

SCITECH

In the past, Venus may have had conditions similar to Earth, researchers have found. **PAGE 8**

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Vaping started as a healthier alternative to smoking, but became a college trend. **PAGE 2**

OPINION

Single-use bag bans go to Texas' Supreme Court; they should be overturned. **PAGE 4**

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Silk Club promotes femme Asian-American perspectives with new zine. **PAGE 5**

STATE

Campus carry: The legal battle continues

Professors appeal lower court's ruling, send fight to Fifth Circuit



By Allyson Waller @ALLYSON_RENEE7

With February's mass shooting in Parkland, Florida, still fresh on her mind, Jennifer Glass said she sees her legal fight against the state's campus carry law in a new light.

"It really feels like a different world," said Glass, a UT sociology professor. "It felt before like we were doing this rear-guard legal action, and now, I feel like there's a (wave) front."

Texas' campus carry law went into effect August 2016, allowing licensed handgun owners to carry concealed weapons into public university facilities. A month before the law was enforced, Glass, along with English professors Mia Carter and Lisa Moore, filed a case in U.S. District Court against Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton, UT President Gregory Fennes and the UT Board of Regents on the grounds that campus carry infringed on their First, Second and

Fourteenth Amendment rights.

Last summer, federal judge Lee Yeakel dismissed the case, concluding, "(The) plaintiffs present no concrete evidence to substantiate their fears, but instead rest on 'mere conjecture about possible actions.'"

The professors' lawyers immediately appealed, hoping a higher court would reverse Yeakel's decision. The case is currently in motion to go before the Fifth U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals.

"Personally speaking, I'm not surprised by anything that's happening," said Moore, who is also a women's and gender studies professor. "What we're trying to do is make a contribution to (the) knowledge and information on this issue that can be used for the bigger picture, changing a culture that's awash in a tidal wave of guns."

Although Glass, Moore and Carter all have different expertise, they are all connected in the central belief that guns do not belong in the classroom.

"It's not surprising that teachers all over

English professor Lisa Moore, left, sociology professor Jennifer Glass, center, and English professor Mia Carter have filed a case in U.S. District Court against Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton, UT President Gregory Fennes and the UT Board of Regents.

JUAN FIGUEROA | THE DAILY TEXAN STAFF

the country, from (kindergarten) to (the) university level, are fighting against guns being in the learning environment," Carter said. "It's supposed to be a challenging, analytical (and) dynamic space, and it's our job to create and protect that space."

Academic Freedom

The professors said they made compelling plaintiffs to bring forth this lawsuit because of who they are.

As the first openly lesbian faculty member hired by UT, Moore said she has experienced backlash over the years for who she is and the subjects she teaches. Carter said she endures challenges as a woman of color in a position of

CARRY PAGE 2

POLICE

UTPD expands patrols on Robert Dedman after complaints

By Anna Lassmann @ANNALASSMANN

The UT Police Department increased their traffic safety enforcement along Robert Dedman Drive near the School of Law and the Butler School of Music indefinitely Monday.

The targeted enforcement began after police received complaints of speeding and drivers not yielding to pedestrians. During the first hour of enforcement, UTPD made 14 traffic stops, UTPD spokeswoman Noelle Newton Schrader said.

UTPD will only issue warnings this week, unless during the stop, officers find

the driver has previous violations or does not have car insurance or registration, UTPD Cpl. Jeffrey Corff said. Next week, UTPD will begin ticketing if the traffic violations persist.

"If we're not getting a change in behavior, then that may be another course of action to cite them next time," Corff said.

Whereas previously the area of Robert Dedman Drive was part of the general campus patrol, it is now a targeted enforcement area and will have two to three police cars at anytime.

Corff said UTPD wants to educate students, faculty, staff and campus visitors on the 15 mph speed limit on campus

and make sure they are aware of pedestrians.

"Our enforcement strategy at this point is just education," Corff said. "If you're going 15 (mph) and reacting to somebody walking in front of you, there's going to be a better chance for you to react and (for) people to be safe. If you're going 30 or 35 (mph) through campus, it can be a much more dangerous situation."

Trumpet performance junior Rebecca Ortiz said the crosswalk between the Bass Concert Hall and the Butler School of Music is especially dangerous, and said it is good that UTPD is trying to enforce

UTPD PAGE 2



ANDRE FERNANDEZ | THE DAILY TEXAN STAFF

The UT Police Department is enforcing speeding violations. After recent complaints, the UTPD has increased its enforcement of traffic laws and ordinances.

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UNIVERSITY



GEO CASILLAS | THE DAILY TEXAN STAFF

How out-of-state and international students can qualify for in-state tuition

By **Stephanie Adeline**
(@STEPHADELIN)

On top of classes, homework and studying, undeclared freshman Sophia Cantor has to allocate time during the week to manage her own video editing business, Modern Montage. But she said she knows all her work will pay off when she receives her tuition bill in the fall.

Cantor is from St. Louis, Missouri, and currently pays out-of-state tuition. Her business was created so that she could establish residency in Texas and qualify for in-state tuition next semester.

To be classified as a Texas resident, out-of-state students must be independent of their parents, live in Texas for 12 consecutive months and establish residency through one of several ways, such as being employed for an average of 20 hours per week or owning and operating a business in Texas.

Although many out-of-

state undergraduate freshmen prefer to fulfill residency requirements through employment, Cantor said owning her own business is the best way for her to establish residency. Cantor said she prefers owning her own business because she is in charge of her own working hours.

"I wanted to be able to just be a student and have more time for my social life and focus on my work," Cantor said. "Having my own business really helps (me) to create my own hours, so it was a lot easier and, I think, more fun, because I can do whatever I want."

Deana Williams, associate director of international admissions, said out-of-state students make up 7 to 8 percent of all students in a freshman class. However, the percentage of students going through the process of establishing residency is even smaller, Williams said.

"It's hard when you're a freshman owning a property,

owning a business (or) working 20 hours a week, when you can barely keep up with your classes," Williams said.

International students make up only 2 percent of a freshman class, and most international students do not qualify for establishing Texas as residency, Williams said. International students would have to possess an eligible visa to qualify for residency, which does not include the typical F-1 visa most students have.

