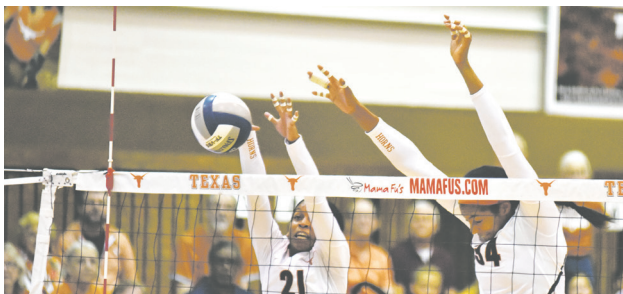




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CAMPUS

Student groups rally, register voters

By Sarah Philips & Wesley Story
@thedailytexan

Travis County has registered a total of 717,694 voters for the upcoming election, and continues to process voter registration forms submitted before the deadline, surpassing its original goal of registering 90 percent of the county's eligible voters, according to the Tax Office website.

The 90 percent goal was proposed last September by

Bruce Elfant, Travis County's tax assessor-collector and voter registrar. Since then, the county has registered more than 80,000 voters, according to the Tax Office website.

Campus volunteer deputy registrars worked all day Tuesday to register as many citizens as possible and ended the day with a registration rally at the UT Tower that lasted until midnight, the deadline to register in Texas.

Elfant made an appearance at the rally and discussed the

disparity between the number of people registered and the number of people who actually vote. Elfant said he is pleased with registration numbers, but that doesn't mean all of those people will vote in November.

Elfant said the May election on Proposition 1, which dealt with ridehailing, demonstrated a low turnout rate. Only 17 percent of the voting population voted in that election.

VOTING page 2

One of the number one excuses young people use for not voting is that they feel that they're not educated on the topic.

—Kassie Barroquillo,
Communications Studies Graduate Student

SYSTEM

UT System approves new brand initiative

By Will Clark
@_willclark_

The Board of Regents approved a \$1.46 million budget Tuesday for a branding initiative in which the UT System will partner with creative agencies to better unite the UT System brand.

Teri Thompson, chief marketing officer for the UT System, explained the goal of the initiative is to enrich and complement the branding activities of UT's 14 different institutions so everyone from donors to parents of prospective students understands the power of the UT System.

"We have amazing institutions that are doing amazing things, individually," Thompson said. "But imagine the lift we could get if we also talk at the same time about what's going on collectively."

The Regents voted unanimously with one abstention at their most recent meeting, approving the plan and \$1.46 million for a one-year contract with sister agencies GSD&M and Interbrand, which are both owned by Omnicom.

The partnership between the agencies creates a single-stop solution for this challenge, and a critical step will be listening to students, faculty and other key stakeholders to understand which approach makes the most sense, according to GSD&M CEO Duff Stewart.

"I think we want to move away from

BRANDING page 2

CITY

Austin Museum hosts National Fossil Day

By Reagan Ritterbush
@Reagan0720

As part of National Fossil Day, the National Parks Service sponsored a celebration at the Texas Memorial Museum Wednesday intended to raise interest and appreciation among the public for fossils.

Pamela Owen, the associate director of the Texas Memorial Museum, helped organize this event to encourage UT students to learn more about the history, value and impact fossils have on Texas heritage.

Owen said the study of fossils is a way for people to learn about the diversity in structure and lifestyles of organisms, and about how surrounding environments play into the evolution of the human race.

"Fossils are rare treasures that hold a wealth of information about the places they came from," Owen said. "You don't have to take a geology class to know that fossils are the key into our past."

Owen spoke at the celebration about the effect fossils have on our past as well as our future. She said



Katie Bauer | Daily Texan Staff

Children dig for fossils to celebrate National Fossil Day at the Texas Memorial Museum on Wednesday morning. The celebration consisted of many activities that emphasized how learning about fossils can help prevent extinction today.

learning about how organisms survived and become extinct can teach people now how to deal with their own changing world.

"We are trying to find

our own place in the circle of life," Owen said. "As creatures, we need to be able to appreciate how past creatures play into future ones."

Geological sciences freshman Brooke Dunn said Owen's speech made her aware of how to predict what species may survive in the future and of the need

to stop certain animals from becoming extinct.

"It's scary to think that a creature that is here one

FOSSILS page 3

CAMPUS

On black lives, UT panel recalls history

By Van Nguyen
@nguyen__van

"Moving forward through looking back" is how public affairs and history professor Peniel Joseph described a panel which aimed to address problems the Black Power Movement encountered and how the Black Lives Matter movement can learn from history.

The Center for the Study of Race and Democracy in the LBJ School of Public Affairs hosted the panel, called An Agenda for Black Lives: From the Black Power Movement to Black Lives Matter, as part of a day-long event that focused on the Black Power Movement and American political

culture from 1966 onwards.

The panel, which took place in Bass Lecture Hall, was filled with graduate students and brought together academics from across UT to discuss the historic lessons students can learn from the Black Power Movement and apply to today's movements.

"The Black Power Movement on one level produces historical transformations that change dramatically institutions in American society, including higher education," Joseph said. "At the same time, it introduces intellectual production that becomes a basis of aspects of not just black studies, but queer studies and gender studies."



Gabriel Lopez | Daily Texan Staff

Public affairs professor Peniel Joseph discusses the future of the Black Lives Matter movement.

Michele Deitch, senior lecturer at the LBJ School and one of the panelists, addressed the call for prison system

reform in the U.S. Deitch said the agendas for Black Lives Matter and prison reform

PANEL page 2

CAMPUS

Past success continues online ethics program

By Kayla Meyertons
@kemeyertons

Students will have access to the UT McCombs School of Business ethics program, "Ethics Unwrapped," for two more years after garnering national attention and popularity since its launch in 2012.

Ethics Unwrapped is a free online video series designed to teach business students how to handle ethical dilemmas in the workplace. The program has now been used at more than 500 universities across 170 countries, according to the

University Communications press release.

The renewal will be funded by generous contributions from the Ethics at McCombs Advisory Council, the Bob and Ann Pratt endowment, the Teagle Foundation and the Provost's Office at The University of Texas at Austin, according to the Ethics Unwrapped website.

Ethics Unwrapped has received three Telly Awards for filmmaking excellence in 2013 and 2014, and one Council for Advancement and Support of Education

ETHICS page 3

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Gabriel Lopez | Daily Texan Staff

Students play Quidditch on the LBJ Library lawn on Wednesday evening.

BRANDING

continues from page 1

being a family of brands to really” a branded family,” Stewart said. “That shows the power of the institution. I don’t know how that comes to life in the articulation because we’ve got to talk to the people that are deeply immersed in the day-to-day.”

Austin-based GSD&M created the UT motto “What starts here changes the world,” and coined the phrase “Don’t Mess With Texas” for an anti-litter ad campaign.

Stewart said the initiative’s return on investment will be recognition of the strength and power of the UT System.

“It’s not that we’re 14 institutions,” Stewart said. “It’s that when you have the strength of the people and the strength of the character of those institutions, together they form a very powerful institution: the University of Texas System.”

According to Thompson, the plan will draw from brand models such as the NFL, Procter & Gamble, The Hershey Company and other university systems.

Randa Safady, vice chancellor for external relations for the UT System, oversaw the creation of this plan and said she understands these institutions are highly differentiated and have a unique character.

“That’s very important to us,” Safady said. “We should not and will not attempt to interrupt it by any of our proposed branding activities.”

Courtesy of UT Systems

Randa Safady, Vice Chancellor for External Relations at the UT System, speaks at the Board of Regents meeting where her new branding initiative was approved on Tuesday.

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VOTING

continues from page 1

“In our rideshare election, 83 percent sat out on the sidelines,” Elfant said. “It’s very corrosive on our electoral system that so few people turn out to vote.”

More than 3,000 VDRs were trained in Travis County this year. Tuesday’s event had VDRs from different organizations on campus, including Hook the Vote, Texas Rising, UT Votes and University Democrats, the organizations hosting the event.

Elfant had two simple words for the VDRs who had worked since before the

primary to register voters: thank you.

“Thank you, thank you, thank you,” Elfant said. “We have 3,000 deputy registrars and over 600 working yesterday alone to register voters to hopefully make Travis County the top registered county in the state of Texas.”

