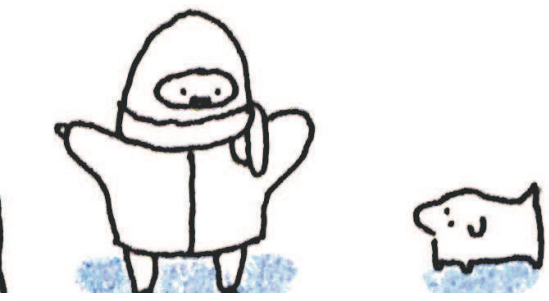

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THE DAILY TEXAN

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CAMPUS

Students react to impending open carry

By Nashwa Bawab
@nashwabawab

Although campus carry has taken center stage in the university's discussion of gun legislation, open carry will affect students living off campus much sooner.

Starting Jan. 1, it will be legal for Texans to openly carry handguns if they have a license. This means, unless a privately owned business or property displays signage saying otherwise, those living off campus may begin to see students displaying their firearms.

Throughout the semester, many people have participated in protests, forums and rallies in opposition to campus carry, which would allow students, faculty and staff to carry concealed handguns on campus. Although open carry implementation is around the corner, campus carry has taken center stage and for good reason, according to Steven Goode, law professor and chair of the campus carry working group.

"I think campus carry has gotten a lot more attention because the president of the University is authorized to make rules and regulations concerning campus carry, so it's an issue that is a live one on this campus in terms of the types of rules and regulations he is going to recommend," Goode said. "On the other hand, there is nothing the University can do about open carry off campus."

Madison Yandell,

OPEN CARRY page 2

Illustration by Albert Lee | Daily Texan Staff

CAMPUS

UT continues to address gender pay gap

By Eleanor Dearman
@ellydearman

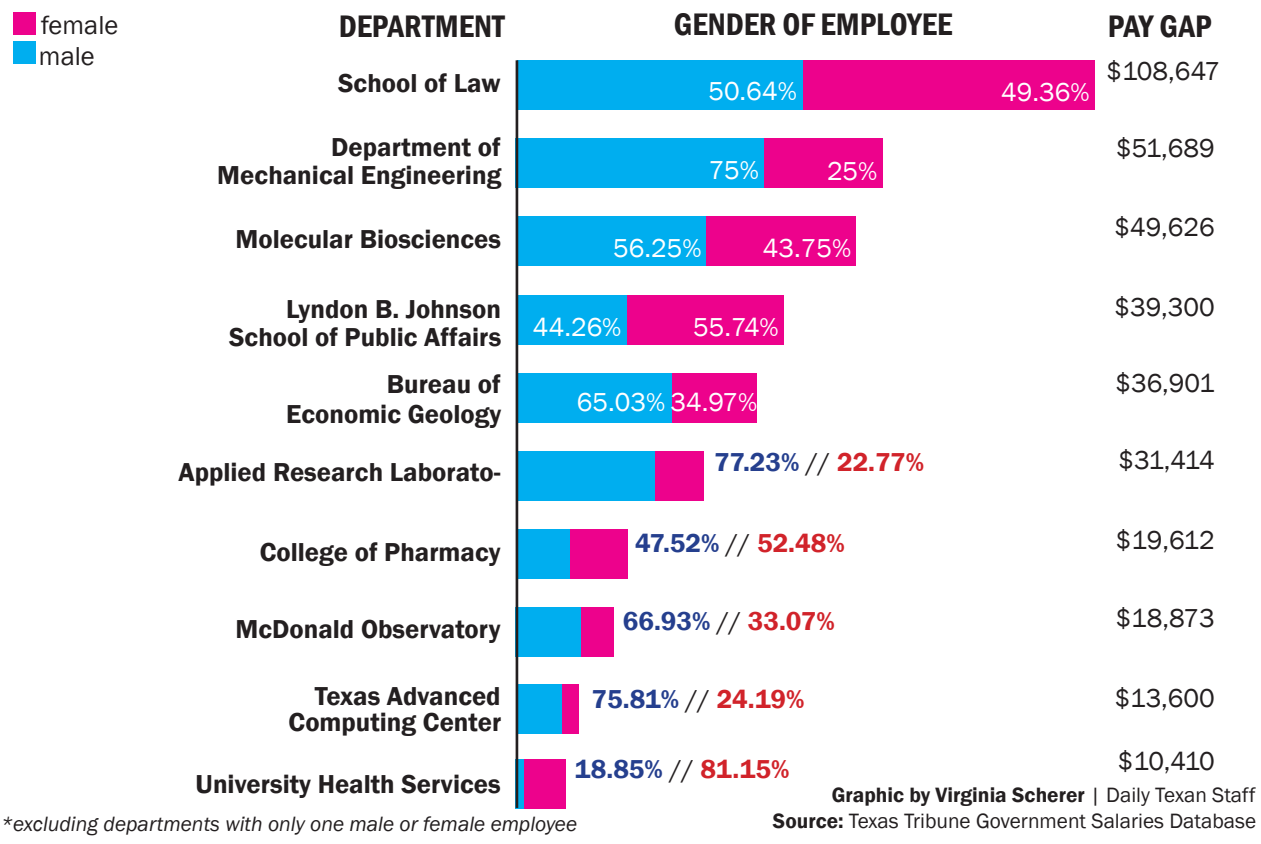
Out of UT-Austin's 100 highest paid employees, only 20 are women, according to data from the Texas Tribune Government Salary Database explorer.

In November, Chancellor William McRaven announced his plan to close the pay gap in the UT System, something the University of Texas has worked for on a campus level for the past several years. While the gap has been closed substantially, there is still more that can be done to improve equity between male and female employees.

"Pay is how we quantify somebody's worth in our society," journalism assistant professor Gina Chen said. "The reason why equal pay is important isn't really necessarily just the money itself,

PAY GAP page 3

PAY GAP FOR 10 LARGEST DEPARTMENTS*:



*excluding departments with only one male or female employee

Graphic by Virginia Scherer | Daily Texan Staff
Source: Texas Tribune Government Salaries Database

BUSINESS

Businesses near campus prepare for open carry

By Matthew Adams
@MatthewAdams60

As open carry will be implemented in January, businesses near campus are still figuring out the impact it could have.

House Bill 910, also known as open carry, will allow those with concealed carry licenses to openly carry a handgun in a shoulder or hip holster beginning in the new year.

Amanda Wood, realtor at West Campus Living, said she would not have a problem with a client being an open carry owner, but seeing an open carry holder will be a shock factor for many people. Despite adjusting to this, Wood said these license owners are doing it for the right reasons.

"Some people are just ignorant to guns," Wood said. "They know the rules, and they are doing it for self-defense. People who take time out for training are doing it for the right reason."

Nick Habel, a shift manager at Teji's Indian Restaurant, said while the restaurant hasn't addressed specifics of this law yet, it will impact businesses across the board.

"[Open carry] will add to a climate of fear people have because they will be hesitant to go out in

BUSINESSES page 2

CAMPUS

Kin's Coffee opening delayed until spring

By Ellie Breed
@EllieBreed

The construction period for Kin's Coffee, a new shop on the first floor of Kinsolving Dormitory, has been extended from its original November completion target to Jan. 19, the first day of spring classes.

The extension did not add to the project's $475,000 budget and was necessary because of material delays, according to Rene Rodriguez, director of Food Services.

"Just like any other project, it has to do with equipment lead times and material lead times," Rodriguez said. "That has been our biggest holdup, really. We are just delayed due to not getting everything that we ordered in on time."

The Division of Housing and Food Service also delayed the project's completion to ensure students living at Kinsolving were not disturbed by construction noise during final exams, Rodriguez said.

"Another reason that the lead time kind of moved out was in consideration for the residents," Rodriguez said. "With finals and things like that coming up, we will suspend construction to make sure that we have quiet hours so that the students don't have to worry about people banging and hammering. So, we have the construction completely off-schedule to help the residents concentrate during finals."

Jamie Richardson, youth and community studies freshman and Kinsolving resident, said the construction period's delay has not posed any problems, but she is concerned that the shop might cause crowding upon its completion.

"The construction hasn't been a nuisance to me, personally," Richardson said. "The work is done during the day, and I'm usually in class or somewhere else on campus when it is happening. I think it will be nice to be able to stop by in the mornings and grab a cup on my way out, but my only concern is that the shop will lead to long lines and crowds of people during popular hours at the dorm."

Completing this project will provide Kinsolving residents with a coffee vendor close by and improve the appearance of the dorm, according to Thiri Lwin, Kinsolving resident and chemical engineering freshman.

"The construction hasn't really gotten in my way, and I'm pretty excited to have a coffee shop … since there aren't many close [by]," Lwin said. "Sometimes the construction gets noisy, but it is during hours that it wouldn't be bothersome to most people. I'm ready for it to be completed mostly because the south side of Kinsolving will look much nicer after it is done."

Kin's Coffee is a new coffee shop in Kinsolving Dormitory set to be open in January of next year after construction delays prevented it from opening in November as planned.

Jesús Nazario
Daily Texan Staff

MEN'S BASKETBALL

Rachel Zein | Daily Texan Staff

Senior forward Connor Lammert's 3-pointer in overtime helped fuel Texas to a 77-71 victory over UT-Arlington. Texas is now 3-3 on the year.

Texas claims victory in overtime thriller

By Akshay Mirchandani
@@amirchandani41

The Longhorns needed a big shot Tuesday night. They got not one in overtime, but two.

The energized Frank Erwin Center crowd watched as Texas and UT-Arlington traded the lead for the entire second half, with neither team gaining an edge.

Senior forward Connor Lammert changed that with a 3-pointer with over a minute left in overtime to break a 71-71 tie.

Freshman guard Eric Davis, Jr. followed suit with a three of his own, putting Texas up 77-71, propelling the Longhorns to an 80-73 overtime victory.

"I thought there were a lot of people in this place kind of freaking out," head coach Shaka Smart said. "Everyone needs to relax and understand, this is a process

OVERTIME page 6

NEWS	OPINION	SPORTS	LIFE&ARTS	ONLINE	REASON TO PARTY
University holds toy drive. **PAGE 3**	Refusing to admit refugees is immoral. **PAGE 4**	Former Longhorn returns to Texas after NFL career. **PAGE 5**	Students and faculty members share stories as LGBT community members. **PAGE 10**	See our slideshow about local food production and use for UT's campus. *dailytexanonline.com*	**PAGE 7**
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TOMORROW'S WEATHER

High 63 Low 39

His frazzled was fake!!!

FRAMES FEATURED PHOTO thedailytexan

Rachel Zein | Daily Texan Staff

Kimberly Dao, international relations and global studies sophomore, studies on the bleachers in front of the Tower on Tuesday afternoon.

OPEN CARRY

continues from page 1

president of College Republicans and government junior, said the reason why there has been more debate and emphasis on campus carry is because of the direct effect the law has to the UT campus.

"People are used to guns outside of campus and know there are armed citizens around them, whereas they feel campus carry will disturb their 'safe space,' known as classrooms and other campus buildings," Yandell said. "Open carry is a visible symbol of law-abiding citizens exercising their rights."

Ashley Alcantara, communications director for University Democrats and international and global studies senior, said the group will be lobby against both open and campus carry during the 2017 Legislative session, in an effort to ban both. Alcantara said she believes open carry could make places where students live off campus, like West Campus, less safe.

"We'll have to wait and see if it creates a substantial problem," Alcantara said. "Hopefully there are very few instances of people who choose to open carry, in which case it might not even come up in student residential areas. But if it does come up, it creates a higher risk of violence and could definitely make students feel unsafe."

Yandell said she believes many college-age people are unlikely to have licenses to carry, which is why she does not foresee a big problem when the law is implemented. Under the new law, concealed handgun licenses can be used to openly carry handguns.

"Students will certainly see an increase in people carrying their handguns, but I do not foresee it being a drastic change," Yandell said. "The tendency to freak out is common, but stems mostly from lack of exposure and perception rather than reality. I hope that once these new guns laws are implemented, students will see the reality of the situation."

Businesses across the Drag will comply with open carry gun laws, which will allow concealed carry license holders to openly carry a handgun as soon as January.

Jesús Nazario
Daily Texan Staff

BUSINESSES

continues from page 1

public," Habel said. "It is going to impact all businesses because people aren't going out."

Sociology senior Libby Hollan said she is concerned about open carry because it could be misused in public.

"If the person participating in open carry does not actively use their weapon, it is an intimidating display," Hollan said. "It would make me very wary about doing anything that could make that person upset. I feel like open carry people are using their gun to demand respect from people, which is not the purpose of a weapon."

Muhammad Imran, president of Sam Computers on Guadalupe Street, said he would not allow guns in the store for the safety of customers and workers. Imran also said it is unreasonable having guns on campus.

"People are coming here to learn," Imran said. "It is absurd to think people will have guns on them."

C.J. Grisham, president of Open Carry Texas, said because students cannot have an open carry license on campus, he does not think many businesses will be affected.

"If anything, it will be people that are already open carry that maybe go to those businesses around the college or meeting a student or faculty," Grisham said. "I think actually businesses that are around colleges will probably be less impacted by open carry."