International students may be able to receive in-state tuition through certain tuition waivers, such as a competitive scholarship waiver or a waiver for working as a research assistant or teaching assistant.

Dandi Chen, an international student from China, works as a research assistant at the McCombs School of Business and receives a tuition waiver. Chen said while balancing work and class is difficult, being able to pay only a quarter of

what she would normally pay for tuition is worth it.

"If you don't get paid enough and you're not getting the reduction and still have this amount of work, I probably wouldn't have done it," said Chen, a management information systems and economics junior. "In-state tuition for me is \$5,600, but out-of-state (tuition) is almost \$20,000. ... That is a huge reduction."

Williams said the difference between an in-state tuition waiver and becoming a Texas resident is that a student who establishes residency will remain a resident every semester, but tuition waivers do not have the same level of security.

"If you get your (teaching or research assistant position) dropped, you'll revert to out-of-state tuition," Williams said. "There's no security in that, the next semester, if you don't have the job or you don't have scholarship, you're not getting in-state (tuition)."

UTPD

CONTINUES FROM PAGE 1

traffic rules.

"I think it's not as safe as other usual crosswalks, just because nobody knows the speed limit on that road," Ortiz said. "(There are) all those cars parked (by that crosswalk), and you never see when a pedestrian is going to walk right out, and since people are going more than 15 (mph) and the pedestrian is just going to walk, it can be pretty dangerous."

UTPD will have multiple patrol cars out on Robert Dedman Drive during the morning and evening rush hours for multiple weeks, or even months, until the issues have been resolved, Corff said.

“

I've definitely been in a car that's about to hit a kid that's running around not on the crosswalks. I've also seen people almost get hit.

Brigid Becker,
JUNIOR

"We want to have a couple good days of education, making an abundance of traffic stops, having our presence out there so we'll have two or three cars out there, at a time with lights on—hopefully, that will get people to slow down as well," Corff said. "It makes people pay attention."

Vocal performance junior Brigid Becker did not know the on-campus speed limit was 15 mph and said she thinks it is good UTPD is trying to enforce the speed limit more but said pedestrians also need to pay attention.

"I think, in general around the school, everyone needs to slow down," Becker said. "Unfortunately, students like to jaywalk, and I've definitely been in a car that's about to hit a kid that's running around not on the crosswalks. I've also seen people almost get hit."

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CARRY

CONTINUES FROM PAGE 1

authority. Glass, who teaches on topics such as abortion and reproductive rights, said students sometimes express anger toward her because of the controversial topics her classes address.

"I have had things happen in my classroom because of the nature of the material I teach," Moore said. "Had there been a gun in a mix, lives would have been lost, (and) it could have been very volatile."

Currently, UT allows professors to designate their offices as gun-free spaces, but not their classrooms.

One of the professors' main arguments is that campus carry threatens their academic freedom to have discussions about controversial topics without having to worry about retaliation. They also said they fear the potential danger guns represent for their students, more so than the danger to themselves.

"I had so many students saying, 'I'm not going to talk in class anymore. If my interpretation is different, I don't want anyone to get mad at me,' and that, to me, is a tragedy," Carter said. "We're not afraid of our students; we fear for them."

The Appellate Process

The plaintiffs have filed their final appellate brief, so now the two parties must wait. Either the circuit court will base its decisions solely off the plaintiffs' and defendants' appellate briefs or call for oral arguments from the parties' lawyers, which is likely in a case like this, said D. Todd Smith, an Austin-based civil appellate lawyer who has argued numerous cases before the Fifth Circuit.

"It's an interesting case because it's got (three) UT professors on one side and the state on the other side," Smith said. "So I suspect it will probably be argued, and it can take anywhere from a few months to longer to schedule an argument."

Although Fenves is a defendant in the lawsuit, Moore said he is only named because of his official role. She said

she feels he has supported her right to free speech on the issue.

"We understand that the lawsuit represents the feelings of many faculty who have expressed concern about the law throughout the process," University spokesman J.B. Bird said. "That said, they recognize it is the law and has to be followed."

Paxton's press office said they could not comment on any pending litigation.

The organization Students for Concealed Carry, or SCC, wrote a brief opposing the professors' appeal. Quinn Cox, southwest regional director for SCC and accounting senior, said the plaintiffs misstate the intent of campus carry.

"The intent was for a law-abiding, vetted individual, if they are licensed, to be able to carry on a college campus and defend themselves if they so choose," Cox said. "So if something were to happen at a college campus, they're not automatically put at a disadvantage."

Cox said if the professors were to get the lower court's ruling reversed, it could be detrimental.

"If it is overturned in the appellate court, it can set a dangerous precedent beyond campus carry as to what the definition of academic freedom is," Cox said. "It isn't just about campus carry. It has even larger implications."

Establishing Precedence

Although they lost at the district level, Carter said their lawyers' work and the case's impact solidified success.

"Seeing the (legal writings) that our lawyers brilliantly wrote being taken up across the country and (them) consulting with other attorneys on other cases — that's already a win," Carter said.

Moore said she's not sure if the court will grant the decision they desire, but she knows the professors will continue to debate campus carry.

"Win or lose is not so much the point, as we refuse to have our silence mistaken for assent," Moore said. "We say no to guns in our classroom, and we're going to continue to say no with every platform we have available to us."

ELLIE BREED

Managing Editor

"Texas Student Media and The Daily Texan have become my home on campus over the last three years and introduced me to some of my best friends. The Texan has given me so much reporting, editing and management experience, and I am always grateful for the opportunity to work with a group of such talented students."

