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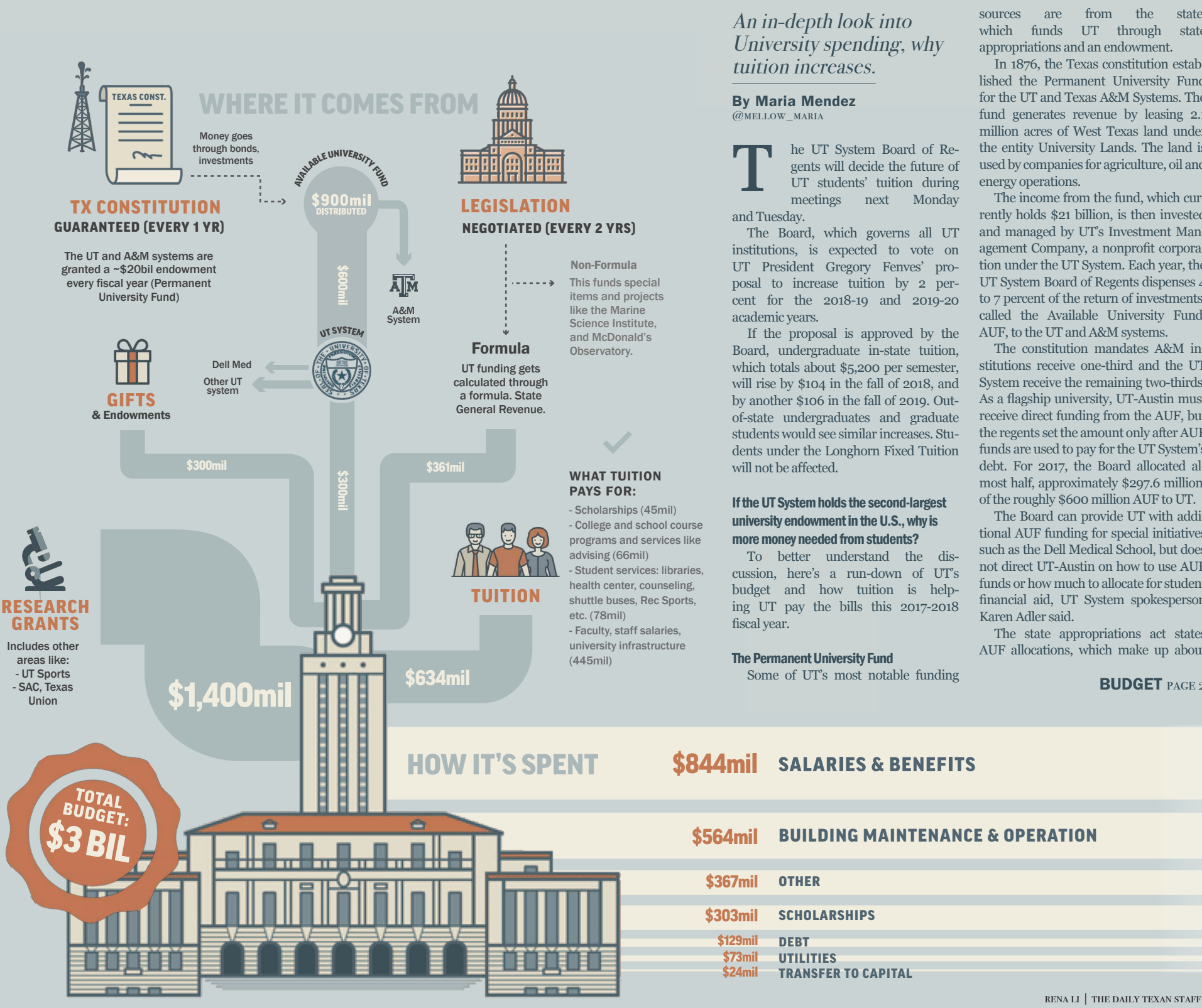


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NCAA Tournament hopes in jeopardy after Longhorns fall to Kansas State. **PAGE 6**

SYSTEM

HOW YOUR TUITION FACTORS INTO UNIVERSITY BUDGET



CITY

APD warns of illegal booting incidents, tells how to identify possible scam

By Raga Justin
@RAGAJUS

Having to pay a fine for a car boot can be a negative experience for many student vehicle-owners, but fraudulent boot fines are arguably worse.

The Austin Transportation Department released a memo last week stating the possibility of an illegal boot scam in East Austin. Alan Goodwin, a detective with the Austin Police Department, said he knows of two separate reported fraudulent booting incidents. Both occurred along 6th Street, within a block of each other.

While those are the only two reports he's seen so far, Goodwin said it is possible other people have been victimized and haven't filed police

SCAM PAGE 3

STUDENT GOVERNMENT

Colton-Mehraz SG alliance campaign: 'Let's Get Started'

By Brianna Stone
@BRISTONE19

Colton Becker and Mehraz Rahman, student body president and vice-president candidates, hope to empower students to better campus life and themselves.

Although they believe they may not accomplish everything in one year, Becker and Rahman said all of their ideas are within reach and they would be able to get the ball rolling on several initiatives.

As part of their platform, some of the things the two plan to do include expanding legal aid to DACA students, developing a smartphone app to request SURE Walk rides and creating more reflection spaces on campus for Muslim students to pray. They also want to help LGBTQIA+ students, improve mental health policies, create a new gym and extend fall break by two days.

Becker, a nutrition senior, said their platform centers on tangible solutions that can be completed.



Nutrition senior Colton Becker, right, is running as student body president with marketing and Plan II junior Mehraz Rahman as vice-president.

"The biggest reason why I'm running for student body president is because I want to work on initiatives that can continue improving the quality of life for students and to make the opportunities that Student Government confers upon for students more

accessible," Becker said.

Becker said he learned the ins and outs of SG when he was the communications director under Kevin Helgren and Binna Kim, student body president and vice president for the 2016-17 year. Helgren and

Kim's close friendship and good working relationships made a more positive SG culture, Becker said, so he hopes to have the same dynamic between himself and his running mate, Rahman.

Rahman, a current officer for SG's Diversity and

Inclusion Agency, said she first became involved with SG last year while working on student body president and vice president Alejandro Guzman and Micky Wolf's campaign team.

"I really love this University and what it's given me, and I saw a lot of potential in what it can give to other people," said Rahman, a marketing and Plan II junior. "There's also a lot of potential to create new resources for students and empower students to create their own."

With a campaign motto of "Let's get started," Becker said their platform is mainly centered around empowerment.

"We believe that students should have ownership of their own ideas," Becker said. "I'm really passionate about health and wellness, and Mehraz is really passionate about mental health, so we developed those platforms ideas and other students (from a focus group) developed some of the other platform ideas."



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CAMPUS

UTPD creating Victim Advocate Network for trauma survivors

By Allyson Waller
@ALLYSON_RENEE7

The UT Police Department is creating a volunteer advocate network to increase support for faculty and staff who are victims of crime or affected by tragic events.

The UT HealthPoint Employee Assistance Program currently provides counseling by licensed professionals for faculty and staff through human resources. However, the new Victim Advocate Network will provide additional emotional support specifically for crime-related trauma.

“The University cares about faculty and staff, (but) there has been an arm missing about being able to care adequately (and) to demonstrate that care to the degree that it’s felt ...,” said Deborah Sharp, UT’s HealthPoint Employee Assistance Program counselor and volunteer coordinator for the new network.

Due to funding, UTPD’s Victim Advocate Network has been a few years in the making, and just applied for a grant before the deadline this month, Sharp said. The network will consist of only faculty and staff volunteers — no undergraduate or graduate students — who are not licensed counselors, but are trained to respond to incidents on campus and provide emotional support, according to UTPD’s website. UTPD captain Chris Bonnet said volunteers of the network can help assist police in areas officers may not be available to address.

“This team of advocates can come out and provide that (emotional) support that maybe the police are not equipped or trained or in a position to do,” Bonnet said. Volunteers will be at the

discretion of UTPD and will be notified when needed to help faculty and staff. Sharp said the program also helps faculty and staff find resources off-campus and facilitate them through the criminal justice process, if necessary.

The network is modeled after the Travis County Sheriff’s Department and the Austin Police Department’s programs, Sharp said. Employees applying to be a part of UTPD’s network will take online training from the sheriff’s department and observe APD’s victim services staff during their training process.

Sharp said she looked at other universities with similar programs. Sergeant Rhonda Blair, a Victim Service Officer for the Austin Community College Police Department, said ACC’s Victim Assistance Program show victims how to navigate the criminal justice system when dealing with incidents such as dating violence or family violence.

“You have to ensure that they know their rights as a victim,” Blair said.

