

LIFE&ARTS PAGE 4
Spiritual instructor meditates
on Buddhist teachings

NEWS PAGE 2

Bill White alleges shady dealings in land exchange

SPORTS PAGE 6

Sam Acho leads both on and off the field

THE DAILY TEXAN

TOMORROW'S WEATHER

High
100



Low
77

Monday, August 2, 2010

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THE WEEK AHEAD

TODAY

'Like the way I do'

Melissa Etheridge takes the stage with her newest album, *Fearless Love*, at Bass Concert Hall at 8 p.m. Tickets start at \$35.

TUESDAY

'Ferris! Get off the float!'

Play hooky at the Paramount Theatre with a screening of "Ferris Bueller's Day Off" at 1 p.m. Tickets cost \$9 at the box office.

WEDNESDAY

'Chaos is a friend of mine'

Bob Dylan and His Band play at The Backyard at Bee Cave at 8 p.m. Tickets start at \$45; doors open at 7 p.m.

THURSDAY

'I'm a genie in a bottle'

The Alamo Drafthouse Cinema at the Ritz hosts the Pop Princess Sing-Along at 9:45 p.m. Tickets cost \$12.

ON THE WEB

'Daily Headlines'

TSTV highlights Daily Texan headlines, including conversations with Texan reporters, in this installment of the "Daily Headlines" webcast.

East Austin

Business owners and residents are working to ensure that city funds for East Austin development will be used in the community's best interests.

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Quote to note

"It's definitely a paradigm shift. There is nothing that can really compare in the States — there is so much poverty [in Nigeria]. There is no electricity, no running water. It definitely puts things into perspective."

— Sam Acho
UT football defensive end

SPORTS PAGE 6

Harriet Murphy, the first African-American woman appointed to a regular judgeship in Texas, testified before the Texas House Higher Education Committee in 2009 supporting reform of the top 10 percent rule.



Erika Rich
Daily Texan Staff

Former Austin judge talks Texas admissions

Alumna's testimony influenced decision to cap entrance under top 10 percent rule

By Collin Eaton
Daily Texan Staff

Former Austin municipal Judge Harriet Murphy may have retired to a quiet, green cul-de-sac far from downtown, but last year, legislators told her she had a powerful role in their decision to cap UT's top 10 percent rule at 75 percent of the incoming freshman class beginning in 2011.

Murphy, a 1969 UT alumna, penned an argument in the June 30, 2009 edition of the *Austin American-Statesman* in favor of reforming the top 10 percent rule. At a Texas House Higher Education Committee meeting in 2009, she distributed her op-ed piece to the legislators and later testified at the meeting.

"The majority of high achievers in the black community attend Spelman College, Morehouse College, Hampton Institute, Tuskegee, Howard or other historically black colleges and universities whose tuition may be double that of UT," she wrote. "Other promising minority students are recruited by some of the best private universities in the country, including Rice and Baylor in Texas. ... Houston leads the nation in the number of applications to Spelman College."

Murphy said she supports the University's side in the upcoming *Fisher v. Texas* case in the U.S. Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals, a case in which two white applicants to UT filed a lawsuit against UT after they were denied admission, claiming that the top 10 percent rule's use of race as a component of the application review violates their 14th

MURPHY continues on page 2

University climbs to new heights



Mary Kang | Daily Texan Staff

Reserve soldiers of the 980th Engineer Battalion race to complete the Marine Corps obstacle course at the J.J. Pickle Research Center on Friday morning. The course's completion is a requirement for both Marines and ROTC officers to help strengthen the upper and lower body.

UT's Marine Corps obstacle course opens, eliminates need to travel

By Aaron West
Daily Texan Staff

The opening of the Marine Corps obstacle course, located at the J.J. Pickle Research Center, was celebrated with a ribbon-cutting ceremony Friday.

The 340-foot course will be open to the public and will be used for ROTC training. Completion of the course is mandatory for both Marines and ROTC officers, and the UT course elim-

inates the time and money that the ROTC has to spend traveling to Texas A&M University to use the facility there.

"This is a requirement for all Marines," said Cmdr. Vernon Neuen-schwander, who cut the ribbon. "Before, they had to go to College Station, and you know how much

that rubs a Longhorn. It's a win-win for everybody. We save all [those] travel costs; it's right here in our backyard. This is going to save UT money."

After the ribbon was cut, about 60 on-lookers watched as Gunnery Sgt. Michael Kiernan led a demonstration of the course.

"The course requires upper-

and lower-body strength, agility and endurance," Kiernan said. "It's a good way to build camaraderie within the unit, and it can be pretty hard — it all depends on your personal stamina. The rope climb is always the hardest part. It's a 20-foot rope, and you should be able to climb all the way to the top. Most people are intimidated at first. It's good for building your

OBSTACLE continues on page 2

Tea Party hosts rally for limited government

By David Colby
Daily Texan Staff

Conservatives from across the state gathered on the steps of the Capitol on Saturday morning to rally in support of traditional values and limited government.

The rally, which drew several hundred supporters, was organized by the San Antonio Tea Party to bring together like-minded individuals. Event organizers originally promoted the rally as a gathering in support of Arizona's controversial immigration bill. However, the focus Saturday was primarily on traditional conservative issues: limited government, lower taxes and Christianity.

"This is an event to call for a return to the principles and values upon which this nation was founded as exhibited in the Declaration of Independence, the Constitution and the papers of those who wrote these historic documents," said event organizer Jeanne Melendez of the San Antonio Tea Party in an e-mail.

