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SG considers new speaker

THE DAILY TEXAN

TOMORROW'S WEATHER

High 39 Low 35

Wednesday, February 10, 2010

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County pays for incomplete census data



Rene Huynh | Daily Texan Staff

Austin NAACP President Nelson Linder speaks on the West Mall at the 2010 Census Coalition Rally, which was organized by various groups.

By Rachel Burkhardt
Daily Texan Staff

Each University student who fails to complete the 2010 U.S. census may cost Travis County about \$1,500 per year.

UT students from the Student African American Brotherhood, Alpha Kappa Alpha and the Longhorn League of United Latin American Citizens hosted the 2010 Census Coalition Rally on Tuesday to raise awareness and encourage student participation in the 2010 census.

The rally featured games, literature on the 2010 census and speeches from Student Government President Liam O'Rourke and Dawnna Dukes, a member of the Texas House of Representatives.

The U.S. Constitution stipulates that a nationwide census be conducted every 10 years. Participation in the census is federally mandated, but there is still a chance that some citizens will go uncounted. The federal government uses census data to determine state funding and representation in the U.S. House of Representatives.

A study conducted in 2001 by crisis-management and risk-assessment consulting firm Price-waterhouseCoopers found that the 2000 census underestimated the population of Travis County by 15,732 people. According to the study, this resulted in a loss of \$235.98 million in federal funding usually given for community development, housing, educa-

tion, transportation, social services, employment and other public initiatives.

"I tell people there's 235 million reasons for you to fill out the census when you get it," Travis County Constable Bruce Elfant said.

Elfant said Texas could get as many as four new seats in the House of Representatives, the most of any state in the nation, if the census shows there has been a population increase. One of the new districts might be located in Travis County, he said.

"Travis is the largest county in the country that doesn't have its own congressional district," Elfant said. "We're large enough to have a member of Congress who pays a hundred percent attention to us."

Dukes said the census is an important component in building stronger communities and ensuring greater political representation for Texans.

"Texans like to think they're bigger and better, and if we want to be bigger and better represented in Washington, we need to make sure that this census is complete and accurate," she said. "Then we can be sure that we gain two, three, four seats in Washington."

Students, undocumented residents and the homeless were the most underrepresented people in the last census, Elfant said.

He said students, regardless of where they are originally from,

CENSUS continues on page 2

Trumpeter follows mentor's footsteps with principal spot

By Collin Eaton
Daily Texan Staff

It's a small world, especially for UT alumnus Billy Ray Hunter Jr., principal trumpeter for the Metropolitan Opera Orchestra in New York City.

Since 2004, Hunter, 35, has held the same position in the orchestra that his UT professor and mentor, Raymond Crisara, held in 1942.

Hunter spoke to students Tuesday evening at Bates Recital Hall about his career in an interview-style format with instrumental conducting professor Jerry Junkin serving as the interviewer.

"Well, obviously he's one of the world's greatest trumpet players," Junkin said. "There are many musicians around the world who would tell you that the [Metropolitan Opera Orchestra] is perhaps the greatest orchestra in the world."

Before graduating from the Butler School of Music in 1997, Hunter studied under Crisara, who is in UT's Academy of Distinguished Teachers and was Hunter's mentor.

When Hunter asked Crisara

where he should go to graduate school, Crisara suggested The Juilliard School.

"He kind of steered me," Hunter said. "He knew the New York scene."

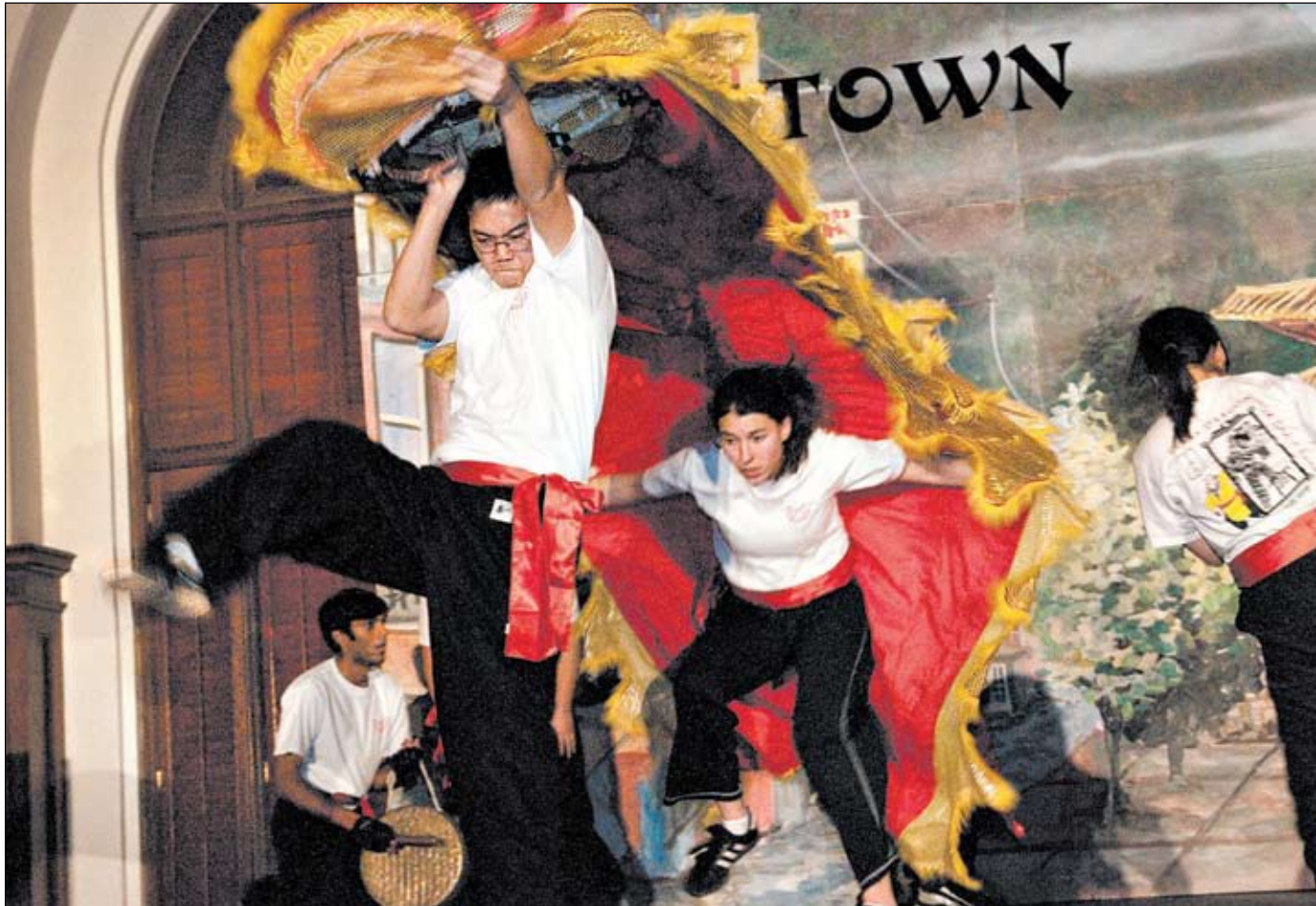
Hunter earned his master's at The Juilliard School in 1999 and then joined a three-year fellowship with the New World Symphony in Miami.

"[The symphony] is half training and half a professional orchestra, almost like a halfway house for musicians transitioning into the professional world," Junkin said. "Those positions are very coveted. There are only four trumpets in the New World Symphony, so even getting [there] is a very, very difficult task."

Hunter said after he won both the audition for principal trumpeter as well as immediate tenure for the seat six years ago, there was tension between him and his fellow trumpeters because it is unusual for an outsider to gain

TRUMPET continues on page 6

CROUCHING LION, HIDDEN DRAGON



Rene Huynh | Daily Texan Staff

Chemical engineering senior Quang Hoang and UT alumna Ana Aguilar perform a traditional lion dance with their fellow Texas Dragon/Lion Dance Team members. The organization has existed for 10 years.

INSIDE: Students kick off Lunar New Year celebration on page 5

Senator urges for healthier cafeteria options

Growing obesity rates spur proposed changes for school cafeterias

By Madeeha Khurshed
Daily Texan Staff

Students may recall high school lunches consisting of pizza, hamburgers and french fries, but a U.S. senator may propose legislation in the coming weeks that would drastically change lunch options to include more healthy options.

Sen. Blanche Lincoln, D-Ark., plans to introduce legislation that would force many schools throughout the country to remove unhealthy, caloric foods from cafeteria menus and vending machines and to replace them with healthy, more nutritious options. U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Tom Vilsack announced at the National Press Club on Monday that any remaining vending machines in schools would have to be filled with a more nourishing variety of food in the near future.

First lady Michelle Obama recently announced a campaign she is spearheading that aims at minimizing childhood obesity.

The underlying idea is that, if provided with only wholesome food choices, students will be more likely to opt for them, said Diane Tyler, UT clinical nursing professor and an expert in child obesity.



New legislation could force primary schools to offer healthier options in cafeteria lines and vending machines to address high obesity rates and their associated problems.

Eric Ou
Daily Texan Staff

The problem of obesity in children and obesity in general is one of great concern for the public, Tyler said.

"Today, it's pretty clear that in all but one state, obesity is greater than 15 percent, with the exception being Colorado," she said. "Southern states have the highest rates of obesity."

Although the healthier food choices for students will come at a significantly higher cost to the schools, many consider it to be a worthy trade-off, Tyler said.

"To some degree, it will be more expensive, but [they] don't have much of an option," Tyler said. "The cost is certain-

ly higher down the road, dealing with complications of obesity and chronic health problems, which occur much earlier in children than they do in adults. The complications of not dealing with it are much worse than the costs."

At the college level, however, outright banning of any kind of food options may not produce the desired results, said Scott Meyer, associate director for the Division of Housing and Food Service.

"If somebody said you're not going to be able to serve [junk food] because that's the law, we'll have a lot of upset customers who will just go the

Drag, get what they want and be happy," Meyer said. "In the DHFS, we believe that college students should be able to make their own decisions. We have nutritional content on all our items, [and we] direct and guide the students and look to them to make choices."

He said there has been no clear indication as to what food is considered "healthy" enough to be served by schools.

"Healthy might mean [something] different to everyone," Meyer said. "For one person, lettuce might be healthy, while for another, barbecued ribs

JUNK continues on page 2

Organizations join to end budget cuts, rising tuition

By Shabab Siddiqui
Daily Texan Staff

Multiple student and faculty groups on campus are developing plans for a rally to voice common concerns regarding controversial issues including budget cuts, the Cactus Cafe and tuition increase.

The Stop the Cuts Coalition, a group organizing against the budget cuts and tuition hikes at the University, hosted a meeting Tuesday afternoon to discuss a possible nighttime rally March 4.

"Our biggest concern is that given the current economic situation and how it's managed, the people who it's affecting have very little say on how to deal with it," said Snehal Shingavi, an assistant English professor and coalition member.

Other UT student and faculty organizations expressed interest in supporting the coalition's causes and participating in the proposed rally, including groups advocating for the Cactus Cafe and for domestic partner benefits.

Talks of budget-slashing and tuition increases have dominated the first weeks of the semester.

On Jan. 15, Gov. Rick Perry's office sent a letter asking all state agencies, including the UT System, to submit a plan preparing for a possible 5-percent reduction from the part of the budget that stems from state revenue.

President William Powers Jr.

asked all colleges and entities at the University to cut a recurring 2 percent of their budget. The Texas Union Board announced Jan. 29 a decision to close the Cactus Cafe and end informal classes at a closed-door executive session following its first meeting of the semester.

Four days after the board's announcement, Powers announced his decision to present the Tuition Policy Advisory Committee's recommendations to the Board of Regents at a Feb. 2 town hall meeting. The committee's December report recommended a 3.95-percent increase in tuition over the next two years, resulting in about \$240 more in tuition each semester for undergraduates.

The student organizations proposed to rally on March 4 to coincide with the Board of Regents meeting in Austin and the National Day of Action to Defend Education. The Regents will likely set the tuition rate for the next two years during the meeting.

The National Day of Action to Defend Education is an initiative started in California to rally students, teachers, workers, parents and faculty together against tuition increases, budget cuts and privatization of public higher-education institutions. The movement has gained support from various

CUTS continues on page 2

The Daily Texan

Volume 110, Number 146
25 cents

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campus watch

Graffiti artist-trespassers

San Antonio Garage, 2420 San Antonio St.

