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UNIVERSITY

Board questions regent nominees

By Eleanor Dearman & Josh Willis
@thedailytexan

The Senate Committee on Nominations questioned Gov. Greg Abbott's three regent appointees for more than five hours over admissions, open records requests, and other issues that have prompted conflict in the UT System at a committee hearing Thursday.

Abbott's first appointees to the UT System

Board of Regents, Steven Hicks, Sara Martinez Tucker and David Beck, appeared before the Senate Committee on Nominations as part of the confirmation process. Sen. Brian Birdwell (R-Granbury) asked the appointees questions regarding a report's findings that UT President William Powers Jr. secured the admission of a few applicants over the objection of the admissions office.

When asked about his opinion of the report, which

the UT System commissioned, Hicks defended UT Powers told the committee members the president should have some discretion when looking at admissions.

"I don't see how you could keep a current president from having some role in admissions," Hicks said. "The admissions officer today reports to this president. I do know [UT System Chancellor William] McRaven is very active in this area, and

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Andy Nguyen | Daily Texan Staff

The Senate Committee on Nominations questioned Gov. Greg Abbott's first three appointees to the UT System Board of Regents on Thursday morning.

CAMPUS

SG candidates backtrack on LGBT benefit ambivalence

By Samantha Ketterer
@sam_kett

In a questionnaire submitted to University Democrats, Executive Alliance candidates Braydon Jones, government senior, and Kimia Dargahi, international relations and global studies senior, wrote a statement about LGBT rights that may have cost them an endorsement, according to UDems officers.

As part of a survey distributed to all student government candidates, Jones, who is running for SG president, and Dargahi, who is running for vice president, said that they had certain concerns about providing domestic partner benefits to University employees.

"Although we fully support the LGBTQ community and encourage their partnerships, our biggest fear of providing domestic partner benefits is that some partners may take advantage and exploit that system," the statement read. "There needs to be a standardized way to ensure which domestic partners are closer to reaching the parameters of a civil union."

UDems communications director Ashley Alcantara, international relations and global studies senior, said she felt Jones and Dargahi expressed undue suspicion about domestic partners in a way that was offensive.

Jones said he and Dargahi submitted a correction to resubmit the specific statement after they noticed problems with their original statement.

"It was a mistake," Jones said. "We're not anti-LGBT ... Kimia and I are anything but."

Dargahi said their

LGBT page 2

SYSTEM

UT to offer space entrepreneurship degree

By Josh Willis
@joshwillis35

The University is planning to offer a master's degree in space entrepreneurship beginning in May.

The program will be a part of the larger Masters of Science in Technology Commercialization program, which began in 1996, according to program director Gary Cadenhead. The space entrepreneurship degree, first announced earlier this semester, will be tailored directly to students who want to learn about combining space exploration and business management.

Cadenhead said he believes it is important to teach students how to both work with technology and use it for profit.

"We felt it was important that we had a program that would train individuals to be able to identify space technology with the potential ... to take them to market," Cadenhead said.

Cadenhead said recruitment efforts are expected to begin in the near future in a joint effort with the Austin Chamber of Commerce.

"We will be sending out information about our program to the 400-plus companies in the U.S. that are in the new space industry," Cadenhead said. "We are supporting the Austin Chamber of Commerce, which is trying to recruit some of those 400 companies to either move to Austin or expand into Austin."

Scott Hickie, mechanical engineering senior, said there is a difference in the space industry between "New Space," which companies such as SpaceX and Virgin Galactic exemplify, and "Old Space," which is comprised of more established companies such as Lockheed Martin and Boeing.

"It seems to me like the space entrepreneurship program ... is a program to feed into 'New Space,' whether that means

“ Texas has always been huge pioneers in space and is going to continue to be.

—Scott Hickie,
Mechanical engineering senior

producing entrepreneurs or just 'New Space' leaders," Hickie said.

Hickie said most people only remember the scientific aspects of space exploration when they think about space, but said the science is only one part of the equation.

"I want to promote space exploration in any and all ways possible, and a big part of space exploration is the business side of it, and people don't really appreciate that," Hickie said. "It's not just a science or engineering project. Space really is as much a government and policy and business problem as it is an engineering problem."

Hickie, a member of the Planetary Society, a nonprofit founded to pursue space exploration, said Texas has the potential to push the space industry to new levels.

"Texas has always been huge pioneers in space and is going to continue to be," Hickie said. "UT Austin's role in it really could grow in the coming years because we are in

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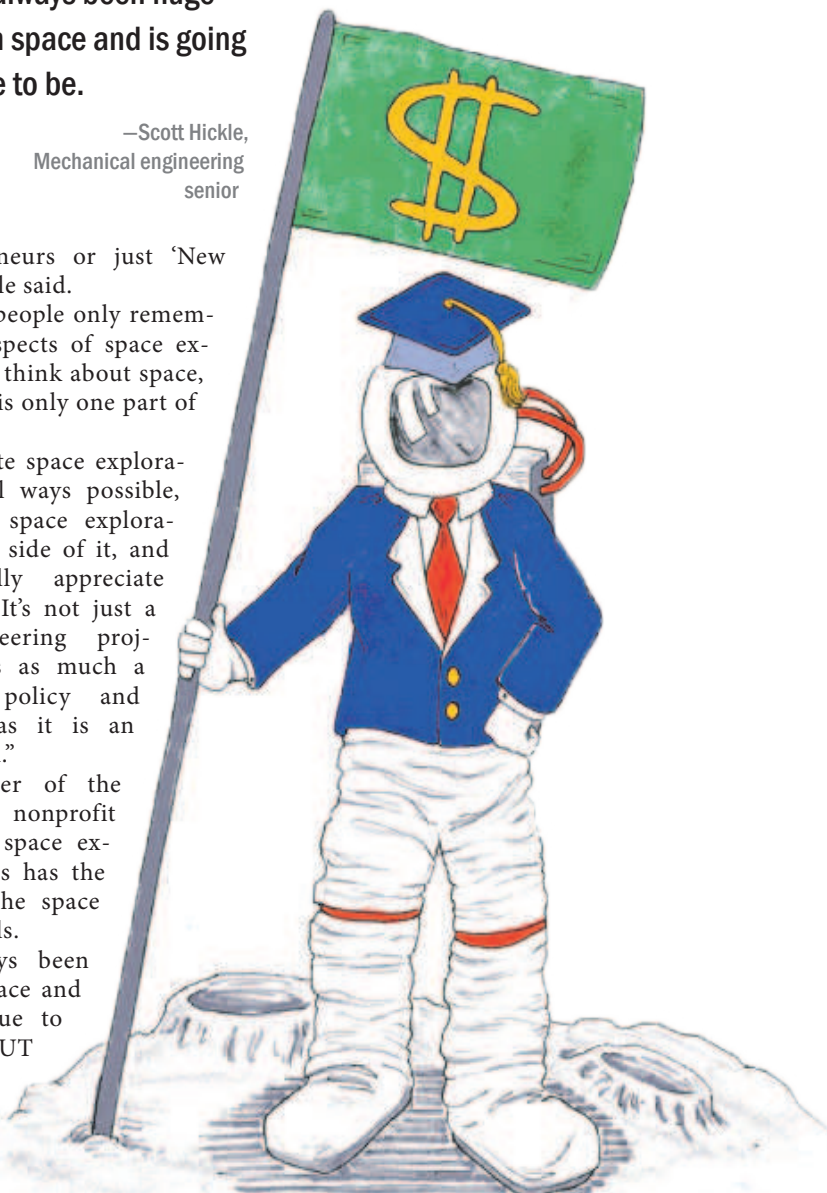


Illustration by Melanie Westfall | Daily Texan Staff

CAMPUS

Cockrell holds groundbreaking ceremony

By Sebastian Herrera
@SebasAHerrera

The Cockrell School of Engineering celebrated the groundbreaking of its new Engineering Education and Research Center on Thursday.

The 430,000 square-foot center, which will cost approximately \$310 million to construct, will be one of the largest structures ever constructed on campus and will include two con-

COCKRELL page 3



Celebration attendees cheer as the Cockrell School of Engineering broke ground on its new Engineering Education and Research Center on Thursday afternoon.

Andy Nguen
Daily Texan Staff

WEST CAMPUS

Jack in the Box folds under financial strain

By Nashwa Bawab
@nashwabawab

The Jack in the Box on Guadalupe Street closed its doors for the last time Sunday. Joe Sanchez, a manager at the Jack in the Box location on E. 41st Street said the restaurant was forced to close because of financial troubles.

Biology sophomore Ediong Umoh, who frequented the fast food chain to order her favorite chicken nuggets, said the closing poses a

major inconvenience for the students who patronize the store regularly.

"[Jack in the Box] was very convenient; it's right across the street, and, sometimes, the dining hall food can get boring, so it's kind of an escape from that, and it's cheap," Umoh said. "It's just more of a hassle for me."

