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THE DAILY TEXAN

Serving the University of Texas at Austin community since 1900

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CAMPUS

Teach for America CEO visits campus

By Anusha Lalani and Jenan Taha
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Teach For America CEO Elisa Villanueva Beard spoke to students on Tuesday on the importance of equal opportunity in education and how any student can become a teacher.

The Undergraduate Business Council organized the event as part of the VIP Distinguished Speakers Series, where Beard was able to discuss her role and passion for Teach for America, a nonprofit organization that provides education and resources to low-income communities.

"I think it's important to ask ourselves who we are and how we will contribute to shaping the future of our country and that's never been more important," Beard said. "You might be asking yourself, I am one person and does it truly matter and I will argue that it matters so desperately."

TFA started in 1989 and was based off of a Princeton University student's thesis. During this time, low-income students couldn't receive a proper education due to a lack of teachers. Public schools also dealt with poverty, racism and injustices that not many people were aware of.

As of 2016, TFA reached 410,000 students in 53 regions, according to TFA. Beard said she hopes students will challenge themselves to help people in need.

"Young people (should) desperately understand that education is so central to the future of the country," Beard

TFA page 1

Joshua Guerra | Daily Texan Staff

Teach For America CEO Elisa Villanueva Beard spoke to students Tuesday evening as part of the VIP Distinguished Speakers Series. Beard discussed how students can apply for Teach For America but not necessarily be a teacher.

SG

SG passes resolution in response to refugee ban

By Kayla Meyertons
@kemeyertons

On Friday, 110 Muslim students, faculty and scholars at the University came face-to-face with a crushing reality—they couldn't go home.

President Donald Trump barred Syrian refugees from entering the United States indefinitely and ordered a temporary ban Friday on all Muslims from entering the U.S. from Iran, Iraq, Libya, Syria, Yemen, Somalia and Sudan.

The University responded to Trump's Muslim ban with a statement from UT President Gregory Fenves on Sunday in support of the Muslim community. Fenves urged the University to value its diverse community and for the affected students to refrain from international travel.

On Tuesday, Student Body President Kevin Helgren fast-tracked Assembly Resolution 17 to echo Fenves' sentiments and reflect SG's desire to stand in solidarity with the Muslim students at UT. It passed unanimously.

"Muslim students on our campus don't always feel safe or welcome," Helgren, a neuroscience and psychology senior, said. "The burning of a mosque in Texas (and) the killing of six innocent Muslims practicing in a mosque in Quebec, Canada are a few examples. The legislation that I wrote and submitted this afternoon is very simply in support of Muslim

SG page 2

STATE

Supporters unite for Muslim Capitol Day

By Claire Allbright
@claireallbright

Hundreds of supporters of the Muslim community formed a wall by linking arms at the steps of the state Capitol on Tuesday morning.

Many who linked arms wore shirts that read, "I stand with my Muslim neighbors," or held up signs with calls for unity.

Texas Muslim Capitol Day, a biennial event organized by the Council on American Islamic Relations since 2003, provides a chance for Muslim communities throughout the state to learn about how to be active in the political process.

At the demonstration Sarwat Husain, president of CAIR San Antonio, spoke inside the wall to a crowd made up of many Muslim students and families. She took the podium

MUSLIM page 2

Joshua Guerra | Daily Texan Staff

Muslims from around Texas came to the State Capitol Tuesday to celebrate Texas Muslim Capitol Day. Supporters of Muslims locked arms together to form a wall to show that they support them.

STATE

Abbott delivers State of the State address

By Lisa Dreher
@lisa_dreher97

Gov. Greg Abbott prioritized reforming the Child Protective Services, banning sanctuary cities, reforming legislative ethics and amending the U.S. Constitution during his State of the State address on Tuesday morning.

"For decades now, the federal government has grown out of control," Abbott said. "It has increasingly abandoned the Constitution. It has stiff-armed the states and ignored its very own citizens."

Designated emergency items can be passed anytime within the first 60 days during the 140-day session as opposed to regular legislation.

One of Abbott's emergency items involves amending the Constitution with a "Convention of States." Such a convention requires 34 state legislatures to join. Abbott proposed a balanced budget amendment be added to the Constitution. It would be the second constitutional convention in U.S. history since the first in 1787.

Abbott also prioritized CPS reform. Abbott said $142.4 million in state emergency funding for CPS back in December would not ease the backlog of cases due to a lack of CPS employees and families wanting to foster or adopt children. Abbott said more than 100 children died in CPS care last year.

"We can reform the system so that no more children die in it," Abbott said. "We need more workers, better training, smarter strategies and real accountability in order to safeguard our children."

Abbott also said he will secure the border and supports Senate Bill 4, which proposes a ban on sanctuary cities in Texas. Sanctuary cities implement policies where the state and local governments do not alert federal authorities about undocumented immigrants, according to The Washington Post. The bill is

Marshall Tidrick | Daily Texan File Photo

Gov. Greg Abbott delivered his State of the State speech addressing issues like sanctuary cities and school choice.

scheduled for public hearing Thursday morning for further discussion.

"What must be stopped is illegal immigration and worse, the criminals who conspire with cartels to enter the United States illegally," Abbott said. "This is the session when we will ban sanctuary cities in Texas.

Abbott added those elected officials who do not comply with immigration law enforcement will be removed and cities defunded. Travis County Sheriff Sally Hernandez said she will enact a policy tomorrow to restrict Immigration and Customs Enforcement agents from detaining undocumented immigrants in local jails without warrants.

"Elected officials cannot pick and choose which laws they will obey," Abbott said. "Some law enforcement officials in Tex-

STATE page 2

CAMPUS

UT police promote safety with hashtag

By Catherine Marfin
@catherinemarfin

These days, it would be hard to walk across UT's campus without seeing the black-and-blue posters and banners bearing the hashtag "#SafeChats" set up in and around UT buildings — the third phase in a UT Police Department initiative aimed to promote safety dialogues on campus.

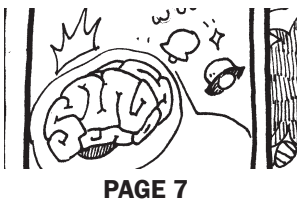
The Be Safe campaign originally began in 2015 with the same goal but it wasn't nearly as prominent as it is today, UTPD spokeswoman Cindy Posey said. After the death of dance freshman Haruka Weiser on campus last April, UTPD and other campus partners, including Student Government and the Division of Student Affairs, initiated a more aggressive campaign agenda, Posey said.

"We are trying to be incredibly conscious of the sensitivity of everything," Posey said. "We're encouraging people to start talking about how to be safe, and we want to encourage these conversations."

The first phase of the campaign, initiated during move-in last fall, introduced three main points of conversation — "Walk With Me," "Be Aware of Your Surroundings" and "Call 911" — ideas meant to encourage students to practice safe habits when walking on or to-and-from campus. The second phase, which began midway through last semester, introduced visuals around campus depicting safe practices such as walking with a buddy and taking out earbuds when walking on campus.

