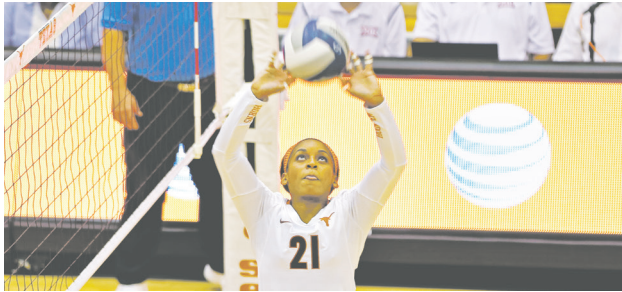




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THE DAILY TEXAN

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UNIVERSITY

Fenves calls for more UTPD officers

By Katie Keenan
@keenanarroyo

University President Gregory Fenves echoed strong support in his state of the University address Tuesday that more UT Police Department officers be added to the police force on campus, a suggestion from the Department of Public Safety’s campus review, which was conducted over the course of the spring and summer semesters.

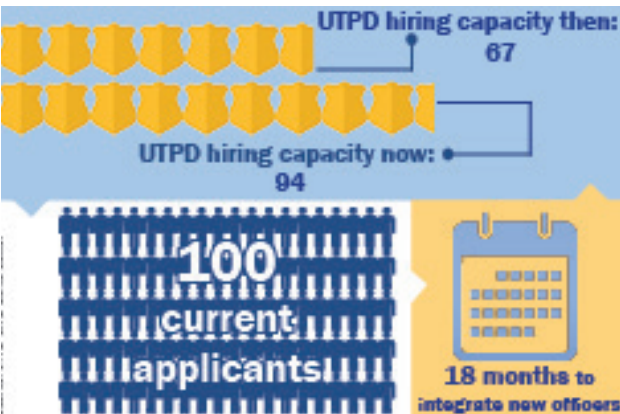
“We will hire additional police officers and guards, upgrade lighting and video monitoring, improve building access controls and engage with the community to address concerns about transient individuals on and around campus,” Fenves said.

Law enforcement recruitment efforts have been strained nationwide, and although UTPD has a steady flow of applicants, problems such as retention and slow

training turnover rates could pose a challenge to this increased demand, UTPD Chief David Carter said.

“We currently are actively recruiting police officers and we’re going through that process,” Carter said. “Number one, it’s about anticipating our current need. For two, it’s to forecast what’s likely to come down the pipe.”

As of now, 94 police officers



Infographic by Elizabeth Jones | Daily Texan Staff

UTPD page 2

WEST CAMPUS

UT police encourage students to file reports

By Katie Keenan
@keenanarroyo

The UT Police Department issued a statement through the Campus Watch Wednesday morning addressing the influx of reports on social media of non-UT affiliated individuals harassing or assaulting UT students near campus.

Police provided a more detailed description of a man who exposed himself to a student in the West Campus area, describing him as a 6-foot-4-inch black male with an athletic build and short dreadlocks. In the report, UTPD emphasized calling 911 if encountering this man or anyone engaging in similar acts instead of solely posting the incident online.

“Many of these reports were received second-hand or shared via social media,” the statement said. “When offenses are reported this way it becomes very difficult to identify and apprehend these aggressors.”

UTPD officer Robert Land said he strongly encourages victims to report any incidents that occur directly to police to be able to more quickly apprehend the man described in the report, in addition to other perpetrators behaving in a similar manner.

“When there’s not consistent information ... it’s this general fear instead of, ‘Okay, this is the person that’s coming to my neighborhood causing problems,’” Land said.

UTPD and the Austin Police Department are working together on this case. Incidents involving the aforementioned perpetrator have only taken place off-campus.

WEST CAMPUS

Off-campus housing reflects safety concerns

By Katie Keenan
@keenanarroyo

Dialogue concerning off-campus housing security has increased following the Sigma Chi shooting Sunday morning, in addition to burglaries at Dobie Twenty21 and other apartment complexes in the West Campus area last spring.

In March, a security breach at Dobie Twenty21 involved a man posing as a construction worker who broke into a unit, stealing a student’s laptop, backpack, headphones, room keys and wallet. Since then, Dobie Twenty21 leasing agent Kayte Stein said no security changes have been made.

“At night we have the security officers that sit at the desk on patrols all throughout the night from 11 to 8 a.m.,” Stein said. Guards check students’ identification during these late night and early morning hours, a policy that was already in place before the burglary.

UT Police Department Officer Robert Land explained the structure of off-campus dorms like Dobie is more secure than residential dorms, but leaving doors unlocked negates this advantage. During the burglary in March, Dobie’s locks were in the process of being changed.

“There are some really good security features in places like



Katie Bauer | Daily Texan Staff

A continuous trend of theft and violence in off-campus housing has raised questions about the safety of students who choose not to live on campus.

Dobie, because they’ve got those same solid-core doors we’ve got in the dorms,” Land said. “There are some good security features there and all over the dorms on campus, but ... it definitely feels different out there in some of those

other places.”

Student organizations, off-campus dorms and apartment complexes tend to hire private security companies to ensure the safety of their respective facilities, with differing standards and protocols relative to

the buildings they patrol. In the case of Sigma Chi, security guard Edward Earls was unarmed when the shooting took place.

“They had a disturbance at the event where [the shooter] was escorted out and asked to

leave and there was a scuffle that ensued there,” UTPD assistant chief Peter Scheets said. “That was certainly an opportunity at that point for them to call the police ... it

OFF CAMPUS page 2

CAMPUS

College Republicans host fracking group

By Wesley Story
@wesleystory0

College Republicans hosted their second general meeting on Wednesday in the University Teaching Center.

The meeting featured a presentation from the Hydraulic Fracturing Public Awareness Campaign, a UT organization that seeks to reinvent the public image of the oil and gas industry. Frac PAC does social volunteer work throughout the Austin community and puts on informational presentations at local high schools and around the UT campus.

Frac PAC’s goal is to bring awareness to the benefits of hydraulic fracturing while providing forthright explanations about the environmental risks involved.

“There’s lots of negative sentiment about oil and gas and a lot of it is just unwarranted,” said Leo Huang, petroleum engineering junior and president of Frac PAC. “We’re not really trying to preach any kind of political message, we’re just trying to educate people and help them achieve a more well-informed opinion about the oil and gas industry.”

Frac PAC discussed common misconceptions about fracking during the meeting. They debunked the idea that fracturing is a new technology, stating that hydraulic fracturing has been around since 1865 and discussed the economic reasons for fracturing. Oil and natural gas are in high demand in the US and a

REPUBLICANS page 2

FOOD

App promises tailored food experience

By Reagan Ritterbush
@reagan0720

Entrée, a free, new app that helps people decide their next meal by looking through images of appetizing dishes from nearby restaurants, is coming to Austin and is hoping to attract UT students.

The app launched last month in hopes of making the process of choosing new foods quicker and easier. According to the Entrée website, the app has high-quality images that help diners decide what to eat, algorithms that learn people’s food preferences to show them dishes they’ll love and filters dishes by cuisine, restaurant name, price, distance and rating to find the perfect meal.

“Food apps are usually simple and easy to use so that people don’t get frustrated when trying to look for



Entrée, a free app that helps students find their next meal, set to launch in Austin this week.

Photo courtesy of Entrée

places to eat,” English junior Adam Beoi, who doesn’t usually use food apps, said.

Danny Tippens, CFO and co-founder of Entrée, said their app is geared toward college students and young professionals who are new to living on their own and struggle with always having

to decide where and what to eat, making Entrée a good fit for the UT area.

“The problem most college students face is learning that they have to take care of themselves,” Tippens said. “Entrée is designed to help them expand their palate by trying new foods at

restaurants near them.”