Elfant’s office stayed open until midnight to get as many people registered to vote as possible. Most other county’s offices closed at 5 p.m. Elfant said the county will not know until after the November election where they rank against other counties when it comes to registered voters, which Travis County

currently leads the state in.

Kassie Barroquillo, a communications studies graduate student, said now that registration is over, the important thing is for voters to educate themselves about the issues and candidates on the ballot.

“I think preparing yourself to go in and fulfill your democratic duty is important,” Barroquillo said. “One of the number one excuses young people use for not voting is that they feel that they’re not educated on the topic.”

Bailey Schumm, VDR and agency director for Hook the Vote, said it’s a satisfying feeling seeing all of the hard work pay off.

“I understand that there are a lot of students this year who may not be pleased with the candidates, but there are a lot of really important down-ballot races that will directly impact students,” said Schumm, a public health junior.

Election Day is Nov. 8, but early voting will be available at different locations in Travis County Oct. 24 through Nov. 4. Students can vote on campus at the Flawn Academic Center. Voters must bring an acceptable form of identification. Further details can be found on the Texas Secretary of State website or votetexas.gov.

PANEL

continues from page 1

are intertwined.

Deitch cited the 1971 Attica Prison Riot in New York, in which prisoners called for better living conditions. The riots played a pivotal role in advancing the Black Power Movement, Deitch said.

On Sept. 9, more than 24,000 inmates across the U.S. protested by refusing to fulfill their work obligations, in order to address better living conditions on the Riots’ 45th anniversary.

“When we think about the agenda for Black Lives today, 50 years after the Black Power Movement, we have to have to make sure issues involving our prison systems are front and center in that agenda,” Deitch said.

Leonard Moore, panelist and senior associate vice president for UT’s Division of Diversity and Community Engagement, said the black community came together at the 1972 National Black Political Assembly held in Gary, Indiana, to formulate public policy solutions for issues pertaining to blacks, and the Black Lives Matter movement should look to it for inspiration.

Moore said one issue he has with the Black Lives Matter movement is the organization’s lack of inclusivity. Moore said the Indiana assembly brought together people with a range of political beliefs, such as Black Nationalists, Democrats and Republicans.

“When you look back at the Gary convention, you’ll see they were very policy-driven,” Moore said. “The National Black Political Agenda of 1972 is unfortunately still relevant in 2016 and something we can use as a template as we move forward.”

THE DAILY TEXAN

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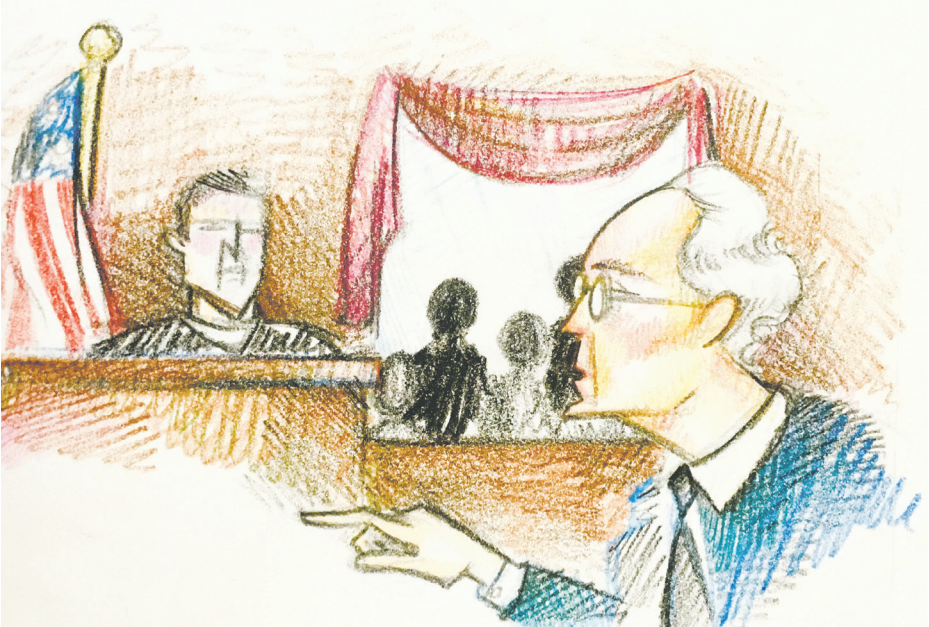


Illustration by Gaby Breiter | Daily Texan Staff

Houston inmate’s appeal reaches Supreme Court

By Lisa Dreher
@lisa_dreher97

The U.S. Supreme Court heard an appeal last Wednesday to reopen a death row inmate’s case from Houston in which a psychologist testified the inmate is potentially dangerous because he is black, prompting a nationwide dialogue on ongoing racial conflicts and a broken legal system.

“I find it hard to believe that in 2016 a psychologist would make such a statement about, essentially, race,” said Kevin Cokley, an educational psychology and African and African diaspora studies professor at UT.

Duane Buck was sentenced to death in 1997, two years after breaking into his ex-girlfriend’s home, shooting and killing her and her friend. Under Texas law, a jury must decide that the suspect is a “future danger” to the public to impose a death sentence. Buck’s defense lawyer had psychologist Walter Quijano give “expert” testimony, in

which Quijano said Buck is more dangerous because he is black.

“It’s a sad commentary that minorities, Hispanics and black people, are overrepresented in the criminal justice system,” Quijano said to the jury.

Quijano said statistically, factors like race, age, sex and socioeconomic status prompt criminal activity. The prosecutor then asked Quijano if he believed race contributes to one’s ability to be dangerous, to which he answered “yes.”

“Certainly, in my profession, that is not a statement that would be popular or one that would be endorsed by the American Psychological Association,” Cokley said.

The psychologist later told the Texas Tribune in early 2013 he only meant these factors influence decisions to commit crimes, but it “doesn’t mean that because you are a certain race you are more likely to commit a violent act.”

Chemistry senior Eric Guevara, a Houston

native, said minorities are treated worse in his hometown, where citizens are divided along racial and socioeconomic lines.

“It’s segregation based off of social status now,” Guevara said. “They do that by limiting a big population of minorities to impoverished conditions.”

Guevara said when he was caught going 10 miles per hour over the speed limit, he felt the police officer was more wary because he is Hispanic.

“If I took a more serious tone of voice, it put him in more of a tense situation [mindset],” Guevara said.

Buck’s guiltiness is not being denied, but his defense lawyers appealed later that the testimony could not be used to sway the jury.

The Fifth Circuit courts rejected the appeal, and the office of then-Attorney Gen. Greg Abbott released a statement saying “Buck himself presented the testimony about which he complains.”

The Court has yet to decide to reopen the case.

CAMPUS

Second amendment expert talks gun safety, campus carry

By Sarah Philips
@sarahphilips23

In its third meeting of the year, College Republicans hosted Michael Cargill, Second Amendment expert and Central Texas Gun Works owner, for a talk involving Second Amendment rights and campus carry.

Cargill is a concealed handgun license instructor, and his business serves as a retail store and training facility for gun owners. During the talk, Cargill answered questions from organization members and detailed the laws surrounding open carry, concealed carry and firearms.

Cargill said the biggest aspect missing from the rhetoric surrounding issues such as open carry and concealed carry is knowledge about the laws already in place.

“It’s just knowing what the law is and knowing that licensed holders are the

most law abiding people that we have here in the state of Texas,” Cargill said. “They are more law abiding than police officers. That stat about licensed holders goes all the way back to 1995, says that if you’re a licensed holder, you’re less likely to be convicted of a crime.”

Accounting sophomore Quinn Cox said during the meeting that he picks apartments based on if they allow guns on the premises and is personally for campus carry.

“It’s more about personal protection,” Cox said. “I believe there’s a consensus among the anti-campus carry that the purpose of the law is to prevent mass shootings when that’s not the purpose of the law. The purpose of the law is about protection and protection of personal liberty.”

Cox said he believes University administration leans left on political issues and should bring more

right-leaning speakers like Cargill to campus.

International relations and global studies sophomore Hennessey Herrera said she plans to buy a gun as soon as she turns 21.

“I think that when it comes down to it, I want a way to be able to protect myself,” Herrera said. “I think if somebody comes into the classroom and they have a gun, I want to be able to protect myself from the people around me.”

While members of College Republicans seemed to agree that carrying a gun is a matter of personal safety, Cargill said he realizes having a firearm isn’t for everyone.

