy who in high school did the dec — he was a hurdle and vault guy."

Former Longhorn Trey Hardee was also in Wednesday's meet. Nursing an ankle injury, the silver medalist at the

London 2012 Olympics only competed in the shot-put event. His throw of 14.98 meters was the longest of the day.

On the women's side, Texas sophomore Ashtin Zamzow's time of 24.9 seconds secured a second place finish in the 200 meters. Her steady performances across the board kept her in sixth place.

Taliyah Brooks of Arkansas leads the field of 31 athletes after four events. The Razorbacks hold the top four spots in the standings.

"The great thing — and this is where you can see she's getting ready to make a big jump and hit that 6,000-point barrier in the next year or so — is that just being consistent across the board," Satenga said. "Not having to have huge PRs in one event but being solid in all four."

The men's decathlon will conclude tomorrow with the 110 meter hurdles, discus throw, pole vault, javelin throw and 1,500 meter run. The heptathlon will feature the long jump, javelin throw and 800 meter run tomorrow.



Joshua Guerrero | Daily Texan Staff

The 89th running of the Texas Relays began on Wednesday in Austin. Arkansas currently holds the top four positions in the overall standings.

BIG 12

continues from page 6

1,000 slugging percentage earned him infielder Newcomer of the Week honors. Bissonette's contributions, including a two home run performance on

Saturday, helped the Bears take two out of three in a road series against Dallas Baptist.

The freshman is the second Baylor player to earn conference honors this season and the first to be named conference Newcomer of the Week.

SOFTBALL | TEXAS 3-2 TEXAS STATE

Stephens fuels Texas comeback



Joshua Guerra | Daily Texan Staff

Senior centerfielder Lindsey Stephens drove in two runs for the Longhorns on Wednesday night, leading the way in a 3-2 victory. Her third-inning homer fueled Texas' defeat of Texas State after dropping back-to-back games to Baylor over the weekend.

By Isabel Miller
@TheDailyTexan

Down 2-1 in the bottom of the third, Lindsey Stephens approached the plate. The senior centerfielder had seen Texas give up the lead a half inning before, placing the Longhorns in a hole.

The Longhorns looked prime to drop their second-straight against Texas State, but Stephens had other ideas.

Stephens took a 2-2 pitch from Randi Rupp and rocketed a game-saving homer over the fence at McCombs Field. The home run regained Texas' lead, which it would hold en-route to a 3-2 victory.

"[It's] definitely an important win, especially after such a hard loss against Baylor," Stephens said. "The fact that we were

able to work together and string something along, and it wasn't that easy but we were able to overcome that loss."

The Bobcats put the Longhorns behind in the top of the third inning. Following a double by Texas State's Kelli Baker to tie the game at 2, Texas junior pitcher Tierra Davis walked back-to-back batters to load the bases. Davis then hit the next batter, forcing in the go-ahead run for the Bobcats. She got a ground-out to end the threat.

"I was just having a tough time finding what pitch I could throw for a strike," Davis said. "Then Randel came out, we talked about it, got on the same page, and the defense was there to back me out of it."

Davis finished the game with three hits, four

strikeouts and six walks. Head coach Connie Clark said she knows Davis is in a rough patch but was happy with how she fought back to finish the start.

"I was proud of her," Clark said. "She came down here, mid-game, worked on a couple of things in the bullpen and then was really, really solid the last three innings. I think that tells you about her mindset of just trying to make the best of a night where she didn't have the best stuff."

Wednesday's contest redeemed Texas' losing

efforts against Baylor over the weekend.

The Longhorns were confident entering the series. Agitated by a lower-than-expected ranking, Texas felt as though it had something to prove. But the ranking proved prescient as the Longhorns dropped both games, 3-1 on Friday and 6-5 on Saturday.

Texas faces BYU in a three-game series this weekend, starting Friday at 5 p.m. The Longhorns resume conference play on April 8 with a three-game home series with Texas Tech.

“The fact that we were able to work together and string something along, and it wasn't that easy but we were able to overcome that loss.

