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Wednesday, August 31, 2011

TODAY

Calendar

Party on the Plaza

Come learn about the many activities on campus at this welcome back to school festival. The event begins at 10 a.m. in the Gregory Gym Plaza.

Slacker 2011

To celebrate the 20th anniversary of Richard Linklater's classic, 24 Austin filmakers remade scenes from Slacker. The film will premier at 7 p.m. at the Paramount Theatre.

Weird Wednesdays

The audience selects what obscure film to watch from the theater vaults at this weekly Alamo Drafthouse event. Show starts at 10:30 and tickets are \$1.

Feminist Action Project

The activist organization will hold its first planning meeting of the semester at 7 p.m. in SAC 2.112. The group, sponsored by the Gender and Sexuality Center, hosts a student run conference every year.

Today in history

Friends honor UT sophomore at memorial

By Jillian Bliss Daily Texan Staff

University Catholic Center director Edward Nowak read prayers and scriptures in an otherwise silent chapel where loved ones of business sophomore Richard Holland gathered to remember him.

Holland, 19, accidentally fell from the fifth floor balcony of his apartment at the Block on Pearl Street Monday night, according to the Austin Police Department. He was transported to University Medical Center Brackenridge and later pronounced dead. APD could not comment on if oring him at the UCC Tuesday. there was alcohol involved.

Holland was a graduate of Plano West tended the service, many of whom Senior High School. More than 100 friends and acquittances left notes on his Facebook page, many of them expressing what a happy, upbeat person er people's background, have ministers Holland was. Approximately 40 of his friends attended the prayer service hon-

Nowak blessed the people who at-

shared hugs and tears among the candlelight.

"All of the campus ministries, whatevalways available for counseling," Nowak said after the service. "It's good that we

MEMORIAL continues on **PAGE 2**

Richard Holland



Hazardous Materials specialist John Oldag and technician April Idlett move salvage drums away from Waller Creek after an emergency drill

Homeless seek cool refuge in campus areas open to public

By Jillian Bliss Daily Texan Staff

Extreme heat conditions have forced Austin's homeless population to seek refuge in air-conditioned settings across the city, including areas on and around campus.

While UT students and faculty can avoid high temperatures in their air-conditioned offices and classrooms, homeless people do not have the same resources to keep themselves cool during this record heat wave.

Mitchell Gibbs, director of development and communications at Front Steps, a local nonprofit providing resources to the homeless, said finding shade and water sources is a high priority for those without a place to live. He said in addition to homeless shelters, public buildings such as hospitals and libraries are

In 1955

General Motors exhibits a 15inch model of the first solarpowered car at a convention in Chicago.

Campus watch

20 Questions

San Jacinto Residence Hall 309 East 21st Street Theft: A UT staff member witnessed a UT student enter into the Cypress Cafe and walk around picking up items to purchase. Somewhere between the aisle and the cash register, the student placed a bag of candy into his front pocket and walked to the cashier. The student paid for the other lunch items, but neglected to remove the candy and walked out of the cafe.



We wanted to do what we do in our garage: drink beer and play ping-pong. — Richard Panter PongRock co-founder

LIFE&ARTS PAGE 16

Public services collaborate for drill

By Andrew Messamore Daily Texan Staff

Police tape, fire trucks and people in hazmat suits lined San Jacinto Boulevard on Tuesday morning.

The University partnered with the Alliance of Hazardous Materials Professionals to test how responders would react to a chemical spill into Waller Creek on campus.

Members of UT Police Depart- Battalion Chief Palmer Buck nar- as a demonstration for the public, approximately 25-member team er bed. that drilled for a chemical danger. Under a tent, members of the media and the AHMP were briefed here and maximize the shielding to on the progress of the exercise using a play-by-play style of presen-

tation as the drill progressed. AFD

ment, Austin Fire Department, rated the progress of two safety University Operations and city and workers as they carefully moved state representatives made up the fake chemical barrels from the riv-

> "The main goal was that we want to minimize the time spent protect as many lives as possible," Buck said.

The exercise was also intended

said UTPD Lt. James Gabriel.

"This creek runs into Lady Bird Lake, and we work with the city, county and state level forces to ensure that a contamination like that couldn't happen."

The AHMP has conducted previous preparedness exercises at nu-

DRILL continues on **PAGE 5**

frequented by the homeless because they often provide both.

Perry-Casteñeda Library spokesman Travis Willmann said the library is open to nonstudents, as well as UT students. Willmann said he has noticed an increase in library visitors this summer and feels it could be related to the heat.

"We're open to the public, so we get people from the local Austin community who may come in off the streets and use our place to relax," Willmann said. "Anybody can walk into any building

HEAT continues on **PAGE 2**

Officials discuss Longhorn Network's limited audience

By Sarah White Daily Texan Staff

Although many Central Texas UT fans still cannot watch the recently launched Longhorn Network, channel officials said Tuesday greater access should be available soon.

Athletics director Chris Plonsky joined Dave Brown, Vice President of Programming for the Longhorn Network, and Stephanie Druley, Vice President of Production for the Longhorn Network, to discuss the distribution, programming and coverage of the network onstage at the Cactus Cafe. The network is a collaboration between ESPN and UT.

The network first aired last Friday to a limited audience, but according to Brown, deals with the major cable companies are still being negotiated

and most fans still do not have access to the content.

Druley said the lack of widespread access will be worked out to address the concern that the network is still unavailable to many fans.

When asked what made the Longhorn Network a good investment for ESPN, Brown said that it was due in part to the "great economic power" of Texas' large fanbase. He said that this was a groundbreaking and unique project. Brown said the strength of the Longhorn brand is part of the reason that this will be a successful project for ESPN.

Representatives at the public forum discussed the availability of a suitable amount of content for

NETWORK continues on **PAGE 5**



Rebecca Rodriguez | Daily Texan Staff

KUT's reporter Ben Philpott, far left, interviews ESPN's Dave Brown and Stephanie Druley, along with UT Athletics Director Chris Plonski on Tuesday night.



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CLARIFICATION

Because of an editing error, Monday's page 8 "By the Numbers" feature should have said Gilbert made 506 more career pass attempts than any of the other three quarterbacks being considered for the starting position.

MEMORIAL continues from PAGE 1

could provide a place where people could gather together and comfort one another."

Sam Tillery, a sophomore at the Colorado School of Mines, said he caught the first flight from Denver to Austin when he learned of his friend's death.

"I've known Richard since kindergarten," Tillery said. "We played on every sports team together growing up and lived along the same block. I don't think there was a day we didn't see each other [until college]."

Tillery said he and Holland were members of a close-knit group that included finance junior Ali Mavrakis, who also attended the service. Tillery said while his real family is overseas and communication with them is difficult, he takes comfort in his friendship with Mavrakis and others who were close to Holland.

"Towards the end of the service people started to remember fond memories," Mavrakis said. "People that were sobbing, they were laughing. It's helped to be able to come together, and he's going to be remembered well."



Jessica Nittolo hugs a friend Tuesday afternoon after attending a service for sophomore Richard John Holland, who died Monday evening after falling from the fifth flour of The Block apartments in West Campus. Police are calling his death an accident.

HEAT continues from **PAGE 1**

on campus, and I think occa- support to the homeless com- tions, Gibbs said the Austin Resionally you have incidents, but there's nothing of note on a regular basis?

Kinesiology senior Kassandra Knapp said she visits the PCL approximately once a week and has noticed others at the library who she believed were not students and might be homeless. She said she identified them by tattered clothes and a general "out-ofplace" appearance.

Knapp said she never felt frightened by homeless visitors in the library, but feels the issue could possibly become a breach in security someday.

PCL spokesman Travis Willmann said library administration is not aware of any serious incidents occurring because of nonstudent visitors.

John Elford, senior pastor at University United Methodist Church, said the church's Open ed Methodist no longer pro-Door Ministry aims to provide vides overnight accommoda- vide water."

munity living around campus. Elford said the church formerly allowed a small group to sleep in their parking lot, but no longer allows people to rest overnight on their property because the group became larger and potentially destructive.

"I know there's several volunteers who know these folks really well," Elford said. "When it gets hot, everybody's a little touchy. I've noticed people have more personal issues in this weather."

Elford said there may be an increase in attendance at Open Doors worship services because they are held indoors and provide escape from the heat. The ministry currently provides transportation, clothing and meals to displaced workers and the homeless population, he said.

Although University Unit-

source Center for the Homeless managed by Front Steps provides day and overnight sleeping arrangements. Gibbs said while surviving the heat is a concern for those who live mostly outside, finding meals is not difficult because of the many ministries like Open Doors that reach out to the homeless. He said the facility has also provided approximately 800 bottles of water per day to people in need, and staff members are trained to identify heat-related medical concerns and make necessary hospital arrangements.

"In years past we haven't had the same ongoing temperatures, but we saw more folks coming in suffering from heat-related illness," Gibbs said. "This year we've only had a couple folks that look like they need medical attention, and I'm sure that's because we've been able to pro-

Board of Regents appropriates money to build medical school

By Liz Farmer Daily Texan Staff

UT System Board of Regents allocated a part of a \$30 million fund last week to build a medical school in the Lower Rio Grande Valley area to provide education and training for medical students.

The process will enhance the medical education capabilities of the Regional Academic Health Center in Harlingen, a city in the valley. The center is associated with the UT Health Science Center San Antonio, but does not have the resources to educate medical students all four years. Francisco González-Scarano, dean of the School of Medicine at the UT Health Science Center San Antonio, said the students currently studying at the RAHC volunteer to study in that area.

"They want to be taking care of tem institutions. the people in the valley," González-

"You know when you're sitting in a classroom, and you have the right answer and you're waving your hand?" García said. "It's like we can do this. We just need the resources and we finally got picked."

García said compared to Austin, Brownsville has half as many nurses and doctors per people.

"Anytime you improve higher education opportunities, you impact in a significant way the quality of life in a community," García said.

UT-Brownsville, UT-Pan American and the medical school will work together in joint endeavors to provide people with medical services in the valley. García said these plans are in line with Chancellor Francisco Cigarroa's framework to increase financial and educational productivity at UT Sys-

"He wants to be able to leverage

Danielle Villasana | Daily Texan Staff

TOMORROW'S WEATHER



RECYCLE

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Scarano said.

The Lower Rio Grande Valley residents don't have adequate medical services available in the area, and the addition of a medical school would bring more medical professionals and attention to the of Texans. Senator Kirk Watson, Dneeds of the people, said González-Scarano.

There are currently about 40 students studying at the RAHC, he said, and with the development of the medical school, 220 students will be able to rotate per year. As plans for the medical school are underway, the RAHC will establish partnerships with local hospitals to retain graduates and help improve medical attention for residents of the area.

"We need to ensure that there are enough post-medical school spots," he said.

UT-Brownsville President Juliet García said part of the \$30 tin for more than five years. This million fund will also go toward moving the institution to a four- Pediatric Research Institute, a new year college from a community college. The fund will allow UT-Brownsville to make improvements to the School of Public Health — furthering the efforts to provide adequate medical services to the people in the Lower Rio Grande Valley.