> **"If the person participating in open carry does not actively use their weapon, it is an intimidating display. It would make me very wary about doing anything that could make that person upset.**
>
> —Libby Hollan, Sociology senior

THE DAILY TEXAN
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CAMPUS

Briana Vargas | Daily Texan Staff

Students walk past one of many Orange Santa donation bins in the Student Activities Center on Tuesday afternoon. The program is meant to provide assistance to the special needs community during the holiday season.

Orange Santa toy drive helps serve local families in need

By Catherine Marfin
@cccaatheeerineee

Beginning Saturday, eligible families will be able to shop for holiday gifts at the "Orange Santa" holiday store.

Orange Santa is a campus-wide toy drive that began in 1994 and has continued as a University tradition. The Orange Santa holiday store allows participating students and families to shop for gifts for members of their immediate family. Focusing on University faculty and staff whose financial situations would not otherwise allow them to shop for the holidays, the store is stocked with gifts and toys that are donated by students and faculty through the Orange Santa toy drive on campus.

Donation areas can be found at over 20 collection stations across campus. Friday is last day to donate toys before the store opens.

"Not everyone has the opportunity to have a gifted holiday season," speech and language pathology junior Amy McCoy said. "It's important to help others during the holidays, both because it's rewarding, but also because it reminds you that not everyone is as fortunate as you may be."

> "It's heartwarming to see how our community recognizes that during this special time of year, many of our colleagues may be struggling.
>
> —Melissa Huddleston, University development office project manager

Sponsored by the Office of the President, Orange Santa is a collaborative program involving various University units, as well as students and faculty across campus. Orange Santa partners with the Hispanic Faculty and Staff Association, which is promoting a companion project that also helps families facing financial difficulties.

The Orange Santa holiday store is restricted to current UT faculty and staff. For eligibility, UT students and faculty must fill out an online application, and if selected, will a receive shopping appointment during which they can buy gifts. The holiday store will be open in the Thompson Conference Center from Dec. 5–7.

"It's so rewarding watching UT's students and faculty take care of their own," Susan Threadgill, director of productions for University Development Office, said. "Seeing the joy and relief on the parent's faces is so fulfilling."

Last year, the Orange Santa program served 316 families, including 957 children. According to Melissa Huddleston, University Development Office project manager, the drive serves at least 300 families yearly. This year, Orange Santa hopes to provide two toys to each child on each application.

"It's heartwarming to see how our community recognizes that during this special time of year, many of our colleagues may be struggling," Huddleston said. "Contributing or volunteering for Orange Santa is one way we can both help the UT community and help ourselves to have a brighter holiday."

WAGES

continues from page 1

but it's because that's how we express value."

As of the end of June, the median salary for male employees at UT-Austin, both faculty and staff members, was about $9,700 more than their female counterparts. This number varies from department to department, with men making more than women in 202 out of 290 listed departments with at least one employee of each gender in full-time positions.

When looking at departments with more than one full-time employee of each gender, in the 10 departments where the gap is the largest, there are no women in the highest-paid position, though five of the departments have women in the second-highest spot.

Out of the 10 departments with women making more than men, again excluding those with only one male or female full-time employee, seven have women in the highest-paid spot. There are four female deans on campus in UT's 18 colleges.

These median salaries should not be taken at face value — instead, they should be considered alongside several other factors, including field, rank and years of experience, according to Janet Dukerich, chair of UT's gender equity council and senior vice provost for Faculty Affairs.

Since October 2014, the council has been working to put a value to the pay gap for faculty members on campus and determine where the gap stands for faculty members in the University's different academic departments. The council found that male faculty members make about 2.3 percent more than women faculty members, overall on campus.

"If you factor in what the field is, rank, years of experience, then that gap goes to a non-significant difference," Dukerich said.

In specific colleges, such as liberal arts, natural sciences and engineering, the gap ranges from 4.8, .7 and 2.7 percent, respectively, although the council is currently reviewing the data to make sure those numbers are as accurate as possible according to Tasha Beretvas, gender equity council member and associate dean for research and graduate studies.

"I'm the parent of a girl. I am a girl. But I would hope that similarly that if the inequity is actually favoring girls over boys, I would care for that too," Beretvas said. "No one wants to see inequity."

The pay gap is not isolated at the University of Texas, either. It is found nationwide, where, on average, women make about 79 cents for every dollar men make.

"There is evidence that that is improving, but we are not there yet," Chen said, speaking to the gap's prevalence across the country. "In my mind, being there is when women get paid the same amount as men for every job, consistently across the country, and there's certainly evidence that that's not the case yet."

This is not the committee's first time to look at the gender pay gap. The committee studied the gap back in 2008, when they found a significant difference in the salaries of men and women, with female professors making an average of $9,028 less than male professors.

"Overall, we've gone a long way in terms of making a difference between what was seen in 2008 when there was a significant difference," Dukerich said. "That's not to say that there are still areas on campus where there is still a gap between male and female professors. So that's what we're looking at now."

Hillary Hart, former chair of faculty council and member of the gender equity council, said she has personally seen a change in the culture towards women during her time on campus. When she first started in the engineering program working on engineering communication, as the only women and the only non-engineer, Hart said she experienced "unconscious sexism" that has diminished over the years.

"What I remember from the old days was this unconscious sexism," Hart said. "So walking through the halls … a male faculty member would say, 'Smile, Hillary. Come on. Smile.' He'd never say that to a guy."

More recently, Hart said she has fewer challenges in her department, although she said this is not always the case in other departments on campus.

"Some of it is luck, honestly," Hart said. "My department has always been a good, caring department. They care about their faculty. And a very fair department, and I know that's not true throughout the University. I know it's not. There gets to be these political differences or issues."

There has been less done to examine equity in UT staff. Staff Council chair Stuart Tendler said while there have been conversations in the University Staff Council surrounding dissatisfaction with wages in general, to his knowledge the wages of women versus men has not been in the discussion or studied.

As far as System-wide policies, McRaven would like to see the pay gap closed completely in the UT System, according to System spokesperson Jenny LaCoste-Caputo. McRaven is asking all System schools to submit plans to close the gap in five years.

"Chancellor McRaven has tasked the campuses to examine these trends through conducting their own detailed assessments and submit plans to close any gaps and ensure fairness in faculty compensation throughout UT System," LaCoste-Caputo wrote in a statement.

TOP OCCUPATIONS BY GENDER

MALE
1. **Professor** - 741
2. **Postdocroal Fellow** - 351
3. **Associate Professor** - 300
4. **Lecturer** - 266
5. **Assistant Professor** - 227

FEMALE
1. **Administrative Associate** - 502
2. **Lecturer** - 278
3. **Senior Administrative Associate** - 273
4. **Program Coordinator** - 260
5. **Administrative Assistant** - 233

NEWS BRIEFLY

Resolution to block aid to Syrian refugees fails

A resolution to block funds assisting Syrian refugees in their resettlement in the Austin area failed to pass a vote in the Public Safety Committee on Monday evening. As a result, the resolution will not reach the full Council for consideration.

Austin City Council member Don Zimmerman drafted the resolution in the wake of the Nov. 13 terrorist attacks in Paris in order to prevent the city government from monetarily facilitating Syrian refugee resettlement. The resolution failed on a 2-1 vote in committee with the only vote in support coming from Zimmerman.

Austin residents chant during the refugee protest held Nov. 22nd in protest of Greg Abbot's decision to keep Syrian refugees from coming in to Texas.

Joshua Guerra Daily Texan file photo

Austin's refugee resettlement programs are primarily funded by nonprofits and do not depend on the city treasury, however, the city does spend money to provide health services for refugees, the Austin-American Statesman reported.

—Zainab Calcuttawala

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COLUMN

Refusing refugees is immoral

By Ashvin Govil
Daily Texan Columnist
@ashvio

The recent terrorist attacks on Paris unleashed a tsunami of backlash that revealed Western politicians' hair-trigger anti-Muslim sentiments. Despite the fact that all of the terrorists in the Paris attacks were European citizens, the Syrian refugees will bear the cost of the attacks.

Gov. Greg Abbott announced Nov. 16 in a letter to President Obama that he will not allow any Syrian refugees to settle in Texas in light of the Paris attacks. Since then, more than half of American governors have made the same decision for their own states.

But brimming local support for refugees shows that popular opinion does not necessarily reflect the governors' callous decisions. An initiative to block Syrian refugees from settling in Austin died in a City Council committee Monday, and hundreds of people marched on Nov. 22 to the Governor's Mansion in protest of his rejection of refugees.

Those who support Abbott's decision should understand that the process for screening refugees is one of the most stringent for any immigrant entering the U.S. So much so that out of 784,000 refugees admitted to the United States since 9/11, only three were ever linked to any terrorist activity, and none of those admitted have ever committed an act of terrorism on American soil.

Last week's Planned Parenthood shootings prove that we have a much more urgent domestic terrorism problem, often fueled by the vicious and exaggerated rhetoric echoed by the same politicians who want to reject all Syrian refugees.

> **Last week's Planned Parenthood shootings prove that we have a much more urgent domestic terrorism problem, often fueled by the vicious and exaggerated rhetoric echoed by the same politicians who want to reject all Syrian refugees.**

In terms of the effect of refugees on the national economy, it has been proven time and time again that any type of immigration boosts the economy in the long term, even after the short-term cost of relocation.

All of these statistics prove that xenophobia and racism fuel the rejection of Syrian refugees, rather than any security or economic concerns.

This is not to mention Abbott's rejection of all refugees reeks of World War II-levels of intolerance, when Congress, backed by public opinion, rejected 20,000 Jewish refugee children trying to flee Germany, and more than 900 Jewish refugees were forced to turn around when their boat reached American shores. Two hundred and fifty-four of them eventually died in the Holocaust.

The horrific situation in Syria is no different, if not in scale, than it was for the Jewish people in Europe in the second World War. Since the Civil War started, over 28,000 civilians have died in the war and have become the target of bombings and other violence in their country.

Gabriel Lopez | Daily Texan Staff

Protestors gathered in front of the Governor's Mansion on Nov. 22 to protest Abott's announcement that he will not allow any Syrian refugees to settle in the state.

Government junior Nali Shah attended the recent protest against the rejection of Syrian refugees at Gov. Abbott's mansion. She said she believes we have a duty to help save their lives by accepting them at our front door.

"We cannot and should not persecute the persecuted," Shah wrote in a Facebook message. "We have a responsibility to help those who seek refuge at our door, not because we are the 'world's police,' but because we're united in the same struggle for humanity."

Most refugees simply dream to live in a peaceful country where death doesn't follow them around every corner. The politicians trying to reject them indiscriminately should be publicly shamed for their actions. Preventing refugees from entering our country when accepting them comes with little cost and no danger to us is morally impermissible.

Govil is a computer science freshman from Austin.

POINT

Early holiday sales exploit employees

By Mary Dolan
Daily Texan Senior Columnist
@mimimdolan

Though Christmas always falls on Dec. 25, the holiday season seems to start earlier and earlier every year. As soon as Halloween has passed, and sometimes even before, stores and shopping centers break out the giant inflatable Santas, low prices and Christmas music while temperatures still rest comfortably in the 70s. While many consumers may be happy with the artificial celebrations, the ensuing Christmas mania creates problems for employees who are forced to work on Thanksgiving and throughout the busy holiday season.

In order to milk as much money out of Christmas sales as possible, stores have started running promotions as early as October. In the past, most retailers would save their biggest sales for Black Friday, the day after Thanksgiving. However, some retailers have started offering deals on Thanksgiving evening to try and entice more consumers.

These "early" promotions result in employees having to work during part or all of Thanksgiving instead of having the holiday off to spend with family and friends, leading some consumers and workers to argue that retailers should stay closed. If they did, it wouldn't be hard for them to make up the profits. Online shopping has made it easy for consumers to buy holiday gifts.

The shopping "holiday" Cyber Monday, which falls on the first Monday after Thanksgiving, has become one of the most popular days for consumers to buy holiday goods. Since Thanksgiving sales trail behind those on Black Friday and Cyber Monday, it makes little sense for retailers to be open on Thanksgiving when they know that the bulk of their sales will be made over the weekend.

Some retailers have made it a point not to open on the holiday. Stores like Costco and Nordstrom remained closed on Thanksgiving, and T.J.Maxx even released a television advertisement that noted that it would be closed and encouraged viewers to spend time with family and friends.

The example of these retailers should be followed by other stores and consumers. The holiday season has become a time of commercialization and overconsumption. Many retailers and consumers focus on gift giving and receiving, and mentions of sharing the holidays with family and friends are made only in the context of how many gifts someone will need to purchase. While talking about the "real reason for the season" has become a cliché, it is important for retailers and the consumers they serve to remember the importance of focusing on aspects other than consumerism.

> **While talking about the "real reason for the season" has become a cliché, it is important for retailers and the consumers they serve to remember the importance of focusing on aspects other than consumerism.**

While this year's holiday season is already underway, it isn't too late to ensure that retail employees who work next year and beyond will get at least a small break from the madness of the holiday season.