Part political event and part social gathering, the rally featured a musical act and a George Washington impersonator, along with speakers from across the state. The crowd, composed of a mix of veteran political activists and first-timers, was energized by speeches that attacked both Republicans and Democrats for mishandling the economy, health care and immigration.

The majority of the criticism leveled by the speakers was aimed at liberals and the Obama administration. Attacks on President Barack Obama were a

RALLY continues on page 2

Co-op businesses receive guidance from organization

By Destinee Hodge
Daily Texan Staff

Third Coast Workers for Cooperation, Austin's first cooperative development organization, held a graduation ceremony Saturday evening for the first group of participants in its business course.

In October, Carlos Perez de Alejo and Andi Shively helped create the organization's Cooperative Business Institute, which prepares individuals "to establish and manage their own worker-owned, cooperative business," according to the organization's website.

"We help to create businesses that are owned and controlled by the people who work there," Perez de Alejo said at the event, which was held at the center's renovated building on Manor Road.

The graduation ceremony was held for a group

CO-OP continues on page 2

Mourners remember Briscoe at memorial

More than 200 people gathered in the Senate Chamber at the Texas Capitol on Sunday for a memorial service to remember the life of former Gov. Dolph Briscoe.

The service, which was attended by prominent Texas politicians such as Gov. Rick Perry and former Gov. Mark White, lasted for more than an hour. Briscoe passed away June 27 in his hometown of Uvalde.

"We'll never have another Dolph Briscoe," said Jess Hay, a former member of the UT Board of Regents. "I admire him as much as any man I've ever known."

Other speakers included Don Carleton, the director of the Dolph Briscoe Center for American History at the University.

"There has never been a finer man in that office," former Gov. Mark White said. "He wanted to improve the lives of young people in particular."

— Nolan Hicks



Danielle Villasana | Daily Texan Staff

Janey Briscoe Marmion, left, daughter of former Gov. Dolph Briscoe, attends her father's memorial service with relatives Sunday to honor his recent death.

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TODAY'S WEATHER

High 102 Low 76

So I'm dating this girl, but she doesn't know it yet...

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THE DAILY TEXAN

White links land deal to grants

Former mayor alleges connection between company, Horseshoe Bay

By Nolan Hicks
Daily Texan Staff

Bill White attacked Gov. Rick Perry's handling of the Texas Enterprise Fund at an Austin press conference Friday, accusing the governor of not following procedure for awarding grant monies.

White focused his attacks on Perry's 2006 announcement that the Enterprise Fund, which grants incentives to companies relocating to Texas, had awarded \$2.5 million to Sino Swearingen Aircraft Corporation, a company partially owned by Doug Jaffe and Alan Moffatt. Both Jaffe and Moffatt have come under scrutiny for their involvement in a 2007 land deal that netted Perry \$800,000 before taxes.

When White was asked if his campaign was insinuating there was a quid pro quo between Perry, Jaffe and Moffatt — where in exchange for Perry awarding Sino Swearingen \$2.5 million in grants, Jaffe arranged for Moffatt, his business partner, to buy Perry's land in Horseshoe Bay for almost \$500,000 more than county land appraisals said it was worth — White said that it certainly seemed like it.

"Perry said that if this land deal were done by anyone who wasn't the governor, it wouldn't have raised an eyebrow," White said. "He is a sitting governor and the governor's office did direct these loans."



Danielle Villasana | Daily Texan Staff

At a Friday press conference in Austin, Bill White said Gov. Rick Perry used the Texas Enterprise Fund without following stated regulations for awarding grants to companies. He demanded an independent audit of the fund.

When pressed if his campaign had evidence beyond the appearance of a conflict of interest to back up the charge, White said it didn't.

"If you're saying, do we have tape recordings, no," White said. "This isn't the first time Texas has seen this. Remember the Sharpstown scandal? If someone buys something for less than market value in a private transaction and sells it for more than market value in a private transaction, and the original seller and the final purchaser are both business partners and in the meantime they are

asking for a subsidy from the state, that creates a very strong appearance of impropriety."

Perry campaign spokeswoman Catherine Frazier called White's statements misleading, pointing out that Sino Swearingen never received the funds.

White said that the announcement of receiving a government subsidy would make it easier for a company to access capital.

"It gave them the benefit to have an option on \$2.5 million," White said. "If anyone offers you an option to get funded, that's a good deal. It's also a

benefit for companies if they're shopping their corporate relocation to other states."

White said his campaign requested documents to explain why the monies had not been transferred, and the governor's office said it had no documentation on the matter.

"That in and of itself raises questions as to how many times has the governor flown around the state making announcements that there was going to be a grant and all of these jobs that are created," White said. "There were no jobs created and no grant."

CO-OP: Group supports alternative business model

From page 1

of women from the collective Mamas of Color Rising who will go on to establish Yo Mamas Catering Cooperative. After a 16-week program packed with information about how to run a successful business with democratic decision-making, the women, known for their empanadas, were given certificates of completion and applauded by members of the Austin community.

"I hope it's a way to provide for my family and to also be what I think business should be in a community — support — and also make good food," program graduate Kellee Coleman said.

When their initial business idea, a cafe co-op, became less feasible after the economic downturn a few years ago, Per-

ez de Alejo and his friends realized there were no local consultants to help them create a successful business following a co-operative, worker-based model, Perez de Alejo said.