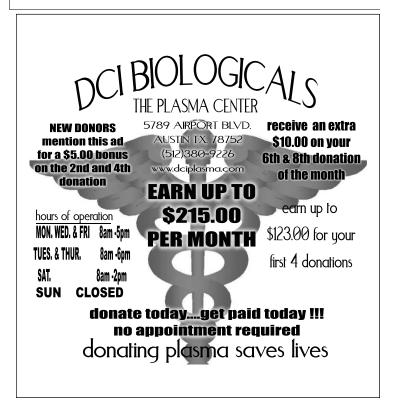
all three institutions toward one goal," García said.

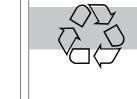
Cigarroa's framework left open future possibility of a UT medical school in Austin and in general called for a focus on the health Austin, said in a press release that he will come up with a plan within the next month to further medical education, health care and bioscience for UT.

"An advanced medical education and research initiative, growing alongside and in partnership with University of Texas System institutions, represents almost limitless opportunity for Central Texans' economy, health and quality of life," Watson wrote.

UT-Austin President William Powers Jr. said in a statement the University has been working to increase medical education in Ausincludes the creation of the Dell department in Biomedical Engineering and increased residencies through Seton Hospitals.

"We need to be careful about getting solid funding in place to continue these steps, but they are the necessary ones to establish a medical school here," Powers said.





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Wednesday, August 31, 2011 THE DAILY TEXAN Austin Myers, Wire Editor | dailytexanonline.com



Sergey Ponomarev | Associated Press

A portrait of Moammar Gadhafi is removed from the Radisson hotel in Tripoli, Libva on Aug. 23, 2011.

A rebel fighter climbs atop a statue inside Gadhafi's compound Bab al-Aziziva in Tripoli, where intense fighting has occurred, on Aug. 24.

Rebels dispose dictator Gadhafi, Libya begins its transition

TRIPOLI, Libya – When the end came for Moammar Gadhafi's regime in Libya, it was stunningly sudden. One minute the rebels were in the mountains, the next they were sweeping through the coastal city of Zawiya to the gates of the capital.

Gadhafi's dread fortress of Bab al-Aziziya then came under siege by rebels, to fall in a matter of hours.

Over the next few days, the secrets of the 42-year-old regime spilled into the open.

Whispered stories about bunkers under Bab al-Aziziya proved true, with miles of tunnels navigable by electric golf carts leading to villas and hideouts across the city.

Inmates freed from the regime's notorious prisons told of decades of inside tiny cells, cut off from the world. The squalor they endured contrasted with the luxury in which Gadhafi's children lived, as evidenced by the expensive cars, indoor pools and gaudy decor at the homes rebels trashed and looted.

Libya's rebels got a boost Tuesday with the unfreezing of about \$1.6 billion in Libyan currency held in Britain. Analysts estimate that as much as \$110 billion is frozen worldwide.

The National Transitional Council, which controls most of the country, says it urgently needs at least \$5 billion in frozen assets to pay state salaries for the police and army to restore order and confiscate arms.

GADHAFI SUSPECTED NEAR SIRTE

Libyan rebels say they're closing in on Moammar Gadhafi and issued an ultimatum Tuesday to regime loyalists in the fugitive dictator's hometown of Sirte, his main remaining bastion: surrender this weekend or face an attack. "We have a good idea where he is," a

top rebel leader said.

The rebels, tightening their grip on Libya after a military blitz, also demanded that Algeria return Gadhafi's wife and three of his children who fled there Monday. Granting asylum to his family, including daughter Aisha who gave birth in Algeria on Tuesday, was an "enemy act," said Ahmed al-Darrad, the reb-

els' interior minister.

Rebel leaders insisted they are slowly restoring order in the war-scarred capital of Tripoli after a week of fighting, including deploying police and collecting garbage. Reporters touring Tripoli still saw chaotic scenes, including desperate motorists stealing fuel from a gas station.

Rebel fighters were converging on the heavily militarized town of Sirte. The rebels gave pro-Gadhafi forces there a deadline of Saturday - the day after the end of the Muslim holiday to complete negotiations and surrender. After that, the rebels will "act decisively and militarily," said Mustafa Abdul-Jalil, the head of the rebels' National Transitional Council.

POCKETS OF RESISTANCE

TARHOUNA — Moammar Gadhafi's green flags still fly proudly above the main street in this bastion of support for his crumbling regime. Many here still openly pledge allegiance to the longtime Libyan leader.

"We felt safe with Gadhafi, but not now, not with the rats," Hassan Sultan, 35, an unemployed laborer, said of the rebels.

Tarhouna's loyalty is a stark sign of the problems the rebels face as they try to bring stability to a country ruled by Gadhafi for more than four decades. Residents here say many of their neighbors have hidden weapons, leftovers from government programs to arm civilians against attackers, and some say they believe there could eventually be attacks on the rebels.

A Libyan hangs a banner in Martyr Square to remind rebel fighters not

to shoot in the air while celebrating in Tripoli, Libya on Monday.

Because while Gadhafi was detested by many Libyans as a dictator who enriched his family but left much of the country in poverty, he also earned support by nurturing particular tribes and regions, offering generous government benefits and jobs to those he saw as key supporters.

At the mobile phone shop, three men showed off Gadhafi portraits stored on their phones. But despite such loyalty, and the easy access to weapons, no residents said they would join an insurgency.

"I don't like trouble," said Amjad Ramadan, a 29-year-old social worker. Complied from AP reports

Three officials attached to ATF's botched gun-trafficking operation are replaced

By Pete Yost The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The Justice Department replaced three officials Tuesday who played critical roles in a flawed law enforcement operation aimed at major gun-trafficking networks on the Southwest border.

The department announced that the acting director of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives and the U.S. attorney in Arizona had resigned and an administration official said a prosecutor who the kingpins of weapons trafficking.

A congressional investigation of the program has turned up evidence that ATF lost track of many of the more than 2,000 guns linked to the operation. The Justice Department inspector general also is looking into the operation at the request of Attorney General Eric Holder.

The operation has resulted in charges against 20 people and more may be charged.

ATF's acting chief by B. Todd Jones, the U.S. attorney in Minnesota.

time gun violations and failing to attack controversy away from top officials. The moves are the latest and most

significant effort by the Justice Department to address the controversy. In earlier personnel changes, three ATF agents were laterally transferred starting in May from operational positions to administrative roles.

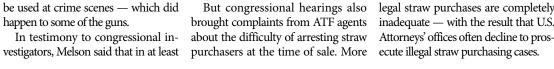
ATF intelligence analyst Lorren Leadmon testified before the House Oversight and Government Reform committee last month that of more than 2,000 weapons linked to Fast and Kenneth Melson will be replaced as Furious, some 1,400 have not been re-

overed

some guns would wind up in the hands of criminals in Mexico or the U.S. and be used at crime scenes - which did happen to some of the guns.

dimension would be inadequate and one instance ATF agents did not in- than half a dozen law enforcement oftercept high-powered weapons when they could and should have.

ficials who testified in the congressional probe warned that penalties for illegal straw purchases are completely inadequate — with the result that U.S.



worked on the operation was reassigned to civil cases.

The operation, known as Fast and Furious, was designed to track smalltime gun buyers at several Phoenix-area gun shops up the chain to make cases against major weapons traffickers. It was a response to longstanding criticism of ATF for concentrating on small-

With Republicans in Congress and the department bickering over the investigation, Melson finally testified recently to Hill investigators in private. He said his department superiors "were doing more damage control than anything" and trying to keep the rious carried the risk that its tracking

Republican Rep. Darrell Issa of California, chair of the House panel, said in a statement that "the reckless disregard for safety that took place in Operation Fast and Furious certainly merits changes."

The strategy behind Fast and Fu-



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| THE DAILY TEXAN | Viviana Aldous, Editor-in-Chief | (512) 232-2212 | editor@dailytexanonline.com Wednesday, August 31, 2011

VIEWPOINT

The university assembly line

In recent months and in the context of decreased financial support from the state Legislature, UT has come under increasing pressure to optimize its operations. Special attention has been paid - by Gov. Rick Perry, Rick O'Donnell and others - to the perceived inefficiency of various parts of UT's teaching and research missions.

One aspect of this that has received a fair amount of attention from commentators and University administrators has been UT's four-year graduation rate, which currently stands at 52.1 percent. This compares favorably with the statewide average, which is 49.3 percent, according to The Texas Tribune.

President William Powers Jr. has repeatedly called on colleges and departments to address UT's low completion rate. Students taking longer than four years to graduate cost the University money, so the argument goes, and we should therefore encourage more students finish their programs in a timely manner. In his Framework for Advancing Excellence in Higher Education announced last Thursday, UT System Chancellor Francisco Cigarroa recommended that universities in the system "implement tuition policies to incentivize students to graduate in four years" beginning next fall.

Positive incentives are a good way to address this issue, but in implementing them, administrators should be careful not to create a prohibitively costly alternative to students who would not graduate on time.

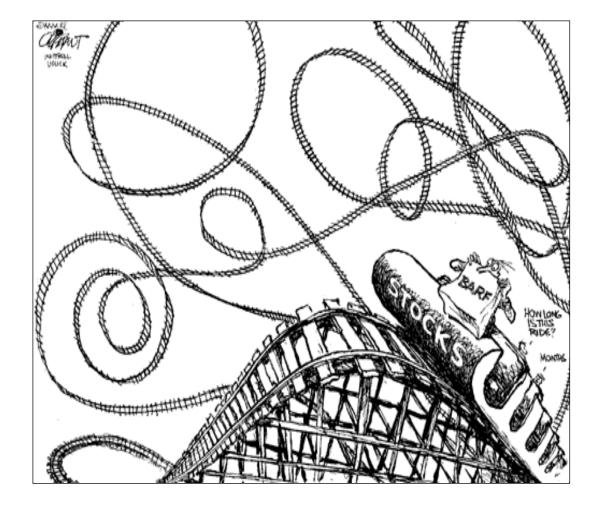
Any incentives should recognize and account for the various factors that can cause a student to take longer than four years to graduate. If a student is double-majoring or pursuing two degrees, he or she will need to take more classes. Interdisciplinary education is becoming increasingly important in an age where, according to Duke University professor Cathy Davidson, almost 65 percent of students entering grade school will be employed in jobs that have not yet been invented. But individual undergraduate programs have been slow to recognize the value of learning from multiple traditions.

Additionally, if a student works, he or she may need to take fewer hours per semester. As tuition prices continue to rise, more students may need to pay their own way. And if a student entered the University with a large number of AP credits, he or she will no doubt be able to finish faster than a student coming from a high school that, for example, did not offer calculus. These types of students should not be effectively punished for taking longer than others. University-wide averages at a school as large as UT do not take these individual factors into account. But education is an individual experience.