The Jack in the Box logos have been removed from the building, and the only rem-

RESTAURANT page 2

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TOMORROW'S WEATHER

High
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Low
35

#savetaiki

FRAMES FEATURED PHOTO thedailytexan



Andy Nguyen | Daily Texan Staff

Junior economics major Trung Nguyen watches a train pass by while skating at the Banister Ditch. The Banister Ditch is a popular skate spot featuring a quarterpipe located in South Austin.

LGBT

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answer makes it seem they don't want to give LGBT partners benefits, but she said that is not the case.

"The question in particular was worded in a way that we could only answer about LGBTQ partners, and so we answered it in that way," Dargahi said. "But the fact of the matter is, whether you are LGBTQ or whether you are straight, you still have the possibility of doing something wrong, of tampering with that system. And that goes for anything — it could be marriage benefits; it could be welfare."

SG representatives have consistently advocated for LBGT partner benefits for University employees in the past, especially at Invest in Texas, an annual nonpartisan advocacy campaign at the Capitol.

Wednesday, University Democrats endorsed Plan II junior Xavier Rotnofsky and senior Rohit Mandalapu, a campaign that Rotnofsky and Mandalapu said began as a joke. Alcantara said Rotnofsky and Mandalapu's responses aligned

with the group's ideals on every point, while the other Executive Alliance candidates had some responses that were not as well-received.

"There were several questions for each of [the candidates] that we kind of cringed," Alcantara said.

In the questionnaire response, Jones and Dargahi also commented on gender neutral bathrooms on campus.

"If the University budget and space allows for this, we are comfortable with gender neutral or unisex bathrooms on campus," the questionnaire said. "Most of our housing on campus is gender neutral to begin with, so, when there is a larger university desire for increased housing, we will definitely support it to be gender neutral and accessible."

Jones said he oversaw the Queer Students Alliance agency for Student Government for the 2013-2014 term. Both he and Dargahi said they are allies to the LGBT community, with values in line with U Dems' criteria.

"This is a huge slap in my face, and I want people to know that," Jones said.

REGENTS

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he's going to ensure there are no irregularities in this admissions cycle."

Hicks was also asked about the extent to which regents should have access to documents, alluding to the controversy surrounding current regent Wallace Hall, who filed open records requests for thousands of documents regarding Powers' presidency and other UT affairs in 2013.

"I would hope that transparency would be first and foremost in your minds," committee member Konni Burton (R-Colleyville) said. "I would hope that you would not be an obstructionist to someone that is trying to be transparent and accountable to the people of Texas."

Hicks said he thinks

regents should have the right to documents and that policies should be implemented to handle large-scale public information requests within the System.

"I don't think restriction is the right term; I think there has to be some practicality involved," Hicks said. "If you're requesting 2,000 documents, I think there has to be a reasonable set of guidelines."

At the meeting, board members also questioned Martinez Tucker, who has previously voiced support for the common-core curriculum in certain states. Martinez Tucker said although she admires core curriculum, she is glad it is not implemented in the state.

"I am thrilled that we have the Texas essential knowledge and those stan-

SPACE

continues from page 1

the Silicon Valley of the South."

Physics freshman Lilian Nguyen said she feels that many students stand to benefit from the space entrepreneurship program.

"I think it would be useful in terms of putting what you learn, mathematically, into the context of a business," Nguyen said. "I wouldn't be interested in it because I feel that sort of knowledge is better learned through experience more than just being taught in class. But I could see why other people would benefit from that — if they need that sort of direction."

Hickle said UT has the potential to become a leader in the space industry.

"We really could see more Longhorn involvement in space," Hickle said.

dards," Martinez Tucker said. "It is the state's right to create standards. I will respect that, and I will live by that."

When asked about tuition affordability at UT institutions, Beck said he wanted to emphasize that affordability was critical.

"I couldn't afford to go to the University of Texas even back in the 1960s," Beck said. "Affordability is very important to me and to say that somehow, [affordability is a negative], in the abstract — I don't agree with that."

Abbott announced his nominations Jan. 28, shortly after being sworn in as governor. As current regent vice chairman, Hicks is the only appointee with prior regent experience, having been a board member since 2009.

THE DAILY TEXAN

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STATE

UT holds vigil for death row inmate

By **Samantha Ketterer, Wynne Davis & Eleanor Dearman**
@thedailytexan

One week before Rodney Reed's scheduled execution, students and community members gathered on the steps of the Tower to hold a vigil for Reed and to protest Texas' judicial system.

Reed was convicted of murdering Stacey Stiles on the morning of April 23, 1996. The state claims Reed raped and murdered Stiles. Reed's attorney said new evidence, which includes a testimony and forensic evidence, proves Stiles was killed, and her body was moved hours earlier than originally thought.

Reed's original execution date was March 5, until the Texas Court of Criminal Appeals issued a stay of execution Monday. The stay gives Reed's attorney time to present new evidence to the court.

Roderick Reed, brother of the accused, said the justice system is broken and functioning in a racially-motivated arena.

"The justice system should be blind," Roderick said. "It should



Roderick Reed speaks at a vigil held in honor of his brother, Rodney, on the Main Mall on Thursday evening. Rodney, a death row inmate originally convicted of murdering Stacey Stiles in 1996, had his execution date stayed by the Texas Court of Criminal Appeals on Monday.

Carlo Nasisse
Daily Texan Staff

be given freely and fairly to everybody. I thought living in the United States of America — I thought that's what we stood upon, but, apparently here in this case, we have not seen those things, and we will not rest until we see those things ... We have the truth on our side and it will

be seen, and it will be heard."

Ana Hernandez, Latin American studies and history senior and the vice president of UT's Amnesty International student chapter, said the vigil is meant to raise awareness for everyone on death row.

"We have to remember that

Rodney Reed isn't the only innocent person on death row and certainly isn't the only person on death row," Hernandez said. "We really ought to be able to think about all people on death row and [remember] all people who have been killed on death row — particularly

people who were later proven innocent and were wrongfully killed by the state."

The jury that convicted Reed during the initial trial was composed of all-white members. Advocates for Reed say DNA tests were conducted unfairly and incorrectly.

RESEARCH



Michael Baez | Daily Texan Staff

Harris Zafar, author of "Demystifying Islam," spoke Thursday night at the #StoptheCrISIS event held in Welch Hall.

Visiting lecturer, UT professor discuss ISIS

By **Matthew Adams**
@MatthewAdams60

To better understand the threat ISIS poses, a UT professor and guest lecturer explained how they believe United States action during the Persian Gulf War contributed to the formation and spread of the terrorist group.

ISIS, also known as the Islamic State, is an extremist terrorist group that controls territory in Iraq and Syria and has a presence in other areas of the Middle East. The group adheres to a medieval ideology, and the beheadings it regularly carries out often go viral on social media after promotion on ISIS-operated Twitter accounts.

Journalism professor Robert Jensen opened the discussion with a reading from the Bible verses in Matthew 7:1–5, which are about having a plank in one's eye. Jensen said this concept is important to recognize hypocrisy inherent in United States military involvement in Iraq. Jensen referred to what he calls the crucial point in the Persian Gulf War history in 1990 and 1991.

"In 1990, [the history] got very clear," Jensen said. "The regime of Saddam Hussein invaded Kuwait. The United States secured a resolution to authorize the use of force. In 1991, the U.S. drove out the Iraq force, but there are questions about whether coalition forces engaged in war crimes when firing on retreating Iraqi troops."

Jensen said there are clear records of U.S. military leveling much of the infrastructure within Iraq.

According to Jensen, the U.S. military used force against the civilian population, which technically constitutes as a war crime.

“Some will make this a religious matter that those joining ISIS are deeply religious. Can a group whose primary tool is chaos, destruction, disorder, mayhem, be inherent of Islam?”

—Harris Zafar,
Guest lecturer and author of
“Demystifying Islam”

"If a civilian's infrastructure is decimated, that means the population is suffering, and you can exert more power," Jensen said.

Jensen said further issues were fueled by the Middle East's oil, which greatly complicated the politics of the situation.

Harris Zafar, a guest lecturer and author of "Demystifying Islam," said the group's actions do not show the true values of Islam.

"Some will make this a religious matter that those joining ISIS are deeply religious," Zafar said. "Can a group whose primary tool is chaos, destruction, disorder, mayhem be inherent of Islam?"

Sarah Khan, a religious studies and government sophomore, said she appreciated the discussion because of her own background.

"My dad is Muslim ... he wants to lay low and not run into trouble," Khan said. "My main thing [is looking for] a solution for Islamophobia ... Through moving forward in this problem, there are solutions, but we have to be willing to come together."

RESTAURANT

continues from page 1

nants of the restaurant is a sign on the door that reads, "This location has been closed. You are more than welcome to visit our nearest location on 100 E. 41st. We apologize for the inconvenience."