UT President Gregory Fennes was willing to incentivize UT employees to volunteer by allowing up to four hours of paid work time a month for training and helping faculty and staff, Sharp said.

Although Sharp said there is not a definite start date of the program yet, the network is currently accepting volunteer applications, which are available through UTPD’s website.

“When there have been tragic events on campus we’ve heard from faculty and staff (that) there was a need for them to feel more cared about,” Sharp said. “I’m really happy that we’re going to have a vehicle in place to do that.”

BUDGET

CONTINUES FROM PAGE I

11 percent of the University’s 2017-18 fiscal year budget, can be used for expenses such as new construction, salaries, scholarships, fellowships and library support. With input from University leaders, Fennes ultimately sets the budget.

State Appropriations

Every odd numbered year, the Texas Legislature meets to pass the state budget. Lawmakers set aside state general revenue, from taxpayers money, for public universities. The Legislature doles out money for universities in two ways: formula and non-formula — also known as special item — funding.

Formula funding calculates appropriations for universities through a formula that factors how many students an institution has and students’ fields of study.

The Legislature can also allocate universities with funds for special projects through non-formula funding, commonly known as special-item funding. For the 2017-2018 year, UT received about \$20 million for 14 special items, including the McDonald Observatory and the Marine Science Institute. This was a 30 percent reduction from previous years.

For the 2017-18 year, state general revenue was \$361 million, or 12 percent of UT’s budget. In 1984-85, state funding compromised 47 percent of UT’s budget. University officials say this decline in state funding has forced them to look elsewhere, including students’ pockets.

Meanwhile, lawmakers believe the Legislature’s funding, especially for special-items, is unsustainable. Lawmakers are currently working in a joint committee to develop another funding system based on student outcomes.

Other Sources of Funding

The University actually receives a large portion of its funding, 47 percent, through research grants and “other areas.” Researchers often pay fees for using UT’s property or equipment, such as laboratories.

Other institutions, such as UT athletics, are self-supporting. UT athletics’ revenue paid for the infamous \$8,700 football lockers — not tuition.

The gifts and endowments to the University, which often make headlines for helping create new buildings or programs, only make-up 10 percent of the University’s budget and can only fund what donors decide.

Tuition

Tuition, which currently amounts to 21 percent of UT’s budget, helps cover the less apparent costs of facilities, utilities, faculty and staff salaries and student services.

Under state law, a portion of students’ tuition must be set aside for need-based financial aid. This helped generate \$45 million for scholarships for 2017-18.

Two sides of the coin

Since the 2018 U.S. inflation rate is projected to be at 2.38 percent, the proposed 2 percent increase is not extreme in higher education, said Richard Vedder, director of Ohio University’s Center for College Affordability and Productivity.

To cope with inflation and decreased state funding, most public Texas universities have proposed or passed similar tuition increases. But UT’s tuition increases in 2011, 2016 and 2017 raised eyebrows among students and lawmakers, even though it remains lower than many Texas universities.

Initiatives from UT System administration, such as a failed \$75 million online learning institute and \$200 million land purchase for a Houston campus that never got built, have led lawmakers and regents to look more closely at the UT System’s use of state endowment funds.

For 2017-18, UT spent \$303 million, or 10 percent of its budget, on scholarships, but critics of the UT System think there’s room for more student financial aid.

“UT is one of the most well endowed universities,” Vedder said. “But if you look at the use of the funds, very little of that money is used for financial aid.”

With a similar concern in mind, UT System Regent Kevin Eltife is leading a task force along with Regents Janiece Longoria, Rad Weaver and Ernest Aliseda, who will study the UT System’s administrative spending and recommend changes by August.

CAMPUS



JAMIE POWERS | THE DAILY TEXAN STAFF

Todrick Hall dances with members of the audience who volunteered to “twerk” on stage.

Dresses, wigs, heels steal stage during Todrick Hall’s Drag Race

By Nicole Stuessy
@NICOLESTUESSY

Decked out in a bright pink wig, a sparkly one-shouldered dress and heels borrowed from a friend, biochemistry freshman Alex Contreras prepared to lip sync Donna Summer’s “Boogie Oogie” in front of a crowd of 300 people.

Contreras said it was his first time doing anything like that, and it was a first for UT, too.

“I was so nervous,” Contreras said. “It was like a blur when I got on stage. I couldn’t even remember what I just did and was shaking when I got off.”

Contreras and 12 other students performed in a lip sync drag show called Todrick Hall’s Drag Race, organized by Campus Events + Entertainment. The first of its kind hosted by the University, the event was held Wednesday at the Student

Activity Center ballroom.

Zoe Meneghetti, an event coordinator within Campus E+E, said the organization wanted to have a drag show for many years. The Creative Arts + Theatre and Distinguished Speaker departments finally joined together to make it happen.

“People have been really excited for the event,” Meneghetti, Plan II freshman, said. “This is one of the first times in a while that (Creative Arts + Theatre) and (Distinguished Speaker departments) have joined forces, and we both have two very different audiences that we are able to reach to.”

Todrick Hall is a judge for the competition reality show “RuPaul’s Drag Race,” a singer, a director and a well-known YouTuber.

Following the student drag show, Hall performed and spoke about his own journey to success.

“When I was on ‘American

Idol,’ I was so concerned with people finding out who I really was,” Hall said. “It wasn’t until I started doing (drag) that I realized it was OK to be different.”

Hall also shared tips on how to deal with criticism online.

“I have become very humble from being online,” Hall said. “People will tell you things (online), and if enough people say it you have to be like, ‘OK that’s probably a note I should apply to my life.’”

American studies senior James Rowland said drag can be performed by all genders and identities.

“I think its really important seeing how drag is very non-monolithic, it’s extremely diverse,” Rowland said. “There are drag queens, women who dress in drag, men who dress in drag. It’s very important to see different representations of drag, especially now that drag has become more mainstream.”

STATE

Texas lawmakers discuss possible higher education funding changes

By Chase Karacostas
@CHASEKARACOSTAS

A group of lawmakers encouraged higher education leaders to develop ideas to improve state post-secondary education funding systems on Wednesday.

The Joint Interim Committee on Higher Education Formula Funding heard testimonies at the Capitol from the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board, several University system chancellors and a dozen state university presidents. UT System Chancellor William McRaven and President Gregory Fennes both spoke on behalf of the University at the meeting.

Committee co-chair Kelly Hancock, a Republican senator, said the committee’s goal is to develop a system to fund universities based on improved student outcomes, thereby rewarding high-achieving schools. However, Hancock said the best way for these ideas to be developed is not by the Legislature but instead by those directly involved with higher education.

“The answer to those questions and the resolutions to those issues need to come from out there and not up here (at the Capitol),” Hancock said.

Stuart Stedman, a member of the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board, suggested creating a graduation bonus system



KATIE BAUER | THE DAILY TEXAN STAFF

UT System Chancellor William McRaven, back, and Texas A&M University Chancellor John Sharp spoke on behalf of their respective universities.

that gives four-year universities \$500 to \$1,000 per student who graduate with a degree.

“The overarching goal ... is that by 2030, at least 60 percent of Texans age 25-34 will hold on to a post-secondary degree,” Stedman said. “We believe that the graduation bonus will go a long way toward meeting that goal.”

While discussing the Permanent University Fund, which provides base support to the UT and Texas A&M systems, McRaven said even the \$21 billion endowment is not enough to keep the systems afloat and provide everything students need. Together the two systems educate close to 376,000 students each year — 25 percent of the state’s total public higher education students, McRaven said.

Because the University is prohibited from lobbying, Fennes did not express support for any specific kind of new formula funding system for higher education during the panel. However, Fennes said formula funding is an important source of revenue to the University.

“Despite what the criticism and complaints of formula funding are, we feel (this funding) is important for our students in the state of Texas to do the right thing — give a high quality of education to a broad range of students from the state,” Fennes said.

After a new formula funding plan is developed, the committee will have the option to recommend it be filed as a bill during the next legislative session in 2019.