“It’s up to you to decide if that’s something you want to do because a gun is not necessarily for everyone, but I believe that everyone who can legally possess a gun should have the right to have one,” Cargill said. “But it’s not for everyone.”



Ethan Oblak | Daily Texan file photo

George P. Bush, Commissioner of the Texas General Land Office, speaks to members of College Republicans On March of 2014.

WORLD

Report: Zika transmission ‘very rare case’

By Sunny Kim
@sunny_newsiee

The Utah man who contracted the Zika virus by touching his dad’s tears and sweat was an extremely rare case, according to recent research published in the New England Journal of Medicine.

The now-deceased father was battling prostate cancer at the time, according to CBS News. He exhibited symptoms of the disease after spending three weeks in Mexico.

His son became sick a few days after visiting his father in the hospital, and was diagnosed with Zika.

“There is the possibility that this individual has a set of genes that made him more susceptible to [Zika] infection,” molecular biosciences professor Jaquelin Dudley said in an email. “His son may have inherited some of those genes

from his father, and he also would be more susceptible to [Zika].”

Most cases of the disease are symptom-free and some individuals may be unaware that they are infected, Dudley said.

“Although all body fluids probably have some low level of the virus, many of these fluids, including saliva, have enzymes that break down proteins in the first stage of digestion,” Dudley said. “Saliva would ordinarily render [Zika] non-infectious.”

Public health sophomore Katie Na said there should be more precautions to test the Zika concentrations in an infected person to avoid these instances from occurring.

“If they are going through any therapy or taking medications, these could possibly allow the virus to replicate more easily,” Na said.

Na said it’s important



Illustration by Audrey McNay | Daily Texan file

to clear up the misconceptions about the Zika virus in order to ensure public safety.

“When the wrong rumors spread, it can wreck havoc to our public’s idea of safety,” Na said. “It’s important for the public to know this was a very rare case, and they are highly unlikely to be exposed to Zika in this way.”

Biochemistry sophomore Chaitraja Kurati said

the public should trust in health professionals who are well-equipped to prevent widespread transmission of diseases.

“There’s a lot of hysteria surrounding isolated incidents that in which diseases are transmitted in uncommon ways,” Kurati said. “It’s not something to be extremely concerned about when we have trained health officials dealing with outbreaks as they happen.”

ETHICS

continues from page 1

Award for excellence in educational videos in 2014.

Internal audit affiliate Will O’Hara, founding co-chair of the Ethics at McCombs Advisory Council, said ethics is important for teaching the business curriculum and expanding the McCombs brand.

“We have an obligation to our donors and to the people who recruit our employees to know our curriculum,” O’Hara said. “Our students not only learn how to do the profession but also to make ethical decisions when confronted with unethical situations.”

O’Hara said McCombs Dean Jay Hartzell also funded the renewal of Ethics Unwrapped in order to help create a new center for leadership and ethics in the McCombs School.

The video series combines research findings, real-life situations and commentary from experts and students to help students navigate ethical challenges, according to the press release.

Robert Prentice, faculty director of Ethics Unwrapped and the Business Honors Program, said the new ethics and leadership center will focus on analytics, business ethics

and inclusion.

“When students think about ethics, [we want them to] think about the University of Texas at Austin and the McCombs School of Business,” Prentice said.

Brent Iverson, dean of undergraduate studies, said he is in favor of anything that’s helping students develop better ethical decision making skills.

“I think it’s very clear [why Ethics Unwrapped is important],” Iverson said. “One of the things I am absolutely most proud of about UT Austin is we require legitimate ethics training for every single one of our undergraduate students. That’s something that sets us apart. I’m in favor of ethics period.”

BHP and Plan II sophomore Seth Krasne said Ethics Unwrapped helps reinforce a better understanding of how students should go about making ethical decisions in their academic and personal lives.

“Ethics is super important. It’s not talked about, and it’s something that’s really hard to talk about,” Krasne said. “Ethics Unwrapped brings all of those together. Ethics is something that all universities across the country have a lot of work to do to improve upon and [it’s critical] to have a resource like this.”

FOSSILS

continues from page 1

day can be gone the next because it can’t adapt,” Dunn said. “We need to be able to learn how to stop this, and fossils might be the answer.”

The celebration featured several activities and discussions of different creatures and how changing environments led to their extinction.

Scheduled events include fossil identifications, fossil dig pits, a lecture on

saber-toothed cats and an Ice Age arts activity.

Geological science sophomore Nathan Leva said through these activities, he learned about the methods paleontologists use to identify fossils and how bones can be preserved for so long.

“I got to witness the evolution of species over time,” Leva said. “I’ve always thought it was interesting how creatures adapted to their changing environments in order to survive.”

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COLUMN

Advertisers must not trivialize women’s issues

By Janhavi Nemawarkar
Daily Texan Senior Columnist
@janhavin97

Last week, Reebok announced their selection of Gigi Hadid as the face of their #PerfectNever campaign. In a statement, the company announced their belief that her “strength and tenacity” would “empower millions of women around the world.”

In other words, Gigi Hadid — a conventionally attractive and wildly popular supermodel — is the face of an advertising campaign that purports to inspire women to fight the unrealistic expectations placed on them by the media.

The concept of women’s empowerment is sexy to advertisers now: From Dove’s long-running “Real Beauty” campaign to Always’ more recent #LikeAGirl campaign, the number of social media initiatives that focus on some empathetic byproduct of sexism women face by companies that target women has exploded within the last few years. Somehow, “empowerment” evolved from a term used to describe the revolutionary process of a disenfranchised group claiming power to a buzzword used to describe everything from Hillary Clinton’s pantsuits to soap marketed towards women. At some point, “women’s empowerment” has been conflated with “things that make some women feel good.”

But even in a world awash with campaigns and initiatives designed to break stereotypes associated with women,

“

In other words, Gigi Hadid — a conventionally attractive and wildly popular supermodel — is the face of an advertising campaign that purports to inspire women to fight the unrealistic expectations placed on them by the media.

unattainable standards of how an ideal woman should look and act like haunt many of us. Psychology junior Stephanie Estrera believes advertising that at least attempts to subvert the media ideal of a white, thin woman could have powerful and far-reaching benefits.

“While ‘empowerment’ may have become a buzzword in advertising, I think it still can leave an impact on an advertisement’s audience,” Estrera wrote in an email. “Feminists have made strides over the years, but rape culture still prevails due to the patriarchal values prioritized in western culture; the unequal treatment of black women and other women of color still prevails due to the racist tendencies ingrained in our traditions and holidays; the fetishization of queer women still prevails due to a porn industry that caters to male audiences. Women have more freedom than we did 100 years ago, but we are



Photo courtesy of Reebok

Gigi Hadid appears in a video for Reebok’s #PerfectNever movement released on Oct. 4. This example shows how companies often downplay women’s issues for economic gain.

still stuck in this trap that capitalizes off of our insecurity.”

Moreover, Estrera believes that campaigns that do attempt to be inclusive are a step up from the vast majority of advertising.

“In the end, I’m going to have to buy deodorant and soap, so I may as well support the company that produces a wide variety of body types in their ads,” Estrera said.

Gigi Hadid being selected to embody a campaign about imperfection reveals

how companies water down revolutionary women’s issues to sell a product. But ultimately, their power over the media leaves them with a large amount of social responsibility. Advertisers should continue to challenge outdated ideals of what it means to be a woman — ultimately they must understand that women’s rights are more than just an excuse to sell soap.

Nemawarkar is a Plan II sophomore from Austin.

COLUMN

Austin needs ‘ugly’ food subscription services

By Laura Hallas
Daily Texan Senior Columnist
@LauraHallas

Every UT student has experienced the moldy blueberry problem. The phenomenon is characterized by excitement for fresh produce, only to realize that the fruits or vegetables you just bought are already in a state of decay. It is an emotionally and financially devastating moment to say the least.

Convenience, cost and freshness are all enemies of student shoppers, especially when it comes to the foods considered most healthy for us. “Ugly” food subscription services offer a perfect combination of fresh, cheap and sustainable eats.

Ugly foods are called by a multitude of names, but the basic idea is that farmers and grocers are unable to sell aesthetically flawed produce. There is nothing fundamentally wrong with these fruits or vegetables. They just don’t hold up to the aesthetic standards that consumers have cultivated over time. In the U.S., an estimated 20 percent of produce is lost in harvesting, partially because of workers’ attempts to meet the standards specified by retailers. Overall, the food supply chain has resulted in \$165 billion worth of losses.