Nutrition assistant professor Jamie Davis said she hopes the closing of Jack in the Box will change students' eating habits for the better.

"I think that if you can

change the built environment, then you can certainly improve people's food choices, so, in my opinion, it's a step in the right direction," Davis said.

Fast food restaurants such as Jack in the Box push combo meals to its customers, which can contain anywhere from 1,000 to 1,200 calories, Davis said.

"The actual ability to choose a low-calorie, kind of healthier meal is limited at Jack in the Box," Davis said. "It just gives college students another chance

NEWS BRIEFLY

Former grad student Gene Vela stands trial

More than a year after a standoff with Austin police, Gene Vela, a former public affairs graduate student, stood trial this week for two charges of aggravated assault on a public servant.

Vela was taken into custody in November 2013 after an armed confrontation with multiple Austin police officers. His attorney is trying to convince jurors that police did not correctly identify themselves before attempting to contact Vela.

According to the police affidavit, police officers shot Vela after he aimed a handgun equipped with

a laser at two policemen through his apartment window in North Campus. Police were originally called to the apartment following a 911 call from a friend of Vela's.

Responding officers and one medic testified in court Thursday about the circumstances surrounding the shooting. According to a recorded 911 call, Vela was told the individuals outside his home were police, but Vela's attorney, Edmund Davis, said that because Vela was being treated for post-traumatic stress disorder, he was unable to process the information correctly.

Vela is a Marine Corps

veteran who served in Iraq in 2002.

Court records show Vela has had several conflicts with Austin police, including one incident of driving while intoxicated.

According to the Travis County Criminal Court docket, Vela faces four charges total, including one charge of unlawful carrying of a weapon, two charges of aggravated assault against a public servant and one charge of terroristic threat.

Vela's trial continues Friday at the Travis County Courthouse.

—Wynne Davis

COCKRELL

continues from page 1

nected eight-story towers. The groundbreaking ceremony for the center took place on its construction site, which is directly adjacent to the Cockrell School.

The center is one of the most important facilities the University has constructed in decades, according to President William Powers Jr., who spoke at the ceremony.

"As we know, engineering is critical to the advancement of the state," Powers said. "We need more engineers, and we need research in engineering, and this building will do both of those. Our facilities needed to reflect the 21st century."

Having a world-class engineering school is crucial for a flagship university such as UT, according to UT System Chancellor William McRaven, who also spoke at the ceremony.

"We all know the field of engineering is inextricably linked to the economic success of Texas, and the Cockrell School is the epicenter

“As we know, engineering is critical to the advancement of the state. We need more engineers, and we need research in engineering, and this building will do both of those.

—William Powers Jr.,
UT President

of engineering education," McRaven said. "Maintaining the status quo is not good enough for this school."

Detailed planning for the center began three years ago. Powers said despite initial challenges in fundraising, the project is currently under-budget, and the University has raised \$65 million for the center.

Powers said the center will have modern project rooms with open glass windows and feature hubs for engineering students to create and share ideas.

It will replace a 50-year-old Engineering-Science Building that was overdue for change, Cockrell School dean Sharon L. Wood said.

"Our facilities had not kept up with the technology," Wood said. "It's very

hard to attract excellent students and faculty, telling them that you're doing cutting edge research, if your facilities can't support it, so that's why we're so excited about it. It's going to really showcase engineering."

Wood said the center will allow the Cockrell School to increase enrollment by 1,000 students, from its current enrollment of roughly 7,700 students.

The old Engineering Science Building strongly lacked basic modern resources, such as electrical outlets in study locations, according to Anuj Kudva, biomedical engineering senior and Student Engineering Council president.

"It was ironic in the sense that there was world-class research going on there, yet it was more than 40 years out-of-date," Kudva said.

CITY

City Council attempts to block new strip club

By **Jackie Wang**
@jcqnlwng

The Austin City Council is working to block the construction of a strip club on Fifth Street and Congress Avenue by voting to amend the city code.

The Austin City Council voted Thursday to begin amending City Code to mandate that "adult-oriented businesses" must be at least 1,000 feet away from cultural services, such as museums or libraries. Current city code only requires a 1,000 feet distance from day cares, schools, churches, parks and other adult-oriented businesses.

Behzad Bahrami, who owns MB & MS Enterprises Inc., filed a site plan application in December to build a strip club on Congress, near the Texas Capitol. Jerry Rusthoven, a staff member in the City Planning Department, said strip clubs fall under the definition of "adult-oriented businesses."

"The city has specific kinds [of adult-oriented businesses]," Rusthoven said. "Most of them don't exist anymore because of frankly, the Internet, but we have different adult-oriented businesses — an adult theater, adult novelty shop, adult lounge ... Most have gone away but we still have adult lounges, [which are] strip clubs."

Rusthoven said the City Planning Department is currently reviewing Bahrami's application to see if his proposed club would fit all the required criteria to operate as an adult lounge. Under current city code, adult lounges are allowed to operate so long as they meet all criteria, but the Council plans to amend city code to only allow them to operate with the direct approval of the Planning Commission.

Rusthoven said the City Planning Department is in the process of reviewing Bahrami's application, and said he does not know if it will be approved before code amendments are put in place.

"If the [strip club] on Congress opens before the code changes, they would be grandfathered in," Rusthoven said. "The question is whether the code gets changed before this application for the strip club on Congress gets approved. If the code changes before the plan is approved, the question is, 'Would this one still be approved?' And that's something that I'd work on with our legal team."

Randell Salinas, international relations and global studies senior, said he thinks the Council's concerns regarding the potential strip club's proximity to a museum — specifically, the Mexic-Arte Museum — are unwarranted.

"I understand the museum and kids going to the museum," Salinas said. "The kids aren't going to know what that is. They're just going to think it's another bar or club or establishment in the downtown area."

Molecular biology senior Shane Ali said he thinks the potential of a strip club would significantly change the atmosphere on Congress.

"You'd have people seeking this adult measure," Ali said. "In that sense, it would be a lot more hyped up. It would also be a distraction for other businesses, because they'd lose a lot of business. It would be tough for businesses, especially independent bars."

Ali said he believes a strip club close to Sixth Street would draw a larger crowd to Congress Avenue.

"Once they're sufficiently buzzed, they want to go to something exciting," Ali said. "A strip club in proximity would be exciting. People go to Yellow Rose and all that, but what's stopping them is paying for a ride there. And this would be walking distance."

RACE FOR EDITOR

Texan Editor-in-Chief candidates have their say

Editor's Note: This year two candidates are running for editor-in-chief of The Daily Texan in the campus-wide elections. The editor of the Texan, elected by the entire student body, has three primary responsibilities: 1) to oversee the paper's opinion content, 2) to set policy for the paper and 3) to serve as the paper's representative to the campus community and beyond. Per the TSM election code, the candidates, David Davis Jr. and Claire Smith, have been asked to write two 500-word columns. The second column focuses on a topic of the candidate's choosing relating to their campaign. Candidates wrote their own headlines. Only light typographical corrections were made. The order of the columns, from left to right, was determined by the ballot positions drawn at the candidate seminar held Feb. 17. For more information on the candidates, please visit our candidate database at www.dailytexanonline.com.

Editor-in-Chief must use position for more than empty complaining



By David Davis Jr.
Editor-in-Chief Candidate
@daveedalon

Student journalists are enamored with controversy, whether real or invented, and opinion journalists tend to have unmatched skill in complaining. Put the two together, and you could get a publication, as recent events have shown, that annoyingly cavils about the scandals that it creates. I am running for editor-in-chief of The Daily Texan because I believe the opinion page should serve a new and different purpose — creating real social change on our campus.

Each year, with a different editor, there are rarely shifts from the perennial complaints about Greek life or about politically incorrect statements someone of prominence has made. I would say that opinion at the Texan has done well in being the “nice police,” adopting viewpoints that are sure not to agitate the masses. But I am ready to lead a new opinion department that is not afraid to challenge popular beliefs or opinions on an issue.

The practice of targeting groups for criticism has made the Texan many enemies that should not feel ostracized by a publication that ostensibly represents the student voice. During my time at the Texan, I have offered audacious commentary on a number of issues, but I have always remained fair. As editor, I would significantly expand

the scope of the opinion page's coverage and viewpoints as to have a heterogeneous group of opinions. I will actively pursue writers who represent different interests on campus so that opinion at The Daily Texan is informative and relevant to a wider variety of Longhorns. Additionally, including various perspectives of campus life makes a more exciting publication.

Just as other elected student representatives, The Daily Texan editor-in-chief has the responsibility to effect real change on campus.

If elected editor of The Daily Texan, I will promote activism in journalism. Constantly criticizing bad behavior does not get anything accomplished. The opinion page should offer well-reported commentary on salient issues in order to impassion students to act and create change on the 40 Acres.