Much of the criticism of various attempts to measure the efficiency of professors at UT and Texas A&M focused on the inherently qualitative nature of education. It is not something which can be easily reduced to data to code into spreadsheets and pie charts.

Four-year graduation rates can be easily quantified. They relate to data that can be easily measured - for example, the average credit hours per semester or the number of times a student changes his or her major - and are therefore a tempting target for efficiency analysis.

GALLERY



Write for The Daily Texan

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By You Daily Texan Columnist

Have something to say? Say it in print and to the entire campus.

The Daily Texan Editorial Board is currently accepting applications for columnists and cartoonists. We're looking for talented writon this page have great potential to affect University policy.

It's no rare occurence for Texan staff members to recieve feedback from local or state officials or to be contacted by a reader whose life was changed by an article. In such instances, the power of writing for the Texan becomes real, mo-

tivating our staffers to pro-

In citing these figures, which admittedly deserve serious attention, University administrators must be careful not to buy into the narrative created by the very politicians and commentators they seek to placate - namely, that the standard by which universities should be measured is the number of degrees they confer and the amount of money it takes to do so.

Unduly emphasizing graduation rates buys into the pervasive metaphor in modern higher education policy that constantly compares universities to businesses. The model is as follows: If X number of students enroll in the engineering school in 2012, then in 2016, UT will churn out Y number of engineers — or at least, Y number of people with a diploma and "educated" stamped on their foreheads - who will then contribute Z dollars to the state economy, therefore justifying the investment that taxpayers make in public higher education.

This predictable, mechanical style of operation would certainly please a factory's shareholders. But students are not widgets, and universities of the first class are not factories.

— Matt Daley for the editorial board.

ers and artists to provide as much diversity of opinion as possible. Anyone and everyone is encouraged to apply.

Writing for the Texan is a great way to get your voice heard. Our columnists' and reporters' work is often syndicated nationwide, and every issue of the Texan is a historical document archived at the Dolph Briscoe Center for American History.

Barack Obama may not be a frequent reader, but a copy of

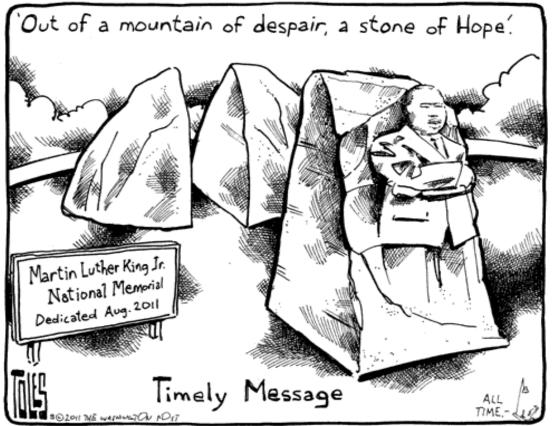
the Texan runs across UT President William Powers Jr.'s desk each day, and the opinions

vide the best public service possible.

If interested, please come to the Texan office in the basement of the Hearst Student Media building at 25th and Whitis streets to complete an application form and sign up for an interview time. If you have any additional questions, please contact Viviana Aldous at (512) 232-2212 or editor@dailytexanonline. com

You can be a Daily Texan columnist or cartoonist.

GALLERY



8-14-11

LEGALESE

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Wednesday, August 31, 2011

Federal judge rules Texas sonogram law violates free speech

By Megan Strickland The Associated Press

AUSTIN - A federal judge on Tuesday blocked key provisions of Texas' new law requiring a doctor to perform a sonogram before an abortion, ruling the measure violates the free speech rights of both doctors and patients.

U.S. District Judge Sam Sparks upheld the requirement that sonograms be performed, but struck down the provisions requiring doctors to describe the images to their patients and requiring women to hear the descriptions.

The law made exceptions for women who were willing to sign statements saying they were pregnant as a result of rape or incest or that their fetus had an irreversible abnormality. Sparks questioned whether the Republican-controlled Texas Legislature was trying to "permanently brand" women who are victims of sexual assault.

The law — one of dozens of anti-abortion measures that advanced through state capitals across the United States this year - takes effect Thursday. The New York-based Center for Reproductive Rights had sued to block it.

Supporters argued the law ensures women fully understand what an abortion entails and said some women have regretted having abortions. They said the law would lead to fewer abortions in Texas. About 81,000 abortions are performed every year in Texas.

Opponents argued that requiring doctors to describe a fetus' features would force them to say things against their will and would violate respect a patient's autonomy and act in the patient's best interest.

The Texas Medical Association opposed the law because it dictated when a doctor must perform a procedure and how the doctor must deal with a patient. While a preabortion ultrasound is routine, it is not considered medically necessary.

to discuss the results with a patient who may not want to listen "compels physicians to advance an ideological agenda with which they may not agree, regardless of any medical necessity and irrespective of whether

Sparks was particularly troubled by the requirement that victims of sexual assault or incest sign statements attesting to that fact to get around the provision. That would require women to disclose "extremely personal, medically irrelevant facts" that will be "memorialized in records that are, at best, semi-private," Sparks wrote.

"[It] is difficult to avoid the troubling conclusion the Texas Legislature either wants to permanently brand women who choose to get abortions, or views these certifications as potential evidence to be used against physicians and women," Sparks wrote.

Sparks also struck down several enforcement penalties for doctors who faced losing their medical license and possible criminal misdemeanor prosecution if they did not comply.

The ruling is a "huge victory for women in Texas and a clear signal to the state Legislature that it went too far when it passed this law," said Nancy Northup, president and CEO of the Center for Reproductive Rights.

medical ethics requiring doctors to ceived notice the state plans to appeal

> Texas Gov. Rick Perry, a Republican running for president, was critical of Tuesday's ruling.

Sparks wrote that forcing doctors

the pregnant women wish to listen."

The group said it had already re-

Ryan Edwards | Daily Texan Staff Biomedical engineering Ph.D. candidate Vanessa Aguilar receives instruction from UTPD officer Darrell Halstead about how to properly perform CPR Tuesday night. The free class was hosted by the University of Texas Future First Responders to properly train students for emergencies.

UTPD, student group offer CPR classes

By Megan Strickland Daily Texan Staff

A student group is holding free CPR classes instructed by UT Police Department officers to train students for emergency response to cardiac arrest.

The University of Texas Future First Responders hosted their first free CPR class Tuesday in an effort to increase the survival rate of patients suffering from cardiac arrest. According to the American Heart Association, every 90 seconds, a person's heart will stop somewhere in the U.S. Without proper response, there could be severe damage to the brain of the patient and death can occur, according to the association.

"CPR is a critical life saving

knowledge to have," said Future First and how to perform CPR. In addi-Responders President John Horton. "You never know when you will need it."

The Austin-Travis County Emergency Medical Services system responds to an average of 600 cardiac arrest cases per year, according to a June press release from the organization. Only 34 percent of bystanders performed CPR on the victims in 2010, which is on par with the national rate of 33.3 percent.

"It may take a while for EMS to get there and you will be the only one there to help," UTPD officer Darrell Halstead said.

During the CPR class Tuesday, three UT police officers spent two hours instructing students on how to identify the signs of cardiac arrest

tion to chest compressions, which are what bystanders usually perform by performing CPR and using AED on patients, students received training in CPR and learned how to use an automated external defibrillator, a device used to electronically restart the heart. Only one of the seven students had noticed the defibrillators around campus although there are many, according to Halstead.

"When you start walking into these buildings don't just put your blinders on. Pay attention and notice where those AEDs are," Halstead said. "Commit these sites to memory. You never know when you need an AED."

During Halstead's 24 years in the force, he has had to perform CPR once, but was unable to revive the

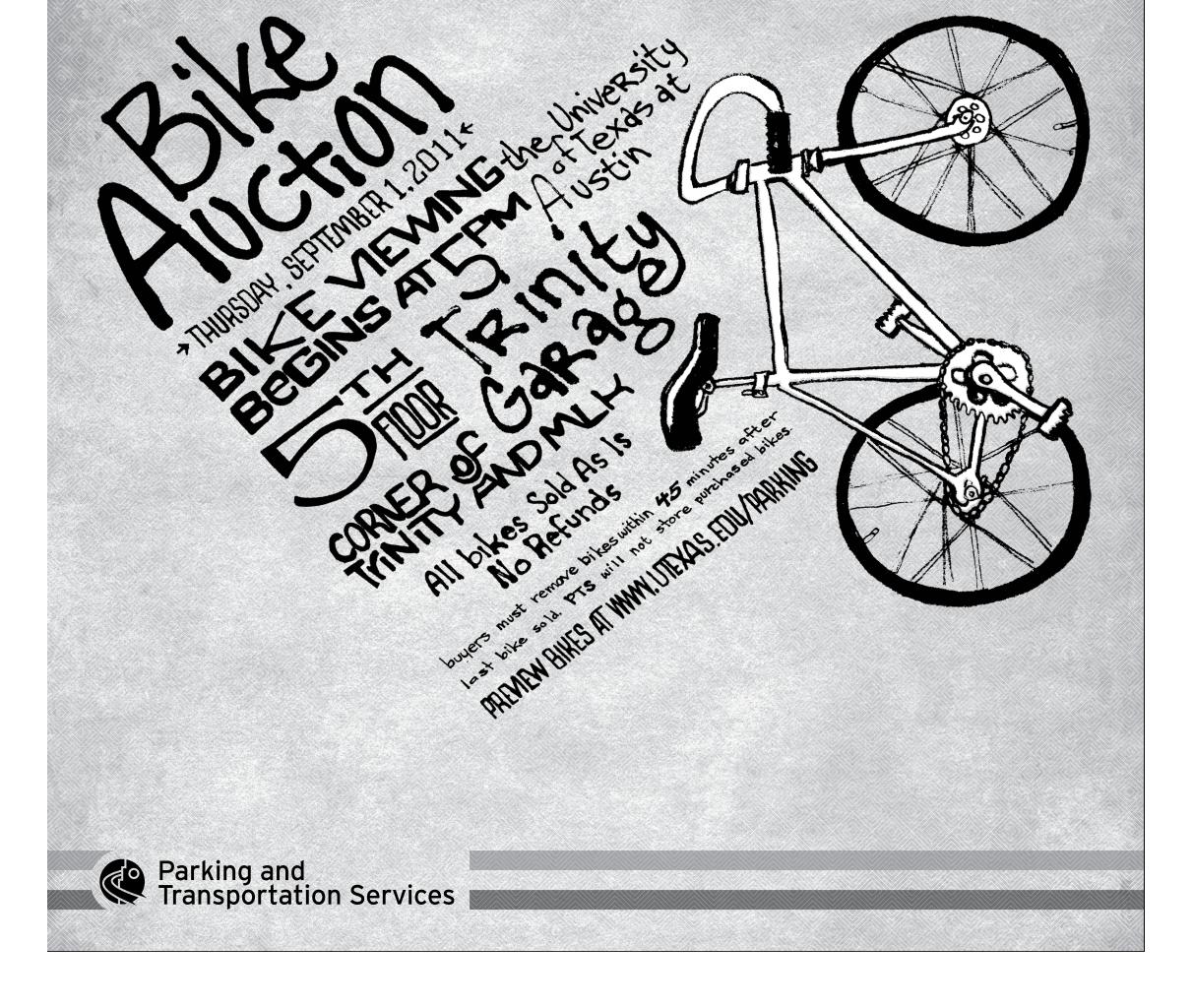
patient. A couple of years ago, someone did save a life in Gregory Gym just in time, Halstead said.