"Where you see concentrations [of co-ops], you'll almost invariably find a development or support organization," he said.

As a result, they decided to form an organization that would help people start businesses in an unconventional way.

Even though the cafe never came to fruition, Third Coast Workers for Cooperation has been well-received by the Austin community, with more than 100 people attending its opening event, Perez de Alejo said.

UT journalism professor Robert Jensen, a member of the organization's community advi-

sory board, said that a cooperative business model gives those who are typically overrun by capitalist business methods an opportunity to earn the fruits of their labor.

"I think that it's an important project because I think capitalism is based on hierarchy and inequality," Jensen said. "I believe in a non-hierarchical workplace based on the goal of equality, and capitalism is neither of those."

Perez de Alejo said that despite the apprehension some have toward the cooperative business model, he thinks that the difficult financial landscape of recent times has prompted interest in a new approach to business.

"It's in times of crisis when people are more open to new ideas," he said.

Jensen said the idea of the co-

op model is not new with businesses such as the Black Star Cop Pub and Brewery as well as the Wheatsville Food Co-op, but that there hasn't been an organization that helps people who want to start co-ops.

Despite all the success that both the program and the catering business have seen in recent months, participants remain levelheaded about both the benefits and difficulties of pursuing this type of business model.

"It's challenging because it involves democratic decision-making, [so] you grow as a person," said Jeanette Monsalve, a cook for the catering company. "You have to speak up, and when you don't agree with something, you have to challenge it in a meaningful way."

OBSTACLE: Course's creation made possible by volunteers

From page 1

own self-esteem."

The project had been plagued with delays because of expenses, but those issues were resolved when the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers volunteered its time and resources to build the course.

"At first we weren't going to be able to do it because of the expenses involved," said Grant Barger, project manager for the College of Liberal Arts. "But then the corps issued the request to volunteer reservists. It was a great opportunity to save some money."

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RALLY: Speakers laud American exceptionalism

From page 1

favorite among the crowd as well, with many signs mentioning the president by name.

"Barack Obama's aim is to destroy the America that we know and love. His aim is to provoke such a huge crisis that he can mold this country into one reflecting his own leftist ideology," conservative author L. Scott Smith said. "Barack Hussein Obama does not care one bit about you and me or what the American people want."

Throughout the day, the crowd was energetic and responsive to the speakers, roaring in approval during each speech. American exceptionalism was a popular theme with the crowd and several speakers, who lauded Americans for being charitable and for spreading freedom throughout the world.

"Americans lead the way and have always led the way towards freedom. Our revolution inspired the world; dynasties and empires crumbled around the world. For the first time, the entire world saw freedom exists," said James Ives, member of the Fort Bend County Tea Party. "Now with the Tea Party movement, it is happening again. There is a Tea Party movement in England, in Germany, in Italy, in the Netherlands. In a short year and a half, the American people have once again set the standard for the world."

The rally included warnings about the dangers of "comprehensive immigration reform," and Janet Thomas, an Immigration Reform Coalition of Texas board member, chastised the federal government for lax border control.

"The greatest mass murder in my lifetime was committed not by Hispanics, but by 19 Middle Eastern Muslims, 18 of whom came into this country illegally," Thomas said.

Thomas' reference to the Sept. 11 attacks incorrectly asserts that the hijackers entered the country illegally. According to the 9-11 Commission Report, all 19 hijackers entered the U.S. through legal means.

Thomas, who delivered an impassioned speech that critiqued politicians on both sides for supporting amnesty, also characterized the economic conflict created by illegal immigration in stark terms.

"I have a friend in the tile business, and he told me he hasn't had an increase in what he can charge since 1996. He can't compete with the illegals," he said. "We used to see Americans with landscaping companies and sheet-rock companies. No more. [Illegal immigrants] come in at night and do it like a bunch of damn cockroaches."

MURPHY: UT's reputation may deter top applicants

From page 1

Amendment rights. In Fall 2009, 4.5 percent of admitted students were African-American, 16.2 percent were Hispanic, 15.5 percent were Asian-American and 53.5 percent were Caucasian, according to the Office of Information Management and Analysis' 2009-2010 Statistical Handbook.

"I believe that the 10-percent law is a good law," Murphy said. "But, I also believe that UT should cap their top 10 percent admissions because it's gotten to the place where it left no room for getting students to go who may not be in the top 10 percent. So many of the high achievers in the African-American community are going to historically black colleges and Ivy League schools. They're not flooding the public universities in Texas."

Raised outside the city limits of Atlanta, Murphy said she couldn't go to the high school in her county because it was a white-only school. Instead, she went to Booker T. Washington High School in downtown Atlanta, where she met and grew to know Martin Luther King Jr.

Murphy said she and her friends called the future reverend "M.L." and that several years later, King had asked Murphy if she would join the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, but she thought it would be best to pursue her law degree.

Later, she attended Spelman College, a historically black liberal arts college for women. Af-

ter graduation, she worked for a couple of years, but she eventually attended the UT School of Law in 1966.

"I've always been involved in what I call 'the struggle,'" Murphy said. "So when I came to the University of Texas law school in 1966, there was one black [man] there. I was just shocked that no other blacks were around."

In 1973, Murphy became the first African-American woman to be appointed to any judgeship in the state of Texas, and three years later she was the only African-American woman to serve as a presidential elector in Texas. The walls of Murphy's living room are lined with trophies and awards, which hang alongside pictures of the former judge with Willie Nelson, Jimmy Carter and Bill Clinton.