The most important job of the editor-in-chief of The Daily Texan is writing opinion.

The next editor of the Texan should be diligent enough to seek out all sides of an issue. The next editor should also be bold enough to offer strong, detailed opinions and create an opinion page students cannot wait to read. I am the best person to lead a new Texan that doesn't just gripe about fraternity party themes, rowdy regents and any modicum of conservative political thought. We need a newspaper that represents all of UT and turns words on a page into positive actions on our campus.

Vote David Davis Jr. for editor-in-chief!

Davis is an international relations and French junior from Houston. He is running for editor-in-chief of The Daily Texan.

Inclusiveness is the key to a vital Daily Texan



By Claire Smith
Editor-in-Chief Candidate
@claireseysmith

When I first tried out for The Daily Texan, I did not feel confident in being hired because my personal beliefs did not match the viewpoint often expressed in the Texan in past years.

Soon after I was hired, I wrote a column about the difficulty in starting a national dialogue about race in the wake of rioting in Ferguson, Missouri. It was a challenging column because there are many people who know the issue more personally and more acutely than I do.

Although called upon to express my opinion, I worried that it would not be valued because my personal experience is less direct. Whether on Ferguson or any other burning issue, I believe many students on campus feel the same way — our opinions on the important issues of our day and on the issues most important to our campus aren't worthy of expression in our own student newspaper. That's why I'm running for editor-in-chief. If I am elected, I will do everything in my power to build an inclusive opinion page that opens the door to the broad diversity of opinion on campus. I want you to be heard.

Inclusiveness means opening the editorial door to all thoughtfully considered, well-expressed opinions. We don't have to look too far in the news to find things that will affect people on campus. And UT students ought to be heard on those issues. We don't share a two-dimensional campus either. There are more opinions

than those that come only from the right or from the left. Those opinions deserve to be expressed too. I will fight to make sure that all legitimate opinions get a fair hearing without entertaining expressions of hate or uninformed vitriol.

To me, inclusiveness means growth. A vibrant opinion page encourages the expression of different and competing viewpoints. Too often editorial pages are slanted and biased, and the Texan has been guilty of that in the past. On my watch, the opinion page will be an open forum where ideas can be debated, the diversity of campus opinion can be expressed, and consensus opinions can be challenged and defended.

There are people on campus who don't want the opinion page to be more inclusive. They're satisfied in “safe” expressions of opinion, preferably their own. But we are better than that.

We shouldn't be afraid of ideas. Our ideas are what make The Daily Texan matter. The free expression of those ideas opens our understanding of ourselves, our community and our world. That is worth protecting and celebrating.

My editorship will be dedicated to ensuring all the diversity of opinion on our campus can be expressed in our student newspaper, because it's our newspaper. My opinion page will be inclusive. It will empower students to thoughtfully express their own beliefs, to challenge other beliefs, and to grow. Our University exists for all of us, and so must The Daily Texan.

As editor-in-chief, I will be your advocate, fight for your voice, and make this your Daily Texan.

Smith is a history and humanities junior from Austin. She is running for editor-in-chief of The Daily Texan.

RACE FOR THE TSM BOARD

TSM Board candidates have their say

Editor's Note: This year four candidates are running for three available voting seats on the Texas Student Media Board of Operating Trustees, which oversees The Daily Texan, the Cactus yearbook, the Texas Travesty humor publication, Texas Student Television and the KVRX 91.7 FM radio station. Three candidates are running for the two at-large seats and one student for the one open Moody College of Communication seat. Candidates were asked shortly after their certification to write two 500-word columns. The second column focuses on a topic of the candidate's choosing relating to their campaign. Candidates who participated wrote their own headlines. Only light typographical corrections were made. The order of the columns, from left to right, was determined by the ballot positions drawn at the candidate seminar held Feb. 17. Among the at-large candidates, the top two vote-getters will be seated. Jan Ross Piedad, the Moody College of Communication candidate, has written a column that is running online. She agreed to forgo print space. For more information on the candidates, please visit our candidate database at www.dailytexanonline.com.

Tell your friends



By McKay Proctor
TSM At-Large Board Candidate

Editor's Note: We have found the real McKay.
I wish someone else were reading this. That's not because I don't like you, quite the opposite. I admire that you are here, but that's just it, you're already here.

You sought this piece out. You're reading this because you care about the welfare of your campus. You see The Daily Texan as a valuable way to take the pulse of our little microcosm of the world. I don't mean to say I don't want you to read this but I wish someone who doesn't usually look at the Texan gave it a chance today.

I wish that person would stumble on this paper for once, see the passion of the writers, feel the combination of journalistic talent and fresh perspectives, marvel at the quality at their fingertips, and — after all of that — find my little corner here. I want to talk to that person about what they saw in these pages and pixels. I want them to talk to me about the brilliance here already and the greatness that could be.

The best version of this outlet, and our whole student media footprint at this university, is still out there. Between the storied tradition of each source and the progressive ideas out in the

student body, the constant consumers and the part-time fans and the people who have never listened or read or watched.

At their best, our student media presence is in dialogue with its history and future at once. KVRX throws an hour of Texas country against a show of video game scores and dares the listener to find a station-wide identity beyond that eclecticism.

The Daily Texan was the leading voice for desegregation of campus decades ago and a forum for the President of IFC and members of minority groups on campus to have a healthy conversation about their disconnect a week ago. Our student-produced pages and airwaves should reflect our community as a whole. While we are doing a good job as it stands, we can never realize that goal unless more people join the conversation.

The responsibility to seek that better version of our media presence falls to both consumers and management. Obviously editors and managers and producers understand their role, but the audience and the manager's manager need to come to terms with their place in that process. That's where I can help.

If elected to the Texas Student Media Board, I want to work toward that understanding. The board needs to pursue the dueling goals of preserving these institutions and pushing them toward greatness. I want to be a part of that process. I want to take part in guiding these outlets into a creative renaissance while financially ensuring their welfare.

In an ideal world, 50,000 or more people would be engaged with these media. I dream of a Texan media big tent with breadth of perspectives and consumption. At the same time, that size should not hinder us in pushing on to a better tomorrow. I take back what I said, I'm glad you're not someone else. I just wish you brought more friends.

Proctor is an English and business honors senior from Nashville. He is running for an at-large seat on the Texas Student Media Board of Operating Trustees.

Board position will protect the interests of a community



By Amil Malik
TSM At-Large Board Candidate

My first contact with the Texas Student Media Board of Trustees occurred about two and a half years ago. Susannah Jacob, the editor-in-chief of the Daily Texan at the time, had encouraged me to attend what she thought would be a “historic board meeting.”

During the meeting the TSM Board would discuss — and vote on — cutting the print media publications TSM oversaw. The drastic move came because for the first time in its one hundred twelve year history, The Daily Texan and its peer publications faced a six-figure budget deficit — a lingering effect of years of declining print advertising revenue.

So, thanks to Susannah's encouragement, around 2:30 p.m. that Friday I trudged from my class across campus to the FAC where the board meeting was in full swing.

As I entered and walked up to the third floor, I realized that the room to which I was headed was packed — full beyond capacity. A police officer stood at the door to keep people from entering and violating the room's fire safety code.

I was stunned by the turnout, to say the least. Suddenly hesitant, I decided to linger in the hallway for a moment, thinking: Should I enter? Do I even belong here? What if the officer turns me away?

Thankfully, I decided that since I had walked all the way across campus in the blazing heat to attend this meeting, I would enter that room. No officer would stop me. So I did. I mustered my courage, pretended as though I knew exactly what I was doing, and

waltzed right in. I'm so glad I did.

I opened the door to face some of the most impassioned students and alumni I had seen. These people had taken time out of their day — and for some their jobs — to defend The Daily Texan, Texas Travesty and Cactus Yearbook. They had come to save the voice of the students. They had come to keep print journalism alive.

Thanks to their efforts, the Texan endured on that day as it has continued to do so in many board meetings since then. It's only because of their effort and dedication — that of the hundreds of students who work at Cactus Yearbook, Texas Travesty, Texas Student TV, KVRX 91.7 FM and The Daily Texan — that the publications have endured. It's these publications and these student interests that I will protect as a voting board member.

A university as large, important and historic as UT needs a strong, independent student newspaper as much as it needs Student Government or Senate or college wide councils. It needs KVRX. It needs TSTV. It needs the Cactus, and it needs the Travesty. These publications in turn need representatives on the board that will protect them and the interests of the students who run them.

In 1955, Daily Texan Editor Willie Morris wrote, “The Daily Texan is bigger than any one man ... Protect it and its traditions [and] you will see your life here in much nobler focus.” He might as well have been talking about all five TSM publications — five publications whose publications and traditions I will protect on the TSM Board.

Vote Amil Malik for TSM Board at-large on March 4 and 5.