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UNIVERSITY

UT honors African-American alumnus

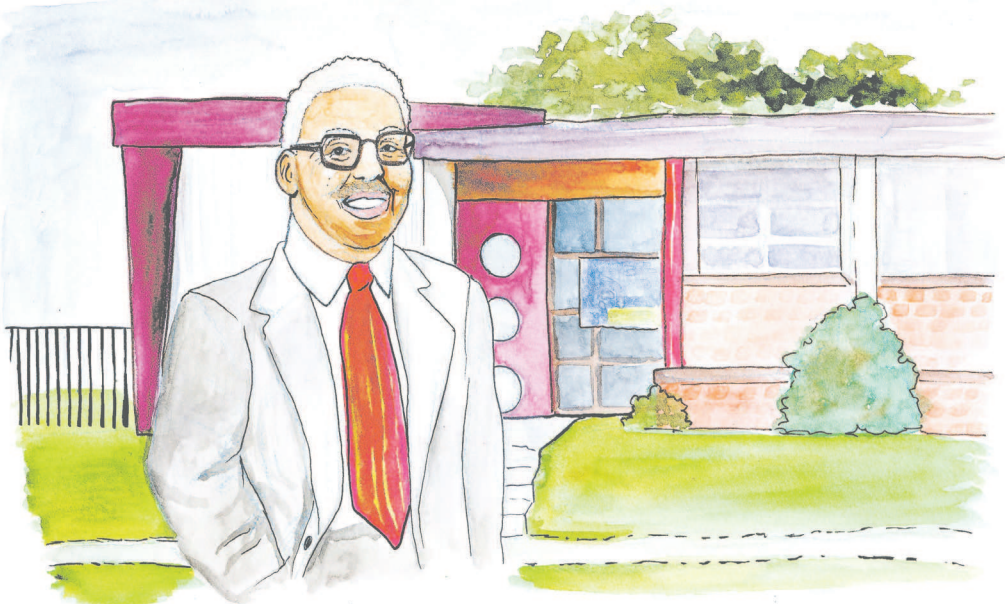
UT buys buildings designed by first African-American architecture student.

By Brooke Vincent
@BROOKE_E_V

John Chase, the first African-American architecture student to enroll at UT, will be immortalized by the University with his first commercially designed buildings serving as the new home of the Community Engagement Center.

The University purchased the land last September for \$1,050,000. After renting out a building in East Austin for nearly a decade, the center, which helps those with limited opportunities through education programs, was looking for a new building last summer for its staff. The purchase of this building in the East Austin neighborhood was perfect, said Virginia Cumberbatch, the center's director.

"The Community Engagement Center's mission is focused on using our resources as a University to build equity and opportunity for the community that surrounds UT," Cumberbatch said. "This property is bringing back a part of the UT narrative and re-connecting it to the University. This is honoring (Chase's) legacy



MEL WESTFALL | THE DAILY TEXAN STAFF

as an alum, and not just an alum, but an exceptional alum, and the first to open up the doors for African Americans."

The building was constructed in 1952 as the headquarters for the Colored Teachers State Association of Texas and is on the National Register of Historical Places.

"His buildings still look very contemporary," said Leslie Blair, executive director of communications for the Division of

Diversity and Community Engagement. "I would say it was very modern and considered a little bit edgy (at the time.) He says that he was influenced by Frank Lloyd Wright and also by another black architect, named Paul Williams."

Chase graduated from UT in 1952 and was the first licensed African-American architect in Texas. He opened four firms across the country and was involved in projects such as

the Vietnam Memorial, Delta Sigma Theta National Headquarters and the Harris County Astrodome Renovation.

"Going to graduate school and then opening up his own architecture firm was (done) because he couldn't get hired anywhere else," Cumberbatch said. "He really developed and mentored a lot of African-American architects. You can see his legacy throughout the U.S. because so many of those people got

jobs and opportunities because of him."

The University should continue to acknowledge the pioneers of the past for their contributions to the city, architecture graduate student Mitch Avitt said.

"There are several factors that make Austin an interesting city for race relations and how architects and planners have worked with it, specifically, (North Interstate Highway 35) acting as a very physical divider separating white people and black people," Avitt said. "I think it's a really momentous step that the University is taking. There's a lot to be celebrated for people that paved the way for others, and I don't think we should ever lose that."

Although there is no move-in date yet, Cumberbatch said this is an exciting step for the University to continue building a relationship with the community. "I think over the last 10 years or more we've created safe spaces for the community to have access to all the great resources," Cumberbatch said. "I think it will also mean a lot to students. As a University, we're not just saying that we appreciate and recognize diversity, but that we're moving toward inclusion. Hopefully this will raise the visibility of other people like Chase, because he's not the only one with this story."

CAMPUS

Longhorn Pride welcomes LGBTQ prospective students

By Stephanie Adeline
@STEPHADELIN

Choosing which college to enroll in can be daunting. For LGBTQ students, how they are welcomed is often the deciding factor.

During "Longhorn Pride" this Friday, a visit organized by the Office of Admissions and the Gender and Sexuality Center, prospective students will be able to explore the University's LGBTQ resources and meet with current queer-identifying students and alumni.

Visitors will include admitted students, high school students who have not started a college application and prospective transfer students. Students will hear presentations on LGBTQ campus support related to topics like housing, mental health and safety.

James Tolleson, assistant director of admissions and director of visitor services, said this is the first visit day focused on LGBTQ students at UT and in Texas. The purpose of the event is to help LGBTQ students make a better, more informed college decision, Tolleson said.

"As an office, but also as a University, (we want) to have a symbolic demonstration that absolutely we care about and value LGBTQ+ students," Tolleson said.

The event's planning comes a year after the University released its Diversity and Inclusion Action Plan,

which included efforts to increase LGBTQ inclusion, Tolleson said.

Advertising senior Arturo Compean, who identifies as gay, said it is important for UT to communicate resources available to LGBTQ students because it makes them feel accepted and cared for.

"Students who come from smaller towns like me ... have to hide a major part of who we are until we can find a safe place," Compean said in an email. "Giving students the chance and the knowledge that this is happening

to ... having an event and a day like this where queer students can feel supported ... not just when they got here but during the application process and through the college decision process," said Tedder, co-coordinator of the event and an educational leadership and policy graduate student.

Tedder said he hopes the program will grow and set an example for other schools to include queer-identifying students in the whole admissions process.

"In a national picture, (our goal is) to kind of push the conversations for looking at how are we best serving queer students at the establishment of a university and hopefully trying to make a safer and nicer place for queer students to be," Tedder said.

Xandria Hernandez, who will be a UT freshman later this fall, said she was interested in coming to the event because of her passion for LGBTQ advocacy.

Hernandez said she was inspired seeing many future UT students being open about their identity in the UT Class of 2022 Facebook group.

"A lot of times LGBTQ students could feel out of place," Hernandez said. "It's nice to see that there (are) people that are comfortable enough with themselves that they will come out and make other people feel like they can find each other."

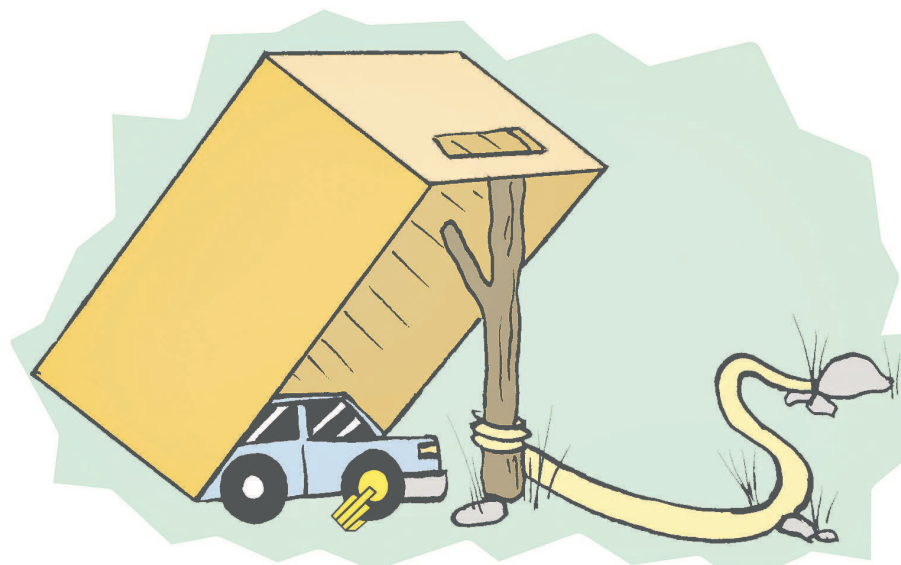
"In a national picture, (our goal is) to kind of push the conversations for looking at how are we best serving queer students."

Sawyer Tedder,
OFFICE OF ADMISSIONS
GRADUATE ASSISTANT

is a big deal. It reminds new students that the world isn't always so bad, and that there are welcoming people in the world, and thankfully UT is one of them."

As a graduate assistant in the admissions office, Sawyer Tedder said creating this event has been his dream since he started graduate school.

"The University's Diversity and Inclusion Action Plan really did open a path



GEO CASILLAS | THE DAILY TEXAN STAFF

SCAM

CONTINUES FROM PAGE 1

reports. Goodwin said APD has a suspect description of two younger white men driving a silver car with no license plate number.