After April's tragedy,

UTPD page 3

NEWS	OPINION	SPORTS	LIFE&ARTS	ONLINE	REASON TO PARTY
Texas Tribune hosts panel on transparency in government. **PAGE 3**	Despite protests, Texans support a Muslim ban. **PAGE 4**	Tom Herman hopes for a successful signing day. **PAGE 6**	Pastor opens brewery in East Austin. **PAGE 8**	UT science talk to cover politics of climate change at	
Report recommends changes to Texas jail system. **PAGE 3**	Both Uber and Lyft deserve to be deleted. **PAGE 4**	Longhorns face tough matchup with Texas Tech. **PAGE 6**	UT club helps students join Peace Corps. **PAGE 8**	*dailytexanonline.com*	**PAGE 7**

THE DAILY TEXAN

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TOMORROW'S WEATHER

High **71** Low **53**

Grammy nominees for Best Rock Performance

FRAMES FEATURED PHOTO thedailytexan

Mary Pistorious | Daily Texan Staff

Carlos Salazar, an Austin resident for eight years, does his laundry at the Spin Cycle Washateria on Guadalupe Street Tuesday evening.

MUSLIM

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surrounded by legislators to stress the importance of togetherness and civic engagement.

"Civic engagement ... it is not just a privilege, it is God-given privilege and it's also a blessing," Husain said. "We are supposed to work with our leaders, to make it easy for them. If they have a problem understanding us, it is our duty to reach out to them. The ones that do not want us here, please listen to this. We are here to meet you as well. Give us a chance to come and talk to you."

During last session's Texas Muslim Capitol Day, participants were met by protesters who repeatedly tried to interrupt the event. Organizers for CAIR said the purpose of the solidarity wall was to keep that from happening again.

Joshua Frey, an organizer with Muslim Solidarity ATX, said CAIR contacted his organization after receiving threats of potential protests. The protesters they were worried about, numbering four at most, went practically unnoticed outside the wall of support.

"We started to organize a few weeks ago, hoping to get at least 50 to 80 people out here to form a wall around to symbolically show the community that we have their backs," Frey said. "We're not here to politicize the event. We aren't an anti-Trump demonstration. People came from across party lines just to show that we're here for this community."

Biochemistry senior Sidrah Shah said her dad is a volunteer with CAIR and that she worked with him to help plan the event.

"I just really want to get more involved in my local government and have my voice heard and this is an amazing way to do it," Shah said. "It's so beautiful to see so many people out here to support Muslims especially given the current political climate. A lot of us feel kind of let down at times by our local government but seeing the overwhelming support that we have is so heartening."

This year's event comes just days after President Trump issued an executive order barring travel from seven countries with a majority-Muslim population and temporarily blocking refugees from entering the country.

Annum Hanafi, a 17-year Austin resident and mother, said it was important for her to come to this year's event because of all of the anti-Muslim rhetoric around the nation.

"When I got here I had to tell myself, 'don't cry, but when I walked on to the grounds I just lost it," Hanafi said. "All I could see was this sea of people standing in solidarity, not just standing to support but standing to protect us, willing to be the barrier between someone that might want to harm us. There really aren't any words to describe what that's like. I cried tears of gratitude and sadness that we're in time where someone says, 'I'm willing to risk my life for you.'"

STATE

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as are openly refusing to enforce an existing law. That is unacceptable."

Throughout his speech, Abbott criticized the state legislature for not modifying its already tight budget to include his priorities, thus placing a freeze on state agencies' hirings until the end of August.

"This should free up about 200 million in our current budget," Abbott said. "I am confident that we are going to be able to balance the budget without looting the rainy day fund."

Abbott's focus on Texas children included school choice and state funding for schools.

"Both the House and the Senate are right to tackle the vexing issue of school financing now," Abbott said. "We can try to flood money to every school in the state or, we could more efficiently empower parents to choose the school that best fits their child's needs."

Abbott also made it a "hate crime" to target police, recalling the Dallas police shooting in July, which killed five officers.

"The victims were killed because of the uniform they wear," Abbott said. "We will rise up as a state in support of our law enforcement."

TFA

continues from page 1

said. "For you to be a true leader that distinguishes yourself, you need to viscerally feel this. I challenge folks to get in the issue, not stay away from it."

Students who apply for Teach For America aren't confined to teaching jobs, but can become administrators, politicians and entrepreneurs, Beard said.

Plan II finance senior David Leister said one of Beard's most valuable points was her emphasis on having good relationships with her students.

"I think building relationships with anybody is important, especially for people who are eventually going to be parents or going to be mentoring younger coworkers," Leister said. "It's important to build those relationships and understand where they're coming from."

Beard said the most important lesson she learned during her time at TFA came from surrounding herself with those who were different from her.

"I learned how to work across lines of difference really well," Beard said. "In a country that is so diverse, I really think if you don't know how to communicate and build relationships across lines of difference, I don't think you're going to excel to your fullest potential."

Jorge Galan, recruitment manager for TFA at UT who also worked for TFA, said the organization hopes to train leaders and get them a teaching certificate within two years. Galan said he hopes students will see that they are needed in the community that they live in.

"I want students to recognize that educational inequity is one of our nation's largest issues that a lot of the times seems to be ignored," Galan said. "At UT we're in this bubble; we've all made it, we all have a great education but there are communities like East Austin where students are getting failed every single day by the system. I want (UT students) to feel inspired, know that they can make a difference, that they can use their degree to have a social impact and also develop their career."

THE DAILY TEXAN

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SG

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students at the University of Texas."

Helgren said the spirit behind the resolution was to make a strong and undeniable blanket statement that Student Government stands in solidarity with the Muslim members of the University of Texas community.

The legislation focuses less on Trump's executive order by nature, and more on how UT is going to respond to the fact that Muslim students on this campus are directly and negatively impacted by it, Helgren said.

Administrative director and philosophy senior Adit Bior said the legislation is geared towards Muslims because the seven countries listed in the executive order were predominately Muslim countries.

"In terms of the climate of our nation right now, it's very clear that the hostility is going towards Muslims," Bior said. "For instance, Sudan was on the list, and South Sudan wasn't on the list. Sudan is a predominately Muslim country, whereas South Sudan is a predominantly Christian country. It's important to know that this is very clearly targeted towards Muslims and towards Muslim students."

Helgren added that Donald Trump said he would give priority to Christian refugees at the end of this vetting process.

Chief of Staff and government junior Isaiah Carter, chief of staff and government junior, said as an African-American student, he knows what it feels to be ostracized.

"I think (the resolution) is going to make them feel more safe," Carter said. "We live in a state right now where a majority of the population, you know, did vote for a person who initiated that, and sometimes it's kind of hard to find your safe haven and your sanctuary. I think UT does a very, very good job at providing a safe sanctuary for people who can feel marginalized. It's done the same thing for me."

SG plans to pass further resolutions to present tangible ways for students to stand in solidarity with the Muslim community.

Chase Karacostas | Daily Texan Staff

Student Government President Kevin Helgren answers questions about Assembly Resolution 17. The resolution, which passed by a unanimous voice vote, is to formally show support for the Islamic community on campus.

STATE

Texas Tribune panel discusses ethics reform bill

By Lisa Dreher
@lisa_dreher97

Former Austin mayor and State Rep. Kirk Watson, D-Austin, said he is confident that a bipartisan ethics reform bill will pass this session during a Texas Tribune panel at the Austin Club on Tuesday morning.

"Last session it was a trainwreck and we learned from it," Watson said.

Watson, along with State Rep. Giovanni Capriglione, R-Southlake, and State Sen. Van Taylor, R-Plano, discussed ethics and transparency with Texas Tribune moderator Jay Root.