Last year, she testified before both the Texas Senate and House committees on higher education. Later, she was told by "several legislators" that her testimony had a great impact on the House committee.

"I think it was because here I was, a black graduate having so much faith in the University of Texas," she said.

In her testimony, she said she emphasized the fact that it could be the reputation of the University that keeps very qualified African-American students from entering. She also said she told legislators that her own niece didn't want to go to UT Medical Branch in Galveston as her father did. Rather, her niece said she wanted to go to a historically black medical school.

THE DAILY TEXAN

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HORNS UP, HORNS DOWN



Moving day in West Campus incites chaos

If you tried to travel through West Campus this weekend, you likely found your path blocked at several points. As annual leases expire, students accompanied by parents or moving companies spill their belongings out into streets clogged with moving vans and pickup trucks.

As more new apartment buildings have been built, the student population in West Campus has drastically outpaced the neighborhood’s aging infrastructure. As a result, the streets are thrown into chaos once a year as new residents, unfamiliar with West Campus’ many one-way streets, come to the realization that you can’t parallel park a U-Haul between two Cars2Go.

Apartment complexes do little to help the matter. Moving day is one of residents’ many encounters with the inept management typical of the housing companies whose cookie-cutter units dot West Campus. If such companies wanted to alleviate the congestion, perhaps leases could be stratified rather than set to expire in bulk. What’s worse is that the move takes place during the summer session while students are still enrolled in classes.

Student residents also share the blame for the mess. As residents rush to move out, unwanted items accumulate on sidewalks and in alleys rather than finding their way to a dumpster. The street corner is not the appropriate place to leave your discarded furniture.

A criticism often leveled at West Campus residents is that they’re bad neighbors, and this weekend does little to disprove that stereotype. As a transient population, students may not feel the type of investment in their community conducive to social responsibility. Yet, that does not excuse their wanton disrespect for the West Campus community.



A little relief

With the fall semester less than a month away, students are bracing themselves for the yearly evisceration of their summer job money that comes with buying textbooks for classes. However, two new initiatives may provide students with a little financial relief.

Last month, new higher-education government regulations regarding textbook sales went into effect, so as students start to purchase books for the first time under these regulations, it will be interesting to see the actual impact they have. Part of the same law allowing for direct lending, the regulations require publishers to detail prices to professors so professors can not plead ignorance about the cost of textbooks. The regulations also prohibit publishers from only selling materials in bundle packages, such as a textbook, a CD-ROM and a generic supplement. Now, publishers must make each item available for purchase separately.

A little closer to home, the University Co-op will begin a student-led textbook rental program this fall. One of the key issues in the Parks-Kabir administration, students can now rent books at rates reduced to a quarter of the purchasing cost and, barring damages beyond repair, return it at the end of the semester. Students can also make minor marks and highlight without being penalized.

From elections to privacy and campus resources, students are often accused of apathy and not utilizing opportunities available to them. However, when it comes to affordable textbooks, we have little doubt students will embrace it with the zest and clamor of a herd of oxen.



Denying Pell Grant funds

On Tuesday the House of Representatives approved a bill that would allow an additional \$37 billion to be spent on the wars in Afghanistan and Iraq. The initial bill provided funding for several domestic issues, including a much-needed \$5 billion provision for Pell Grants. These domestic initiatives were ultimately stripped from the bill by Senate Republicans, along with 11 Democrats, before the bill was passed down to the House.

In addition to stripping Pell Grant funding, a \$10 billion fund to avoid teacher layoffs was also removed from the bill.

While cutting spending in a time of recession is advisable, it’s upsetting that Congress has made its priorities clear by failing to approve much-needed domestic assistance while pouring more taxpayer money into a seemingly unwinnable war. Rep. Howard “Buck” McKeon, a Republican who strongly backed war spending, said of the bill, “I am confident Gen. Petraeus and the troops will succeed in Afghanistan if given the time, space and resources they need.”

We would hope that McKeon as well as the rest of Congress would show the same sort of confidence in the American education system by providing it the resources it desperately needs. As President Barack Obama said when he presented the Pell Grant initiative in February, “We have to educate our way to a better economy.”

Get ye to a library

By Paige Hale
 Daily Texan Columnist

It is a very common scene. You get down to the wire on a research paper about Shakespearean tragedy or can’t remember the name of that Taylor Swift song you heard on the radio, so you sit down in front of your laptop or tilt your iPhone and type the magic word that is as useful as it is unusual: Google.

Instantly, before you can say “Dewey Decimal System,” Google gives you a seemingly infinite number of websites about “Romeo and Juliet.”

To our parents, and possibly older siblings, research consisted of spending hours in a library sifting through stacks of books, scribbling notes and making copies.

To the college student of 2010, research consists of arbitrarily and haphazardly throwing keywords at a search engine until something sticks.

While the older generation constantly acknowledges the tech savvy of our generation, and we do nothing to discourage the perception, recent research shows we might be getting a little more credit than we deserve.

A study conducted at Northwestern University suggests American students rely heavily on Google and other search engines for information, and give little scrutiny to the validity of the search engine’s findings.

In the study, students were given random topics to research on different search engines such as Google, SparkNotes, MapQuest and Wikipedia. Participants were then asked to talk about the websites they found in accordance to their topics. Many could not explain why they chose certain sites, how they got there or even explain much about the topics they were supposed to have researched. Essentially, students were simply typing their keywords, then clicking on the first sites that appeared to be legitimate.