Criminal Trespass Warning (3 counts): Three non-UT subjects were found camping on the south side of the parking garage. One of the three subjects goes by a street name that matched that of recent graffiti markings in the area. All three subjects were issued written criminal trespass warnings. Occurred on 02/09/10 at 9:05 a.m.

Pants on the ground

University Teaching Center, 105 W. 21st St.

Indecent Exposure: An unknown subject was reported as sitting on a chair located in a third floor hallway with his pants down to his knees. The subject was engaged in an act of self-gratification. When the reporting person told the subject he needed to stop and to leave, the subject stated he was sorry and promptly left the area. The subject as described as a white male in his late 50s to early 60s, approximately 6' tall with a thin build and wearing a plaid shirt and khaki pants. Occurred on 02/08/10 at 3:33 p.m.

Dark mark appears

Walter Webb Hall, 2500 Guadalupe St.

Graffiti: Black paint was used to draw symbols on the east exterior wall of the building. An unknown object was also used to scratch a word into an exterior window located on the south side of the building. Removal cost: \$175.00. Discovered on 02/08/10 at 10:57 a.m.

When it knocks you down

2400 Guadalupe St.

Assist Outside Agency: A UT Police Officer assisted officers

from the Austin Police Department with an investigation of an assault. The victim, a UT staff member, advised she was "clotheslined" by a non-UT subject and fell to the ground. The subject was located and identified, and charges are pending. Occurred on 02/08/10 at approximately 8:50 a.m.

Lighting thief strikes

Central Receiving Building (Construction Site), 2200 Comal St.

Theft / Criminal Mischief: A 500- to 600-pound pallet of copper wire was stolen from a first-floor room. It was also discovered that an unknown subject(s) cut a string of lights that were being used to illuminate a stairwell located inside the building. Loss value: \$1,500.00. Repair cost: \$100.00. Occurred between 02/06/10 at 3:30 p.m. and 02/08/10 at 7 a.m.

Don't fence me in

1600 Manor Rd.

Theft: A Kawasaki MULE all-terrain vehicle was stolen from a fenced-in construction site. Access to the area was obtained after the gate lock was cut from the gate. Loss value: \$6,000.00. Occurred between 02/06/10 at 2 p.m. and 02/08/10 at 6:30 a.m.

Failed hit-and-run attempt

2400 San Jacinto Blvd.

Leaving the Scene Collision: An unknown vehicle struck the rear of a silver 2005 Dodge two-door while the Dodge was parked on the west side of the street. The driver of the striking vehicle left the scene of the collision without leaving driver information. Occurred between 02/07/10 at 11:20 p.m. and 02/07/10 at 7:18 a.m.



Eric Ou | Daily Texan Staff

The Stop the Cuts Coalition, a group of students and faculty members concerned budget cuts and proposed tuition hikes, meets at Caff  Medici to discuss ways to voice its discontent.

CUTS: Large support for rally

From page 1

college organizations across the country.

The coalition is currently in the process of becoming an official UT student organization. Several members of the group were present at the Tuition Policy Advisory Committee forums held last month and at Powers' town hall meeting last week, where they held signs each displaying their own personal student debt.

Nandini Dhar, a comparative literature graduate student, said she feels the budget is an attack on public education, and the administration and regents should have taken greater input from students, faculty and staff before many budget-related decisions were made.

"It's a question of having an affordable public education," Dhar

said. "We are calling for a more democratic solution."

Zach Bidner, a government senior and part of a student movement to save the Cactus Cafe, said the cafe's supporters fully back the initiatives of the coalition.

"[The Cactus Cafe] is part of a University-wide cut," Bidner said. "I think we can be involved in spreading the message of the cafe at a rally [by bringing] influential musicians and representatives."

Bidner said supporters of the Cactus Cafe will organize other events leading up to the March 4 rally.

Senior radio-television-film lecturer Anne Lewis, a member of the coalition and the Texas State Employees Union, said many of the beliefs of the coalition coincide with those of the employees union.

"We care deeply about services

to education, and we're against tuition increases," Lewis said.

"Our role is to organize the campus where people can come together as a community in a way that's meaningful for students, staff and faculty."

Mathematics junior Mike Schwartz, a member of Join the Impact, said his organization will take part in the rally to voice its members' concerns about University issues. Join the Impact is a community organization that advocates for domestic partner benefits and does so with campus groups such as Burnt Orange Benefits.

Schwartz said the rally would prove to be a good opportunity to unite several causes together.

"I think most students support equality and are for democracy," he said. "I think we want to strengthen the issues by bringing them up together."

JUNK: Initiative 'should be family issue'

From page 1

might be considered healthy."

Students such as Marc Anthony Gonzalez, an electrical engineering senior and member of University Democrats, see the initiative as a positive effort to minimize obesity. "If they really want [junk food], they can get it from somewhere else," Gonzalez said. "They're not banning it from the city, just making it less available."

Francisco Cruz, a business se-

nior and spokesman for College Republicans at Texas, shared a similar view.

"I can't speak for my entire organization, but I personally think it's a good idea — one that schools should have taken up a long time ago," Cruz said. "I believe that it shouldn't be a president's initiative but a family and public issue."

CENSUS: Forms to be mailed in mid-March; due April 1

From page 1

must fill out the survey and not rely on their parents.

"The rule is that you fill out the form where your pillow is on April 1," he said, referring to the date the census is due.

Melissa Macaya, journalism and Plan II junior and parliamentary and community-service chair for Longhorn LULAC, said the rally would help improve the accuracy of the count by promoting student and illegal

immigrant participation.

Census data remains confidential for 72 years and cannot be used to enforce immigration laws. The 10-question survey does not ask for any information regarding a worker's documentation, Macaya said.

The census forms will be distributed by mail in mid-March and are due by April 1. Census workers will visit those residences that fail to complete the census by the April 1 deadline and administer the surveys in person.

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The Daily Texan (USPS 146-440), a student newspaper at The University of Texas at Austin, is published by Texas Student Media, 2500 Whits Ave., Austin, TX 78705. The Daily Texan is published daily except Saturday, Sunday, federal holidays and exam periods, plus the last Saturday in July. Periodical Postage Paid at Austin, TX 78710.

News contributions will be accepted by telephone (471-4591) or at the editorial office (Texas Student Media Building 2.122). For local and national display advertising, call 471-1865. For classified display and national classified display advertising, call 471-1865. For classified word advertising, call 471-5244.

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The Daily Texan Mail Subscription Rates

One Semester (Fall or Spring)..... \$60.00

Two Semesters (Fall and Spring)..... 120.00

Summer Session..... 40.00

One Year (Fall, Spring and Summer)..... 150.00

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POSTMASTER: Send address changes to The Daily Texan, P.O. Box D, Austin, TX 78713.

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Texan Ad

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Classified Word Ad: 10 a.m. (Last Business Day Prior to Publication)

Sri Lankan President Mahinda Rajapaksa celebrates during a rally for the presidential election in Colombo, Sri Lanka, on Jan. 23. Sri Lanka's defeated presidential candidate, Sarath Fonseka, has been arrested and will be court-martialed for allegedly planning to overthrow the government while serving as the head of the army.

Eranga Jayawardena
Associated Press



President of Sri Lanka terminates parliament

By Fisnik Abrashi
The Associated Press
COLOMBO, Sri Lanka — Sri Lanka's president dissolved parliament Tuesday to make way for spring elections a day after authorities arrested a key opposition leader, crippling the only serious threat to the ruling party's stifling grip on power.

President Mahinda Rajapaksa's decision follows his sweeping victory at the polls last month over his former army chief Gen. Sarath Fonseka, who had defected to the opposition after helping to end the country's quarter-century civil war. Fonseka was arrested by the military on Monday on sedition charges.

Fonseka's arrest will likely serve as a warning to others who might seek to challenge the ruling party's effort to cement its grip on power in the parliamentary poll. Rajapaksa's ruling coalition is hoping to secure a two-thirds majority in the legislature, giving them virtually unfettered control of Sri Lanka.

One-time allies, Fonseka and Rajapaksa were both considered heroes by Sri Lanka's Sinhalese majority for crushing the Tamil

Tiger rebels, who were fighting for a homeland for minority Tamils. However, their relationship deteriorated after hostilities ended.

Fonseka was considered the opposition's best hope to unseat Rajapaksa, but the president secured the re-election in a landslide, according to official results.

The opposition called Tuesday for countrywide protests while accusing the government of taking the country toward dictatorship.

Fonseka's wife, Anoma, told reporters Tuesday that she has not been allowed to meet her husband or told where he is being held.

"He never wanted to topple the government, while he was in uniform. While he wore the uniform, he never talked about politics," she said.

Not so, says government minister Keheliya Rambukwella.

"He's been plotting against the president while in the military ... with the idea of overthrowing the government," Rambukwella said.

Military spokesman Maj. Gen. Prasad Samarasinghe denied that Fonseka has been cut off from family or friends. He did not say where Fonseka was being held.

The government heaped more accusations on Fonseka on Tuesday. A statement said the former army chief's reported call for anyone who committed war crimes during the conflict to be prosecuted showed he was "hell-bent on betraying the gallant armed forces of Sri Lanka."

The issue of whether the government troops, or their superiors, will be prosecuted for war crimes is a sensitive subject in this country.

Human rights groups have accused the military, which was led by Fonseka at the time, of shelling hospitals and civilian areas during the fighting, and the rebels of holding the local population as human shields. More than 7,000 civilians were killed in the final months of the fighting.

Police debate family DNA use in identifying suspects

By P. Solomon Banda
The Associated Press
DENVER — Police in at least two states are increasingly using a DNA crime-solving technique that some legal experts say amounts to guilt by association: If your brother, father, uncle or son has been in trouble with the law and is in a DNA database because of it, you, too, could fall under suspicion.

The technique is known as a "familial DNA" search. In what is believed to be a precedent-setting case, Denver police used it to help catch the burglar who left blood on a passenger seat when he broke a car window and stole \$1.40 in change.

The conventional way of using DNA to identify the perpetrator of a crime is to gather genetic material at the scene and run it through a database of criminals to see if it yields an exact match. But that approach isn't helpful if the perpetrator is not in the database.

That is where a familial DNA search comes in. It entails looking through the database for a near-match — that is, for a close male relative of the perpetrator. Police can then use that information to zero in on whoever committed the crime.

Critics complain the technique could subject innocent people to arrest or hours of interrogation.

"It makes absolutely no sense," said Erin Murphy, a law professor at the University of California, Berkeley. "Other than the misfortune of having a relative that has gotten in trouble, there's no distinction in their likelihood of having committed a crime."

California and Colorado are the only states to expressly allow authorities to conduct familial

DNA searches of its statewide databases. Maryland has banned the practice.

In Denver, District Attorney Mitch Morrissey pushed for the familial DNA search in the 2008 car break-in.

The blood did not match anyone in the county's DNA database of 1,700 convicted felons. So authorities searched the database for a near-match and came up with the name of a convicted criminal. From there, investigators narrowed their focus to the criminal's brother, Luis Jaimes-Tinajeros.

Jaimes-Tinajeros was ultimately arrested and pleaded guilty last September after a second DNA sample — obtained by court order — determined the blood was his.

Jaimes-Tinajeros is believed to be the first person convicted through this kind of database search in the U.S., Morrissey and

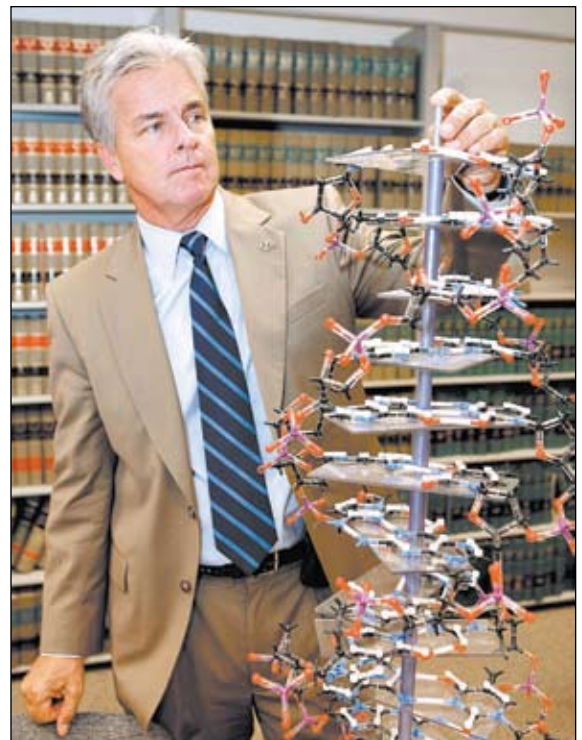
other legal observers say.