With the backing of Lt. Gov. Dan Patrick, Taylor filed Senate Bill 14, the Ethics Reform and Anti-Corruption Act of 2017, to expose corrupt state legislators. The bill requires lobbyists to disclose money for "wining and dining" spent on candidates they are trying to coax and take away pensions for lawmakers convicted of felonies.

"I need to be able to come back to my constituents and explain to them what votes that I've taken, what policies I'd like to push … as long as I'm (making) that publicly available," Capriglione said.

Root asked the panelists why a bipartisan bill has taken so long ever since a similar bill died in the 2015 session. Watson said some lawmakers are afraid of publicly supporting such a bill that would expose others they know and support.

> "The vampires come out and kill off the good legislation where you might not even know what is happening, or why it's happening.
>
> —Kirk Watson, State Representative

"There's a lot of time for things to be done in the dark," Watson said. "The vampires come out and kill off the good legislation where you might not even know what is happening, or why it's happening."

Root asked the legislators to address the "dark money" issue, where nonprofits do not disclose the donors that give them unlimited contributions to back certain candidates.

In 2010, the Supreme Court ruled in Citizens United v. Federal Election Committee that keeping donors secret is a form of anonymous speech protected by the First Amendment, and Root asked Taylor if he supports protecting the identities of donors.

"You say dark money, I say forced disclosure (and) anonymous speech," Taylor said. "We have different perspectives on it, but I think what's clear is it's very controversial."

SB 14 does not address dark money, and Root asked Taylor again if he supported requiring donors to be disclosed. Taylor defended himself saying he abides by the constitutional powers of the First Amendment.

"It's unconstitutional to end anonymous speech," Taylor said. "We would not have had the republic today without the Federalist Papers before anonymous political speech."

Watson said he is a proponent of transparency with contributions from political action committees.

"I really can't wrap my head around why we wouldn't want full disclosure," Watson said.

Panelists also asked if President Donald Trump should have released his tax returns, and they all agreed Trump should have released them.

"You may have different rules and requirements for legitimate reasons," Watson said. "But it also, I think, set a bad example for how you create additional transparency. Particularly if it's done in such a way where it's just a statement."

Joshua Guerra | Daily Texan Staff

Former Austin mayor and State Rep. Kirk Watson speaks at a Texas Tribune Panel Tuesday morning. Watson discussed ethics and transparency with State Rep. Giovanni Capriglione, and State Sen. Van Taylor.

CAMPUS

UT professors encourage researcher, lawmaker relations

By Alexandria Dominquez
@adominquez37

Effective policymaking starts with trust between researchers and lawmakers at all levels of government, three research professors said in a panel on campus Tuesday evening.

"The challenge is the interface between two different entities: science and politics," Associate government professor Benjamin Gregg said. "The science community has to do a better job at explaining research to politicians that is often contested by the folks in administration."

Public affairs professor William Spelman, who spoke at the event, said policymakers are unwilling to keep an open mind when it comes to research. Spelman said this raises concerns between scientists and government.

"There are people who argue physics and biology in the U.S. Senate (that) don't know what they're talking about," Spelman said. "If lawmakers would just listen and trust researchers, it would be better for all of us."

Panelists also discussed the issue of climate change under President Donald Trump's administration and how disagreements may be mediated.

"Today, the issue of global warming is supported and recognized by most scientists, yet at some political level, it is contested by those involved in higher administration," Gregg said. "We need more scientists and researchers elected into office if we want to influence policy."

Despite current weaknesses in the relationship between politics and science, all three panelists agreed it is beneficial to hold open discussions with lawmakers about current issues such as climate change.

Bryan Jones, government professor and co-director of the Policy Agendas Project, said scientific researchers shouldn't always dismiss politicians' beliefs.

"We (researchers) cannot demonize politicians, they're trying their best," Jones said. "We must see things from their sides and consider their interests, too. I am more optimistic in the policies at the federal level than I was 10 years ago."

Chemistry freshman Kavya Rajesh said she believes trust between the two communities is necessary to solve problems in the legislature and hopes students sitting in the crowd were listening.

"The fact that climate change is even debated is kind of crazy," Rajesh said. "We're running out of time for politicians to get on board with scientists. There needs to be some sort of legislation passed soon."

Professors Spelman and Jones hold a discussion on the influence of research on today's lawmakers in the United States. The panel talked about today's hot topic policies and the importance of researchers in government.

Mary Pistorius
Daily Texan Staff

STATE

Report analyzes negligent mental health care in Texas jails

By Reagan Ritterbush
@Reagan0720

In 2010, Amy Lynn Cowling, a 33-year-old mother, was arrested for an outstanding misdemeanors warrant.

Upon arriving at the nearest jail, Cowling had to replace her normal medications with substitutes because her original medications were banned by the Texas jail system. While withdrawing from the drugs, she stopped eating, and began having hallucinations and seizures. After five days in jail, Cowling died of a seizure — without ever seeing a doctor.

Cowling's story is one of many in the Texas Law Civil Rights Clinic's report Preventable Tragedies: How to Reduce Mental Health-Related Deaths in Texas Jails. The report tells the stories of 10 "tragic and preventable deaths" in Texas jails and offers recommendations to the jail system for the treatment of people with mental illnesses.

According to the report, there are "severe and persistent failures" in the Texas jail system that abandon mentally ill people. Ranjana Natarajan, director of the Civil Rights Clinic at the School of Law, who worked on the report, said the purpose of the report is to raise awareness and provide solutions to Texas legislators on what to do about this issue.

"These people's stories hardly get out there," Natarajan said. "It may be difficult to make uniform rules and requirements since there is a great variation among jails, but maybe these people's lives will make it possible."

The UT School of Law hosted a discussion about the report Tuesday afternoon. Two authors of the report, Amanda Gnaedinger and Alex Stamm, and Diana Claitor, executive director of the Texas Jail Project, analyzed some of the mental health problems featured in the report. They also speculated what could have been done to save the lives of inmates whose stories were highlighted in the report.

"The stories were incredibly hard to hear, let alone write about," Gnaedinger said. "All we can do now is make sure we do something about it. We can fix so much for so many."

First-year law student, Ashley Craythorne, said she was shocked by some of the stories featured in the report because she didn't know detox and withdrawal were some of the prominent mental health issues in Texas jails.

"I figured most of the problems stemmed from ignorance of jail staff and suicide," Craythorne said. "I never thought something black and white like withholding someone's mental health drugs was even a possibility."

According to the data collected in the report, over 60 percent of 65,000 imprisoned individuals are still waiting to face trial. Of those imprisoned in Texas, 30 percent have a serious mental illness.

SAFE CHAT

continues from page 1

Weiser's family played an important role in providing feedback and suggestions about how to best implement the Be Safe initiatives, primarily in the "Walk With Me" message, Posey said.

"I think (the campaign) creates a conversation and makes people realize that bad things can happen to you," government junior Ashlynn Bryant said. "I've implemented this though in my own conversations, both as a First-Year Interest Group mentor and with my friends. This (tragedy) is real and it has happened, and it can happen to you or anyone, and when it does happen, you have to implement different strategies to feel safe again."