Another frightening realization was that many could not distinguish between a credible and a noncredible source. Students were simply quoting whatever sources they found without digging any deeper.

So, have we become too comfortable in the Google age? The phrases “Just Google it” or “Wiki that” have become powerful in our technological time. We Google just about anything, then reiterate the newly discovered facts without thinking twice.

Google is not the culprit of our lazy fascination; rather, it is our inability to correctly identify the validity of what we find that is to blame. Most students gauge validity of the facts they find by the order in which Google presents the results.

In a time when computer and technology classes are being implemented in elementary, middle and high school, lessons on what makes a website adequate for any type of academic report-



Photo by Kelly Cree | June 22, 2009, via Flickr, Creative Commons Attribution

ing would be valuable. This problem will affect students not only in their educational background, but also when they find their role in the workplace, since many will struggle to conduct adequate research.

Google has created a world of good for our Internet-obsessed society, but has also given our generation an easy way out.

Hale is an undeclared senior.

GALLERY



LEGALESE

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The Jesus phone and the church of Apple

By Greg Spurgeon
 Daily Texan Columnist

Apple Inc. has transcended the business world and taken its rightful place in the heavens.

In an article published this month titled “How the iPhone Became Divine: New Media, Religion and the Intertextual Circulation of Meaning,” two Texas A&M professors reveal an interesting connection between religion and the world of technology. According to the two academics, “religious metaphors and myth can be appropriated into popular discourse and shape the reception of a technology.” Their example: When the iPhone was released in 2007, many tech bloggers and print journalists invoked religious language and coined the term “Jesus phone” for the purpose of “meaning-making.” Co-author Heidi Campbell asserts that “calling the iPhone the ‘Je-

sus phone’ was used by some bloggers to praise its infallibility and by others to critique it as an example of flawed fanatic fervor.”

The article sheds light on multiple biblical references the media made when the iPhone first came out, such as how Microsoft and Google were touted as Apple’s evil archenemies and how Apple CEO Steve Jobs is perceived as a messianic leader who was fired but rose again to resurrect the company.

Apparently, people take these religious implications to heart, not realizing that their affiliation with a technology giant will forever trap them in a life of serfdom under the Lord our Apple. The article goes on to assert that such use of religious terminology can have unintended consequences when introduced into popular discourse: a new life, with a cultlike appearance, where annual rituals take place in

the form of upgrading earthly possessions.

Let’s get secular for a moment.

Michael Santo, tech buzz examiner for the Houston Examiner, prefers to characterize the behavior as “fanboyism.” Santo cites how Google Android users are also vehement in the defense of their possessions, but lack any such religious devotion.

I am not a fanboy or Apple-ostle who reads from the Book of Jobs. I just think the technology works really well, and my appreciation for Apple products is visibly shared by many college students. On campus, there is clear division of technology as a brisk walk across the Six Pack is enough to make any PC owner feel alone, but I doubt there are many religious motives.

According to Julio Ojeda-Zapata of the St. Paul Pioneer Press, students seem to be drawn to Apple products because they are advertised as help-

ful in building a lifestyle. Products from the MacBook Pro to the iPhone to the iPod and iTunes are designed to work seamlessly together, and they are designed to be an extension of the self. In other words, Apple products have become part of one’s self-image the same way a person’s favorite music artist or author has. Forget biblical battles of good and evil; Microsoft and Google are just alternative identities.

The researchers produced a truly intriguing deconstruction of the iPhone and Apple culture, but I fail to see how brand loyalty applies exclusively to our generation. While the general claim that media language affects how we receive a product is credible, spiritual connections seem to be a little far-fetched. While I can’t speak for those in Aggie-land, I doubt the Church of Apple really exists.

Spurgeon is a government sophomore.

Activist chronicles abuses in Texas detention facility

By Kate Ergenbright
Daily Texan Staff

The Rev. Tony Hefner spent six years working as a security guard for Burns International Security Services, a private company contracted to provide security at the Port Isabel Service Processing Center in Los Fresnos in the late 1980s. The processing center serves as a detention facility for men, women and children from around the world who are apprehended trying to enter the United States illegally and are waiting for their immigration status to be decided. Passionate about human justice, Hefner has turned his experience into a memoir.

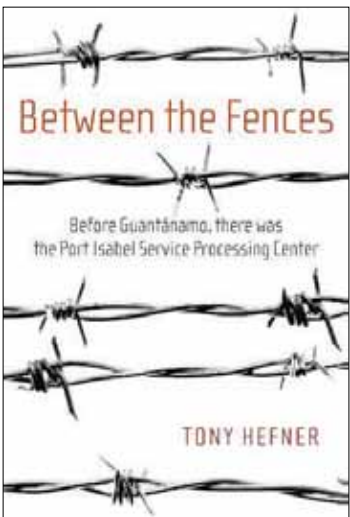
While employed at the center, Hefner witnessed some of his fellow employees abusing the detainees, including using the threat of deportation to force women to perform sexual acts.

Hefner documented these abuses as he saw them happening and has spent the past 20 years alerting government officials about what he witnessed and demanding an investigation.

“They’re just mistreated something terrible,” Hefner said. “In the time I worked at the detention center I never saw a detainee raise their hands toward an officer. They always held their hands up trying to surrender.”

