

DTWEEKEND

Give a nod to Earth Day by planting a tree or visiting local farmers markets

KFC's Double Down:
A sandwich fraud

OPINION PAGE 4

Dating website
can't play cupid

LIFE&ARTS PAGE 10

THE DAILY TEXAN

TOMORROW'S WEATHER

High
85



Low
63

Thursday, April 22, 2010

Serving the University of Texas at Austin community since 1900

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TODAY

Calendar

Clean up, clean up

Volunteer for a two-hour shift to clean up Barton Springs. Visit www.austinearthday.com for more information. 10 a.m. and 6 p.m.

Civil rights panel

The Heman Sweatt Symposium on Civil Rights presents a discussion panel on integration at the University. Texas Union 3.502, 12:30 p.m. to 2 p.m.

On rebuilding Iraq

Rear Admiral David J. Nash speaks on the rebuilding of Iraq. ACES 2.302, 12:30 p.m. to 1:30 p.m.

cUT the Carbon!

The UT Campus Environmental Center hosts a free cUT the Carbon Earth Day concert on the Main Mall, 6:30 p.m. to 10 p.m.

Real, in color

The Black and White Years perform at Stubb's, 10 p.m.

Shop, eat, be green

More than 50 local Austin businesses are donating 5 percent of their gross sales to regional nonprofits who help the community and the environment. Visit www.austinearthday.com for a list of businesses.

Today in history

In 1976

Barbara Walters signs a \$5 million contract with ABC, making her the first news anchorwoman in network history.

Inside

In News:

Business fair, concert raise Earth Day awareness [page 5](#)

In Opinion:

Viewpoint criticizes UT for turning a deaf ear to students [page 4](#)

In Sports:

Track stars jump, vault their way past the competition [page 6](#)

In Life&Arts:

Structured shapes stride down runway for senior show [page 10](#)



Quote to note

"I have nothing against fried chicken, bacon or cheese. But such culinary revisionism cannot be allowed to stand. What's next? Soup on a plate? Pizza with the crust on top? A fillingless Hot Pocket?"

— **Dave Player**
Daily Texan columnist

OPINION PAGE 4

Public weighs in on cafe's future

Second forum provides outlet for discussion of three possible options

By **Shabab Siddiqui**
Daily Texan Staff

Within the first few minutes of his presentation Wednesday afternoon, Juan González, vice president for student affairs, made it clear that the "Cactus Cafe lives on."

The following two hours became a debate of "how" and "in what manner."

González hosted the second open forum regarding the future of the 31-year-old on-campus music venue at the AVAYA Auditorium. Three-fourths of the room's 200 seats were filled by various community members, students, staff, faculty and administrators.

In the first forum, held primarily for student leaders on campus last week, González outlined six guiding principles and three possible options regarding the future of the cafe. For Wednesday's forum, González scrapped his PowerPoint presentation and summarized the guiding principles of preserving the cafe in a self-sustaining business model and of increasing student input and access.

González also announced that the University will no longer consider giving the Cactus to a third-party vendor, which was followed by applause from the audience.

"It's simply not viable," he said. "The negative [feedback]



Shannon Kintner | Daily Texan Staff

Advocates of the Cactus Cafe formed a human chain outside of the Texas Union on Wednesday and displayed a scroll containing about 6,000 signatures from supporters hoping to keep the cafe open.

was overwhelming to that concept."

González said the two remaining options include continuing as a self-operating entity under a University office or pursu-

ing a hybrid model. The hybrid model details a partnership with KUT and students. KUT would be charged with providing programming on the days the cafe is not booked by students.

Facing a recurring 2-percent University-wide budget cut, the Texas Union Board of Directors recommended on Jan. 29 to repurpose the cafe and to phase out the informal classes program

by August.

E-mails obtained through public records requests revealed that administrators at the Texas Union

CACTUS continues on page 2

Students go for gold at Longhorn Olympics

By **Shamoyita DasGupta**
Daily Texan Staff

Strapped into a harness and bound by a bungee cord, finance junior Jonathan Semtner raced his friend across an inflatable track Wednesday at Clark Field, hoping to reach the finish line before the cord pulled him back to his starting position.

Semtner was among more than 50 UT students to attend the first Longhorn Olympics. Hosted by the Federation of Lesbian, Ally and Gay Sports, the event featured a sports tournament with soccer, volleyball and basketball matches. The Olympics also featured a variety of inflatable games provided by Bounce Across Texas. These included an obstacle course, a bungee run and a rock 'n' roll joust, where opponents tried to knock each other off an inflatable pedestal with mallets in the center of a bounce house.

"The main reason for Longhorn Olympics is to introduce sports to students who usually don't play and to have tournaments for people who usually play sports to be able to participate in," FLAGS president Daniel Otero said. "We're just trying to create a fun environment for students to come participate in."

Semtner said he came to support his friends participating in the sports tournaments and to take advantage of the recreational games available.

"I think [Longhorn Olympics] is good be-



Mary Kang | Daily Texan Staff

Undeclared freshman Margaret Wittenmyer challenges her brother John Wittenmyer, a Plan II junior, at the bungee run at Clark Field during the Longhorn Olympics on Wednesday.

cause the organization is founded on shattering stereotypes," he said. "I haven't seen any of the other organizations do anything so monumental."

Attendees of the Olympics listened to

music from UT student DJ Trey and were also given free food from Pluckers. FLAGS hopes to continue this tradition and host the

OLYMPICS continues on page 2

Group voices concern over fluoride level in city water

By **Alex Geiser**
Daily Texan Staff

While many city officials tout the benefits of adding fluoride to the public water supply, some Austin activists question the safety of the practice on the grounds that the additive is a hazardous waste.

Members of Fluoride Free Austin distributed fliers warning against fluoridation — a practice that has been used in Austin for nearly 30 years — as part of an Earth Day celebration Wednesday at the Austin Farmers' Market at Triangle Park. Rob Love, a psychology graduate student at UT and member of Fluoride Free Austin, said fluoride is only beneficial to oral health if applied topically.

"Look at your tube of toothpaste," Love said. "Do you want

WATER continues on page 2

College houses could receive tax break

By **Audrey White**
Daily Texan Staff

Students who live in off-campus, nonprofit residences such as Greek houses could catch a tax break that would help them make necessary safety and infrastructure improvements, such as the addition of fire sprinklers and smoke detectors.

Two UT students spent Sunday through Wednesday in Washington, lobbying on behalf of the Collegiate Housing Infrastructure Act during the annual North American Interfraternity Conference.

The bill would make it possible for people to make tax-de-

ductible donations to 501(c)(3) organizations — a category of nonprofit groups that are exempt from some federal income taxes. This could in turn give grants to off-campus, nonprofit housing entities to make specified improvements. The legislation has been addressed in Congress for the past nine years, and students have lobbied for it since 2004, but it has never passed. This year, around 100 students participated.

"There are budget cuts for universities and programs across the nation, and we are all having financial problems," said Danielle Brown, a member of Zeta Tau Al-

pha and psychology senior who traveled to Washington for the conference with Nathan Sultze, a member of Zeta Psi and marketing senior. "A lot of times, the first things that get cut are maintenance and safety improvements that should be done."

One notable effect of the bill's passage would be that alumni of Greek groups could make a tax-deductible donation marked specifically for safety and infrastructure improvements to national fraternal or sorority organizations, which are usually 501(c)(3) compliant. The national organization could then give the

GREEK continues on page 5



Shannon Kintner | Daily Texan Staff

Geography senior Robin King relaxes in her room at the French House Co-op. Most co-ops are already eligible to receive tax-deductible donations for building improvements, but the College Housing Infrastructure Act could extend that eligibility to other off-campus housing.

EARTH MONTH

TIP OF THE DAY

Carry a tote bag for shopping so you don't need to use a plastic bag. If you get a plastic bag, reuse it!

Source: U.S. Dept. of Energy

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CORRECTION

Due to a reporting error, The Daily Texan misidentified the group that is considering a resolution encouraging the University to reconsider its policy on political signs in Tuesday's front-page story entitled "University's sign policy sees further deliberation." The group considering the resolution is the Student Affairs Committee. The Texan regrets the error.

TODAY'S WEATHER

High 79 Low 67

He's got to keep off all the Goodall Honeys.

OLYMPICS: GLBT group unites students through sports

From page 1

Longhorn Olympics every year, Otero said.

The winners of the sports tournament were given prizes donated by the Division of Recreational Sports, including TeXercise passes, gift cards to the University Co-op, intramural summer passes and RecSports water bottles.