Dolan is a journalism sophomore from Abilene.

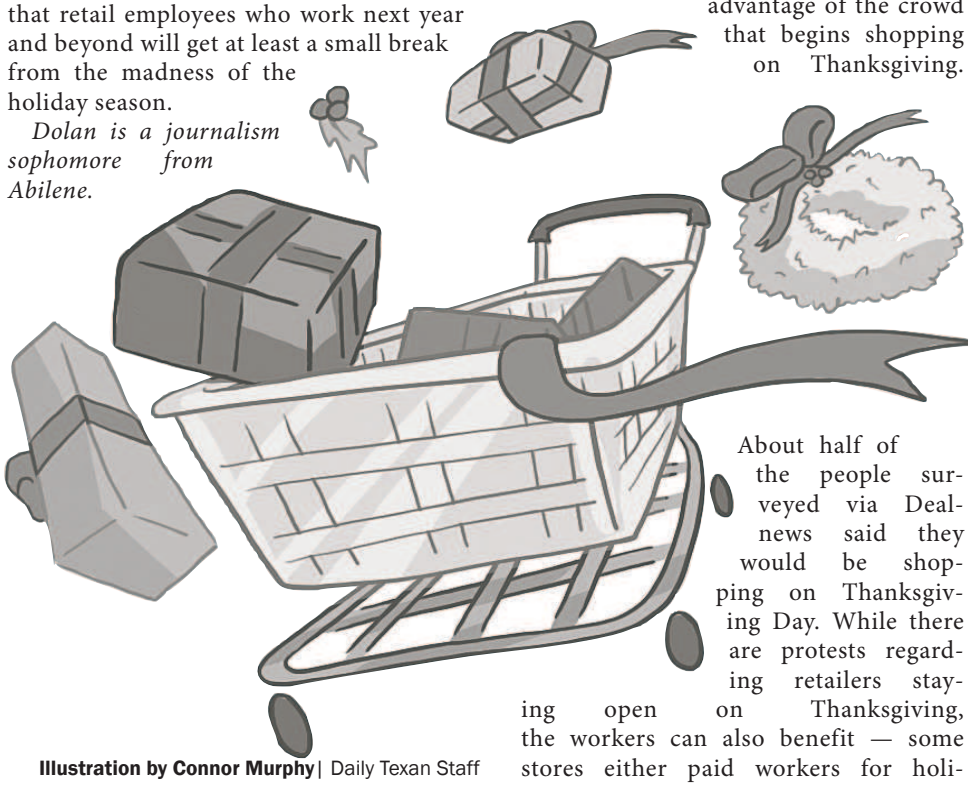

Illustration by Connor Murphy | Daily Texan Staff

COUNTERPOINT

Extended holiday hours benefit workers

By Emily Vernon
Daily Texan Columnist
@_emilyvernon_

Christmas time is approaching, which means so too will the decorations, sales promotions and red Starbucks cups. While many Americans embrace this onslaught of commercialization around Christmas, others criticize its early arrival. However, this criticism is often unfair and short-sighted, especially in the case of early Christmas shopping.

Completion of gift-shopping is perhaps one of the most exhilarating and freeing feelings. Gone are the combined burdens of finding not only the time, but also the monetary ability to complete your shopping for that perfect gift. To criticize others for taking a jump-start is inconsiderate. Many Americans simply wish to take advantage of early promotions that major retailers such as Target, Wal-Mart and Amazon have offered earlier than usual in recent years. These deals are beneficial for the average consumer because they ensure a low overall cost for the gift-giving season's inherently pricey endeavors.

This year, retailers such as Toys "R" Us, JC Penny and Best Buy are taking advantage of the crowd that begins shopping on Thanksgiving.

About half of the people surveyed via Dealnews said they would be shopping on Thanksgiving Day. While there are protests regarding retailers staying open on Thanksgiving, the workers can also benefit — some stores either paid workers for holiday hours or paid overtime for the entire shift.

These extra wages can cover the costs of the holiday season accrued by workers. Aside from presents, other common expenditures include flights, decorations and lodging.

For this reason, many workers choose to pick up these Thanksgiving Day shifts. Jim Sluzewski, Macy's senior vice president of corporate communications and external affairs, said that Macy's filled almost all positions needed for this year's early opening with workers who opted in. If regular employees did not volunteer, seasonal workers who only work during the holidays and other busy times of the year were hired.

> **Those who complain about people starting their Christmas shopping early are just grinches. If people want to procrastinate, they can, but enforcing this standard isn't a battle worth fighting.**

Those who complain about people starting their Christmas shopping early are just grinches. If people want to procrastinate, they can, but enforcing this standard isn't a battle worth fighting. It is counter-productive to infringe upon anyone's experience of the holiday spirit — even in something as banal as holiday shopping — and unfair to allow one's own personal realizations of procrastination to corrupt others' eagerness.

The holiday season is considered a "season" for a reason. While the official boundaries of the season may be blurry and expanding, it is ultimately left up to each individual to decide when to start celebrating. It is petty to argue about the non-existent boundaries of an undefined timeline. Just as choosing which holidays to celebrate is a personal choice, so is choosing the time people start to prepare for them.

Vernon is a PACE freshman from Houston.

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WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

Senior guard Celina Rodrigo drives the ball to the hoop. After defeating No. 4 Tennessee on Sunday, the Longhorns will look to knock off Mississippi State on Wednesday at the Frank Erwin Center in Austin.

Joshua Guerra
Daily Texan Staff

Texas, Rodrigo aim to tone down turnovers

By Jasmine C. Johnson
@AllThatJasss

In No. 6 Texas' 64-53 win over No. 4 Tennessee, senior guard Celina Rodrigo hit a deep three-pointer midway through the third quarter to extend Texas' lead to eight. When Tennessee trimmed it to five again, Rodrigo found freshman guard Lashann Higgs for her third three of the game.

These plays seem to be the norm for Rodrigo, a Georgia native, this season. But she said developing these skills has been a process.

"I think [head coach Karen Aston] has definitely helped me out and given us the free reign to be more aggressive," Rodrigo said. "I think it's really been working out this year so far."

Among Texas' guard-stacked roster, Rodrigo still draws Aston's attention. Aston said she likes that she's a four-year starter.

"Celina has been through the really rough times here — the times where, realistically, we just threw her to the wolves," Aston said. "She also has a great deal of experience down the stretch through all those years. So she is a confident player, and I'm very confident in her."

Despite only scoring six points in the upset, Rodrigo posted seven assists. She also has increased her points and assists while cutting down on turnovers. Last season, Rodrigo averaged 2.2 points, 2.3 assists and 1.4 turnovers a game. This season she averages 8.4 points, four assists and one turnover a game.

Rodrigo is careful not to be content with the road victory. She wants to carry the momentum into a matchup with No. 9 Mississippi State at home Wednesday.

"One of our goals for last year was not getting too high and not getting too low with wins and losses," Rodrigo said. "We understand it was a good win, but we can't dwell on that."

What Rodrigo does dwell on, however, is the team's turnovers. After averaging 10 turnovers through the first two games, the Longhorns averaged just under 17 turnovers the last three games — including 15 against Tennessee. As the point guard, Rodrigo said she has the ball in her hand most of the time and sees containing turnovers as her main responsibility.

"Controlling our turnovers just comes with being patient on offense and not forcing things and letting the game come to us," Rodrigo said.

Aston said despite the high turnover rate, she liked her team's focus in Knoxville and hopes it carries forward.

"We just have to learn how to show up every day," Aston said.

The Longhorns host Mississippi State at 7 p.m. Wednesday at the Frank Erwin Center.

SIDELINE

NCAAM

VIRGINIA	64
OHIO ST.	58

NBA

CAVALIERS	85
WIZARDS	97
LAKERS	91
76ERS	103
NETS	94
SUNS	91

TOP TWEET

Connor Lammert
@ANDtwenty1

Don't you know that only fools are satisfied?

TODAY IN HISTORY

1985

Chicago Bears head coach Mike Ditka and defensive coordinator Buddy Ryan get into a fight on the sideline during the Bears loss to the Miami Dolphins. The loss was the Bears' lone defeat of the season, as they went on to win the Super Bowl.

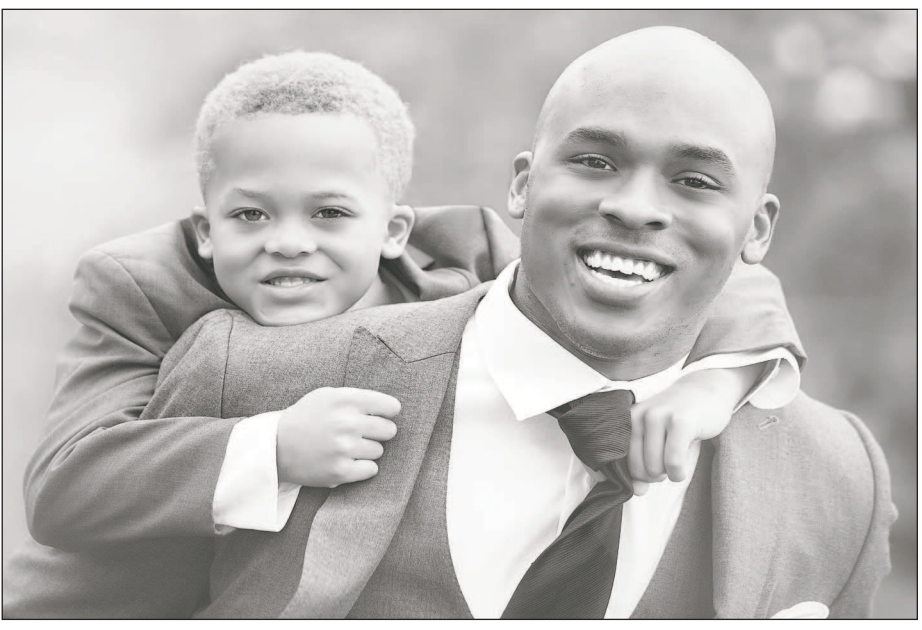
SPORTS BRIEFLY

Seven Longhorns were awarded All-Big 12 honors this week, with senior opposite hitter Amy Neal being named Big 12 Player of the Year. Neal's award marks Texas' seventh-straight Player of the Year honor. In addition to Neal, four other Longhorns were named to the All-Big 12 first team.

Texas Volleyball Big 12 Honors

Big 12 Player of the Year
Amy Neal
All-Big 12 First Team
Chloe Collins
Molly McCage
Amy Neal
Chiaka Ogbogu
Paulina Prieto Cerame
All-Big 12 Second Team
Cat McCoy
All-Freshman Team
Yaasmeen Bedart-Ghani

FOOTBALL



Courtesy of Jermichael Finley

Former Texas tight end Jermichael Finley played six seasons in the NFL before a spinal cord injury ended his career. Finley now resides in Aledo, Texas with his family.

Former Longhorn settles in Texas after NFL career

By Leah Vann
@Vanntastic_Leah

In 2013, tight end Jermichael Finley's bruised spinal cord left him temporarily paralyzed. The head-on hit ended the former Longhorn's NFL career, but his life was just beginning.

"I felt like I was going to get injured before it happened," Finley said. "Then I was on the ground, and I thought, 'I really can't move.' It was like my whole body was in shock."

Shawn Hennessy, Finley's pastor in Green Bay, remembers the community's response. The Life Church pastor offers religious guidance for many Green Bay Packers. Upon seeing Finley's injury, Hennessy feared its effect.

"Our community was scared he wouldn't walk again," Hennessy said.

Shortly after the injury, Finley received spinal fusion surgery at a local hospital. A smooth recovery left him with no physical limitations. He was cleared to play again, but Finley decided to hang up his cleats to become more involved in his sons' lives.

"It was a great run," Finley said. "I had a lot of fun. I got the financial help that I needed out of it, and now I want to take care of my kids and just enjoy life."

Hennessy said the injury showed Finley's family and friends his character.

"There is a time in your life when you are tested," Hennessy said. "We all knew [Finley] was a dominant football player, but the injury showed who he was as a human, husband and father. He stepped up his level of integrity and became a better person."

Finley returned to Texas looking for a community to raise his sons Kaydon and London. He came across Aledo, Texas, just 20 minutes from his wife's family in Weatherford. The Finleys moved to Aledo in July, and his wife gave birth to a third son, Hilton, in October.

Finley quickly blended in with Aledo's football-dominant culture. He coaches Kaydon's second-grade pee-wee football team, leading them to the league's championship this year.

> "We all knew [Finky] was a dominatn football player, but the injury showed who he was as a human, husband and father.
>
> —Shawn Hennessy, Life Church pastor in Green Bay

Finley now wishes to complete his degree at either Texas or TCU, hoping to establish a D1 Performance Training Facility in Aledo. D1 partners with athletes, such as NFL stars Peyton Manning, Ndamukong Suh and Jason Witten, to offer customized workouts, boot camps and sports rehabilitation to athletes across the country.

Finley's future is far brighter than it looked during his 2013 spell of paralysis. Now, he says he has no physical limitations.