—Lindsey Stephens, centerfielder

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RECYCLE BECAGTE

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

Texas turnaround complete behind Aston

By Tyler Horka
@TexasTy95



Zoe Fu | Daily Texan Staff

Texas advanced to the Elite Eight in 2015–16 before falling to UConn. This season marked the fourth-straight year in which the Longhorns improved upon last year's record. Head coach Karen Aston has now won 89 games since arriving in Austin in 2012.

have advanced one step further in the tournament every year as well.

"You can look at situations when you're successful, and they're either going to make you complacent, or they're going to motivate you," Aston said. "And I do not see this team going in any direction other than being motivated."

Even those who aren't returning — namely senior center Imani Boyette — are optimistic about the future of Texas basketball.

"I think this team is amazingly better," Boyette said when

comparing this year's team to last year's. "So I'm excited to see what they do without me next year, and I'm just proud. Frustrated, but proud."

If Texas sustains the success it's currently enjoying, Aston said she hopes proper recognition will come its way.

"It's disappointing that we didn't have anybody even interested in talking about Texas because I think we are a phenomenal basketball team," Aston said. "And [we] very easily could have been in the Final Four had we gone into a different region."

Next year's squad will be led by a slew of talented guards. Sophomore guard Ariel Atkins shined in the tournament for Texas, averaging 18 points per game in four starts.

Freshman guard Lashann Higgs added 11.5 points per game in the tournament off the bench, and sophomore guard Brooke McCarty led the team in scoring and three-point percentage.

Couple the collection of guards with the No. 3 recruiting class in the nation, and Texas should be knocking on the Final Four's door again

next year. But the ceiling for Aston's program is not just the reaching the Final Four. She has higher aspirations than that.

"As much as 31–5 sounds unbelievable, and I do think that we were an unbelievable team and had an unbelievable year, we still don't have a ring," Aston said. "We are still chasing championships."

In order to at least have the opportunity to play for a championship, Aston might want to cross her ring-less fingers and hope Texas doesn't face UConn for the third-straight season.

SIDELINE

NBA

	HAWKS	97
	RAPTORS	105
	GRIZZLIES	105
	NUGGETS	109

TODAY IN HISTORY

1975

UCLA beats Kentucky to win the NCAA Men's Basketball Championship. The 92-55 victory marked UCLA head coach John Wooden's 10th title in 12 years.

TOP TWEET

Ariel Atkins @YoAdoub
"So I was going to buy a fish today but then realized I'm going home soon. How do you travel with your pet fish lol?"

SPORTS BRIEFLY

Heard hampered in spring practice

Texas sophomore quarterback Jerrod Heard suffered an injury to his shoulder during practice on Tuesday. A statement from the Longhorns stated that Heard is "being evaluated at this time." There is currently no information on the severity of the injury and no timetable for his return.

Heard started ten games for the Longhorns in 2015, filling in for then-junior quarterback Tyrone Swoopes. The Longhorns went 4–6 with Heard at the helm as he threw for 1,214 yards with five touchdowns and five interceptions. His biggest victory came against Oklahoma on Oct. 10, as Texas took down its biggest rival 24–17 in the Red River Rivalry. Heard threw for just 53 yards on the day on 11 attempts, but did not turn the ball over. But the sophomore showed flashes of big-play ability throughout the year, including a 527-yard performance against California on Sept. 20.

But despite grabbing the reigns for the majority of the 2015 season, Heard trailed Swoopes in the offseason depth chart. Offensive coordinator Sterlin Gilbert has insisted the quarterback competition in Austin is wide open, with freshman Shane Buechele also in consideration for the starting job.

Texas' 2016 opener with Notre Dame is over five months away, and the quarterback position is far from settled. But an injury setback isn't how Heard — or anyone in the Texas offense — wanted to begin the spring.

— Michael Shapiro

ROWING



Courtesy of Texas Athletics

Juniors Gia Doonan and Emily Froehlich were named All-Americans after the 2015 season. Doonan was named Big 12 Rower of the Year, and Froehlich won Newcomer of the Year.

All-Americans place accolades behind them, focus on future

By Noah Brooks
@NTBrooks1011

Juniors Gia Doonan and Emily Froehlich were busy training at the U.S. National Team training facilities over the summer with rowers from across the nation. Suddenly, an announcement rang out of the overhead speakers.