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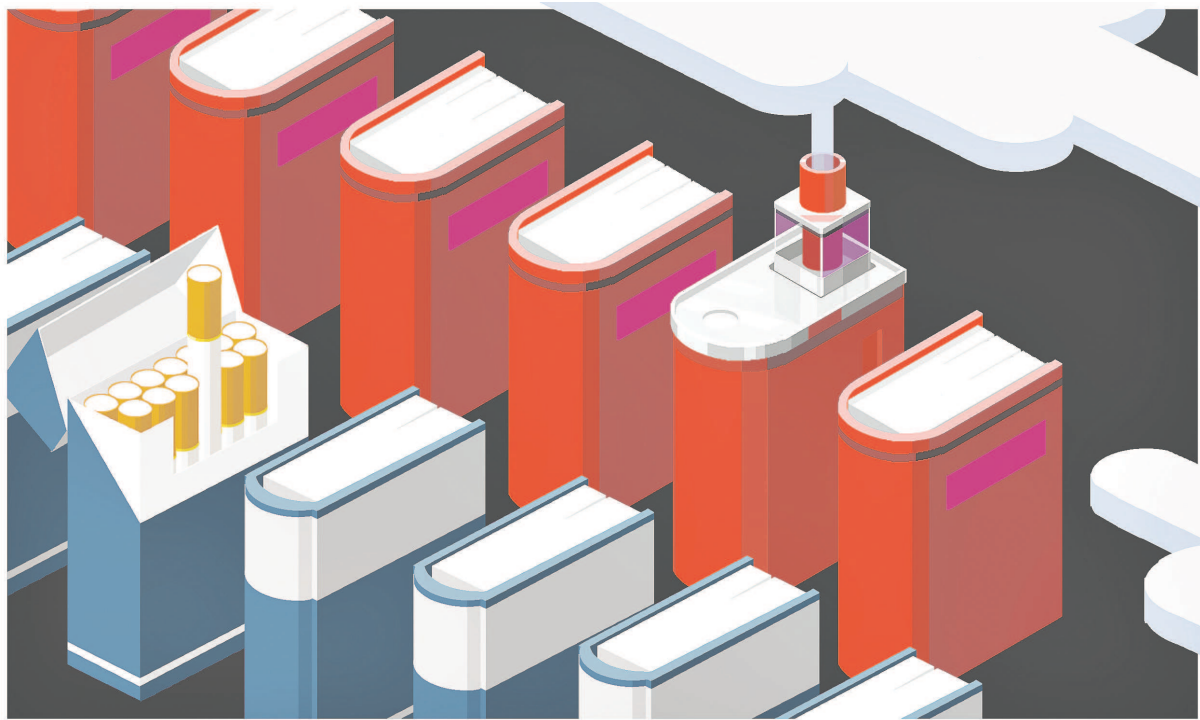
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CAMPUS

Vaping brings cloud of concerns



Vaping increases among young adults despite ban from University grounds.

By Raga Justin
@RAGAJUS

When philosophy junior Alayna Kingston was 15, she smoked her first cigarette, a Kamel Red. She was soon hooked, and that one cigarette spiraled into a two-pack-a-day habit. Last fall, she turned to vaping to help kick her smoking addiction. “Vaping works great to calm me down,” Kingston said. “But nicotine addiction is still a problem — (vaping is) just like any other drug.” While electronic nicotine delivery systems, such as e-cigarettes and Juuls, were originally intended to help wean heavy smokers like Kingston off cigarettes, young adults have increasingly taken to vaping recreationally.

A National Academy of Medicine study earlier this year found that vaping rates were “substantially higher” than traditional cigarette use among young adults, as well as a definite link between e-cigarette use and addiction. Vaping continues to be on the rise on campus, according to University experts. UT’s Tobacco-Free Campus policy prohibits all forms of vaping with any device, said Osalunosse Oviemhada, Tobacco-Free Campus coordinator. Although enforcing the policy is supposed to be a community effort, students are often referred to the dean of students by campus administrators for vaping in public places, she said. “It’s the job of the campus community to actively try to educate those around them,” Oviemhada said. “We’re not here to be slapping people on the wrist, because we have the understanding that it’s an addiction.” Health education professor Alexandra Loukas, who studies alternative tobacco

products, said potential health risks are a big part of emerging research on vaping, although there is no definitive answer yet. Regulation on any of these products is still nonexistent as well, Loukas said. “I just think people should be concerned about what they’re putting in their body,” Loukas said. “It seems to me that a lot of college kids are concerned about being physically active or eating properly, and yet they’re vaping something they don’t even know (about).” Blake Bartlett, a radio-television-film freshman, said he got hooked on vaping in high school and carries his Juul with him around campus. Bartlett said he often vapes while walking in between classes or listening to a lecture. “It’s not like, ‘Oh, look at me, I vape, I’m cool,’” Bartlett said. “It makes me laugh and simultaneously want to vomit when people talk about how much they vape. It’s more of, like, a relaxing thing I do throughout the day.”

DIANE SUN | THE DAILY TEXAN STAFF

Many e-cigarette and vape stores are sprinkled near campus. One of them is ATX1 Smoke and Vapor on Guadalupe Street, where glass hookahs line the shelves and cabinets display hundreds of colorful e-cigs, Juuls and bongs of all sizes. The owner, Tony Dadra, said around 70 to 80 percent of his customers are UT students and the rest are typically under the age of 25. “We get a lot of traffic,” Dadra said. “Younger kids who are health-conscious like this stuff.” Bartlett said he wasn’t overly concerned with potential health risks, although he said he knew there were probably some waiting to be identified. It could always be worse, Bartlett said. “I’d much rather see a bunch of Juuls around than a bunch of cigarette packs,” Bartlett said. “I feel like the fantasy behind smoking is always going to be a thing, but if we can just make it healthier, then we should be fine.”