The memo advised car owners to look out for notices placed on their cars telling vehicle owners to call private numbers to get the boot removed.

According to the memo, a city-issued boot is accompanied by a notice directing the owner to the number of Austin Municipal Court. Goodwin said the city only boots cars on public roads if there are multiple unpaid traffic citations, although private towing companies are authorized to boot cars on private properties.

Goodwin said city employees also will never demand or accept cash payment on the street, as all public fines are paid through the court. Employees applying the boot will be dressed in uniform and use

larger boots that are typically marked or numbered.

"The boot that the city is going to use is big enough to stop a dump truck," Goodwin said. "The ones they are using in the scam look like little pinchers that they're buying off Amazon."

John Ketterer, a plan II and civil engineering freshman, said he was booted by a private towing company last semester. Ketterer said the experience was frustrating and shared by many college students.

"It really came out of nowhere," Ketterer said. "As a college student I have better things to worry about than getting a \$200 boot. The fact that they were waiting there to take my money just felt really unfair in the moment."

Ketterer said getting scammed is a scary possibility and can blur the lines of the law.

"It's a crime, it's fraudulent, and it really undermines the purpose and legitimacy of booting a car," Ketterer

said. "If I were to get booted again, it could be hard to tell what's a real boot, what's a fake boot."

Dennis Delaney, a University Parking and Transportation Services manager, said campus booting occurs after students rack up four or more unpaid citations, or one citation that's been unpaid for 120 calendar days.

Delaney said PTS enforcers will also not boot until they send students citation notices and put imminent boot warnings on windows.

"We don't just go out and do this willy-nilly," Delaney said. "We only boot (students) if we've done everything in our power to let them know."

Goodwin said he hopes the situation will resolve itself soon, something the media could help with.

"I would love to catch somebody doing it," Goodwin said. "But failing that, I would just like it to stop. Hopefully the public information that's been put out there is enough."

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All-night dining isn't as crazy as it sounds

By Spencer Buckner
@TEXANOPINION
COLUMNIST

The Wendy's on the first floor of Jester is more than just a Wendy's: It's a beacon of late-night regret and gut-busting four dollar meal deals. Wendy's didn't earn this responsibility. Rather, the responsibility was thrust upon it. Let's be frank: Longhorns' options for finding fulfilling food late at night are dreadfully limited — especially if they are trying to spend dine-in dollars.

Joshua Iwe, an electrical and computer engineering freshman, is all too familiar with the lack of late-night dining options. Like many students, Iwe finds himself in need of energy while studying until early in the morning.

"I always end up going to Wendy's or trying to salvage something from my room," Iwe said about getting late-night food. "It would be nice to have something where I could spend dine-in dollars and not cash."

Why isn't there a late night dining hall for students like Iwe? Rene Rodriguez, director of Housing and Dining Service on campus, explained that insufficient demand makes operating dining halls after typical hours impractical.

"When we make decisions on hours, we have to concentrate on the 7,400 students that we rely on (for funds)," Rodriguez notes. "How many

people are actually going to be eating at 2:00 a.m.? It wouldn't be financially feasible."

So where can Longhorns turn if they're unwilling to hit up Wendy's or risk a late-night run on the Drag?

With a 24-hour dining hall out of the question, Rodriguez was more open to keeping an on-campus market open past their current midnight closing time. Unlike our dining halls, Rodriguez noted that UT's on-campus markets enjoy a strong demand even near their closing times — all the more reason to explore keeping them open later. Easy to staff and relatively inexpensive to operate, the path of least resistance for late-night health snacking then seems to be through our two on-campus markets.

Citing lack of employees and concern for student safety, however, Housing and Dining has no plans to keep either of our markets open into the early morning — even if the demand is there.

At the very least, UT should install a vending machine that serves sandwiches, salads and other healthy items in places like the Perry-Casteneda Library, where students studying at ungodly hours could get a meal's worth of healthy sustenance. While UT is strict about new vending machines on campus, one of our current vendors already makes vending machines offering healthy options to paying customers. It wouldn't take much to get a couple of those on campus and offer easier paths to shame-free late night grub.



WEATHERLY SAWYER | THE DAILY TEXAN STAFF

For Longhorns that never get off the grind, having more convenient and healthy options on campus for late-night dining could only be a good thing. The University has low-cost avenues it can take to make more options available.

Wendy's shouldn't have a monopoly on students' wallets. Longhorns are hungry for change. Let's pick up our forks and knives and make it happen.

Buckner is a Plan II and journalism freshman from Austin.

COLUMN

Trump's meal kits are an attack on the poor

By Elizabeth Braaten
@TEXANOPINION
COLUMNIST

President Donald Trump released his budget proposal for the 2019 fiscal year last Monday. Conservative proponents of the plan have heralded that it would eliminate "wasteful" programs and regulations that hurt the nation's economy, primarily by cutting social safety net programs that enable the survival of millions of Americans.

In one of the greatest smites to the poor in recent years, Trump's proposed budget would strike a blow to the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, or SNAP.

In its place, families would receive a box of pre-selected non-perishable food each month.

As if this inadequate replacement idea was not bad enough, the language and scope of Trump's budget proposal is inaccessible to the very people that it will affect the most, putting SNAP in danger of being cut. As students, it is our job to use our resources to speak out against it.

Trump's box, or what has come to be referred to as "America's Harvest Box," would be sent to people who currently receive more than 90 dollars a month in SNAP benefits, or 81 percent of those who qualify.

The box would not contain any fresh fruit, vegetables, meat, or dairy — which are currently accessible with SNAP benefits. Instead, these essential components of a healthy diet would be replaced with processed, non-perishable items such as peanut butter, cereal and canned meat. This is not sufficient nourishment for the human body, as non-perishable food is high in sodium and sugar and lacks the essential

vitamins and minerals found in fresh food.

Currently, SNAP assists approximately one in eight Americans, or 42 million low-income citizens, by putting food on the table. To qualify for SNAP, a person has to be hovering 130 percent below the poverty line. SNAP operates by providing prepaid cards to those that qualify, which can then be used at grocery stores to buy food items.

Popular myths about SNAP assume that it's wasted by able-bodied people who misuse their benefits to splurge on steak and lobster in place of working. This is incorrect. To receive SNAP able-bodied people of age are required to work. The majority of households with an able-bodied recipient have a job.

The overwhelming majority of SNAP recipients are either children, elderly or disabled. Studies have found more than 90 percent of benefits from SNAP assist the elderly, disabled or those that live in households where at least one member works. The majority of SNAP beneficiaries are those who would not be able to access enough food otherwise, making the elimination of the program in a country where 1 in 3 children are food insecure, abominable. Being old, disabled, or of low-income status should not mean that fresh, substantive, food is inaccessible.

If you find fault with cutting SNAP (and you should) then do something about it. Call your legislators. Large numbers of calls and popular resistance have the potential to spur congresspeople to take a stand on issues. Above all, speak up for the 42 million Americans whose lives will be put at risk under Trump's new meal kit plan.

It's not just your right. It's your responsibility.

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



WEATHERLY SAWYER | THE DAILY TEXAN STAFF

By Tarek Zaher
@TEXANOPINION
COLUMNIST

By the time you get to the end of this sentence, a person will have died from something our laws could have prevented. Every six seconds, one person dies from a tobacco-related disease. It's time Austin did more to deter tobacco use.

San Antonio recently became the first city in Texas to raise the legal age for buying tobacco to 21. This comes in the wake of five states and more than 280 cities across the nation enacting similar measures. Austin has adopted other strategies to prevent tobacco use such as raising tobacco taxes and establishing smoke-free laws that include the UT campus. But raising the legal age for buying tobacco to 21 is a logical next step.

National data shows that nine out of 10 adult smokers began smoking before the age of 21. This is mostly due to the \$8.9 billion tobacco companies spend on advertising each year. Most of this advertising is intentionally marketed to young adults since they are more susceptible to cigarette advertising than adults. Furthermore, children are more vulnerable to nicotine addiction than adults because of their developing brains.

Steven Kelder, professor of epidemiology, said that "there's very few things we can do to ourselves that is more harmful than smoking cigarettes." They are linked to cancer, heart disease and strokes, and they've become the number one preventable cause of death in the United States. Moreover, despite misconceptions to the contrary, e-cigarettes, or vapes, are not exempt from criticism. The most popular vape among high school and college students, the JUUL, has the highest nicotine content of all the devices you can buy. "When you ingest chemicals like nicotine, it makes it more likely you'll want other substances such as cocaine," Kedler said. "That's why nicotine is called a gateway drug."