Along with 19 others — including fellow Longhorn junior starboard Pippa Loveard — Doonan and Froehlich had been named first team All-Americans by the Collegiate Rowing Coaches Association.

The announcement came as a surprise to the two Texas rowers. They paused their exercises to congratulate each other, but the celebration lasted only a few seconds, giving each other a simple handshake before returning to their workouts.

"We didn't even know we were nominated, and we were like 'Alright, cool!'" Doonan said. "But we were also, like, 'Alright, on to what we need to do next.'"

The All-American honors came as just the latest awards for the duo. In 2015, Doonan grabbed the Big 12

Rower of the Year award, while Froehlich, a transfer from Purdue, took the conference's Newcomer of the Year award. All of this came as they led Texas to its first Big 12 championship.

But Doonan and Froehlich are quick to pin the reason for their success on someone else — head coach Dave O'Neill.

O'Neill, who arrived in Austin in June 2014, helped turn the Longhorns into a premier program. Texas finished last season with a seventh-place showing in the NCAA championships.

Froehlich said his arrival and the promise of a new start were the top reasons why she chose to transfer to Texas.

"I visited here, and I saw how Dave came in and how the whole team was just raring to go," Froehlich said. "If I wanted to be part of something big and be a key part of that, then Texas is the place to be."

Unlike Froehlich, Doonan experienced the coaching change and saw how it changed the team for the better. When Froehlich visited campus before transferring,

she was sold on O'Neill and the program after Doonan described his demanding approach to the sport.

O'Neill was quick to return the praise for two of his best players, citing their dedication and skill in the sport as a reason for their and the team's success.

"[Their] attitude goes a long way," O'Neill said. "And they're really good technical rowers, and each of them have gotten stronger this year. I expect a lot out of them, ... and they're doing a good job."

The pair validated his approval last weekend during the Longhorn Invitational. In Texas' first spring regatta, the Longhorns swept Notre Dame and San Diego. But even after helping their boat to an invitational-high time of 6:26.95, Doonan and Froehlich aren't planning on resting their laurels.

"We put all of that effort into last year's result, and [this year] we can't just show up and say, 'We're Texas,'" Doonan said. "There's a lot of effort being put in, and we're doing the same thing [as last year] again."

BIG 12 NOTEBOOK

Longhorns' Barrera blasts way to Player of the Week honors

By Daniel Clay
@dclay567

Texas third baseman Tres Barrera's strong showing at the plate earned the junior his first-career Conference Player of the Week honors. Barrera hit at a .400 clip over four games and crushed three home runs along with seven RBIs and five runs scored.

Barrera also shined at third base on Friday. With a man on in the third, Barrera dove to his right to snare a hot grounder down the line. Just two games into his new position, the former catcher fired a dart to first. Barrera's athleticism saved a double in the Longhorns' 2-0 win over the Horned Frogs.

Barrera's position switch has been a key element in the rejuvenated Texas defense.

"Something had to change a little bit, but our mindsets have stayed the same," Barrera said. "A little bit of defensive changes, and we're clicking right now."

Texas Tech Surging

The Texas Tech Red Raiders got off to a nice start in 2016 outside of the conference spotlight. That luxury could be gone after last weekend's series against Oklahoma. The Raiders — who have already knocked off then-No. 9 Houston and No. 6 Louisiana-Lafayette — capped off last weekend by sweeping the visiting Sooners.

Texas Tech cruised to two

five-run victories on Thursday and Friday before falling into a five-run deficit after two innings in the series finale. But the Red Raiders responded in a big way, proceeding to rip off 12 unanswered runs to bury the Sooners and complete the three game sweep.

Oklahoma State sweeps conference opener

Late-inning drama propelled No. 21 Oklahoma State into the top spot in the conference. The Cowboys opened their Big 12 title campaign with a three-game road sweep of Kansas State Wildcats last weekend.

Oklahoma State took the first two games of the series by one-run margins, and in the eighth inning of the series finale, it looked like the Cowboys would come away with an easy sweep. But with the crowd behind them, the Wildcats evened the score at four with two runs in the frame. The Cowboys were able to rebound, however, and load the bases in the tenth before pushing across the game-winning run with a sacrifice fly.