UNIVERSITY

New medieval studies minor comes to COLA

By Megan Menchaca
@MEGANMENCHACA13

Students looking at next year’s course catalog for the College of Liberal Arts may be surprised to find a new undergraduate minor — medieval studies. This fall, the new Medieval Studies minor will be added to the list of the 41 current liberal arts undergraduate minors. The minor is composed of 15 hours and will include the study of the art, history and languages of the Middle Ages, which are all classes the college currently offers, said Elizabeth Scala, medieval studies program advisor. “We’re trying to give the Middle Ages a better name by having people capitalize on their interests in the heroic narratives and the great fighting scenes that you get in films and shows,” Scala said. “But we’ll also be focusing on reading more deeply into medieval literature and learning.” UT previously offered a graduate degree in Medieval Studies but canceled it because of a lack of qualified applicants. However, Joan Holladay, director of medieval studies, said professors and students still have a strong interest in medieval studies, because of shows like “Game of Thrones.” “Through this minor, we hope people can understand

a real historical approach to the Middle Ages and recognize that medieval studies can be serious scholarship,” Holladay said. “Lots of people are interested in history right now, so why not let them develop a concentration in an area that they might find particularly interesting?” Scala said this minor will be particularly helpful for students outside the College of Liberal Arts and the College of Fine Arts, because they will be able to take the classes and have it on their transcript as something other than an elective. “We have students who come to courses on the films depicting the Middle Ages and they really love them, but they’re majoring in something science-related,” Scala said. “So (the creation of this minor) seemed like a very smart thing to do for these students, who could take this side interest and have it credentialed.” Vocal performance senior Avery Yebernetsky, who has been interested in medieval studies since he was a child, said he is looking forward to expanding his knowledge in medievalism by pursuing this minor. “I think it’s very important to study the medieval era and see not only where we have evolved from but also what we still have kept in our society, especially in terms of the aspects of medieval society,” Yebernetsky said.



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COLUMN

Course names reflect course values

By Grace Leake
@GRACE_LEAKE
COLUMNIST

After a yearslong fight, the Texas Board of Education finally approved an elective Mexican-American studies course last Friday. However, concessions were made: The title of the course was changed from Mexican-American studies to “Ethnic Studies: An Overview of Americans of Mexican Descent.”

It’s a minor change, but it reflects major problems with the board’s understanding of the complexities of American culture and the multifaceted identities of Texans. While we should celebrate the new course, we cannot accept its name.

The title change was originally proposed by David Bradley, a Republican from Beaumont. He defended his amendment by arguing that, “I don’t subscribe to hyphenated Americanism. ... I find hyphenated Americanism to be divisive.”

It seems that Bradley was concerned that by titling the course “Mexican-American studies,” the course somehow became less “American.” Perhaps he felt that, by acknowledging the diversity of cultures within the United States, the false notion of homogeneous “Americanism” is threatened because the alternative is more complex. But this isn’t the case. Far from being divisive, hyphenated Americanism — or the inhabitation of multiple identities — is Americanism.

Many Americans think of their Americanism in hyphenated terms; our country is so diverse that most of us identify ourselves as the products of more cultures than just that of America.

The conception of American culture is so broad and nebulous that the existence of one unified “American culture” could even be questioned. That shouldn’t be a problem. Especially in this case, “Americanism” is historically inseparable from Mexican culture.

Lauren Quesada, a biology freshman, notes that, “Texas, as an independent republic, had strong influences from both the Mexican population and (the) American population that shared the community, permanently infusing Mexican

“

American culture — and Texan culture — is fundamentally shaped by Mexican culture. This is reflected in our country’s language, customs and cuisine. ”

culture into the state. ... The republic was just as much Mexican as it was American, if not more.”

American culture — and Texan culture, to an even higher degree — is fundamentally shaped by Mexican culture. This is reflected in our country’s language, customs and cuisine; instead of trying to dismiss or undersell the relationship these two cultures have with each other, we should celebrate and study it.

The original course name accomplished this; by hyphenating “Mexican” with “American,” the title implicitly acknowledged the importance of both cultures and put them on an equal standing. In contrast, the new title tacks “Mexican descent” on at the very end of the title, effectively diminishing its importance by ranking it after “American” culture. It’s telling that three out of the four Latino members on the board opposed this name change.

At the very least, this name change demonstrates a lack of respect for the Mexican-American identity that many Texans inhabit.

Marisa Perez-Diaz, a board member and San Antonio Democrat, pointed to this disrespect. “As someone who identifies as Mexican-American, your experience is unlike my experience. ... I’m asking you to be inclusive.”

There’s still time to acknowledge that importance. Marty Rowley, a Republican from Amarillo, noted that we can still change the name. “I don’t feel that strongly about how we named that course. If we leave it in and it is an issue with people, I’m sure we’ll hear about it. I’m certainly open to input from my constituencies and others as to whether we should make that change.”

We should speak out for that change. By giving a Mexican-American studies course a title which equally presents both Mexican and American cultures, we acknowledge the historical reality of the influence of both cultures and are inclusive of those with complex cultural identities.

Grace Leake is a Plan II and business freshman from Austin.



ANNETTE MEYER | THE DAILY TEXAN STAFF

Beauty is not defined by size

By Kereece McLean
@TEXANOPINION
COLUMNIST

Recently Selena Gomez’s body became the topic of discussion when images of her wearing a bathing suit were shot and published on TMZ for all to criticize. The outlet used their TV time to parade around the photos and vote on which were the least and most flattering.

This is fat-shaming. The outward acceptance of unwarranted criticism or commentary of her body, without repercussions, mirrors normal, everyday experiences. According to the Oxford English Dictionary, fat-shaming is causing someone to “feel humiliated by making mocking or critical comments about their size.” According to the Oxford English Dictionary, 94 percent of teenage girls have experienced some form of body shaming. Everyday fat-shaming looks like instances of an individual disgust when someone is eating, insinuating that someone should lose weight, or simply using the term fat to mock an individual. When someone is shamed for their body, it needs to be addressed and treated like any other slur. Otherwise we are only allowing this behavior to continue.

The term fat should never be burdened with negative connotations. The use of the word fat should be a standard, rather than the standard “overweight.” Overweight implies that there is an ideal weight. Fat is just fat, like thin is just thin. The implication of equating fatness to anything other than normal is a transgressive idea that needs to be checked at any and all occurrences. Being fat is not a problem, its others distasteful opinions of fatness that needs to end.

The disdain for fat women stems from our beauty industry. The average female model wears a size 0 or 00. This contrast incredibly against the average American women’s size of a 12-14. Proper representation matters because women of all ages are now shoved into the position of having to reflect what the industry displays, and when we cannot meet these beauty standards, we become vulnerable to body-shaming.