Phase three of the Be Safe campaign, which was implemented toward the end of the fall semester and is currently being promoted across campus, expands on the posters and visuals seen on campus and on UTPD's social media. In this phase of the campaign, the visuals on campus depict "Safe Chats" between students, or dialogues that demonstrate the three practices introduced in phase one of the campaign.

"Our goal is to saturate the campus with this message in every way that we find valuable," Posey said. "Things will happen on a daily basis that fit into these campaigns. We want students to spread the word and talk about all aspects of safety."

UTPD has collaborated closely with SG throughout the Be Safe campaign to promote these safety initiatives.

"Phase three ties in the hashtag "#SafeChats" to make it more organic for students," Student Body President Kevin Helgren said. "Safety doesn't have to be a giant conversation — it's simple as texting a friend before leaving the PCL and saying 'Hey, I'm about to leave the PCL, do you wanna walk together?' We want these conversations about safety to happen in a organic and natural way."

UTPD plans to continue implementing safety initiatives in other phases throughout the semester.

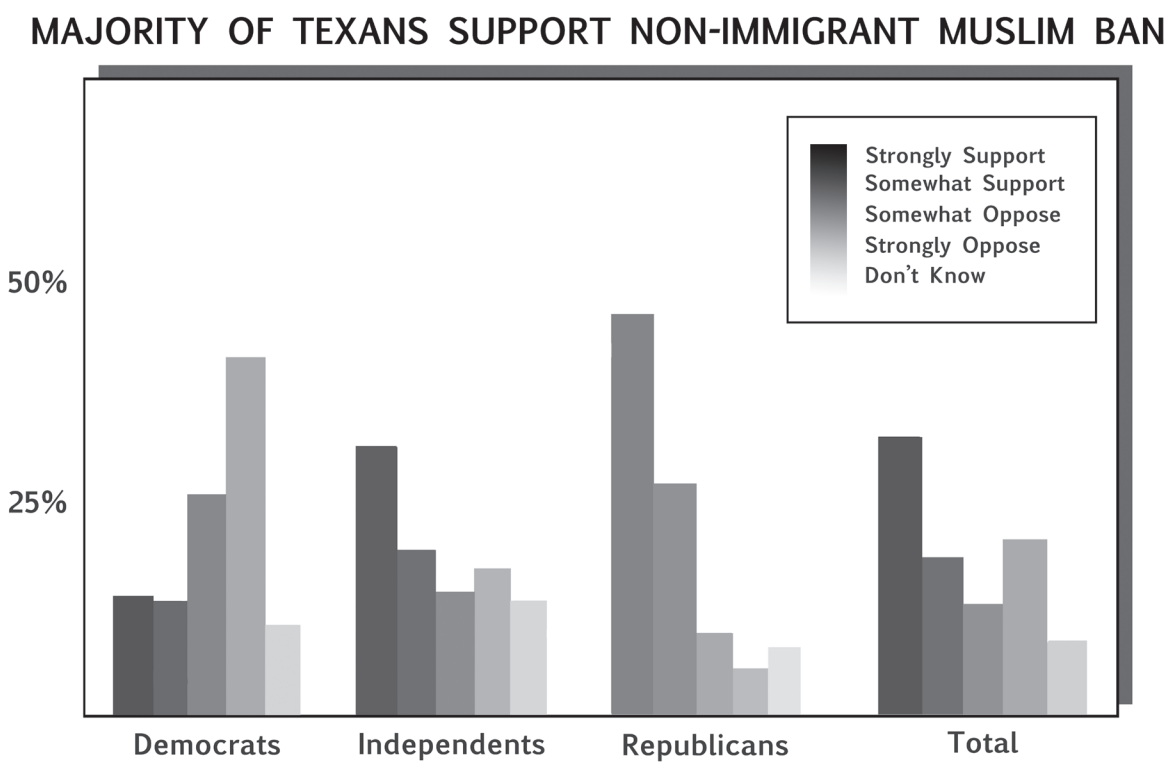
THE DAILY TEXAN
NEWSCAST
LISTEN FRIDAYS AT 5 P.M.

KUNIK
Orthodontist
invisalign
CONFIDENT SMILE
58% of Americans think a candidate with straight teeth is more likely to land a job in a competing interview.

COLUMN

Support for Muslim ban complicates protests

By G. Elliott Morris
Daily Texan Senior Columnist
@gelliottmorris



Source: texaspoltics.utexas.edu

Infographic by Liza Anderson
Daily Texan Staff

If a majority of voters support a policy, should legislators cave to loud opposition from the other side? It is true that all of our voices should be represented by our legislators, but what are they to do when forced with a decision between ethical policy-making and representing the general will?

That is the question Texas legislators face after opposition to President Donald Trump's travel ban executive order erupted all over the state. As a slight caveat, let me offer some clarification on the order itself. It does prohibit all refugees from entering the United States for 120 days, it does indefinitely ban Syrian refugees and it does suspend the entry of all immigrants and visa holders from seven majority-Muslim nations for 90 days. It does not place the 90-day restriction on any majority-Muslim nation where Trump has business ties. Finally, it does not place the 90-day restriction on any country that has ties to post-9/11 terrorist attacks on U.S. soil.

If the executive order seems brash and not narrowly-tailored, that's because it is. If the restrictions seem ill-suited to stop the actual terrorism we face from home-grown extremists, that's because they are. Simply, the order is bad policy — even if we believed that all Muslims should be banned from entering the United States. On top of that, judges say that the executive order is likely unconstitutional.

As such, protests against the detention of the aforementioned groups arose at several airports in Texas over the weekend. Indubitably, these Texans oppose the policy, but they may not be the majority of Texans. According to a UT/Texas Politics Project poll of Texans from last June, 52 percent of Texans support a blanket ban on non-citizen Muslim immigration to the United States.

This raises a hard question for Texas lawmakers. Should they pass a bill defying or condemning the president's executive order, which the courts have already established as ineffective and unconstitutional? Or should the legislators vote with their majority and leave the ban alone? Perhaps still they should pass a law allowing immigration in the state. It would not be the first time a state has defied the federal government.

This is not a question I believe I can answer, but it is one we should collectively discuss. Do we let our society be run by the majority, who clearly favor policy that is at odds with the U.S. Constitution — or do we directly violate our core beliefs in overturning the policies that violate them? Again, I cannot say for sure what the answer to these questions may be, but I can conjecture: If the majority will be subverted only once, it may be to overcome the effectual and constitutional ignorance embedded in the president's executive order. John Adams, the second president and famous champion of centralized government, echoed this sentiment when he said that Congress should be a "portrait of the people at large" that reaches outcomes upon "reason" and deliberation — perhaps that's the vein of thought we should pursue.

It is of course possible that we have a collective answer — one that we can only arrive upon if we contemplate this ethical dilemma. Should Texans urge their lawmakers to pass HR 220, and similar legislation, or do we let our state's majority guide policy? If the former, our morals may be in check. If the latter, we risk admitting we are not a true democracy.