The app also provides all the relevant restaurant information including address, phone number, distance and map location. Delivery is also available and although Uber is not available in Austin, the app lets users call one to take

ENTREE page 2

NEWS	OPINION	SPORTS	LIFE&ARTS	ONLINE	REASON TO PARTY
Guest speaker discusses black power movement. PAGE 3	Students should reject fast fashion for thrifting. PAGE 4	Nwanebu finds home in Longhorns volleyball. PAGE 6	Students create alternative Instagram profiles. PAGE 8	Feminist, political activist Gloria Steinem empowers female voters at	 PAGE 7
UDems host guest speaker on Clinton’s campaign. PAGE 3	Nighttime runners must take safety precautions. PAGE 4	Bedford hopes to slow Cal’s explosive offense. PAGE 6	Blair Witch scares can’t detract from repetition. PAGE 8	dailytexanonline.com	

THE DAILY TEXAN

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Joshua Guerra | Daily Texan Staff

Anthony Green performs at The Mohawk on Wednesday night.

UTPD continues from page 1

comprise the UTPD force, a significant jump from its size in 2013, which included 67 police officers, Carter said.

“With the advent of the medical school, there was going to be a teaching hospital on campus, there was some other changes and growth in the general area,” Carter said. “Over the past three years we developed a plan to try and increase our authorized strength.”

These recent changes were

brought on independently from the DPS report, which is still being mulled over by the University administration. The authorized strength Carter referred to is the amount of officers the University will allow funding for. Funds have not been allocated yet, and the exact number of police officers that will be necessary to meet the DPS evaluation’s standards has not been decided.

“[The President] asked our chief compliance officer Paul Leibman to implement those recommendations,” said Gary

Susswein, chief communications officer for the University. “It’s been a couple of weeks and we’re still in the process of figuring out the best practices but we do hope to move quickly.”

The fast pace at which the University seeks to hire new recruits could potentially be challenging, since UTPD is currently only capable of training 10 potential officers at a time. There are currently 100 applicants seeking those 10 coveted spots, and the individuals accepted will begin an 18-month journey to becoming a

fully-fledged police officer.

“Simply because we have a vacancy that’s been created and a higher authorized strength doesn’t mean you can suddenly put a police officer there,” Carter said. “It doesn’t really work that way, especially in policing.”

Lateral positions, which are designated for officers with previous experience, can ease the issue of waiting on the police training program. This doesn’t completely overcome the challenge, however, Carter said.

Other hurdles faced by the department include retaining officers that have melded well with the police culture found at UTPD, but who decide to leave after a number of years.

“I think that [retention] stabilized somewhat but still continues to be somewhat of a problem,” Carter said. “We develop really great police officers and what happens is they will frequently be recruited out from under us because now ... other police departments can afford to pay more than we can.”

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OFF CAMPUS continues from page 1

wouldn’t have escalated to where it was at. That was my only disappointment.”

Verbal threats made by Daniel Hamilton Magee at the Sigma Chi shooting, including vowing

to “shoot up the place” with his AK-47, constituted enough reason to call 911, which Scheets said is a phone number that shouldn’t only be reserved for physical emergencies.

Underage drinking and illegal drug use are activities that sometimes characterize college

social life, an issue that makes the relative ease of dialing 911 a more complicated act. Students may feel uncertain of whether they should reach out to police if they themselves are engaged in illegal activity, even if he or she is in danger.

“It’s frustrating to me,”

Scheets said. “I understand the students’ concerns. I was a student ... I did things that I didn’t want the police around, but the only way for us to understand each other is to have a dialogue.”

A desire for a stronger community focus is some-

thing both Scheets and Land emphasized in spite of illegal activity of minors that might create barriers for students between themselves and law enforcement.

“Community safety is a community concern — it’s not a police concern,” Scheets said.

REPUBLICANS continues from page 1

shortage in either could drastically impact the economy.

“It’s important for political organizations to have conversations about these kinds of issues,” said Jordan Seibert, business freshman and

a new member of College Republicans. “I personally didn’t know anything about fracking going into the meeting, but now I feel like I know a lot.”

College Republicans were founded in January of 1950, making them the oldest political organization at UT. Their

goals are to foster a spirit of conservative activism on campus and promote the values of the Republican Party.

The organization brings in influential political speakers, holds rallies and social events and assists with Republican campaigns in the Austin area. The general meetings are

open to anybody, but those who are passionate about the organization are encouraged to become members.

“Regardless of your political affiliation, I would invite anybody to come to one of our meetings and see what we’re all about,” said Andrew Jackson, supply chain busi-

ness senior and president of College Republicans. “Having diverse opinions helps you make better decisions and helps you remain more informed so you’re not in a state of groupthink.”

College Republicans host meetings every other Wednesday at 7 p.m. in UTC 1.146.

THE DAILY TEXAN

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CAMPUS

Historian discusses modern racial justice

By Sunny Kim & Carlynn Hickenbotham @thedailytexan

Civil rights historian and author Peniel Joseph spoke on modern-day relations and past struggles for racial justice in a series of lectures hosted by the Center for the Study of Race and Democracy on Wednesday at Garrison Hall.

Joseph, who is the founding director of The Center for the Study of Race and Democracy, explained how his work is devoted to the black power movement and civil rights.

His book, “Stokely: A Life,” focuses on the life of political activist Stokely Carmichael and his importance during the civil rights movement. Carmichael helped organize the original Black Panther Party in America and joined the Black Panther Party for Self Defense.

Unlike Malcolm X and Martin Luther King, Jr., Carmichael promoted the term “black power,” which called for self-governing politics. According to Joseph, Carmichael’s role was more of a local organizer than a mobilizer.

“Looking at Stokely’s day-to-day activism gave me a better understanding of the terrain of the 1960s,” Joseph said. “He comes to see the grandeur process in the small deed of democracy in places where it doesn’t exist.”

However, not a lot of people are aware of Carmichael’s past accomplishments, which include fighting for social justice through organizing sit-ins, demonstrations and voter registration efforts alongside other civil activists. Joseph said this attributes to Carmichael’s controversial message of the black power movement in America.

“He remained an unrepentant revolutionary,” Joseph said. “In a way he fits outside the conventional narrative, so in a way he’s too radical for some kind of mainstream.”

Electrical engineering freshman Aimun Khan said he came to the event to learn more about Stokely and his achievements because of his interest in the civil rights movement.

“I did debate in high school, that got me really into race literature and talking about race and politics in America,” Khan said. “I feel like for someone who hasn’t read Stokely, [Joseph] really helped it make sense.”

History graduate student Nakia Parker said she believes the importance of black power extends beyond just the civil rights movement.

“Black power is very politically active and socially active,” Parker said. “It did a lot of work as to eliminate poverty. I think movements like Black Lives Matter has its roots in black power and civil rights. We’re in a moment now where they’re involved in racial politics and social movements.”

CAMPUS

Clinton advocate encourages Texas voter turnout

By Kayla Meyertons
@kemeyertons

University Democrats hosted Jaclyn Uresti, Texas state director of Hillary for America, on Wednesday night to discuss presidential candidate Hillary Clinton’s traction with voters in Texas. Hillary for America is a nation-wide grassroots campaign to elect Clinton for president. With over 2 million donors, the campaign holds events for supporters, provides Hillary’s policy plans and promotes volunteer involvement. Uresti discussed balancing state and national policies, reducing voter apathy and increasing voter turnout among young voters. Uresti said one of the campaign’s main goals is to increase civic engagement among young voters. “Donald Trump doesn’t

talk about the vast majority of things that young people are worried about, [such as college debt],” said Uresti. “By learning why voting matters early on, young voters can start to realize the impact they can have on something as big as a presidential election, and Hillary is the best candidate for the youth vote.” Neuroscience freshman Veronica Herrera said Uresti encouraged her to make a difference and get people to the polls. “My parents are Democrats, so I’m trying to figure out my own views,” said Herrera. “[It’s important to get people to the polls now because] people are discovering their values right now.” Joseph Trahan, public relations junior and communications director of University Democrats, said UDems has registered several hundred voters and

tabled at high-traffic areas on campus since the start of the semester. “The most direct way that we as an organization can impact students is by making sure they are civically engaged and they take on the responsibility of voting,” Trahan said. “That’s our starting point.” Trahan said he thinks that Clinton is unlikely to win Texas as a swing state, but the increasing Hispanic population offers promise for a blue victory in 2020. According to the Pew Hispanic Center, Texas has the nation’s second largest Hispanic population and more than 4.8 million eligible Hispanic voters, making it one of the most valuable battleground states. A Washington Post poll on Sept. 6 based on more than 74,000 registered voters showed Clinton beating Trump by one percent in Texas.