Fat-shaming is a horrendous act that can lead to sickness in mind and body. It’s reported that fat-shaming can lead to overeating, depression, an increase in inflammation and in stress hormone levels. The mere fact that victims of fat-shaming would be at an increased risk of illness reflects the seriousness of the act.

Contrary to popular belief, beauty is a one-size-fits-all. No person deserves to be called out, criticized, or mocked for their body. Fat-shaming needs to be called out to decrease future casualties. It’s a disgusting, accepted, social habit that shouldn’t exist.

McLean is an English senior from Houston.

COLUMN

By Rachel Freeman
@RACHEL_FRMN
COLUMNIST

Decisions at the Supreme Court of Texas may soon have implications for students. From HEB in the Hancock Center to the Target on campus, single-use plastic bags could be on their way back to the 40 Acres.

Currently, the court is deliberating after hearing testimonies and arguments in the Laredo Merchants Association v. The City of Laredo case. This case will decide if the city of Laredo, and by extension all Texas cities, can legally enforce a single-use plastic bag ban.

Longhorns should welcome a Supreme Court decision to overturn the bag ban. Removing the Austin ban would be beneficial to students because it negatively affects the environment and economy.

A common misconception supporters have about plastic bag bans is that they help the envi-

“

Removing the Austin ban would be beneficial to students because it negatively affects the environment and economy”

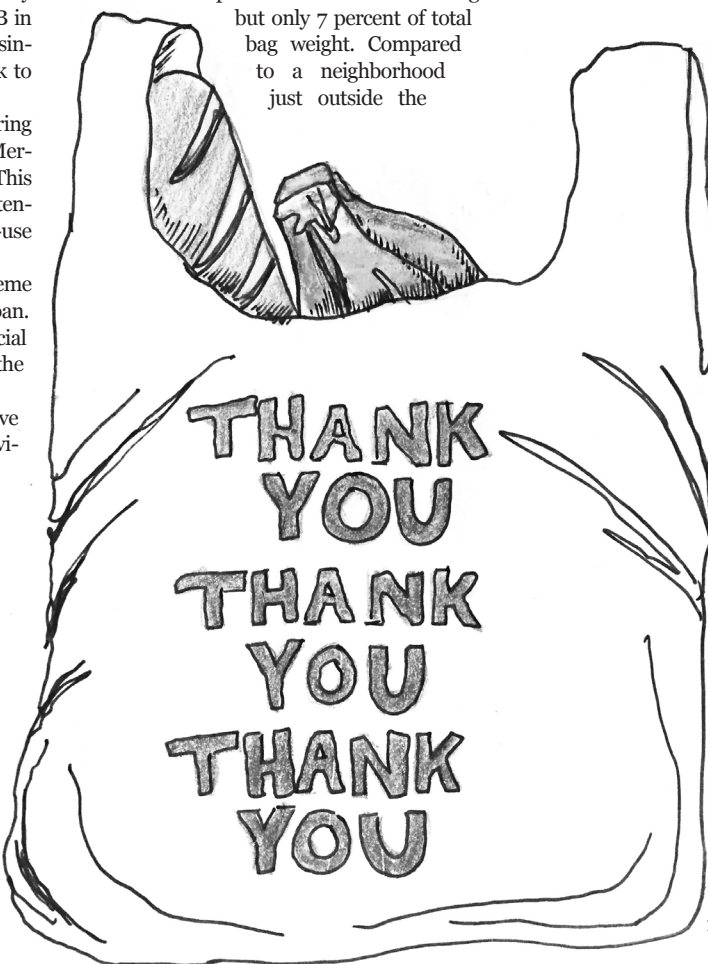
ronment. But that’s not actually the case. After the city of Austin passed the bag ban ordinance in 2013, they began an internal review to do a two-year study on the ordinance’s impacts. This review shows the environmental impact of the bag ban is not completely positive — although single-use plastic bags have been eliminated, a heavy gauge plastic bag has largely replaced it.

While single-use plastic bags can be made from recycled plastic, the heavier bags are mostly made of virgin plastic, creating more emissions during production. Once distributed, these bags are designed to be used at least 100 times. Although they are generally used more than single-use bags, many of them still end up thrown away. And when these heavier bags are thrown out,

their weight and size makes total waste material greater for multi-use bags than for single-use bags.

In a biannual audit of the Texas Disposal System in 2015, two years after the ban began, single-use plastic bags accounted for 35.7

percent of all discarded bags but only 7 percent of total bag weight. Compared to a neighborhood just outside the



WEATHERLY SAWYER | THE DAILY TEXAN STAFF

Austin city limits, this audit showed a similar total weight of plastic bags (0.052 percent of total recycling in Austin, versus 0.055 percent in Bal-

cones). Ultimately, multi-use bags, once thrown away, are worse for the environment because they take longer to decompose in landfills than do single-use bags.

Not only is the bag ban harmful to the environment, but it is also burdensome on the economy. The review’s assessment concluded that the ban cost the Austin economy \$633,588.88 annually. This number is calculated in costs to the retailer, consumer and waste management services.

The retailer is burdened by stocking the multi-use bags, which are about seven times heavier than single-use bags. For shipping purposes, weight is a huge factor in setting cost, and these heavier bags equate a much heavier cost to keep in stock.

Costs affect consumers’ tendency to choose a retailer that do offer single-use bags. This costs the consumer travel expenses and the retailer potential sales. For one specific HEB in the Pflugerville area, the store reported a decrease in sales of \$60,000 per week after the ordinance was enacted. A study conducted by the city of Austin showed shopping habits among “heavy shoppers” went down 12 percent in the six months following the ban. Participants cited the inconvenience of bringing their own bag as a top reason why they shopped less.

In the years since the internal review was released, the city of Austin has stood by its bag ban.

However, beyond the legal reasons being discussed in the Supreme Court, there are many “real world” reasons to oppose the ban. In the event the Supreme Court overturns bag bans in Texas, students, even environmentalists, should welcome the possibility of the end to an ineffective ban.

Freeman is a international relations and global studies junior from Cedar Park.