Increasing the age of sale adds one more valuable barrier for preventing kids from pur-

chasing e-cigarettes and tobacco. The current age of purchase in Austin is 18 years old. Despite this, national data shows that 46 percent of adult smokers become daily smokers before the age of 18. Raising the age of purchase to 21 will help end this epidemic of underage smoking.

Most kids under 18 who smoke get their cigarettes from people in their same social groups that are of legal age to purchase tobacco. Very few high school-age students, however, know someone 21 or older who would be willing to illegally purchase tobacco for them. Therefore, raising the legal age of purchase to 21 cuts off a vast majority of underage smokers' tobacco supply.

Increasing the age of sale adds one more valuable barrier for preventing kids from purchasing e-cigarettes and tobacco."

We've seen that this works. For instance, when a town in Massachusetts raised the age of purchase to 21, high school teen smoking rates dropped to nearly half compared with other towns nearby that maintained the current restriction. That's a lot of lives saved.

Currently, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, about seven in 10 U.S. adults support raising the smoking age to 21, including 69.9 percent of current smokers. Smokers and non-smokers alike understand that we should do everything we can to save children's lives. Every day, about 350 kids under 18 become regular smokers. Of those, one in three will eventually die as a result. The sooner we raise the legal age of purchasing tobacco to 21, the more children we can save who will otherwise die needlessly and prematurely.

Zaher is a government and European thought sophomore from Hudson.

COLUMN

Raise the tobacco purchase age, save lives

Bean there, brewed that: tips from a barista

By Grace Leake
@GRACE_LEAKE
COLUMNIST

Haggard and zombie-like, students trudge to their 8 a.m. classes. Their eyes are dull, their movements sluggish. Dark circles hug their eyes. When they speak, their voices slur nonsensical, drifting words.

What can be done for these piteous beings? Only one (legal) cure is known — caffeine. Many college students crave a caffeine fix to push them through their early morning classes and late night study sessions. As one of many students rushing through coffee shops every day, it's important to consider what you can do to have the best possible interaction with your barista. Here are some things to consider from when you begin your order to the moment you decide whether to tip.

First off, you should know what you want by the time you get to the counter. If you're taking a lot of time with your decision, you're preventing your barista both from taking other customers' orders and from making drinks, squandering everyone's time. Especially in the bustling coffee shops near campus, it's common decency to know what you're ordering before you get to the counter so that you don't inconvenience yourself or others. Don't be that student sprinting into the already-quiet classroom, your



NATHAN ROONEY | THE DAILY TEXAN STAFF

professor's bushy grey eyebrows furrowing at you and your Caffe Medici coffee that you stood hesitating 15 minutes to order.

You should also be detailed with your order. There are many factors that go into customizing a cup of coffee. Do you want it hot or iced? Do you want it for here or to go? What type of milk do you want? You might feel awkward or pretentious giving your barista so much information, but we appreciate it. Your barista isn't

psychic. Let us know what you want and streamline the process for both of us.

Similarly, if you're visiting an independently owned coffee shop, know the difference between your favorite Starbucks drink and the actual coffee equivalent. I've had many customers ask for a macchiato and then act surprised when they get the real thing — two shots of espresso lightly touched with foam. Starbucks recipes are way different from the traditional drinks, and

if you need clarification ask your barista for it. Yes, we baristas are going to judge you a little bit for not knowing what you're doing. Still, we are happy to lead you along the long journey of pretentious coffee jargon to help you find your next favorite drink.

Even if you do botch your order, don't hesitate to ask your barista to fix it. Before I became a barista, I accepted subpar drinks because I felt that asking my barista to remake them would be obnoxious. Trust me, it's not. If you aren't loving your drink, I want to remake it.

Lastly, what many people find the most terrifying question: Do you leave a tip? Friends frequently ask me in hushed, guilty tones if they should feel bad about not tipping. While your barista doesn't expect a tip, it's a sweet gesture and tips form a pretty substantial portion of baristas' income at a non-chain coffee shop. In my experience, at least 80 percent of my customers leave a tip and tips make up more than 40 percent of my pay. So while your barista probably doesn't anticipate it, tipping is a good move to make.

At the end of the day, this process is simple: communicate your needs, respect your barista, and walk away with a cup of coffee that will help you survive another wild day at UT.

Leake is a Plan II and Business freshman from Austin.

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ALUMNI

Lesser-known alumni influence film, entertainment industries

By Daniel Young
@DANIELYOUNG54

Ask any UT student to name the filmmakers who came out of UT, and you'll get a pretty dependable list of answers. Wes Anderson, Robert Rodriguez and — of course — Matthew McConaughey are well-known around campus for their movies, but they're not the only Longhorns who've done interesting or important work in the film industry. Here's The Daily Texan's list of alumni filmmakers who deserve more attention.

Noël Wells

A native of San Antonio, Wells is a 2010 Plan II and radio-television-film graduate. After college, she worked on and starred in a variety of projects, including videos for Funny or Die and CollegeHumor, as well as a feature called "Forev," which is a group of her friends and peers from UT created.

In 2013, Wells made the jump to prime time television as a cast member during the 39th season of "Saturday Night Live." A year later, she joined the cast of Aziz Ansari's "Master of None," where she received critical praise for her turn as Rachel, the primary love interest in the show's first season.

Last year at SXSW, Wells made her directorial debut with "Mr. Roosevelt," a film she also wrote and starred in. Shot on 16mm film and set primarily in Austin, "Mr. Roosevelt" was warmly received by critics as a showcase for Wells' unique sense of humor.

HUMANITIES

CONTINUES FROM PAGE 8

"Many fields have always focused on European minds," Davis said. "Our professors were once students at universities and learned that these Westerners were the top minds in their field, so it's going to be reflected in their course material. That's all they've ever known."

On the other hand, Kerr said the issue of Eurocentrism in course material stems from the University's lack of diversity, since a large percentage of students on campus have come from Western European backgrounds.

"If UT was a more diverse school in terms of its ideas, Eurocentrism in our courses would not be as big of a problem," Kerr said. "People would be

challenging this issue more."

A lack of diverse perspectives in the classroom can have many effects on the UT student experience. For example, government sophomore Daniel Porter said finding a large amount of Western literature in his world literature course was a "disappointment."

"I feel like I'm wasting my time," Porter said. "Reading just American and British literature was not what I signed up for. (Not studying literature from other parts of the world) is like buying a book and noticing that it's missing a few pages."

In addition to disappointing students, Kerr said emphasizing European perspectives negatively affects the minority student experience.

"It's harmful to teach people as if Western civilization is the pinnacle

of human progress," Kerr said. "It's a racist viewpoint, and I can only imagine how it feels not being able to see your race reflected and included in academia."

However, Kerr, Davis and Dr. Monique Pikus, the Liberal Arts Honors Program associate director, said it might take many years before significant change can be seen to UT's Eurocentric curriculum. But Davis said students have the power to add diverse perspectives.

"Most of the changes on campus occur because students voice their frustrations," Davis said. "If students meet with their professors, come together and host events, and show that they are willing to support, debate, and discuss works written by minorities, their professors will be more inclined to add diverse perspectives to their classwork."

effects bonanzas to low-budget social and political commentaries. He pioneered New-Wave Hong Kong Cinema in the early 1990s.

Robert Schenkkan

Writer Robert Schenkkan graduated from UT in 1975 and has since gone on to win a Pulitzer Prize, a Tony Award and recognition from the Writers'

Guild of America, as well as a slew of other awards for his work.

Schenkkan's career consists mostly of on and off-Broadway theater productions, but his departures from the stage to the screen are just as notable. He co-produced and wrote episodes of HBO's "The Pacific" and penned the script for "The Quiet American," and worked on a number of other television shows and films throughout the last two decades. Most notably, though, Schenkkan was one of two writers behind Mel Gibson's Oscar-nominated film, "Hacksaw Ridge."

Following the film's release, Amazon Studios billed Schenkkan to write "K Troop," a film about the rise of the Ku Klux Klan in the 19th century.

Tobe Hooper

An important figure in American horror cinema, Hooper was a radio-television-film student at UT during the early 1960s while the program was still in its infancy. For a few years after college, he worked as a documentary filmmaker, before cobbling together \$40,000 to make his first feature, "Eggshells." The film went relatively unnoticed, but Hooper's second picture, "The Texas Chainsaw Massacre," took audiences by surprise with its grittiness.

Texas Chainsaw redefined horror movies, and sent Hooper's career into motion. He went on to direct a number of well-loved horror flicks, including "Salem's Lot," "Poltergeist" and "Lifehouse." The likes of John Carpenter, James Gunn and Eli Roth all claim Hooper as a major influence on their work.