G. Elliott Morris is a government, history and computer science junior.

COLUMN

Both Uber, Lyft deserve deletion for labor practices

By Emma Berdanier
Daily Texan Senior Columnist
@eberdanier

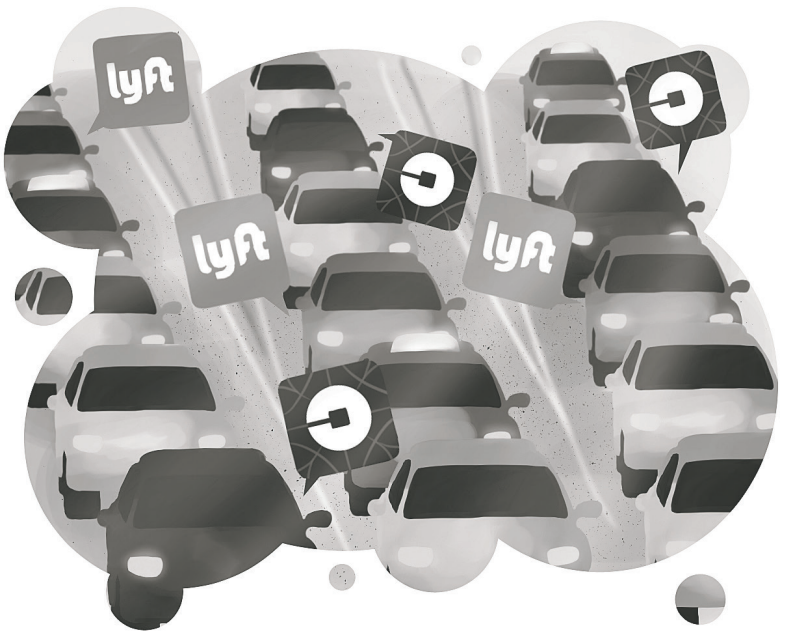


Illustration by Jason Cheon | Daily Texan file

Following President Donald Trump's Muslim ban, NYC taxi workers halted rides in protest, as the majority of them are immigrants. Uber responded by lifting surge prices in order to generate more revenue. In response, Lyft pledged to donate $1 million to the American Civil Liberties Union, although this act's true aim wasn't based in politics, but in economics — they were targeting Uber's customers. But regardless of whether either company is for or against Trump's policies, the way they treat their workers and handle customer safety matters far more.

Uber's response garnered severe backlash on social media with #DeleteUber trending and Lyft rising to the top of the app store. Social media users saw Uber's response as neglectful of the social impact of the ban and Lyft's as empathetic. However, this social response is misguided, as both companies should be facing backlash not for their politics, but for their business tactics. In a time where companies can either alienate or embrace their clientele with their public political actions, it's necessary to remember that a company's business practices matter more than feigned acts of politics.

Neither company classifies their workers as employees, denying them the full benefits that come with that designation. Instead, their workers are classified as "private contractors," something that saves Uber and Lyft billions of dollars. Employers can save up to 30 percent on employee costs by hiring private contractors because the government doesn't require them to pay for a number of employee specific benefits including health insurance and worker's compensation.

Keeping this classification is one of the reasons Uber and Lyft both leave cities where fingerprinting laws exist. Nearly every taxi, bus and limousine driver in the U.S. complies with fingerprint background checks. They ensure an added level of safety in the hiring process. Yet, the companies fear that fingerprinting drivers could strengthen the argument that Uber and Lyft's workers are employees and should be classified as such.

The denial of full benefits to these drivers must be addressed, but denying the public the added safety of full background checks is a larger and more impactful issue. With multiple reports of Uber and Lyft drivers assaulting passengers, fingerprinting all drivers is vital and should be the driving force behind the hashtag.

People should be boycotting both companies for their harmful policies, rather than for political stances they take to boost revenue. There's no difference between either company's actions. They both were motivated by the opportunity of earning more money, no matter that one was more politically favorable than the other.

The city of Austin and UT students should be glad that both companies are out of the city, rather than mourning their departure. In their absence, we're not left stranded, but instead blessed with multiple new startups that fingerprint drivers to keep passengers safe. The anger behind #DeleteUber is misinformed, fixating on headlines instead of business practices. These protests should continue, but also with a #DeleteLyft campaign, until both companies classify their workers as employees and improve passenger safety, and not until both comply with popular politics.

Berdanier is a philosophy junior from Boulder, Colorado.

COLUMN

Young girls deserve to know they too can succeed

By Alina Agha
Daily Texan Columnist
@alinaagha96

Do you remember when you decided what to study in college, or picked a career? Perhaps it was in high school, or maybe you still haven't figured it out. You probably don't think it was at the age of 6 or 7, but a recent study showed that from a very young age, societal gender stereotypes strongly affect the career aspirations of boys and girls.

The impact on girls is particularly negative. Girls are less likely to think their own gender is "really, really smart" and thus their interests move away from STEM subjects that are generally associated with being "brilliant." In fact, statistics show that under 20 percent of women received bachelor's degrees in engineering and computer science.

Children ages 5 to 7 participated in the study, showing us that the influence of gender stereotypes on career paths does not just exist in the early stages of adulthood when students are in college, but rather it starts in early childhood, ages at which children are most impressionable.

"Traditionally, an American family consists of a hard-working father, a stay-at-home mother, and a few adorable children," said UT chemistry professor Kate Biberdorf. "From a very early age, students are given this image as a 'successful' family and they are encouraged to pursue this type of family."

While in some ways society is moving away from this, similar ideas — that women should stay home with the kids rather than men, or that they should prioritize family over career — still exist that should be addressed by pushing young girls to pursue their interests, learn and ask questions. Moreover, programs such as Girl Day at UT should be implemented to expose young girls to STEM subjects, which can have huge benefits to their futures.

"Girl Day and similar programs provide girls the opportunity to experience the engineering design process, gain confidence in their problem solving skills, be surrounded by other girls who enjoy math and science and be exposed to female STEM role models," said Tricia Berry, director of the Women in Engineering Program at UT, which organizes Girl Day. "All of these factors contribute to girls' interest and persistence in STEM, (and) these types of opportunities ensure girls can see the possibilities of a STEM career for themselves."

In addition, we must take women's intelligence more seriously, especially now when sexism emanates from the highest level of government. President Donald Trump has relentlessly demeaned women throughout his campaign, escalating societal gender stereotypes that imply their looks and physical features are the most important thing about them.

"Girls are complimented on their appearance and the focus stays on appearance, (while) boys may be complimented on appearance and then the focus moves to physical or academic skills," said Berry. "Kids pick up on these things at early ages and internalize what is important and how they are valued."

> **"Girls are less likely to think their own gender is "really, really smart" and thus their interests move away from STEM subjects that are generally associated with being "brilliant."**

If this misogynistic rhetoric continues, girls' self-confidence will continue to diminish, especially in regards to their intelligence. We must not just provide access to more opportunities for young girls, but also encourage them to explore subjects such as engineering and chemistry to foster their interests and allow them to see their potential. Instead of implying that girls have a fixed number of paths they can choose from, they should know they can do anything they set their minds to.

Agha is a public relations junior from Karachi, Pakistan.

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FOOTBALL

Herman aims to replicate recruiting success

By Tyler Horka
@TexasTy95

Joshua Guerra | Daily Texan Staff

Newly hired head coach Tom Herman will usher in a new era at Texas on Wednesday, completing his first recruiting class for the Longhorns.

Almost exactly one year ago to the day, Charlie Strong sat in his office on the University's campus expecting to shake up the college football landscape in a matter of hours.

The former Texas football head coach felt the pressure to perform after limping into the offseason with a 5–7 record in his second season on the 40 Acres.