Morrissey contends such searches are legal, and he has become one of the nation's leading proponents of the practice.

The use of familial DNA is not new to police work. It has been employed in high-profile cases in Britain for years, while police in the U.S. have used familial DNA from time to time in situations where they already had a suspect in mind and needed to confirm their suspicions.

The difference now is that U.S. authorities are conducting blind searches of databases for suspects unknown to police.

In California, officials require police to pursue all leads — witnesses, fingerprints, photo lineups — before a familial DNA search can be done. Six searches have been conducted since October 2008 but have not turned up anything.



In this photo taken on Oct. 14, Denver District Attorney Mitch Morrissey stands next to a model of DNA structure in his office in Denver. Morrissey says he's solved the first crime in the U.S. using "familial DNA."

Ed Andrieski
Associated Press

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VIEWPOINT

For more than music

If the persistent controversy over the future of the Cactus Cafe has taught us anything, it's that, at times, perhaps the UT community alone can't be expected to call the University on its carelessness.

Two weeks ago, growing opposition to a plan that proposed closing the cafe to shore up funds in response to University budgetary shortfalls was met with muted curiosity on campus.

Many current students — far removed from the cafe's heydays of the 1980s, during which it established a name as a staple in the live music capital of the world — struggled to even recall that the cafe served as a musical venue, let alone that it has been deemed a storied touchstone of local Austin culture.

But in typical Austin fashion, music-loving residents —many of them UT alumni — from outside the University cried foul at the prospect of losing a musical landmark to forces unconcerned with the value of an artistic legacy.

Organizing online and attracting local and national media attention, this small but vocal movement quickly hit a nerve with the powers governing the future of the cafe, which now appears likely to live on in some form.

It's perhaps telling, then, that as student activists met on campus Monday night to move toward mobilizing a protest of a different sort, only a handful of students attended to offer their support.

Admittedly, the issue at hand in the meeting — support for the extension of benefits to domestic partners of UT employees — has been sidelined this year as Cactus Cafe news continues to dominate headlines and administrators face criticism for proposed budget cuts and tuition increases.

But the issue is no less pertinent now as the University grapples with continued financial difficulties.

President William Powers Jr. has committed the University to following through, amid bleak economic forecasts, with his long-term plan to boost academic quality at UT by prioritizing the recruitment and retention of top faculty.

And yet Powers — who has previously affirmed his support for domestic partner benefits — and his administration have shown little outward commitment to pressuring the Texas Legislature to reversing the legal restraints that unjustly ban legal recognition of gay unions for UT faculty and staff and hinder the University's ability to offer top accommodations to prospective gay faculty members and their partners.

The same community that has become so energized by the University's audacity to shut down such a treasured establishment should also recognize that heavier issues with broader implications — domestic partner benefits being just one of those — are at play as UT grapples with financial strains.

And pressure from outside the University's walls certainly doesn't hurt the cause for those inside pushing for responsible management and accountability.

But we in the University community should realize, too, that in these fights, students must lead the charge.

Outside protest may yet narrowly save the Cactus Cafe, but only pressure from within can deter future irresponsible cuts and decision making from occurring on our watch.

— David Muto for the editorial board

GALLERY



Defending the empire

By Calvin Sloan
Daily Texan Columnist

According to professor Robert Jensen of the School of Journalism, "As long as the United States is an empire, government officials will try to keep the public in the dark about the nature of the empire."

Given the 865 military bases abroad, the euphemistic "Overseas Contingency Operations," and the military strategy of "full-spectrum dominance" that the United States oversees, our country is without a doubt the global hegemon of the day. Given the us-versus-them framework that is propagated by our politicians and mainstream media outlets alike to simplify, or outright falsify, the nature of our imperial ambitions, the powers that be are without a doubt attempting to keep the U.S. citizenry out of the know.

The most infamous tactic that governments use to alter the public mind in their favor is propaganda. In America, where the synergy and consolidation of private interests dominate both the medium and message of information dissemination, the existence of propaganda is blatantly visible.

However, the empire has another powerful, much less discussed tool in its arsenal: censorship.

Upon understanding that, as Jensen states, "Excessive secrecy is an intrinsic feature of the concentrations of power necessary to run an empire," it should come as no surprise that the United States implements censorship tactics. In the 21st century, one of the most controversial methods of free-speech suppression in America has been the state secrets privilege.

Since the seminal case of United States v. Reynolds in 1953, the government has, in theory, invoked the state secrets privilege in civil litigation to prevent the courts from disclosing information that might threaten national security.

In the ruling, the Supreme Court proclaimed that the privilege "is not to be lightly invoked." From 1953 until Sept. 11, 2001, the government upheld that recommendation.

Yet with the onset of the "War on Terror," the privilege was invoked 22 times between 2001 and 2005 (in comparison to the 55 times that it was put into effect during the 48 year span prior to 9/11). Instead of applying the privilege just for issues of national security, the Bush administration used the rule to cover its tracks, dismissing entire cases in response to accusations of criminal conduct in the government.

Take, for example, the case of Edmonds v. Department of Justice. Al-

though you may not have heard of Sibel Edmonds, the plaintiff of the case, she was once described by the ACLU as "the most gagged person in the history of the United States."

Edmonds worked for the FBI as a translator and became a whistleblower after being fired for reporting misconduct in the agency. She is regarded by many to be a reputable source, having been publicly backed by Senate Judiciary Committee members Pat Leahy, D-Vt., and Chuck Grassley, R-Iowa, and appraised in a Department of Justice inspector general report that asserted her allegations are "credible," "serious," and "warrant a thorough and careful review by the FBI."

Despite such authoritative support — or most likely because of it — Sibel Edmonds was silenced. Attorney General John Ashcroft invoked the state secrets privilege for her case and issued gag orders upon Edmonds, which rendered her mute.

However, after years in obligatory silence, Edmonds was finally allowed to provide a deposition under oath in August 2009. This rare reversal offers us a glimpse of what the government might be trying to hide from the public eye through censorship practices like the state secrets privilege.

In the November issue of Pat Buchanan's The American Conservative, Edmonds asserted that factions of the U.S. government continued relations with the Mujahedeen throughout the 1990s and beyond, that the U.S. bureaucratic system is plagued with foreign espionage and that factions of the U.S.

government have been involved in drug-trafficking schemes in Central Asia in recent years.

It's little wonder that Daniel Ellsberg has proclaimed that Edmonds' information is "far more explosive than the Pentagon Papers." If committees with real subpoena power were established to investigate these crimes of apparent treason, the political landscape could be seriously altered.

Yet, despite campaigning against the "secrecy that dominates government actions," President Barack Obama and his administration have embraced the clandestine Bush status quo and continue to invoke the state secrets privilege. Public records lawsuits filed against the government have actually increased in number since Obama took office last year.

But, what else are we to expect? Regardless of who is at the helm, the United States will rule as an empire. As George Orwell foresaw in "1984," in a state of empire, where war is peace, ignorance is strength.

Sloan is a government senior.

X-treme climate



By Emily Grubert
Daily Texan Columnist

Last summer, Austin created an electricity bill assistance program to deal with exceptionally high power bills related to extreme temperatures.

The city's Web site has tips for keeping cool during the summer, reminding citizens that it can be helpful to submerge body parts in buckets of water to prevent overheating.

When I moved here, an Austinite friend of mine warned me not to judge the city until about October, when the weather can safely be considered tolerable. I've still spent a good part of the past few weeks wrapped in blankets and howling about the cold to anyone who will listen.

Droughts and floods, hot and cold, air conditioners and heaters working in the same day: Weather can get challenging in Austin and in many other places in the world. As someone who studies climate, I am usually very careful to distinguish between weather and climate. Weather deals with short-term fluctuations while climate is a more fundamental characteristic — often more stable and predictable.

Spring turning to summer is not an indicator of climate change, and neither is our inability to accurately predict daily weather patterns more than a few weeks ahead indicative of an inability to recognize a changing climate. That said, extreme weather represents an important chance to relate weather and climate change.

Talking about a potential 5-degree (Fahrenheit) increase in average global temperature from anthropogenic climate change might not sound that bad. Temperatures fluctuate by more than that on a daily — even hourly — basis. Many of the risks of climate change lie in the altered system characteristics that an increased average temperature fosters: changing habitats, changing precipitation patterns, rising sea levels and the like. Often, projections suggest that extremes will be exacerbated. Dry areas will likely get drier, wet areas wetter, hot areas hotter — and hot days hotter.

Adding 5 degrees to the temperature on days of extreme heat can be dangerous to living and engineered systems. The European heat wave of 2003 notoriously killed tens of thousands of people as a result of extreme temperatures, notably from hyperthermia and fires.

Though humans, animals and plants are often surprisingly resilient in the face of stresses, single extreme events can prove deadly. We may be able to survive for weeks without food, but a few hours above a temperature threshold will kill us. Crops subjected to a week or two of above-normal temperatures can die, and warm waters can destroy fish hatcheries. Much as small concentrations of greenhouse gases can create a large temperature effect, a small amount of exposure to extreme conditions can have disproportionate impacts on well-being.

Extreme temperatures also hurt our ability to protect ourselves. Across the world, large power plants have either shut down or come very close to shutting down because cooling water was not cool enough during times of extreme heat. This is particularly problematic because power for air conditioning and other services is especially needed during extreme temperature events.

Even when industrial cooling is not a problem, extreme temperatures can create demand for electricity that exceeds our ability to provide it, leading to blackouts that further exacerbate the problem.

Our development patterns can make us more vulnerable to extreme conditions. The world is becoming more urban, and the trend is expected to continue. For many characteristics, urbanization actually reduces human pressures on the environment by consolidating our footprint.

If not carefully planned, however, urbanization can magnify the risk posed by extreme-heat events. The urban heat island phenomenon, born of the tendency of buildings and paved surfaces to trap heat, is well-documented. Many building materials are effective thermal masses, retaining more heat than undeveloped regions, and waste heat from industry and other processes can also be a factor in some areas. Green space and attentiveness to the heat reflectivity of roofs and paved surfaces can lessen the problem, but they must be actively incorporated.

Climate change poses major risks to habitats, human settlements and human activities, and it is a direct health threat in the case of extreme events. We may joke during cold periods that a 5-degree boost to temperatures would make life a lot easier, but it's sobering to realize that the same 5-degree boost might occur when we're sitting with our feet in buckets of water during a summer power outage. Austin is no stranger to extreme weather, and we may soon have a lot more company as other cities learn what extreme heat means.

Grubert is an energy and earth resources graduate student.

GALLERY



SUBMIT A COLUMN

The editorial board welcomes guest columns. Columns must be between 200 and 700 words. Send columns to editor@dailytexanonline.com. The Texan reserves the right to edit for clarity and liability.

LEGALESE

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Chinese music, art take over Union for Lunar holiday

By Hannah Jones
Daily Texan Staff

Traditional red decorations and a mural of an elaborate Chinese landscape filled the Texas Union Ballroom on Tuesday in honor of the Lunar New Year.

The Asian Culture Committee hosted the event, which was funded by the student activity fees allocated to the 15 student groups of the Student Events Center. Audiences filled the ballroom to observe performances by Hum A Cappella, Texas Dragon/Lion Dance Team and Texas Wushu.

Hum A Cappella, a UT music group that performs Indian and American songs, beat-boxed and sang a popular song by pop artist Rihanna a capella. Texas Dragon/Lion Dance Team, a UT- and community-based organization, wore large costumes to emulate lions while performing a traditional Chinese dance. Texas Wushu members performed a Chinese martial arts routine with acrobatic jumps and punches.

Millie Chen, a co-chair of the event and exercise science junior, said the event allows students who cannot celebrate the New Year with their families to attend and partake in traditions at UT.

"There's a pretty big [Asian] population here at UT, and a lot of students can't celebrate away from home," Chen said. "We are celebrating the Lunar New Year for each culture with a karaoke contest and six performances as well as a trivia game on stage

with prizes."

The Lunar New Year, also known as the Chinese New Year, is recognized by several different Asian cultures, each with its own practices. Chen said typically during the New Year celebration, people practice customs — including cooking and eating traditional dishes — to help ensure the welfare of their families and luck in the new year.