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MEN'S BASKETBALL

NCAA tourney hopes in jeopardy after another loss

With three games left, Texas' postseason fate hangs in the balance.

By Dalton Phillips
@DALTON_TWEETS

Just two weeks ago, Kansas State marched into the Frank Erwin Center and stole a win on Texas' home court. On Wednesday night in Manhattan, Kansas, the Longhorns were unable to return the favor.

Kansas State junior guard Barry Brown torched Texas for 14 points in the second half as the Wildcats completed the season sweep of Texas, defeating the Longhorns 58-48.

Like so many games this season, the Longhorns lost on another dismal shooting performance. Texas (16-12, 6-9 Big 12) found the bottom of the net on just 2-of-18 tries from behind the arc. The loss pushed Texas' season further to the brink — and it couldn't have come at a worse time.

"We needed to play better defense down the stretch, but also needed to score," Texas head coach Shaka Smart said. "I thought Kansas State's aggressiveness on the defensive end got our guys on our heels. We were not assertive enough or aggressive enough — screening, cutting and executing on what we were trying to do. And that is part of the reason we scored so few."

Wednesday night was a grind from the opening tip. The two teams, clawing to secure an NCAA Tournament bid, came out with the physicality and urgency often reserved for postseason games.



ANGEL ULLOA | THE DAILY TEXAN FILE

Freshman guard Matt Coleman handles the ball during the Longhorns' 67-64 loss to Kansas State at the Frank Erwin Center on Feb. 7. The Wildcats completed the season sweep of Texas on Wednesday night in Manhattan with a 58-48 victory.

Kansas State had great success in the first meeting of the season clogging the paint and daring Texas to take long shots, and the Wildcats opened in a similar scheme on Wednesday.

Texas responded, as Smart often does, by going big.

Junior guard Kerwin Roach II broke up a pass and took off for a transition basket. He rose up and delivered a one-handed flush to put

Texas back on top. With a burst of momentum, the Longhorns rattled off six straight points to pull ahead midway through the first half.

But Texas was unable to capitalize on the other end. The team missed several wide open looks and failed to score for more than four minutes — an all-too familiar trend for the young roster.

Fueled by back-to-back Texas

turnovers, Kansas State mustered a run of its own to even the score heading into halftime.

The long ball continued to evade the Longhorns in the second half as a number of open looks proved off the mark. Texas missed 17 of its first 20 shots, often contested shots as the clock expired.

The Longhorns were unable to convert a field goal for an excruciating six-minute stretch in the second half.

SOFTBALL

Texas' upset bid of top-ranked Washington comes up short

By Robert Larkin
@R_LARKINTXAS

There are no moral victories in softball. They don't show up in the box score or a team's overall record.

On Wednesday night at McCombs Field, however, the Longhorns pieced together one of the strongest performances of their young season, holding No. 1 Washington to its fewest runs scored and lowest score differential of 2018 in a 2-1 defeat to the Huskies.

"It feels great (playing Washington so close)," senior pitcher Paige von Sprecken said. "I think it gives us a lot of momentum going into the weekend as we play some more ranked teams."

Von Sprecken continued her performance as the Longhorns' best pitcher on staff against Washington, only allowing two well-earned runs and recording four strikeouts against a potent lineup that averaged over 10 runs per game entering Wednesday.

"(Paige) just competes," Texas head coach Connie Clark said. "She wants the ball, and she's just figuring out how to pitch a great inning."

But Texas' offense did little to support its star pitcher in the early going.

The Longhorns didn't record their first hit until the third inning after a single from senior designated player Randel Leahy. Following a walk by freshman second baseman Janae Jefferson, the Longhorns appeared to be primed for a rally. But Washington pitcher Taran Alvelo sent down the next two Texas hitters on back-to-back strikeouts.

Sophomore left fielder Kaitlyn Washington recorded Texas' second hit of the evening in the fourth, but again the Longhorns were unable to capitalize with a runner on base, grounding into a double play to end the inning.

The Huskies finally managed to crack von Sprecken in the fifth inning on a controversial play at the plate.

After a single and sacrifice bunt to start the inning, Washington's Taylor Van Zee drilled a single to right field to force a play at home. Though it appeared junior right fielder Ki'Audra Hayter's throw arrived at the plate in time, sophomore catcher Taylor Ellsworth was called for catcher's interference, giving the Huskies a 1-0 lead.

The Longhorns appeared close to tying the game in the bottom of the fifth after Hayter sent a ball down the third-base line with a runner at

second base. But Van Zee flashed her glove with a diving catch to stifle another Texas rally.

Washington's offense came alive again in the top of the sixth when first baseman Kirstyn Thomas' lead-off triple was followed by a scorched RBI double off the wall from Julia DePonte, which gave the Huskies a 2-0 advantage.

Texas finally found the scoreboard in the sixth inning when freshman third baseman MK Tedder drove a single through the right side of the infield, scoring Ellsworth to cut the deficit at 2-1.

But Alvelo was able to stop the Longhorns' damage, as Texas stranded runners at first and third base, failing to capitalize on yet another opportunity.

In their last appearance at the plate, the Longhorns' hitters went down silently in order, giving Washington the 2-1 win.

The Longhorns (4-5) return to action on Friday in Austin for a doubleheader against No. 20 Michigan and Wichita State in the Texas Invitational.

"We have quality teams coming in," Clark said. "It's got to be about us and our consistent approach, as opposed to bringing energy one day and being lull the next."

BASEBALL

Petrinsky guides Longhorns to 7-2 victory over Lamar

By Shane Lewis
@SHANELEWIS4204

A single, a walk and a hit-by-pitch — to most batters, the sequence is a satisfactory end-of-game stat line.

For freshman pitcher Nico O'Donnell, making his first start for the Longhorns on Wednesday night, the sequence represented the nightmarish results from his first three collegiate batters faced.

But O'Donnell settled in, the Texas bats came alive and Lamar fumbled the ball around in the field as the Longhorns surged to a 7-2 victory over the Cardinals on a frosty night at UFCU Disch-Falk Field.

"I thought Nico was a little shaky early, but that's understandable given the conditions tonight," Texas head coach David Pierce said. "But I'm really proud of him because we overcame it. Overall, a solid victory against a pretty good ball club."

Despite the rough start, Texas (3-1) was able to escape a first inning in which Lamar loaded the bases twice, allowing only one run.

The Longhorns rallied to tie the game in the bottom of the second. Junior catcher DJ

Petrinsky opened the inning with a single up the middle, his first hit of the young season. After a sacrifice bunt moved Petrinsky to second, the catcher was brought home on a hard-hit line drive down the right field line by junior outfielder Tate Shaw.

In the fourth, the Longhorns capitalized on Lamar's mistakes to take control of the game. Petrinsky again got things started with a single and advanced to second on a throwing error. After a wild pitch advanced Petrinsky to third, freshman infielder Zach Zubia hit a sacrifice fly to score the Longhorns' second run of the game.

But the errors for Lamar didn't stop there. Shaw reached on a single to continue the inning, and junior catcher Michael McCann was able to advance Shaw to third thanks to a fielding error by the Cardinals. Two batters later, Lamar badly handled a grounder by sophomore infielder David Hamilton, and Shaw crossed home plate to give Texas a 3-1 lead.

"We've got to capitalize, especially when teams make a lot of errors," Petrinsky said. "(Wednesday) games are important, and it felt good to capitalize and get a win."

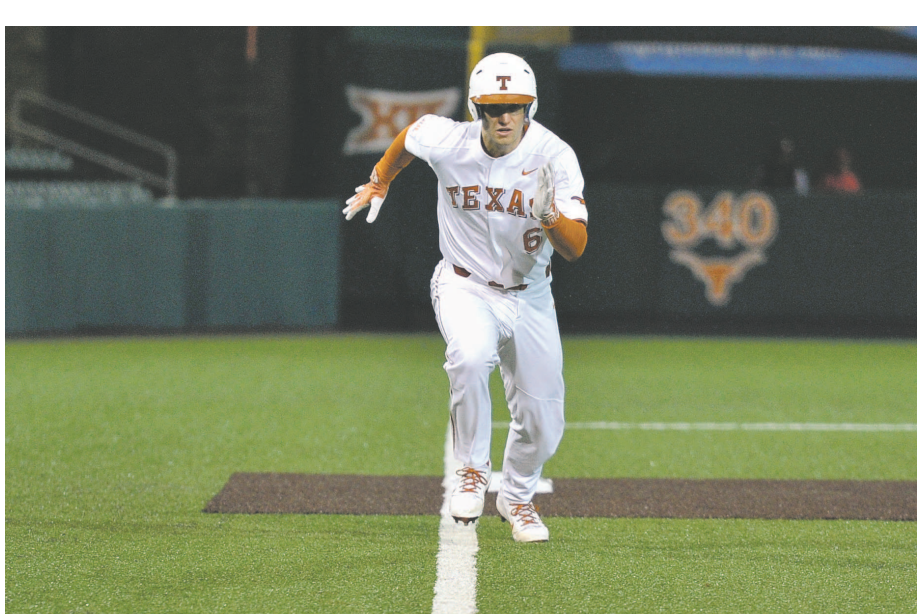
In their most explosive frame of the season, Texas tacked on four runs in the fifth to blow the game wide open. After a Todd walk, Petrinsky notched another hit — a booming double to left center — to bring home the runner. Zubia proceeded to drive in Petrinsky with an off-the-wall triple that was inches from leaving the park. The Longhorns scored another two runs in the inning to extend their lead to a 7-1 advantage.