COLUMN

Legalizing safe needle exchange programs connects communities to services

By Elizabeth Braaten
@TEXANOPINION
SENIOR COLUMNIST

In October of 2017, Donald Trump declared the opioid epidemic a public health emergency within the United States. Despite this, the administration has failed to provide additional funding beyond the meager \$57,000 already available in the Public Health Emergency Fund. Public health experts estimate a serious response to effectively alleviating the crisis would cost nearly \$183 billion over the course of the next decade. The response from the federal government thus far to the skyrocketing opioid death rate is sorely lacking.

Harm reduction policies, which aim to reduce the harms associated with drug use, are becoming more prominent across the country. Needle exchange programs, which allow drug users to exchange dirty syringes for clean ones at no cost, attempt to fill the gap left by the federal government in making

strides to mitigate this public health crisis. Although needle exchange programs are still not legal in Texas, there are around 185 of these programs across the United States. In order to combat the opioid epidemic, which is estimated to kill around 500,000 Americans within the next decade, Texas policymakers must make the legalization of needle exchange programs a priority during the 2019 legislative session. There’s no community that’s not affected by this — including ours.

Allowing drug users to exchange dirty needles for clean ones facilitates direct medical benefits as well as connections to health services within the community. Needle exchange programs have been shown to reduce infection rates of bloodborne diseases, such as HIV, as users are provided with clean needles to safely inject. These programs also provide essential services geared toward substance abuse treatment and disease prevention, such as HIV testing and referrals to potential rehabilitation facilities.

These organizations make the safe disposal of dirty syringes possible, reducing the possibility that civil servants or members of the community come into contact with them and become infected with a serious illness.

Finally, these programs save communities money. Only one person infected with HIV through a dirty needle will, on average, require at least \$120,000 per year in public health expenses. But it only costs \$160,000, or \$20 per user, for a city to run a needle exchange program for a year.

If Texas taxpayers are uncomfortable with providing state funds for a program they view as enabling drug users, then policymakers should, at the least, make it legal for these organizations to take private donations. The Austin Harm Reduction Coalition is a needle exchange program already in operation, but it relies on a mutual understanding with the Austin Police Department that they won’t be shut down.

If programs like the one run by the ARHC

were made legal, the increased publicity would allow more people to comfortably donate money, making these operations possible, even without state funds. Furthermore, it would also increase the amount of people using the service, as patrons would feel protected from possible legal consequences for doing so.

It’s time to face the facts: The opioid epidemic will only get worse if we refuse to do anything about it. By legalizing needle exchange programs throughout the state of Texas, the number of deaths involving opioids would decline, and new HIV infections, as well as of other bloodborne diseases, would plummet.

It could be your best friend. Your neighbor. Your family member. Talk to your representatives now about the legalization of these programs. Donate to the Austin Harm Reduction Coalition. Your community depends on it.

Braaten is an international relations and global studies junior from Conroe.

Asian-American femmes find voice with Silk Club

Student group gathers underrepresented women and femmes.

By Danielle Ortiz
@DANIELLEAORTIZ

When one thinks of activism, a picture of people standing in the street holding signs is what probably comes to mind. But where do artists, poets, photographers and writers fit into this picture?

Many young Asian-American women, trans women, nonbinary and femme creatives at UT have found their platform with Silk Club, a student group that allows them to share their experiences with race and identity. Although Silk Club currently has a Facebook page for members to post art, essays and poetry, the organization hopes to reach a wider audience with its first zine, Quiet. The zine will be unveiled at the club's release party on Saturday, April 21, at Cheer-up Charlie's.

Journalism junior Kristina Nguyen said she formed the idea for Silk Club when she saw the need for a platform for Asian-American creatives in Austin last fall.

Ashley Yen, an urban studies junior events



HANNAH YOES | THE DAILY TEXAN STAFF

In 2017, journalism junior Kristina Nguyen saw and seized an opportunity to create Silk Club, an organization for Austin-based Asian-American women and nonbinary femmes to collaborate on projects such as its zine, Quiet, that celebrate their experience.

manager for Silk Club, said she got involved because she loved the opportunity to support a platform she sees as long overdue.

"The way Austin is, demographically, there aren't as many Asians (as) in Houston or Dallas," Yen said. "So

to have a voice in Austin, even in Texas, is very powerful because there was a lack of a platform for Asian femme creatives."

The name of the club's zine, Quiet, is based on the stereotype that Asian femmes are introverted. Nguyen said

the zine is an attempt to comment on the given identity.

"There's often a culture of silence that surrounds communities of color," Nguyen said. "Quiet harkens back to that and is trying to empower folks to speak up on important issues and

their experiences."

Nguyen and other members of Silk Club were inspired to create Quiet after hearing of *Gidra*, a 1960s zine based on creative expression regarding social and political issues affecting the Asian-American community.

FILM

'I Feel Pretty' has its stumbles, but is nevertheless genuine, endearing

By Justin Jones
@JUSTJUN42

Amy Schumer, one of Hollywood's most controversial figures, has made the most problematic good movie in weeks. The film is endearing in the way children can be, earnest in a sweet manner but too dull to think through what something will actually mean.

Schumer plays Renee Bennett, an attractive white woman with a steady job, a nice flat in New York City, close friends, nice clothes and enough money for spin class. Like most people, Renee is unsatisfied with her body image, and complains constantly about her looks and her weight.

The movie takes everything a few steps further, mistreating Renee at every step, as if she didn't just look like a normal person. In a world where Kevin James makes movies that don't mention his appearance and that feature him hooking up with beautiful younger women, it's uncomfortable that Schumer's latest picture drills home to the audience that she's "ugly."

Renee makes a wish while watching Tom Hanks' "Big" one night, running out to a potentially magical fountain and asking to be beautiful. The next day, she hits her head very hard and has her dream come true. Suddenly, she's the most beautiful person in the world — but she's the only one who sees it. The film plays out like a parody of one of the many dream-comes-true Disney Channel Original Movies that have been released in the past 20 years. It has the feeling of harmless fun, with a major bubble resting under the surface, ready to pop at any second. Schumer's supporting cast meshes well in the film, but no

one shines quite as bright as the laugh-out-loud funny Michelle Williams, who delivers a powerhouse of a comedic performance. She plays a high-voiced pixie of a person, an obscenely rich woman who owns a massive fashion brand and is overly self-critical.