The recreational aspect of the Olympics attracted the attention of many different UT students, some of whom used the opportunity to relax.

"It's pretty cool because it's stress-relieving," said Gloria Delgadillo, an undeclared freshman who ran the inflatable obstacle course with a friend. "Finals are coming up, and you kind of need to get out of your dorm and get some physical activity."

The organization was created in the fall for GLBT students to have an environment where they could participate in sports at all levels of competition, Otero said.

"Really, our mission is to promote community [through] sports and recreational events like Longhorn Olympics," he said.

Otero said that by holding an event that was open to anyone, FLAGS hoped to help bring more diverse groups of UT students together.

"[The Longhorn Olympics] just keeps everyone involved," said Dustin Haley, an exercise science sophomore who played in the soccer tournament. "It raises awareness for gender equality and keeps everyone open-minded. It shows the whole campus that everyone can have fun in the same way."



Chris Kosho | Daily Texan Staff

Biochemistry freshman Jennifer Alakuso catches her breath between jousting rounds during the first Longhorn Olympics.

WATER: Official says fluoride is beneficial

From page 1

to swallow those ingredients? No, but we are forced to consume them in our drinking water."

Many big cities add fluoride to the water supply as a means of improving dental health. But a number of smaller environmental groups and opponents say it poses substantial health risks.

Fluoride naturally occurs at about 0.2 milligrams of fluoride per liter of water. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention calls fluoridation one of the 10 greatest public health achievements of the 20th century and defines optimally fluoridated water as containing between 0.7 and 1.2 milligrams of fluoride per liter of water, depending on the maximum temperature in the region. For warmer regions like Texas, cities use less hydrofluorosilicic acid, assuming that people drink more water.

According to a November report by the city of Austin, the Austin Water Utility uses on average about 0.75 milligrams of fluoride per liter of water, well below the Environmental Protection Agency's 4-milligrams-per-liter maximum contaminant level.

Rae Nadler-Olenick, founder of Fluoride Free Austin, said the group is also concerned with the source of the hydrofluorosilicic acid — the fluoride additive.

The Mosaic Company, a global producer of phosphate fertilizer, produces the hydrofluorosilicic acid for Austin and other cities. Mosaic mines phosphate in rock form and adds sulfuric acid to the rock to produce a gas, which liberates fluorine and silicone from the rock.

Mosaic logistics coordinator Andy Martin said trace amounts of heavy metals, including arsenic, are in the hydrofluorosilicic acid at about 0.1 milligrams per liter but are not dangerous at minute levels.

Jane Burazer, assistant director of treatment at the utility, said the fluoride additive from Mosaic meets all the purity requirements set by the National Sanitation Foundation and is safe. Burazer said opponents of the practice view Mosaic's mining process negatively because they see it as a byproduct of the phosphate fertilizer industry.

"They have the ability to produce and sell two different products," Burazer said. "A lot of books refer to [hydrofluorosilicic acid] as a waste product, but it's how you look at it — either as a waste stream or a dual stream."

Nadler-Olenick agrees with the former. She founded the group in 2008 after she learned her husband, a construction worker who had been diagnosed with os-

teopenia, a precursor to osteoporosis, was in a high-risk group for fluoride poisoning because of the large quantities of water he consumed. Since then, the group, which has had many supporters and a solid core of 10 people, has been addressing the City Council and plans to speak at Thursday's council meeting.

In the city's 2009 report, Philip Huang, medical director of the Travis County Health and Human Resources Department, said adverse effects associated with the ingestion of excessive amounts of fluoride only occur after long-term exposure to high levels of the element. Skeletal fluorosis, or bone disease, occurs when people ingest more than five times the amount of fluoride typically found in fluoridated water, and dental fluorosis, seen as brown stains on teeth, requires more than 30 times the optimal amount.

"It has been rigorously evaluated," Huang said in an interview with The Daily Texan, "so I agree with what most other major health groups say, that it has very positive public health benefits and it is safe."

INSIDE:

Check out a story about Earth Day on page 5

CACTUS: Thousands petition in favor of keeping cafe open

From page 1

had made the decision to close the cafe as early as December. All of the board's recommendations must go through President William Powers Jr. for final approval.

González and Dean of Students Sonia Reagins-Lilly have spent the past five weeks discussing the future of the cafe with a six-person committee. Biology graduate student Hayley Gillespie and fine arts senior Matt Portillo serve as student representatives on the committee while Cameron Smith, director of marketing at Texas Performing Arts, and Brad Stein, chairman of the Austin Music Commission, serve as community representatives.

The forum was preceded by a display of taped-together petitions signed by about 6,000 community members in favor of keeping the cafe open in its current form and location. David Kobierowski,

ing it more relevant to students through more diverse programming and internship opportunities. Some of Smith's students also spoke at the forum.

"It has infinite possibilities," Smith said. "It could improve the brand of the Cactus, improve the brand of KUT and improve the brand of the University. [Students interested in the music business] are scraping for morsels of experience. To have this opportunity on campus would be fantastic."

Andrew Nash, a theater and dance junior, president of the Student Events Center and member of the Union board, showed his support for the KUT proposal, saying that students should not be subsidizing a venue that does not serve them.

"The reason that you don't see more students here [at the forum] is because they just don't care," Nash said. "It is my firm belief that the KUT plan will provide an opportunity to pump a new sense of life into the Cactus Cafe."

Betty Soo, a UT alumna and a singer-songwriter who performs at the cafe, advocated for a joint model that would keep the current management while allowing KUT to broadcast the shows.

"I don't know why they would need to come in here and take over the booking because many of us who play [at the cafe] are on the KUT playlist and could use the support," Soo said. "It seems really ignorant when people say that the current Cactus staff is not uniquely qualified to keep the place running."

“It is my firm belief that the KUT plan will provide an opportunity to pump a new sense of life into the Cactus Cafe.”

— Andrew Nash
Student Events Center president

Spring 2010 Health Professions Lecture Series

“Careers in the Health Professions”
Welch 2.224
2:00pm - 3:00pm
- Open to all UT students -

Friday, April 23rd speaker:

Charles D. Fraser, M.D.
Chief of Congenital Heart Surgery
Texas Children's Hospital
Refreshments provided

THE DAILY TEXAN

This newspaper was written, edited and designed with pride by The Daily Texan and Texas Student Media.

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Obama weighs abortion rights in decision

President to consider court nominee who backs women's rights

By Ben Feller

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — President Barack Obama, treading carefully in the explosive arena of abortion and the Supreme Court, said Wednesday he will choose a nominee who pays heed to the rights of women and the privacy of their bodies. Yet he said he won't enforce any abortion rights "litmus tests."

Obama said it is "very important to me" that his court choice take women's rights into account in interpreting the Constitution, his most expansive comments yet about how a woman's right to choose will factor into his decision.

He plans to choose someone to succeed Justice John Paul Stevens within "the next couple weeks," he told CNBC.

Obama accelerated his political outreach and his conversations with candidates, positioning himself for one of the most consequential decisions of his presidency. He invited Senate leaders — Republicans as well as Democrats — to discuss the issue at the White House and commented briefly to reporters before their private meeting.

His rejection of the idea of "litmus tests" was standard presidential language, keeping him from being boxed in and protecting his eventual nominee from charges of bringing preconceived decisions to the bench.

Obama's pick is not expected to change the ideological balance on the court, though Stevens, the leader of the court's liberals, has played a major role in the court's upholding of abortion rights. Stevens, who turned 90 on Tuesday, is retiring this summer.



Alex Brandon | Associated Press

President Barack Obama and Vice Joe Biden sit with Senate leaders on Wednesday to discuss the Supreme Court vacancy left by the retirement of Justice John Paul Stevens.

The president is considering about 10 people, including a newly confirmed name, federal appeals court Judge Ann Williams of Chicago.

Among the candidates are appeals court judges Diane Wood, Merrick Garland and Sidney Thomas, former Georgia Chief Justice Leah Ward Sears, Solicitor General Elena Kagan, Michigan Gov. Jennifer Granholm, Homeland Security Secretary Janet Napolitano and Harvard Law School Dean Martha Minow.

When asked if he could nominate someone who did not sup-

port a woman's right to choose, Obama said: "I am somebody who believes that women should have the ability to make often very difficult decisions about their own bodies and issues of reproduction."

He said he would not judge candidates on a single-issue abortion test.

"But I will say that I want somebody who is going to be interpreting our Constitution in a way that takes into account individual rights, and that includes women's rights," Obama said. "And that's going to be some-

thing that's very important to me, because I think part of what our core constitutional values promote is the notion that individuals are protected in their privacy and their bodily integrity. And women are not exempt from that."