Texas finished with a season-high 10 hits. Petrinsky was the clear catalyst for Texas, breaking out of a mini-slump to go 3-for-4 with an RBI and a walk.

"Guys are doing a great job of getting better pitches to hit," Pierce said. "With a little more selection, when we get pitches we're able to handle it. We're doing a much better job with two strikes."

Even with the tough start, O'Donnell managed 3.1 innings, only allowing a run with two strikeouts. Freshman Bryce Elder was awarded the win, going 1.2 innings with a strikeout.

The Longhorns now turn their attention toward a three-game road series with LSU this weekend.



ANTHONY MIRELES | THE DAILY TEXAN STAFF

Junior catcher DJ Petrinsky sprints toward home during the Longhorns' 7-2 victory over Lamar on Wednesday night at UFCU Disch-Falk Field. Texas heads to LSU this weekend for a three-game series in Baton Rouge.

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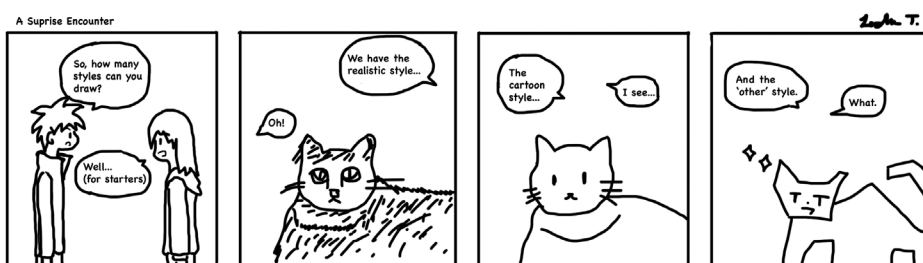
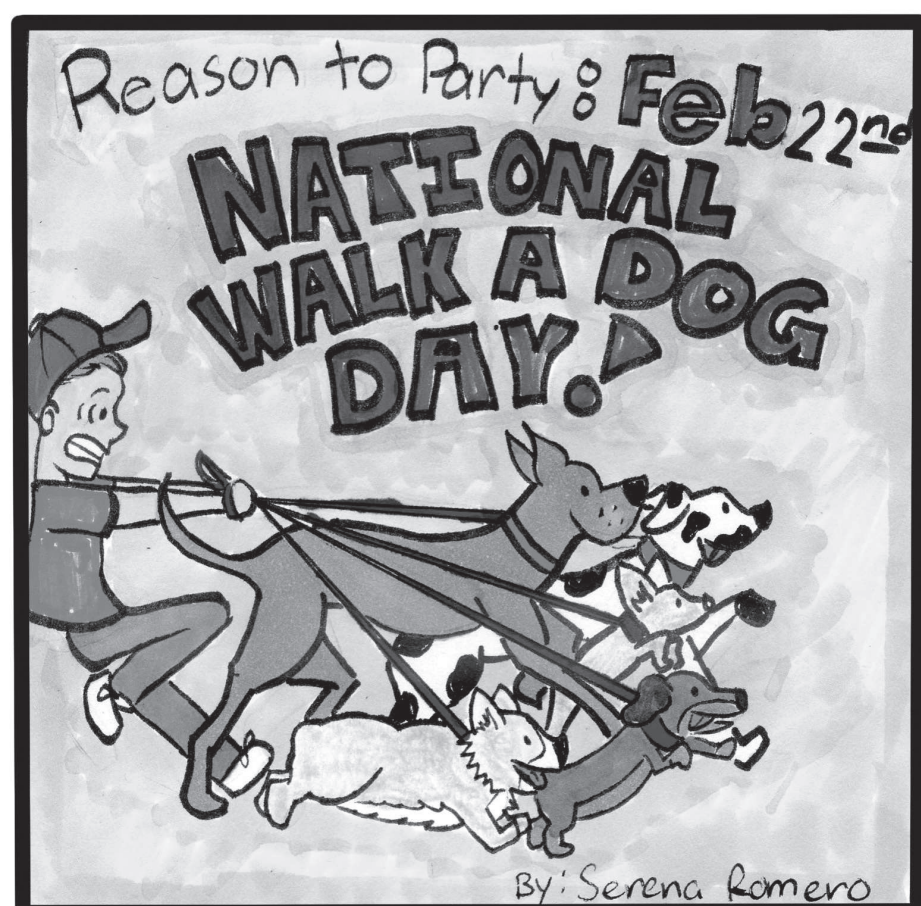
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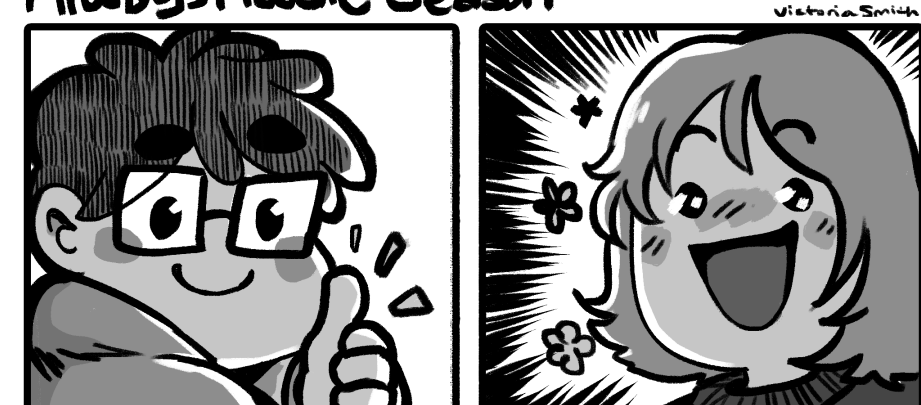


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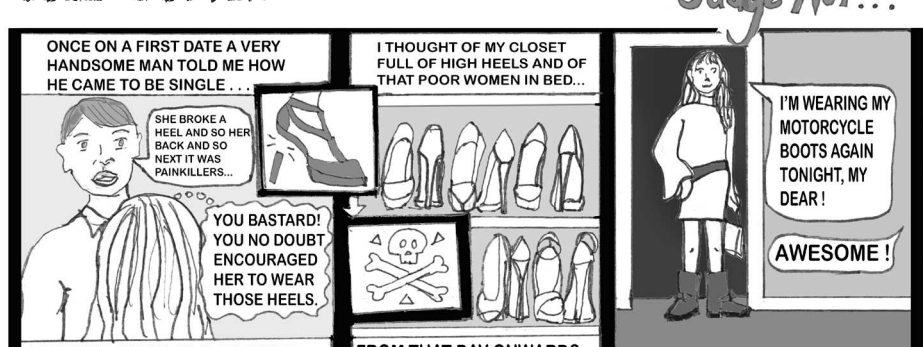
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SUDOKUFORYOU

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

COLE GODVIN



The New York Times Crossword

Edited by Will Shortz

No. 0118

ACROSS

1 Rebound

6 Lady ___ Ashley, Jake Barnes's love in "The Sun Also Rises"

11 Interregnum

14 Chilling

15 Like the planets beyond the asteroid belt

16 Chemical suffix

17 Rooftop heist?

19 Travel org. with an eTix app

20 "If you ask me," to texters

21 Org. that discourages traveling

22 Flowerless plants

24 Diamond club

25 Some roles in the Jack Benny film "College Holiday"

27 Marathon leader?

28 Dateless, say

30 Handle engineer duties?

32 Bird that has one long talon on each foot for fighting

34 Pear variety

35 Preschooler

36 Last at Daytona, say

40 N.H.L. team that became the Hurricanes in 1997

42 "Mazel ___!"

43 "No ___" ("I'm fine")

45 My Chemical Romance genre

46 Della or Picabo?

49 Openings at a day spa?

53 Jewel case insert

54 Bright lights

56 Response to "Madam, I'm Adam" that is itself a palindrome

57 Alaskan bear

DOWN

1 Premium Cuban cigar

2 Category in a guessing game

3 "You betcha!"