Malik is a business honors and finance senior from Austin. She is running for an at-large seat on the Texas Student Media Board of Operating Trustees.

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YouTube film critics juggle personal brand, reviews

By Alex Pelham
@TalkingofPelham

For years, newspaper columns and the icons who wrote them were the go-to source for traditional film critiques. These historic mediums are important in the history of movie criticism, but a new generation of critics have emerged. They utilize video websites such as YouTube to share their love of films. Although these new critics offer big personalities and excellent comedy, it's questionable whether their views on cinema count as authentic criticism in the style of major players such as the late Roger Ebert.

Although they attract their fair share of dismissive critics, internet movie reviewers have the numbers to prove their content impacts the film community. Doug Walker's YouTube channel, "League of Super Critics," has over half a million subscribers. Red Letter Media, a film production company that reviews films and creates original content, has nearly a quarter million.

Walker, better known as "The Nostalgia Critic," is popular for his half-hour "reviews" of bad films, such

as 2008's "Mamma Mia" or the reviled 2010 adaptation "The Last Airbender." Each of his biweekly reviews, posted on both Blip and YouTube, is peppered with insightful analyses, comedic skits and occasional special guests.

Red Letter Media, meanwhile, hosts two separate web shows on YouTube dedicated to critiquing films.

These new critics use their outgoing personalities to find a niche with internet audiences. Radio-television-film sophomore Brandt Taylor said that the reviewers' identities, rather than the reviews themselves, are what people come back for.

"Some critics have things that they're known for, like Nostalgia Critic watches things that people grew up with," Taylor said. "It's about creating content [viewers] enjoy and showing their personality in their reviews."

Although sociology and Plan II senior Paul Palmer said these internet critics are funny and entertaining, he questions whether their work counts as authentic film criticism.

"Being on YouTube doesn't disqualify someone from being a good film critic," Palmer



Jay Bauman (left) and Mike Stoklasa (right) debate the merits of a couple of summer blockbusters in an episode of "Half in the Bag." The show is one of many featured on Red Letter Media.

Courtesy of Red Letter Media

said. "While deviation from [a traditional platform] is not a bad thing, picking something to rag on mercilessly, while funny and entertaining, isn't competent criticism."

Palmer said he worried that critics such as Walker focus too much on critiquing universally loathed movies and said the end result comes off as "grating and negative."

Accounting sophomore Justin Hutchinson said he believes these YouTube critics

tend to focus on entertaining an audience rather than their own critique, although he says some successfully blend the two styles.

"The big issue is having a unique voice," Hutchinson said. "The secret to it all is being able to put the critic's own self out there but not elevate it beyond the work itself. It's a difficult balance to have."

Hutchinson said in his opinion, Red Letter Media

is able to incorporate the voices of the reviewers while still providing commentary about films. He said founders Mike Stoklasa and Jay Bauman make sure to never put their outgoing personalities above their actual critiques of the movies.

"Mike and Jay are very individual and bring their own senses of humor and perspectives to their work," Hutchinson said. "A lot of reviewers are keen to make

their jokes rather than actually offer any interesting input on the film itself."

Although it's unclear if YouTube critics always produce actual film criticism, there is little doubt that they have found a popular method to share their views on cinema.

"Reviews are going towards the video aspect," Taylor said. "People seem to want to watch things more than read things."

MUSICIANS

continues from page 8

Gaye's father fatally shot Gaye at age 44. Gaye's popularity has only grown since his untimely death. His

estate currently earns over \$3.5 million per year.

Boasting the talents of Dr. Dre, 2Pac and E-40, the West Coast dominated the rap battle of the early 1990s. No one on the East Coast could

hold a candle to West Coast rap — but Nas set out to change this.

New York rapper **Nasir Jones** incorporated flow and lyricism into his music. As one of the first truly

poetic rappers, Nas combined free style and metaphorical thinking. While rappers such as Jay-Z were literal about their messages, Nas forced listeners to interpret his lyrics.

"His sense of rhythm is very tight," Carson said. "Since he can rap so rhythmically, he was able to abandon the stuff that other rappers were doing."

Nas' content was ground-

breaking. The urban representation he presented highly contrasted the laid-back style of West Coast rap; it commanded people to listen to a more worldly view.

FILMS

continues from page 8

audience to confront the slaves' suffering.

"12 Years" is not only a fantastic historical film, but also a resonant, emotional masterpiece.

42

"42" is a well-made tribute to legendary baseball player Jackie Robinson

(Chadwick Boseman), who broke the baseball color barrier in 1947 by joining the Brooklyn Dodgers as the first African- American in Major League Baseball. The charismatic Boseman grasps audiences' attention from the get-go and effortlessly carries the rest of the film. Harrison Ford and Nicole Beharie also appear in memorable supporting roles.

Director Brian Helge-

land recreates Robinson's struggles against racist baseball players and fans with scenes where Robinson endures racial slurs and physical assaults. Robinson learns that playing well is the most effective method of silencing his attackers.

"42" teaches lessons in resilience and grace under fire.

The Great Debaters
Denzel Washington directs

and stars in "The Great Debaters," a film about black college debate students in the 1930s Jim Crow South. Washington plays the team's coach, poet Melvin B. Tolson, who leads them to become some of the best debaters in the nation.

While the film is geared toward a younger audience, it does not shy away from dark moments. In one scene, Tolson and his students stumble upon the lynching of a black

man. The debaters' journey is fraught with peril, which makes their success all the more inspiring.

"The Great Debaters" imparts that educating future generations is one critical element in the fight eradicate racism.

Malcolm X
Director Spike Lee does Malcolm X's life justice in this moving biopic. Denzel

Washington's performance as a titular character is natural and honest. The film focuses on how Malcolm X dealt with family, friends and his Muslim faith, while illustrating how these forces transformed him from a misguided criminal into a forceful civil rights activist.

Lee works hard to place the audience in Malcolm X's shoes and helps the audience understand X's mind-set.