Leftover produce deemed unfit for market shelves is usually left to rot or thrown out, an inefficiency that some food entrepreneurs are capitalizing on. Unwanted food is bought cheaply, boxed up by employees and delivered to subscribing customers on a weekly

“

There is nothing fundamentally wrong with these fruits or vegetables. They just don’t hold up to the aesthetic standards that consumers have cultivated over time.

basis. Customers can request their preferred mixes of fruits and vegetables and pay only a fraction of the market cost for the same fruits and vegetables. The produce isn’t rotted or odd-tasting — just aesthetically challenged.

The business model has already succeeded in cities across the U.S., including the Bay Area’s Imperfect Produce, and New York’s Hungry Harvest. But these metropolitan areas don’t have a monopoly on their demand for fresh foods. Texas has more farms and ranches than any other state, and farmers markets are already becoming mainstream. Austin doesn’t have such a service yet, but the demand definitely exists. Neil Kaufman, Division of Housing and Food Services sustainability director, said that students and staff have already shown their enthusiasm for fresh foods.

“[Fresh food] is something that students, faculty and staff have come to expect. Every time we have an event [such as the UT Farm Stand], people are always asking ‘why don’t you do this more often?’” Kaufman said. “We

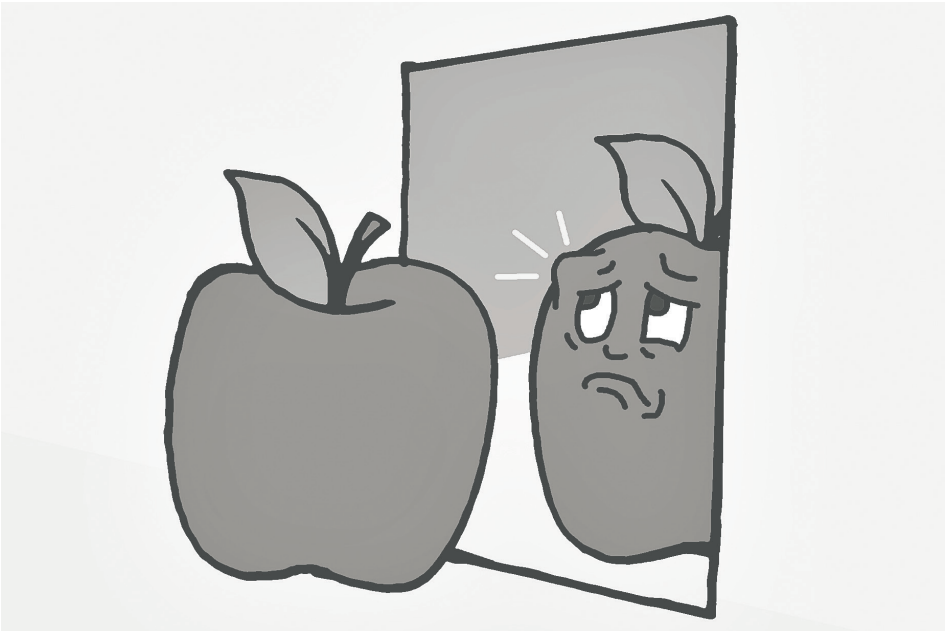


Illustration by Albert Lee | Daily Texan Staff

sell out at almost all of our events.”

Groups like UT’s farm stand help to address the food desert around campus, but a stand run by volunteers once every three weeks cannot fully keep up with demand. A subscription service helps make the concept a sustainable business model, while potentially still costing students less than a trip to HEB.

Austin is the perfect place for such a service. The city is ranked as the best city for young entrepreneurs and already promotes

innovative ideas about food through groups like Food and City and Food Tech Meetup.

A food subscription service in Austin is overdue. Such a service would ensure freshness, keep down costs and offer ethical and sustainable solutions to food waste. Students and faculty should make clear their desire for such a sustainable model — you might just be rewarded with a box of fruit at your door.

Hallas is a Plan II and health and society sophomore from Allen.

COLUMN

Electoral College discourages citizens from voting

By London Bolsius
Daily Texan Columnist

The concept of “one man, one vote” is one of the democratic principles which underpins our republic. The Supreme Court case *Reynolds v. Sims* establishes that states are required to set representative districts of roughly equivalent populations. However, this basic principle does not apply to our presidential elections. Despite all the political rhetoric and calls for voter registration, one giant obstacle remains in the way of a process by which every vote matters — the Electoral College.

The Electoral College works by appointing a certain number of electors to each state, equivalent to the number of senators and representatives each state has (in the case of Washington D.C., three). These electors go entirely to the candidate who won a majority or plurality of the votes within that state, with the only exceptions being Maine and Nebraska. This has resulted in four elections where the winner

of the popular vote has lost the electoral vote, the most recent being George W. Bush’s victory over Al Gore in 2000.

In addition, the Electoral College suppresses voter turnout. Voter turnout in non-swing states is lower than in swing states, and swing states receive a disproportionate amount of attention from candidates. Under our current system, there is no need to garner every vote possible across all states if a loss there is guaranteed. Democrats in Texas and Republicans in California are essentially disenfranchised as their votes have no bearing on the outcome of the presidential election.

Since the Electoral College is prescribed under Article II of the Constitution, a constitutional amendment would be required to replace this system entirely with a national popular vote in its stead. The arduous process of ratifying an amendment would require two-thirds of both houses of Congress and approval by three-fourths of the states. However, there are historical instances where the Constitution has been

modified in favor of increased democratization. For example, the Seventeenth Amendment similarly moved the election of senators from the state legislatures to popular election by the people.

Besides a constitutional amendment, there are other ways to create a more democratic electoral process.

“Nothing in the Constitution prevents states from allocating their electoral votes according to the popular vote instead of winner-take-all,” government associate professor Zachary Elkins said.

“If this were to happen, we would no longer have battleground states and national candidates might actually visit states such as Texas, California and New York. There’s no reason that Ohio, Florida and Pennsylvania should be the only states subjected to 24-hour political advertising, robocalls and candidate stump speeches.”

While this proposal would not result in a perfect representation of the popular vote, it would be easier to implement than a constitutional amendment and

“

Despite all the political rhetoric and calls for voter registration, one giant obstacle remains in the way of a process by which every vote matters — the Electoral College.

would increase voter participation. There is no major organized movement to get rid of the Electoral College, because, for the most part, the outcomes of the electoral vote and popular vote are the same. However, there is no way to gauge how elections would turn out if everyone knew that his or her vote, no matter what state, was counted equally. This is only possible by eliminating the Electoral College as it exists today.

Bolsius is a computer science freshman from Round Rock.

PALEONTOLOGY

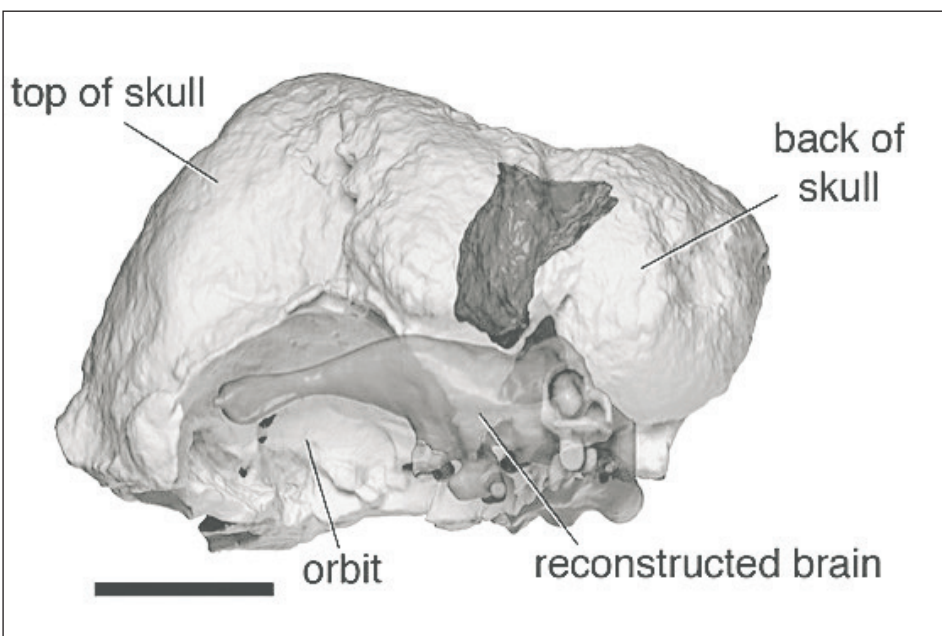
UT researchers discover three-eyed reptilian fossil