In his memoir “Between the Fences: Before Guantánamo, There was the Port Isabel Service Processing Center,” Hefner implicates his former co-workers and describes the abuse he witnessed at the detention center.

Hefner originally took a job as a



security guard at Port Isabel, one of the highest-paying jobs in the South Texas region, to fund his ministry, the Bearing Precious Seed Ranch. Hefner and his wife started their ministry to serve Hispanic children in the border region and teach them to stay off drugs and off the streets.

Hefner says many of his fellow employees considered the detainees “second-class.” He speculates that the Immigration and Customs Enforcement officers would take out their frustrations on the detainees, allowing their personal lives to encroach on their professional behavior.

For Hefner, the transition from a security guard to human rights activist was a no-brainer.

“When it comes to seeing abuse take place, I did exactly what every red-blooded American would have done,” he said.

Hefner says that to his knowledge there has not been an im-

provement in the conditions at the detention center and that in 2006 there were 108 detainees who died inside the facility for unknown reasons. Beginning January of this year, detainees organized a hunger strike, protesting conditions at the center and the frequency of transfers.

The abuses at Abu Ghraib prison in Iraq received national media attention and launched a government investigation. Hefner says he witnessed similar abuses at Port Isabel, but that the detention center is receiving less attention because of the detainee’s immigration status.

“Because these are undocumented aliens, people just don’t care,” Hefner said. “Even though our government is against human rights abuse, they still do not enforce it in these compounds at these detention facilities.”

In Hefner’s view, government officials need to “open their eyes and stop pointing their fingers at other countries about human rights abuse and start looking in there own backyard.”

After everything he’s been through, Hefner still supports strong border security and says he stands behind Arizona’s recent immigration reform.

“If I break the law, I go to jail. You cannot allow people to come over here and break our laws and reward them by giving them citizenship,” Hefner said. “We got to put a stop to it. America is an example, not a refuge. Other countries should be able to stand up for their rights; that’s what our forefathers did.”



Janet Gilmore hosts discussions focusing on Buddhist texts each Thursday in her South Austin home. The readings offer a refreshing take on how people view everyday life and experiences.

Patrick Lu
Daily Texan Staff

Buddhist teacher hosts home meditation group

By Katherine Kloc
Daily Texan Staff

Janet Gilmore, a local teacher of Buddhism, speaks calmly and deliberately with a slight Southern drawl, sometimes pausing before her statements to determine exactly what she wants to say and how to say it. She rarely breaks eye contact, and when she does, it’s usually because she’s processing the conversation and giving weight to her companion’s thoughts.

Gilmore is a blonde, middle-aged woman whose 9-to-5 job in the Texas Department of Information Resources has little to do with Buddhism and a lot to do with technology and state affairs. Though she spends the greater part of her day working, she devotes much of her free time to practicing Buddhism, meditating two times a day and reading Buddhist texts with her husband.

“We read books all the time, and all we read is Buddhist books,” Gilmore said. “It’s a little bit of an obsession, but it’s what we’re most interested in. It’s the passion of our lives. Being able to have those conversations with each other fleshes out the meaning of the teaching for both of us. We’re not always completely in agreement on everything, which is good because we can learn from each other.”

Gilmore’s passion for Buddhism started in 1997, when she

went with her husband to New York’s Omega Institute for Holistic Studies, which offers classes aimed at encouraging personal wellness and growth. She stumbled upon a class called Dream Yoga taught by a Tibetan Buddhist lama. The lama introduced Gilmore to Buddhism and helped guide her in re-examining her life.

“By the end of the first day, I was sure that I was a Buddhist,” Gilmore said. “I could tell everything [the lama] said was in line with what made sense to me. One of the teachings that he gave that was so astounding to me was on motivation. What is our motivation in all of our actions? That’s an incredible thing to notice about ourselves. And for some reason, in the course of 45 years of life, I had not really ever stopped to think about why I was doing what I was doing.”

Once she returned to Austin, Gilmore began practicing Buddhism on her own. Through daily meditation, Gilmore says that she gradually learned to reflect on her life from a more forgiving and accepting perspective.

“Americans, as a culture, are really hard on themselves. We’re not very compassionate with ourselves,” Gilmore said. “When the Dalai Lama came to America he didn’t understand that. It was so foreign to their culture, the idea of self-judgment. One of the

WHAT: Janet Gilmore’s Buddhist reading circle and group meditation

WHERE: 6017 Abilene Trail

WHEN: Thursdays at 6:30 p.m. and Sundays at 10:30 a.m

things I saw changing as I was doing a daily practice was coming to believe that I could let go of the guilt and the fears and the self-recrimination.”

For Gilmore, who was ordained as a Buddhist teacher two years ago after 13 years of practice, Buddhism is more of a study of the mind than a religion. She said that the Buddha encouraged people to meditate and to find their own truths, but stressed that people shouldn’t necessarily ascribe to his methods or guidelines.

Although Buddhism has much in common with several religious traditions, the concept of “no self,” Gilmore says, is unique to Buddhism.

“There isn’t really anything I can call ‘myself,’” Gilmore said. “I’m constantly changing in a physical way, in an emotional way, and things are rubbing off on me — like what you say, and how you are actually [becoming] part of me. I used to have this idea that I stop at my skin, but that’s not really true. We bring in our breath, so we’re interacting with our environment at all times.”