Rebecca Moore, graduate global policy studies student, decided to take the class as a refresher for her iob.

"I babysit but I hadn't taken a CPR class since middle school," Moore said.

The overwhelming response to the class has caused the Future First Responders to increase CPR training in the coming months, after officially becoming sponsored by UTPD this week. Training classes are full for September and October, but the organization might schedule more spots for students in the coming weeks, Horton said.





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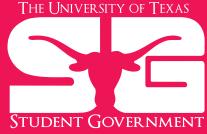


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Wednesday, August 31, 2011

Wildfires burn up Texas, Oklahoma homes

By Sean Murhpy The Associated Press

OKLAHOMA CITY — Wildfires fueled by extremely dry conditions and strong winds destroyed dozens of homes in Oklahoma City and North Texas on Tuesday and forced hundreds of residents to evacuate.

Officials did not yet know what started the blazes, but a summer heat wave and drought in Oklahoma and Texas have left the ground parched and vegetation dry.

"We're in severe drought conditions, so just the tiniest little spark can start a wildfire," Texas Forest Service spokeswoman April Saginor said.

In Oklahoma City, bursts of flame rose amid thick black smoke as oilpacked cedar trees ignited, giving gawkers a stunning view even from blocks away. Utility poles lit up like matchsticks, and power was out to more than ficials said. 7,000 homes and businesses.

and consumed 1,500 acres in a sparsely populated and heavily wooded section of the city, fire department spokesman Mark Woodard said. Several hundred homes were evacuated, according to Red Cross spokesman Rust Surette.

Meanwhile, a fast-moving wildfire in North Texas destroyed at least 20 homes and prompted authorities to evacuate at least 125 other homes in a lakeside community, state Forest Service officials said.

ols said the fire, which started earlier in the day, had spread to about 7,500 acres in Palo Pinto County by Tuesday night. Part of a state highway was shut down in the area because of tall flames and huge plumes of smoke, of-

Temperatures in the area got up to The fire destroyed 10 to 12 homes 106 degrees on Tuesday afternoon with winds gusting up to 28 mph, said National Weather Service meteorologist Jason Dunn. He said by nightfall, gusts were at about 20 mph and the temperature was around 99.

> The Oklahoma City fire was largely under control by Tuesday night, but a flare-up at the head of the blaze was in a wooded area that firefighters were having trouble reaching, Woodard said.

"Luckily the sun is going down and everything will calm down," Emergen-Agency spokesman John Nich- cy Medical Services Authority spokeswoman Lara O'Leary said Tuesday evening. "It's been a long day."

> O'Leary said four people, including two firefighters, were treated for minor injuries. Three were transported to hospitals where all were in good condition,

she said. No major injuries were reported in Texas.

Air tankers and helicopters were brought in to help fight the blazes.

The fire in Oklahoma City's rural northeast corner paralleled Interstate 35, with smoke rolling northward as strong winds stoked the fire. From time to time flames could be seen amid the roiling black cloud. The blaze moved about four miles from where it started about 1 p.m., Bryant said.

'This is a heavily wooded area," Bryant said. "There are cedar trees out here. Cedar trees burn very hot. They're very heavily laden with oil. A lot of times when the cedar trees do go up, they burn very hot."

A separate grass fire was reported near Bethel Acres, just east of the Oklahoma City area, said Jennifer Dawson at the Pottawatomie County Emergency Management.



NEWS

THE DAILY TEXAN

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DRILL continues from PAGE 1

clear reactors and other sites, and has been on campus before when it tested the ability of the University to respond to a theoretical radioactive leak in January 2011. Gabriel said these tests are one of many that the University conducts.

"The University has drills like this somewhere between every six months to a year. We train together with environmental health services, the fire department we even notify the EPA and then sometimes they become fully engaging," Gabriel said. "The UT police had eight officers here alone."

AHMP selected UT as the location for the drill at its last national conference because of some AHMP members' involvement with UT, said Peter Schneider, safety officer for AHMP at the drill.

University Operations spokeswoman Cindy Posey demonstrated how her department would use social networks like Facebook and Twitter to keep the public updated in the event of a chemical danger, as well as where they would set up the media crews and what messages would be sent out.

"In order to prepare for something like this you just have to go through the motions," Posey said. "It's unlike a tabletop exercise where we just sit in a conference room and act like we are dealing with virtual people. Here we're actually in the field and it gets us really ready for any possible event."

Grow your own way

NETWORK continues from PAGE 1

the network. Plonksy said finding quality events would not be a problem for the network.

"There are a whole lot of other events left over once the conference takes its selection [of events]," Plonsky said.

She said that usually these lowerprofile events are aired online, but with the Longhorn Network fans will be able to watch them on TV.

"The production is incredible," Plonsky said. "It's like ESPN with an orange tinge."

In addition to game coverage, Druley spoke of original content which will air on the network, including an all-access show with the football team and coverage of Longhorn football practices. Druley said that as an ESPN project quality is a priority for the network.

"The bar is set higher for us in terms of what we must achieve because of those four letters," she stated.

KXAN sports director Roger Wallace discussed the effects of the Longhorn Network on local news stations such as his own. He believed the Longhorn Network would not have an adverse effect on local sports coverage.

Wallace said that KXAN will maintain the same pre-game and post-game coverage for UT football and will continue to report on other events such as women's basketball.

"I don't think it really will [affect sports coverage at KXAN]. Our access will be essentially the same and, if anything, [the Longhorn Network] could enhance it," Wallace said. "We could even receive access through the Longhorn Network to some events that we normally couldn't get to."





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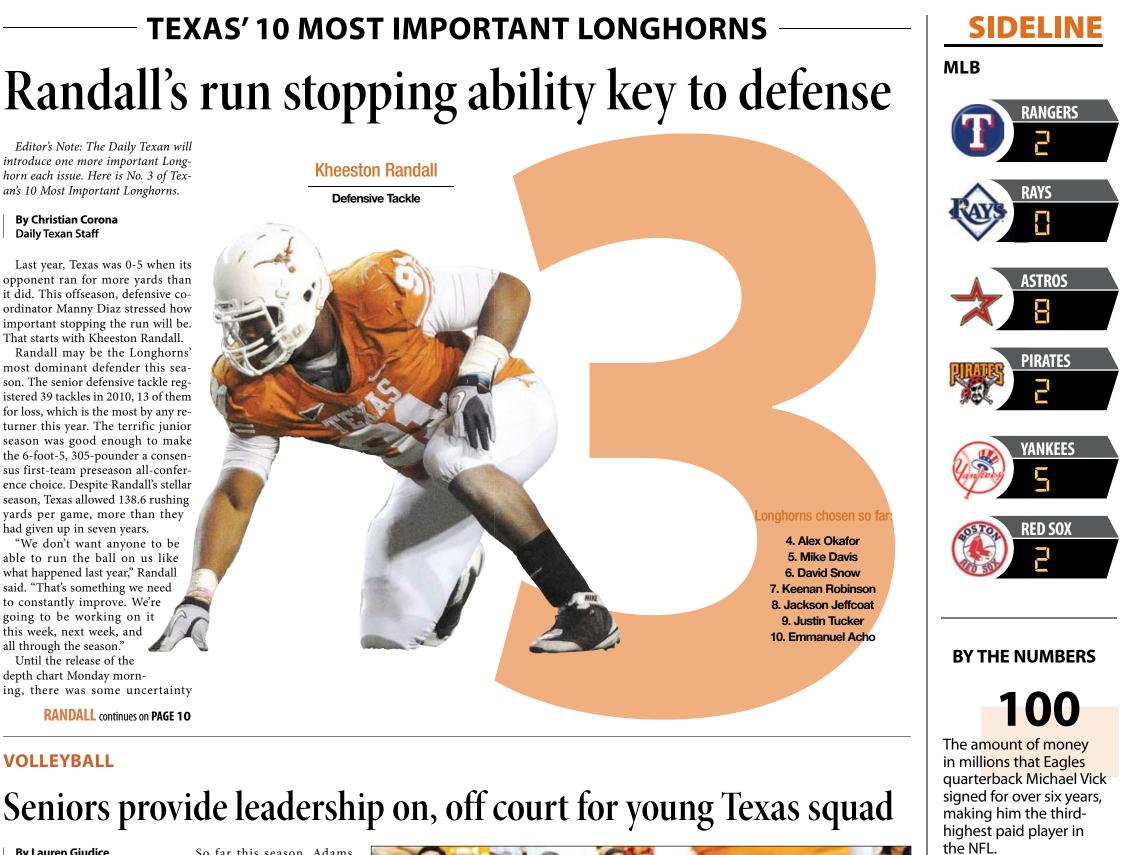




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SPORTS

Wednesday, August 31, 2011 THE DAILY TEXAN | Trey Scott, Sports Editor | (512) 232-2210 | sports@dailytexanonline.com



By Lauren Giudice Daily Texan Staff

A lot of attention this seathe youth in the Longhorn's squad. After four games, the team has proven it is ready to compete. But a team is not a team without leaders - and the seniors on the squad are prepared to do that. Rachael Adams, Sydney Yogi, Michelle Kocher and Amber Roberson have been to three final fours orange. But now they plan to take Texas even farther. "We have a very young team and what they need now is an example and that's exactly what I'm trying to do," Adams said. "Each day come in and take no days off and hopefully they can follow in my footsteps and work just as hard."

So far this season, Adams has not disappointed her teammates. In Sunday's game against Israel, she had 11 son has been focused on kills on 14 error-free swings and hit .786. On Saturday's game against Ole Miss, she had a career-best three ser vice aces. A senior with vast experience, she's leading by example. "As a senior, I have to step up and lead the team," Adams said. "I've had some great leaders who have came in their three years in burnt before me and they've done some great things and I'm trying to do that just like them." Adams said former Longhorn Juliann Faucette, who she was teamed with at the 2010 USA Volleyball Open National Championship, is an inspiration to her.



LEADERSHIP continues on **PAGE 10**

Thomas Allison | Daily Texan Staf

Senior libero Sydney Yogi will look to lead the Longhorns to another final four in 2011.

SOCCER

Harris uses soccer as gateway to reach her goals

By Sara Beth Purdy **Daily Texan Staff**

From the stands, Lexi Harris looks just like every other player on the Longhorn's bench. She's quick, makes good decisions on the field and loves to win. But this sophomore midfielder from Plano will surprise you.