By Andrew Kirsop
@a_kirsop

UT researchers didn't even have to leave campus to discover a new species of reptile — scientists identified the fossil of extinct reptile *Triopticus primus* last month using bones collected over 70 years ago for the Jackson School's Texas Vertebrate Paleontology Collections. The scientists worked in collaboration with paleontologists from Virginia Tech to publish a report on the new species in *The Journal of Current Biology* on Sept. 22. Researchers named the species *Triopticus primus*, which means "the first with three eyes," because of an indentation in the reptile's head that resembles a third eye socket, and might be evidence of a pineal foramen. According to the study, *Triopticus* was part of a large group of reptiles that roamed Texas around 230 million years ago. It predates the Triassic-Jurassic extinction event that wiped out

many of the species living on the Earth at the time. The researchers scanned the fossilized skull at the Jackson School's CT lab to create 3D models of the skull. "CT acts like a set of 3D X-ray images, so that we can not only see into spaces in bones, like into the brain cavity in the skull of *Triopticus*, but also see the structure of individual bones," Michelle Stocker, lead author and Virginia Tech research scientist, said in an email. Currently, the UT collection only has the skull of the reptile, and the conclusions of the study have been drawn without a full skeleton. "It would be great to find more of the skeleton or to find another individual so that we can learn about how it moved and what it ate," Stocker said. "Now we know a little more what bones to look for and in what age rocks to look so that we can target our search." Workers for the Works Progress Administration, a group that provided jobs for men and

women during the Great Depression, collected the *Triopticus* fossil in 1940 near Big Springs, Texas. WPA workers brought in more fossils than researchers could analyze at the time, so new species continue to be identified. "We can gain new insights into the history of life because specimens like *Triopticus* have been curated into museum collections like the one at UT Austin," said Matthew Brown, director of the Texas Vertebrate Paleontology Collections and a co-author of the study, to UT News. The UT Paleontology Collections house fossils from all over Texas, as well as fossils collected elsewhere using state and federal funds, according to the Jackson School website. "These collections are the foundation of natural history research, and this new animal illustrates how exciting discoveries are continually made thanks to the forethought and invest-



Courtesy of Michelle Stocker

Side view of *Triopticus primus* skull. Scale bar = 1 cm.

ment of past generations," Brown said. "It will be fascinating to see what the students of tomorrow find next." Medical laboratory science freshman Bridgett Winter said

she thinks the Jackson School is doing a good job of supporting the University's focus on changing the world through research. She said she was especially impressed with the work

done by the Jackson School's CT lab. "I didn't know UT had this kind of technology," Winter said. "If other universities are using our machines, we must be doing

INNOVATION

New microscope provides advanced technique for molecular biosciences

By Julianne Hodges
@JayHodges2018

A new, higher-resolution microscope coming to UT in May 2017 will help the Department of Molecular Biosciences revolutionize its study of cellular functions. Cryo-electron microscopy, or cryo-EM, is a method of imaging biological molecules that involves trapping particles in a thin layer of ice and shining a beam of electrons through them. The electron beam interacts with the particles to create a projection image of the sample, according to molecular biosciences professor David Taylor, who worked

with cryo-EM for his postdoctoral research. "This technique changes everything," Taylor said. "I wouldn't say easy, but it's a generally usable technique, it's applicable to a lot of different complexes of many different sizes and in any pathway that you can imagine." Light microscopy, the current method used by scientists, can only show objects about the size of 200 or 300 nanometers, but cryo-EM can show structures at three-tenths of a nanometer: That's six times the size of an hydrogen atom. Cryo-EM can show smaller objects in greater detail than light microscopy because the

wavelength of the electron beam is smaller than the wavelength of visible light, according to molecular biosciences department chair Daniel Leahy. This ability to view structures at a more detailed level gives molecular biologists a better idea of how cells function, Leahy said. "In a way, I think we're analogous to kids growing up taking apart a clock to figure out how [it] works," Leahy said. "In this case the clock is a cell, and the pieces of the clock are the molecules. We are essentially looking at the pieces of the cell and trying to figure out how they fit together and work to

make a living cell." Taylor said the cryo-EM technique can help scientists study diseases caused by cellular malfunctions because it helps them understand the structure and function of cell parts and how the malfunction or mutation occurred. Molecular bioscience professor Tanya Paull will collaborate with Taylor to use cryo-EM for her research on MRN, a protein that repairs double-stranded DNA breaks and prevents cancerous cell development. "We don't have a complete picture of how [MRN] looks in the human," Paull said. "There are a lot of structural questions

we don't have the answers to right now, and cryo-EM is really good at getting high-resolution structures of complexes." Before joining UT, Taylor used the cryo-EM imaging technique to visualize the structures of the different subtypes of CRISPR Cas systems. The cryo-EM facility at UT will let Taylor study another recently discovered type of CRISPR Cas system. "It's still mysterious, no one knows how it works, so we'll figure out how it works and how it functions using cryo-EM," Taylor said. "There's lots of different flavors of [CRISPR Cas systems], and my goal is to

solve as many different structures as I can and understand how they work and how they are related to each other." The new microscope facility is part of a long-term plan for the molecular biosciences department to bring cryo-EM capabilities to UT, Leahy said. "This is a revolutionary moment, and we have to have this technique," Leahy said. "If we were to be a serious research institution, then our scientists would be left behind and they would not be able to study their systems at the same level of detail as scientists elsewhere without having access to this capability."

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SOFTBALL | ST. EDWARDS 3-12 TEXAS

Senior pitcher Tiarra Davis lines up a pitch against St. Edwards in Texas' fall opener. Davis finished with a 1.47 ERA in three outings last spring.



Gabriel Lopez
Daily Texan Staff

Texas beats St. Edwards to start fall ball

Justin Martinez
@JustJustin956

The Longhorns took the field Wednesday night for the first time since May. And they put on a show, defeating St. Edwards by a score of 12-3 in their fall schedule opener. With the fall season underway, Texas hopes to tune up to make a run this spring. “We’re so excited,” junior pitcher Paige von Sprecken said. “It’s been a long summer and it’s nice to get back here and start working.” Texas came out swinging from the start, racking up a quick eight runs in the first two innings. The burnt

orange scored in bunches, making life difficult on the Hilltoppers’ defense. “We didn’t want to let up,” Sprecken said. “We just pretend like the score is still zero-zero the whole game and we keep going at it.” St. Edwards responded in the top of the third with some scoring of their own, tallying three runs on two Longhorn errors — a point of emphasis for Texas’ defense going forward. “What we look at is our body language, mentality and getting to the next pitch,” head coach Connie Clark said. “That inning wasn’t pretty, but it’ll work

itself out as we continue.” The Longhorns didn’t take long to get back on the scoreboard. Sophomore infielder Christina Bardwell launched a shot that soared towards deep left field for a two-run homer in the bottom of the third. Bardwell hopes to build off a strong freshman campaign, where she started in 17 of 21 appearances. She batted .289 on the season, ranking eighth on the team. “We’ve been working really hard in practice on just the process,” Bardwell said. “I just went up there ready to hit the ball. I got the pitch that I wanted and

luckily I hit it that far.” The end of the third inning also marked the end of the night for senior pitcher Tiarra Davis. Davis finished with three runs allowed on four hits. Sprecken took over the mound and delivered an impressive performance, allowing only one hit in four innings. “Tiarra and I knew before this that we were going to split the game,” Sprecken said. “I just tried to get the momentum going, not make it seem like there was a pitching change and just let the defense work behind me.” St. Edwards struggled to

get any momentum on offense for rest of the game as the Longhorn fielders clamped down, surrendering just one more run in the contest. Texas looks to keep improving over the next few weeks with six games remaining on the fall slate. The Longhorns hit the field again Oct. 21, taking on Temple College at home. “One thing that we always say is that it’s all about us,” Bardwell said. “It’s not about who is in the other dugout, it’s about who is in our dugout and what we do as the Texas Longhorns softball team.”