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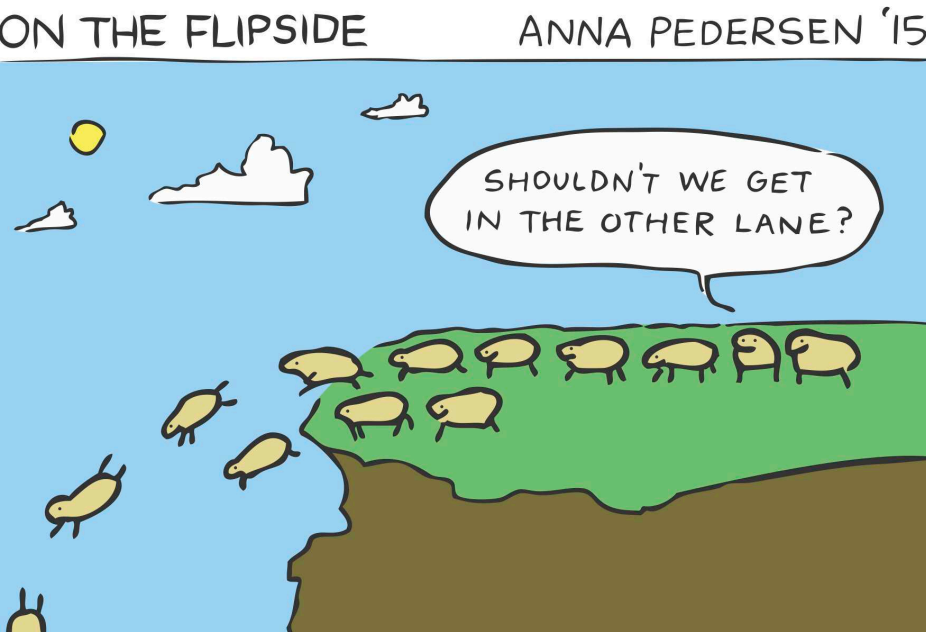
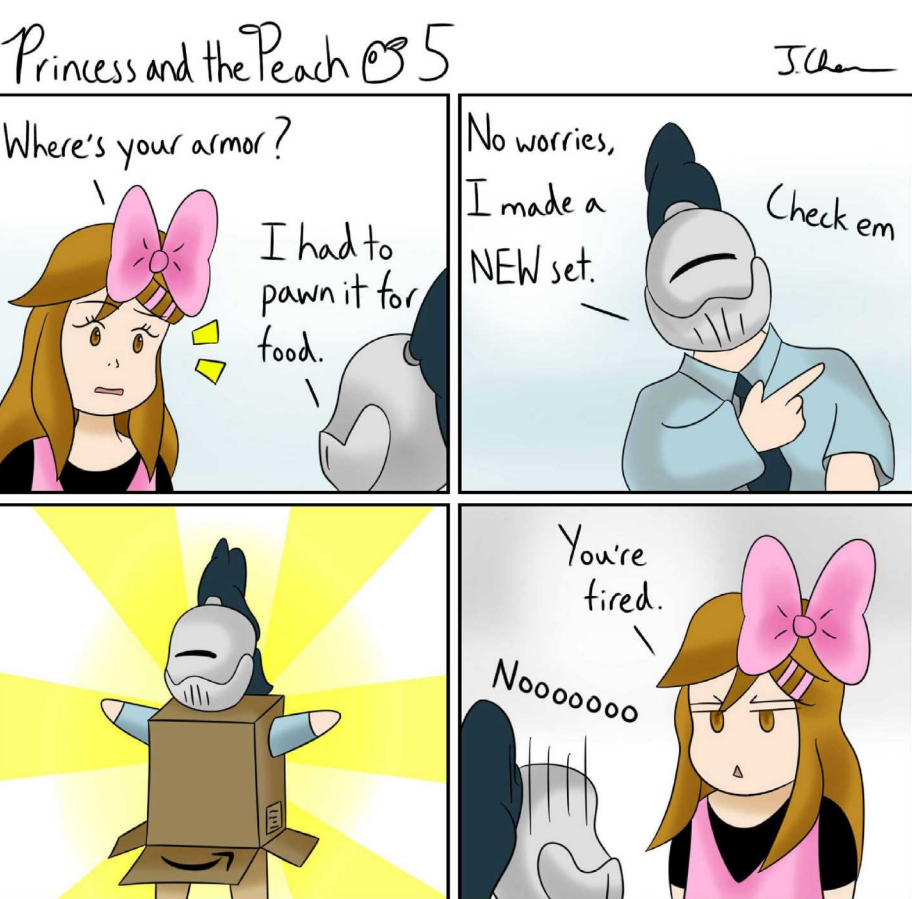
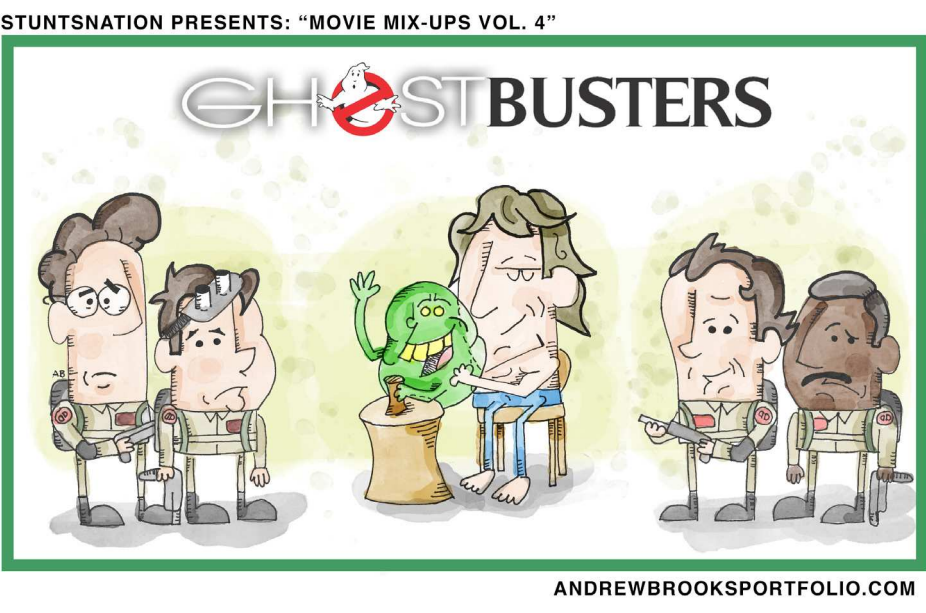
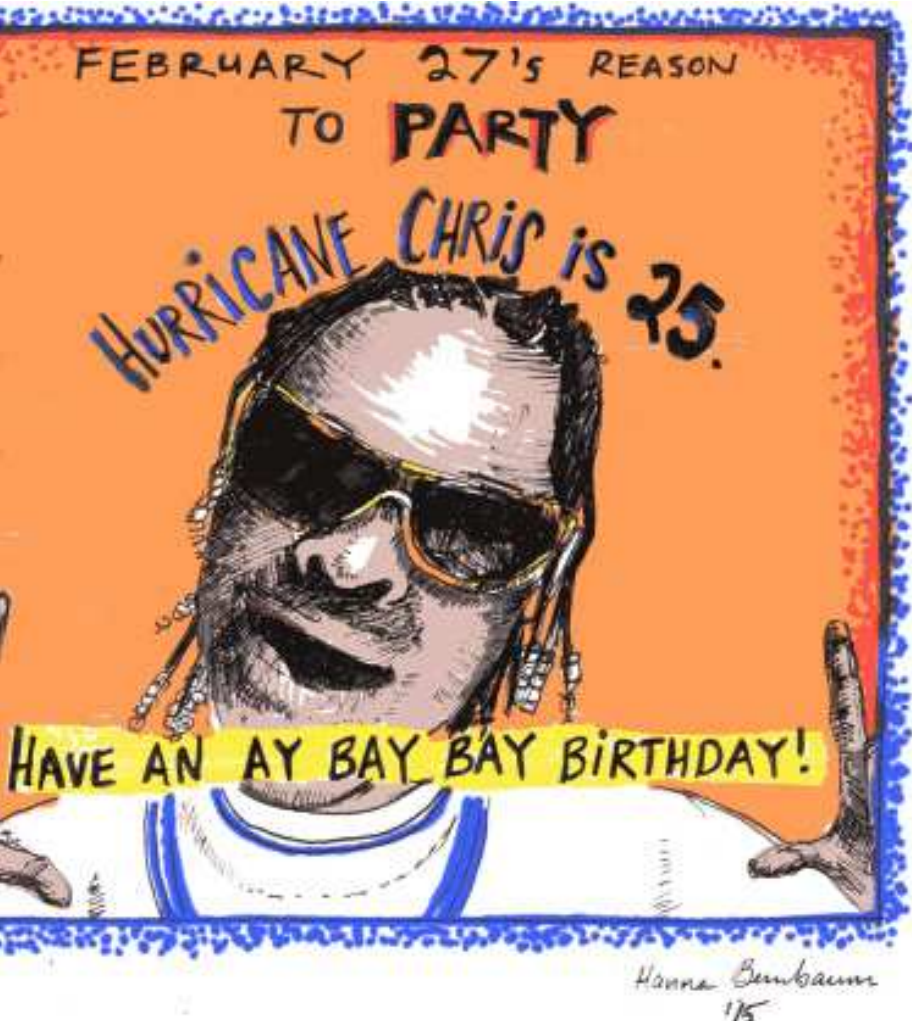
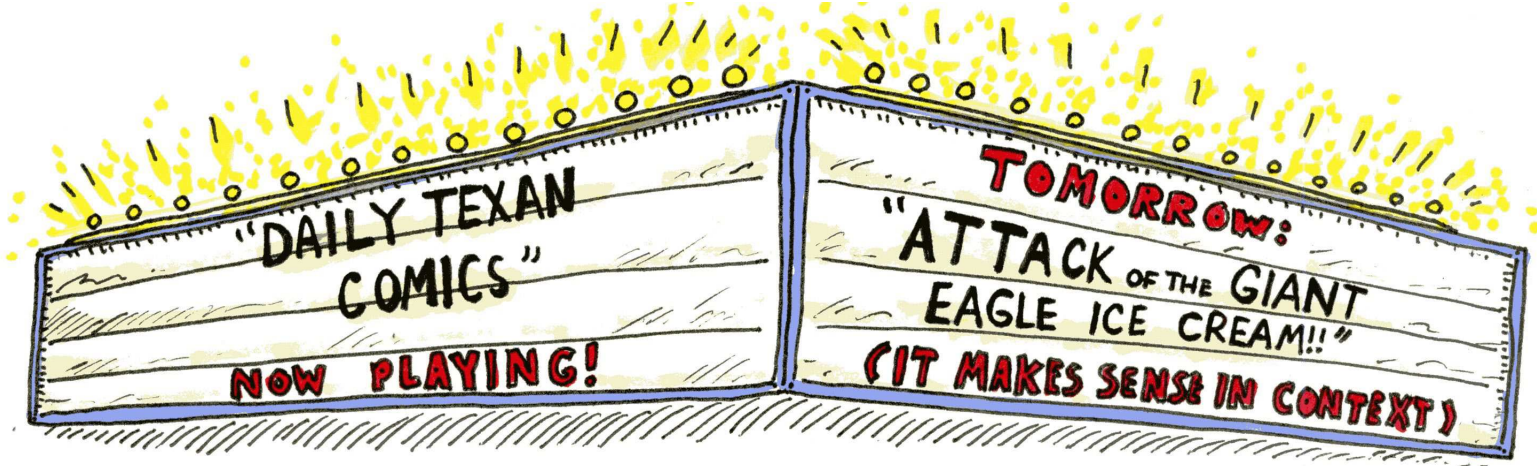
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ACROSS