It's certainly reductive of the way our society treats women, but this is not a movie seeking to engage with the nuances of culture — it's a Disney movie without the magic."

Justin Jones,
LIFE&ARTS WRITER

When "I Feel Pretty" plays along with its main character, the movie is kind of enjoyable. Renee, with her newfound confidence, takes on the world with renewed vigor, talking to strangers, applying to risky dream jobs — she isn't afraid to be herself. The script, by co-directors Abby Kohn and Marc Silverstein, treats her confidence as its own kind of superpower, opening up

"I FEEL PRETTY"

RATING: PG-13

RUNTIME: 110 MINUTES

SCORE:



the pathways that Renee believes were previously inaccessible because of her looks. It's certainly reductive of the way our society treats women, but this is not a movie seeking to engage with the nuances of the culture — it's a Disney movie without the magic.

Eventually, Renee's confidence gets her into trouble and the "spell" is undone, causing her to discover herself. It's here that the movie really starts to fall apart, contradicting itself at every turn. It paints her confidence as a superpower, except for when she treats people as less-than her; it is earnest and encouraging, except when it asks the audience to laugh at Schumer. It's not until the very end, when she gives a prolonged, if on-the-nose, speech that perfectly encapsulates the themes that Kohn and Silverstein are trying to convey, that the movie steers into the saccharine, creating something similar to the last five minutes of a very special episode of "That's So Raven."

Amy Schumer is both hated by conservatives for her liberal views and despised by liberals for being a problematic white feminist — she can't please anyone. "I Feel Pretty" will do nothing to change that, pushing her views hard and consistently stumbling along the way. But it's in those stumbles that the movie finally makes Schumer feel like a genuine person, not some manufactured idea of a millennial comedian, and that counts for something.



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"I Feel Pretty" plays like a parody of a Disney Channel Original Movie.

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Reason to Party:



STUFF & THINGS



GEO

EASILY AMUSED



ECLECTIC By Nikole Peña



Today's solution will appear here next issue

8			1	6				
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SUDOKUFORYOU

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The New York Times
Crossword

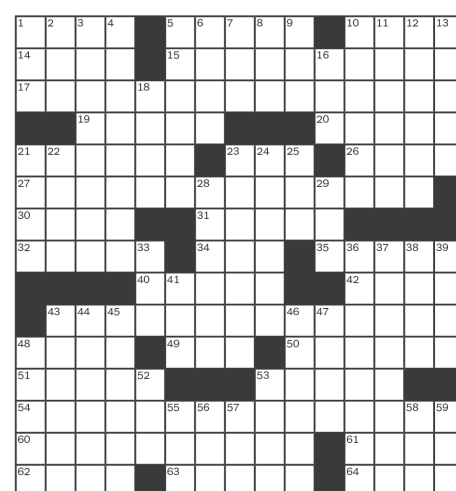
Edited by Will Shortz No. 0328

ACROSS

- 1 Cloths used to collect dust
- 5 elephant
- 10 Habitat for a trout
- 14 Org. with a Grand Esteemed Loyal Knight
- 15 Creation from a kit
- 17 Part of Iran that can get quite hot
- 19 Novelist Wilson who wrote "The Man in the Gray Flannel Suit"
- 20 Popular early 2000s R&B artist
- 21 Aziz of "Observe and Report"
- 23 Org. to call for a jump-start
- 26 German dissent
- 27 Suddenly showed interest
- 30 Shape for a locket
- 31 Scent
- 32 Israeli region that includes Eliat
- 34 Band engagement

DOWN

- 3 "Notorious _____"
(best seller about a
member of the
Supreme Court)
- 2 First full month of
D.S.T.
- 3 Attends without
an escort
- 4 Like something
that can be
closed tight
- 5 Lash out at
- 6 Digitize, as a
document
- 7 Suffix with
president
- 8 No. of concern in
a cockpit
- 9 Nascar Hall-of-
Famer Jarrett
- 10 Shedding, as
weight
- 11 "The Story of
_____" (1975 film
by Trufruit)
- 12 "The Muppet
Show" host
- 13 Singer John
who was born
Reginald Dwight
- 16 Silted cook who
said "Stow it!"
- 18 Matador's
opponent
- 21 "Chacun _____
goiti"
- 22 Basilica _____
- 23 Ballplayer Rich
who started _____
and ended his
15-year career as
a Giant
- 24 Farthest point in
an orbit
- 25 Pitcher's asset



PUZZLE BY PETER GORDON

- | | | |
|---|---|---|
| 28 Retouches after a fly ball is caught | 41 Figs. on a Stanford-Binet test | 53 Leopold's 1924 co-defendant |
| 29 McKellen of "The Hobbit" | 43 Rabbi Meir who served in the Knesset | 55 Caterer's coaleepoot |
| 33 Distillery sight | 44 Gets the lead out? | 56 Red snapper, at sushi restaurant |
| 36 Soprano Licia who performed hundreds of times at the Met | 45 Doors, in Brest | 57 Cpl. or sgt. |
| 37 Something in a simile that's dead beyond doubt | 46 African pest | 58 Fall '75 TV debut |
| 38 Fever bit | 47 Fussy to a fault | 59 End of each word in 17-, 27-, 43- and 54-Across — as well as every clue (and that's a fact!) |
| 39 Quite a bit | 48 Final word in a Porky Pig quote | |
| | 52 Tidal retreat | |

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ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE

C	H	A	P	S		S	W	A	M	I		V	E	T
R	A	J	A	H		T	A	M	E	R		I	S	H
A	L	A	M	O		P	R	A	D	A		J	A	Y
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C	A	R	A	F	E		M	A	L	A	Y	S	I	A
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S	T	E	R	N		U	M	S			A	R	C	H
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	C	O	N	C	O	R	D	M	Y		F	E	A	R
L	A	V		O	R	I	O	N		T	A	C	I	T
A	G	E		N	E	G	R	I		E	N	E	M	Y
P	E	R		E	D	A	M	S			E	S	E	M



FOOTBALL

Longhorns prepare for Orange-White game



KATIE BAUER | THE DAILY TEXAN FILE
Offensive coordinator Tim Beck works with sophomore quarterback Sam Ehlinger during spring practice on March 21 at Frank Denius Field.