VOLLEYBALL | TEXAS 3-1 BAYLOR

Defense lifts Longhorns over Baylor in four sets

Steve Helwick
@naqwerty3

It was a block party in Waco on Wednesday night. The No. 4 Longhorns (14-2, 6-0 Big 12) capitalized on a strong effort at the net to overwhelm Baylor (15-6, 3-2 Big 12) en route to a 3-1 victory and their sixth consecutive conference victory. Texas registered 16 blocks, in opposition to Baylor’s three. Sophomore middle blocker Yaasmeen Bedart-Ghani captained the explosive performance, earning 10 kills and a career-high nine blocks. It was Bedart-Ghani’s second double-digit kill performance as a Longhorn. She also led the team with a .833 hitting percentage. “I felt really good out there tonight,” Bedart-Ghani said. “My teammates really helped me and gave me a lot of support.” Bedart-Ghani, who recently transitioned from the outside hitter position, played a key role in closing out the match for the Longhorns. The 6-foot-4-inch sophomore denied Baylor at the center of

the net twice, resulting in the final two points that helped propel Texas to a 25-18 victory in the fourth set. “I feel better with more practice,” Bedart-Ghani said. “[The position change] hasn’t been as difficult as I thought it would be. I have a little bit more to worry about on the blocking front and don’t have as much time to hit ... the vision and angles are a little different, but I’m really enjoying it.” Baylor rattled off the match’s first three points before Texas eventually roared back to lead the first set 18-17. But service errors cost the Longhorns the first set, 25-21. Texas quickly stormed in the second set and took control for the rest of the match. Baylor never eclipsed the 18-point mark after the initial game. In total, the burnt orange posted 15 more kills than the Bears, while receiving 15 fewer attack errors — key elements behind the team’s dominance in the last three sets. The Longhorns outscored Baylor by 19 points in the match, but grossed 13 service errors in contrast to Baylor’s four. Four of the Longhorns’ 13



Joshua Guerra | Daily Texan Staff

Outside hitter Micaya White continued her strong freshman campaign against the Bears, registering double-digit kills.

service errors occurred in the initial set, an issue head coach Jerrett Elliott will have to repair going forward in Big 12 play. Freshman outside hitter Micaya White and junior outside hitter Ebony Nwanebu tied for the lead in kills for Texas with 16 apiece. The duo, using cross-court kills to conquer the Bay-

lor defense, combined for 14 digs and five blocks, contributing to a solid defensive effort. For Baylor, junior outside hitter Katie Staiger excelled with a double-double. The Big 12 leader in kills per set acquired a game-high 25 kills and 10 digs in the match. The difficulty of Texas’

schedule has amplified since the start of Big 12 play. The Longhorns are six games into conference play without a sweep, but still stand undefeated in the Big 12. Texas takes the court again next Wednesday against TCU at Gregory Gym, where play begins at 7 p.m.

LONGHORNS IN THE NBA

Longhorns to watch out for in the NBA this season



Nick Sauseda
@thedailytexan

The NBA season is just around the corner with training camps and pre-season underway. There are currently nine former

Longhorns in the NBA, and the majority of them will play significant roles for their teams. Here are five Longhorns to watch during the 2016-17 NBA season. **LaMarcus Aldridge, Forward, San Antonio Spurs** After struggling early last season, Aldridge found a rhythm in the second half of the year, finishing with 18 points per game paired with an average of 8.5 rebounds. Aldridge hopes to build off an impressive playoff performance — he averaged just under 22 points on 52 percent

shooting — as he enters year two in San Antonio. **Kevin Durant, Forward, Golden State Warriors** Durant drew a lot of criticism this offseason for joining the Warriors, who broke the record for most regular-season wins in 2015-16. His transition thus far has been smooth: He scored in the twenty-plus points in two of the first three preseason games and lead the Warriors in points in their most recent game against the Kings. Golden State hopes his presence boosts the team to its second title in three years.

Tristan Thompson, Center, Cleveland Cavaliers Thompson became the fourth Longhorn to win an NBA championship last season as a crucial part of Cavaliers’ postseason success. He averaged nine rebounds and nearly one block per game en route to the team’s title. His defensive and rebounding prowess should help the Cleveland reach the top of the Eastern Conference again in 2016-17. **Myles Turner, Center, Indiana Pacers** Turner posted a strong rookie season, garnering All-

Rookie Second Team honors along the way. He should solidify the Pacers’ starting center spot as they try to climb their way to a higher seed in the Eastern Conference. **Isaiah Taylor, Guard, Houston Rockets** Though Taylor went undrafted this offseason, he played for the Rockets at the Las Vegas Summer League and earned an invitation to the team’s training camp. If Taylor fails to make the regular-season roster, he will try to earn a spot in the NBA Development League or overseas.

SIDELINE

NBA

	ROCKETS
	116
	104
	95
	89

TOP TWEET

Kris Boyd
@kris23db

“If you have heart, you can’t be stopped!!” - G.O.A.T!

TODAY IN HISTORY

1960

Pittsburgh Pirates second baseman Bill Mazeroski homers in the bottom of the ninth inning to defeat the Yankees 10-9 in game 7 of the World Series.

SPORTS BRIEFLY

Longhorns prepare for Oracle ITA Masters

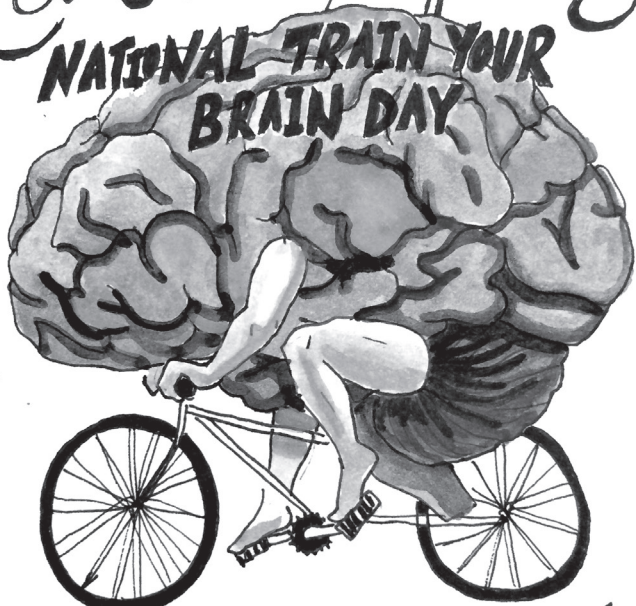
The future is bright for Texas men’s tennis prior to the second annual Oracle ITA Masters beginning on Thursday. Freshman Yuya Ito heads to Malibu, California, to represent Texas as the No. 1 seed and heavy favorite, the first time a Longhorn has done so at the event. The tournament comes less than a week after he and freshman teammate Christian Sigsgaard completed deep runs through the singles draw at the ITA All-American Championships — both overcame multiple top-50 ITA-ranked opponents. The Oracle Masters features a single participant from each Division I conference in both male and female categories. It includes a 32-player singles draw, up from 16 in 2015, as well as a rarely-seen mixed doubles draw. The selection criteria follows closely that of the NCAA tournament. Ito’s first match begins Thursday against Kei Ezaka of Quinnipiac University. Other notable competitors are No. 27 Nick Crystal of USC, as well as No. 28 Ryotaro Matsumura of Kentucky. The two are seeded No. 5 and No. 2 respectively. At last weekend’s All-American event, Ito notched five wins in both the qualifying and main draws before losing in the top-16 in a three-set match to No. 37 Alfredo Perez of Florida. The victory that landed Ito in the round of 16 came against No. 48 Logan Smith of USC. Meanwhile, the rest of the Longhorn roster ramps up for the ITA Texas Regional Championships, which is held next weekend in Fort Worth. The event features every NCAA Division I men’s tennis program in the state, with the winners advancing to the ITA National Indoor Intercollegiate Championships in Flushing, New York. Led by a stout freshman class, Texas hopes to solidify a standing as the state’s top tennis program. Play begins on Oct. 21.

—Dalton Phillips

Wacky Tarts Comics

Reason to Party

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Louis Lizard the Lizard

D'you got an idea for your Halloween costume?

I do!

I'm dressing up as the Scariest creature...

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"It's not cute!"