"I think a litmus test is when you say, will you ask a direct question about — do you believe this? Do you believe that?" White House press secretary Robert Gibbs said. "I think the president will ask any nominee discuss how they view the Constitution and the legal principles en-

shrined in it."

The Supreme Court declared in 1973 through its Roe v. Wade decision that a woman has a constitutional right to an abortion, and close questioning on the issue has been a feature of Senate confirmation hearings for some time. Federal courts have battled with the ramifications of the landmark decision, although the core ruling has gone untouched.

Obama's language largely meshed with what he said during a Democratic primary debate in November of 2007 during the presidential campaign.

NATION BRIEFLY

At least 11 missing as oil rig explodes off Louisiana coast

NEW ORLEANS — An explosion rocked an offshore oil drilling platform, sending a column of fire into the sky and touching off a frantic search at sea Wednesday for 11 missing workers.

Most of the 126 workers on the rig Deepwater Horizon escaped safely after the explosion about 10 p.m. Tuesday, the Coast Guard said. Three were critically injured.

The rig, more than 50 miles southeast of Venice on Louisiana's tip, was still burning Wednesday afternoon. It was tilting about 10 degrees. There was no estimate of when the flames might be out.

Helicopters and boats searched the Gulf of Mexico for any sign of the workers who had not been accounted for.

"We're hoping everyone's in a life raft," Coast Guard Senior Chief Petty Officer Mike O'Berry said.

GM repays billions in government loans five years ahead of schedule

WASHINGTON — Fallen giant General Motors Co. announced the repayment of \$8.1 billion in U.S. and Canadian government loans five years ahead of schedule.

The Obama administration crowed about the "turnaround" at GM and fellow bailout recipient Chrysler LLC, saying that the bailout is paying off.

Much of the improvement comes from GM slashing its debt load and workforce. But the automaker is a long way from regaining its old blue-chip status: It's still losing money — \$3.4 billion in last year's fourth quarter alone. And while its car and truck sales are up so far this year, that's primarily due to lower-profit sales to car rental companies and other fleet buyers.

Chrysler, now run by Italy's Fiat Group SpA, said Wednesday it lost almost \$200 million in the first quarter.

Compiled from Associated Press reports

Gunmen abduct three from hotel

By Olga R. Rodriguez

The Associated Press

MEXICO CITY — Dozens of gunmen burst into a Holiday Inn hotel in the northern industrial city of Monterrey on Wednesday and abducted at least three people, prosecutors said.

The Nuevo Leon state attorney general's office said it was not clear what motivated the abductions or who the victims were.

Local media reported that as many as 50 masked gunmen hijacked several trucks and used them to block streets near the hotel during the raid. But a prosecutor's spokesman, who said he was not authorized to be quoted by name, said it was unclear if the two events were related.

The U.S. Consulate in Monter-

rey denied media reports that an American woman had been kidnapped from the Holiday Inn, and it repeated warnings to U.S. citizens to be wary of violence in Nuevo Leon state.

Violence by battling drug cartels has become increasingly intrusive in Monterrey, where drug cartels have tried to confound police and soldiers by blockading roads with stolen, sometimes-burning vehicles.

On March 19, two university students were killed in the crossfire of a shootout between gunmen and soldiers outside the gates of their campus.

Since those shootings, at least three U.S. universities, including UT, have suspended their exchange studies programs in Mon-

terrey, a major industrial hub.

In one wealthy suburb on Monterrey, the mayor created a group of private crime fighters, unaffiliated with police and paid with donations by local businessmen — a security force he now says will be disbanded.

Mayor Mauricio Fernandez of San Pedro Garza Garcia said the group was "smeared" by allegations it might itself be involved in illegal activities.

He previously said the group would perform "rough work, I would call it cleansing" and suggested it might operate illegally.

Elsewhere, police found the bodies of two men in the Mexican city of Cuernavaca, alongside a banner that threatened to kill 25 more drug cartel members.

The mission of the University of Texas at Austin is to achieve excellence in interrelated areas of undergraduate education, graduate education, research and public service. The University contributes to the advancement of society through...creative activity. The University preserves and promotes the arts... and serves the citizens through public programs.



How does repurposing the Cactus Cafe advance the University's mission? It doesn't.

Franchising the Cactus Cafe forsakes and discourages creative activity. It alienates the University from the community. It removes the arts from the Texas Union.

Don't Mess with the Cactus!

Student Friends of the Cactus Cafe urge you to attend the next

Texas Union Board Meeting

Vice President for Student Affairs Juan González will make his recommendation for the Cactus Cafe - make sure its the right one!

Fri. April 30, 2010 3:00pm

Location TBA

<http://blogs.utexas.edu/sfotcc>



54th Annual Sylvan Beach Festival & Crawfish Jam

Sponsored by the La Porte - Bayshore Chamber of Commerce

Saturday, April 24, 2010

● Sylvan Beach Park • Festival Gates Open 9:00 a.m. ●

Live entertainment starts at 1:00pm
featuring **ROGER CREAGER**
10:30pm - Midnight

**Arts and Crafts Booths,
Carnival, Food Booths,
Games**



Admission to Festival:
9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.: **\$5** ~ 5:00pm - Midnight: **\$10**
Senior Citizens: **\$2** ~ 10 & Under w/ Adult: **FREE**

For More Information:
La Porte - Bayshore Chamber of Commerce
281.474.1123
www.laportechamber.org

VIEWPOINT

Caring about the Cactus

Just nine days before the Texas Union Board will be asked to make a decision on the future of the Cactus Cafe, Juan González, the vice president of student affairs, held an open forum Wednesday for anyone who wanted 180 seconds behind a microphone. Not surprisingly, the community representation was as diverse as the opinions — a “show of hands” response to an attendee’s question indicated a relatively even showing among students, alumni, musicians and community members. González prefaced the forum by laying out the options left for the cafe: continue the cafe under a self-operating model or bring in KUT, UT’s public radio station, to partially handle the operations. And while a consensus among the speakers was hardly found, forum attendees agreed that those options need more development and substance.

Some students praised the KUT plan as a way for the student body to have more of a stake in the cafe. Others felt that the cafe should continue to operate independently from the University-run radio station, and most community members tied the renown of the cafe to its current management. Others accused González and Texas Union Director Andy Smith of conspiring to close the cafe. On the whole, more student involvement and awareness, yearlong management and booking, responsible budget practices and different music performance genres were all ideas tossed at González.

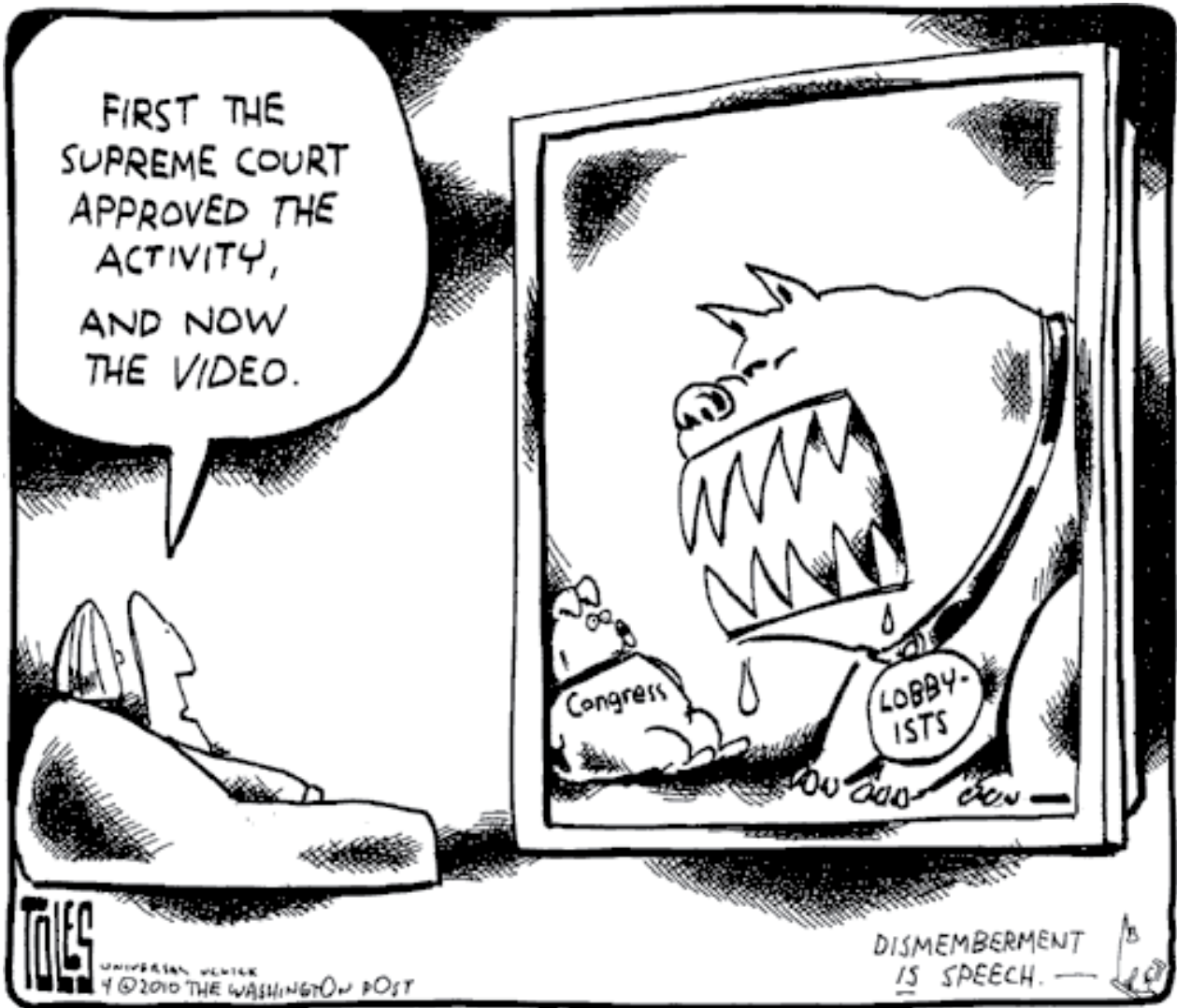
But does it matter at this point what people say? While the process of “re-thinking” the closed-door decision to close the cafe has its obvious ups — like the fact that González now promises to keep the cafe open and eventually wants it to be the “hottest ticket in town” — the administration has been largely unresponsive in implementing outside suggestions.