Brooke Crim | Daily Texan Staff
Jaclyn Uresti, Texas state director for Hillary of America, speaks about current voter turnout at the University Democrats meeting on Wednesday evening.

“Hillary for America is here to have a goal for Texas and to build infrastructure,” said Uresti. “Clinton lost by sixteen points in 2012, so to even see one poll within 7 points, 5 points, and then 1 point up, means we can start to turn Texas blue.” Early voting in Texas occurs from Oct. 24–Nov. 4. Election Day is on Nov. 8.

MUSIC

Therapist, former musician talks discovering potential in industry

By Burhanuddin Calcuttawala
@thisisfordtex

Dana Fonteneau, cellist, somatic psychotherapist and creator of the WholeHearted Musician — a business centered on helping musicians reach their artistic, financial and professional goals — spoke to an audience about building a healthy and realistic career path as a musician. Fonteneau outlined her four-step equation for achieving these goals, which includes having an inspired vision, an action plan, accountability and a belief in oneself. She also highlighted why she changed her own career path from musician to therapist.

“What I realized that I really wanted to do was to help people get beyond their own fear and self-judgment and criticism, and just get up there and make an impact,” Fonteneau said. She said her love for the music industry brought her to want to right some unfortunate realities in the industry, like its cutthroat nature. “In my personal opinion, we as a profession are like crabs in a bucket,” Fonteneau said. “You don’t ever have to worry about the crabs getting out. Somehow, as a profession, we turn on each other, with this fierce competition, judgment, guilt and shame ... instead of turning out to the rest of the world

and [asking], ‘How can I serve you?’” Nick Montopoli, chamber music graduate student, said the talk will help his quartet group discover its goal. “[Fonteneau’s] talk really helped in distilling down our mission statement and really figuring out what we’re about as a group,” Montopoli said. “It was driving that point home of figuring out what you want first and how you want to achieve that.” Antonio Cavallos, a violin performance masters student, said many of Fonteneau’s points resounded with him as an aspiring musician. “She talked a lot about ... basically everything that we think to ourselves but



Dana Fonteneau speaks to students and faculty on building a healthy career path as a musician at the Music Building on Wednesday evening. Fonteneau is a cellist, somatic psychotherapist, and creator of the WholeHearted Musician.

never articulate and vocalize to anyone else,” Cavallos said. “Once we’ve actually achieved a goal, then what? I think it’s really difficult for someone who’s in their early to mid-20s to have a really good concept of what your career is going to be.” To that, Fonteneau has a simple answer. “Success is the byproduct of the destination,” Fonteneau said. “If you don’t [know] where you are and you don’t know where you’re going, it’s hit or miss if you get where you’re going.”

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SUNDAY

EXPLOSIONS IN THE SKY • COURTNEY BARNETT •
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COLUMN

Students should reject fast fashion, thrift instead

By Laura Hallas
Daily Texan Senior Columnist
@LauraHallas

New York fashion week started on Sept. 7, but chances are knockoffs will hit shopping malls before the event even ends. This “fast fashion” depends on cheap labor and harsh chemicals, and its clothes have to be constantly replaced. Local thrift stores offer similar prices for more responsible and longer lasting materials. Austin’s spirit of individualism and “weirdness” creates the perfect environment for exploring personal style while still staying on budget.

Luckily, millennials are more focused on sustainable and higher-quality fashion that lasts longer and has more of a classic feel. Textiles and apparel lecturer Jessica Ciarla said that being “trendy” isn’t the goal for many of today’s young adults — and that’s a good thing.

“If you look at trends in the fashion industry, there really isn’t a solid trend anymore. Young people are creating their own looks,” Ciarla said. “It makes sense that you shouldn’t be buying H&M and Forever 21 trendy looks because they’re not in fashion, and they don’t last, and it doesn’t make sense for your finances or the environment.”

Austin is home to dozens of boutiques, local designers and thrift stores that offer higher quality clothing at prices lower than traditional stores. Buffalo Exchange, Blue Velvet and Feathers are mainstays of Austin thrift shopping, and are complemented

“This “fast fashion” depends on cheap labor and harsh chemicals, and its clothes have to be constantly replaced. Austin’s spirit of individualism and “weirdness” creates the perfect environment for exploring personal style while still staying on budget.

by Austin’s growing ranks of local designers and boutiques.

Shopping on South Congress can be a time suck for students’ schedules, but shopping apps make this process faster and easier. Apps like Poshmark, Vinted and Tradesy allow you to browse specific brands and styles filtered to fit your pre-entered sizes. For special events like formals or job interviews, sites like Rent the Runway eliminate the high cost of dressing for a single event, with the added bonus of high quality designer clothing. Though they are generally national, some apps like Wallapop allow you to shop locally among other Austinites. Student Facebook and Etsy pages also help keep quality clothing within the UT family.

Textiles and apparel lecturer Ockhee Bego said that the Textiles and Apparel Department

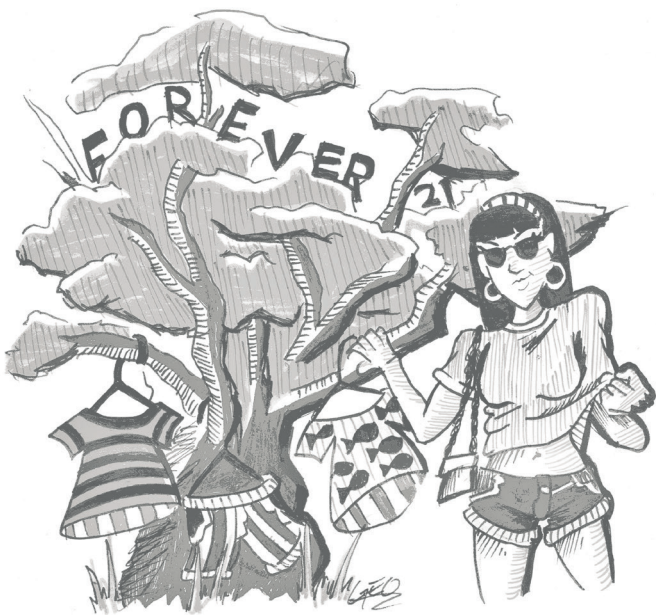


Illustration by Geo Casillas | Daily Texan Staff

at UT looks to promote this quality-centered thinking amongst students both while on a student budget and in the future. After all, students’ budgets will increase after college as they get jobs, but it will still be important to buy clothes responsibly.

“Austin is very laid back, but at same time going forward, everyone has their own style. That is what is unique about Austin. It’s very self-expressing,” Ockhee said. “If you don’t have the budget [for designer

quality clothing], you go buy a secondhand garment and make your own style. I think that’s the greatest thing.”

“Keep Austin Weird” isn’t just a tourist trope — it’s a call for fashion on a budget. Students looking to stay in style for cheap should utilize Austin’s unique fashion scene to build their own sustainable and affordable styles.

Hallas is a Plan II and health and society sophomore from Allen.

COLUMN

Nighttime runners must take safety precautions

By Ethan Elkins
Daily Texan Columnist
@eelkins97

“There are monsters in society that will do us harm,” said Austin Police Department Chief Art Acevedo at a press conference in April while addressing the shocking murder of a UT student on campus. In accordance with the victim’s mother, he asserted that students should learn from this tragedy to be vigilant, no matter how safe they interpret their environment to be. This advice should hold true especially for runners. Those who exercise during hours of darkness must do everything they can to make safety a top priority.