"I feel stronger than ever," he said.

FOOTBALL

Swoopes, Norvell look to boost passing game

By Ezra Siegel
@SiegelEzra

Play-caller Jay Norvell said Tuesday that he hasn't seen ideal progress in Texas' air attack.

"I'm not happy with where we are in the passing game," Norvell said. "I'm not happy with the receivers' play. I'm not happy with the accuracy of our quarterbacks. It kind of goes hand-in-hand."

The Longhorns rank No. 122 in the nation in passing yards. The low ranking partly stems from a high volume of run plays, but Texas also struggles in passing efficiency, completing just 55 percent. Texas has one more chance to make strides through the air against No. 12 Baylor. Norvell said the quarterbacks and receivers need to be precise to turn the passing struggles around.

"I think the whole rhythm of our passing game is everybody included," Norvell said. "Running good routes, getting open, finishing plays down the field — that's all part of it."

Swoopes set for first start since season opener

Junior quarterback Tyrone Swoopes will start at quarterback against Baylor on Saturday after playing second fiddle to redshirt freshman Jerrod Heard for the past 10 games.

Swoopes has flourished in a personalized short-yardage package since Heard's emergence as the team's starter. He currently leads the team with 14 rushing touchdowns. Now, he hopes to carry his situational effectiveness into success as the team's starter.

"[The package] helped a lot with confidence," Swoopes said. "It's just kind of shown me how to just have fun too. I feel like in the past I took everything almost too seriously. It shows to just go out and play and have fun."

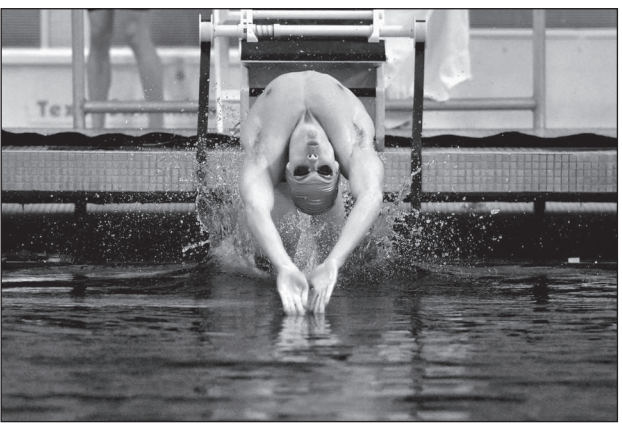
Swoopes said he isn't thinking about the start as a chance to prove himself or make up for his past struggles. Instead, his focus is on sending the seniors off with a final victory.

"I'm just definitely trying to get the job done this game," Swoopes said. "I'm not really looking too far into the future."

Rachel Zein | Daily Texan file photo

Junior quarterback Tyrone Swoopes runs into the endzone against the Kansas Jayhawks on Nov. 7 at Darrell K. Royal-Texas Memorial Stadium. Swoopes will receive his second start of the season on Saturday as the Longhorns take on No. 12 Baylor.

DIVING



Gabriel Lopez | Daily Texan file photo

Both men's and women's swimming and diving hold top-five rankings. The men's squad currently holds the top spot in the country, while the women's team sits at No. 4 in the national rankings.

Longhorns look to keep strong swimming going

By Blanche Schaefer & Haley Steinman
@thedailytexan

No. 1 Texas men and No. 6 women will host seven schools starting Wednesday at the Texas Invitational. The meet will be held at the Lee and Joe Jamail Texas Swim Center in Austin.

On the men's side, head coach Eddie Reese said that this Longhorn group has been the most impressive of his career. Texas currently sits at 6-0, with its lowest margin of victory sitting at 18 points.

"Right now we are the best team I've ever seen or heard of in practice," Reese said, "Now if it doesn't translate, that is the coaches' fault."

Reese's team is one of supreme discipline. Texas' swimmers stick to a strict regimen both in and out of the pool to ensure their success.

"Everybody toes the line," Reese said, "They take care of themselves outside of the pool. They take care of anything they need to take care of, whether it's school or work or whatever, and they focus on swimming."

The women's squad heads into the Texas Invitational fully rested. The Longhorns' last match was Nov. 14 at North Carolina State. Head coach Carol Capitani said the Thanksgiving break allowed the team to regroup prior to Wednesday's meet.

"We give [our swimmers] a touch of rest and see where they are," Capitani said. "Some of the best teams in the country are here. We get an idea of what we need to do better."

The Longhorn women are 6-1, with their lone loss at North Carolina on Nov. 13. The Texas Invitational is the first opportunity for swimmers to earn spots at the NCAA championships in the spring. With some of the best teams in the country coming to Austin, Capitani said she looks forward to seeing how her team performs.

"At the end of this weekend, there might be 10 or 12 kids that will have times fast enough to go to NCAA," Capitani said. "I'm excited to see our team step up as a whole, not so much the individual swimmers, but putting together some really good relays and racing against these other teams."

HOCKEY

Texas Stars to take on Icehogs after record-setting weekend

By Mark Skol
@MarkSkoljr

Texas Stars forward Julius Hinka celebrates a goal. Honka and the Stars are currently 21-12-8 on the year.

Courtesy of Christina Shapiro

After winning three of four on a West Coast trip, the Texas Stars (12-8-0-1) are back in Texas as they prepare to take on the Rockford Icehogs (12-5-1-2) on Wednesday. Texas is 2-0-0-0 against Rockford this season and has outscored the Icehogs by a combined score of 12-4.

The matchup looks to be very fast-paced, as both teams are known for their speed up the ice. But Rockford might slow down the contest down if it continues its string of penalty-laden play. The Icehogs recorded a season-high 30 penalty minutes in the team's matchup against the Chicago Wolves on Friday.

In the two games against Rockford this season, center Devin Shore has led the way for the Stars with four total points. Shore has continued to light up the stat sheet throughout the season, and he currently leads the AHL in goals with 15. Shore also set a franchise record with a six-game goal scoring streak that ultimately ended in the Stars 3-2 win against San Jose on Sunday.

Over the weekend, two Stars hit major milestones. Center Travis Morin recorded the 250th assist of his career and center Greg Rallo appeared in his 550th career AHL game against San Jose. Stars coach Derek Laxdal is approaching a milestone of his own, as he will coach the 900th game of his career Sunday at Milwaukee.

Rockford has been red hot of late, recording seven points in its last five games. Although the Stars have the Icehogs number this year, Rockford is 15-11-3-1 all-time against the Stars.

The Icehogs feature former Stanley Cup champion Bryan Bickell. Bickell — who played a pivotal role in the Chicago Blackhawks 2013 Stanley Cup win — has been impressive in his stint in the AHL after a disappointing 2014 NHL season. In 10 games this season for Rockford, Bickell has five goals and has scored on 18.5 percent of his shots on goal.

The puck drops at the Cedar Park Center in Austin at 7:30.

OVERTIME

continues from page 1

that we're trying to build a mentality, and it's on us as players and coaches to try and build that and get better."

The game wasn't a thriller throughout. After a 3-pointer from senior guard Javan Felix gave Texas a 19-18 lead at the 10:22 mark of the first half, the Longhorns went more than seven minutes without scoring as UTA took a 29-19 lead.

"You can't play that way," Smart said. "You can't play not to lose, you can't play with a heaviness. I thought in the arena, there was a heavy feeling of 'Uh oh, what's going to happen?'"

But all it took was one thunderous dunk by freshman guard Kerwin Roach, Jr. to change the complexion of the game.

With 2:48 left in the first half, Roach drove to the basket for a one-handed slam. The dunk re-energized the Longhorns and the Erwin Center crowd, sparking an 8-2 run to cut UTA's lead to 31-27 at halftime.

"It really surprised me even to make that play," Roach said. "I just wanted to provide energy for our team to get us going."

The Texas offense looked better to start the second half as the two squads traded buckets.

While Roach helped bring Texas back, it was the veteran guard duo of Felix and junior Isaiah Taylor who kept Texas afloat.

Taylor had all 21 of his points in the second half and overtime, despite missing the potential game-winner near the end of regulation. Felix added 18 points on the night, knocking down two 3-pointers in the second half.

"I think [Roach's] dunk, me personally, put me in a good frame of mind to go out and just be myself in the second half," Taylor said. "[Felix] did great, hitting open shots."

The matchup also marked the beginning of a five-game home stand for the Longhorns after playing four of its first five games on foreign soil. Smart said the team knows this is an important stretch.

"We've talked about how this is a month where we can really make progress, make strides," Smart said. "We haven't really talked about we got all these home games in a row, but our guys know we're at home for a while."

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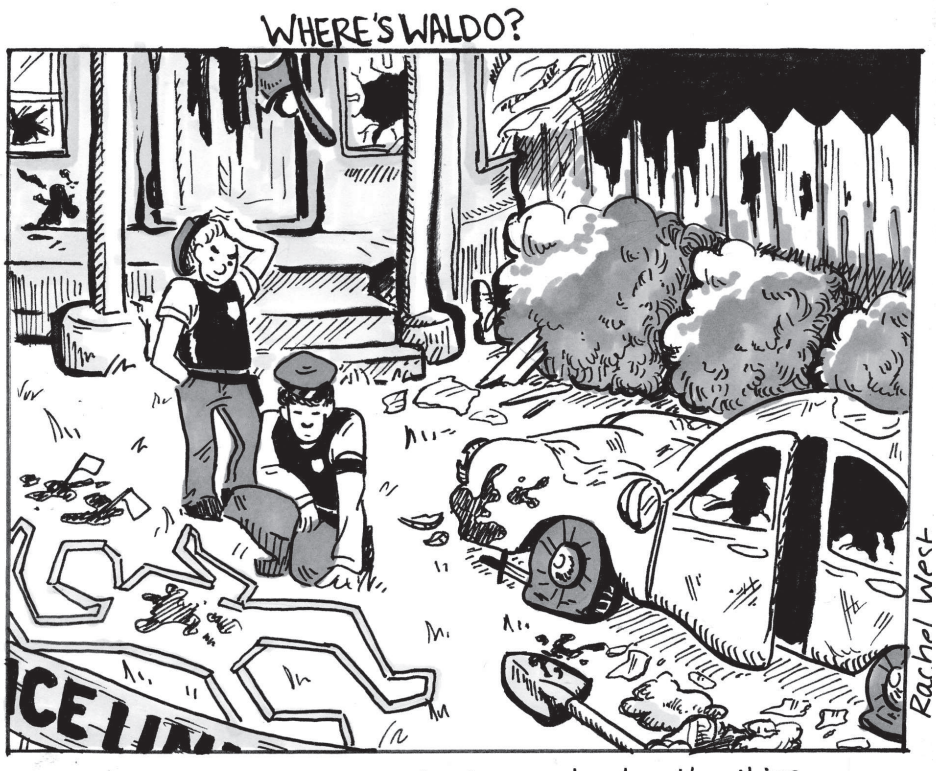

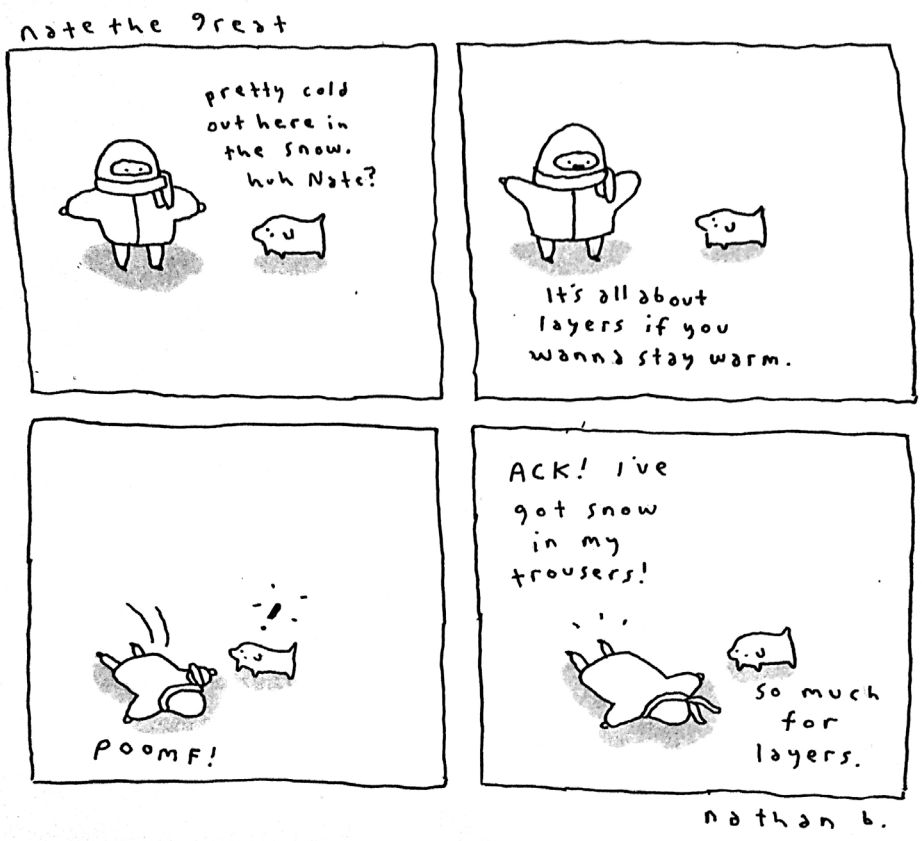

SUDOKUFORYOU

Today's solution will appear here next issue

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ACROSS

1 "The ___ is up!"
4 Corrodes
9 What tiny fish and eyes do
13 Hunky-dory
15 What might lead you to say "Whatever"
16 Spy Aldrich
17 *34-Across case involving . . . wrongful termination?*
19 ♂
20 Prepares to tie one's shoes, say
21 Put a strain on
23 Multiplication sign, in math class
24 Some razors
25 . . . *divorce proceedings?*
28 Washing machine cycle
29 Political group unlikely to be swayed
30 Give the slip
31 Fa follower
32 Far from fat
33 Peeved
34 Legal setting for 17-, 25-, 45- and 53-Across?
36 Big gulps
38 Hip dance
39 Hip
42 Ouzo flavoring
43 Main point
44 Subject of much Dave Chappelle humor
45 . . . *political corruption?*
47 North Dakota city
48 Unlock, in verse
49 Fixed
50 Common antiseptic
51 Catches
53 . . . *marijuana possession?*
56 Asia's ___ Sea
57 Summer month in South America
58 ___-free
59 Kids' road trip game
60 True-blue
61 AARP members: Abbr.