Some attendees of the event said it served as a microcosm for celebrations across the world, including in Houston's Chinatown.

"This is just a little peak into our culture," undeclared sophomore Jessica Tang said. "If we don't continue what we have right now, we can lose touch with traditions and our culture."

Volunteers, including event co-chair Raymond Yang, wore shirts that said, "Break the stereotypes," referring to stereotypes associated with the Asian community.

Yang said the University financially promotes groups like the committee to promote different cultures and celebrate their respective heritages. He said the goal of the event was to bring a multicultural presence to campus.

"The Asian student community is very united," Yang said. "Some people have stereotypes about Asians, like they are only involved in a narrow academic field, but we're trying to let people know at this show that there are so many different talents brought here."



Rene Huynh | Daily Texan Staff

Texas Dragon/Lion Dance Team leader Nhan Nguyen glides in front of the crowd Tuesday evening in celebration of Lunar New Year.

Lack of skilled trainers may cause health issues

By Alex Geiser
Daily Texan Staff

The lack of qualified athletic trainers at the high-school level may lead to untreated concussions, causing concern for some UT training experts.

Allen Hardin, co-director of athletic training and sports medicine at UT, attended the House Judiciary Committee's forum on injuries in youth and college sports. The

NFL players than among the national population.

The forum, the third since October, questioned how prepared parents and coaches are to handle head injuries.

Concussions, which are marked by numerous symptoms from moderate to critical — including confusion and loss of motor function — are by no means minor, said Brian Farr, director of the athletic training education program

“More than half of Texas high school don't have athletic trainers.”

— Allen Hardin,
Co-Director of Athletic Training
and Sports Medicine

Feb. 1 forum focused primarily on the prevention and treatment of head injuries in football at the high-school level. Hardin served as a representative for the National Athletic Trainers' Association.

"More than half of Texas high schools don't have athletic trainers," he said. "[Concussions] are an epidemic, especially with kids."

The Brain Injury Association of America estimates that up to 3.8 million sports- and recreation-related concussions occur in the U.S. each year. A study by the American Academy of Neurology that examined 100 high schools across the country found that nearly 41 percent of concussed athletes returned to play too soon.

Congress first looked into the dangers of football after a September study commissioned by the National Football League reported that cognitive diseases appear much more infrequently in former

at UT.

"It's not like when you have a sprained ankle and you put ice on it," Farr said.

He said the body is going to heal on its own, but the brain needs extra time, which is why athletes need to be removed from activity after suffering a hit to the head.

As for UT athletes, Farr said certified athletic trainers keep a close eye on athletes during practice and games and look out for warning signs of concussions.

His training-education program also teaches students how to recognize, manage and treat concussions.

Problems arise when parents and coaches, particularly in high-school sports, are the only monitors of student athletes. To remedy the situation, Farr said both parents and coaches should be educated on the warning signs of a

HEAD continues on page 6

DEEP IN THOUGHT



Rene Huynh | Daily Texan Staff

MBA graduate student Akshat Jasra enjoys a cup of coffee in front of the McCombs School of Business atrium on Tuesday afternoon.

SG speaker job cut from election

By Audrey White
Daily Texan Staff

Legislation that would alter the structure of Student Government and its meetings may not appear in March's University-wide general election as anticipated because representatives postponed the vote expected to take place Tuesday night.

Representatives spent more than an hour debating a proposed constitutional amendment that would create a new SG position for the speaker of the assembly. The speaker would be chosen from the assembly, which is composed of the 40 elected representatives, and be elected by the assembly.

The speaker's main function would be to chair the assembly, a role currently held by the vice president, who is elected by the entire student body. The legislation's proponents say the speaker would be more accountable to the assembly and make it a stronger legislative body, while its critics are concerned the position would strip powers from the vice president and isolate the assembly from students.



Student Government Liberal Arts Representative John Lawler shares details about the new bill, AB 15, that was presented at the Student Government meeting on Tuesday.

Peyton McGee
Daily Texan Staff

According to the election code, all items for the University-wide election must be approved at least two weeks in advance of the election. Tuesday's SG meeting was the last scheduled far enough in advance before the March 2 election, so students will vote for

the speaker position in a special election at a later date if it is approved, SG Communications Director Danielle Brown said.

SG Vice President Shara Ma shared concerns about the legislation during her executive report. Because she is the only current SG member who has served

as both a representative and the vice president, Ma said she felt it was her responsibility to address the assembly.

"There are reforms [to SG] that could be made, and I'm ready to talk about those," she said. "I don't believe the speaker will be

BILL continues on page 6

Professor joins in development of need-based policy

By Ayesha Dadabhoj
Daily Texan Staff

A University professor and senior researcher was appointed to the board of directors of the Commission on Professionals in Science and Technology on Monday.

Lecia Barker, an associate professor in the School of Information, will work with the commission's board to ensure that diverse populations' needs are adequately represented through the development of policies and programs. The commission, founded in 1953 in Washington, D.C., collects and analyzes data concerning the U.S. workforce in scientific and technological disciplines, promotes education and training programs and develops policies for scientific and technological human resources.

"I am honored and flattered to be working with such a prestigious group," Barker said.

The commission aims to diversify the academic, scientific, technological, engineering and mathematical workers and faculty in the United States by compiling statistics through varying projects, according to the commission's Web site.

"I think that [the commission's] mission is important for our nation's future," Barker said. "Not just the fact that they provide information but that they provide information about the total workforce and about underrepresented groups in science and technology. If we're going to have an innovative future, we need to increase the participation of women and minorities."

Barker also works as a senior research scientist at the National

Center for Women and Information Technology. Through smaller alliances and networks, the center provides resources and initiatives to encourage women nationwide to become involved in the information technology workforce, according to the center's Web site.

Barker said diversifying involvement in information technology is essen-

tial to her work with the center and that data analysis will be of critical importance to her work on the commission.

"We want people to be aware of women's participation at all levels," she said. "We really need high-quality data, and it's not always easy to [gather]."

Andrew Dillon, dean of the School of Infor-

mation, said the commission's board of directors informs policymakers about science and technology workforce needs to maximize U.S. competitiveness.

"Barker's research and familiarity with information technology workforce issues will support the [commission's] mission and the nation's goals for building and sustaining a globally recognized, innovative and diverse scientific workforce," Dillon said. "Appointment to national boards such as [the commission] is an important part of our mission as well as recognition of the talent we have here at UT."



Kari Rosenfeld | Daily Texan Staff

Lecia Barker, an associate professor at the University of Texas School of Information, was just appointed to the board of directors of the Commission on Professionals in Science and Technology.



Houston legislator opts for ‘style over substance’

By Michael Graczyk
The Associated Press

HOUSTON — Sheila Jackson Lee’s appearance at Michael Jackson’s funeral in Los Angeles last summer helped convince a three-term Houston city councilman to give the ubiquitous congresswoman her first credible re-election challenge since she won her seat 16 years ago.

“To say the least, the question ‘Why?’ came to mind,” says Jarvis Johnson, who hopes to end Jackson Lee’s tenure in Texas’ 18th Congressional District by winning the March 2 Democratic primary. “Why are you there?”

Jackson Lee makes no apologies for taking the stage at Staples Center to exhibit a large framed congressional resolution honoring the dead pop star as a “world humanitarian.” The resolution is stalled in Congress.

“It’s a wonderful resolution,” she says, even if such activities go beyond the scope of representing central Houston. “I don’t shy away from it and never will.”

No one ever could accuse Jackson Lee, 60, of being shy. Even her supporters joke about her frequent speeches, broadcast on C-SPAN, to an empty House chamber. Her efforts to nab just the right seat at

high-profile events to maximize on-camera time are legendary.

Johnson sees her antics as style over substance and illustrative of what’s wrong with the way Jackson Lee does her job in a solidly Democratic district where winning the party primary guarantees victory in November.

“At the end of the day, people say you need to take care of your district, and being in California is not taking care of your district,” he said. “We have a multitude of issues right here — unemployment, dropout rate, quality of life.”

Incumbents who don’t get challenged get lazy and complacent, he said.

The race offers an interesting historical parallel.

Jackson Lee was in her third term on the Houston City Council in 1994 when she beat incumbent U.S. Rep. Craig Washington on the theme that he was out of touch with his district. Johnson, 38, just won his third term to his council seat that’s within the 18th Congressional District. The congressional district takes in much of urban Houston, is about 40 percent black with the remainder split between whites and Hispanics. It accounts for about a quar-

ter of the city’s more than 2 million residents.

Jackson Lee is miffed by the accusation she’s out of touch.

“I’d like to think if you call me late at night, which people do, and there is a need, I will try to respond,” she said.

“Sheila is everywhere,” supporter Arthur Schechter said. “No one can outwork her.”

Johnson’s supporters began their admittedly uphill effort munching on doughnuts in a strip of connected rented mobile homes. After prayer and brief remarks, Johnson dismissed his supporters with guidance that it now was “time to get to work” knocking on doors and making calls.

A third Democrat, Houston attorney Sean Roberts, also is on the primary ballot. It’s his first bid for political office.

“We’re running as the non-politician in the race,” he said.

Jackson Lee has drawn primary opposition only once before, in 2002, and steamrolled with 94 percent of the vote.

As of the end of 2009, she had nearly \$500,000 in campaign cash. By late January, Johnson had yet to make a financial filing with election officials.

HEAD: Center stresses dangers, misconceptions of head injuries

From page 5

concussion and how to administer aid.

“Nobody should be intervening if they don’t have experience with it,” he said.

Sarah Peterson, athletic trainer at Stephen F. Austin High School, said the school’s trainers use an online cognitive test that athletes take when they first join sports teams. The test can then be used as a baseline for students who experience a concussion, helping

trainers to properly diagnose the player.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention-approved concussion awareness and management policy states that athletes who have a known or suspected concussion are not permitted back onto the field until cleared by an appropriate health care official. This policy applies to athletes at every level.

The danger of head injuries may be hidden under improper use of terminology, Hardin said,

alluding to the way members of the House Judiciary Committee and other representatives continually referred to concussions as “dings.”

“Any blow to the head can cause a concussion,” he said. “It is a traumatic injury.”

Mike Wintemute, spokesman for Lt. Gov. David Dewhurst, said he is not sure if new regulations addressing sports injuries will be presented during the 2011 state legislative session.

BILL: Co-author moves to postpone vote

From page 5

more accountable to the assembly than the vice president. And the question of accountability should be one of the chair’s accountability to the student body, not just [to] the assembly.”

Liberal Arts Representative John Lawler, a co-author of the bill, moved for the postponement and said he is interested in creating informal discussion groups to hash out the legislation with SG members and any other members of the student body who wish to participate. Lawler later told The Daily Texan that he decided to postpone the vote after signs that the legislation might not receive the necessary two-thirds vote from the assembly.

Lawler said he and other sponsors of the bill are seeking ways to make sure the referendum is included in the University-wide election even though it is impossible by way of an assembly vote.

Based on the SG constitution, if 30 percent of the students who voted in the last general election sign a petition in favor of the amendment before the Feb. 16 deadline, the legislation can be included in the election regardless of persistent debate within SG. Lawler said he and other supporters hope to accomplish this goal.

“We felt it was unfair to not get the chance to vote on this, for it to get caught up in self-interested SG politics,” he said. “We want to get students to sign a petition so they can vote to really re-structure how SG is operated, taking control from the executive body and putting it in the hands of the assembly, which is the more representative body.”

Before the assembly voted to postpone the vote, representatives expressed opposing viewpoints over the position.

“Students elect the vice president for the purpose of chair-

ing the committee,” said University-wide Representative Alex Ferraro. “We’re stripping the vice president of that power and stripping students of the right to elect that person. I don’t think the 39 of us are smarter than 50,000 students.”

University-wide Representative Jimmy Talarico said he is concerned that because the bill cannot be included in the general election, it will not have as wide of a turnout during a special election. However, he said he believes the speaker position is a necessary step for SG and that the debate is necessary to ensure a successful legislation that students fully understand and are ready to vote on.

“You have to fix internal problems before you can fix external problems,” Talarico said. “Debate is always a good thing, and I want to spend as long as it takes to get everyone’s ideas and concerns heard.”

NEWS BRIEFLY

‘Hold Up For Haiti’ relief event raises thousands in donations

The “Hold Up For Haiti” event organized by several University groups Saturday brought in more than \$55,000 from donations, anonymous sources and a foundation that matched the amount collected.