González, whose most-repeated response to criticism and input was “thank you,” appeared resistant to the opinion that the fate of the cafe needs to be discussed further and more options need to be explored. As students, we want to see the cafe opened up as a performance area for students and as a practical education resource for those interested in music business and management. It would also be nice to see more unplugged performances from artists who have a strong student following or from those already in town for things like “Austin City Limits” tapings — all ideas previously addressed on these pages and in public forums.

Unfortunately, González has made it quite clear that he’s running the show and that, while he may hold a forum to tell the public what the options are, he doesn’t need to take any input into consideration. Recently he even reneged on the idea of adhering to the six “guiding principles” set forth by a committee designed specifically to discuss the right path to take with the cafe. The goal of an event like this is to increase communication and foster ideas, but in holding these forums, González simply shows he is quite willing to take — and very capable of deflecting — criticism. And that’s not the point. Those commanding the fate of the cafe have an unspoken obligation to take this input seriously. If, and how, they do it will ultimately show their true colors.

— Jeremy Burchard for the editorial board

GALLERY



Don't call it a sandwich



By Dave Player
Daily Texan Columnist

Monday, April 12, 2010: A date that has burned itself into the hearts and minds of Americans. Or maybe just caused heartburn.

Last week, fast-food restaurant KFC debuted the Double Down, a chicken “sandwich” that consists of cheese, bacon and mayonnaise placed between two fried chicken patties. Promoted by KFC with the slogan “So meaty, there’s no room for a bun,” the Double Down packs a whopping 540 calories, 32 grams of fat and 1,380 milligrams of sodium.

Pushing the boundaries of the fried-foods frontier is nothing new. As anyone who’s ever been to the State Fair of Texas can attest, if you fry it, they will come. Fairgoers in past years have been tempted by fried candy bars, fried Twinkies, fried bacon strips and, most recently, fried butter.

However, the unveiling of this concoction appears to be the first time such a product has been marketed and distributed on a national scale. The move is especially surprising considering the recent fast-food industry trend toward offering more health-conscious dishes (I’m looking at you, Taco Bell Drive-Thru-Diet).

But the real tragedy of the Double Down is not its heart-stopping nutritional content — it’s the dish’s flawed labeling.

Be it sub, club, panini or bocadillo, sandwiches the world over share a defining trait: bread. The Double Down boasts that it doesn’t need a grained companion.

The Double Down would prefer to label itself using the verb form of the word “sandwich,” which is used to describe the act of placing material between two other objects. By that definition, its two fried chicken patties are “sandwiching” its slices of cheese and bacon. Yet, to accept such a liberal usage of the word is to turn against its very etymology and to spit in the face of history.

The source of the term “sandwich” can be traced back to the 18th century and the English Lord John Montagu, the fourth earl of Sandwich, for whom the Sandwich Islands of the South Pacific are also named. Sandwich itself is a small coastal town in southeast England.

According to legend, the earl was an avid card player and would often take his meals at the table to avoid missing a hand. But he found that in doing so, his fingers became covered in messy grease, soiling his playing cards. To prevent this disaster, the earl instructed his servants to wrap his dinner in two pieces of bread. He was then able to dine without getting grease on himself and could thus continue his game.

The litmus test for the validity of a sandwich, then, is clearly established: If you can eat it without a Wet-Nap, it’s authentic. And, therein lies the fatal flaw of the Double Down.

A few seconds of handling the pseudo sandwich will leave your hands greasy enough to lubricate a small car.

If anything, the Double Down is the antithesis of what a sandwich is meant to embody. If you’re unsure, I invite you to swing by KFC on the way to your next poker night. Try cradling the Double Down in one hand while you arrange your cards in the other. See if your dinner does not directly impair your ability to shuffle or deal. Harden yourself for the condemnations of your fellows as oiled-up cards slip through your now-greasy fingers.

I have nothing against fried chicken, bacon or cheese. But such culinary revisionism cannot be allowed to stand. What’s next? Soup on a plate? Pizza with the crust on top? A fillingless Hot Pocket?

To go on parading the Double Down as a sandwich is not just a crime against food — it’s the first step on a slippery slope toward disorder and anarchy.

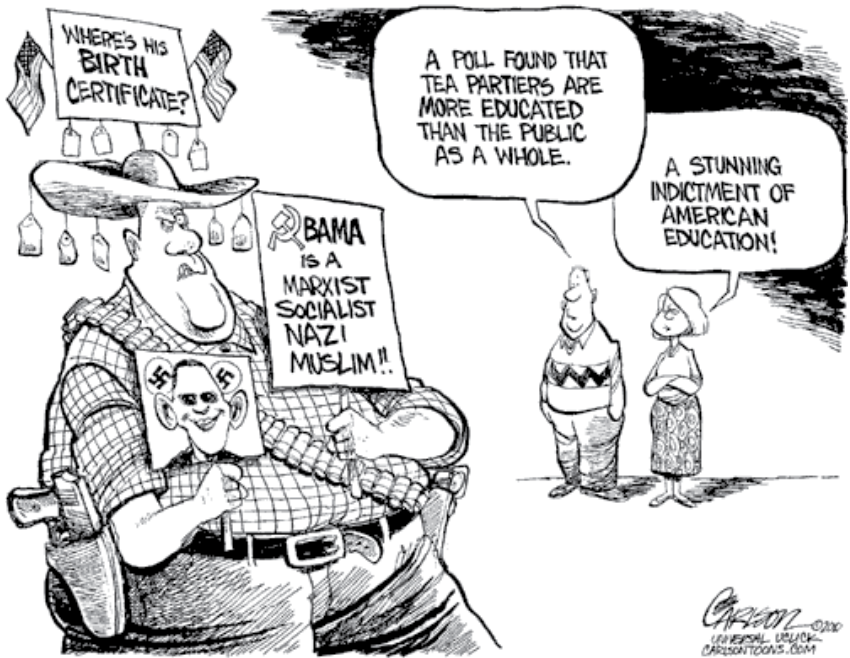
Polls show that Americans don’t trust their own government. The economy is still in the midst of a recession, and we’re fighting two wars on the other side of the world.

Someone, somewhere, must take a stand, put their foot down for what they know is right so that our children will inherit a world unpolluted by the toxins of our own excesses and hubris.

It’s not a sandwich.

Player is a Plan II and history senior.

GALLERY



LEGALESE

Opinions expressed in The Daily Texan are not necessarily those of the UT administration, the Board of Regents or the Texas Student Media Board of Operating Trustees.

THE FIRING LINE

Guns can save lives, too

In his Monday Firing Line, John Woods suggested that, because I’m not a student, my involvement in the fight to legalize licensed concealed carry on campus is nothing more than “astroturfing (fake grass-roots) by the gun lobby.”