DOWN

1 Onetime MTV reality stunt show
2 Confident counterclaim
3 Word in the names of two of the top 10 Fortune 500 companies
4 Jazzberry Jam and Razzmatazz in a Crayola box
5 Ma's his sis
6 Chemical formula for tin monoxide
7 Slowpoke
8 1950s Mideast hot spot
9 Stop for water
10 Famous middle name that means "love of God"
11 Prepares for another round of shots
12 Flying transmitter
14 Tiptoer, e.g.
18 What can take people for a loop?
22 Nissan S.U.V.
25 Contents of some banks
26 Pro with a deck of cards, maybe
27 Cook up a conspiracy
29 Chorus that's not nice to hear
32 Unidentified hostile aircraft
33 ___ of personality
34 Punch ingredient?
35 "Great" river of England
36 Ones taking potshots
37 Invasive bug
39 Crazies
40 Alito succeeded her on the bench
41 Cannot stand
42 Hebrew name for God
43 Big name in 1980s jeans
44 Tilt-a-Whirl and Ferris wheel
46 Insurgent
47 Underworld group
50 "American ___"
52 Like a 14-Down
54 "The Star-Spangled Banner" writer
55 Measure opposed by Phyllis Schlafly, for short

PUZZLE BY JAY KASKEL AND DANIEL KANTOR

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE

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PLANT TO PLATE

Words and photos by Stephanie Tacy

Gideon Ringger walks through the cauliflower patch at Fruitful Hill Farm in Smithsville. Fruitful Hill Farm is a 22-acre farm that has a direct relationship with the University of Texas, providing produce for the Division of Housing and Food Service.

Cas Van Woerden checks a carrot to see if it is ready for harvest on Animal Farm in Cat Spring, Texas. Animal Farm is among four farms that sell produce to the University of Texas through the Sustainable Food Center's Farm to Cafeteria program.

The Division of Housing and Food Service works to produce more than 16,000 meals per day in the dining halls on campus. Twenty-three percent of the Division of Housing and Food Service's $8 million food budget is spent on local and sustainable foods. These purchases include produce, grass-fed beef, tortillas, in-shell eggs,and more which are obtained from farms and distributors located within a 300-mile radius of the University. The type of produce received varies with the growing seasons, with sweet potatoes making up the largest volume purchased. When locally grown sources are unable to meet the demands of the dining halls, DHFS purchases produce from other farms in the U.S. through US Foods.

Gideon Ringger shows off boxes of sweet potatoes ready for delivery. Fruitful Hill Farm grows, washes, packages, and delivers its own produce. The Division of Housing and Food Service purchases about 3,000 lbs. of sweet potatoes a year.

Executive sous chef Kemar Harris and lead cook Christopher Triche prepare turkey for the Thanksgiving feast in J2 Dining Hall. Fifty-five staff members in Jester's basement kitchen work to produce food for various dining halls under the Division of Housing and Food Service.

Staff members serve Thankgiving dinner in J2 Dining Hall on Nov. 19th. Locally grown products are available at various dining locations on campus.

ONLINE

See a full slideshow featuring more photos from local farms and behind the scenes of food preparation on campus.

dailytexanonline.com

Students eat Thanksgiving dinner in J2 Dining Hall on Nov. 19. The Division of Housing and Food Service serves more than 10,000 students each day.

FILM

Students eagerly await new 'Star Wars' film

By Alex Pelham
@TalkingofPelham

Although Longhorns are counting down the days until Christmas, some are eagerly waiting to return to a galaxy far, far away.

The upcoming sequel in the "Star Wars" saga, "The Force Awakens," comes to theaters Dec. 18. While fans are anticipating for the return of their favorite film franchise, some wonder if director J.J. Abrams' take will live up to the original films. Radio-television-film junior Elizabeth Valoon said the first Star Wars film she saw in theaters was "Revenge of the Sith." Soon, she became hooked on the series.

"Watching the films was an experience that made you fall in love with the characters and the world," Valoon said. "It's one of the best examples of storytelling that I think exists."

Gabriel Gaucin, radio-television-film and computer science junior, said one of the reasons he's enjoys "Star Wars" is because of his love of screen writing. The series' arc about the fall and redemption of Anakin Skywalker is one of his inspirations for being a writer.

"The series influenced the types of stories that I like," Gaucin said. "I look at 'Star Wars,' and I see that it's important to really understand the story you're trying to tell and how to best show that on screen."

For many film students looking to leave their mark in the cinematic world, "Star Wars" became an inspiration. The movies' knack for building hype and gaining legions of followers has student filmmakers hoping to one day craft a similar cultural phenomenon.

"['Star Wars'] made me want to make movies people get excited about — the type where people would wait in line for days," Valoon said.

The 2012 announcement of "The Force Awakens" sparked Valoon's excitement for the franchise's return. She said while some had a negative reaction to yet another sequel to "Star Wars," she personally "thrives off of sequels."

"I might have cried," Valoon said. "I was so excited to be alive and studying film at the time a new movie is coming."

Rachel Steinkamp, a theatre and dance and journalism senior, loved the movies ever since watching them on VHS. She plans to honor the series by decorating her graduation cap with the popular quote from "The Empire Strikes Back" — "Do or do not. There is no try."

"I think they're great movies to watch to pretend you're out of this world," Steinkamp said. "I loved the science-fiction fantasy and the escapism. I think a lot of it is relatable to audiences."

"The Force Awakens" has created serious hype, but the fact that it's the first "Star Wars" sequel in a decade has caused fans to wonder if it will match the critical prestige of the original trilogy. Steinkamp said she's worried the new film will bear too similar a resemblance to the first three movies.

"The rumors I keep hearing is that they'll kill off someone like Han [Solo]," Steinkamp said. "If they do that in an incorrect way or kill off a wrong character, I feel that'll reach a really sour note."

Whatever the reaction to "The Force Awakens," it's unlikely that the series will conclude anytime soon. As long as fans are interested in the franchise, Gaucin said it will keep going. He said a new start for the franchise gives newcomers an opportunity to become invested.

"There are so many stories in the universe that could have their own series of films," Gaucin said. "I think ["The Force Awakens"] can bring a new generation of fans into the 'Star Wars' world."

Illustration by Albert Lee | Daily Texan Staff

ALUMNI

UT alumus Brently Heilbron has been performing comedy for 20 years. His new show "Stand Up Empire" that showcases the Austin comedy scene will primier on PBS on Dec.13.

Mike McGraw
Daily Texan Staff

UT alumnus to host TV series showcasing Austin comedians

By Katie Walsh
@katiewalsh_atx

UT alumnus Brently Heilbron's career in comedy began the day he played hooky in the eighth grade.

Instead of sitting in class, 14-year-old Heilbron spent the afternoon successfully auditioning for his first comedy gig. Four years later, in 1999, he was voted Best Stand-Up Comic in Austin by Austin Chronicle readers. Today, he is the co-creator and co-producer of "Stand Up Empire," a television show on PBS that will showcase the Austin comedy scene. The pilot episode will be shot Dec. 13 in front of a live audience.

"It feels like the beginning of something new, and that's extremely exciting," Heilbron said. "To be able to take others along and showcase comedians that I love and champion — what a great feeling."

The show is based off the weekly open mic Heilbron and Mike Wilson, co-founder of Devolver Digital, a video game publisher and film distributor, started six months ago. Following the model of the television show "Austin City Limits," each episode of "Stand Up Empire" will feature a set from two comedians taped in front of a live audience at Empire Control Room & Garage.

A short profile that fleshes out each comedian will follow their set. Wilson said by talking about the comedian's side job as a bartender or valet during the profile, he and Heilbron intend to show that the comics are just regular people. He said he hopes the short profiles will inspire people watching at home to give stand-up a try.

"[We want to] make people care about these comics that are on stage and be cheering for them like you would a friend who got the nerve to go up and do that," Wilson said.

The show will feature comedians ranging from 10-year-old Saffron Herndon to 65-year-old Kerry Awn, who has been on the Austin comedy scene since the '60s. Heilbron said when picking comics to feature on the show, he looked for a diverse cast in terms of gender, age, race and sexuality.

The third and final segment of each episode will attempt to capture the vibe of Austin. Heilbron said possible examples include a segment on Moontower Comedy & Oddity Festival, Kinky Friedman or Shakey Graves. The goal with this wildcard segment is to tie the Austin comedy scene to the local music scene and culture of the city as it is today.

"In Austin, there is such a diverse, experimental flavor," Heilbron said. "I think that everyone here has their sound down pat because they've been trying and failed, pushed themselves in different directions and explored."

STAND UP EMPIRE LIVE PILOT TAPING

Where: Empire Control Room & Garage, 606 E 7th St.
When: Dec. 13 at 5 p.m.
Admission: $5

One of the comedians that will be featured on the show, UT alumnus Chip Pope, entered the Austin comedy scene in the early '90s as a college student. Although his comedy career started in the Jester auditorium, over the years, Pope has written, produced and starred in TV pilots for HBO, ABC, FOX, Comedy Central and NBC.

Considering the wealth of talent in Austin, Pope said he was surprised that no one had done a show like "Stand Up Empire" sooner.

"Everyone already knows that Austin is cool and everything, but they may not know that there is such a strong comedy scene there right now," Pope said.

Heilbron said he compares the Austin comedy scene today to the Seattle music scene in the '90s. Heilbron said the goal of the show is simple — to highlight the scene as it is today, untapped resources and all.

"This feels like a life's work," Heilbron said. "We have a really cool shot to do this right and do this well, and I couldn't be more excited."

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more explicit when coming out to the classroom because he wanted his students to have a face to put to the gay rights movement.

"I think about these kids who are 17, and they leave their little town in Texas, and the only things they have ever heard about gay people are [from] Texas politicians and the preachers from their small little hometowns," Theriault said. "I wanted to be a counterexample to them."

Today, Theriault said he assumes most of his students are accepting and is less concerned with coming out so explicitly. He said he is open with his students about all aspects of his life, from his partner to his half marathon schedule.

English professor Lisa Moore said she sees ways the University can improve conditions for LGBT professors. She said in an email that she believes UT administration, students and alumni need to lobby against anti-gay bills that continue to enter the Texas Legislature.

"That hurts, and it justifies the very real violence and discrimination we still face," Moore said.

Before July 1, the state denied UT professors comprehensive health insurance for their domestic partners because it did not recognize domestic partnerships, marriage or civil unions between individuals of the same gender. Five days after the Supreme Court legalized same-sex marriage, UT began allowing LGBT benefits-eligible employees to enroll in the same plan granted to eligible straight employees.

This year also marks the first time the University has granted LGBT faculty and staff bereavement leave, sick leave or parental leave.

The Pride & Equity Faculty Staff Association works in conjunction with other organizations to achieve equal benefits for LGBT faculty and staff. As of this summer, they have met all of their goals and are figuring out what faculty and staff want from them in the future, such as more job security and volunteer and social opportunities.

"We are actually in a transformation," said Beth Chichester, chair of PEFSA's executive committee. "We are actually in a flux right now as we look to the future and start charting that course."

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me through it all."

Although each member's story differs, Brinkmann said everyone in the fraternity understands what it's like to keep their sexualities or identities a secret. He said, sometimes prospective members are reluctant to approach the DLP's table during recruitment for fear of being outed to their peers.

"It's sad because, day to day, [people] hide themselves, and that's a heavy weight to hold," Brinkmann said. "There's a lot of covering up and lying — not in a bad way — just to disguise yourself as a masculine heterosexual male on campus. There's this stigma of what the LGBT community looks like. But we're just average people that like something different."