Up close and personal, Harris likes a challenge and lives for the physical and mental toughness that soccer brings to the table.

"The sport requires so much from you physically and mentally," Harris said. "No matter how good you become, the sport never ceases to push you to your limits."

In high school, Harris racked up a long list of accolades. From the Texas stage, Harris helped to lead Plano West High School to a 5A State Championship in 2007. In 2008, she was an Under-17 Women's World Cup Finalist before going on to become a member of the United States Under-20 Women's National Team.

Texas head coach Chris Petrucelli recruited Harris heavily in high school. Top Drawer Soccer labeled her as the No. 1 recruit in Texas and No. 2 recruit nationally in 2010.

She didn't stop once she got two Texas scores.



Danielle Villasana | Daily Texan Staff

Sophomore Lexi Harris has had a huge impact on the Longhorns this season, starting in every game thus far, while contributing to two goals this year.

to college. As a freshman, Harris started in 18 of 21 games for the Longhorns and was named to the Big 12 All-Newcomer Team. So far this season, Harris has started all four games at ties she has at Texas. midfielder and has accounted for

and to win is what sets her apart. Harris is the first of her family to go to college and credits soccer with providing her the opportuni- an exercise science major before

me," Harris said. "I never had goals even she knows.

Her motivation to work hard or anything like that. I am able to dream now. Soccer is my gateway to going where I want to go."

Harris wants to finish college as going to grad school to become a "It just opens up everything for physical therapist. After that? Not

FOOTBALL

O-line is out to prove their toughness for 2011 season

By Austin Laymance Daily Texan Staff

The Longhorns offensive line is out to prove one thing this season — their toughness.

Many considered the O-line to be soft after a poor showing in 2010, the result of a nonexistent running game and an increase in sacks allowed.

But with new offensive line coach Stacy Searels, who joined the Texas staff this offseason after spending his last four years at Georgia, the Longhorns have taken on a new mentality up front.

"It's all about smashing you in the mouth and moving quickly to get there," said senior left guard David Snow.

Searels is an imposing figure on the practice field, standing 6-feet-6-inches and weighing

O-LINE continues on **PAGE 10**

in millions that running back Frank Gore just signed for with the San Francisco 49ers over 3 years.

The amount of money

The amount of preseason games running back Chris Johnson has played so far during his contract dispute, causing fantasy owners panic everywhere.

SPORTS BRIEFLY

Ex-Horn Cedric Benson begins jail sentence Tuesday in Austin

Former Longhorn and Cincinnatti Bengal running back Cedric Benson pleaded no contest to a July 2011 assault charge and began his jail sentence Tuesday night, according to Benson's lawyer Sam Bassett.

"Cedric is happy the July 2011 case is being dismissed," Bassett said in a statement. "Though originally scheduled to serve the jail sentence in October, Cedric decided he needs to complete the jail sentence before the season. This is best for everyone involved."

Benson is serving his jail time at the Travis County Jail.

- Trey Scott

LIVECHAT

Join us at 4 p.m. today for a live chat previewing the start of football season. bit.ly/doublecoverage

10 SPORTS **RANDALL** continues from PAGE 9

surrounding who would line up a lot of fun." beside Randall as the second startjob, but others like Ashton Dors-Whaley, both sophomores, should see the field as well. Don't count out Desmond Jackson, who Randall called "one of the best freshman defensive tackles I've seen."

"I'm proud to finally see Calvin playing," Randall said. "He stepped his game up. He did everything [defensive tackle] coach forth a great effort, we just didn't [Bo] Davis has asked him to do, along with the other guys. It's allowed us to have some depth."

Whoever is playing, they will have a considerable amount of freedom thanks to Diaz. Starting defensive ends Jackson Jeffcoat and Alex Okafor have claimed they can switch sides at their leisure. Diaz has talked about how he will send safeties to rush the passer and drop defensive line- les such as Shaun Rogers, Casey men into coverage.

dall said. "This defense with the way he did last season, his coach Diaz gives us so much name could soon be mentioned freedom, whether we shoot an among those greats. Maybe he A-gap or shoot a B-gap or cross could help Texas win a few games over and play defensive end. It's while he's at it as well.

"Rachael is a very competitive

player," McNeal said. "The things that

she does, I've never seen any middle

do before. I feel like everybody con-

tributes something to the team and

with her athleticism, it makes us a lit-

Yogi, a libero, said the experi-

ence she and her fellow seniors have

helps them with the underclassmen.

In addition, the seniors understand

and remember what it was like be-

ing new at Texas and to the volley-

"It is a completely different game

than high school or club," Yogi said.

"They come in and the first couple

tle more steady in the middle."

Adams' importance.

ball program.

LEADERSHIP continues from PAGE 9

Junior Sha'Dare McNeal spoke of speed of the game and the intensity

of practices."

come in.

son run.

days of practice you can tell they are going to have to execute when it's

are kind of shell-shocked as to the crunch time," he said.

What isn't a lot of fun, howeving defensive tackle. Sophomore er, is going 5-7. The defense took Calvin Howell won the starting a step back last season, allowing a whopping 28.1 points per game ey and former running back Chris over its last nine contests. The Longhorns started the season 3-0 with victories over Rice, Wyoming and Texas Tech but there were red flags from the beginning, even in the season opener against the Owls, who Texas plays in its first game again this year.

"I wouldn't say we didn't put win the way we were expected to," Randall said. "We had too many mental mistakes, too many busts, and like coach [Mack] Brown said, it started in those three scrimmages we had. But this year, those scrimmages we had were totally different. We had great effort. It's just a totally different team."

Texas has an excellent history of line-clogging defensive tack-Hampton, Frank Okam and La-"It's controlled insanity," Ran- marr Houston. If Randall plays

And that's where the seniors

"I think us four seniors have a

lot more weight on our shoulders I

think just because we have that ex-

perience," Yogi said. "We have a lot

of younger girls who are going to get

Head coach Jerritt Elliott has been

impressed with the leadership dis-

played by the upperclassmen. He be-

lieves the trait is vital to the Long-

horns making another deep postsea-

"At the end of the day our leader-

ship is going to have to get there [to

the National Championship] and we

significant playing time."

Tamir Kalifa | Daily Texan file photo

Texas hopes its offensive line will be better than last year, when it struggled to open up holes in the running game and give quarterback Garrett Gilbert protection. New line coach Stacy Searels is trying to establish a more physical mentality.

O-LINE continues from PAGE 9

"He has a

he's very ex-

uberant. He's

going to get

zone blocking

schemes and

lateral run-

ning plays.

Searels has

Gone are

after you."

over 280 pounds, and brings edge to his new squad.

Senior left tackle Tray Allen said the linemen talked about lot of energy, being a punishing group after the Longhorns loss to Texas A&M on Thanksgiving, and they've been striving for that persona ever since.

"Being a tougher offensive the days of line is what we've been working on and hopefully we show everybody on [Saturday]," Allen said.

The Longhorns admit they were complacent a year ago, after coming off back-to-back ing downhill trips to BCS bowl games. With Searels in the fold, though, turn to the that's unlikely to be the case in 2011.

"He's going to make practice as hard as he can [to prepare]

for game situations," Snow ity is to come right at the dea tougher, meaner and nastier said. "He's going to push you fense, a change that Searels line coach in with all the oththroughout the whole practice. instituted on the first day of er guys," Brown said. "Stacy's

> He has a lot of energy, he's very exuberant. He's going to get after you.

> > coaches this -David Snow, quard year. Despite

all the new faces on the staff, head coach Mack Brown

ture."

camp.

coach comes

Searels is

one of six new

says he's been

pleased with the way the group has meshed.

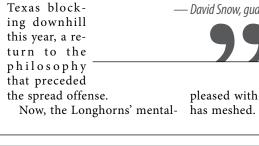
"It's always hard to fit your come in and been great. Stacy and [first-year defensive tack-"He established it the first les coach] Bo Davis are best day," Snow said. friends, so the offensive and de-"When a new fensive lines have worked."

So far, Searels has put his in they have to stamp on the offensive line and settled on a starting five. Now change the culit's up to him to identify the backups.

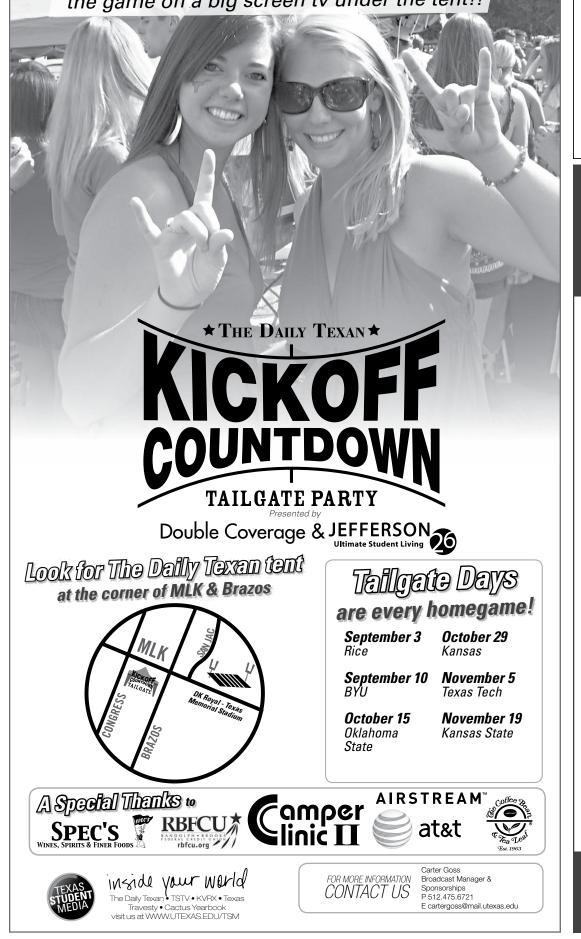
"Stacy feels pretty good about Longhorns the first five," Brown said. "Now he's got to find seven, then he's got to find eight, then he's got to find 10 and we're not there yet."

Whoever the top 10 linemen will be, one thing is certain: Searels won't tolerate softness. Come Saturday, he'll find out just who has the toughness to restore Texas to prominence.