With the University of Texas being one of the largest schools in the country in one of the largest cities in the country, the dangers on and around campus cannot always be controlled.

“Any community has more concerns when comparing nighttime to daytime,” said UT Police Department Chief David Carter on the safety of campus. He advises any students on foot to be aware of the recommendations of the school’s “BE SAFE” campaign, a simple three-part effort advising students to be cautious.

The first point, “Walk With Me,” urges students to travel in numbers. The idea is that a group is safer and more aware than an individual can be. If a person is running around at night with their earphones in, they are more prone to distractions, so it is best to have a second pair of eyes observing their environment. A partner can also increase motivation to run

“With the University of Texas being one of the largest schools in the country in one of the largest cities in the country, the dangers on and around campus cannot always be controlled.

further while minimizing risk.

The campaign’s second point is “Be Aware of Your Surroundings,” which Carter stressed goes along with being responsible. “Physical fitness and running are important, but we want students to do that in the safest way possible,” he said. He explained it is easier to be observant while running along a well-lit path compared to going off-road.

The final point of the campaign is “Call 911.” UTPD has made efforts to increase patrols and surveillance after the tragedy last semester, but these officers are not in direct sight at all times. “We will always respond to our community running at night,” closed Carter.

These points were also stressed by Ryan Camarillo, vice president of the Texas Running Club, who does not deem campus to be a safe place at night. Camarillo typically runs at night if it is his only choice. “I always try to run in a pair. Another key thing is to tell someone where you are going,” he said.

“I would stay away from Guadalupe,” Camarillo added, explaining Clark Field is the



Katie Bauer | Daily Texan File Photo

UT students run down Speedway. Many students only have time to exercise during the night, when safety is of greater concern.

safest and best lit area on campus, complete with yellow emergency help boxes. When pushed, these beacons alert UT to deploy help immediately.

Nighttime running does not need to be taboo. For many students, it is the only time they can insert exercise plans into their busy schedules, so it is of the utmost importance that students utilize the tips of the “BE SAFE” campaign to decrease vulnerability. In the words of UTPD Chief Carter, “We want to be visible and observe, as should students.”

Elkins is a journalism sophomore from Tyler.

“Nighttime running does not need to be a taboo. For many students, it is the only time they can insert exercise into their busy schedules, so it is of the utmost importance that students utilize the tips of the “BE SAFE” campaign to decrease vulnerability.

COLUMN

Abbott’s STEM grants fail to raise school funding

By Albert Zhao
Daily Texan Columnist
@_albertzhao

Gov. Greg Abbott’s recent \$7.2 million educational proposal attempts to form “Innovative Academies,” a grant program for STEM subjects to be emphasized in Texas high schools. Abbott’s program intends to create a future workforce primed for jobs in the energy, defense and tech industries and therefore increase economic growth in the state. Such a measure is particularly timely, as student interest in STEM majors has been stagnant since 2011. UT Austin, however, continues to grow in its STEM major enrollment.

But in the wake of steep cuts to public schooling, Abbott’s proposal is feeble and insubstantial for our declining school system, one plagued with increased class sizes, staff cuts and deferred building improvements, among other burdens. Abbott continues to fail Texas K-12 students and their parents with his

“But in the wake of steep cuts to public schooling, Abbott’s proposal is feeble and insubstantial for our declining school system...

lack of meaningful funding reform as he presides over an education system ranked among the lowest eight states in quality according to Education Week.

During his tenure as attorney general in 2011, Abbott fought Texas school districts that sued the state for its devastating \$5.4 billion budget cut to public schools. Though the Texas Constitution enforces the attorney general to uphold passed legislation regardless of opinion, Abbott, as governor, failed to rectify the cuts last year when lawmakers passed the two-year state budget.

Under Abbott, \$1.5 billion have been restored to public school funding. Although 90 percent of the 2011 cuts have been restored, this amount has also ignored currency inflation and an increasing school population. As a result, Texas school districts continue to demonstrate blatant setbacks from the punishing 2011 cuts.

In the Leander School District, north of Austin, elementary schools absorbed the majority of the cuts by overloading students into third and fourth grade classrooms in order to hire fewer teachers. This dilemma broadens statewide where K-12 classes exceeding the 22-student limit have grown by 63 percent since the 2011 cuts. Also in the latest STAAR scores (a test calculating high school preparedness), the lack of significant score improvements since 2014 further demonstrates how strained public schools are.

Although Abbott has worked with lawmakers this past year to pass numerous educational programs focused on math and reading for early childhood education programs, he has left

middle and high school education to the fate of a decrepit funding system. The Texas Supreme Court, despite this year upholding the public school funding system as constitutional, criticized it as an “ossified regime ill-suited for 21st century Texas.”

As an elected official who touts the goal that “[Texas] must become the leader at educating our children,” Abbott bestows further responsibility upon himself to reform and modernize Texas education spending. He must abandon the current complacency, particularly the kind embodied by Lt. Gov. Dan Patrick who remarked that the current funding system is fine because schools districts have “survived” so far.

Though Abbott’s policy of “Innovative Academies” may hold promise, if our school districts and students are to thrive, Abbott must first push lawmakers to pass bills that adequately fund Texas school districts.

Zhao is a government and corporate communications junior from Shanghai, China.

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PHYSICS

UT physicists explain science of Netflix hit

By Manar Hasan
@thedailytexan

The hit Netflix show “Stranger Things” has a root in theoretical physics, but UT scientists say it should not be mistaken as being scientifically accurate.

The series, created by the Duffer Brothers, tells the tale of a group of children who try to find their friend when he mysteriously disappears from their small town. Their search leads to the uncovering of many mysteries, and introduces science fiction concepts such as telekinesis, alternate dimensions and other-worldly monsters. The show was named the most popular digital original series in the U.S. during the week it was released, and students at UT agree.

“I loved the show so much, I couldn’t stop watching,” said Sarah Seraj, an environmental engineering Ph.D. student. “I ended up going through the entire season in one night. It was well-paced, had great acting, and explained a lot of cool theoretical science, without becoming too over-the-top like some sci-fi shows can.”

However, how much of this science fiction tale is science and how much is fiction? Sivaramakrishnan Swaminathan, a Ph.D. student who works in field theory and particle physics, said the show’s mysterious other world, The Upside Down, is far from current theoretical physics concepts. The show simultaneously refers to this place as an alternate dimension and a parallel universe — so which is it?

“To be honest, physicists never really use either of those terms the way they’re used in the show,” Swaminathan said. “What parallel universes usually



The popular netflix show “Stranger Things” incorporates physics concepts throughout its plot.

Courtesy of Netflix

mean to physicists can be explained using Schrödinger’s cat.”

‘Schrödinger’s cat’ refers to a paradox theory involving a cat shut in a box which may or may not contain poison. According to the theory, the cat can be thought of as both dead and alive while in the box. However, once the box is opened, both of those possibilities split into two parallel universes. If the cat is dead when the box is opened, a parallel universe is created where the cat is alive.

“However, on principle, these two universes can’t communicate with each other, which is where the show loses touch with this concept,” Swaminathan said.

Swaminathan said the idea of additional dimensions is more interesting.

“In the show, some characters have the ability to move in a completely different way than we can,” he said. “But it’s not a matter of moving to another dimension, but being able to move in another dimension.”

To explain The Upside Down, the show uses the analogy of an acrobat

and a flea on a tightrope. Normal humans are like acrobats, limited to forward and backward motions, or along one dimension. However, a flea could move sideways or even under the rope, i.e. along multiple dimensions. Another issue, though, is the flea itself.

“Theoretically, if there were something that could move between the dimensions, that entity would be made up of very different particles, not normal matter like we’re constrained to on our side of the tightrope,” said Can Kilic, an assistant professor of theoretical particle physics at UT. “If there were such an entity, it would be particles, and not an actual solid object, let alone a living thing.”