Needing to spark a turnaround in his tenure, Strong eyed National Signing Day as a mechanism to gain traction within his program in spite of compiling an 11–14 record in his first two years on the job.

Strong's 2016 recruiting class sat at No. 32 in ESPN's rankings heading into last year's edition of signing day. When he put his head to pillow that night, however, his class had vaulted to No. 7 in the nation, according to 247Sports' Composite Rankings.

Texas landed seven commits in a span of just over five hours to pen one of the nation's top classes. Strong, once again, secured the pieces he wanted to get the Longhorns moving toward national prominence.

"Just looking at the national exposure, the way it took off, everybody kept saying, 'What's happening in Austin?'" Strong said on Feb. 3, 2016. "It became big-time news just because it was falling for us today. But we needed that, and we've just got to continue to build on it."

A year later, however, Strong no longer sits in an office nestled inside Moncrief Athletic Complex just south of Darrell K Royal—Texas Memorial Stadium. Instead, he's preparing to sign a herd of Bulls — not Longhorns — on the University of South Florida's campus in Tampa, Fla.

Tom Herman now sits in the same space Strong used to occupy, trying to accomplish a similar feat as the latter. Herman's current class ranks No. 25 according to 247Sports. He'll need a another last-minute barrage of commitments to replicate Strong's success from last year.

Herman's chances at duplicating such a feat have already taken a big hit. Four days after taking an official visit to Texas, four-star cornerback Javelin Guidry chose Utah over Herman and the Longhorns.

Guidry had originally been committed to Houston while Herman was still the Cougars' head coach. After Herman fled to Austin, it appeared Guidry would follow him when he decommitted from Houston.

Herman's class still has a chance to garner some attention. In spite of his accomplishments on signing day last year, Strong failed to reel in a five-star player. Herman still has one on his radar: defensive end K'Lavon Chaisson.

Chaisson bounces around from a four-star player to a five-star depending on the source, but make no mistake — the Galena Park North Shore product can play. He's rated as the No. 5 weak-side defensive end in the nation, according to Scout.com.

Herman also has his eyes on 6-foot-5, 290-pound Stephan Zabie out of nearby Westlake High School. The four-star offensive tackle visited Texas on Jan. 26 and would be a vital piece in both pass protection and run blocking as Herman implements his offensive scheme throughout his tenure.

Though Herman's first recruiting class at Texas might be smaller in both numbers and notability than the group Strong put together last year, the first-year head coach still has a chance to sign the players he needs to be more successful on the field than his predecessor.

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WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

Win streak to be tested in Stillwater

By Sydney Rubin
@sydneyrrubin

Their biggest conference test has yet to come, but the No. 12 Longhorns aren't getting too ahead of themselves.

Texas defeated No. 22 West Virginia 69-54 on Sunday afternoon to extend its winning streak to 14. All victories and streaks aside, head coach Karen Aston stressed the importance of not getting too carried away with future matchups — including two against No. 2 Baylor this month.

"It is really imperative that we continue to approach every game one at a time," Aston said. "I think that's been almost like our mantra. Let's not worry about anything else but what tomorrow is about."

Wednesday's matchup between the Cowgirls (13–7, 3–6 Big 12) and Longhorns (16–4, 10–0) marks the second of the season. Texas handed Oklahoma State a 31-point loss on Jan. 10 in the first meeting — its biggest victory in conference play. While the Longhorns are looking to sweep Oklahoma State for the second-straight year, Aston thinks the Cowgirls are in a better place now than they were when the two teams first squared off in Austin.

"Going to OSU, it's always a tough place to play," Aston said. "They're playing better, they're playing really good basketball right now. Everybody is playing for something and they're playing the kind of basketball right now that looks like they've sort of turned the corner."

Emmanuel Briseno | Daily Texan Staff

Sophomore point guard Lashann Higgs drives past a West Virginia defender during the Longhorns' 69-54 victory over the Mountaineers on Jan. 29. Higgs contributed 10 points, two rebounds and two assists in the team's 14th-straight win.

Oklahoma State will try to bounce back from a 74-69 loss to Kansas State on Saturday. The Cowgirls started their season with a 10-game winning streak, but that early success hasn't translated well in conference play.

Junior center Kaylee Jensen leads the way for the Cowgirls, averaging 19 points and 10.6 rebounds per game. As the league's premier double-double threat, Jensen stands as one of only 23 players in the nation to record 11 or more this season.

Despite beginning the season with a dubious 2-4 record, Texas is working in strides to turn out a monster season highlighted by a 10–0 conference record for the first time in program history. Aston's team capped off a perfect month of January after Sunday's home win against West Virginia.

The Longhorns still have room for improvement. They keep their focus on the next game at hand, but their eyes always remain on a longterm goal — reaching the Final Four just a short 196 miles away in Dallas.

"We have a lot more ahead of us, but I'm excited about the way that we're handling our day-to-day activities," Aston said. "I think we have so much more room for growth. If we're trying to build towards having a good run in the tournament and all those things we hope we can do, then we have to keep getting better."

A big development for the Longhorns is the rising of contributions from sophomore guard Lashann Higgs. Higgs provides depth on the defensive end and her explosiveness allows her to come off the bench and spark up the court.

"(Lashann) can defend, she can score from anywhere, she can just do everything," junior guard Brooke McCarty said. "I think she kind of brings that energy off the bench that we really need. She just kind of is that lockup player. She knows her role and she knows exactly what to do and when to attack."

Action between Texas and Oklahoma State begins on Wednesday at 7 p.m.

SIDELINE

SPORTS BRIEFLY

Baseball schedule revealed

Texas baseball season gets underway this weekend with the annual alumni game. First pitch for Saturday's exhibition matchup against former Longhorns is slated for 2 p.m.

Two weeks later, the year truly fires up when Texas plays host to No. 23 Rice for a three-game weekend series. First pitch for the Longhorns' first game of the season comes at 6:30 p.m. on Friday, Feb. 17.

Friday's contest is followed by a pair of midday matchups on Saturday and Sunday. Texas then hits the road to battle Sam Houston State on Wednesday, Feb. 22, at 6:30 p.m.

The Longhorns return home for another weekend series against Connecticut. They'll take on the Huskies on Friday, Feb. 24, at 4 p.m. before battling UConn twice more on Saturday and Sunday.

Texas doesn't start Big 12 play until Friday, March 17 when it hosts the visiting Texas Tech Red Raiders for a weekend set. First pitch for the game is set for 6:30 p.m.

Longhorn Network will televise over 30 games this season, beginning with Saturday's alumni game. Texas' first two regular season games can be seen on LHN, too.

—Tyler Horka

MEN'S BASKETBALL

Up-and-coming Texas Tech program travels to Austin

By Shane Lewis
@theREALsplewis

Texas' matchup with Texas Tech on Wednesday features two teams performing on the opposite side of expectations.

The Longhorns (8–13, 2–6 Big 12) entered the year as the No. 21 team in the nation and appeared ready to contend for a Big 12 title. But now, almost halfway through conference play, Texas sits second to last place in the conference and has lost eight of its last 10 games.

As for Texas Tech, the team entered the season with a degree of uncertainty. The Red Raiders (15–6, 3–5) lost their top-two scorers from last year's campaign and brought in a new head coach in Chris Beard. The team was picked to finish seventh in the conference's preseason coaches' poll.