By Alex Briseño
@ALEXXBRISENO

As the Longhorns' Orange-White spring game draws one day closer, offensive coordinator Tim Beck took a step back after what he called an "unfocused" practice.

"Today wasn't a very focused day by our guys," Beck said Thursday. "I think there's a lot going on with some of the kids, with school and some of their parents coming. Sometimes we forget they are 18-, 19-year-old kids still, and they're excited to see mom and dad."

Longhorn faces, fresh and familiar, will run out of the tunnel of Darrell K Royal-Texas Memorial Stadium and play in front of a live crowd for the first time.

"My biggest thing is we're organized, we're lined up and we don't cut guys loose," defensive coordinator Todd Orlando said. "There's gonna be a handful of guys in there (for whom) this is their first time in that stadium playing."

Here's what Beck and Orlando had to say Thursday

in preview of Saturday night's Orange-White spring game:

Defensive Back University

As prominent leaders from last year's season prepare for the NFL Draft, new faces have come onto the scene. After National Signing Day, Texas boasts a strong strand of defensive backs in Caden Sterns, B.J. Foster, Jalen Green and DeMarvion Overshown — all of whom landed on the 40 Acres as some of the best talent in the state of Texas in hopes of bringing DBU back to Austin.

"They've proved to their teammates that they're not going to go out there and be soft," Orlando said. "Obviously, they're athletic and can make plays — that's always the things you worry about. Can they handle the day in, day out of classes? Can they handle the demands, not only of us but (of) their teammates? They've proved to us in these last 13 practices that they'll be in the mix."

With a plethora of talent in the backfield, don't expect the quarterbacks to have an easy time with the air attack.

Ehlinger's Longhorn sequel

Last season, the largest

question mark heading into the season lied above the quarterback position. This year will be no different. Ehlinger, however, is receiving the most questions, after getting the chunk of the playing time as a freshman. One of the biggest questions is obvious: decision-making. Ehlinger made several late-game mistakes, such as the game-ending interception against Oklahoma State.

But both Herman and Beck said the Westlake alumnus is beginning to build his confidence now that he has one year of college football under his belt.

"He's making really good decisions," Beck said. "At Austin Westlake, he probably got away with doing those things. He can't get away with that in college football. He can't just throw the ball up and hope things are going to happen. He's been really good at taking care of the ball this spring. ... He's very confident right now."

As long as the weather cooperates, the 2018 Orange-White spring game is set to begin 6:30 p.m. Saturday at Darrell K Royal-Texas Memorial Stadium.

BASEBALL

Andy McGuire's versatility key to success for Texas

By Travis Hlavinka
@THEDAILYTEXAN

For the second straight game, the Longhorns won a game with a starting position player taking the mound in the ninth inning.

Tuesday night's game was a tribute to senior first baseman Jake McKenzie, but Wednesday night's game was a sight seen before. Redshirt junior outfielder/reliever Andy McGuire was once again handed the ball to close out the game after starting the game in the outfield.

So far, McGuire's relieving efforts have led to success with wins on April 2 against McNeese State and on Wednesday night against Texas Southern in Sugar Land, Texas. However, McGuire said this wasn't a new task, and he seemed to easily remember his last time when questioned if this situation had occurred prior to the season.



KATIE BAUER | THE DAILY TEXAN FILE
Andy McGuire, redshirt junior outfielder and pitcher, swings at a pitch during the Longhorns' 5-4 victory over McNeese State on April 2 at UCFU Disch-Falk Field in Austin.

“Baseball’s a game that will eat you alive. And not being able to play it for so long, I think, helped clear my mind a little bit and come with a new perspective.”

Andy McGuire,
REDSHIRT JUNIOR OUTFIELDER/PITCHER

"(I did it in) high school," McGuire said. "Senior year. It was pretty regular."

McGuire's story has gone through some twists and turns since high school, though. After being recruited by Texas out of James Madison High School in Oakton, Virginia, McGuire started 22 games his freshman year in 2014, mostly

at third base.

After hitting .113 over the course of that season, however, his arm was looked at as a tool that could help out the team in a different way. As a sophomore, his role on the team flip-flopped. He appeared in 13 games as a reliever without registering at bat in the 2015 season and redshirted the 2016 season.

And when David Pierce took over as head coach for a retiring Augie Garrido, McGuire just didn't seem to fit into the puzzle. After not being a part of the team in 2017, McGuire began to contemplate a return to the sport he so dearly missed.

"Baseball's a game that will eat you alive," McGuire said. "And not being able to play it for so long, I think, helped clear my mind a little bit and come in with a new perspective on the game and a new respect for this game."

Since rejoining the team this season, McGuire has rekindled that passion that he once had and found different ways to impact the team, both at the plate, in the field and on the mound. After starting the season mainly out of the bullpen, McGuire has shown himself to be one of the more reliable assets to come in for relief on the team.

He currently boasts a 2.45 ERA in 18.1 innings pitched with 12 strikeouts. Couple that with a .350 batting average, 7 RBI and a 1.000 fielding percentage in 20 games, and you have yourself a pretty potent two-way player. Pierce said his decision to let McGuire be a natural two-way player wasn't out of necessity but out of impression.


"Andy's been a position player since he's been here," Pierce said. "And every single day, his batting practice has been impressive. He's really, really contributed."

McGuire, who has shown a reflective mood throughout the course of the season, has talked about not being able to put this season into words on more than one occasion. His overall tone, though, seems to be gracious, given all his career has been through.


"To have the opportunity to be out here again playing is — I can't even put it into words," McGuire said. "It's been a long road. But it's so fun, and I'm having so much fun."

Texas will play again this weekend in a three-game series against New Orleans at UFCU Disch-Falk Field in Austin. First pitch Friday night is scheduled for 7 p.m.

MABEL, MABEL, TIGER TRAINER





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