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Wednesday, August 31, 2011



THE DAILY TEXAN

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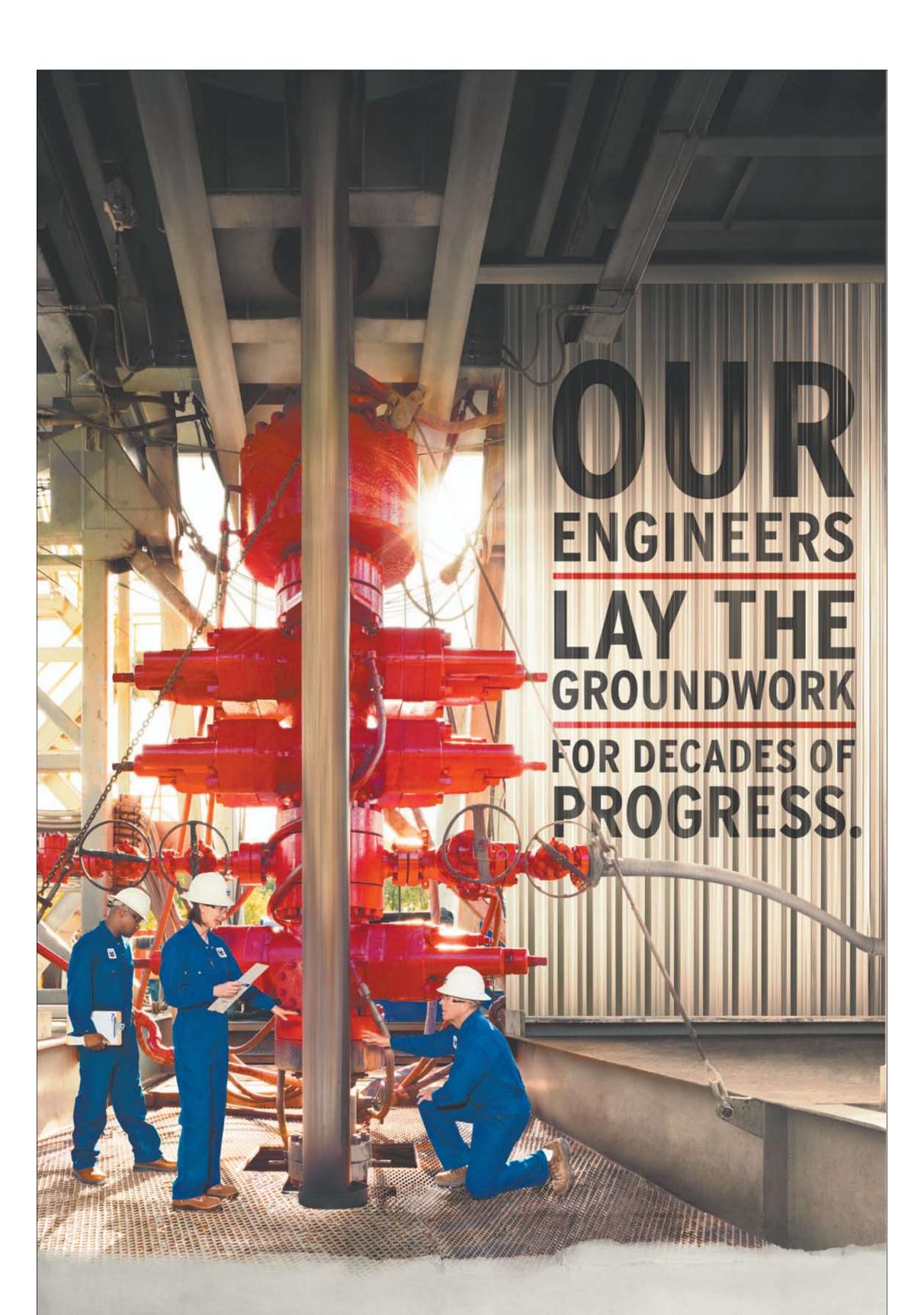
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12 SPORTS

Wednesday, August 31, 2011

Sensabaugh back in 'Big D' in big way

By Jaime Aron The Associated Press

IRVING-Seeing Gerald Sensabaugh get turned around while allowing a long touchdown pass on the opening drive of the last preseason game reminded the Dallas Cowboys of why they shopped around for an upgrade at safety this offseason.

Seeing him leap over the center and leap again to block a field goal, then seeing him grab a deflected pass for an interception later in the same game reminded the Cowboys of why they ended up bringing him back.

a consolation prize, both for him which could make for more wayand for Dallas.

improve the back end of their defense, but team owner Jerry Jones didn't want to spend as much as the top safeties available were getting. He tried helping the secondary by pursuing cornerback Nnamdi Asomugha, then eventually worked his way to safety Abram Elam. Still needing a second safety, Jones turned to Sensabaugh.

Sensabaugh was available because he couldn't get any of those around. He accepted a one-year contract in hopes of getting a longer, more-lucrative deal from Dallas or trying again as a free agent next summer.

He's off to a good start.

Facing San Diego in the second preseason game, Sensabaugh got tough and wedged his helmet into the belly of running back Mike Tol-

bert to force a fumble, then made an athletic move to intercept a pass. It was erased because the back of his heel landed out of bounds, but Cowboys coaches considered it good enough to call it a game for the first team after that play.

On Saturday night, in Minnesota, Sensabaugh was involved in three big plays - one bad, two good.

"I guess I was plus-one for the day," he said, smiling. "I had to do something to make up for the big touchdown."

Sensabaugh hopes to be more of a ball-hawker this season.

Coach Rob Ryan's defense is all Sensabaugh's return was sort of about forcing pressure up front, ward passes. Sensabaugh had a ca-The Cowboys sorely needed to reer-high five interceptions last year, with four coming over the last six games.

Sensabaugh played strong safety last year, which meant he covered tight ends. Ryan's scheme basically has two free safeties, so it will be up to Sensabaugh and Elam to figure out the coverages. It helps that Elam played for Ryan in Cleveland the last two years, so he's more familiar with the role.

"I'm learning his play style and whopper deals that were going he's learning mine," Sensabaugh said. "You get to help out on whoever you want, kind of. You just read the quarterback. If he's looking one way, I have the freedom to just go that way, as opposed to strong safety, where if you're man up on a guy you have to stay on your man until the play is over. It frees you up to make more plays, I guess. I'm getting used to it. It's fun."

Cowboys coach Jason Garrett stresses winning the turnover battle as much as any statistic, and Dallas' defense didn't have a single takeaway the first two games. (San Diego recovered Tolbert's fumble.) So Sensabaugh's pickoff against the Vikings was a bit of a breakthrough for Ryan's group, and the blocked field goal turned out even better because Alan Ball returned it for a touchdown.

Which was more fun?

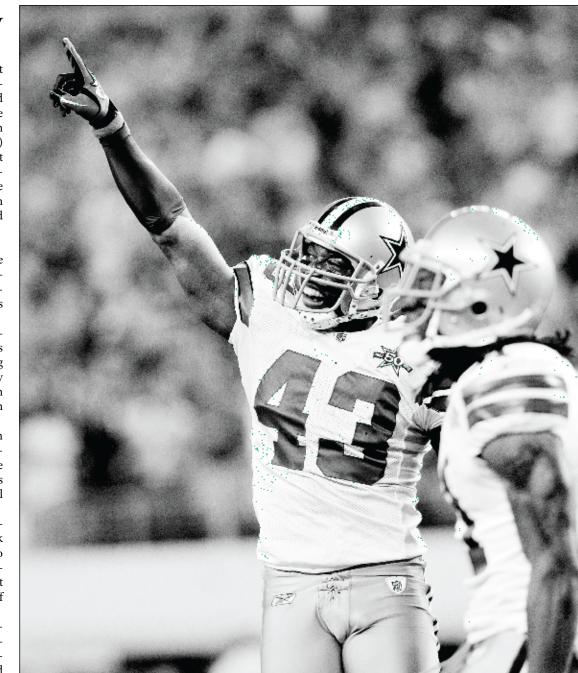
Sensabaugh leaned toward the blocked kick because of the momentum swing - from the opponent possibly scoring points to his team getting a touchdown.

"I started my career on special teams, and I always feel it's real important to make a big play," he said. "So I always try to stress going really hard on special teams whenever I get an opportunity."

Sensabaugh's career began in Jacksonville, where his special teams coordinator was Joe DeCamillis. (or Joe D, as he's known) is now Dallas' special teams coordinator.

DeCamillis has used Sensabaugh as a bunny-hopping kick blocker before and decided to break out that play again after seeing on tape that the Vikings' front line tended to drop low to fight off blockers.

With Jay Ratliff and Igor Olshansky making sure those Minnesota linemen stayed down, Sensabaugh made his move. He jumped over the pile of bodies, then quickly jumped up and out to get his hands on the kick.



LM Otero | Associated Press

Saftey Gerald Sensabaugh is back with the Dallas Cowboys after exploring his options in free-agency. He will look to make a big impact on the secondary and improve an aspect of the team that was weak in 2010.

a 6 year, 100 -million dollar deal with the Philadelphia him the third after he was released from



Vick gets paid like the best, but has he earned it?

quarterbacks in the NFL. Most people come up with Peyton Manning and Tom Brady right off the bat. The third quarterback chosen might be Drew Brees, Aaron Rodgers or Philip

All of these players are deserving of consideration for the spot, but none of those signal calllongs to the Eagles' Michael Vick, yet.

ing in the people who were there for me in my time of need," Vick said at his press conference. "You never know what's going to happen."

Vick's story is a great one, and completely exemplifies the beauty of the American justice system and the way it gives people the opportunity to redeem themselves.

But has Vick really earned that sum of money in just two years ers are the third-highest paid at back in the NFL? The short an-

"The thing for me was believ- nine more in 11 starts. He finished second in the Most Valuable Player voting to Brady.

> The key number there is 11 - as in only 11 starts out of 32 chances since he has been back. That's not enough of a sample size to support a \$100 million contract.

Vick is also injury prone, and has only been healthy for a full 16-game schedule just once in his eight-year career.

But perhaps most importantly, Vick has not proven himself the position. That distinction be- swer to that question is no, not as a winner in the big games yet with a 2-3 all time playoff record.

NUMBER OF **GAMES MIKE** VICK MISSED 2001 - 8 of 16 2002 - 1 of 16 2003 - 11 of 16 2004 - 1 of 16 2005 - 1 of 16

who signed a six-year, \$100 mil-

This is the same player who, just over two years ago, was serving jail time. He was out of work and bankrupt. Now he's the first player ever in league history to sign two deals worth

In his first year back, he rarely saw the field, just coming in briefly to run the wildcat package behind Donovan McNabb.

In his second year — a season that began on the bench behind Kevin Kolb — he put up some gaudy numbers, throwing 21 touchdowns and running for

Manning, Brady, Brees and Rodgers have each won at least one championship.

So while Vick's story is a great one, a redemption story for the ages, the Eagles may have jumped the gun a little on the contract, paying an injury-prone 31-yearold like an all-time great.

2006 - No games missed 2009 - 4 of 16* 2010 - 4 of 16

*Due to suspension

Source: ESPN.com

A&M denies report of withdrawal letter

By Kristie Rieken The Associated Press

COLLEGE STATION — Texas A&M said Tuesday it has not sent a letter of withdrawal to the Big 12 Conference.

The brief statement by school spokesman Jason Cook comes a day after The New York Times said in a story posted on its website Monday night that university President R. Bowen Loftin sent a letter to Missouri Chancellor and Big 12 board chairman Brady

Deaton to inform the league it was leaving. The report cited two unidentified college officials with direct knowledge of the decision. Cook declined

to comment fur-

ther on the newspaper report. The university said Monday it had received a letter from Big 12 Commissioner Dan Beebe outlining the withdrawal procedure should the Aggies decide to leave the league.