The Cowboys 3–0 conference record places them at first in the Big 12 ahead of second place Texas Tech (5–1).

Bissonette named Newcomer of the Week

Baylor freshman Josh Bissonette's .462 hitting line and

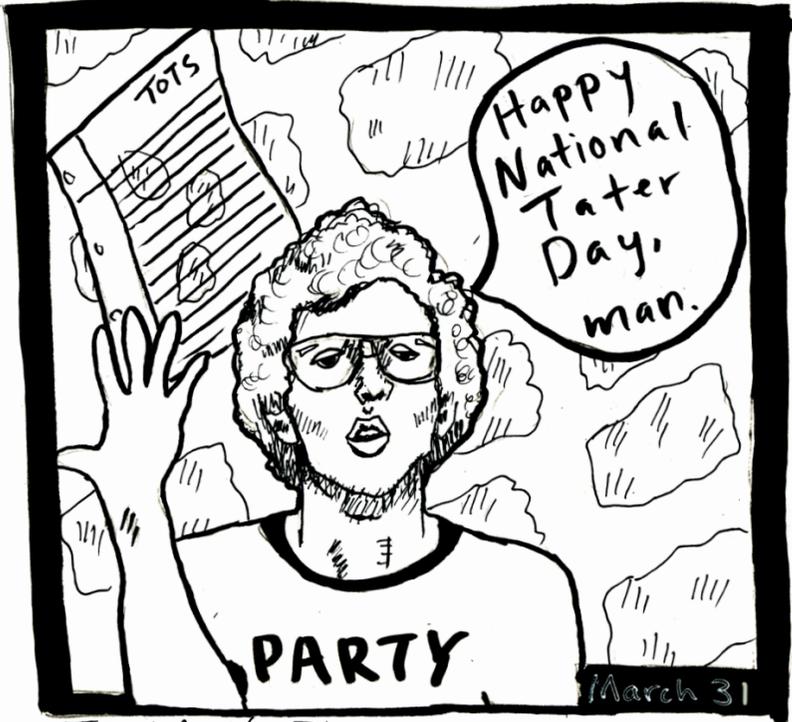
BIG 12 page 5



Gabriel Lopez | Daily Texan file photo

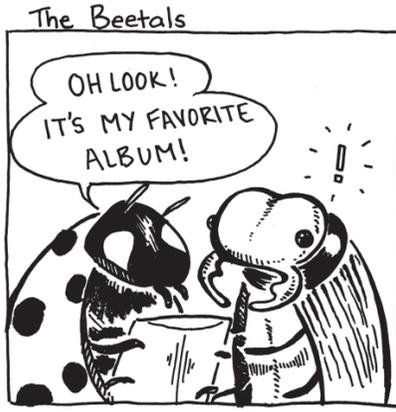
Third baseman Tres Barrera drove in seven RBIs in a four-game span. The junior also hit three home runs, his first of the season.

DAILY TEEN COMICS

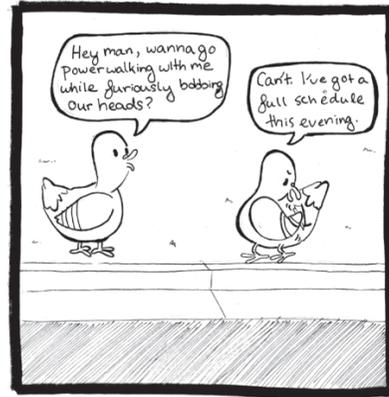


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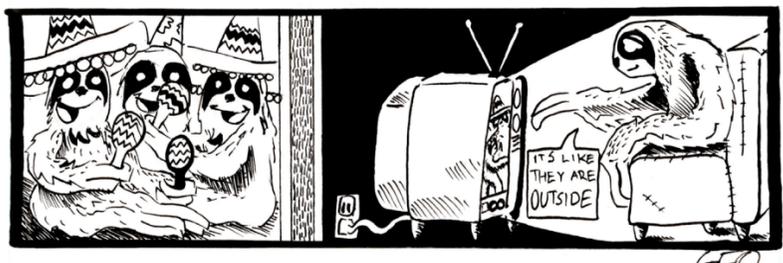
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GEO