But Texas Tech has shown the ability to hang with the Big 12's best. The squad owns wins over No. 7 West Virginia and then-No. 25 Kansas State, and it almost gutted out a win in Waco against No. 2 Baylor.

Head coach Shaka Smart praised how the Red Raiders have come together.

"They have that synergy together as a team and they have been terrific," Smart said. "They've had a really good season so far. They play with good poise and I think coach Beard has done a good job of getting them to buy into what he wants them to do."

Poise is something that the Longhorns have lacked this year, especially in late-game situations. Texas has played in 10 games decided by five points or fewer this season, faring only 3–7 in those contests.

In their 59–57 loss to Georgia last Saturday, the Longhorns again faltered down the stretch. The team possessed a nine-point halftime lead, but struggled executing in the second half and ultimately fell short.

Smart said his team's late-game execution must improve.

"In those last five to six minutes of games—when we're in close games—we've got to do three things a little bit better," Smart said. "Be solid on defense, take care of the ball and make our free throws. If we can make strides in those areas, that late game stuff, then I'll feel like we've made some real strides."

The Red Raiders are led by a bevy of efficient scoring options. The team boasts five different players averaging at least eight points per game, four of whom are shooting near or above the 50-percent mark.

Texas Tech junior guard Keenan Evans leads the team with 14 points per game and has been on a recent roll, scoring double-digits in each of his past eight contests. Junior forward Zach Smith has complemented Evans by averaging nearly 15 points over that same span. The forward is coming off an impressive 25-point outing against LSU.

According to Smart, the Red Raiders' arsenal of offensive weapons has aided in their success.

"They have really good versatility as a team," Smart said. "(Texas Tech is) playing well when they have different guys coming at you. For instance, they've got bigs that can step out on the perimeter. They've got some big perimeter players that can go around the basket."

The Longhorns take on the versatile Red Raiders tonight at the Frank Erwin Center, with tip-off scheduled for 8 p.m.

Texas head coach Shaka Smart coaches the Longhorns from the sideline during a game at the Frank Erwin Center. The second-year coach is 28–25 during his tenure in Austin.

Joshua Guerra
Daily Texan Staff

Today's solution will appear here next issue

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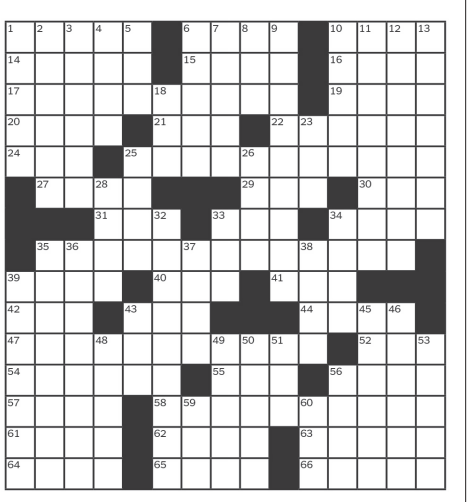

ACROSS

1 Some pears
6 Joyous wedding dance
10 Lethal injection providers?
14 Electrified, as a Christmas tree
15 Poet who wrote "If you want to be loved, be lovable"
16 Many a hockey shot
17 Player of Frodo in "The Lord of the Rings"
19 Nickname for baseball manager Terry Francona
20 Hence
21 New England state sch.
22 Really enjoys
24 Thickheaded
25 "The Good War" Pulitzer Prize winner
27 [Surely you can't mean ...!]
29 Runner-advancing action
30 Land west of Eng.
31 "Yo!"
33 "Your point being ...?"
34 Beat (off)
35 Pop group suggested by 17-, 25-, 47- and 58-Across
39 Renaissance Faire quaff
40 Playfully obtuse, maybe
41 Dog command
42 Real heel
43 Hesitating sounds
44 Part of a Facebook feed
47 Boston Celtics coach beginning in 2013
52 "Like I'm supposed to believe THAT!"
54 Worry after a raccoon attack
55 Vehicle for the later years, for short?
56 Gutter cleaner's work area
57 "Game over!"
58 Detective whose first book was "I, the Jury"
61 Word with blind or expiration
62 "___ plaisir"
63 Maximum
64 Looked over
65 Home in the forest
66 Collapse in frustration

DOWN

1 Run, as colors
2 Pumping station
3 Bad mark
4 1981 thriller whose title character is a St. Bernard
5 Where you might get rubbed the right way
6 Text to which one might respond "im gr8"
7 Egg-shaped
8 Where gymnast Simone Biles won Olympic gold
9 Housing expansions
10 Moving about
11 More sinuous and graceful
12 Dressmaking aids
13 Wound, as a thread
18 Hiking signal
23 Ready to go
25 Guideline for a freelancer, for short
26 There might be a spat about this
28 Lose, as a coat
32 America's Cup competitor
33 One with a phony passport, maybe
34 Big party
35 Quickly detachable
36 Ate something
37 Tudor symbol
38 Some decorative containers
39 Country singer Martina
43 It can decrease value
45 "Kapow!"
46 "I don't want to hear any of your excuses"
48 Ate by candlelight, say
49 Minnesota team, for short
50 Upright
51 "Skip it"
53 Dollar alternative
56 Oscar winner Jannings
59 "Now ___ heard everything"
60 Finsteraarhorn, e.g.

PUZZLE BY BRENDAN EMMETT QUIGLEY

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE

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CITY

Pastor opens new brewery in East Austin

By Stephen Acevedo
@thedailytexan

Beginning his career as a pastor in Missoula, Montana, the last place Christian Cryder expected to find himself was in Austin with a brewing company.

"We had planted a church for people who were not church people, so I spent a lot of time hanging out in bars and breweries and coffee shops because I felt like I connected with those people well," Cryder said.

When Cryder and his associates decided to start a nonprofit along with his church, they realized they needed a fun and effective way to raise money for it. He had the idea to partner with a small brewery to sell All Souls Ale, a seasonal beer named after his church. And so, a friendship was born between Cryder and Bjorn Nabozney, a local brewer.

"Every time we'd get together, Bjorn would talk about God, but then he'd also be like, 'Dude, you've got to start a brewery,'" Cryder said.

At first Cryder felt selling beer while preaching the word of God would be hypocritical, but soon changed his mind when Bjorn explained to Cryder that monks used to brew beer regularly in monasteries in the Middle Ages. Cryder was sold.

After three years of searching for the perfect location, Cryder finally opened Lazarus Brewing in December with help from his partner Azrriel Salazar, a 23-year-old chef he met at his favorite taco shop, El Primo. Lazarus doesn't just sell beer, but also serves up fresh coffee and authentic Mexican street food.

The food Salazar serves at Lazarus feels more like something you'd find at a food truck than a brewery. The menu is comprised mostly of breakfast tacos, street tacos and tortas, with a few snack foods like queso.

All the street tacos are true to their authentic form. The doubled up light corn tortillas pack a good flavor, but aren't strong enough to mask any of the ingredients they're holding. The al pastor is cooked with its trademark pineapple, the carne asada is firm but not overdone and the pollo verde has a perfect tang from the housemade tomatillo sauce.

The best option on the menu, though, is the pork carnitas. Wonderfully tender and greasy, the only thing that can make it any better is the addition of some of the house salsa and avocado.