The students raised \$22,000 on street corners for earthquake victims in Haiti. When combined with the funds raised by American Red Cross donation boxes in several sorority houses, as well as \$4,000 from anonymous donors, the total reached about \$27,000. The Entrepreneurs Foundation of Central Texas agreed to match the amount raised, which brought the final total to a little more than \$55,000.

“Our initial goal was \$30,000 after the match,” said Reilly Milton, president of Texas Round Table, the organization that hosted the event. “But the generosity of the Austin community was amazing.”

—Destinee Hodge

TRUMPET: Former mentor urged artist to musically ‘branch out’

From page 1

principal seats and immediate tenure.

“But keep massaging the muscle and it will eventually loosen up,” Hunter said. “To keep the job, it’s like a balance of playing your part to the best of your ability and being able to lead the brass section so that people know what to play.”

Crisara said he was pleased when he heard the news.

“At the time he got the position, we were on the telephone, and he said, ‘I also realize that this position is the first position that you had,’” Crisara said. “He just brought that to my mind, and of course, that made me feel very good.”

Crisara held the position for more than one year before he was drafted into the Army during World War II, but he decided not to reclaim his position be-

cause he was drawn to the variety that the Army orchestra could provide, he said.

Hunter said Crisara inspired him to branch out into new kinds of music.

“He told me, ‘You should try to do as many different things as you can, because you never know when you’re going to need it,’” Hunter said. “Sure enough, he was right.”

Crisara said he is proud of his former student.

“Billy is a very talented fellow with a lot of energy...everything that he has, he has earned,” Crisara said.

To hold a position that his mentor Crisara once held was an honor that came with a lot of pressure, Hunter said.

“I want to uphold the position and not taint it in any way,” he said. “Because of the person who he was, it makes me strive to do the best that I can do.”

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MEN'S TRACK & FIELD

For Texas, shot put is as easy as 1-2-3

By Jim Pagels
Daily Texan Staff

For the three members of the Texas men's shot put team, there's much more than qualifying for the NCAA championships at stake with each meet.

"When we compete against each other every meet, whoever finished third has to buy dinner for the other two guys that night," senior Brandon Drenon said. "That can be quite a lot."

Shot put is often one of the most difficult field events for athletes to master, but for the Texas trio, it has become as easy as 1-2-3.

Freshman Hayden Baillio, sophomore Jacob Thormaehlen and Drenon all swept the podium in their first three meets this season.

The streak ended Friday at the New Balance Collegiate Invitational in New York City though, with Baillio and Thormaehlen taking the top two positions and Drenon finishing in sixth place.

After a disappointing finish



Peyton McGee | Daily Texan Staff

Sophomore Jacob Thormaehlen (left), freshman Hayden Baillio (middle) and senior Brandon Drenon (right) make up Texas' shot put team. So far this season, the trio has swept first-, second- and third- place finishes in their first three meets.

TRIO continues on page 8

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL
No. 14 TEXAS at COLORADO



Sarah Young | Daily Texan Staff

Sophomore Ashley Gayle greets fans after the Longhorns' 61-50 win over Baylor. Gayle, her teammates and the fans wore pink during the game to honor breast cancer awareness.

Gayle grows accustomed to UT and new nickname

Hailing from Las Vegas, Gayle relies on the team to teach her about Austin

By Dan Hurwitz
Daily Texan Staff

Even with all-you-can-eat buffets on every Las Vegas corner, Ashley Gayle had never heard of a breakfast taco. The thought of putting eggs in a tortilla left her perplexed.

"I thought it was the weirdest thing," Gayle said. "Why would you have a breakfast taco? Why don't you just use bread?"

She now understands the notion of the breakfast fixation as she can hardly go a day without stopping by the Taco Shack and

picking up breakfast.

Upon her arrival in Austin, the Vegas native's introduction to the breakfast taco came courtesy of her new teammate Ashleigh Fontenette, who invited Gayle to her mother's home where the strange food was first served.

Gayle, who only ate at Chili's and Quizno's during her first two weeks in Austin, was a little nervous at first to try new things.

"We only have chain restaurants in Las Vegas," Gayle said. "I decided I might as well try [the tacos]. They are addicting now."

Having a new favorite breakfast is only a small part of why

WHAT: No. 14 Texas (16-6, 5-3 Big 12) vs. Colorado (12-9, 2-6 Big 12)

WHERE: Coors Events Center, Boulder, Colo.

WHEN: Tonight, 8 p.m.

she likes Austin.

Gayle is satisfied with her college choice because of the friendships created with teammates, especially Fontenette.

A problem arose, though, when Gayle and Fontenette first came to Texas. They had the same name — sort of.

Since their first names sound

GAYLE continues on page 8

WOMEN'S SWIMMING

Horns participate in cancer research meet

Texas looks for a No. 1 finish in conference after the pink-and-white meet

By Bri Thomas
Daily Texan Staff

Wearing swim caps, sporting pink Longhorn logos and racing under pink-and-white banners and flags, the women's swimming and diving team will be competing today in Houston's Sprint for the Cure Meet, which raises money for and promotes education about breast cancer.

The Houston Athletic Department, along with several other corporations, donated money to the cause, enabling the pink-and-white theme to be displayed throughout the event.

No. 3 Texas received the opportunity to take part in this benefit last year when Houston hosted it for the first time at its Campus Recreation and Wellness Center Natatorium. Nothing like this had ever been done through NCAA swimming and diving, but the meet succeeded in raising nearly \$1,200 for cancer research.

Since this meet against the Houston Cougars is the last before the Big 12 championships, the women will mostly be fine-tuning their performances today.

The Longhorns had a disappointing meet 10 days ago against No. 2 Arizona, falling 201-152 to the Wildcats in their biggest test of the season so far. They rebounded a few days later, dominating SMU 141-96 in Dallas.

Sophomore Katie Riefenstahl led the way for Texas, winning the 200 and the 500 freestyles.

Riefenstahl and her teammates will look to continue that success at the Big 12 Championships on Feb. 24 in College Station. The team hopes to qualify as many athletes as possible for the NCAA Championship held Mar. 19-21.

"Winning it all is our No. 1 goal, and I really think we have what it takes," assistant coach Jim Henry said. "For the last three years, it's been close with A&M, who is sitting in sixth place right now and is very competitive."



Erik Reyna | Daily Texan Staff

Freshman Samantha Holland takes a dive during a meet earlier this season. Holland and the rest of her teammates have high hopes of winning the Big 12 meet in a few weeks.



Caleb Miller | Daily Texan Staff

Coach Beverly Kearney chats with one of her athletes on the track in spring 2009.

Kearney recruits, signs best class yet

Horns sign seven top track prospects to form impactful 2010-11 class

By Ryan Betori
Daily Texan Staff

With 16 seasons and six national championships under her belt, it isn't often that head coach Beverly Kearney refers to something she's seen on the track as the best — but this is one of the words she used to describe her incoming 2010-11 recruiting class.

On Tuesday, Kearney announced the signing of seven student-athletes. Five of the signees have competed at the IAFF Youth World Championships, and three boast top-seven marks in their respective event's world rankings. Kearney seems to have struck recruiting gold, calling the class "one of the best she's ever had."

"They will help take our team to the next level again," said Kearney, who expects the class to make an immediate impact on the 2010-11 campaign.

Leading the way will be Allison Peter (U.S. Virgin Islands — sprints), A'Lexus Brannon (Beaumont — long jump), Shanay Briscoe (Houston — high jump), Briana Nelson (Greenville, S.C. — sprints), Marielle Hall (Haddonfield, N.J. — middle distances), Christi Udoh (Houston — sprints) and Jourdan Ellis (Abilene — distances).

Kearney hailed the class for its versatility, quantity and athletic quality. However, in Kear-

CLASS continues on page 8

SIDELINE

NCAA Men's Top 25

No. 12 Tennessee 71
No. 24 Vanderbilt 90

Illinois 63
No. 13 Wisconsin 56

No. 8 Georgetown 79
Providence 70

Alabama 55
No. 2 Kentucky 66

No. 6 Purdue 76
No. 10 Michigan State 64

NBA

Cleveland 104
New Jersey 97

Chicago 109
Indiana 101

Philadelphia 119
Minnesota 97

Charlotte 94
Washington 92

Miami 99
Houston 66

Sacramento 118
New York 114 F/OT

Detroit 93
Milwaukee 81

Atlanta 108
Memphis 94

Dallas 91
Denver 127

Oklahoma City 89
Portland 77

Utah 109
LA Clippers 99

NHL

Boston 3
Buffalo 2 F/SO

Carolina 4
Florida 1

NY Islanders 4 F/SO
Nashville 3

Calgary 2
Ottawa 3

Vancouver 1
Tampa Bay 3

Detroit 3
St. Louis 4 F/SO

Dallas 3
Chicago 4 F/SO

SPORTS BRIEFLY

Durant looks to defend All-Star H-O-R-S-E title this weekend

Kevin Durant will defend his title in the H-O-R-S-E competition at All-Star weekend.

The Oklahoma City forward will face fellow All-Star Rajon Rondo of Boston and Sacramento rookie Omri Casspi. The field was announced Monday night on TNT, which will televise Saturday's events.

Durant won the inaugural competition last year in Phoenix, hitting some long jumpers to rally after picking up four early letters and beating Atlanta's Joe Johnson and Memphis guard O.J. Mayo.

The H-O-R-S-E competition will take place at Jam Session at the Dallas Convention Center.

Hicks puts \$85 million of his own money into the Stars, Rangers

Tom Hicks says he put \$85 million of his own money into Hicks Sports Group to cover operating costs of the NHL's Dallas Stars and baseball's Texas Rangers over a two-year period through last March.

Hicks made that revelation Monday. It was his first public comment since Hicks Sports Group announced last week that it had retained Galatioto Sports Partners to seek new investors and a possible buyer of a majority stake in the NHL team.

An agreement was reached last month by Hicks Sports Group to sell the Rangers, a transaction that could be completed before the baseball season starts in April.

The personal loans by Hicks ended before Hicks Sports Group defaulted on \$525 million in loans backed by the Stars and Rangers.

—Compiled from The Associated Press

CLUB SPORTS



Derek Stout | Daily Texan Staff

The Texas hockey team defines itself as a grassroots organization because the players are the ones who keep the team up and running. After two losses this past weekend against Arkansas, the team will play its final game this weekend in Springfield against Missouri State.

Longhorns’ hockey team thrives

Johnie Glasenapp
Daily Texan Staff

Finding an ice hockey player in Texas can be like finding a needle in a haystack. But UT’s hockey team is proving that the sport can survive, even in the harshest Texas summer. The Division 2 team plays about 25 to 26 games a year against teams in the West region, which includes Texas Tech, SMU, Baylor and Texas A&M. “Texas A&M is a top 10 team. ... Texas Tech and North Texas and A&M carry a lot of weight, as far as competition,” head coach Bob Smith said. The Longhorns’ ice hockey team was recognized by the American Collegiate Hockey As-

sociation in 2003 as a Division 3 organization. The Longhorns were promoted to Division 2 for an appearance at the ACHA Division 3 Nationals tournament in 2005. A ranking committee determines the top college ice hockey teams in each of the four regions who play in the Regional Tournament. The final 12 teams play for the national title. The UT team consists of 23 students from different parts of the country. The average member starts his career at age 5, and most of the talent comes from out of state, said Robbie Lekai, a business senior from Chicago. But many players are fans of the Dallas Stars. “My favorite player is [Stars’

captain] Brenden Morrow, but you can’t go wrong with Mo [Mike Modano],” said assistant captain Travis Black, an electrical engineering junior. Texas hockey is a blue-collar organization that, unlike Texas A&M’s team — which has its own staff, general manager and team logo painted at center ice — is in dire need of volunteers. The team receives financial help from the University Co-op, but the bulk of its money comes from fundraising. The Longhorns call on their classmates and friends to sell tickets and merchandise. Over the years, they have had to find volunteer announcers as well. One is former announcer Travis Bet-

ts, who now works for the Dallas Stars. “Texas hockey is literally a grassroots organization in which the players do all the work themselves to fill the seats and promote the game,” Betts said. “We’re not looking for fans to buy season tickets,” Lekai said. “We want fans to come out, watch a game and say, ‘That was fun, maybe I’ll come to the next one.’” The Longhorns finished this season’s home schedule this weekend with a loss against Arkansas. They lost 4-0 on Friday and 6-4 on Saturday. The team will play their final game of this season this weekend in Springfield against Missouri state.