My involvement began as I watched breaking news of the Virginia Tech massacre. Hearing initial reports, I thought about the play I’d attended three days earlier on the campus of Texas State University with my girlfriend at the time, a Texas State student. Listening to accounts of students being gunned down as they hid under desks or ran for exits, I wondered what I would have done if a madman had opened fire in that theater.

Would I have grabbed my girlfriend and made a run for the exit? Would we have hidden under our seats, waiting and hoping — as a wounded Virginia Tech student later recalled doing — that the gunman wouldn’t get to us? What if there had been nowhere to run and nowhere to hide? Would I have found myself reaching — as one survivor of the 1991 Luby’s massacre recalled doing — for a gun that wasn’t there? Would my last thought have been of a pistol secured in a lockbox under the front seat of my car? Or might I have survived, only to watch my girlfriend die?

That afternoon, absent any motivation or compensation from the gun lobby, I started researching and writing about this issue. Four months later, I heard about Students for Concealed Carry on Campus and vol-

unteered my services. I’m no longer affiliated with SCCC, but I’m still writing, still researching and still doing it all for free.

I’m now married to an amazing woman who, when we met (at SCCC’s first national conference), was a full-time college student. She’s planning on going back to school next year, and neither she nor I would support campus carry if we thought it might make her less safe on campus. What we want and what every person fighting for campus carry wants is to ensure that state law never forces a concealed handgun license holder on a college campus into the awful position of reaching for a last line of defense that isn’t there.

— W. Scott Lewis
Austin resident

Protesters not denying free speech

With all of the discussion about concealed handguns and Karl Rove, there’s been a lot of rhetoric about protesters “denying” speakers their right to free speech. It’s a sign of the poor state of the Texas education system when college students don’t understand that the Bill of Rights protects citizens from the government, not from each other. Protesters shouting down Rove or John Ashcroft are not denying them their rights — they’re denying them their platform.

In fact, these protesters are exercising their right to free speech, which they can exercise simultaneously with any other citizen. It may be in poor taste. It may inappropriate. It may even be detrimental to their own cause. But it is not an abridgment of anyone’s “rights.”

Another sign of the poor state of Texas education was Kory Zipperer’s insinuation in a Tuesday Firing Line. “Students for concealed carry,” that if 25 people protest guns on campus and 55 take a handgun licensing course, an overwhelming majority of students on campus support arming the student body. Get real. But more importantly, take a statistics course.

— Patrick Meaney
Government senior

Protesters not denying free speech II

I am not shocked to hear outrage over the supposed denial of free speech imposed on Karl Rove by protestors, as expressed by Jeremy Grodin in a Firing Line on Tuesday. This meme has been repeated by the right for years in an attempt to claim that the left actually despises free speech.

This is an extremely simplistic viewpoint that ignores the fact that suppression of free speech is inherently an act of government. One’s freedom of expression is not violated when one is told to “shut up” by a fellow citizen (as Rove demonstrated in his response to a protester). It happens only when our government is the suppressor. One would hope that a government major would be able to grasp this distinction, though Grodin is certainly not alone in making the same mistake.

Grodin also lauds the tea party protesters as fulfilling a civic duty in standing up to government. I happen to agree in principle, though the tea party movement itself has not expressed much that I find worth listening to. I wonder how many of them were

protesting military spending and tax cuts during George W. Bush’s presidency for their contribution to the deficit.

Grodin’s praise for them exposes an obvious double standard: Why are their protests a sacred expression of patriotism while those against Rove’s speech are somehow limiting free speech?

This is shown in the juxtaposition of the second- and third-to-last paragraphs. When congressmen are “shouted down” by tea party members, they are being held accountable, but when Rove, a former government official, is “shouted down” by protesters, he is being denied his freedom of speech. And this is used as an example of the hypocrisy of the left?

— Zach Wegner
Computer engineering sophomore

Fringe protesters are ‘fascists’

In the days leading up to the Karl Rove event on campus, a troubling revelation surfaced. Lost in my own naivete, I was under the impression that the attacks on Rove as a war criminal who should face jail time were nothing more than the political hyperbole one sees routinely directed at divisive figures when substantive arguments are lacking.

Thorough policy arguments rarely make catchy signs or chants, so I was convinced that the radical protesters were oversimplifying their points through exaggerated terms, in the same way an attention-whoring 10-year-old tells his parents he hates them because they refuse to buy him the latest video game. There’s no real animus, just

a facade of loathing to most efficiently reach their ends. Unfortunately for the republic, some of these protesters fully believe Rove’s speech is not protected and that he should face trial for his influence on policy. If these radicals had their way, they would play judge, jury and executioner.

Rove serves as a lightning rod to provoke debate over which measures are necessary to secure America’s national security without jeopardizing civil rights. My Republican cohorts and our Democratic political rivals believe political debate is necessary in a functional democracy.

We also believe the peaceful exchange of power is also a staple of our liberal political system. It is disheartening for me to witness a small but vocal minority who seems to believe free speech is only protected for those they agree with, and that political predecessors who differ ideologically are guilty of crimes and deserved to be jailed, or worse.

It is easy for my side to deride these people as radical liberals, members of University Democrats who forgot to take their lithium dosage this morning.

Besides being factually inaccurate (there were a number of paleoconservatives who espoused these views while protesting), it is dangerous to not recognize the fringe protesters for who they are. They are neither Democrats nor Republicans, neither liberals nor conservatives. They are fascists. To think of them as anything else is a gross misunderstanding of their intentions.

— Geoffrey Geiger
History senior
College Republicans at Texas

TEXAS TWO-STEPPERS



Mary Kang | Daily Texan Staff

A couple dances at the Capitol during the event “T is For: Two hundred two-steppers on the steps of the Texas Capitol” on Wednesday afternoon. The event is part of Fusebox, an annual art festival in Austin that encourages artists and audiences to explore new ideas.

Doctor studies cancer treatment through personalized therapies

By Radhika Sakalkale
Daily Texan Staff

A UT System doctor hopes to improve treatment for lung cancer by using a method that would personalize medication to target each patient’s condition.

For the past few years, Dr. Edward Kim, an oncology professor at the UT MD Anderson Cancer Center, has been working on a unique study that could individualize the treatment of lung cancer. The current treatment for the disease is two-drug chemotherapy — or, if the cancer progresses, a single-drug chemotherapy. By using the new technique, patients can be given specific treatments to target their individual condition.

“Personalizing therapy for lung cancer has never been done before,” Kim said. “It opens up a new paradigm for conducting new research.”

In 2005, Kim applied for a grant from the U.S. Department of Defense to pursue this study. After receiving the grant in April of 2006, he began clinical trials the following November. He then began his preliminary study, which was completed in October of 2009.

For the clinical trials, researchers took a biopsy of 250 to 300 patients’ tumors and measured certain biomarkers to see which drug would match a patient’s specific condition. A biomarker is an area in a cell that shows irregular growth and is more likely than other parts of the cell to experience mutations that lead to cancer, Kim said. It can be a gene, a protein regu-

lating a gene or a cell receptor that causes abnormal cell growth.

“Instead of having the attitude ‘one size fits all’ [for treatment], we decided that we were going to perform biopsies on each of the patients that we studied,” he said.

Currently, scientists have not officially identified the biomarkers associated with lung cancer, and this study, which is in its early exploration stage, aims to identify biomarkers in lung cancer to find more effective drugs for the disease.

After the biomarkers were studied in the tumor tissue, Kim said he wanted to specialize treatment for each patient based on his or her biomarker profile. At the time, none of the drugs used in the trials had been approved by the Food and Drug Administration to treat lung cancer.

“In a preliminary fashion, we found certain markers in which therapies may work better or worse,” Kim said. “This will be the subject of further research.”

Kim has made a repository of all the tissues collected to further explore different markers and to determine the benefits of various drugs, such as Gleevec and Herceptin, which were both used in his clinical trials.

“We knew that we wouldn’t have all of the answers,” he said. “But since we saved tissue, we can go back and look at additional samples and explore different markers in association with these treatments.”

UT celebrates Earth Day with fair, concert

By Radhika Sakalkale
Daily Texan Staff

Earth Week, which stresses the importance of being environmentally friendly at UT, will come to a close Friday with various events, including a business fair and a carbon-themed concert on the Main Mall.

For the past three days, UT organizations have been preparing for Earth Day with a week of events that stressed the importance of being environmentally friendly. The Campus Environmental Center has organized and publicized a week full of events promoting the practice of sustainability. The student-run organization manages different projects around campus that focus on the preservation of the Earth.