4 Number above "Operator" on un telefono

5 La Méditerranée, e.g.

6 Tackle box item

7 Start of a children's rhyme

8 It lasts trois mois

9 Contract period

10 Events for prospective pro athletes

11 Idaho, with "the"

12 Toward the front, anatomically

13 Group rallied by Mao Zedong

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE

ACELA STIOA IDEO
DORAG EELS NOVA
DNASAMPLES TWIT
EMAIL ABUNCH
LAW EXAM DRIFTS
ERATO SEA ATE
DRYOFF AVIV ALL
GINNIE NAPE TIA
EVE NEMO ANTHEM
REG CLOT SERENE
RAH WHO WIRES
STEREO EHOW SET
LATISH RITON
ORZO APOSTROPHE
WOKS RUNE LIRAS
STYE EPEE DRONE

PUZZLE BY RYAN MCCARTY AND ALAN SOUTHWORTH

18 Fish at a Hawaiian barbecue

23 Nikon product, for short

25 One who has concrete plans for the day?

26 ___ globe

29 Fresh out of the box

31 Queens stadium name

33 ___ interface

36 Defense fence

37 Cockney, e.g.

38 Trite

39 Typical college freshman

41 John

44 Home of lanternfish and giant squids

47 "___ gather"

48 Foot, baby-style

50 Election do-over

51 No matter whether

52 Has an inkling

55 Major group HQ'd in Fairfax, Va.

58 2016 animated film ___ and the Two Strings

60 Wave to a math teacher?

63 Opposite of stern

64 Moonshiner's vessel

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CITY

Local, hand-crafted boots walk all over globe

Austin's Texas Custom Boots preserves the art of leather boot making.

By Karsyn Lemmons
@KLEMMONSSS

Boots cover the walls of the small shop, forming a work of art comprised of leathers, textiles and stichwork. Each pair of boots has been delicately hand-crafted with a keen eye for detail and quality. Sitting in the midst of it all is the craftsman himself.

Noel Escobar is the owner of the shop Texas Custom Boots that has produced boots of all shapes, sizes, leathers and detailings as unique as Austin for nearly four decades.

From how he tells it, Escobar grew up with boots in his hands. At the age of 11, he helped his parents with their family business Escobar Shoe Repair. Shortly after moving to Austin from the Rio Grande Valley, Escobar found work in something he was all too familiar with.

"It was about two or three months into living in Austin, I answered this ad (for Texas Custom Boots)," Escobar said. "And six months after I was here, I was already purchasing this business."

Escobar wasn't nervous about buying the shop at the age of 22. He felt everything was right, and the pieces were falling right into place.

"I guess knowing the ropes, I didn't think about it at the time," Escobar said. "It worked out, my folks backed me up."

While he enjoys being in business for himself, Escobar said he agrees there can be ups and downs. Despite the everyday, mundane tasks and chores that come along with maintaining a business, the silver lining is the ability to craft and share a high quality product with his community.

"Your days can be very profitable," Escobar said. "Custom boots can cost a pretty penny. It's like getting a



JOSHUA GUENTHER | THE DAILY TEXAN STAFF

Texas Custom Boots owner Noel Escobar relaxes in his shop between assisting customers. At Texas Custom Boots, you can find unique, hand-crafted boots anywhere from \$2,500 to as much as a used car, if not more.

hand-tailored suit."

From the ball of the foot, width, your low instep, your high instep, from your heel to your calf, everything in one of Escobar's creations is tailored to the individual. Escobar said a pair of basic custom-made boots starts off around \$2,500, but when clients ask for boots with meticulous detail or exotic leathers, that's when Escobar said prices start to jump.

"Some exotics double up the price of a basic boot," Escobar said. "A pair of alligator boots can fetch you a good

twelve grand. You can buy a good used car for that kind of money."

With the prestigious and high quality products he creates, Escobar created a reputation for Texas Custom Boots as one of the premier boot makers in the world. As a result, recognized names from a variety of places come to purchase their own pair.

"I've made boots for Clint Eastwood and Kevin Costner," Escobar said. "We were fortunate enough to have Adele walk in and shop with us. I've sold boots to one of the members of

the Foo Fighters, and the Black Keys have been in here."

Although he's run Texas Custom Boots for 30 years, Escobar maintains his passion for creating works of art. Escobar enjoys presenting leathers and skins to visitors, explaining that while some pelts are as local as Houston, the ostrich used was ranch-raised as far away as South Africa. Escobar puts time and effort into every moment of a boot's production.

"I eat, breathe and sleep this,"

Escobar said.

Texas Custom Boots is an original gem among Austin's diverse and one of a kind community, with Escobar telling this story one boot at a time. At the end of the day, there's a multitude of reasons why Escobar remains passionate for Texas Custom Boots, but he's altogether driven by one thing.

"(It's) waiting for the following day to see that person's expression on their face of what I can perform," Escobar said.

STATE

CAMPUS

#BlowTheWhistle shows Texans standing up for public educators



GEO CASILLAS | THE DAILY TEXAN STAFF

By Alexis Tatum
@TATUMALEXIS

It's election season in Texas, and one nonprofit organization is under fire for accusing public schools of electioneering for liberal candidates.

Empower Texans is a large political entity based in Austin that supports several Republican candidates in Texas, including Gov. Greg Abbott and Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton. The nonprofit faced a mixed reaction online after sending out a letter calling on school officials to whistleblow on school districts they believe are using funds to help students and employees vote and influencing students' politics.

In response to the letter from Empower Texans, students, teachers and administrators have turned the call to action on its head by taking to social media to "blow the whistle" on educators doing positive things in classrooms. Despite the politically-charged origin of the hashtag, history sophomore Eleya Kristine said "#blowthewhistle" is a positive reminder of what educators do.

"It's optimistic," Kristine said. "Every teacher's hope is to positively influence their students and seeing students make this

(the hashtag) into something positive is exciting."

Ana Arreaga, a bilingual education sophomore, said she doesn't think it's wrong for teachers to share their ideas because they don't use their influence to push political agendas.

"I've had teachers in both high school and college express their views and it never meant I had to agree with them," Arreaga said. "I don't think it really makes a difference if teachers reveal their political views because students do it all the time. If anything, there's more influence amongst peers."

Mathematics sophomore Valerie Barboza shared a similar idea and said teachers are influential in schools, but not when it comes to politics.

"I don't see politics being involved in the classroom at all," Barboza said. "From my limited time (teaching) in high schools, I haven't seen much of that."

Kristine said she thinks Empower Texans is misguided in targeting educators and that the media might be more responsible for influencing students' political views.

"I'm not sure of their underlying fears but with the media being so prevalent in this day and age, change is going to happen whether they enforce

restrictions or not," Kristine said. "I'm getting my certification in social studies ... part of social studies is teaching our civic duty, which is to vote."

Online responses to the hashtag include stories of teachers who purchased classroom supplies out of their own money, supported students in extracurricular activities and worked extra unpaid hours to help students learn.

The positivity of the hashtag is one of the reasons Arreaga said she likes teaching.

"I'm a substitute teacher at Texas School for the Blind and Visually Impaired," Arreaga said. "I see just how much work and extra hours teachers put in with their students. It doesn't matter if they have to come in early or stay in late; they're always around. It's inspiring."

Both Kristine and Barboza said teachers deserve the appreciation they're getting online.

"I know that in many opinions, including that of a future teacher, teachers aren't really appreciated or compensated like they should be," Kristine said. "So maybe they're just trying (to) make it into something positive to make society recognize that teachers are still very valuable resources in society."

European-heavy UT courses fail to offer diverse perspectives

By Tiana Woodard
@TIANAROCHON

John Locke. Virginia Woolf. Aristotle. Isaac Newton. Sigmund Freud.

When put side-by-side, what do these people have in common? UT students frequently come across these Western thinkers in class. But that may not be a good thing, some students argue.

Many of UT's required courses, such as American literature and British literature, as well as many art and mythology courses under the Visual and Performing Arts requirement, focus on European and Western perspectives. There are fewer courses that offer minority perspectives, causing some students to feel excluded or underrepresented. For Sarah Kerr, an international relations freshman, this approach can be "propagandic."

"Even though we live in the Western world, it's dangerous to only focus on European perspectives,"



GEO CASILLAS | THE DAILY TEXAN STAFF

Kerr said. "Students don't get other ideas and consider anything outside of the Western tradition."

Students hold different views as to why some UT courses include Eurocentrism.

Government freshman Delaney Davis said the fields of study should be at fault rather than the professors teaching the material.

HUMANITIES PAGE 5

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