In the show, a gate divides the world of the humans from the The Upside Down, a dark mirror image of the world.

“That part isn’t completely out of touch with theoretical physics, but even then, the things on the other side would be made up of different particles altogether,” Kilic said. “There’s no reason to believe that the other side would be a copy of our world here, or even be remotely similar.”

Although Kilic said the

physics of the show does not match what scientists currently know, he acknowledged that humans are far from understanding everything about physics.

“Physics is an ever-evolving subject,” Kilic said. “However, if you restrict yourself to what we currently know, then the show isn’t plausible. It seemed like the show creators made a story out of a mixture of various physics ideas like parallel universes and extra dimensions, so there’s not one theory I could point to and say ‘Yes, the show resembles this framework,’ because there’s a lot of creative liberty being taken.”

Despite his scientific critiques of the show, Kilic said he still enjoyed watching it.

“I find it hard to put an overall ranking of how ‘realistic’ the show is, but I’d say it’s less realistic than ‘Back to the Future’ and ‘Sliders,’” he said. “There’s just many physics concepts being taken here. That doesn’t take anything away from the show though. I thought it was a great show with an enjoyable story with a great cast. In my personal ranking of science fiction shows, ‘Stranger Things’ ranks pretty high.”

GEOLOGY

Identification day rocks UT Memorial Museum

By Lawrence Goodwyn
@Tyler_Goodwyn

When it comes to identifying mysterious minerals, enthusiasts can sometimes find themselves between a rock and a hard place.

The UT Memorial Museum is here to help. The museum will be hosting its annual “Identification Day” this Sunday from 1-5 p.m. Attendees will be able to bring in unidentified rocks, fossils, gems or other natural objects and have them identified by experts. They will also receive free admission to the museum and its exhibits.

Roughly 300-500 people attend the event every year from different parts of Central Texas, according to Edward Theriot, the director of the Texas Memorial Museum.

“The opportunity for the public to interact with very knowledgeable scientists about fossils, flowers, gems and minerals is what really brings people together and makes the event a success,” Theriot said.

In the past, attendees have brought in mammoth teeth, invertebrate fossils from the cretaceous period, part of a bear tooth eroded in a river bank and a tapir jaw, to name a few, said Pamela Owen, associate director of the Texas

Memorial Museum.

“It’s great for the community to have a chance to speak in person about biology, geology and paleontology, and focus one-on-one in person about their find,” said Owen.

Owen said the event is an opportunity for people to finally quench their curiosity about that random artifact that’s been sitting in their grandmother’s attic for decades.

“It’s much more personal than sending a photo of the fossil through email,” Owen said.

Theriot said it is worthwhile to note that the museum does not offer appraisals on items, because their main focus is the science behind identifying the artifacts.

In the past, attendees have even been able to bring pictures of snakes, lizards and various amphibians to be identified by an on-scene herpetologist. Although this year’s event will not feature a herpetologist, attendees will still be able to meet one-on-one with paleontologists, geologists, botanists and other specialists.

Despite experiencing a budget cut two years ago, Owen said the event will still be a diamond in the rough.

“It’s exciting for us to really bring this event back big-time,” Owen said.



Illustration by Madi Beavers | Daily Texan Staff

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VOLLEYBALL

Longhorns sweep Aggies in rivalry revival

By Steve Helwick
@Naqwert3

An excerpt from Texas’ fight song reads “goodbye to A&M,” and the Longhorns quickly discarded their old rival on Wednesday.

No. 2 Texas swept No. 16 Texas A&M at Gregory Gym, extending its win streak to seven.

“I just thought it was a great feeling that our fans came out tonight,” senior setter Chloe Collins said. “They showed their support, and it shows how much the rivalry [means] to our university ... [Texas A&M] is always a great team, and it’s always nice to come out with a W.”

In the rivalry’s first match since December 2013, Texas employed powerful kills to defeat the visiting Aggies. Senior outside hitter Paulina Prieto Cerame crashed the net to lead Texas to its 18th-straight home victory. She added 16 kills on the evening.

“It’s all in the timing,” Prieto Cerame said. “I’ve been working on it with my coaches — just making sure that I’m driving hard every time.”

Freshman outside hitter Micaya White and junior outside hitter Ebony Nwanebu were also instrumental in guiding Texas to its fifth sweep in six matches. The duo added 21 additional kills, along with five blocks.

The outside hitters benefited from the strong play of Collins, who compiled a game-high 35 assists.



Freshman outside hitter Micaya White spikes the ball. White and the No. 2 ranked Longhorns swept No. 16 Texas A&M on Wednesday, advancing their win streak to seven games. Texas is now 8–1 on the season, including a 5–0 record at home.

“Paulina’s awesome,” Collins said. “She just brings a fire every time she’s on the court. We’ve been gelling well in practice and I think it definitely translated into the game tonight.”

The two rivals traded points to open the first set. No team scored consecutive points through the first 16 serves until Texas A&M claimed an early 9-8 lead. But a 7-3 Texas run sealed a four-point victory to claim the first frame. Service errors were a theme in

the set — the Aggies produced four, while the Longhorns accounted for six.

A wire-to-wire finish separated the burnt orange from the maroon in the second set. Texas fired out to a 7-1 lead, increasing the deficit to as much as 10. The Longhorns produced 4-0 and 5-0 runs to pummel the Aggies 25-18. Freshman libero Autumn Rounsaville fueled the latter run, as Texas capitalized on a series of her serves to put the Aggies into a 0-2 hole.

“One thing I like about Autumn is she’s very steady and nothing phases her,” head coach Jerritt Elliott said. “She got it going there at the end of game two and game three.”

Texas A&M finally pushed ahead to start the third set. The Aggies relied on an early 5-0 spurt to place themselves in front 10-7. But the Longhorns quickly recuperated with four consecutive points. Texas then scored six straight points

on five Rounsaville serves, proceeding to a 25-21 victory.

The Aggies are the highest-ranked team Texas has defeated this year. After sweeping their rival at home, the Longhorns look to continue their win streak on Sunday. The burnt orange will boast its home-court advantage at Gregory Gym against No. 6 Wisconsin. “Gregory Gym is just amazing, and we feed off that,” Collins said. “It’s a hostile environment that we bring.”

Stephanie Tacy | Daily Texan Staff

BIG 12 NOTEBOOK

Oklahoma running back Samaje Perine sprints past a Texas defender. The junior compiled his first two touchdowns of the season on Saturday, rushing for two scores and 58 yards against Louisiana Monroe.



Rachel Zein
Daily Texan Staff

Big 12 Notebook: Cowboys look to bounce back after loss

By Claire Cruz
@ClaireCruz5

Central Michigan upsets Oklahoma State

The wild Hail Mary-turned-lateral play that earned the Chippewas a win after time had expired never should have happened — the MAC issued a statement saying their officials called a play incorrectly. But it did, and Cowboys head coach Mike Gundy said he’s ready to put it behind him and focus on this weekend’s game against Pittsburgh.

At 2–0, the Panthers are coming off a big win over rival Penn State. Pittsburgh’s defense is aggressive and will go after junior quarterback Mason Rudolph, who was sacked four times behind a shaky offensive line on Saturday.

The Panthers’ run defense also ranks No. 11 in the FBS and will pose a big challenge for Oklahoma State, who recorded just 50 rushing yards against Central Michigan. Getting the offense going early will be key to getting back on track for the Cowboys.

Oklahoma prepares for marquee matchup with Ohio State

The No. 14 Sooners steamrolled Louisiana-Monroe last weekend. But they’re in for a tall task on Saturday.

With the No. 3 Buckeyes

heading to Norman, Oklahoma, the Sooners have a chance to earn the big win they couldn’t capture against No. 6 Houston on opening weekend.

Oklahoma’s explosive offensive trio of junior quarterback Baker Mayfield, junior running back Samaje Perine and sophomore running back Joe Mixon carried the Sooners against ULM. And they will have to be even better against Ohio State, who ranks No. 3 in scoring defense.