1 Inuit companion

10 Nothin'

15 Knock out

16 Lewis-Clark State College locale

17 Starting point of a train trip to Timbuktu, in song

18 One likely to take an elevator to work

19 Appropriated inappropriately

20 Former trade union, for short

21 Forecast

22 One of a satanic couple

24 ___ Hill, historic home of Theodore Roosevelt

26 Not give up

29 Ear pieces?

30 Same old story?

31 Runaway bride, e.g.

33 E.U. member since '07

36 More than enough

38 Here, over there

39 Click to send a return

41 Run past the W?

42 Uncovering, with "out"

45 Freshly

46 Credit to a reliever

47 Tonic for "tired blood"

49 Alternative to a head slap

53 Polo of TV's "The Fosters"

54 Not at all wooden

55 Danger on der Autobahn

57 Shabby state

DOWN

1 Fun house outbursts

2 Blind spot?

3 Measure of a radio band

4 Beatles song with the line "My tears are falling like rain from the sky"

5 Quiet parrots

6 ___ crusade

7 Clouded condition

8 Onetime dwellers along the Big Blue River

9 Coordinated activity?

10 Country with the most official languages (16)

11 Hot potatoes and cold fish?

12 Joe of "Dr. Quinn, Medicine Woman"

13 Good humor

14 Huns by the hundreds, say

23 Response negative

25 Oozy stuff

26 Theater trailer?

27 Theater name

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Today's solution will appear here next issue

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MEN'S BASKETBALL

Texas faces Kansas with season on the line

By Peter Sblendorio
@tpetersblendorio

Things were a lot different for Texas the first time it played Kansas late last month. The Longhorns were 14-4, fresh off a blowout victory over TCU that pushed them to 3-2 against the Big 12. Sophomore point guard Isaiah Taylor was back from the broken left wrist that caused him to miss 10 games; junior center Cameron Ridley was playing his best basketball of the season; in the midst of a two-game win streak, the Longhorns appeared poised to make a run at the top spot in the conference. Leading by as many as five points with under 14 minutes remaining in the second half, the Longhorns looked in control against the Jayhawks. But it's been a far different story ever since. The Longhorns scuffled in those final 14 minutes against Jayhawks, scoring just 18 points to Kansas' 36. They failed to rebound after that loss, dropping their next three, and, after a three-game win streak over the Big 12's bottom feeders, they dropped three more in a row to fall to 6-9 in conference play — good for just eighth place in the Big 12, where they stand now. With 17 wins on the season and just three regular season games remaining on the schedule, the Longhorns are



Daulton Venglar | Daily Texan Staff

Junior forward Connor Lammert and Texas controlled most of the game against Kansas on Jan. 24, but ultimately fell short. Since then, the Longhorns have nearly fallen out of the NCAA tournament picture.

firmly on the bubble for the NCAA tournament, so every game is crucial. Unfortunately for the Longhorns, Texas plays Kansas again Saturday — this time at Allen Fieldhouse in Lawrence, Kansas, perhaps the toughest road venue in all of sports. The Jayhawks are a perfect 13-0 at home this season, and they haven't lost there since early last year, when

San Diego State snapped the Jayhawks' 68-game home win streak against non-conference foes. They've won 22 straight home games since. A road win would provide the Longhorns with the signature win they've been searching for this season. They played close with Kansas in Austin last month, but the Jayhawks are a different team in front of their home

fans, and this is a vital game for Kansas too. The Jayhawks, who have won at least a share of the Big 12 for a 10th consecutive season, are 11-4 this season in conference play. Iowa State, Oklahoma and West Virginia sit just one game back of Kansas with three to play. While the Jayhawks control their own destiny, losing against Texas would complicate their

road to an 11th consecutive Big 12 title. The Longhorns' once-promising season has plummeted since those final 14 minutes against Kansas back in Austin last month. They have a chance turn things back around this Saturday and keep their NCAA tournament hopes alive, but, at Allen Fieldhouse, it figures to be anything but easy.

SOFTBALL

Longhorns focus on defense, pitching in tourney

By Claire Cruz
@claireecruz5

After an up-and-down three weeks, Texas softball returns home this weekend for the Texas Invitational. The No. 25 Longhorns (9-6), who play five games over three days against Dartmouth, Texas Southern and Lamar, will look to make improvements in both pitching and defense. "We've made some good progress in three weeks," head coach Connie Clark said. "The pitchers have been up and down, but I really like the strides they've made. Defensively, we're still searching a little bit with the infield. The outfield is tremendous." Minimizing defensive errors is one of the biggest things Texas expects to work on. Two big errors in the 4-3 loss to Missouri last Friday cost the Longhorns a game it should have won, Clark said. Texas has committed 22 errors so far

this season. Most of the mistakes have come from the infield. Clark has scrambled the players around in infield positions to try and find the best fit and said she will continue to do so this weekend. "We can put anyone on the field, and the chemistry's there, and I think that's important," sophomore infielder Kelli Hanzel said. "If the chemistry's there, then the plays will come." Although the pitching hasn't been quite as consistent as Clark wants, the Longhorn hurlers have seen at least some success. As a staff, the Texas pitchers have a 3.14 ERA and have given up 62 runs on 96 hits. Freshman pitcher Erica Wright anchors the staff with a 3-3 record and 1.89 ERA. Texas pitchers shut out No. 8 Georgia and held No. 14 UCLA to eight hits before giving up 17 runs in the following three games in California last weekend.



Daulton Venglar | Daily Texan Staff

Freshman pitcher Erica Wright leads the Longhorns with a 1.89 ERA. The rest of the pitching staff has combined for a 3.14 ERA, which is a focus for Texas this weekend. "It doesn't matter if we're playing a team that just threw themselves together, or we're playing the number one ranked team in the country; you can't issue free passes," Clark said. "You have to attack the strike zone and try to induce what you want to happen." Texas' attack mind-set is starting to sink in, and the Longhorns are focused on starting every game strong. Junior first baseman Holly Kern said she believes this weekend is about finding something the team can work on and making adjustments. "We want to win every game, but we also want to learn from mistakes that we're making," Kern said.

BASEBALL

Shaw develops knack for making big catches in outfield

By Nick Castillo
@Nick_Castillo74

Senior right fielder Collin Shaw has a knack for the spectacular. In the bottom of the sixth inning against UT last week, the Roadrunners threatened to score with two men on base when UTSA's junior infielder Geonte Jackson sliced a ball into foul territory. Shaw raced down from his spot in right field. While trying to avoid his fellow teammates in foul territory, he looked down — and when he looked back up, he overran the ball. In a last-second effort, Shaw stretched his glove behind his right shoulder. He made the inning-ending catch while falling backwards. This impressive catch appeared on ESPN's "SportsCenter" Top 10 plays. However, it's not the first time the 6-foot, 199 pound right fielder has made it on the program; he's been there a couple

times before. "I think my favorite catch I've made since I've been here was at OU last year," Shaw said. "It was a big game. A big point in the season. But Tuesday was cool. They're all fun. Any time we get an out is good." Last season at Oklahoma, Shaw made a diving catch where he had to dive straight back into right field, which was arguably more difficult than the one made against the Roadrunners, according to head coach Augie Garrido. "I think it was even more difficult than [the one against UTSA]," Garrido said. "The ball was completely over his head, which makes it very difficult. He had to leave his feet and literally dive, not in a downward way. It was straight back, and he caught it." In his fourth year with the Longhorns, Shaw's catching ability in right field is something the team can count on. In fact, it's the reason Garrido

has Shaw in right. Garrido said right field is the most difficult position to play at UFCU Disch-Falk Field. When games begin at dusk, the sun's shadow off of the stadium makes playing right a challenge. The size of the stadium makes it difficult to play in with the right field wall — 325 feet from home plate and 400 feet to center field. But Shaw hasn't had much trouble playing right. "He's way above average in his skill sets," Garrido said. "He's fearless. He was a wide receiver in high school — a very good one — in football. Those skills, you're seeing that right here. A lot of it is he's just absolutely fearless. He's tough." Alongside his fielding abilities, Shaw has had success at the plate. In high school, Shaw earned all-state second team honors during his season while batting .487 with seven home runs. In his junior season with the



Daulton Venglar | Daily Texan Staff

Senior right fielder Collin Shaw has been a steady hand for the Longhorns in the outfield, posting a .988 career fielding percentage. Longhorns, Shaw hit .264 and stole 13 bases in 61 games. After 10 games this season, he's hitting .366 with 10 extra-base hits and 11 RBIs. Boasting both fielding and batting ability, Shaw has become a team leader. "He does everything right in the program," Garrido said. "If he hits a ground ball, he tries to beat it out — no matter if it's a sure out in most people's minds. That's what we ask him to do — run to be safe from home to first. He does things right. And that always provides leadership." Shaw and the Longhorns (8-2) begin a three-game series against San Diego (2-6) Friday at 7:30 p.m.