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Men and Women 18 to 55	Up to \$1200	Healthy & Non-Smoking BMI between 19.0 and 29.9 (for females) Weigh between 121 and 220 lbs BMI between 19.0 and 32.0 (for males) Weigh between 121 and 264 lbs	Fri. 13 Aug. through Sun. 15 Aug. Fri. 20 Aug. through Sun. 22 Aug.
Men and Women 18 to 45	Up to \$2400	Healthy & Non-Smoking BMI between 18 and 30	Mon. 16 Aug. through Fri. 20 Aug. Multiple Outpatient Visits
Men and Women 18 to 55	Up to \$1000	Healthy & Non-Smoking BMI between 19 and 29	Tue. 17 Aug. through Thu. 19 Aug.
Men and Postmenopausal or Surgically Sterile Women 18 to 55	Up to \$1200	Healthy & Non-Smoking BMI between 19 and 29	Wed. 18 Aug. through Mon. 23 Aug.
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PRESEASON FOOTBALL

Sam Acho making a difference off field

By Dan Hurwitz
Daily Texan Staff

Instead of taking time off to relax this summer, Sam Acho was hard at work. Not working on recovering loose balls or tackling opponents, but rather tackling the multiple diseases that continue to plague Nigeria and helping with the recovery of those suffering on the other side of the globe.

Alongside four Longhorn teammates — including brother Emmanuel and punter John Gold — Acho made his fifth visit to his parents’ homeland with the goal of curing illnesses by handing out medicine on a medical mission trip.

“We were just going to help out those in need,” Acho said.

The group of Longhorn football players joined dozens of doctors, nurses and surgeons to contribute to the work started by Acho’s father, Dr. Sonny Acho, who created Living Hope Ministries.

The weeklong trip, whose participants repaired more than 80 cataracts and 50 hernias, allowed Sam Acho to once again give back to the place of his family’s heritage.

Each time Acho returns, he is reminded that he should not take anything he has for granted.

“It’s definitely a paradigm shift,” Acho said. “There is nothing that can really compare in the States — there is so much poverty [in Nigeria]. There is no electricity, no running water. It definitely puts things into perspective.”

While typical medicines such as Tylenol are common in America, small African villages lack these drugs and suffer as a result. Members on the mission trip brought two suitcases but only returned with one, each leaving behind a suitcase filled with medicine.

Acho’s involvement with Living Hope Ministries has continued to impress head coach Mack Brown.



Stephen Keller | Daily Texan file photo

Defensive end Sam Acho chases after a Nebraska running back in the Longhorns’ 13-12 win in the 2010 Big 12 Championship at Cowboys Stadium. Acho spent time in Nigeria this summer distributing medicine to the sick.

“Sam is the most unbelievable kid I have ever been around,” Brown said of the Academic All-American.

One of the rare players who will have played all four years, Acho is known for his intelligence in addition to his ability to sack the quarterback and pick up loose balls, doing what not many are capable of: transferring into the Business Honors Program at UT.

Brown and his staff have had to learn the hard way to avoid intellectual conversations with Acho, who can regularly be

seen reading.

“He is smarter than our coaches, so we don’t want to get in any discussions with him about anything but football because he knows a lot more than we do — and we are not going to put ourselves in that position,” Brown said.

Acho is also respected for his leadership and ability to please the coaching staff. Whenever an issue comes up in the meeting room, Brown, expecting his senior leader to agree, turns to Acho to share his opinion.

“I know what he is going to

think because he is with us,” Brown said. “He stands up and tells everybody, ‘Coach, this is what I believe and I feel the team feels the same way.’”

On the field, Acho may have to pick up a new position in defensive tackle following the departure of Lamarr Houston to the NFL. As training camp approaches with players reporting on Saturday and the first practice beginning on Sunday, Acho is unaware if he will remain at defensive end — where he has spent his first three seasons — or move to the middle, where

the Longhorns are thin on experienced players.

“I do both,” Acho said. “Whatever [defensive coordinator Will] Muschamp has planned, I’m ready to do and I’m excited for it.”

Wherever he ends up playing, Acho has picked up the role of defensive leader and sees no shortage of defensive linemen as the younger players progress.

“Each year we have a new team,” Acho said. “We got a lot of great guys stepping up this year, and it’s going to be really exciting to see these guys play.”

SIDELINE

MLB

American League

Cleveland 5
Toronto 4

Detroit 3
Boston 4

NY Yankees 0
Tampa Bay 3

Oakland 1
Chi White Sox 4

Baltimore 4
Kansas City 5

Seattle 0
Minnesota 4

Texas 1
LA Angels 4

National League

Florida 4
San Diego 5

Arizona 14
NY Mets 1

Philadelphia 6
Washington 4

Milwaukee 2
Houston 5

Pittsburgh 1
St. Louis 9

Chi Cubs 7
Colorado 8

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SPORTS BRIEFLY

Pinch-hit grand slam propels Astros in sweep of Brewers

HOUSTON — Pinch-hitter Jason Michaels connected for a grand slam in the seventh inning and the Houston Astros beat the Milwaukee Brewers 5-2 on Sunday to complete the three-game sweep.

The Astros trailed 2-0 before Michaels’ drive to the first row of the Crawford Boxes in left field. It was his seventh homer of the season.

Houston has won five straight games while Milwaukee has dropped its last five.

Brewers starter Randy Wolf was cruising before he was hit on his left wrist by Hunter Pence’s single with none out in the seventh, forcing the left-hander out of the game. He was replaced by Kameron Loe (1-2), who walked Carlos Lee and Chris Johnson to load the bases before Zach Braddock took over.