On a weekly basis, the fraternity members go out to at least one social event together including mini-golf, parties or formals. Throughout the semester, the fraternity supports its philanthropy group, The Trevor Project, a nonprofit organization that focuses on suicide prevention among the LGBT youth community. During the campus-wide fundraising event Orange Santa, the group hosts a drag show toy drive. This year's drag show will take place Friday in the Student Activity Center.

"We incorporate gay culture into [our fundraisers]," Wills said. "A bunch of the frat brothers are drag queens."

Wills said he thinks the LGBT community is well-represented on campus. Student organizations such as Gaymers and oSTEM also seek to provide this community with a group of similar peers.

He said he thinks the Austin community is accepting of the LGBT community, but there's still more to be done. After gay marriage became legal over the summer, Wills said the next step is to recognize the LGBT community's diversity.

"Most of the publicity that it's gotten has been less focused on people of color and trans people," Wills said. "I feel like the next step in general for LGBT rights is to focus on inclusion of them into the mainstream idea of what equality is."

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of greater social acceptance and freedom to define ourselves, as well as an understanding that there are multiple genders and sexualities not a simple binary of gay and straight or male and female," Cvetkovich wrote in the email.

While the University may be diverse, Ferguson said it is not well-integrated because students naturally form groups with people similar to them, whether that's based on race, socioeconomic status, sexuality or gender identity.

Ferguson said education could play an important role in making campus a more comfortable environment for transgender students, whether that's through informative awareness activities at orientation or UGS classes on gender and sexuality.

[Change] is not just a UT issue — it's a social issue," Ferguson said. "Typically the information that's provided is for the people who are seeking it out, which is not enough. We need to educate a wider public so it addresses the actual social issues."

Editor's Note: *This week, the Life&Arts department will cover the semester's most prevalent issues on campus, from campus carry to sexual assault. Today's package addresses issues affecting the LGBT community on campus.*

—Danielle Lopez, Life&Arts editor

LGBT

Delta Lambda Phi contributes to LGBT student community

By Marissa Charpentier & Danielle Lopez
@thedailytexan

Photos by Daulton Venglar | Daily Texan Staff

Alec Wills, top, and Kyle Brinkmann, above, are members of Delta Lambda Phi, a Greek organization for gay and bisexual males and allies. The organization will host their annual toy drive drag show Friday at the Student Activity Center.

As a gay student entering college, physics and astronomy junior Alec Wills never thought he would join a fraternity. But by the end of his first semester at UT, Wills was wearing letters.

He joined Delta Lambda Phi, a fraternity that seeks gay, bisexual and progressive male members. The fraternity's UT chapter, established in 2010, aims to provide queer students with mentorship and promote equality on campus. Members don't have to be gay or bisexual, but they do have to identify as male.

"All of my closest friends are frat members now, and I have people to socialize with and talk to if I ever need it," Wills said. "It's like a support group."

DLP is an affiliate member of the UT Greek system, meaning members participate in events with other Greek groups. Although their brotherhood resembles other UT fraternities, Wills said, as a gay student, he wouldn't feel comfortable anywhere but DLP.

"I feel like being in a frat as a gay person would be less conducive to a safe place than if you were just another straight person joining," Wills said. "There are more opportunities to be discriminated against."

Biochemistry senior Kyle Brinkmann, a DLP member, transferred to UT his sophomore year and was in search of a community he felt welcome in. While he was rushing DLP his junior year, he said the fraternity helped him gain the confidence to come out to his family.

"[DLP] didn't force me or anything," Brinkmann said. "They made me feel more comfortable and like it wasn't a problem. All those bad things I was thinking in my head ended up not being a problem. My family accepted me for who I am and [my brothers] were there for

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LGBT professors note evolving campus climate, UT policies

By Katie Walsh
@katiehwalsh_atx

Photo by Briana Vargas | Daily Texan Staff

Journalism senior lecturer Kate Dawson opens up to her students about her sexuality on the first day of class.

Photo by Rachel Zein | Daily Texan Staff

Government professor Sean Theriault said his experience as a gay professor has changed in his 14 years of teaching. He hopes to serve as a positive example to his students who have had little exposure to members of the LGBT community.

On the first day of class, journalism senior lecturer Kate Dawson comes out to her students, usually couching the matter-of-fact introduction of her wife and kids with a joke about their early 8 p.m. bedtimes.

"It would be strange for me to not say," Dawson said. "It's almost like avoiding that I went to Columbia for graduate school, or that I grew up here. It is part of my narrative, and it's not a part that is ever going to change."

Dawson is one of many LGBT professors at UT who find themselves in an entirely new position today than they were in 2014. Same-sex marriage is legal and, since July, UT grants comprehensive health insurance to the spouses of LGBT faculty and staff. While some professors are content with the University's current climate, others continue to see room for improvement.

Dawson said she has never had a problem being a lesbian faculty member. She is open about her sexual orientation and wants her students to know her interests and think of her as more than just a person who lectures at them every week. By talking about her family and hobbies, she said she brings students into her world and becomes comfortable in theirs. She said students often fill her office hours to discuss personal issues, from their mental health to sexuality.

Government professor Sean Theriault said he no longer has any issues with the University since they started granting comprehensive health insurance.

After 14 years of teaching, Theriault said he has adjusted the way he comes out to his students as society has become more accepting of the gay community. At the beginning of his career, he said he was much

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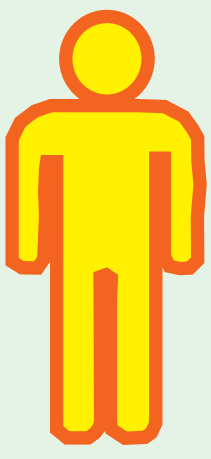
SEXUALLY ATTRACTED TO

A person's physical, romantic and/or emotional attraction to members of the same and/or opposite sex. Terms used to describe sexual orientation include lesbian, gay, bisexual and straight. People don't need to have any sexual experience to know their sexual orientation.

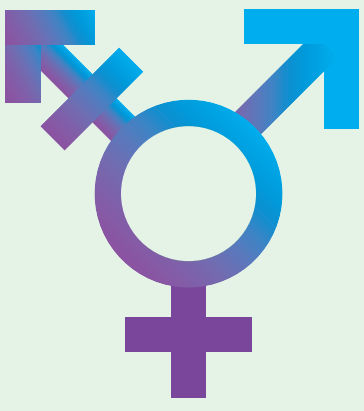
GENDER IDENTITY

A person's gender identity is one's internal sense of identity. This is not necessarily the same sex they were assigned at birth and may not fit into a binary system of male and female, but somewhere along a spectrum. Those who don't identify as a man or woman or who fall somewhere in between may identify as genderqueer.



GENDER EXPRESSION

Gender can be expressed externally through one's name, pronouns or physical characteristics including clothing, haircut and voice. These cues are typically identified as masculine or feminine and often align with a person's gender identity.



BIOLOGICAL SEX

Sex refers to the classification given at birth based on external anatomy — male, female or intersex. A person's chromosomes, hormones and internal reproductive organs are also factors that determine a person's sex. Those whose gender expression and/or identity is different from their biological sex may identify as transgender.

Graphic by Sammy Jarrar | Daily Texan Staff

UT transgender students face campus, social challenges

By Megan Hix
@meganhix95

Between finding new classrooms and adjusting to a full course load, many students experience first-day jitters. For philosophy junior Audrey Ferguson, the start of classes also means being outed as soon as the professor calls roll.

While UT implemented a system in 2012 to allow students to formally change to their preferred names, Ferguson — who requested a formal name-change in the spring — is still waiting for her preferred name to be used on official documents such as transcripts, class rosters, medical documents, her UT email and I.D. card.

"People view being trans as a bad thing or a sad thing, so people behave toward you nicely, in a pity aspect," Ferguson said. "It sets that up in your classes to be your identity. It also creates that issue, where if someone wants to know something, they go to you because you're the only trans person they know. A lot of people don't want to talk about that."

Other difficulties include the lack of gender-neutral bathrooms and gender-inclusive housing on campus. University policy requires any new building to have at least one gender-neutral bathroom per five floors, but there are currently no plans to add more gender-neutral bathrooms to already existing buildings. According to UT's Gender and Sexuality Center, 32 campus buildings include at least one all-gender bathroom.

According to campuspride.org, about 200 colleges and universities around the country offer a form of gender-inclusive housing.

Mylon Kirksy, director of residence life for the Division of Housing and Food Service, said UT residence halls do not offer gender-inclusive housing or the ability for students to live with a roommate of choice, regardless of biological sex, gender or gender identity. To determine room assignments, Kirksy said the DHFS bases decisions on the gender indicated on a student's application. However, Kirksy said the University's apartments provide gender-inclusive living arrangements for those who request it.

"We continue to research and work with students on the issues," Kirksy said. "Mostly, we say that if a student has a need that's not currently being fulfilled through our housing assignment process, we ask that they contact our office and talk to us about their specific needs. We try to work with students on an individual basis, case by case."

Ann Cvetkovich, professor of women's and gender studies and co-chair of the LGBT studies research cluster, said in an email that most LGBT classes are intended to teach that gender and sexuality are socially constructed categories that can be changed. Part of that change includes adopting gender-inclusive pronouns such as ze, which corresponds to he and she, and hir, a non-gendered pronoun used in place of his, her and him.

"Right now, we are seeing an explosion of new categories and vocabularies as part

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LONGHORN Life

December 2, 2015

A special edition of The Daily Texan

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OAT WILLIE'S PG 6 & 12

NATURE'S EXCHANGE PG 3 & 6

AMERICAN CAMPUS PG 7

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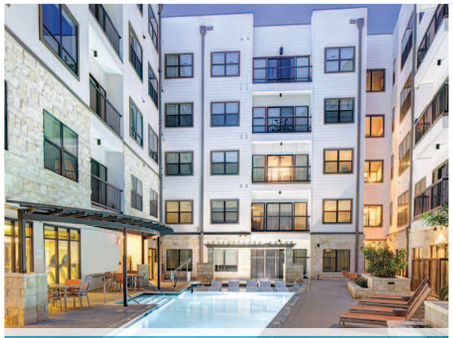

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Check out these holiday celebrations, happening all around Austin for the holiday season!

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Follow this guide to become the perfect gift-giver this season!

FFF FEST

Check out our exclusive coverage on this year's Fun Fun Fun Fest in November!

DAY TRIPS

Follow these tips for an escape from Austin to unique Texas towns this holiday break!

DE-STRESS

Finals are here! Don't let it catch you off guard; follow these pro-tips on how to survive just in time to finish the semester.

EDITOR'S NOTE

Happy Holidays Longhorns!

It's the last week of school and 'tis the season! The Christmas trees are up and decorated, the lights are strung out and hung, the radio stations are officially in holiday mode, and the favored Starbucks winter coffee flavors are in full swing. It is cold outside, and you got a taste of a break during Thanksgiving, yet we're all back and still here facing the last few weeks of school and finals. Don't worry, we're all feeling it. We just want to go home and celebrate the festivities with our families. Don't give in to the lazy feeling in the air! Keep moving forward! Soon enough it will be time to enjoy a very long and well-deserved break. Let's just get through finals first...

In this issue we have plenty of content to help you get through this final stretch of school. Check out our holiday guide and get your shopping on with a few of our recommended deals! Mark your calendars for special events happening all around Austin, including the annual Zilker Park Trail of Lights and Mozart's light up show along Lake Austin. Bored of Austin? Plan a road trip to two nearby Hill Country towns and enjoy what each establishment has to offer! And when it is finally time to give in to the laziness, check out some shows on Netflix that not everybody knows about!

Whether you celebrate Christmas, Hanukkah, Kwanzaa, or just love to have a month-long break from college responsibilities, enjoy your time off and having the opportunity to spend it with the ones you love! Don't forget that this is the season for giving, and now that you have thought about all you are thankful for during Thanksgiving, my advice is to take some time to think about others and how to make them feel special and welcomed by everyone. Next time you pass somebody on Guadalupe, or hear the bell ring for Salvation Army donation boxes, think about the lives of others and how you could possibly help this season.Have a great December and January, guys!

Hook 'em!

Jennifer Townzen

Special Editions Editor

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WHAT'S HAPPENING

ATX holiday traditions that will light up your winter

Warm up this holiday season with lights, song, celebration

Victoria Garabedian
Staff Writer

Photo Courtesy of Mozart's

Starting November 20, Mozart's hosts a must-see light show looking over Lake Austin.

Chuy's Christmas Parade (Nov. 28, 2015) Congress Ave.

Starting at the State Capitol at 11 a.m., the hour-long parade features several marching bands, balloons, floats and even Santa himself down one of the most popular streets in Austin.

The parade benefits Operation Blue Santa, a program that collects toys for children in Central Texas. The charity was initially a small-scale toy drive organized by Chuy's co-owner Mike Young in 1987 and has since blossomed into the parade Austinites know and love today.

Mozart's Light Show (Nov. 20, 2015 – Jan. 2016) Mozart's Coffee

Mozart's Coffee hosts a grand light show overlooking Lake Austin, set to classic holiday songs. The 12-minute show consists of more than 150,000 lights and a few university-inspired surprises. The show begins at the top of every hour from 6 p.m. to midnight every night. Make the night even more special by ordering coffee or hot chocolate.