Cook said on Monday that the letter "outlines the withdrawal procedures according to the financial provisions of the Big 12 bylaws and mutual waivers of legal claims." He wouldn't provide any other details of the letter or comment on what A&M's next step might be.

The Aggies are interested in joining the Southeastern Conference. Loftin sent a letter to the Big 12 last week formally telling Beebe they are exploring their options and asked for the conference to outline the the future of the Big 12, which is league.

process if they decide to leave. The league's board of directors addressed the possible departure

of the Aggies last weekend. "I certainly appreciate the discussion among the Big 12 presidents/chancellors and the expression of their desire for Texas A&M to remain in the conference," Loft-

in said in a statement Monday afternoon before The New York

I certainly appreciate the discussion

among the Big 12 presidents

[and] chancellors

---- R. Bowen Loftin, Texas A&M university president

bent upon me, as the president of

the university, to ensure that we are

in a position to enhance our na-

tional visibility and future financial

Loftin added this is a "complex

and long-term decision," but "it is

not our intent to prolong our con-

ference exploration for an extend-

it was happy with its current

12-school membership but left

the door open to expansion. Loft-

in then received authority from the

board of regents to take any action

he deems necessary in terms of re-

The SEC said earlier this month

opportunity."

ed period of time."

alignment.

down to 10 teams after Nebraska (Big Ten) and Colorado (Pac-12) left the league in July 2010. Loftin has said the Aggies would consider how their departure would impact the future of the Big 12 before any decision is made.

The Big 12 would need to find a team to replace the Aggies if they exit the conference and there has been a lot of speculation about Times report. "We all agree that possible schools. So far, the only Texas A&M is an extremely valu- school to publicly express interest able institution; thus, it is incum- in moving to the Big 12 is SMU.

Athletic director Steve Orsini said he's had informal talks with Big 12 officials for some time to inform them of the school's improvements and growth.

In the letter Loftin sent to the Big 12 last

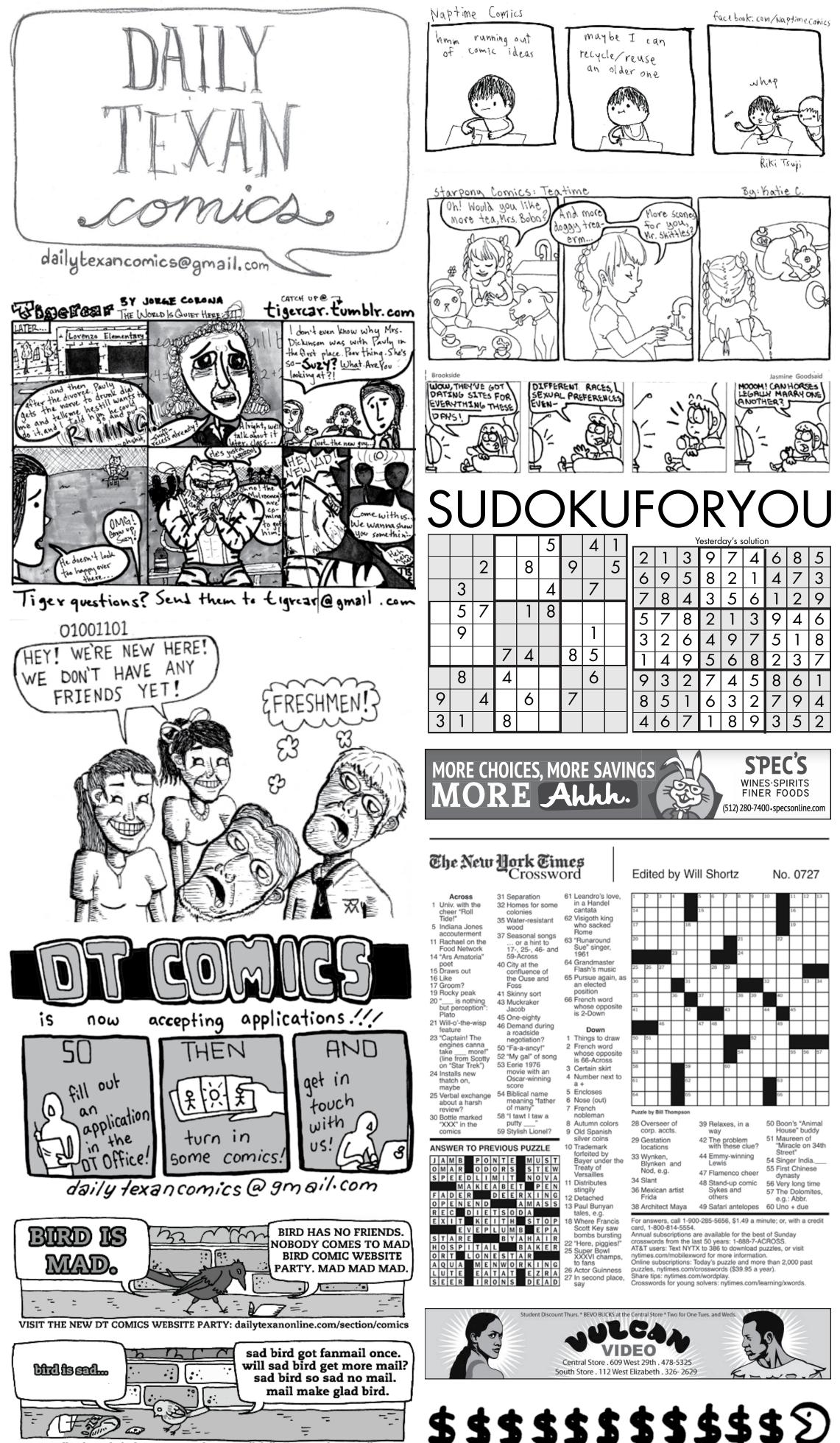
week, he said if the Aggies leave, they would want to do it in a manner that complies with league bylaws. He also has said financial concerns will factor into any decision to leave. The school likely would face an exit fee.

The Big 12, including Texas A&M, agreed to a 13-year television deal with Fox Sports in April worth more than \$1 billion. There is a chance the contract could be voided if the Aggies leave the conference, which could lead to legal issues for Texas A&M and its new league.

The Big 12 declined to comment on Monday's letter outlining the There is concern that a depar- procedures the Aggies would need ture by the Aggies could jeopardize to follow if they decide to leave the

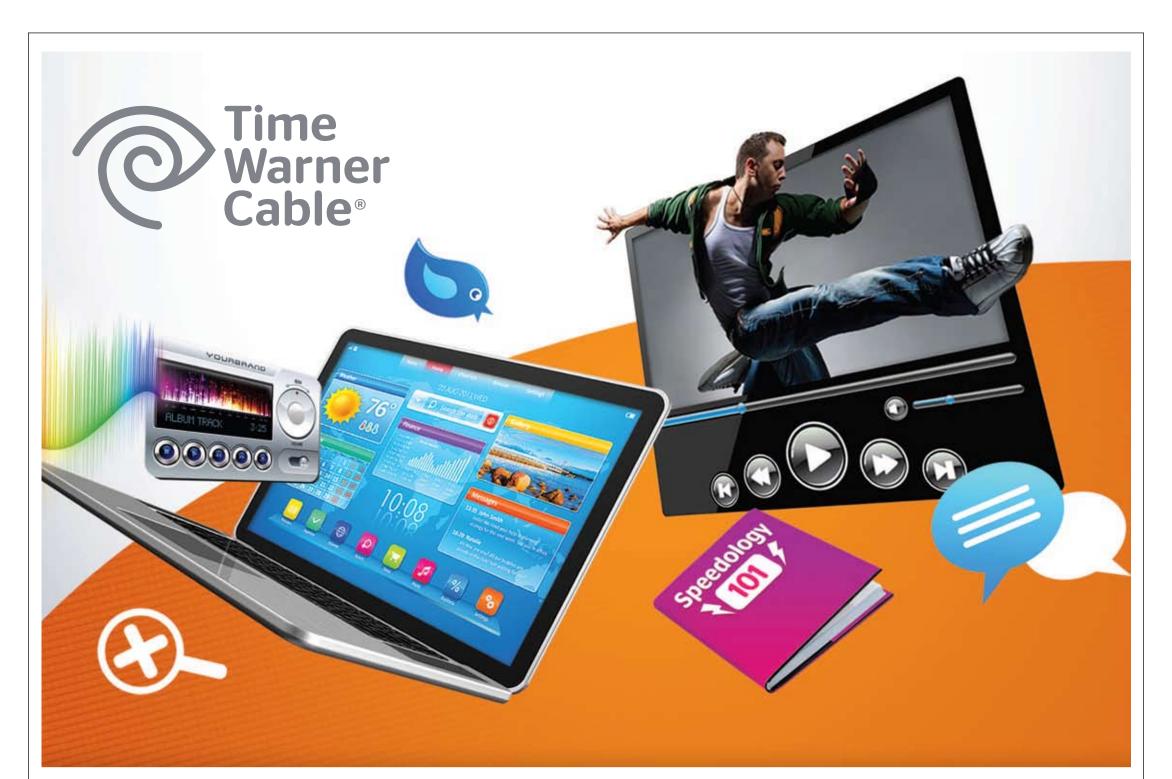
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LIFE&ARTS 15

PONG continues from **PAGE 16**

ning," said Robin Murphy, who competed in the finals last season under the nickname 'The Ponganator.' "I love it, it's fun and unique. You can get out and go to The Belmont and drink and meet so many people. It's fun and it's not too serious."

The idea for the league sprung out of a stinging defeat at the hands of the Austin Table Tennis Association (ATTA) in March 2010. Maxey and Panter, who met each other while studying abroad in Spain, had signed up to play in an ATTA-sponsored tournament, but when they arrived they realized they had underestimated what they were getting into. Panter said their first clue that this wasn't the same game that they played in their garage — "they kept asking us if we called it ping-pong or table tennis" planted the seed for the direction they wanted their own league to take.

"It just wasn't fun," Panter, 27, said. "It was so serious and these guys were so awesome and we just wanted to have fun. We wanted to do what we do in our garage: drink beer and play ping-pong. There's a huge difference?

Later that night they were commiserating about their loss with a few friends when Maxey said that drunken inspiration struck.

"I was like 'You know what guys? league." I want to start a ping-pong league and I want it to be for regular pingpong players, not those other guys.""

name PongRock, combining Maxey and Panter's appreciation for table tennis and live music, which is often playing when the PongRock league and they started telling their friends and advertising on Facebook.

Panter and Maxey, who both graduated from Texas State with bachelors' degrees in advertising, realized that there was some interest in the project when people who they didn't know began to register. That was when they decided they needed to figure out how to run a ping-pong tournament: a process that involved finding a venue, buying tables, choosing a ranking system and designing shirts.