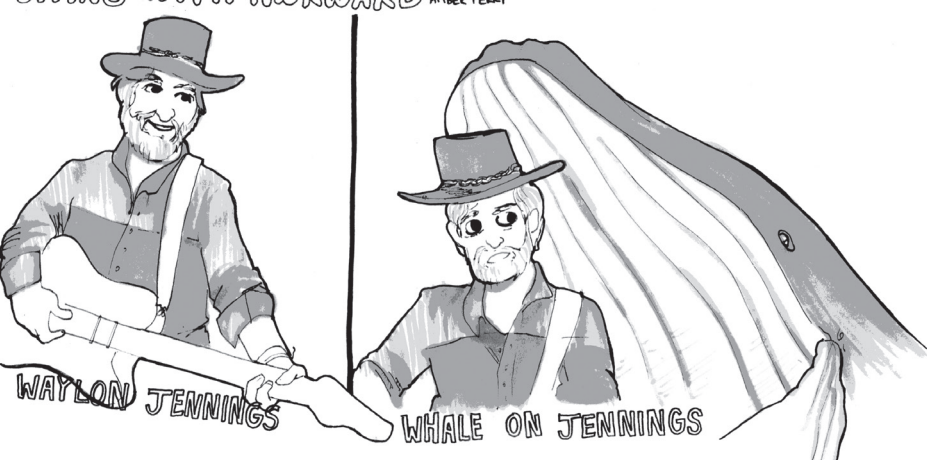
Fear me!

You look like a kitty!

The fox! The newt's natural predator!


Victoria Smith 2016

LIVING WITH AWKWARD AMBER PERRY



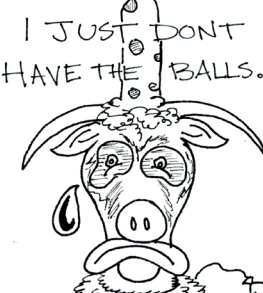
WAYLON JENNINGS

WHALE ON JENNINGS



HEY BUDDY, NO CLOWNS ALLOWED UNLESS YOU CAN JUGGLE!

SIR, I CAN PROMISE, I JUST DON'T HAVE THE BALLS...

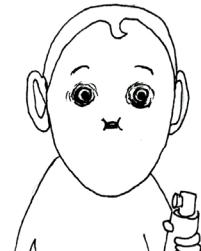





BY: ARMANDO DE LARA GUASCO ©

SAMPSON AT THE STORE

KILLS 99.9% OF GERMS...

WHAT ABOUT THE OTHER .1 PERCENT?



Today's solution will appear here next issue

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

SUDOKUFORYOU

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

Consistently Spooky



Boo!

Back in my day, there were no special effects:

That was so weak ... Kids these days are lacking ... Where was the soul?



Sigh


BOO!!!

There's the spirit


We used actual ghosts.

Happy 14th day of Halloween, Sir Spooky

Pickles & Self-Hatred by Mel W.



SPLAT!!



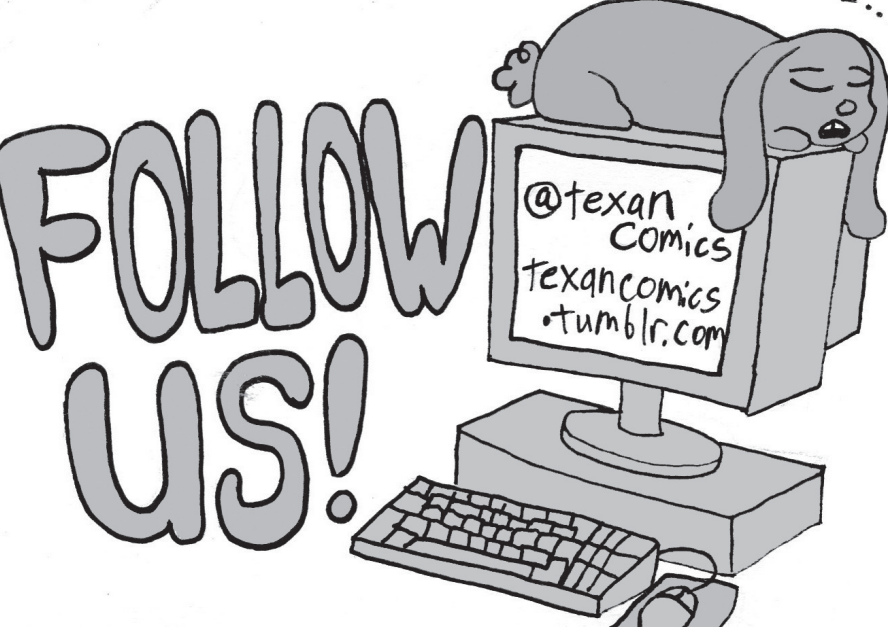
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The New York Times Crossword

Edited by Will Shortz No. 0908

ACROSS

1 Given to eavesdropping

5 Cry made repeatedly while slapping the forehead

9 C in shop class?

14 Gets to

15 Big brother's victim, once

16 Like perfect games vis-à-vis no-hitters

17 Jet

18 Montana Indians

19 Post with many rules

20 One rushing to work, for short?

21 Manner

22 Google

23 What babies do in their first two years

25 "Nacho Libre" star, 2006

27 Driveway covering

30 Nintendo dinosaur

31 Elf's foe

32 "___ la Vida," #1 Coldplay album

33 Lead-in to long

35 Where waves come in?

36 First place

37 1966 #1 Rolling Stones hit

41 People holding on to secrets

43 Second

44 Many a metrosexual

46 It might have a street name: Abbr.

47 J. follower

48 ___ diavolo (sauce)

49 Assays

53 Football player's application

54 Ingredient in some chili and burritos

55 Words sometimes followed by "It's nothing"

56 When leaves 56-Across

58 Info for a dating site

60 Napoleonic ___

61 Director Kurosawa

63 Person whose work shines

64 Ban

65 Comments from ones who are all thumbs?

66 Bygone Broadway critic

67 Like Cookie Monster and Grover

68 Cast out

69 Flooring calculation

70 Cheek

DOWN

1 Fine point

2 Cry from a Veronese lover

3 Carefully avoids, with "around"

4 Haute couture inits.

5 Actor Willem

6 There's an app for that

7 1998 Brad Pitt film

8 Crispy lunch

9 What old knees may do

10 Product from soot

11 Former Haitian president

12 Man's name that's Latin for "honey"

13 Wrest open

21 Italian Fascist

22 "In Flanders Fields" poet John

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE

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

PUZZLE BY JOANNE SULLIVAN

24 What orange is said to be

26 Biblical region from which the name of a language is derived

28 High, as a guess

29 Frittata equipment

32 1990 #1 hit for Alannah Myles

34 Gustave with a tower named after him

37 Tempo

38 Like an atrium

39 Obsession

40 Part of a battle cry

42 Solvent

45 1960s-'70s radical

50 E. precursor

51 Set of ankle bones

52 California and Baja California

54 Really good time

55 Grammy category

57 Witchcraft

59 Bygone days

61 Took in

62 Gunpowder holder

63 Some music of the Waiters

64 Reduced weight?

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FESTIVAL

Texas Firearms Festival sets aim on education

By Rajyaat Luri
@rajyaatluri

“Breathe, Relax, Aim, Squeeze.”

Robert Farago, creator and publisher of The Truth About Guns blog, offers this advice to newcomers attending the Texas Firearms Festival.

The third annual Texas Firearms Festival, which will run from Oct. 14-16 at the Best of the West Shooting Range in Liberty Hill, Texas, welcomes firearms enthusiasts from as far as Norway to try out and buy a variety of guns.

“The most important thing for protecting our rights as gun owners is to have a strong, healthy and vibrant gun culture, and the festival is ground zero for Texas gun culture once a year,” Farago said. “We’re very proud and happy to be able to provide that to help protect our right to keep and bear arms.”

Farago modeled The Texas Firearms Festival after another annual event only available to those in the gun industry and media, but he wanted this festival to be open to the general public.

The Texas Firearms Festival is not just for experienced shooters. Dan Zimmerman, CEO and Managing Editor of The Truth About Guns, said for those who have never shot a gun before, the Texas State Rifle

Association will be giving lessons, while more experienced shooters will be able to try hundreds of guns.

“Most people don’t get the chance to try out a gun before they buy one,” Zimmerman said. “This is the biggest and probably the only try-and-buy event like this in the country.”

Computer science junior Joey Jackson and undeclared freshman Koen Moore will both be attending the festival for the first time.