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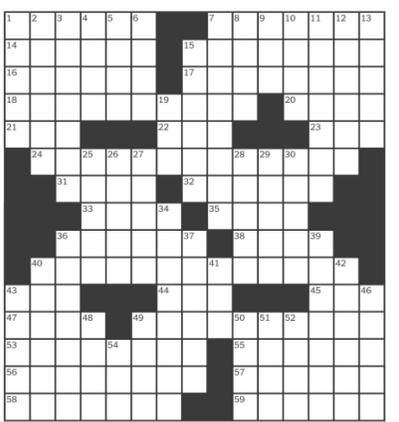
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The New York Times Crossword

Edited by Will Shortz No. 0225

- ACROSS**
- 1 Squelch
 - 7 Landlord on "Three's Company"
 - 14 Jumped up and down, perhaps
 - 15 Towering over
 - 16 One of the rooms in Clue
 - 17 Neighbor of Miss Gulch
 - 18 South American monkey's handhold?
 - 20 Mount that's a poker term when read backward
 - 21 Urge
 - 22 Give ___ whirl
 - 23 Verizon FIOS, e.g., for short
 - 24 [Insert your least favorite congressman here?]
 - 31 Second-class person, informally?
 - 32 "Quit your excuses"
 - 33 "___ con Dios" (Spanish farewell)
 - 35 Affectation
 - 36 "Junk"
 - 38 Veterinarian's branch of sci.
 - 40 Bird watcher upon spotting the rare California condor?
 - 43 Bobs and buns
 - 44 ___ Fridays
 - 45 Friend of Fidel
 - 47 Types
 - 49 Focal points of many F.A.A. investigations ... or a description of 18-, 24- and 40-Across?
 - 53 Figure in Matisse's "Le Bateau"
 - 55 Soften
 - 56 Boston specialty
 - 57 Out of service?
 - 58 Landlocked European
 - 59 "America's diner is always open" sloganer



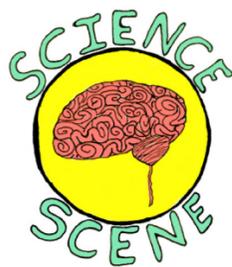
- ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE**
- LIME URBAN DUES
EMAC LORNA INST
TECH TAINIT PISA
TAHOE STAGG TEN
ENO LSTS ENBANC
RINGIN BOURREE
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ABS PANNELIST
SLEEVES SALLAAM
CITRON KITT SPA
REA ARTOO ETHER
INME ASANA KIRI
PEAS PALIN OMEN
TEXT TRACT SIDE
- DOWN**
- 1 Spread out
 - 2 Pennsylvania senator Pat
 - 3 Cactus flower eaters
 - 4 Epitome of cool, with "the"
 - 5 Small construction company
 - 6 ___ Prairie, Minn.
 - 7 View from Hilo
 - 8 Baseball Hall-of-Famer Sandberg
 - 9 Word that can precede or follow pack
 - 10 2015 award for "Hamilton"
 - 11 Aristotle work that began literary theory
 - 12 "Yeah, but still ..."
 - 13 Update, cartographer-style
 - 15 Serve
 - 19 A-lister
 - 25 Shack
 - 26 Style with illusory motion
 - 27 "Silly goose!"
 - 28 One of the Balearic Islands
 - 29 Best-selling author of legal thrillers
 - 30 "No worries"
 - 34 J.F.K. conveyance
 - 36 More burly
 - 37 Render invalid
 - 39 Stand taken by one making a speech
 - 40 1958 hit with the lyric "Your love has given me wings"
 - 41 Grunts
 - 42 Watery, as eyes
 - 43 Checkers, e.g.
 - 44 They're given for Best Upset and Best Play
 - 48 Sidewalk section, e.g.
 - 49 Setting of a top 10 Barry Manilow hit
 - 50 Be mindful of
 - 51 ___-Altenburg (old German duchy)
 - 52 "This outrage!"
 - 54 Ratio involving height and weight, for short

PUZZLE BY JOEL FAGLIANO

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RESEARCH

Research: Salary increase not linked to happiness



By Keun-woo Lee
@thedailytexan

Achieving happiness could be more about a phone call to mom than a six-figure salary.