The Green Business Fair will be held by Net Impact Undergraduate on the McCombs School of Business plaza today to promote green business practices. Various student organizations and local companies will set up

GREEK: Students lobby in Washington to push bill for collegiate housing act

From page 1

money as a grant to a local chapter for the specified improvements, said Alex Greenberg, a member of Sigma Alpha Mu and University-wide representative in Student Government.

The act could also apply to other clubs and organizations that have houses, such as Tejas Club, Greenberg said. He worked with professors in the business school to determine exactly how the bill would affect tax codes.

“The ultimate goal is to allow people who donate to fraternities and sororities for the reasons specified by this bill to get tax deductions,” he said. “It allows this housing to be at the same level of tax breaks that people get when giving to an on-campus housing unit. Alumni will have better incentive to give to college students to make their houses cheaper and safer.”

Originally, the students working on behalf of act thought it would also apply to cooperative-living houses, Brown said. But because most of those are already 501(c) (3) organizations, people can make tax-deductible donations directly to the houses for improvements under the existing tax code, said Brian Donovan, the general administrator of the Inter-Cooperative Council in Austin.

Donovan said he was concerned that be-

cause many alumni of Greek organizations are financially successful, they may be able to donate to fraternities and sororities with or without a tax break. Due to budgetary stresses facing the country, he said he was not sure legislators would support a bill that would take away tax monies.

“It may be difficult to try to get [the act] to come back to life in Washington, D.C.,” he said. “People are already freaking out about the deficit, and this would only add to it. Every little bit does count, and who is going to push a bill that says we need to add to the deficit to help fraternities and sororities?”

However, Donovan said student safety should be a No. 1 priority, and he supports the bill if it is the only way students living in these houses will be able to make necessary improvements.

Sultze said that although it is a tough year to move legislation, he is optimistic about the lobbying students did this week. He and Brown went to Washington with the support of both the 2009-10 and 2010-11 SG assemblies — both passed resolutions in support of the act.

“Because it’s an election year, both parties are going to be hesitant,” Sultze said. “We’re not done yet. We’re still making calls and writing letters and e-mails to let [members of Congress] know this is an issue that students care about and that can really affect housing on college campuses.”

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to all of the students who received their ring at the
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Etter-Harbin Alumni Center

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TexasExes.org/Rings

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MEN'S AND WOMEN'S TRACK AND FIELD

Longhorns prepare for Penn Relays

Jamaican high jumper carries weight of his native country every time he competes

By Jim Pagels
Daily Texan Staff

The track stands were almost empty at last week's dual meet against Arkansas, but high jumper Jamal Wilson still knew that he had thousands of eyes on him.

Wilson, a Jamaican native, is one of the top jumpers in the small track and field-crazed nation. While his performances at UT may not attract very much media attention, he is regularly covered in The Bahama Journal, The Nassau Guardian, and other Jamaican publications.

"It can be intense at times," Wilson said. "But every time I get out there on the track, I know that there are people watching me."

Competing for one of the most prestigious athletic programs in the country at UT is especially pressure-filled for Wilson considering where he was at just five months ago.

Wilson spent the first two years of his college education at Southwest Mississippi Community College in Summit, Miss., a city of less than 1,500 people. That's half the size of Jester.



Bobby Longoria | Daily Texan Staff

Texas' Junior high jumper Jamal Wilson clears the bar during the Texas Relays earlier this season. Wilson, a Jamaican native, has grabbed the attention of his native newspapers because of his success while in the U.S.

JUMP continues on page 7



Bobby Longoria | Daily Texan Staff

Freshman pole vaulter Natasha Masterson clears the bar during Texas Relays. Masterson has already tied the national record for indoor pole vault and is only two inches away for the Texas outdoor record.

Freshman pole vaulter inches closer to school record despite only three years of experience

By Ryan Betori
Daily Texan Staff

Natasha Masterson is one of the most decorated pole vaulters in Texas history, and she's only a freshman.

Masterson tied the indoor record (4.12 meters) in January, and last week, she notched the school's second-highest outdoor clearance (4.20 meters) at Baylor's Michael Johnson Classic. The feat, which puts Masterson a mere two inches away from former Longhorn Ashley Laughlin's record, was accomplished in spite of strong winds and poor weather. Because pole vault is highly technical, such conditions can hinder a performance tremendously.

With clear skies forecasted for this week's Penn Relays in Philadelphia, one of the premier track events in the nation, she could potentially perform even better.

Masterson's potential is made all the more impressive because of her history. She has only been competing in the vault for three years. Coincidentally, Masterson was first introduced to the event at a Texas track and field summer camp that she

VAULT continues on page 7

NFL DRAFT

Two Horns expected to be first round draft picks



By Michael Sherfield
Daily Texan Columnist

I'm not sure if you've heard, but the NFL Draft is coming up.

Forgive me, I couldn't keep myself from making a small joke about a gargantuan, oversized and just a little over-hyped occasion.

The draft has gotten so big that this year, ESPN is showing it over three days in prime time, starting tonight. It's also gotten so big that it has overtaken the military draft as "the draft" in casual conversation. That's pretty big.

And while more than a few football fans — and almost all non-fans — will rightfully roll their eyes at Mel Kiper's self-importance (and his hair), for the 255 players who will be picked over the course of the weekend, this is as big as it gets.

About five to eight of your favorite former Longhorns are among that 255

While for the past four years, Texas football has started and ended with quarterback Colt McCoy, the soon-to-be Mr. Rachel Glandorf isn't going to be the first Longhorn drafted. That distinction will belong to safety Earl Thomas, who tied a school record with eight

DRAFT continues on page 7

MEN'S TENNIS

TEXAS 7, TEXAS A&M 0

Texas clinches share of Big 12 title

By Rishi Daulat
Daily Texan Staff

The stage was set to decide the regular-season Big 12 champion.

UT's Penick-Allison Tennis Center was nearly filled to capacity, by far the largest crowd of the season, and fans of both No. 3 Texas and No. 9 Texas A&M were in full force.

And once again, the Longhorns did not disappoint as they destroyed the Aggies, 7-0, to clinch at least a share of the regular-season Big 12 championship and the No. 1 seed in next week's Big 12 tournament.

Texas started off the match with a bang as it swept all three doubles matches to grab the early point.

The ITA No. 23 duo of juniors Ed Corrie and Kellen Damico rolled to an 8-2 victory over Alberto Bautista and Alexey Grigoriev, and UT newcomers Vasko Mladenov and Jean Andersen clinched the point with their 8-5 win over Alexis Klegou and Marcus Lunt. Seniors Dimitar Kutrovsky and Josh Zavala improved their No. 6 doubles ranking after beating No. 3 Austin Krajicek and Jeff Dadamo 8-6, even though the doubles point was already won.

The singles were much more interesting, though.

Andersen was the only Longhorn who had an easy time with

TENNIS continues on page 7



Bobby Longoria | Daily Texan Staff

Senior Dimitar Kutrovsky goes after a ball in Texas' shutout win over Texas A&M to clinch a share of the Big 12 title and guarantee a Texas victory in the year long Lone Star Showdown.

SOFTBALL

TEXAS 4, TEXAS A&M 1

Horns guaranteed Lone Star Showdown title

By Kate Guerra
Daily Texan Staff

Wednesday night's game against Texas A&M would be a big deal, regardless of who was on the team. However, this particular matchup's clash of the titans added a little something extra to the intensity that is the State Farm Lone Star Showdown, as Texas beat A&M 4-1.

The game tied the season series between the two opponents at 1-1 and helped guarantee the Longhorns' win over the Aggies in the yearlong Lone Star Show-

down competition.

Texas has the best pitcher of the Big 12 in Blaire Luna. The Aggies have Meagan May, the freshman superstar who leads the conference with 18 home runs and a whopping 55 RBIs. Texas hadn't played in seven days. With all of these factors, the game was a toss-up.

"My only concern was that we hadn't played in a week, so when you're used to playing so much, you wonder how that's going to show up," Texas head coach Connie Clark said. "We

always have special instructions on how to face Meagan May. She's put up amazing numbers, she's a great hitter, but we certainly had a plan of attack."

The two teams have a lot in common. Both are relatively young teams who have received extraordinary production from their freshmen. In their last meeting in College Station, Aggie freshman Melissa Dumezich had the walkoff hit in the seventh inning to win the game 1-0.

"I don't think I approached

the game differently," Luna said. "I just wanted more revenge, just wanted to get the outcome this time. I had the same mindset going in of just going out there and doing my thing, and having the defense back me up, which they did."