“I was raised on a farm and my dad brought me up shooting guns, so I like guns and have a great deal of respect for weapons,” Jackson said. “That’s why I’m interested in going to the festival to see all the types of guns and to meet other people who enjoy handling guns responsibly.”

Moore said the festival is unique because most gun stores don’t have ranges built into them.

“It’s a pretty cool experience because you can try all the different guns out and see which one you feel is the best,” Moore said.

This year the festival will add an event called “Full Auto Friday” which gives VIP ticket-holders the chance to shoot modern machine guns. Another new addition to the festival is “Blue Sunday Salute to Law Enforcement” which will honor



Jenaa Taha | Daily Texan Staff
Dan Zimmerman, left, and Robert Farago, right, run a popular gun blog called “The Truth About Guns.” The third annual Texas Firearms Festival will run from Oct. 14-16 and provide shooting lessons and the opportunity to try guns.

active duty military, veterans and law enforcement.

Farago said he knows some people are pro gun-control or even anti-gun and that although he respects that position, he doesn’t agree with it. According to Farago, the first thing these people should do is come out and shoot

some guns.

“You really can’t get an informed opinion about gun rights — what they mean, their importance to Americans, their importance to you personally — without actually firing a gun,” Farago said. “So if anybody’s never actually fired a gun and holds a position that they’re

pro-gun control, this is their chance to come out and see what it actually means to own and to keep and bear firearms.”

Whatever festival attendees’ opinions on gun control may be, Farago said everyone can still enjoy the festival.

“One of the most interesting things about the firearms

industry is just how nice the people are in it. It’s incredible how receptive they are to new shooters, how much patience they have, and it’s an industry that really does take care of its own,” Farago said. “It’s really an incredible experience to see people get turned on to their firearms freedom.”

CAMPUS



Courtesy of Colton Matocha
Student comedian Allison O’Connor hosts an outdoor comedy show, Buzzkill, at The Buzz Mill.

UT senior co-hosts comedy show featuring local artists

By Carlos Garcia
@brolos95

Allison O’Connor stands in front of an audience, looking to make her mark. After a long set, she delivers a knock-out punch — and the crowd erupts in laughter.

“[Making people laugh] — it’s the best feeling,” O’Connor said. “It’s kind of selfish in a way. Stand-up is really gratifying because it’s one of the only art forms that you can really see people enjoying.”

O’Connor, an international relations and global studies senior, co-hosts Buzzkill Comedy, an outdoor comedy show held every Wednesday at The Buzz Mill. The show spotlights a handful of rotating local comics each week.

Growing up, O’Connor said she often “geeked out” over shows like “Saturday Night Live” with her friends, but never felt like pursuing comedy. But after she moved to Austin, her older brother suggested she try out for Gigglepants, a campus improv troupe.

After joining Gigglepants during her freshman year, O’Connor began entertaining the idea of doing stand-up and eventually attended an open mic after a friend encouraged her to perform.

“I was nervous. I [told] three jokes and none of them stuck,” O’Connor said. “I wasn’t

satisfied with how I did, [but I went back] and somehow, I never stopped.”

Devon Walker, O’Connor’s Buzzkill co-host, said he enjoys the Austin come dy scene because of the community of talented comedians.

“Working with Allison has been great,” Walker said. “It’s kind of like making a friend at summer camp — [that feeling] once you bump into someone and you guys just hit it off. We’re definitely a team now.”

Although she was initially scared to do stand-up, she said she felt welcomed by the local comedy scene, especially by the more “seasoned” women in comedy.

“I think there is this sense of recognition,” O’Connor said. “Kind of like real recognizes real, you know?”

Inspired by Chelsea Peretti, Tina Fey and Amy Poehler, O’Connor said she likes seeing women making it big in comedy, but has never viewed her gender as an obstacle.

“I never felt, as a kid, that being a girl would ever stop me from being anything,” O’Connor said. “So [when I am] doing stand-up, even when I’m the only girl, I just continue telling my jokes.”

O’Connor said humor was always a big part of her life and that her family supports her decision to be a comedian.

“My brother and I have this

BUZZKILL
When: Wednesday at 9pm
Where: The Buzz Mill on 1505 Town Creek Dr., Austin, TX 78741
Admission: Free

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joke that the only reason why we’re funny is because we aren’t very good at anything else,” O’Connor said.

Aside from her family, O’Connor said the majority of her support comes from close peers, many of whom she sees as mentors.

UT alumna Hope Carew has known O’Connor since her first improv tryout. Though she’s older, Carew said she feels that O’Connor is always the one to pass down wisdom to her.

“She’s not afraid to go after what she wants,” Carew said. “She’s not held back by things. She helps spread that confidence all around.”

For now, O’Connor is focusing on graduating and establishing her comedy presence in Austin. But in the future, she intends to pursue comedy as a profession.

“[Stand up] is my favorite thing to do,” O’Connor said. “I want to continue cutting my teeth here and someday make a move to a big city. Maybe someday, when I have kids and mortgage, I’ll look back at this [and] remember all this potential I used to have.”

MOVIE REVIEW | ‘THE ACCOUNTANT’

‘The Accountant’ doesn’t add up despite Affleck, impressive cast

By Justin Jones
@justjustin42

Although Ben Affleck was recently on a roll with his directorial effort in “Argo” and well-chosen role in “Gone Girl,” his streak ends as he takes on the titular role in Gavin O’Connor’s “The Accountant.”

Affleck’s character is Will Hunting meets Jason Bourne: A man who is brilliant in math and invincible in a fight. He is joined by a dynamite cast of Anna Kendrick, J.K. Simmons, John Lithgow, Cynthia Addai-Robinson, Robert C. Treveiler and the deliciously evil Jon Bernthal. But aside from Affleck and Bernthal, their characters are underdeveloped and have minimal screen time.

“The Accountant” is overly long and convoluted, and a more detailed plot description might fill an entire page. It follows Christian Wolff (Affleck), an autistic mathematician with a hard childhood and a particular affinity for managing major criminals’ books. Wolff is called to help Lithgow’s company and bank accounts

as two agents try to put Wolff behind bars. All the while, Bernthal leads some sort of private army hunting Wolff.

Although the script fumbles with the high-concept idea, it remains somewhat engaging mostly due to Affleck’s performance as Wolff. He full-heartedly sells playful moments of awkwardness, as well as stone-faced action sequences or an occasional panic attack.

From a plot standpoint, Bernthal’s character only exists to remind the audience that Wolff faces an enemy with a similar violent skill set. Bernthal takes this role and runs with it, performing as a sort of dark mirror to Affleck’s socially awkward accountant. He fully sells the role of a southern-accented and somewhat charming murderer, making just as large an impact as Affleck in about one-fourth the screen-time.

The other performances are lacking, with big-name stars delivering neither great nor terrible portrayals of two-dimensional characters.

The greatest problem with the film is not its hard-to-follow script or poorly-used

‘THE ACCOUNTANT’
Rating: R
Runtime: 128 minutes
Score: ★★

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cast, but its absolutely boring direction by O’Connor. The script deals with an interesting idea, and much of the cast is having fun, but the entire story plays out with no style at all.

Recent action films such as “John Wick” or even “Captain America: The Winter Soldier” have specific stylistic elements during fight scenes. “Wick” uses clear, two-dimensional shots of the action, whereas “Captain America” uses quick editing and close-ups to disorient the viewer yet keep them informed. But “The Accountant” does neither, shooting the few action beats slowly as if they were scenes of Affleck and Kendrick discussing mathematical gibberish.

Although Affleck’s recent output has been strong, Gavin O’Connor’s “The Accountant” is a muddled, convoluted mess of a film, with decent elements that just do not add up.

AUSTIN JEWISH BOOK FAIR PRESENTS

MARK SEGAL

AND THEN I DANCED: TRAVELING THE ROAD TO LGBT EQUALITY

AUTHOR & SPEAKER SERIES | JCC - 7300 HART LANE

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 26 | 7 PM

On December 11, 1973, Mark Segal disrupted a live broadcast of the CBS Evening News when he sat on the desk directly between the camera and news anchor Walter Cronkite, yelling, “Gays protest CBS prejudice!” He was wrestled to the studio floor by the stagehands on live national television, thus ending LGBT invisibility. Mark Segal’s job, as he saw it, was to show the nation who gay people are: our sons, daughters, fathers, and mothers.

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