All of the tacos offered on the menu can also be ordered as a torta, a better option for anyone looking for a full meal. The torta rolls are fantastic, with a thin brittle layer of crust on the outside and a soft, warm inside. Any flavor that is lost from the meat on account of the white bread is made up for by the addition of lettuce, tomato, onion and salsa.

The best snack option is the fried chickpeas. The bowl of fried, salted chickpeas with a touch of lime offers a creative alternative to the tired bar peanuts trope and makes the perfect fodder for anyone who wants something to munch on with their coffee or beer.

Although it seems that they're still trying to gain their footing as a new establishment, the folks at Lazarus do a fine job of expressing their passions through the food and drinks they serve to East Austin.

"We don't think we know everything about beer, coffee or tacos," Cryder said. "We just love creating (them) and sharing them with our friends."

Angel Ulloa | Daily Texan Staff

Former pastor Christian Cryder first became involved in the brewing business as a way to fundraise for his church. He opened Lazarus Brewery in East Austin in Dec.

LAZARUS

Location: 1902 E 6th St., Austin, TX 78702
Hours: Closed on Mondays.
Tue/Wed: 7:30 AM - 10 PM
Thu/Fri: 7:30 AM - Midnight
Sat: 10:00 AM - Midnight
Sun: 10:00 AM - 10:00 PM
Rating: 8/10

CAMPUS

Samantha Dier | Daily Texan Staff

Lorenzo Ramirez, a biochemistry and neuroscience senior, has been a student bartender for three years at the Cactus Cafe. His favorite aspects of the job include the people he meets and the live music scene.

Student bartenders balance work, school, personal lives

By Morgan O'Hanlon
@mcohanlon

Late nights, listening to loud music and socializing are all in a day's work for student bartenders, but their lives are about more than just balancing drink ratios — it's also about balancing work and academics with some semblance of a personal life.

Students who take up bartending do so to pay off student loans, earn a little extra spending money or help out family back home. Those who pursue this job want to have fun, but often find themselves facing hardships particular to bartending – staying up until odd hours of the morning and finding time for homework are just a few.

"I got into bartending cause it sounded like a fun thing to do," said Jim LeMond, a longtime Austin bar owner who got his first experience as a bartender at the Cloak Room while attending UT. "But once I started, I realized it had the potential to be so much more. I made a career out of it."

LeMond said bar work has its perks because of the inherently social nature of the industry, but admitted bartending as a student requires a tremendous amount of self-discipline.

Lorenzo Ramirez, a biochemistry and neuroscience senior, has learned to easily navigate his triple life as a student, employee and 20-something-year-old. Ramirez is a bartender at UT's Cactus Cafe and said contrary to what some might believe, his job at UT's only on-campus bar is actually conducive to his studies.

"Working at a bar has helped me learn the ability to prioritize and organize tasks at hand in a very efficient manner," Ramirez said.

The on-the-job-quick-thinking nature of bartending has translated positively into other aspects of his life.

"This aspect of cognition is a muscle, and if you work it over a long period of time, it'll help you out in other ways," Ramirez said. "I've definitely noticed that my reaction time has gotten shorter, if I knock something over at my apartment I'll be able easily reach over and catch it."

Ramirez's first bartending gig was at the Cactus Cafe. He keeps coming back to it even after working at a number of different bars.

"I like that it's on campus where I study, but also it has a much different, more relaxed and less 'fighting' kind of atmosphere," Ramirez said. "Downtown you run into a lot more fights, you run into a lot more kids that are going down there on the weekends."

Ramirez said any job with more liability is likely to be considered a 'cooler' one, but it's sometimes stressful because of the potential problems that could occur if an employee served a drink to a minor or if someone brought in a gun.

Journalism freshman Kathleen Sullivan works at Friends Bar on Sixth Street as a "beer tub girl" and said working on Sixth takes bartending to an extreme level.

"(Sixth) is all chaos all the time," Sullivan said. "There's people throwing up in the bathroom until 3 a.m. every night."

Even so, she says she still wouldn't trade her job for another, less exciting one.

"It's genuinely fun to watch people lose their mind and you get really good at talking to people," Sullivan said.

Ramirez said he also thinks the benefits of the job outweigh the cons.

"I've always been a big fan of live music and we have an awesome stage and great sound," Ramirez said. "Being able to work here, you can hear anything from jazz to great local artists. This is realistically one of the coolest possible jobs I could've had in college."

CAMPUS

UT organization prepares applicants for Peace Corps

By Andrea Tinning
@andreawinning

Applying to the Peace Corps is almost like entering a beauty pageant. Potential volunteers must be intelligent, hardworking and have an earnest desire for world peace.

In spring 2016, to help students build confidence in their applications, Rebecca Law and Kacie Petrequin created Austin Students for Global Peace, a club specifically designed for students applying to the Peace Corps. They have attracted dozens of students interested in the volunteer organization.

"There's Peace Corps clubs in other places but there's not really a club for students to support each other," Law, a linguistics senior, said. She said ASGP not only helps students learn more about the Peace Corps, but encourages and gives support to members throughout the application process.

Law got the idea to form the club when she was working as an assistant in the UT Peace Corps Recruiting Office. Petrequin met Law while visiting the recruiting office and expressing an interest in forming a club. From there, they outlined exactly what they wanted from such an organization and fed off of each other's enthusiasm. Rather than one person taking the role of "president," Law and Petrequin opted for shared roles as Interal and External Coordinators.

Some people are drawn to the Peace Corps because they want to travel or help alleviate humanitarian crises. Although Law wanted to do both, family history played a large role.

"My grandparents were some of the very first to go into the Peace Corps in the '60s," said Law. She said she plans to teach English abroad with the Peace Corps.

Whereas Law had a life-long interest in joining the Corps, Petrequin was inspired to join later in life. After watching a recruitment video and talking to an officer, she immediately felt compelled to serve.

"I had no idea Peace Corps existed until I got to UT," she said. "I went (to an info session) and it completely changed my life."

Petrequin, a public health and sociology senior, said she intends to use her degrees to do health-related work in the field.

"I have interest serving anywhere in the world," she said. "There's no place I wouldn't go to do this."

Law and Petrequin design club meetings to be inspiring, informative platforms for discussion rather than simple meet-and-greets.

"We're here to help be a place where students can collectively come for resources," Petrequin said.

ASGP encourages students to commit themselves to longterm, recurring service rather than a weekend-long stint. This way, ASGP members get the opportunity to work with nonprofits like Refugee Services of Texas and Habitat for Humanity.

In addition to volunteering, the club frequently screens documentaries that focus on issues like poverty, which spark conversations about activism. Biology sophomore Samantha Kagel said one of her favorite aspects of the club is the dialogue members share with one another.

"It's all in efforts to help our members map out the world they're going to put themselves into when they serve as volunteers," Petrequin said.

Members examine global issues and review what skills will be necessary to live abroad. Seasoned Peace Corps volunteers often act as guest speakers and answer questions about their experience.

Kagel, an officer in ASGP, first joined the club as a freshman and said the main reason she has stayed is because of the people.

"Our club is great because we have people of all different grade levels and backgrounds," Kagel said.

Briana Vargas | Daily Texan Staff

Rebecca Law and Kacie Petrequin are the founders of Austin Students for Global Peace, an organization designed to assist and inspire students applying to the Peace Corps.