That set up Michaels’ second career pinch-hit grand slam.

Wesley Wright (1-1) pitched seven innings for Houston, yielding two runs and four hits.

Angels’ Weaver outduels Lee, beats Rangers in series finale

ANAHEIM, Calif. — Jered Weaver outpitched Cliff Lee with seven sharp innings in a matchup of the AL’s strikeout and ERA leaders, and the Los Angeles Angels took the rubber game of the series with a 4-1 victory over the Texas Rangers on Sunday.

The Rangers’ lead in the AL West was shaved to eight games by the three-time defending division champs, who avoided falling at least 10 games out of first place for the first time since the end of the 2003 season.

Weaver (10-7) allowed an unearned run and four hits and struck out seven to increase his league-best total to 162. The right-hander, making his fourth start against the Rangers this season, was coming off a pair of hard-luck losses — one of which came at Texas when Lee beat him 3-2.

AL batting leader Josh Hamilton, who wasn’t in the Rangers’ starting lineup for the second straight game because of patella tendinitis in his right knee, drew a walk while pinch-hitting for Julio Borbon in the seventh with one on and one out. Jorge Cantu ran for him and was erased on a fielder’s choice ground-er by Elvis Cantu, who stole second. But Michael Young flied out with the potential tying runs in scoring position.

Compiled from Associated Press reports

Horns look to replace Kindle, Houston

Editor’s note: This is the seventh in a series previewing the prominent position battles that will take place during Texas’ training camp.

By Chris Tavarez
Daily Texan Staff

For as good as the secondary was last year, recording an NCAA-high 25 interceptions, it would always redirect the credit given to it to the men in the trenches.

Over the years, Texas has been an NFL goldmine for defensive linemen, sending the likes of Lamarr Houston, Roy Miller, Shaun Rogers and Casey Hampton on to careers in the pros.

After losing the anchors of the front line to graduation and the draft, the burden of having to replace Houston and Sergio Kindle is falling to a motley crew of veterans, true freshmen and guys who haven’t seen a lot of playing time.

Most of the responsibility will be falling on Big 12 preseason first-teamers Sam Acho and Kheeston Randall.

Acho had an NCAA-high four fumble recoveries last year while posting 63 tackles, 14 for losses and 10 sacks in his first year as a starter. He’ll be bookending the defensive front with either blue-chip recruit Jackson Jeffcoat, who was named the best defensive end prospect in the

country; senior Eddie Jones and sophomore Alex Okafor, who both played in all 14 games; or sophomore Tevin Mims, who appeared in four games last year as a true freshman.

But as deep as Texas is at defensive end, the opposite is true for the line’s interior, which only has one player — Randall — with legitimate playing experience. The only other defensive tackle who has recorded any playing time is Calvin Howell, who played in three games last season before suffering a season-ending injury and being redshirted for the rest of the year. And with Derek Johnson transferring in July, the Longhorns

suffered an extra blow.

Head coach Mack Brown said during the Big 12 media days that defensive tackle is where his biggest concern is, not so much because of lack of depth — there are eight new recruits and redshirt freshmen at the position — but because of a lack of legitimate experience.

For Texas not to have a defensive drop-off this season, Randall will have to play at the level expected of him as a veteran, and some of those new recruits will have to step up in a big way.

Fortunately for the Longhorns, though, Randall had a standout spring season that had the coaches raving about him.

Defensive tackle Kheeston Randall goes after Nebraska quarterback Zac Lee in the 2010 Big 12 Championship.



May-Ying Lam
Daily Texan file photo

KHEESTON RANDALL #91

Texas coaches expect Randall to play at the level Lamarr Houston did last year. During spring practices, the coaches were praising him as the perfect player to continue the success Roy Miller and Houston had over the past four seasons. Randall is one of five Longhorns named to the All-Big 12 preseason first team.

Junior defensive tackle	2009 stats
6’5”	One INT, 53 tackles, two TFL, 15 PBU
295 lbs	Appeared in all 14 games, started 10

EDDIE JONES #32

Jones got valuable playing experience last season at defensive end. His biggest play of the year came toward the end of the Baylor game when he returned his only interception of the season for a touchdown. He will be part of a group of defensive ends likely playing opposite Sam Acho.

Senior defensive end	2009 stats
6’3”	23 tackles, five sacks, seven TFL, one INT
260 lbs	Appeared in all 14 games



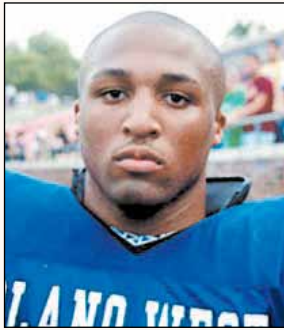
Defensive end Eddie Jones attempts to catch a Baylor running back in the Longhorns’ 47-14 win on Nov.14.

Curt Youngblood
Daily Texan file photo

JACKSON JEFFCOAT #44

Jeffcoat is possibly one of the biggest recruits head coach Mack Brown has landed in his 13 years at Texas. Jeffcoat is expected to make an immediate impact on defense, especially given the team’s lack of overall depth on the front line.

Freshman defensive end	HS stats (Soph., Jr., Sr. seasons)
6’5”	259 tackles, 25.5 sacks, two INT
238 lbs	Parade All-American, first team All-USA (USA Today)



Courtesy of UT athletics