Holiday Sing-Along & Downtown Stroll (Dec. 5, 2015) Downtown

The event begins with crowds meeting at the south steps of the Capitol to sing along to holiday songs played by KUTX 98.9 at 6 p.m. before lighting the Capitol tree an hour later.

A light show to local musicians' holiday songs starts every half hour of each hour along with other activities, like live music, a farmer's market and pictures with Santa. Non-perishable food or cash donations are also accepted for the Capitol Area Food Bank throughout the night.

Trail of Lights (Dec. 8, 2014 – Dec. 22, 2014) Zilker Park

Austin's most iconic holiday tradition, the Trail of Lights is the ultimate event to see amazing holiday displays, eat local food and partake in fun family activities. It began in 1965 as the "Yule Fest" in honor of the giant Yule Log that was burned at the event every year. The 155-foot tree was introduced in 1967.

After being closed in 2010 due to limited city funds, the Trail of Lights Foundation, created in 2012, helped bring the tradition back. General admission is free on weekdays and $3 on the weekends. You can even celebrate the University at the trail's special "UT Night" on Friday, December 11 from 7-10 p.m.

Armadillo Christmas Bazaar (Dec. 15, 2014 – Dec. 24, 2014) Palmer Events Center

This art fair and musical festival presents Austin's best talent from 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. daily, as well as wonderful local food. A variety of styles are included, providing every visitor with a new artist to fall in love with.

Anyone looking for a sophisticated night out will enjoy the Armadillo Christmas Bazaar. Single-day passes are $8 and kids ages 12 and under can get in for free.

Austin's New Year (Dec. 31, 2014) Auditorium Shores

Austin's New Year (ANY) is a free, family event that rings in the New Year by celebrating the creativity of Austin through film, art and, of course, live music. Also, be on the look out for local Austin food and fun family activities. The event starts at 4 p.m. and ends at 10 p.m., with a holiday finale of a fireworks show that's sure to leave every visitor in awe.

Ballet Austin's
The Nutcracker
Prices Starting at $42
Dec. 5 to 23,
2 and 7:30 p.m.
@ The Long Center

The Nutcracker ballet is an ultimate holiday classic,

[Continued on Page 5]

NETFLIX-MAS

Off-the-Beaten-Path Binge-Worthy Shows

Story by: Hayden Pigott
Staff Writer

At this point in your college career you have become very familiar with binge-watching and the best shows to do so. Most of us have seen Parks & Rec, 30 Rock, Friends and Friday Night Lights. But Netflix has a ton of other shows that go unnoticed but are just as binge-worthy. After searching through the pages of television shows with (most) of their seasons on Netflix, here are some of the best to watch this holiday season

1. Fleming: The Man Who Would Be Bond
This show is perfect for both genders, if you like mysteries. There are only four episodes, so be ready for a lack of emotional stability at the end because you will want more. If you like anything that has to do with the military, spies, WWII, the defeat of Nazis, Caribbean escapades, or James Bond, you will thoroughly enjoy this show.

2. Wet Hot American Summer: First Day of Camp
If you enjoy very basic comedy, actors playing roles about half their age, and the idea of a sleep-away summer camp, this one is for you. It is the prequel to the movie Wet Hot American Summer. Each episode (eight total) is a different hour in the first day of camp. They start off with kids being dropped off; lunch, and then hijinks start to ensue, including a battle with a neighboring camp.

3. Miss Fisher's Murder Mysteries
This is more for the ladies out there, but if you like 1920s Australia you'll enjoy Miss Fisher. She is a mysterious young woman with a lot of money who happens to solve crimes. There is also some serious sexual tension between her and the married detective. Season three just premiered on Netflix and each season has 13 episodes, perfect for binge-watching this winter break.

4. Damages
If you want some intense drama, terrorism, Glenn Close as a disturbingly amazing actress, and John Goodman in an intimidating persona, this one is for you. The show is about a brilliant lawyer, Close, and her mentee (Rose Byrne). Each episode is about a different case, but there are season-long themes that have to do with the United States involvement in the Middle East, torture, terrorism, and company whistleblowers. With five seasons of 13 episodes each, this series will keep you entertained

5. The Bletchley Circle
This is set in post-WWII and is about four women who worked at Bletchley Park (decoding the Enigma machine) during the war. Now they are settled down with lives but one of them starts seeing patterns in a serial killer's work. She enlists the help of her old Bletchley friends. Soon they start to unravel the complicated murders just as the police become aware of their interference. Can they solve the mystery? Hint: There is a second season!

6. House Hunters International Collection
Yes, that says House Hunters. Have you ever watched House Hunters International? If not you are seriously missing out on some laughs. It is great for people watching and the houses, especially in Europe, are so strange! There will be random staircases and dressing rooms; they are like the Winchester Mystery House but tinier. International is better than the normal House Hunters because you get to see gorgeous shots of the Caribbean or Italy or Japan. Plus they are easy to just sit down and watch. You can binge them without a huge commitment.

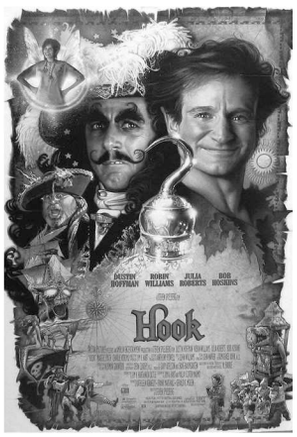
7. Bomb Girls
This is another one that is probably more for the girls out there. It is set during WWII in Canada at an ammunitions factory. A group of (strong) women are working there to make bombs for the Allies across the pond. There is a ton of drama (because what TV show would be binge-worthy without drama?) and includes Italian internment, murder, and love triangles. Bonus: there are some great lessons on how to keep your hair out of your face with cute bandanas.

8. Peaky Blinders
This crime drama is set in Birmingham, England in 1919. It is about a gangster family who accidentally gets mixed up in arms dealership after taking some guns that were supposed to be shipped to Libya. An inspector from Belfast is sent over to investigate the family, and drama ensues. If you like dark, gritty shows with people who have great accents, this is for you.

Hopefully you now have a show you can binge-watch this winter break. Each of them is a little off-the-beaten-path but all of them are interesting.

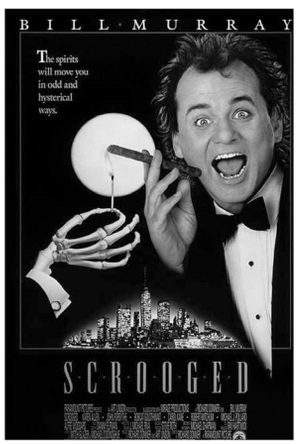
Top 5 Netflix Holiday Movies

Bad Santa

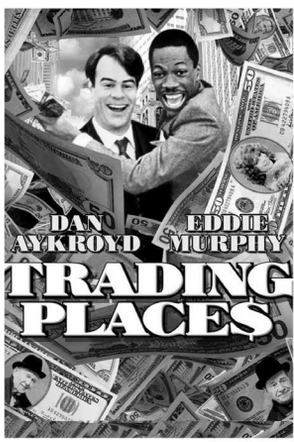


Hook

Planes, Trains and Automobiles



Scrooged



Trading Places

[Continued from Page 3]

and Ballet Austin's rendition is the longest running production of the show in Texas, according to their website. The Nutcracker tells the story of a girl named Ciara, whose toy nutcracker comes to life to help her fight the Mouse King and consequently leads her on adventures in the Land of Sweets. Although ballets can be pricey, buying the cheaper seats won't break your bank, and you'll be able to take in the dancing snowflakes and other winter imagery in this Christmas Eve tale from the balcony.

Neighborhood Christmas Lights Anytime, all around Austin

Looking for a low-key way to indulge in the holiday cheer? Keep it simple by cranking up the holiday tunes and driving around Austin's neighborhoods to check out the residents' holiday displays; 37th Street and Project XMas at 1912 Chrystal Shore are both known for their extravagant displays. Alternatively, you can show off your creative side by decorating your own place. Just be careful if you plan to live in the dorms over winter break: the university implements specific and stringent rules regarding the types of decorations residents are allowed to use.

Commitment Day 5K
$39, free for those 18 and under with a paid adult
Jan. 1, 10 a.m.
Butler Park

At the start of each new year, many try to live up to their healthy lifestyle resolutions, which is what the Commitment Day 5K aims for. Commitment Day is a movement that encourages runners to embrace a healthy lifestyle, and it will happen in more than 30 cities on New Year's Day. Whether you want to run, walk, jog or crawl, the 5K is about the meaning behind the race, not who finishes first. When choosing your resolutions, you can use the Commitment Day 5K as a starting point for a healthy lifestyle change.

No matter where you're from, taking part in the city's many festivities will make Austin feel like home this holiday season.

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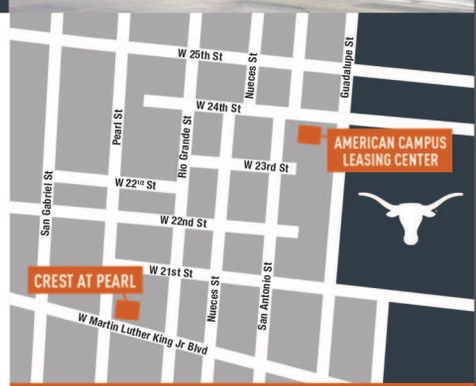

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movement that encourages

HOLIDAY GIFTS

Bark 'n Purr

Don't forget your furry friend this holiday season. We know your pets have all been good, so they deserve some love too. Pick up something fun like the Moody Pet Humunda Stache Dog Toy. One side is a fun black ball for your dog to play with, while the flip side is a stylish mustache. This would crack us up at least once a day — totally worth it.

Buffalo Exchange

Impress the people on your gift list without destroying your bank account by picking up some great vintage digs at Buffalo Exchange. If you're running low on funds this is an especially great option, because you can cash in on your style by turning in some of your own wardrobe for credit. If you're not looking for ensembles Buffalo Exchange has great accessories too. Pick up a scarf or hat before the weather gets any colder.

Oat Willie's

Oat Willie's is your local proveyor of everything you need. Go here to grab some gifts or to prepare your space for the next semester. Grab a rug that ties the room together, or some incense, or a new bedspread. Onward through the fog!

Nature's Exchange

No one rocks like Nature's Exchange, where you can find gifts for everyone with a penchant for mother nature. Jewelry and collectibles allow for budgets large and small, and you can find things to put under, or on, any christmas tree! If you can't decide between all the treasure's available you can pick up a gift card.

Sock Club

Austin's skyline has never looked as good as it does on the ankles of these hip socks from Sock Club. Sock Club offers a subscription service that delivers fresh socks to your door each month, but if your budget is tight you can spread Christmas cheer to the feet you love with a single pair from their online store. While we love this year's skkyline edition, we hope next year's will include a crane or two!

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PHOTO BY DAVE MEAD

THE OUTFIT
PHOTO BY CHAD WADSWORTH

SLOW MAGIC
PHOTO BY CHAD WADSWORTH

LAUREN HILL
PHOTO BY JACKIE YOUNG

PEACHES
PHOTO BY JACKIE YOUNG

PHOTO BY CHAD WADSWORTH

GRIMES
PHOTO BY ROGER HO

Layout by Jannice Truong

FUN FUN FUN FEST:

THREE CHEERS FOR 10 YEARS

Clara Wang
Staff Writer

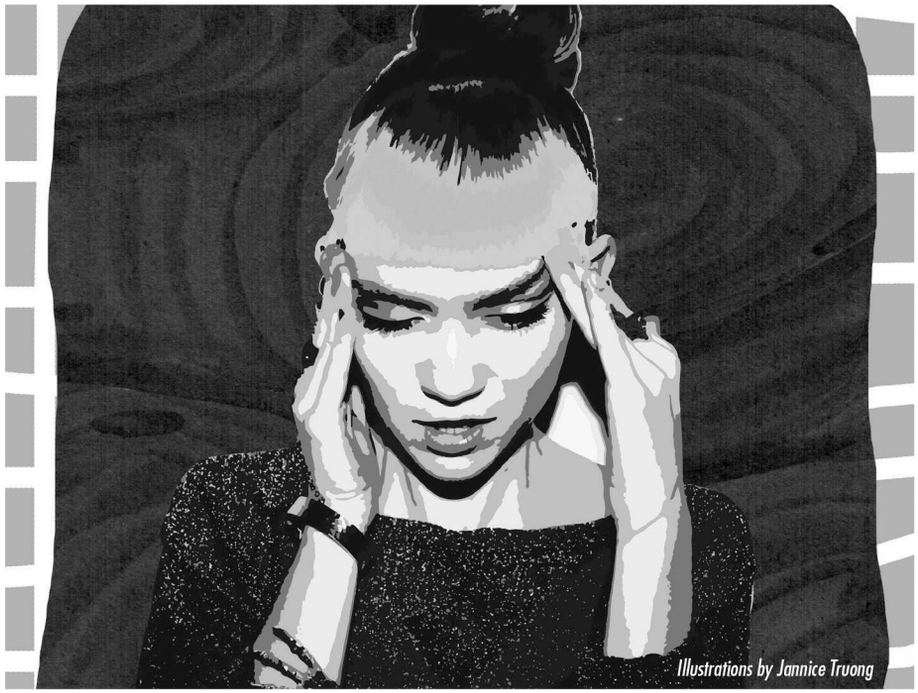
Fun Fun Fun Fest celebrated its 10th anniversary this year. The decade-old music festival has continued to grow and featured headliners the likes of Lauryn Hill, Neon Indians, Wu-Tang Clan, and Rae Sremmurd. Cloudy skies and a perpetual drizzle didn't dampen crowd enthusiasm for the first two days of the festival, and the third day culminated with plenty of sunshine and a performance by Lauryn Hill.