CLASS: Impressive group will set high standards for Texas

From page 7

ney’s mind, it’s a different type of quality that makes this group so special. “The thing that’s amazing about this class is not only are they great athletes, but they are great people,” Kearney said. “They are the epitome of what Texas is.” In recent years, the Texas track program has experienced a lot of success. Kearney said she believes this class has the ability to take that winning tradition to new heights. “They are definitely going to set more standards for Texas, and we look forward to it,” she said. Peter, Nelson and Briscoe are all top world contenders in their respective events, and they should form the nucleus of this impressive class. At the end of 2009, Peter was tied for the world’s fastest 200 meter mark and her 100 meter finish was good for third place in the world. In the same year, she also became the first athlete from the U.S. Virgin Islands to win two silver medals at the IAFF World Youth Championships. “It’s hard to describe Allison Peter,” Kearney said. “She is a special individual that will be a force to be reckoned with.” Another sprinter that Kearney believes will have a tremendous impact from the get-go is Nelson. Hailing from South Carolina, Nelson took her state’s 200-meter and 400-meter championships in 2009. She also took fourth in the 200 meter at the IAFF Championships, and her 400-meter time put her at third place in the world’s youth rankings at the end of 2009. “Briana is really just starting to come into her own,” Kearney said. “She is going to add depth to the sprint areas com-

ing into the season, and I feel like she is going to be a great impact immediately.” Brisco, a high jumper from Houston’s Cypress Christian School, has been a top member of the national circuit ever since she competed at the 2008 U.S. Olympic Team Trials. In 2009, her clearance of 6 feet was tied for seventh in the world youth rankings. This mark has also secured for her the Texas Association of Private and Parochial Schools (TAAPS) 3A state high jump record. Kearney looks forward to Brisco’s arrival for her versatility, and high level of competitiveness. The accomplishments of these three female athletes are not the only ones worth noting. Beaumont native A’Lexus Brannon has been among the nation’s top long jumpers for years. In 2009, she collected the USA Track and Field Junior Olympic long jump title with her mark of 19 feet, 10.25 inches. Another recruit that is among the nation’s finest in her event is Marielle Hall. The New Jersey native and middle-distance specialist holds an 800-meter state championship record that outdid former Olympian Erin Donohue’s previous mark. Houston’s Christi Oduh placed second in the 200 meter at the 2009 UIL State Championships. Another Texan, Abilene’s Jourdan Ellis, placed 11th at the 2009 U.S. Junior Cross Country Championships. Kearney had kind words to say about all the athletes, and Tuesday’s signings signal a bright future for the team. The Longhorns have had a very successful indoor campaign this season, including an upset of No. 1 Texas A&M a few weeks ago. However, with all this talent on the horizon, Longhorn fans may find it hard not to look ahead.

Outstanding Student and Cactus Goodfellow Awards

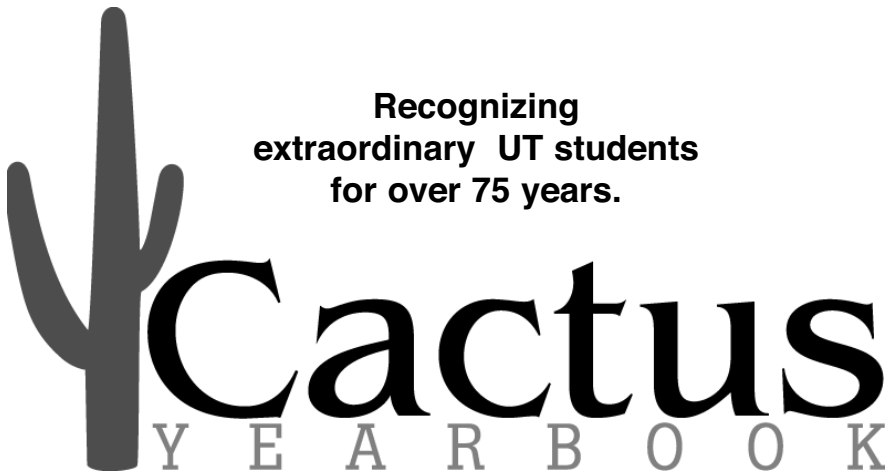
The Cactus Yearbook is soliciting nominations for their Outstanding Student and Cactus Goodfellow Awards. For your convenience, we have placed the nomination forms on the Cactus web page:

<http://www.cactusyearbook.com>

All rules and instructions are included, so all you have to do is either print the nomination form from our web page or pick up one at the William Randolph Hearst Building (HSM), 25th and Whitis Ave., Room 3.304.

The deadline for nominations is February 26th,

so send us your applications today. Please call 471-1084 for more information.



Recognizing extraordinary UT students for over 75 years.

TRIO: Success on horizon for Texas shot put

From page 7

last season, Drenon and Thormaehlen took it upon themselves to put in the extra practice for this season. “Jacob and I stayed around this summer to train and got a lot stronger,” Drenon said. “I knew Hayden was coming in as one of the top recruits out of high school, and I knew we were going to compete well.” The shot putters are in the weight room at 6:30 a.m., three days a week, and they usually train for three to four hours every day. “When you have a schedule like that, you really have to manage your time well,” Drenon said. “I usually try to grab a quick dinner after practice and then get started on homework so I can get to bed by a decent hour.” After having limited success during his freshman year, Thormaehlen was anticipating a major breakthrough as well. “I expected [the success], but I just wasn’t actually ready for it when it happened,” he said. “After those first three meets though, that’s all I wanted to do, was just finish 1-2-3 every time.”

Despite the 1-2-3 finish streak ending last week, the team seems to only be getting better as it draws closer to the Big 12 championships in two weeks. Thormaehlen threw for a personal record 60 feet, 11.50 inches last week. “I’ve been waiting to break [60 feet] for a while,” Thormaehlen said. “I guess Hayden hitting it every meet has helped push me over that line.” The team has high hopes as it heads into the Big 12 championships. “I think we have a really good chance to go 1-2-3,” Drenon said. “We just have to keep getting better each week. [Jacob] hit his [personal record] last week; now it’s time for me to step up.” Right now, Baillio, Thormaehlen and Drenon are sitting in second, third and fifth, respectively, in the Big 12. Mason Finley of Kansas currently has the best throw with 62 feet, 8 inches. “Last year when we were at the [Big 12 championships] I felt like we were a little uptight,” Thormaehlen said. “We maybe overanalyzed a few situations, and that cost us at the meet.” Baillio said that the team has

adopted a much more jovial attitude this season. “We’re definitely the jokers of the track team,” he said. They appear to be taking that new mindset to heart. While taking photos for this story, the three athletes insisted on taking multiple “silly shots” and mocked one another’s modeling poses. The tight-knit relationships between the athletes seem to have paid off. “All three of us push each other to get better,” Drenon said. “When you’re competing against your teammates too, it really adds a whole new challenge.” While their success as a team has been remarkable, Baillio has been the star of the team this season, winning every event this year. The guys joked that they hoped to dethrone the former Texas high school state champion soon. “Brandon and I have a couple of things to work on, but I know Hayden still has a few things to work on too, so that could make it a little harder to catch him,” Thormaehlen said. “We’re expecting to catch him soon though, and then he’ll be paying for dinner,” he added.

GAYLE: Fontenette shows teammates Austin’s ropes

From page 7

alike, there needed to be a way to distinguish the two whenever coach Gail Goestenkers needed to shout at them during practice. The world was then introduced to “AT” and “AG.” The nickname “AG” should be easy to decipher because it belongs to Ashley Gayle. But “AT” may cause a little confusion. “They say my name has a lot of ‘T’s’ in it,” Fontenette said. “It didn’t make sense to me, but it stuck.” Fontenette, a native of Austin, has been more than just a point guard for the Longhorns during her two years; she has been a tour guide. The first stop of the tour was the home she grew up in. “A lot of my teammates are

not from here, so they struggle with being so far from home,” Fontenette said. “I have them over to let them have that family feeling too.” Due to the uniqueness of Las Vegas, it was difficult to emulate the feeling of home for Gayle, but she quickly became accustomed to the Austin hot spots that Fontenette introduced to her. But when it comes time to go out and get some food or go shopping, it becomes a big ordeal for her just to get ready. “She moves really slow,” Fontenette said of her teammate. “When we are getting dressed and wanting to go somewhere, AG is just taking her time.” When it comes to game time though, Gayle is ready to move. The 6-foot-4-inch post is the defensive catalyst for the Longhorns. Gayle averages six points

a game, but defense is what she takes the most pride in. “I like the fact that on defense you are in full control,” Gayle said. “There is no excuse for slacking off on defense.” Gayle’s love for defense can be seen on the court. Ranked 10th in the nation in blocks, Gayle either lets out a scream or chest-bumps a teammate after a big rejection. “Defense is your job to give everything you have and help out your team,” Gayle said. Currently on a three-game win streak, Gayle and the Longhorns start a short road trip against Colorado tonight, followed by a matchup with Kansas on Saturday. The Longhorns just need to hope Gayle will be fine without her breakfast tacos for a few days.

Firefighters respond to a blaze at Dover Baptist Church in Smith County on Monday. This fire is the latest in a rash of East Texas church fires, most of which have been ruled arson.



Chris Vinn
Associated Press

Arsonists likely at fault for string of church fires

By Schuyler Dixon
The Associated Press
TYLER, Texas — A spate of recent fires that destroyed or damaged several churches in eastern Texas were intentionally set, likely by the same person or group, federal authorities said Tuesday.

Fires that broke out at two churches near Tyler on Monday have not yet been ruled arson, but authorities are investigating them as such. They were reported within an hour of one another, and there were signs that at least one of the churches had been broken into.

Since Jan. 1, eight churches — seven in eastern Texas and one in the central part of the state — have been set ablaze deliberately, authorities have said.

The U.S. Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives, which is heading the investigation into the blazes, believe they are the work of a serial arsonist or group of arsonists, said Clay Alexander, the head of the bureau's office in Tyler.

Alexander offered few details about Monday's blazes, but he said they were being investigated as arsons.

The fires broke out at two churches about three miles apart in a rural area northwest of Tyler, which is about 85 miles southeast of Dallas.

"We would just like to find out why this is going on and please stop it," Smith County Fire Marshal Jim Seaton said.

Nearby fire departments have been on high alert because of the fires, and firefighters from throughout the area responded quickly to the Monday blazes at the Dover Baptist Church and Clear Spring Missionary Baptist Church, said Smith County Assistant Fire Marshal Oren Hale.

There were no injuries reported in either fire, but the damage appeared to be extensive, said Hale, who worked at both fire scenes until about 3 a.m. Tuesday.

"They were big ones. They're not to the ground, but they'll be total losses," he said.

Assistant Fire Marshal Connie McCoy-Wasson, who was first on the scene at Clear Spring Missionary Baptist Church, said flames were coming out of the building's roof when she got there. The back door of the church had been broken, she said.

On Tuesday, the church's red brick walls were all that remained. Its pastor, Brandon Owens, said he planned to meet with his congregation of about 50 Tuesday night to figure out where they would worship Sunday.

"I will be preaching," Owens said. "We will be OK. We'll still be going."

The church also burned eight years ago when it was struck by lightning.

Several people gathered Tuesday near the still-smoldering Dover church. Most of sanctuary's

roof had collapsed, but the steeple was still standing.

"It's heartbreaking," said 70-year-old Floyd Moseley, a retired Tyler firefighter who used to belong to the church and whose father helped build it.

The church only has about 70 members, with regular Sunday attendance about half of that.

Dover Baptist recently took precautions because of so many church fires, trustee Albert Valadez said. The staff barred the church doors and installed "dummy" inoperable video cameras above the main doors because the church couldn't afford real video equipment.

"It's devastating," Pastor Carl Samples said. "It definitely tests your faith, but I know beyond every doubt that God can see us through."

The ATF deemed the investigation urgent on Jan. 11, when two churches were torched in nearby Athens, said Alexander. He said agents who were working last weekend's Super Bowl in Miami were brought in to help.

"We've been doing this for a long time," Alexander said. "We're not getting a lot of sleep. We're tired. We're frustrated that this is continuing to happen. But we remain strong in our belief that we're going to find who did this."

Rusk County Sheriff Danny Pirtle asked to meet with area church leaders on Thursday to discuss safety measures.