Students are constantly questioning which life path will lead to the most satisfaction. In a survey that asked millennials what their most important life goals were, about 80 percent selected “get rich,” whereas only 30 percent selected “to help people who need help.”

UT researchers are investigating which life factors affected happiness the most. Their findings challenge factors stereotypically linked to happiness, such as wealth and career.

There is, in fact, a positive association between money and happiness, but it is minute. Money is essential to happiness since it provides basic necessities. However, after a threshold yearly salary of \$75,000, there is virtually

no increase in happiness as income increases, according to the Journal of Psychological and Cognitive Sciences.

Rebecca North, lecturer in UT’s Department of Psychology, conducted a 10-year study examining how factors such as income and social support predict current happiness and changes in happiness.

The quality of family relationships, more so than income, predicts happiness, according to the study. Also, during a 10-year span, an improvement in quality of relationships predicted an increase in happiness.

“A lot of people think, ‘When I get that promotion or get another position, then I’m going to be much happier,’ but our research has shown that the change in income over time related to no change in happiness,” North said.

She said people’s happiness is also contingent on their attitude toward the human spectrum of emotions.

“There’s a lot of emerging research that shows it’s not just a ratio of positive to negative emotions,” she said. “It’s not just about feeling more positive emotions. There might actually be this element of accepting the full range of our experiences.”

Raj Raghunathan,

marketing professor in the McCombs School of Business and creator of *happysmarts.com*, also offered insight into how developing relationships is important for happiness.

“It’s not a waste of time to go out at a bar or hang out with your friends,” Raghunathan said. “It’s very important to keep in touch and not just on Facebook where it’s superficial,

but to develop deeper ties.”

Raghunathan questions why his academically successful peers often seem miserable in his upcoming book, “If You’re So Smart, Why Aren’t You Happy?”

He said these successful people typically have two traits: an interest in being superior and controlling others.

“These very traits that might

make you smart — go-getting, achievement-oriented, narcissistic, egotistic, with high self-esteem — and perhaps even help you achieve success, can often come in the way of your happiness,” Raghunathan said.

Raghunathan said while people should avoid these negative traits associated with traditional success, there are steps students can take to

find happiness.

“Do something you really, really love to do. That’ll naturally lead you to become really good at it rather than seeking to be better than other people,” he said. “Seek to be of service to other people, and rather than trying to control other people and the environment, you try and control yourself — your internal environment.”



Illustration by Victoria Smith | Daily Texan Staff

DATING



Illustration by Mel Westfall | Daily Texan Staff

Becoming ‘Facebook Official’ may add stress to relationships

By Maggie Rosenbohm
@magstahhh

For some, becoming “Facebook official” is a necessary step in making a relationship exclusive. But while it’s tempting to share a new love online, updates can quickly evolve into oversharing, making followers and significant others uncomfortable.

In the age of social media, one of the ways people used to announce their coupling was a simple change of their Facebook status from “single” to “in a relationship,” an action that led to flooded inboxes and notifications of likes and comments from friends and family members. However, in the last few years, substantiating a relationship status on social media platforms has become a faux pas.

Couples today are starting to move away from the once seemingly necessary relationship milestone toward a more private approach. A recent BuzzFeed reader poll, “No One Wants To Admit They’re In A Relationship On Facebook Anymore,” concluded that 43 percent of respondents claim to never put their relationship status on Facebook.

Communication associate professor Angeline Close said the tendency to post repeatedly about your relationship could affect not only how friends view you and your relationship, but could also put strain on the

relationship itself.

“There’s more than one person involved when you share,” Close said. “Where the conflict can come in a relationship is when one party is more or less privacy-prone than the other. It’s all about understanding the other partner’s comfort.”

Instead of exchanging love notes and gushing over one another via Twitter and Instagram, couples today are embracing the power of privacy. According to the BuzzFeed poll, only 31 percent of those in a relationship said they would post about their relationship on Facebook. The poll’s respondents advocate for those who are dating to go out and experience a relationship instead of posting about it on social media. The respondents concluded that posting about a relationship’s progress on social media could end up distracting those in the relationship from reality.