Bomba Estereo shook the crowd on Friday with a bilingual performance that blended different genres. Frontwoman Liliana exemplified the band's psychedelic cumbia onstage by combining punk-rock hair whips with latin dance moves. Rae Sremmurd brought an onslaught of energy, literally bouncing across the stage in a ratchet celebration of being young, wild, and alive. In classic rap concert fashion, girls were pulled onstage to twerk by the DJ booth. Schoolboy Q's performance started strong, but the flu-stricken rapper's energy waned as the night went on. He was hesitant to perform crowd favorites like "Studio" and "Man of the Year," probably because the crowd has been clamoring for the same songs since Oxymoron dropped.

Saturday brought the funk with a spooky, groovy Neon Indians appearance. Grimes lit the stage DJ'ing and screeching to flashing lights and jumpsuit-clad dancers. Wu-Tang's act was stellar, bringing long-time fans to their feet and inspiring a younger generation as they sprayed champagne onstage. Wu-Tang performed classics from 36 Chambers and Wu-Tang Forever along with a couple well-received tributes to Ol' Dirty Bastard and world peace.

Comedians and speakers such as Comedy Central Late Night performer Chris Cuban entertained over at the JASH Yellow Tent, which also housed a spoken word by GZA on Saturday. NASA scientist Dr. Scott Bolton was a suitable opener for the rapper's piece, as GZA combined science, mysticism and poetry in his tribute to promoting science in the urban community.

Big Freedia's twerk lessons on Sunday had white girls gyrating their behinds all over the stage, and Lauryn Hill's soulful closer was a fitting end to a weekend of diverse acts.



Illustrations by Jannice Truong

TWO TEXAS DAY TRIPS

Story by Hayden Pigott

Winter break is quickly approaching and it is time to start thinking about travel plans for your time of leisure. Whether you want to go for this break for some holiday shopping or for a pleasant time during your spring break, these two day trips are within hours of Austin and provide extremely unique experiences. So get out there and explore all that the Texas Hill Country has to offer, you won't regret it.

Fredericksburg provides plenty of fun and excitement for everyone, whether you are a history buff or a shopaholic. Check out their holiday decoaration this season!
Photo Courtesy of Square Space

FREDERICKSBURG

For this day trip you will need to get up early to head out to Enchanted Rock before the crowds, as it is about a two-hour drive from campus. Stop by Jim's Restaurant when you turn from US-290 West onto 71. They have big breakfasts, which you could use if you are going to hike the very steep E-Rock. Once you arrive at Enchanted Rock take the Summit Trail, about a 45-minute walk, to the top. From there you can see views from miles around as well as the random patches of greenery and pools of water. After your descent, head into Fredericksburg for lunch at Clear River Pecan Bakery, Sandwiches and Ice Cream. They serve the food in their title, but you must try one of their cookies—to die for! If you want something a little more substantial, try Sozial Haus for pizza and warm sandwiches. For the history buffs, you must get a ticket to the National Museum of the Pacific War, open daily. It is located in the boyhood home of Fleet Admiral Chester W. Nimitz, who served as CinCPAC, Commander in Chief, United States Pacific Fleet during WWII. The exhibits tell the story of Fleet Admiral Nimitz from childhood through his career in the navy. There is also a "Combat Zone" where you can find information on anything you could possibly want to know about the pacific theater. For the more shopping-inclined, find parking on Main Street and check out the various locally-owned shops selling Texas pride items and artisanal gifts like Rustlin' Rob's Texas Gourmet Foods. Rest your feet at Java Ranch Espresso Bar & Café for some good coffee and delicious baked goods. Once you finish at either the museum or your shopping get dinner at Otto's German Bistro, which serves authentic German dishes like schnitzel and bratwurst. If German is not where your stomach is at, try Farm Haus Bistro's creamy chicken arrabbiata or garlic chive crab cakes. With your stomach full start the journey back to Austin.

Photo Courtesy of Scholar Works

JOHNSON CITY

If you get on the US-290 West around 9 a.m. you can get to Johnson City by 10 a.m. and have ample time to see the best parts of Lyndon B. Johnson's boyhood home. Your first step should be to drive through Johnson City and stop at the LBJ Ranch, a national & state park. Take a tour of his home to see exactly how many telephones Lady Bird would allow him and find out why he sat at a certain seat in the dining room (hint: it has to do with T.V.). After taking the tour, make sure to go on a driving tour of the ranch itself. If you hold off on this trip until spring you can see all of the wildflowers blooming that Lady Bird loved so much. After getting your fill of presidential knowledge, head back into Johnson City for lunch at East Main Grill, housed in The Old Lumber Yard. They offer soups, salads, sandwiches, and burgers. If you are looking for farm-to-table fare, head to Lady Bird Lane Café in the Hill Country Science Mill. They use regional ingredients, cater to most dietary needs and serve sandwiches, flat breads and small bites. If you ate at Lady Bird Lane Café check out the Science Mill's rotating exhibits. For those 21 and over stop at Pecan Street Brewing for craft beers like: Ladybird's Wit a Belgian style white, Keep Calm & Carry On a strong amber English ale, and 1897 Jailbreak IPA. Pedernales State Park offers great scenery and if it is warm outside bring your bathing suit so you can explore the river. Check out the trails for those crisp and chilly days, but don't forget your hiking boots! After getting your fill of nature, drive to The Sculpture Ranch where over 100 sculptures by more than 40 artists are on display outdoors. There is an aircraft hanger with multiple galleries and a permanent Benini exhibit to see. Because you will probably be tired and hungry at this point, hit Texas 290 Diner for some comfort food, like fried green tomatoes and garlic-mashed potatoes. Then it is time to head back home to Austin.

STRESSED TO THE MAX: HOW TO RELAX BEFORE AND AFTER FINALS

Jina Chung
Staff Writer

It's the last week of school and Finals week is just around the corner. New freshmen and graduating seniors alike cannot escape the frantic review days for their exams that are ahead. However, stress can have a negative impact on test-taking abilities. It is important to study, but it is also equally important to relax in order to perform well.

FIVE TIPS TO DE-STRESS BEFORE FINALS:

1.Plan a Study Schedule
Don't try to review all of the information in a single day. You have to account for a semester's worth of material, so break it down and review in the order the material was presented to you in class. Don't spend too long on material you already know. Instead, use your time wisely to review a concept you had trouble understanding. Make sure to plan breaks in between; it will give you time to process the information that you have reviewed.

2.Sleep!
Although all-nighters may seem like a good idea, you will be too exhausted to retrieve the information from your mind that you had crammed in the night before. This is especially true for the students who have more than one exam on the same day. Stay away from the caffeine and prepare for a good night's sleep before your exam. Try to plan so that you wake up before your alarm rings, as you will feel energized and refreshed since you'll wake up to your own rhythm.

3.Eat Well and Stay Hydrated
A lot of students forget to eat when they are stressed. Don't let that be you! Be sure to eat your meals and drink plenty of water. Instead of snacking throughout the day, build full meals into your schedule. Don't go into your final hungry; it will distract you from the task at hand.

4. Stay Active!
Although you may be tired, it is important to stay active -- especially if you've been sitting in the same position for a long time. Intensive exercise will help you keep your mind off of finals, which might be the break you need before studying again. Go work out at your nearest fitness center. Yoga is another alternative, and can be done with friends. A nice, calming walk will also do wonders to help you refocus.

5.Relax!
Take some time off and chat with your friends. Try to meditate, or search for an on-campus mediation event, such as the Mindfulness Meditation Drop-In Group on December 4th in the Harry Ransom Center. Student Services also offers free 15-minute massages, so drop by and take advantage of the luxury! Make sure you make some time for doing something you love, like browsing the web or reading a book. Just make sure not to get too carried away with your free time!

DE-STRESSING AFTER FINALS:
Once you have put your finals behind you, worry no longer! Treat yourself, because you deserve it. As the semester comes to a close, make sure to have a safe and relaxing winter break. See you next semester, Longhorns!

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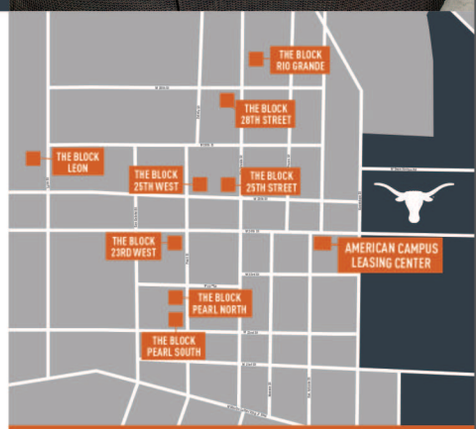

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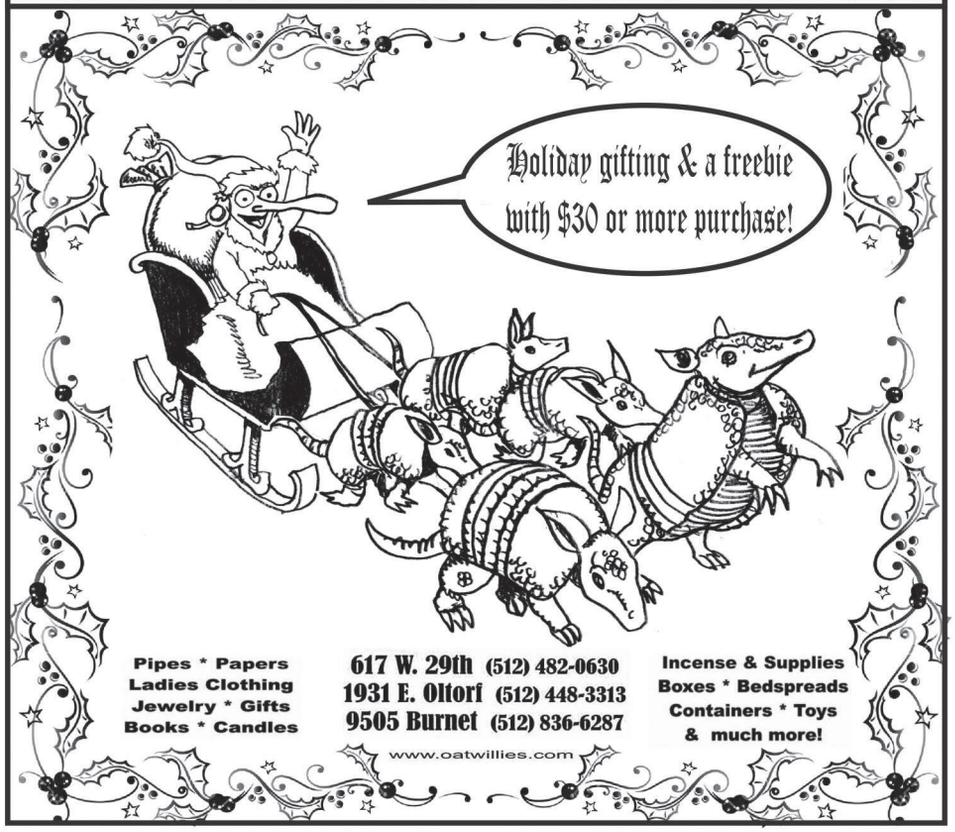

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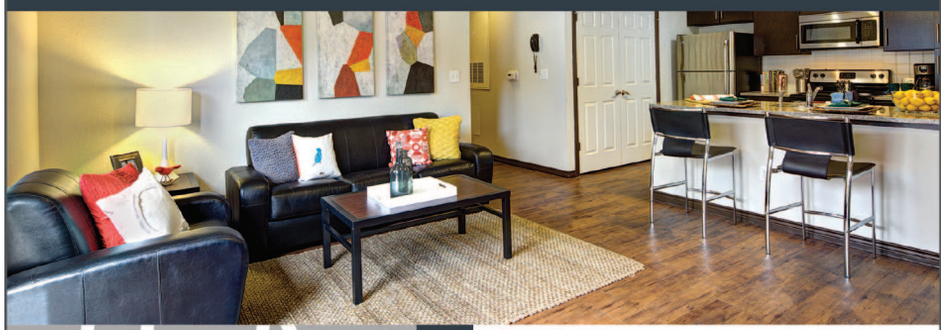

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