But the Sooner defense will be the key. If Oklahoma can contain junior quarterback J.T. Barrett and an explosive Buckeye offense that hasn’t yet been challenged, it can earn a signature victory.

Texas Tech loses shootout

Junior quarterback Patrick Mahomes led Texas Tech’s offense to another high-scoring performance on Saturday. But it wasn’t enough against Arizona State.

The Red Raider defense was less than adequate, giving up 652 yards of offense en route to the team’s 68-55 loss. Arizona State’s junior running back Kalen Ballage scored seven rushing touchdowns on just 13 carries and had a touchdown reception to tie the NCAA record for most touchdowns scored by a single player in a game.

“The Sooners have a chance to earn the big win they couldn’t capture against No. 6 Houston on opening weekend.”

Texas Tech’s home game against Louisiana Tech on Saturday should give the Red Raiders a chance to focus on improving defensively.

Baylor overcomes slow first half against SMU

The Bears and Mustangs went into halftime tied at six on Saturday at McLane Stadium. Baylor’s high-powered offense struggled to keep a drive alive in the first half and settled for a pair of field goals after a fumble and interception.

But Baylor came out for the second half on a mission and scored on its opening drive to spark a 34-point half, securing a 40-13 victory. Senior quarterback Seth Russell finished with 304 total yards and scored a pair of passing touchdowns with a rushing score to boot.

The Bears travel to Houston for a Friday night matchup with Rice that should give the offense another chance to tune up before conference play begins.

VOLLEYBALL

Nwanebu comfortable following transfer

By Leah Vann
@Vanntastic_Leah

Junior outside hitter Ebony Nwanebu never liked individual sports. Instead, she gravitated towards the companionship of playing on a team.

“When you’re on a team it’s like you have another family who supports you and loves you,” Nwanebu said. “I love that aspect of it.”

Coming out of Lovejoy High School in Lucas, Texas, Nwanebu took her talents to a new home in California to play for USC. She immediately made an impact for the Trojans, becoming the only Pac-12 freshman to rank in the top 10 in hitting percentage. She averaged 3.47 kills per set with a 0.358 hitting percentage.

Nwanebu spent the following summer traveling with the USA Volleyball Collegiate National team in China. Nwanebu helped the U.S. Senior National team earn a silver medal at the Montreux Volley Masters in Switzerland.

But even with an accomplished resume early in her collegiate career, the Texan never found the “family” environment she was looking for at USC. She steadily grew homesick and decided to transfer back to her home state. “I wanted to be closer to home so my family [could] see play in person more often,” Nwanebu said.

The transfer process was not easy; Nwanebu was forced to go through an appeals

process to change schools. She had to answer questions from University officials, athletic directors and coaches before she could transfer.

“She [had to] go in front of a committee that is not only athletics, it’s more the general university executives, so they can hear her case on why she’s leaving,” head coach Jerritt Elliott said.

Nwanebu won her appeal and joined the Longhorns last season after a year of sitting out due to NCAA rules. However, a back injury forced her to miss most of the season again as a sophomore.

Now finally healthy and fully integrated with the team, she finds herself at home with the Longhorns.

“We’re all with each other 24/7, so I consider everyone my best friend on this team,” Nwanebu said, “We take naps together, we go eat together and that’s basically all we have time for.”

Nwanebu is already starting to make her mark with the Longhorns. Through six games, Nwanebu has racked up 96 kills with a 0.357 hitting percentage, proving herself as one of the top hitters on the team.

Elliott said he’s thrilled Nwanebu is finally on the court. He said he sees big contributions from the junior this season.

“I think she’s at a comfortable level emotionally after being here for a year and understanding our system,” Elliott said. “Her role is to take a lot of swings and score for us.”



Gabriel Lopez | Daily Texan Staff
Junior outside hitter Ebony Nwanebu spikes the ball.

SIDELINE



TOP TWEET

Malik Jefferson
@Official_MalikJ
“A year made for champions. #believe”

TODAY IN HISTORY
1978

Muhammed Ali defeats Leon Spinks to win the WBA heavyweight title.

SPORTS BRIEFLY

Longhorns prepare to face Bears’ attack

Vance Bedford is known to say the unexpected.

Last week he said Texas should be ranked No. 50, even though the Associated Press put Texas at No. 11. Texas’ defensive coordinator relayed more ear-opening comments at his weekly press conference on Wednesday.

Bedford said that nobody on the Longhorn defense has exceeded his expectations despite the team jumping out to a 2–0 start. Instead, he gave credit for the perfect start to the other two phases of the team.

“And our punter right now ... [sophomore, Michael Dickson’s] done a great job,” Bedford said. “And when you have a punter that can pin them back like he’s pinned them back and an offense that can score points, you should be sitting at 2–0.”

Bedford complimented California quarterback Davis Webb on Wednesday, saying the senior is an excellent quarterback that can make throws other quarterbacks can’t. Webb currently sits at No. 2 in the nation in passing yards per game with 481.5, and has thrown for nine touchdowns through two games.

“I think the kid is a special talent,” Bedford said. “I think he brings something special to Cal’s offense. So we are going to have our hands full.”

Bedford said the Texas defensive line needs to get its hands up to tip passes against Webb. But keeping him at bay is mainly the secondary’s responsibility. He said Texas will play as many defensive backs as it takes to contain Webb.

“If they make the trip, they’re all going to have to play,” Bedford said. “When you play these types of offenses, if you think you’re going to go out there and play one set of defensive backs you’re in trouble.”

- Tyler Horka



Daily Texan Comics

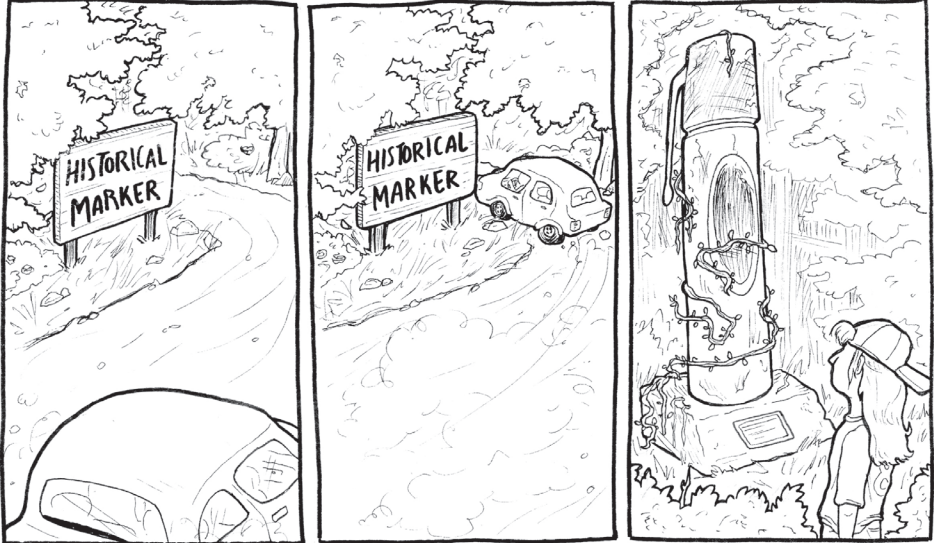
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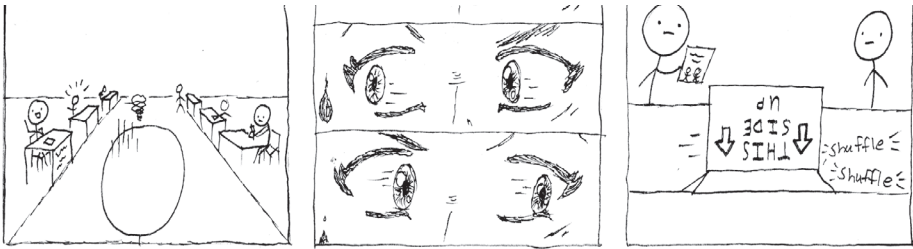
by Mel W.