"There were lots of things we figured out about it as time went by," Maxey said. "The first sea- partner in a consulting firm and son we decided to do round-robin we sell websites and you know, tournaments and we had a bunch make a little bit of money on those of people sign up. But the problem with that was people didn't always show up and then you're kind about started one night when I of screwed. You can count on peo- was a drunk and was like 'I'm go-

The PongRock founders eventually settled on a tournament system that compliments the laid-A brainstorming session led to the back nature of the league. When players arrive to play, they fill out a card that lists a table number and a time. Then the competitors go to their tables at their respective times meets. Then Maxey created a website and play ping-pong - best two out of three games to 11. The winners turn their cards in and move on to the next round.

Maxey said the dedication to PongRock has paid off. More than 60 people have registered to play this season and he said that judging from the season-opening party they hosted last week, a majority of the players are newcomers that were referred by their friends. The growth isn't exactly what Panter and Maxey were expecting when they were planning the league, but they're fine with the excitement.

"I think it's funny that I'm a things," Maxey said. "But the thing that everybody's really excited ple not showing up. It's a social ing to make a ping-pong league!"

PREP continues from PAGE 16

70s," he said in a 2010 interview with New York Magazine. "The young customers we have now are, like, really hip kids," McNairy article. American Apparel has further demonstrated this trend, "diving into more sophisticated garments such as blazers, pleated pants, shirts and more formal lace tops," according to BusinessWeek, as opposed to their more stereotypical hipster clothing offerings.

Dov Charney, CEO of American Apparel, expounded on the movement from hipster to prepster in an August 2010 interview with a blog on Village Voice. "The stereotype of a hipster is not something people aspire to anymore. Nobody wants to be a hipster." If you are at all skeptical of Charney's observation, look no further than American Apparel's share price, which is hovering at under a dollar after having been removed from the New York Stock Exchange. The stock underwent a 66 percent loss in share prices over the previous year.

Charney's keen analysis of his company's own shortcomings are about the only legitimate piece of

ing ... literally. Most of their main er in the interview that neon has T-shirt and handkerchief emblacustomers were in their 60s or the potential to become preppy and the idea of American Apparel being predominantly hipsters as more of a perception than a fact. Charney will probably have a said in a 2007 New York Times hard time navigating his way into a market that hasn't changed in the past half-decade if he thinks neon will fly. As far as perceptions go, hipsters being American Ap- Ivy" handkerchief with the capparel's base consumers is indeed a tion, "For the last couple of years, perception. A perception of fact. one of the recurring refrains on the People generally do not wear yellow unitards with high-waisted pants and horn-rimmed glasses with non-prescription lens.

McNairy is no better. In an interview with New York Magazine, hind the times. Rejoice, gentlemen, he talked about his ascent from being a huge shopper to someone who just shops at the Salvation Army, where he apparently has built up a collection of over 300 Brooks Brothers buttondown shirts. According to the interview, he also never leaves the house without his Parker Jotter pens, because heaven knows Pilot V7s aren't obscure enough.

Since his departure from J. Press, McNairy has created his own personal line of clothes of exceedingly hipster design. Not because it is that cool, but because it is that bad. insight he offers, as he claims lat- He even went so far as to release a be lame.

zoned with the phrase "Forget Ivy." For the extremely bitter, and more bold, he has one that says, "Fuck Ivy." Take that, Martha's Vineyard!

The only people that have actually appreciated the clothing are the preppy Ivy Leaguers themselves. The popular prep-wear blog Ivy-Style.com featured the "Forget trad forums and blogs has been an impatient wish for the Preppy/Ivy/ Trad/Americana (PITA) trend to go away so that stubborn fuddyduddies can go back to being befor that day is here: Mark McNairy, arguably the leading guru of 'Take Ivy' fashion hipness, has decreed the Ivy trend officially over on this \$12 handkerchief."

Prepsters' hostility can't be blamed. The entire mentality of hipsterdom is based on an illogical conundrum: being cool by liking uncool things. Under normative hipster principles, the more really bad things you like, the higher your status. By this logic, hipsters liking prep-wear means that prep-wear is really lame. Nobody who's not a hipster wants to

ON THE WEB: check out a video this thursday afternoon at bit.ly/dt_video

BOOK REVIEW COCKTAIL HOUR UNDER THE TREE

Daughter revisits mother's African youth in intimate memoir

By Clayton Wickham Daily Texan Staff

Being the subject of not one, but two of what she calls her daughter's "awful books," ranks among the least extraordinary of the grievances Nicola Fuller can claim after her long and bloody love affair with African soil. In Alexandra Fuller's new memoir, "Cocktail Hour Under the Tree of Forgetfulness," she revisits the setting of her first book, "Don't Let's Go to the Dogs Tonight," this time to recount the adventurous and hauntingly tragic life of her wild, resilient mother --- the self-proclaimed "Nicola Fuller of Central Africa."

Fuller paints in vivid prose her mother's idyllic childhood in imperialist Kenya, her difficulties as the mother of a white family during white-ruled Rhodesia's bloody civ- an ego and, as Fuller says, "she has il war and the peace she finally finds, always wanted to live a fabulousfarming in her old age beneath the ly romantic life for which she need-'Tree of Forgetfulness."

As she recounts her mother's stories of her wild Kenyan upbringing (her best friend growing up was an ape named Stephen), Fuller also points to the story her mother never tells; one of imperialism and oppression. She writes that her mother speaks of her youth "as if she were a third-person participant in a movie starring herself, a perfect horse and flawless equatorial light. The violence relenting horror of war. "War is Afand the injustices that came with colonialism seem - in my mother's version of events — to have happened in some other unwatched movie, to some other unwatched people."

THE DAILY TEXAN

ed a reasonably pliable witness as scribe." Nicola finds this scribe in her daughter, but the remarkable honesty with which Fuller tells the story may be more than her mother ever bargained for.

On some level, Fuller's book is about her mother — her youth, her flaws, her plunge into depression and her ultimate redemption — but on another, it is a testament to the unrica's perpetually ripe fruit," Fuller writes, remembering the violence of her childhood. She recalls how her father always drove the family jeep with a rifle on his knee, as her mother

Nicola Fuller has something of scanned the red-dust plains of Rhodesia from the passenger side, holding an Uzi.

> Near the end of the book, Fuller tries to come to terms with her mother's complicity in the horrors of racial discrimination and war. "Few of us pay so dearly for our prejudices, our passions, our mistakes," she writes - and it is true. Three of Fuller's siblings die during infancy as the family struggles to survive in Rhodesia's inhospitable environment. In one of the book's most moving passages, Fuller describes how the violent civil war left her baby brother's gravesite unmarked along with countless others. "Humans have an unerring capacity to ignore one another's sacred traditions and to defile one another's

COCKTAIL HOUR UNDER THE TREE FORGETFULNESS ALEXANDRA FULLER

until all of us own and honor one another's dead, until we have admitted to our murders and forgiven one another and ourselves for what we have done, there can be no truce, no dignity, no peace."

In the end, "Nicola Fuller of Cenhallowed ground," she writes; "Surely tral Africa" emerges from her daugh- extraordinary life.

ter's funny, tragic, compassionate and honest narrative as a flawed but sympathetic character. Though she curses the thought of another "Awful Book," through this memoir Alexandra Fuller becomes what her mother always wanted: a biographer worthy of her

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Hipster fashion left in 2007, prep clothes make comeback

By Ali Breland **Daily Texan Staff**

Nantucket Reds, Sperry Top-Siders, Brooks Brothers shirts and knit v-neck tennis sweaters delicately draped over the shoulders have been the traditional garb of the Northeastern elite who spend their weekends dividing time between regattas and country clubs. More recently however, "prep fashion" has started to permeate into sartorial spheres outside of the yacht club, faring on a more prominent level than in years past.

Books such as Shosuke Ishizu's 1965 fashion book, "Take Ivy," and "The Official Preppy Handbook" are gaining popularity with their recently released sequels and reissues. Former prep mainstay Abercrombie & Fitch is returning to its roots with the release of a new collection, Elements of Ivy. The collection features a varsity cardigan, sweaters and not one, but two different khaki chinos, just in case you want to mix it up.

Most notably, hipsters have taken notice and have co-opted the trend in a paradoxical manner - just as most suburbanites cannot under-

stand the emotional terror of brutal gang violence, most hipsters know nothing of boat races on the lake and tennis matches at the club. Retailers like Abercrombie, Hollister and American Eagle Outfitters are actually considered "poor people" brands by the Ivy League style crowd.

The term hipster itself also carries several meanings. The hipsters referred to here aren't people with a slight interest in fashion and music that extends beyond the realm of radio, but the self-proclaimed cultured elite, who make obscenely large differentiations from normative social and fashion codes. Trying to be hip is fine. Trying to be the epitome of hip is obnoxious.

Mark McNairy, former creative director of prep-wear mainstay J. Press and perhaps the human manifestation of the mesh between hipsterdom and preppy, noted the clientele shift within Ivy League-inspired fashion.

"When I started [at J. Press], basically their customers were dy-

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Ping-pong league relishes relaxed vibe

which has about 70 members, meets every Wednesday at Belmont Hall to play matches, listen to live music and socialize.

Dustin Maxey, who co-founded Austin's social ping-pong league PongRock, plays a game Monday evening at Lavaca Street Bar. The league,

By Aaron West Daily Texan Staff

Friends and business partners Dustin Maxey and Richard Panter play a quick game of table tennis at Lavaca Street Bar & Grill. They trash-talk each other jokingly as and Maxey holds a Lone Star in one hand.

"It's hard to play in the dark," Maxey says when he hits the ball off the table.

Dos Equis from the bar. "I'd be saying that too if I was losing by two points," he answers.

Wednesday, August 31, 2011

The laid-back vibe is part of what separates what Maxey and Painter call the game they're playing ping-pong — from table tennis, the official name for the sport. The two the witty ("Tommy Tong the Pong they hit the ball back and forth, men are the co-founders and operators of PongRock, a local table tennis league that's all about competitive fun and drinking beer.

your friend in your garage," Max- the competitors. The grand champi-Panter asks a friend to grab him a ey, 28, said. "We try to keep the on receives a ping-pong table at the

vibe relaxed."

PongRock, which begins its fifth season today (each season lasts eight weeks), meets on Wednesday evenings at The Belmont. Competitors can choose a nickname, which have ranged from the simple ("D") to Kong" and "Sgt. Paddles") to the more intimidating ("The Butcher"). Registration fees go toward keeping the equipment maintained, print-"It's like you're playing against ing T-shirts and buying prizes for

WHAT: PongRock Social Ping Pong League

WHERE: Belmont Hall

WHEN: Wednesdays at 7 p.m.

HOW MUCH: \$50 registration

WEB: pongrock.com

end of the season.

"I've been playing since the begin-

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Photo illustration by Mary Kang

The style of the northeast's elite is becoming the "hipper-than-thou" culture's sartorial preference.





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