Summit brings top company executives to UT's campus

By Radhika Sakalkale
Daily Texan Staff

International business leaders will offer insights into the mechanics of the modern business world to students on Saturday.

As part of the fourth annual McCombs Executive Summit, the Undergraduate Business Council is bringing together corporate executives from companies including Shell, Ford Motor Company and Green Mountain Energy Company to participate in a panel and seminars to suggest ways for students to

cope with the current economic climate.

"Students can see business decisions being made through the eyes of the decision makers," said Bhargav Srinivasan, the summit's director and a finance, business honors and Plan II senior.

This year's event will focus on government's role in business, and the seminars will address government involvement in the health industry, finance, energy and technology.

The summit will feature gov-

ernment leaders from the Fed-

eral Reserve Bank of Dallas and the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, both of whom will provide commentary on the event's theme. Participants will also attend the opening

discussion panel with an introduction by UT finance lecturer Pamela Friedman.

"Students can see business decisions being made through the eyes of the decision makers."

— **Bhargav Srinivasan**
Summit's director

"Students get a different perspective than what we learn inside a classroom," said Lillie De Alba, a business council representative and a finance and business honors se-

nior. "Besides learning very specific knowledge about the topic, they get to see how these laws apply to each industry out in the real world."

During the seminars, students will split into small groups and compare responses while business leaders offer commentary, De Alba said. Participants will be able to engage the executives individually during lunch.

"[The lunch is] a great way to network and learn about these companies, industries or individuals," she said.

The council is accepting 100 attendees for this event, and the deadline to register is midnight tonight. This event is open to students of any major and will be held on campus from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the McCombs School of Business.

To register for this event, go to www.mcombs.utexas.edu/students/ubc/Programs/MES/register.html.



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By DAVID OUELLET
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C R P S T N E M E R C N I P
H E A L T H O L D E R I F R U
A V T M R A D V A N C E D D S
R O I H O O B I S K E E B A I
G C E R G U N T D S N I T M N
E E N I T I N I E I L C N A E
S R T A A M A T M L A O I G S
A U L P S P O R A R I S A E S
V F P E K T E C T T K T L M
I A R A T I B R S C S E I A
N B A L E D U O O A E V R M H
G S T D E S C P T E S M I E
S O E M O N E Y P L A N S T A
D R A W R O F T P E R I O D
P B E N E F I T S T R A V E L
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Absorb, Advance, Ahead, Amount, Benefits, Bill, Business, Charges, Costs, Damage, Fees, Fire, Flat, Forward, Health, Holder, Increments, Level, Limit, Losses, Medical, Minor, Money, Package, Paid, Patient, Period, Plan, Portion, Predetermined, Present, Rate, Recover, Repair, Risk, Savings, Start, Straight, Subtract, Support, Task, Terms, Test, Total, Travel
Yesterday's Answer: Bassist



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

Yesterday's solution

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

boy & robot

robot will take you home

aren't you coming?

no

i'm... staying

what? no!

that was the deal

but that's not fair

boy gabe

it may not be fair, but it, uh...

you know...

stuff

Elysium

Wanna see Muscle Elysium? then send your messages here! -> ustay@yahoo.com

It's has been one year since we started!!!

DORAY YEE-HAH

And I think we should take this opportunity to evolve and...

scribble

scribble

...go into a new direction this year!

MUSCLE!

It's a miracle that we even survived a year with this %&*&ing idiot

NIGHT TALES: ELYSE IN NIGHTMARE TOWN

By Sammy

Woah... This place is huge!

HEY YOU!

It sure is! This is Nightmare Town.

WHAT'S YOUR GUYS DOIN' HERE ON THE KING'S TURF?

YOU'RE BETT GET OUTTA HERE OR WE'LL MESS YOU UP!

Guards! This girl here tried to shoot me! Get her!!!

AWRIGHT DAME, YOU'RE COMIN' WITH... US...

ALMOST... GOT... YOU...

It's okay, I can walk.

Stupid dog, I'll get you back for this!

HEY, GET MOVIN'!

Ah ha ha haaaaa!

The New York Times Crossword

Edited by Will Shortz No. 0106

Across

1 Add a new article to, maybe

6 Sweat suite, units

11 Prime meridian std.

14 Zellweger of "Leatherheads"

15 Not yet reached

16 Evergreen tree

17 Race energetically past?

19 What an athlete may turn

20 It sometimes depicts a dragon or tiger

21 Rides

23 Keys on the side of a keyboard

26 Last word of a January 1 song

27 Mozart's "Fan Tuttle"

30 Yellow one

33 Todd who directed "I'm Not There," 2007

36 More bohemian

37 East ender?

38 Like King Solomon ... or an oral hint to 17- and 62-

40 "___, verily"

43 Nonchalant

45 Adjusts to one's situation

47 Games involving picks

50 Sch. groups

51 River to the Mediterranean

52 Dust collector

55 Stonewall, say

58 Popular sandwich bag

61 Smoke detector batteries, often

62 Native African's musical beat?

66 "I said ... out!"

67 Banana-loving zoo critter

68 "With this ring ___ wed"

69 What every innkeeper has three of?

70 Native of India in the British army

71 They might get shingles

Down

1 Thin bark?

2 Soften

3 Grammy winner for "Amarantine"

4 Occupies, as bushes or trees

5 Sonar's measurement

6 Bribe

7 Photo blowup: Abbr.

8 Singer Winehouse

9 Red ink

10 Eyelid annoyance

11 Where an old wanderer is interred?

12 Sister of Venus

13 Like some short tennis matches

18 Louis XIV, e.g.

22 "... so long both shall live?"

24 Fishing boat

25 Garment in Gujarat

27 2008 title role for Benicio Del Toro

28 Trirame propeller

29 What Romeo and Juliet had to do?

31 "___ date!"

32 Went kaput

34 Luxury

35 Arc on a music score

39 Made, as a wager

41 Sorority letter

42 Blockhead

44 Tiny bit

46 Try for a job at

47 "Gil Blas" novelist

48 Secure

49 Alignment of celestial bodies

53 Former space station

54 Biblical land with "ivory and apes and peacocks"

56 Debuts on Wall St.

57 Rochester's love score

59 Roman emperor after Galba

60 Contestant on a Bravo reality show

63 Breach

64 6 on a phone

65 Enero, por ejemplo

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE

SCOFF TBAR SLOW
AUDIO RITA KEPI
STORE DETECTIVES
HERE AVE TODINE
DRNO SEE
SNARED RUMS DUMA
WARILY BUT ASIN
EVILS FOG BRINK
DEAL PEA CLENCH
ELLS OUTER EDGES
RED LODE
AFLOAT PIC VISA
TEACHER EDITIONS
ITCH SORE ALLAH
TEES STUD OSAGE

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DAILY TEXAN COMICS

JOHN THORN'S RABBIT RUN TO GRADUATION BY EDGAR VEGA | JOHNTHORNCOMICS.BLOGSPOT.COM

OH MAN, I HATE IT WHEN I WASH MY HANDS, AND THERE AREN'T ANY PAPER TOWELS.

JOHN! HEY

YO! LONG TIME NO SEE.

WAIT!

WET HANDS!

SHEA'S REBELLION

http://infinitekick.blogspot.com

I'M SO HAPPY RIGHT NOW.

I COULD STAY LIKE THIS FOREVER.

...AND DUE TO EXTENDED LOSS OF BLOOD CIRCULATION WE'LL HAVE TO AMPUTATE THE ARM.

NUTS

Doppelgänger Week on Facebook

By: Katie C.

Someone claims to look like young Brad Pitt.

Lets see...

Click!

twitch twitch

NGEE...?

SERIOUS BUSINESS 13

by Brianne Klitgaard

WANDERING FOX TO ALBATROSS, COME IN!

AFFIRMATIVE.

AND WHY DO YOU INSIST ON USING THE WALKIE? JUST CALL ME ON YOUR CELL PHONE. THIS STATIC IS TERRIBLE.

UNDERSTOOD.

BECCA, I THOUGHT WE AGREED NOT TO USE ANY OF THOSE CODE NAMES ANYMORE. JUST CALL ME IONA.

OH GOD, IS THAT BECCA? PLEASE TELL ME SHE'S ACTUALLY GOING ALONG WITH THIS!

AND FOR THE RECORD, WE'RE IN THE MIDDLE OF A MEETING RIGHT NOW. IF YOU DON'T HAVE NEWS -- GOOD NEWS -- TO GIVE ME, THEN DON'T BOTHER ME AT ALL.

COOL! GET HER TO HOP ON ONE FOOT AND CLAP LINE A SEAL! SAY IT'S "OBJECTIVE PROTOCOL!"

THIS IS AN IMPORTANT MISSION, AND IT'S ALL RIDING ON YOU. UNDERSTOOD?

HA HA, SHUT UP, LAWS.

UNDERSTOOD.

14

IF THEY REALLY ARE AFTER YOU, THEN YOU NEED TO ARM YOURSELF, JESS.

THE GO-OP SHOULD HAVE JUST THE KIND OF WEAPONS WE NEED.

YOU NEED TO SHOW THEM THAT YOU CAN FIGHT TOO. THAT YOU'RE A DANGEROUS TARGET THAT WILL STRIKE BACK SWIFTLY AND DECISIVELY IF YOU FEEL THREATENED.

A WIFFLE BAT?

WELL, WE DON'T WANT TO HURT ANYBODY.

Raj and Boris

[MICHAEL BOWMAN]

Our heroes have recently become unemployed, and to compensate for their lack of income, they have decided to test their luck at the art of prostitution.

FUN TIMES

I miss having a real job.

Meanwhile, at a "real" job:

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I feel like a whore.

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Me too!

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Ticket-seller merger may upset music fans

By Ben Wermund
Daily Texan Columnist

The thing that sets Austin apart from other major cities — and what probably earns it the “Live Music Capital of the World” title — is its enticing diversity of small venues. Venues such as Hole in the Wall, the now-legendary Armadillo World Headquarters of the 1970s and the Cactus Cafe, which is set to close in August, have become historic locations, integral to the formation of Austin’s live-music scene. They bring character and performers to a city often overlooked by stadium-filling acts.

Bars and clubs that bring in bands are countless in Austin, from The Mohawk to Emo’s. This also includes medium-sized venues, such as Stubb’s and the Paramount, that tend to attract enough major acts to keep most live-music fans happy.

But small clubs also provide Austin with a bit of immunity from another big piece of news, rising from the live-music world: the merger of ticket-sales and promotion giants Ticketmaster and Live Nation.

In late January, the Department of Justice authorized the merger, generating legitimate concern from ticket buyers, smaller ticket sellers and musicians — all warning of potentially skyrocketing ticket prices and service fees, left unchecked without competition.

Bruce Springsteen spoke of the potential trouble the merger could pose for ticket buyers in a statement he posted on his Web site.

“The one thing that would make the current ticket situation even worse for the fan than it is now would be Ticketmaster and Live Nation coming up with a single system, thereby returning us to a near-monopoly situation in music ticketing,” Springsteen wrote.

The warning certainly seems viable in places such as San An-

tonio, Dallas and Houston, where massive stadiums bring in huge acts whose ticket sales are controlled by Ticketmaster and Live Nation. But this is not so much the case in Austin.

“The merger should not affect Austin, simply because there are no Ticketmaster venues in this town,” said Jeff Kreinik, a spokesman for Front Gate Tickets, which sells tickets for several venues in town, including Stubb’s and Antone’s. “Austin is going to be probably immune from any of the impact — at least for now.”

While Ticketmaster doesn’t control any venues in Austin, Front Gate Tickets does dominate many of the larger venues in town. The difference in the two is that independent ticket sellers are more willing to compete with Front Gate Tickets than the ticket-selling goliath Ticketmaster.

Jimmy Romack, president of the Austin-based national ticket re-seller, Ticket Cloud Inc., said Austin is an ideal place for smaller businesses like his because of this.

“[That’s Austin’s] one benefit,” Romack said. “Since we sell tickets nationwide, we look for venues that [Ticketmaster and Live Nation] don’t have a strong hold on.”

One of the only venues in Austin that Ticketmaster does any selling through is the Frank Erwin Center. But under conditions made in the Department of Justice’s merger approval, Ticketmaster will have to get rid of Paciolan, the ticketing system that allows it to sell through the center, said John Graham, UT’s associate athletic director for the center.