BEVO'S 1st DAY

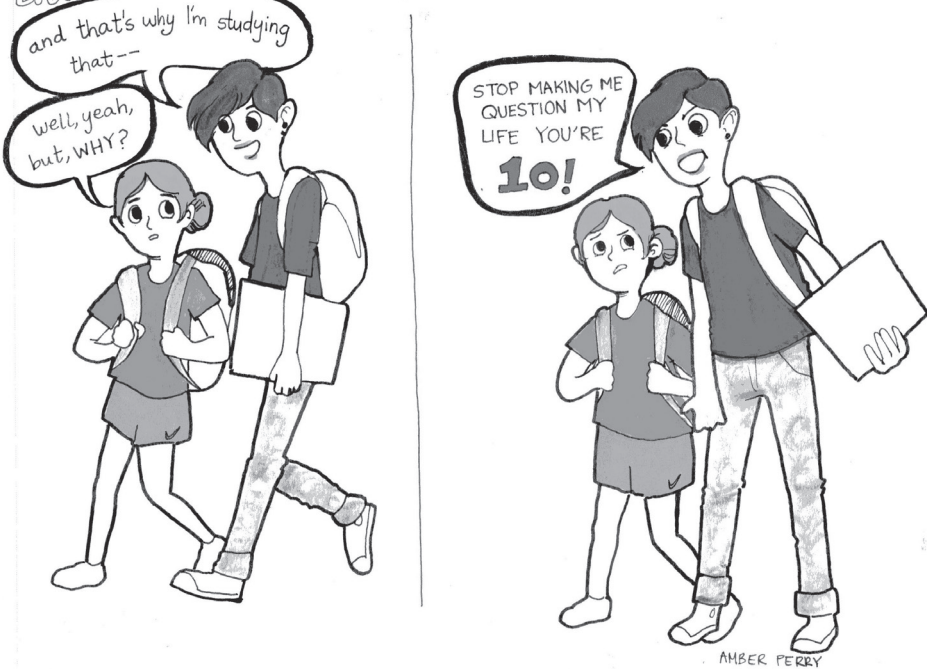


BY: ARMANDO DE LAEA



This is how Dante made it through the 10 levels, Sirkirby

LIVING WITH AWKWARD



A DUMB COMIC BY A DUMB PERSON: BIX BOOTS



BIXBOOTS.COM

Today's solution will appear here next issue

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The New York Times Crossword

- ACROSS**

1 Capital south of Lake Volta

6 Qdoba offering

10 J. K. Rowling, by residence

14 Show in syndication, say

15 Without restraint

16 Something that may crash and break

17 [See circled letters]

19 Like Antarctica

20 Passed out

21 ___ Dantès, the Count of Monte Cristo

23 No one in particular

25 [See circled letters]

28 Source of sake

30 Weight lifter

31 [See circled letters]

33 Excites
- 34 Winston's tormenter in "1984"

39 "Lincoln" or "Nixon"

40 "It is better to give than to receive," e.g.

41 [See circled letters]

44 Irritation reaction

46 Body ___

47 [See circled letters]

52 Longtime resident of New York's Dakota apartments

53 Standout

54 Missing nothing on

56 Wise guy

57 [See circled letters]

62 Band of brothers?

63 Score of a lifetime?
- 64 When José Martí was born

65 One way to stand by

66 T. rex, e.g.

67 Trunks, of a sort

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE

B	I	R	D			C	R	A	W		S	R	A	S
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Edited by Will Shortz No. 0811

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CAMPUS

‘Finstas’ hide aspects of students’ social lives

By Grace Speas
@thedailytexan

Most Instagram posts are carefully shot, edited and captioned. Despite this, college students in long-term relationships with their Insta accounts have begun to avoid the calculative nature of the posting process with one easy solution: the Finsta.

The Finsta, or fake Instagram, is a separate, private and often illicit account users share only with their closest circle of friends. Whereas one’s primary Instagram profile may have followers the user has never met or barely knows, Finstas are much more private. The outside world, including future employers, elder peers and overbearing family members, is blissfully unaware of its presence.

According to Jane Morris, a human relations freshman and sorority member, “In Finsta territory, there are no rules.”

“With each day, Instagram is becoming formalized,” Morris said. “And as it does, it has become clear that everyone is watching.”

Users are drawn to Finstas because they allow them to publish memories without fearing the judgment of hundreds of followers on an official

profile. Finsta account holders can post unedited selfies, as well as photos showing scandalous activities, such as drugs or alcohol.

Morris’ Panhellenic sorority involvement includes an agreement to censor content on personal social media profiles, which lead her to create a fake account to escape being monitored.

“I just now got a Finsta,” Morris said. “All of my sorority friends have one, so I wanted to see theirs and be a part of it. We can post without fear of getting in trouble.”

In sororities, an officer position has traditionally existed to supervise behavior at events, but certain chapters have begun appointing someone to specifically censor scandalous social media content.

While some users are hiding certain activities from their peers, business freshman Valentina Novoa said she experienced a clash between her desire to use social media freely and the traditional values of her extended family.

“Even if I am pictured out with my social group and doing nothing wrong in a photo, my extended Peruvian family is very old-fashioned,” Novoa said. “My parents understand that I am older

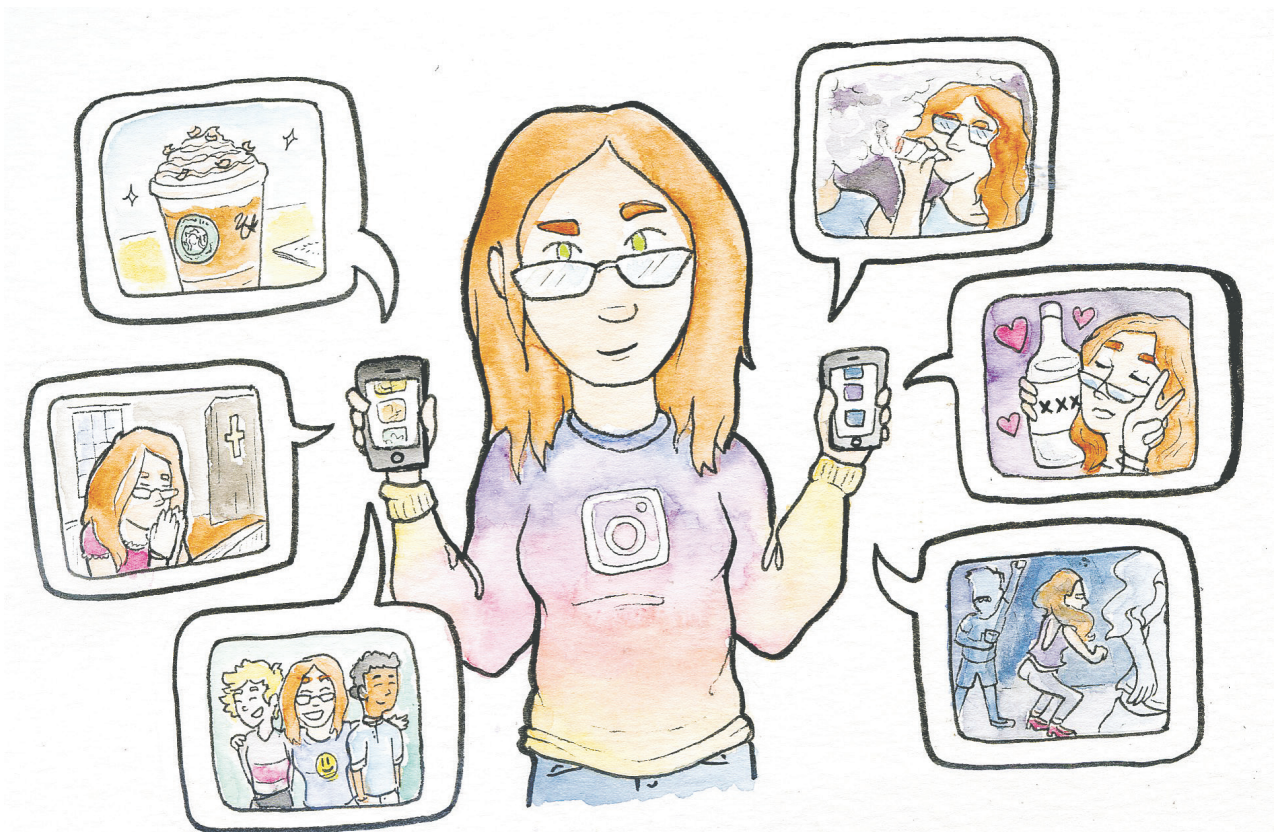


Illustration by Melanie Westfall | Daily Texan Staff

now, yet they prefer that I keep the photos of myself and my friends private. The problem is, nothing’s private anymore.”