A&M grabbed the first run of the game in the top of the fourth inning, when Kelsey Spittler had a one-run triple to deep center. Center fielder Brittany Chalk tried to chase the ball

WIN continues on page 7

SIDELINE

NBA Playoffs

San Antonio 102
Dallas 88

Charlotte 77
Orlando 92

NHL Playoffs

Washington 6
Montreal 3

Vancouver 6
Los Angeles 4

Buffalo 2
Boston 3 F/2OT

MLB

National League

Florida 4
Houston 5

Milwaukee 8
Pittsburgh 0

Chi Cubs 9
NY Mets 3

LA Dodgers 14
Cincinnati 6

St. Louis 9
Arizona 4

San Francisco 2
San Diego 5

Colorado 4
Washington 6

Philadelphia 2
Atlanta 0

American League

Kansas City 4
Toronto 3 F/10

Texas 7
Boston 8 F/12

Cleveland 0
Minnesota 6

Tampa Bay 12
Chi White Sox 0

Detroit 4
LA Angels 3

NY Yankees 3
Oakland 1

Baltimore 1
Seattle 4

SPORTS BRIEFLY

Astros extend winning streak to four with win over Marlins

Geoff Blum's first career pinch-hit triple drove in two runs in the seventh inning to propel the Houston Astros to a 5-4 win over the Florida Marlins on Wednesday night.

Blum's hit off Burke Badenhop (0-2), gave the Astros their fourth-straight win and fifth in the past six games after an 0-8 start.

Humberto Quintero had two hits, including a homer for the Astros to send the Marlins to their first series defeat of the season.

Wilton Lopez (1-0) allowed one hit and no runs in two innings for the win, and Matt Lindstrom pitched a scoreless ninth for his fourth save.

Houston had consecutive singles by Pedro Feliz and Kaz Matsui in the seventh inning before Blum's two-RBI triple with one out gave Houston a 5-4 lead. The hit completed a comeback for the Astros who trailed 4-1 after Florida's four-run fifth inning.

Michael Bourn doubled in the sixth inning before a walk by Jeff Keppinger. Lance Berkman reached on a fielder's choice, and Keppinger was out at second, leaving Bourn stuck between second and third. Hanley Ramirez got an error after crashing into Bourn after the fourth throw of the run down, allowing him to reach third.

Carlos Lee drove in his first run of the year on a single to left field in the sixth to get Houston within 4-3.

Astros starter Bud Norris didn't allow a hit until Dan Uggla's single to start the fifth inning. He walked John Baker before striking out Cody Ross. A single by Gaby Sanchez scored Uggla to tie it at 1 before Baker scored on a sacrifice bunt by Johnson. Maybin pushed the lead to 3-1 with his run-scoring triple, which fell just behind a sprinting Bourn in center field.

Norris left after giving up three hits and four runs with five strikeouts in five innings.

— The Associated Press



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

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

Enthusiasm Jackson
by Michelle Miller

SPACEMAN★COMICS VGE

I've finally found it. It's finally mine.

The Elusive Space Donut.

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Elysium

When President woke up one morning from unsettling dreams, he found himself changed in his bed into a monstrous vermin.

Can you fix me, doctor?

I don't know what the hell to do.

What should we do now...?

We?

Well as long as people treat me for whom I am and not how I look...

Wait.

Looks Content
Georgia O'Keeffe: "Ooh, pretty flowers!"
Looks KFC:
Rope: "Emperor Palpatine!"
Chicken murderer!
OK
Polopille!

This is so Kafkaesque...

Excuse me...?

Ecosteroid might help...

It's a hormone used by insects for metamorphosis. It might fix you.

OK

LATER...

Sigh... Now no one will ever read Elysium now...

No one ever did.

Now that he looks like a fairy wouldn't that make us a fairy tale?

Insects

And that's how they busted into Night Tales and got kicked out.

READ DT COMICS!

Wonder if those pictures from last night are on Facebook.

EUGH better not tag myself in that.

TAK A TANA

So-and-so has tagged you in 1 photo

Aw jeez

INCOHERENT JARGON

AW MAN I LEFT MY
CELLPHONE AT HOME.

SUCKS.

LATER

I MUST HAVE
A TON OF
MESSAGES!

YOU HAVE
(0)
TEXTS
NO ONE LIKES YOU

BY CLAUDE LUCEJA

DATING: Website fails to give an answer for serious daters

From page 10

who would show up at my doorstep with a handle of Jack Daniel's at 3 a.m. on a school night. You know, because he doesn't have a job or go to school or do ... anything.

Naturally, this method of "dating" quickly proved to be a bust.

After whining for a bit to my friends, I caught wind of OkCupid. Unlike larger dating sites like *eHarmony.com*, OkCupid is dedicated to connecting members of a younger crowd — especially because it's free to use and the object of the site isn't to link people up for marriage. Basically, OkCupid is like Facebook, except with no pretenses.

With nearly 735,000 unique visitors in the month of January alone, according to comScore, an online research firm, the probability of finding a suitable match on OkCupid seemed reasonable — or so I thought.

I'm not quite sure what I did to attract the scum who began filling my inbox. Maybe it was the fact that my interests included "eating contests and avoiding getting on 'Snapped'" or that my only prerequisite for messaging me was the warning, "No idiots." But whatever it was, it rang in about a hundred dudes with

leftover MySpace pictures (you know, the bathroom shot where he's not wearing a shirt, and it was obviously taken with a camera phone) and offensive profile pseudonyms.

My first few hours on the site were promising. I found a 23-year-old Austin resident who likes "bike riding and books." This seemed promising. But he never messaged me back. And I was stuck with an inbox flooded with messages like, "Blahblah-blahblahlahbeer?"

And then it dawned on me: Using OkCupid for dates is just like sitting at a bar pounding Jameson and waiting for a classy guy to fall in love with you.

It will never work. The people who are decent enough for you to actually be interested in aren't interested in dating the version of you at the bar. And, invariably, the people who will notice you in a bar are not the people you want to date.

Four months later, I'm still at step one of the dating game, but at least I'm out of the matrix. But if chatting it up with "[blank] Destroyer" while gazing at circa 2004-style softcore camera-phone porn is your thing, then OkCupid is your Shangri-la.

I'd almost rather be the girl at the bar.

Triple threat takes off on national tour

By Kate Ergenbright
Daily Texan Staff

From the moment Arielle Jacobs opens her mouth to sing, she captivates audiences with her powerhouse voice — a surprisingly large sound from such a small person.

Jacobs is starring in the first national tour of "In the Heights" as Nina Rosario, a bookish young girl home from her freshman year at Stanford University. The show is playing in Austin through Sunday.

"In The Heights," winner of four Tony Awards and a Grammy, is a musical about the vibrant community of Manhattan's Washington Heights and its inhabitants' daily struggles to get by while enjoying life's simple pleasures and dreaming of better jobs and better opportunities.

Jacobs said there are many similarities between herself and her character, Nina.

"She's very academic, very much the girl next door. In some ways I think I am like her," Jacobs said. "I put a lot of pressure on myself to always succeed in everything I try and put my mind to and in a lot of ways, I take on too much responsibility. When I'm struggling with something, I try to fix everything myself, and I think Nina does that as well."

She said the show's music and dancing are the reason for its popularity.

"It's just very lively, joyous and contagious, the way that it's so beautifully melded together," she said. "I don't think I've ever seen a show that the choreography is so tied into the lyrics."

She says the play's positive portrayal of the Latino community also contributes to its widespread popularity.

"It's the only show out there that represents Latinos in a good light," Jacobs said. "Most of the time you see them as gangsters or servants, and this is the only show out there that allows you to experience their culture as something that is beautiful. It really gets you back in touch with being proud of where you came from."

Jacobs, like many in the enter-

tainment industry, started training and performing at an early age. She started dancing when she was 3 years old and singing at 7.

"When I was younger, I thought I wanted to be a pop singer," Jacobs said. "I wanted to be like Mariah Carey, so I started doing a lot of singing and community theater, but I wasn't sure musical theater was what I wanted to do with my life."

Jacobs began her career in the entertainment industry almost by fate. When it was time to search for colleges, she applied for theater and music at New York University but applied for environmental science at every other school. NYU was the only school that she was accepted to, and Jacobs went on to graduate magna cum laude with a bachelor's in music.

Originally playing the role of Gabriella in the theatrical version of "High School Musical," Jacobs was surprised at the overwhelmingly positive response she received from audiences.