The poll shows that there is no correlation between the frequency of publication about a relationship and how serious it actually is. Undergraduate studies junior William Stargardt has used social media to validate a relationship and said he understands the perceived importance of establishing a new relationship online.

“I noticed with my first relationship that it was incredibly important,” Star-

“Where the conflict can come in a relationship is when one party is more or less privacy-prone than the other. It’s all about understanding the other partner’s comfort.”

— Angeline Close,
Communication
associate professor

gardt said. “I think that was something that came with relationship immaturity. I didn’t quite understand how relationships worked, but I wanted people to know that I was in one. I wouldn’t say that I felt less passionate about my preceding relationships, but I definitely did not find broadcasting it necessary.”

Social media’s purpose is to share, but when going on a date, Close said it may be beneficial to keep the romance between the two people involved.

“It’s not a bad thing to show that you love somebody over social media; it’s a beautiful part of it,” Close said. “But maybe people need to be a bit more cognizant that there’s negative, unintended consequences of their posts.”

MOVIE REVIEW | ‘FASTBALL’

‘Fastball’ fails to deliver homerun

By Cameron Osmond
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After receiving the signal and wiping his brow with the white of the ball, Aroldis Chapman winds up, firing a fastball down the center of the plate. The batter had no chance — Chapman threw the ball at 105.1 mph, a new Major League Baseball record.

In “Fastball,” a documentary directed by Jonathan Hock, the legendary battle between pitcher and batter is broken down by current and former players as well as physicists. Exploring the ongoing debate of who threw the best fastball, the film chronicles the famed careers of pitchers who defied the laws of gravity and those who are currently pushing their bodies to see how fast they can pitch.

Layered in a series of short vignettes, each episode of the film focuses on a different subject ranging from the temper-fueled pitcher Goose Gosage to a sequence on Steve Dalkowski, a talented fastball thrower who never made it to the big leagues. Most of the episodes are captivating, offering a chance to enter the mind of a pitcher. Others misfire, such as the bit about the variety of methods scouts use to

measure the speed of pitches.

Throughout the film, Hock’s cadre of players weigh the abilities of pitchers, old and new. They analyze the achievements of pitchers ranging from strikeout king Nolan Ryan to current star Justin Verlander, which makes for an interesting look at the evolution of the sport. Viewers learn that current pitchers now push past pitching records effortlessly. An 83.2-mph fastball was considered legendary in the 1940s, but today, a 100-mph pitch is the norm. The film begs the question: When will athletes, if ever, reach a plateau in athletic performance?

Hock brings in physicists to measure the science behind each pitch. Experts dispel players’ claims that a hard-driven fastball “rises” during its path to the batter’s box, assuring that this “rise” is attributed to humans’ depth perception. These sequences are captivating to watch, offering a scientific outlook on a sport that is insistent on staying true to its traditional form.

The film is at its best when it shares the stories of old pitchers many have never heard of. Such sequences tell the emotional stories of men such as Bob “Hoot” Gibson, a virtually un-hittable pitcher

“FASTBALL”

Running Time: 87 minutes
Score: 3.5/5 stars

who, as a black player, was forced to deal with racism in the 1960s and 1970s. In a film that highlights ridiculous feats on the diamond, these men’s stories capture the behind-the-scenes complications that are involved in the sport, adding a human element to the film.

“Fastball” manages to impart the viewer with a clever blend of personal narratives and scientific and data analyses. The vignette structure can sometimes get a bit agitating — just when the viewer begins to form a real interest in the subject matter, the topic is switched or the focus is changed. Perhaps by cutting out some of the lifeless vignettes, Hock would have allowed viewers to develop a deeper interest for each player discussed in the film.

Ultimately, Hock dares to take an ambitious swing with “Fastball” but comes just short of the fence. For fans and newcomers to the game alike, “Fastball” offers a generally intriguing look into the minds of some of the world’s most fierce competitors.

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NERGIA
Natural Energy Shot

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GREAT-TASTING ENERGY SHOT FROM NATURAL INGREDIENTS
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