Journalism senior lecturer Robert Quigley, who focuses on new media, said he understands why teenagers, specifically college students, are creating Finstas. He said because social media is the way

millennial share memories, they face more challenges than previous generations. When he was young, he said almost everyone engaged in unprofessional activities as well, but since there was no way of recording it, there was less risk of consequence.

“The idea that Instagrammers don’t want to be pegged with the content

they are posting is contradictory to the fact that what they post, no matter how anonymous, can always come back to them,” Quigley said.

As a professor, Quigley said he reinforces the importance of building a personal brand to students looking for internships and job opportunities.

“Companies these days

are digging in pretty deep when it comes to hiring, especially in the communications industry,” Quigley said. “I have seen a business choose not to hire a candidate due to how she was portraying herself on social media. Even if it is posted on a secondary, [undercover] account, always assume that someone will find it out. Operate that way.”

MOVIE REVIEW | ‘BLAIR WITCH’

‘Blair Witch’ fails to capture tension present in original

By Charles Liu
@CharliInDaHaus

“Blair Witch” wasn’t originally thought to be the third “Blair Witch Project” movie.

First advertised as a new property by Adam Wingard titled “The Woods,” the true nature of the film was revealed at San Diego Comic Con earlier this year. The surprise generated a lot of hype for the long-awaited sequel, especially after the dreadful “Book of Shadows: Blair Witch 2.” But while its scares are generally entertaining, “Blair Witch” misses out on a satisfying payoff.

This found footage movie begins with James (James Allen McCune) and Lisa (Callie Hernandez), a budding filmmaker, setting out to document their hunt for the whereabouts of James’ sister, Heather, who was one of the college students killed in “The Blair Witch Project.” Their friends Peter (Brandon Scott) and Ashley (Corbin Reid) tag along, although they are skeptical about the legendary Blair Witch. Their guides are Lane (Wes Robinson) and Talia (Valorie Curry), two believers of the supernatural.

Simon Barrett’s script establishes the group dynamics fairly well. The characters exchange sharp remarks and share a lot of chemistry. There are hints that James pines for Lisa, and their relationship subtly grows throughout the film. Peter, an African-American,

quickly takes to bickering with Lane because of the Confederate flag mounted in Lane’s home. While all the characters make questionable decisions, all except Lane are likable and engaging.

As with all found footage pictures, “Blair Witch” spends some time justifying how its characters are filming the action. It’s pretty believable when we see them using their unobtrusive headset cameras and actually dropping the handheld ones when life-threatening situations require them to. Nonetheless, the novelty of the genre has worn out, and “Blair Witch” feels nowhere near as fresh as its predecessor.

All seems well until an unseen force begins to stalk the filmmakers. Time suddenly gets wonky as the characters wake up at 7 a.m., only to find it’s still dark outside. The group’s GPS fails them as the forest terrain geographically changes. A cut on Ashley’s foot, sustained from a river crossing, begins to fester into something worse.

But “Blair Witch” often tries too hard to be scary. Wingard doesn’t settle for the quiet but tense atmosphere of “The Blair Witch Project;” he wants “Blair Witch” to be bigger and louder, though that doesn’t necessarily make it better. The faraway cracking of sticks and stones of the first film suggested the presence of an elusive and sinister force constantly

BLAIR WITCH
Rating: R
Running Time: 89 minutes
Score: ★★ ★

watching the protagonists from afar. Wingard replaces that with ear-shattering booms and incessant screaming as trees topple around them – a miscalculated effort to outdo what did not need to be outdone.

“Blair Witch’s” greatest failing is its inability to expand on the original. Wingard settles on rehabbing the climax of “The Blair Witch Project” with a bigger budget and better special effects, and while it’s an ending that is respectful of its predecessor, an original conclusion would have been preferable.

Nonetheless, the film is still solid fun. Lisa’s crawl through a grimy tunnel to escape the Witch is a heart-pounding sequence that plays on claustrophobia. Wingard conceals the Witch in the shadows, affording us brief but terrifying glimpses of her thin, ragged frame. Sometimes, when all we can hear is the actors’ heaving breathing, the movie makes you stop and dread what comes next.

“Blair Witch” is best watched with giddy friends, and modern audiences may appreciate its faster pace. For all its faults, this is an engrossing thrill ride that never stops.

CAMPUS



courtesy of Scarlett Gamiz

Manny Rodriguez pays tribute to his father-in-law by hosting Sonny’s First Down tailgate.

‘First Down’ tailgaters keep things Sonny on 40 Acres

By Scarlett Gamiz
@thedailytexan

“First down, drink.”

Among a sea of cheering tailgaters, dozens of fans raise a glass in the air and throw back their drinks in unison. First and 10.

Since the 2007 Thanksgiving game, when Augustine “Sonny” Bermea nudged his son-in-law Manny Rodriguez and told him to drink after the first down, this group of tailgaters have kept the tradition alive.

Sonny’s First Down Tailgaters began as a collaboration between Rodriguez and his father-in-law, but when Sonny, an Angleton-born family man, died from gastric cancer in 2009, Rodriguez was left to continue the tailgate in his honor. Nearly a decade later, the tailgate still embodies the family’s Hispanic roots and dedication to Texas football.

“Tailgating took a back seat in remembrance of Sonny, but my wife and I continue his tailgate as a labor of love and his legacy continues to live on,” Rodriguez said.

According to Rodriguez, Sonny was a man with a pure heart and strong work ethic.

“Sonny knew no strangers,

everyone was welcome and he made everyone feel like part of the family,” Rodriguez said. “He had one of those laughs that would cause his belly to ache and his eyes to water.”

The tailgate began with family and friends, but soon grew in popularity. Strangers interested in getting a flavor of Hispanic culture are welcomed with open arms, just like Sonny would have wanted.

“The foundation and core of this tailgate is predominately of Hispanic culture [and] people coming together to cross borders,” Rodriguez said.

Students and fans take pleasure in being a part of a tradition that has lasted through the years. Erick Pecina said she returns to Sonny’s First Down for the rhythmic music, dancing and food.

“I always feel so welcomed by everyone and I love meeting new people,” Pecina said.

Neurobiology senior Andrea Solis has attended plenty of student organization tailgates and said she enjoyed herself, but never actually watched a game at a tailgate. Venturing out of her comfort zone last weekend, she made her way to Sonny’s

“We’ve never made this tailgate about us. We will always say this is his tailgate.”

—Manny Rodriguez

First Down.

“I immediately became engulfed by the friendly atmosphere and the homey spirit of everyone surrounding me,” Solis said. “But nothing beats the excitement and pride every single person at that tailgate felt and shared together when we witnessed the winning touchdown for UT against Notre Dame.”

Individuals from Killeen, Houston and Angleton make the trip to Austin to participate. Rodriguez said even though there is a dedicated group of tailgaters, its always special when an out-of-towner visits for the first time and asks about Sonny.

“This is our story about family, friends, love and dedication,” Rodriguez said. “We’ve never made this tailgate about us. We will always say this is his tailgate.”



Courtesy of Lionsgate

Lisa (Callie Hernandez) and her friends are hunted by the Blair Witch.