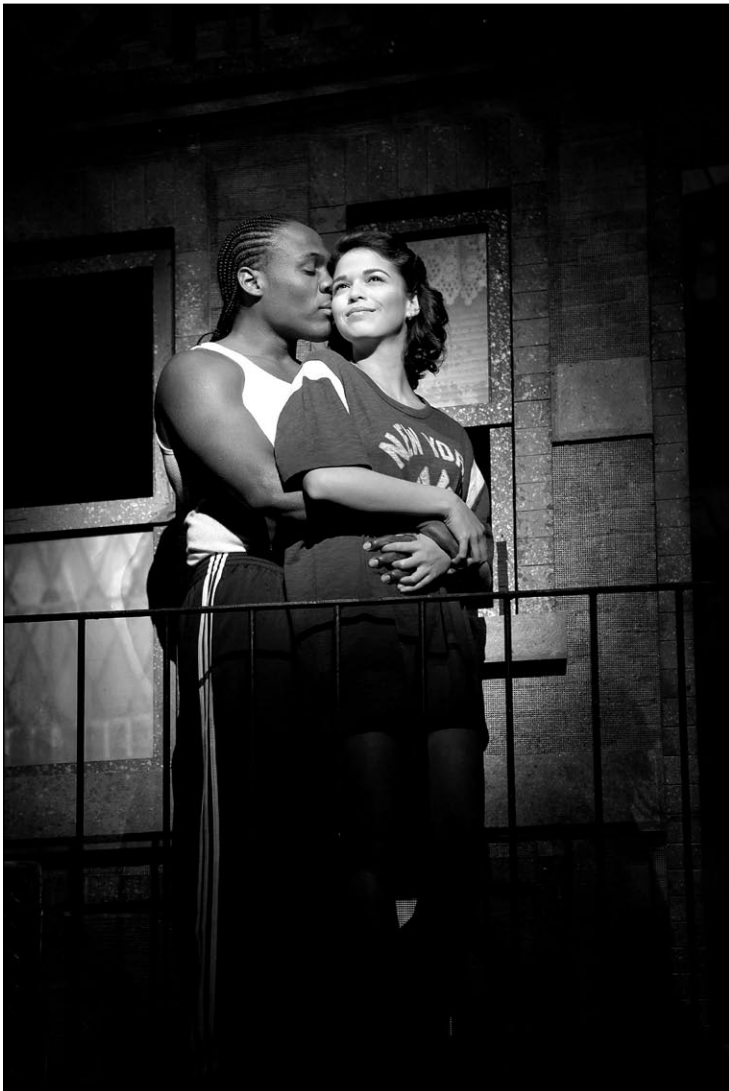
"It was kind of like being part of The Beatles or being in a rock concert," Jacobs said of her experience touring with the show. "Literally, these kids were so obsessed that when the lights went out at the beginning of the show, they would be screaming. They wanted to be a part of it so bad."

To her surprise, starring in such a beloved role placed Jacobs in a leadership position.

"I used to receive e-mails from girls who were having a hard time in school, who were having a hard time with their confidence," she said. "It put me in this mentor position that I had never been in before. It was weird for me to think of myself as someone whose advice they were going to take so seriously."

While touring with "High School Musical," Jacobs used her influence as a mentor to raise awareness among her young fans about environmental issues through her website, helpedtheearth.com.

"Because all these kids are looking up to me, I thought maybe I can make a difference," Jacobs said. "So, that's basically why I



Courtesy of In the Heights

Arielle Jacobs plays Nina Rosario in the first national tour of the award-winning play "In the Heights."

started the website as a resource where I could let kids know that there is a place they can go and read about the environment, just hoping that if they thought I cared about it then maybe they'd think it was cool to care about it too, even if their parents and community didn't."

Although the idea of touring as a cast member of such a wildly successful show may sound glamorous, Jacobs admits that it's not always easy living out of two suitcases. She said she frequently gets frustrated with the lack of control she has over her life, her eat-

ing habits and the realities of not really having a home while on the road. But she acknowledges being part of "In the Heights" is worth the hardship and that touring does have its advantages.

WHAT: "In the Heights"

WHERE: Bass Concert Hall

WHEN: Through Sunday

WEB: texasperformingarts.org/event/intheheights

DESIGNER: Senior looks to create made-to-order, quality clothing

From page 10

it out to give the presence of a sophisticated woman," French said.

She said she could see her cocktail dress going for about \$400, but it's her distinct detail and two and a half weeks of labor that make it worth it.

"I value individual style, and sometimes I feel like mass-produced clothes don't appreciate

the amount of work that goes into designing clothes," French said. "Making a structured pattern takes a lot more time than anything that's mass-produced, and there's so much room for mathematical error if you try to change the sizes. That's why I want to make made-to-order clothes for individuals. You're buying for quality. They're lifetime pieces that no one else has."

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By DAVID OUELLET

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Yesterday's Answer: Medals

Relationship hopeful fails to find date on website

By Mary Lingwall
 Daily Texan Staff

Imagine waking up to an e-mail alert informing you that “[insert derogatory word for female genitalia] Destroyer” has sent you a message. Would you be confused, maybe offended or turned off?

This happened to me a few days ago. And I can attest to being all of the above and more when I saw the subject line: “Want some?” Thankfully, it didn’t take me long to figure out that “[blank] Destroyer” was one of my noble matches from the popular dating website *OkCupid.com*. And after reading his eloquently graphic and horrifyingly unattractive message, I began wondering: How did I let this happen?

Well, it all started in January when I realized I had never been on a date.

And by date, I mean an agreed-upon time when an agreed-upon person comes in his automobile to pick me up from my place of residence and takes me somewhere, then brings me back to my house before sleeping at his house.

Dating had always sounded very old-fashioned to me. But dates looked so damn nice in movies, and my friends seem to have so much fun going on them that the fact that I had never been on a date became a little depressing. So, when I became single in January, I decided that a date might be a nice thing to try.

And then nothing happened. I soon discovered it is very difficult to get an official date. And believe me, I’ve tried. I’d go out to a bar or a show and meet someone, exchange numbers, and then all of a sudden, I would figure out my special someone was actually a weirdo

DATING continues on page 9

Seniors stitch up fashion sculptures



Peyton McGee | Daily Texan Staff

Above, Ashley Westerman, a textiles and apparel and marketing senior, adjusts a piece in her women's collection, which will be featured in the upcoming UT fashion show on April 29 at the Frank Erwin Center. Right, a sketch by Westerman.

Editor's note: This is the fourth story in a series that highlights trends for the upcoming UT fashion show, which will be held April 29 at 8 p.m. in the Frank Erwin Center.

By Gerald Rich
 Daily Texan Staff

While the current issue of *Newsweek* magazine screams “America is back!,” the truth is that the fashion industry isn’t — something that is on every graduating senior designer’s mind.

Yet, that hasn’t stopped design seniors from making highly structured collections and wanting to continue making incredibly

unique garments with architectural and sculptural qualities.

It’s not just students who have a hard time affording these designs. At the height of the recession, high-end designers sharply cut back on haute couture in favor of minimalist looks with lower price points.

“The thing about this major that’s indicative of the fashion major as a whole is it’s very rough to get in,” said Ashley Westerman, a marketing and textiles and apparel senior. “Some people wind up doing something else entirely. They could end up working for an ad firm or as a flight attendant. It’s kind of scary, but I also know a

girl who graduated who works at Marc Jacobs.”

Westerman’s collection was inspired by well-fitted men’s suits, reflecting her own mix of business and fashion to help make herself more marketable in an already tough business.

Combining a short skirt with a peplum curving out at the hips and a light-blue flowing tank, she says she wanted to capture the hard structure of masculine designs while imbuing it with the femininity of softer fabrics to further “one-up it.”

One key in getting a garment to remain fitted is boning, also used

to give corsets their shape. By inserting boning, or sticks usually made of plastic or steel, the fabric can be made to maintain a tighter, more structured shape.

Another way designers create sculptural designs is through sewing. By treating the fabric like a piece of Japanese origami, senior designer Michelle French sewed the fabric into a structured pattern with hard folds and creases.

“The sewing is very elaborate,” French said. “You have to take into consideration all the different dimensions and seam allowances. Each line that you sew has to be a sharp angle, and all those angles

have to be consistent. It’s all about having control.”

The fabric in her collection doubles over like paper, creating accents like two sharp, diagonal folds running along the back of her otherwise soft brown skirt, which she paired with a flowing ivory silk blouse with dark-blue and bright-red splotches reminiscent of Japanese calligraphy.

“Even though origami is not delicate and soft like flowing silk, I wanted something that had a rough edge yet [would] still be effeminate, something that balanced

DESIGNER continues on page 9



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