The complaint that big acts always bypass Austin for bigger, blander metropolises might always be relevant, but there are two sides of the coin. Austin’s smaller venues keep competition alive and ticket prices reasonable — for now, at least.

VIDEO GAME REVIEWS

Fighting games make comeback

By Allistair Pinsof
Daily Texan Staff

Bayonetta (Xbox 360/PS3)

“Bayonetta” is Platinum Games Inc.’s answer to the masculine, gore-obsessed action genre. Its eponymous character is a charismatic, reluctant mother sporting a tight leather bodysuit with guns attached to her heels. She strikes provocative poses after slicing a room full of demons in half, but she refuses to be objectified. In fact, she’s the only worthy opponent to the game’s endless onslaught of creepy, baby-faced demons. After all, the men in “Bayonetta” are incompetent wimps.

The game itself is a refinement of combo-based action games (“Devil May Cry” or “God of War”) filtered through the most ridiculous scenarios and boss fights I’ve ever seen. You fight gigantic demigods who make enemies in “Shadow of the Colossus” look like pet hamsters, and you get to guide a defeated boss across the solar system

and into the sun. This wouldn’t be so impressive if it weren’t for the amazing visuals, fluid animation and addictive combat that complement these set pieces.

It’s refreshing to find a Japanese game so willfully silly, starring a heroine who doesn’t feel like a brainless sex doll or stand-in for a male. While some might find “Bayonetta” more ridiculous than postmodern, it’s a very well-designed and well-paced game that will appeal to any action junkie.

Grade: A

Tatsunoko vs. Capcom: Ultimate All-Stars (Wii)

The most unexpected gaming trend of 2009 was the return of fighting games. “Street Fighter 4,” “Tekken 6” and “BlazBlue” were met with unlikely critical praise and commercial success.

Japanese audiences also received the latest entry in Capcom’s “versus” series, last seen with the

hugely popular “Marvel vs. Capcom 2” a decade ago. Six months later, “Tatsunoko vs. Capcom” has made it overseas with more characters, online play and other additions. Tatsunoko, a Japanese animation studio, might not hold the weight of Marvel Comics, but the roster is filled with colorful, distinct anime characters of the more proportionate type, popular in the ’70s.

Like previous games in the series, “Tatsunoko vs. Capcom” is very friendly to inexperienced button-mashers and veterans alike. The crisp visuals and animation make for wonderful eye candy, which is good for friends waiting for their turn to take the role of Ryu, Mega Man or a giant, waffle-shaped mech.

Online play is unfortunately hampered by bad net code and the Wii’s pesky friend codes, but this is a game best played with friends within slapping distance. Fighting games can often seem daunting to outsiders, but Tatsunoko’s presentation and accessible controls will



Courtesy of Bayonetta

make it a nice alternative to “Super Smash Bros.” at your next party.

You might have to shell out for a couple of extra classic controllers, but it’ll be worth it, whether you plan to button-mash or pull off 40-hit combos.

Grade: B+

STRIP: Allure of cash overrides criticisms, stereotypes

From page 12

majority of respondents said that it was because strippers are “coke whores.” But the reality seems much different.

“I would say 5 percent or less [actually do drugs],” Jemini said. “[That’s] a very small percentage, and that’s what is frustrating about the stereotypes.”

Miss Sophie, a blonde with the long, lean muscles of a professionally trained dancer, has found a way to avoid the few girls who live up to the negative stereotypes of strippers. While working at The Yellow Rose on North Lamar Boulevard, Miss Sophie paid for her last two years of undergraduate education at UT in cash without working a single shift after 8 p.m.

“[Stripping] is a very delicate balance for me,” Miss Sophie said. “I wouldn’t do it if it wasn’t fun. I feel like there is a huge difference between day shift and night shift. At night there is more drinking, it can get wilder. But during the day [our customers] are mostly businessmen and consistent regulars. [I feel] safe.”

Making absurd amounts of money without compromising your fundamental code of morality seems to be the basic tenet of stripping. For Mena, Jemini and Miss Sophie, who all have “no touch” policies with their customers, the money still comes rolling in.

“I had one weekend — May of 2007 — I made \$3,300 in five days,” said Jemini, who recently quit dancing at The Yellow Rose. “[At] the job that I have now, [I make] \$1,750 a month.”

Money aside, many people still view stripping as a negative consequence of a patriarchal society. Basia Borodziewicz, a Plan II and French senior, doesn’t denounce stripping but said she has concerns about the effects of stripping on our society’s views of intimacy.

“I think stripping professionally, either male or female, takes all emotion [and] excitement away from anything sexual,” Borodziewicz said. “First of all, you know you’re paying someone to do something for you, so it’s not special or intimate. It normalizes the body by

making it so easily accessible.”

Miss Sophie disagrees with the idea that strippers’ bodies are necessarily available.

“Ninety percent of the women in here are here as business people,” Miss Sophie said. “And most of the customers seem to understand that we are here to make money, and [that we] aren’t going home with them — that they can’t touch us, that we are human beings.”

Gentlemen’s clubs have, in many ways, earned their seedy reputations. Girls moving under tables or pushing their thongs to the side are not uncommon actions in certain strip clubs. But the fact that the negative stereotypes and expectations land on every dancer is, in many ways, unwarranted.

“I am not in the strip club to be nasty and to be dirty,” Jemini said. “I have rules, and I have

self worth, and I don’t feel like I should have to do that to make money. Stripping is not a degrading job unless the stripper makes it degrading — to herself.”

While concerns over the degradation of women in stripping are common, a different side of the same coin is the argument that strip clubs take advantage of their male clientele. In a 2005 episode of “The Tyra Banks Show,” Banks derided gentlemen’s clubs for preying on men’s obsession with female bodies.

“[Why] not take advantage of that?” Jemini said. “When men get to the point where they decide not to spend money to see women naked, then there won’t be female strippers. Every man has a decision before he goes into a gentlemen’s club, [and] he doesn’t have to go inside.”

Recent UT graduate Alex Wright

has made the choice to enter a gentlemen’s club once or twice.

“Strippers inspire horniness and pity in an even split with me,” Wright said. “I feel bad that they have to put up with all of the men that they see, [and] I wish that it was unnecessary, either because all women were willing to do it or because none of them are.”

While Wright puts the future of gentlemen’s clubs on the shoulders of the strippers themselves, Mena has a different view.

“The feminist ideal is that [strip clubs] wouldn’t have to exist,” Mena said. “I have more education than most of the men I meet and more experience than most of the guys [at my day job], but I make little money. That’s not going to change no matter what my ideals are, so I might as well make a lot of money while I can.”

CUPCAKES: ‘Enough business to go around,’ competitor says

From page 12

really tried to understand the chemistry of cakes and cupcakes,” Brian said. “We don’t use shortening, all of our cupcakes are made from scratch, and we use French chocolate to prevent them from having that bitter aftertaste that regular cocoa can give.”

Tiffany decided to act on her love for cooking about four years ago after previously owning a computer business.

“I always loved baking and giving out what I had baked as gifts, so I used everything I knew from my previous business to make this,” she said.

Starting the cupcake venture out of their home, the couple gathered a steady group of clients and eventually moved into a commercial kitchen. With six children, ages 3 to 18, the Bacons have plenty of helping hands.

“I teach my kids a lot about work ethic,” Tiffany said. “Cooking has kind of become a lost art for kids since everything

is already prepared in grocery stores.”

Though Austin seems to have become a cupcake mecca for many baking enthusiasts — with vendors such as Hey Cupcake!, Polkadots Cupcake Factory and Sugar Mama’s Bakeshop — Laura Lively, founder of L’s Cupcake Delivery, said there is enough business to go around.

“When I began baking, I wanted to be the Tiff’s Treats of cupcakes,” Lively said. “I think that there’s just such a big market for people wanting cupcakes that it hasn’t really affected our business.”

Toot Sweet Cupcakes offers cupcakes made from 18 different kinds of cake, 16 kinds of fillings and 15 kinds of icing. Prices range from \$1 to \$2.50 apiece, or \$18 to \$30 for a dozen. Catering can cost up to \$199 for a cupcake carrier of 120 cupcakes.

“We probably invest more in our product than most other companies,” Tiffany said. “We make what we need, when it’s needed — fresh.”

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- (4) have completed at least one other semester as an issue staff member of The Daily Texan in an area other than the one covered above;
- (5) have completed or be enrolled in a media law course before taking office; and
- (6) have obtained signatures from at least five editorial staff members of the Texan staff supporting the candidate for editor.
- (7) pass a libel test administered by the Editorial Adviser to ensure that he or she is fully capable of maintaining libel-free content.
- (8) be upper-division by the time they begin their term.

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TSM Board of Operating Trustees on
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HSM 3.302

THE DAILY TEXAN





Mary Kang | Daily Texan Staff
Miss Sophie sits on a couch at the second floor of Aces Lounge, located on Sixth Street. Miss Sophie is a UT graduate who is now an instructor at Brass Ovaries Pole Dancing.

Future bright; clothes optional

HUMP DAY
By Mary Lingwall

Mena has an MBA and a professional career in computer technology in south Austin. She is in a long-term, committed relationship and enjoys sarcastic banter. Jemini has independently supported herself since she started at UT at the age of 18. She comes from a religious and supportive background and attends church ev-

ery Sunday with her son. Miss Sophie has a bachelor's degree from UT and currently works as a feminist sex educator, personal trainer and business partner at a local dance studio. But if you met these girls at their night jobs, all you would see are bare breasts, 7-inch heels and tiny G-strings. Mena, Jemini and Miss Sophie are strippers. When I met Mena for the first time, I didn't know what I expected a stripper to look like. I was thinking that she probably had fake boobs, maybe some fake hair and a dark tan with tons of makeup. Mena is anything but the

stereotype. A petite, non-augmented woman whose weightlifting hobby has toned and sculpted her from head to toe, Mena is one of the highest-grossing dancers at Exposé on South Congress Avenue. She began stripping after she lost her work-study job while getting her master's degree in Illinois. During this time, Mena started waitressing and soon switched to stripping to make more money. After moving to Austin with the intention of working in the computer field, she found that she was continually underpaid, so she kept stripping to pay off the loans

she had taken out to get her master's degree. Despite Jemini's education and professional competency, she encounters frequent attacks on her personal character because of her night job. "Women [assume] I'm a slut," Jemini said. "[But] I don't just get stereotyped by women. I get stereotyped by men, too. [So] many guys have this rule [that they won't] marry a stripper. It's frustrating because being a dancer doesn't make me who I am. It was just my job." When I asked men about this "rule," the overwhelming STRIP continues on page 11

Cupcake vendors' sweet confections entice famous fans

By Audrey Campbell
Daily Texan Staff
Six delectable cupcakes topped with thick icing, sprinkles and drizzled caramel are arranged neatly on a platter, while Tiffany Bacon remarks that she and her husband Brian will bake about 10,000 of these over the next week. With Valentine's Day fast approaching, the couple will bake and deliver their gourmet treats as orders flood in. "It's our biggest holiday of the year, and we don't turn away orders," Tiffany said. Toot Sweet Cupcakes, the couple's joint enterprise located on U.S. Highway 290, has made a large impression on clients and businesses throughout the nation. Recently, the Bacons shipped 500 cupcakes to a Grammy Awards party at Paramount Studios in California, and soon, they will be gearing up to cater for the 82nd annual Academy Awards ceremony in Los Angeles. "We have a unique packing method, which has allowed us to be one of the first companies to ship a fully frosted and decorated cupcake," Tiffany said. By using a specialized plastic container with a domed top, the Bacons can bake, decorate and seal a fresh batch of cupcakes, shipping them out immediately without fear of the desserts getting smashed or ruined. Red velvet cake with cream-cheese icing, moist pumpkin-spice cake, chocolate with raspberry filling and strawberry topped with thick buttercream icing are just a few of the many variations the couple has perfected. The Bacons said they place high priority on the quality of their ingredients. "Even though neither of us had gone to culinary school, we've CUPCAKES continues on page 11



Catalina Padilla | Daily Texan Staff
Toot Sweet Cupcakes is preparing for Valentine's Day with thousands of locally baked cupcakes.

THE DAILY TEXAN

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LONGHORN APARTMENT HOMES

Midtown Commons

Park Apartments

Point South & Bridge Hollow

RAINIER MANAGEMENT

Texas MedClinic

BLACK

UC

University

University VILLAGE

VILLAGE AT RIVERSIDE

VILLAS

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