SIDELINE

NBA



WARRIORS
110



CAVALIERS
99

NHL




CANADIENS
5




BLUE JACKETS
2

NCAA



SMU
66



MEMPHIS
57

TOP TWEET



Quandre Diggs
@qdiggs6

This my new dance move I just don't know what to call it.

TODAY IN HISTORY

1987

The NCAA suspends SMU football from playing in the 1987 season. The "Death Penalty," as it is known now, arose after SMU was found to have committed multiple violations of the NCAA rules preventing athletic corruption.

WEEKEND PREVIEW

WOMEN'S TENNIS

Coming off some rough losses, No. 35 Texas will try and prove itself against No. 10 Michigan this weekend in Ann Arbor. Michigan (6-3) entered the top 10 after defeating No. 6 Baylor last Friday, and the team is hosting the Longhorns (2-3) on Saturday. The leading lineup for the Wolverines showcases three nationally ranked singles captains of the team — seniors No. 18 Emina Bektas (6-3) and No. 114 Sarah Lee (4-4) and junior No. 21 Ronit Yurovsky (6-0). For the Longhorns, No. 47 junior Breanna Addison is the sole player who is ranked nationally for singles, but she completes a duo with freshman Ryann Foster in doubles that is ranked 27th on a national scale. The trip will be a homecoming for Longhorns head coach Danielle McNamara. McNamara competed for Michigan from 1997 to 2000 and left the school as a highly decorated player. She ranks ninth on Michigan's list of all-time wins with 80 victories and was the first player in the team's history to play in all three national championship events. Texas has wins over DePaul and Rice so far this season but has fallen flat on road games. Texas suffered a 7-0 loss against No. 12 USC in their last game and will need to start gaining wins if they want to contend in Big 12 play this year. Texas' first conference game will be another road game against Oklahoma on March 13. —Reanna Zuniga

WORLD

Student raises funds to improve Zambian school

By Marisa Charpentier
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When government freshman Austin Rodriguez traveled to Africa over the summer for mission work, he spent four days in an impoverished Zambian compound eating nothing but cabbage, beans and rice. He noticed the trash that littered the ground. He saw the community lacked a plumbing system and had little electricity. But what resonated with Austin most was the school.

At Nzelu Academy, a single chalkboard hung on the wall. Holes spotted the ceiling of the concrete building. Some children sat on the few desks that filled the space. The rest found a place on the dirt floor.

“I walked in, and it was just terrible,” Austin said. “I couldn’t get over how most of the kids don’t really have a chance. They’re going to grow up with a bad education.”

Most of the kids attending school were orphaned, Austin said. Students didn’t have pens or paper to take notes. The teachers worked month-by-month on a volunteer basis and only got paid if people in the community could afford it.

When his time in Zambia came to an end, Austin didn’t want his involvement with the school to be over. With the help of his mom, Kellie Rodriguez, and other family members, and, after months of planning, Austin held a 5K fundraiser in his hometown of Fredericksburg, Texas, on



After spending a summer doing mission work in Zambia and Tanzania, government freshman Austin Rodriguez started a 5k run in Fredericksburg, Texas, to raise funds for a Zambian school. The 5k took place this past Saturday and raised about \$4,000.

Carlo Nasisse
Daily Texan Staff

Saturday. His plan is to use the money to form a nonprofit organization to improve Nzelu Academy. With the help of about 120 participants, they raised \$4,000.

Money will go towards funding things such as renovations, teacher salaries, school supplies and lunches.

“Growing up with what he has — I think it hurt him seeing kids who grew up having nothing,” Kellie said.

Austin never would have traveled to Zambia or seen

the school if he hadn’t attended summer camp in 2013. After talking to a speaker at the camp about his hope to one day explore the world, the speaker gave Austin the email address of John Judie, a priest in Louisville, Kentucky, who travels annually to Africa. Judie is the founder of the nonprofit organization Father John Judie Ministries, which sponsors seminaries, improves healthcare and helps young people access education in eastern

African countries.

A year later, Austin was sitting on a plane next to him headed to Zambia.

“I’d always wanted to go to Africa to do mission work or something,” Austin said. “I didn’t go there with any actual plan. I just went.”

While in Africa, Austin accompanied Judie as he preached in different villages. They brought materials such as soap and clothes to places in Tanzania and Zambia.

Judie continues to play a

role in Austin’s involvement with the Zambian school. He assisted with the 5K fundraiser and plans to link Austin with building designers and electricians in Zambia who can improve the school most efficiently.

“We want to make sure the job is done right,” Judie said. “We need someone who is on-site there that we can rely on and can inform us of what we need to do.”

Austin said he hopes to return to Zambia this summer.

He plans to make the 5K in his hometown an annual event to keep raising money for the Nzelu Academy. Although the timeline for improving the school is not set in stone, Judie said he is confident everything is falling into place.

“I think it’s so important to let anyone and everyone know how deeply grateful we are for the support they give,” Judie said. “Austin has so much going on but is willing to take this on. That’s very significant to me.”

MUSIC

Black artists drive musical evolution across genres

By Chris Duncan
@chr_dunc

As Black History Month comes to a close, music fans across all genres should take time to recognize four African-American artists that changed music for generations.

Robert Johnson’s recordings display a combination of vocal skill, guitar mastery and songwriting that influenced today’s blues and rock ‘n’ roll.

Johnson, who is rumored to have sold his soul to the devil in exchange for his guitar skills, only recorded 29 songs over the course of his nine-year career. The cause of his death in 1938 at age 27 is still unresolved; theories of murder and poisoning remain to this day.

After Johnson’s recordings were re-released in 1961, his work became renowned. Muddy Waters, the Rolling Stones and Eric Clapton, have all cited Johnson as one of their main influences and have covered many of his songs.

Musicology assistant professor Charles Carson said Johnson used subtle inflections to convey powerful



Illustration by Lindsay Rojas | Daily Texan Staff

emotion in his music.

“[Johnson’s] expression — the way in which he used a small amount of notes to say a lot of stuff — that kind of economy is prized in blues,” Carson said.

Ella Fitzgerald was a jazz vocalist known for her diction, phrasing and scat singing.

“Fitzgerald was one of the people that cultivated that talent — to think about

the voice as an instrument,” Carson said.

Although Fitzgerald became an international sensation, discrimination against African-American musicians was prominent when she began her career. Her “clean” image helped her to partially transcend these barriers. Fitzgerald was the first black woman to perform at the Copacabana, a famous New York City nightclub.

“She really represented an important continuum of not only blackness, but also black femininity,” Carson said.

Fitzgerald was bold enough to put her work into the public domain — uncommon for African-American musicians of the time. Her impact on jazz music remains to this day.

Marvin Gaye helped shape the sound of Motown

and soul music in a way that will resonate for decades to come.

“Marvin’s style is sort of situated at this midpoint between a lot of traditions,” Carson said. “Obviously, the gospel tradition, also soul and R&B, but also jazz. Everything he did was on such a high level.”

In the early 1970s, Gaye switched the direction of his career. He began writing all

of his own music, resulting in the concept album “What’s Going On.”

As he gained popularity, Gaye became a figurehead for African-Americans in music. He signed the largest contract for an African-American musician at the time. Gaye’s commentary on the world helped transform soul music into an agent for social change.

MUSICIANS page 5

FILM

Five powerful movies that honor black history

By Charles Liu
@CharlielInDaHaus

As Black History Month draws to a close, The Daily Texan compiled a list of notable films that commemorate black history from a variety of perspectives — and offer important lessons for the future.

The Color Purple

“The Color Purple,” directed by Steven Spielberg, is an emotional drama that features an incredible debut performance from Whoopi

Goldberg. Goldberg plays Celie, an African-American woman abused by her cruel and much older husband (Danny Glover). Following the course of Celie’s life, “The Color Purple” explores the intersection of oppression of women and black people in the early 1900s.

“The Color Purple” provides a compelling view of African-American hardship from a female perspective and affirms that familial bonds transcend both distance and time.

12 Years a Slave

“12 Years a Slave” tells the harrowing true story of Solomon Northup (Chiwetel Ejiofor), a free black man who was kidnapped and sold into slavery in 1841.

“12 Years” benefits from Ejiofor’s soulful performance and Michael Fassbender’s ruthless portrayal as Solomon’s tyrannical master. Directed by Steve McQueen, “12 Years” doesn’t shy away from discomfoting images of violence, forcing the

MOVIES page 5



Solomon (Chiwetel Ejiofor) is threatened at knife-point by his cruel master (Michael Fassbender) in “12 Years a Slave.”

Courtesy of Fox Searchlight Pictures