



THE DAILY TEXAN



Marathon aims to support local charities

Thousands set to run in support of tax-exempt race, raise funds for Central Texas philanthropic groups

By Audrey White
Daily Texan Staff

At the 19th annual Austin Marathon on Sunday, 13,500 people will run 342,000 miles and raise money for 26 different Austin charities, all while

minimizing energy and waste consumption. The marathon has come a long way since it was established in 1992, said marathon spokeswoman McKinzey Crossland. It has a distinct communi-

ty perspective, emphasizing local philanthropies and maintaining a strong focus on low waste and high efficiency — in 2008, the marathon was named the greenest marathon in North America by the magazine Runner’s World. While many races such as the Susan G. Komen Race for the Cure raise money for a sin-

gle cause, the Austin Marathon supports many through a program called 26 Miles for 26 Charities. At each mile marker, a different charity operates the water station and advertises their mission, adding up to around 1,100 volunteers, said Ainsley Williams, executive director of 26 for 26. Charities range from Round Rock Inde-

pendent School District’s Project Graduation program to the LiveStrong foundation. “The model we have gives many charities, especially some of the smaller ones, the opportunity to raise their profile in our community,” Williams said. “We’re proud to have a broad spectrum from local volunteer groups to large staff-driven or-

ganizations that serve our Austin community and volunteer for the marathon.” In August 2009, 26 for 26 received official nonprofit status from the IRS, which means the marathon can apply for grants and scholarships to give back to the charities that participate.

CHARITY continues on page 2

Panel investigates increasing tuition at other campuses

By Aziza Musa
Daily Texan Staff

Two more universities under the UT System umbrella might raise tuition by almost 4 percent over the next two years, matching a Dec. 1 proposal by UT-Austin’s Tuition Policy Advisory Committee.

Each of the universities had a committee evaluate its current budget and needs, propose a tuition amount and send it to the university’s president. The president submitted the proposals to UT’s Board of Regents. The board is scheduled to meet March 3 to approve or disapprove of the proposed tuition hikes.

UT-Dallas and UT-Arlington proposed tuition increases of 3.95 percent for the 2010-11 and 2011-12 school years after their tuition committees reviewed their respective needs. The increase would amount to \$194 and \$169 more per semester, respectively.

The Arlington campus will face an additional .65-percent increase for the 2011-12 school year to help build the student-approved Student Event Center. The \$73-million center will seat 6,500 peo-

ple for conventions, convocations, concerts and community events while also providing a home court for the university’s basketball and volleyball teams, said UT-Arlington spokeswoman Kristin Sullivan.

UT-Austin officials estimate an increase of \$65 per semester for the upcoming year to construct its own Student Event Center, which will be located near Gregory Gym. The total UT-Austin rates would increase by \$240 per semester.

Alongside efforts to build new facilities, the UT system campuses will use the additional revenue to attract and retain highly talented faculty and staff, according to proposals from the three committees. Of these proposals, UT-Dallas especially emphasized the improvement of its faculty strength.

Despite the projected rise in tuition, UT-Dallas students currently enrolled in the university will continue to have fixed tuition rates because of the Guaranteed Tuition Rate Plan.

“It’s a very good way for students and families to be able to

FEE continues on page 2

Author questions student reaction to prison scandal

Speaker discusses legality of Abu Ghraib pictures, lack of public objection

By Rachel Burkhardt
Daily Texan Staff

Philip Gourevitch, staff writer for the New Yorker and author of the book “The Ballad of Abu Ghraib,” asked a crowd of UT students Thursday why college campuses weren’t overrun by protests following the Abu Ghraib scandal.

At the lecture, Gourevitch addressed this issue and other controversies surrounding the U.S. military prison in Iraq, which became the topic of his critically acclaimed book.

In April 2004, several photographs taken by soldiers of the 32nd Military Police Company were leaked to the press. The photographs proved that Iraqi prisoners at Abu Ghraib

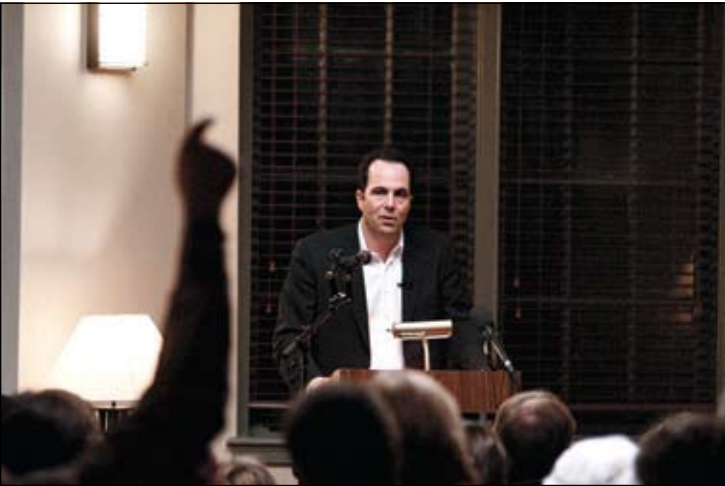
were being held under conditions that did not comply with the Geneva Conventions regarding prisoners of war. The photographers and those pictured were prosecuted by a military court. Some, including Pvt. Lynndie England and Cpl. Charles Graner Jr., were given prison sentences.

Gourevitch said President Barack Obama has continued the Bush administration’s policies regarding interrogation of enemy combatants. These policies give the U.S. military license to abuse and humiliate prisoners, he said.

“It’s very difficult to put the genie back in the bottle, or the evil genie, for that matter,” he said.

When the photographs first circulated, citizens did not have much information explaining

PRISON continues on page 2



Jeff Heimsath | Daily Texan Staff

Philip Gourevitch, author of “The Ballad of Abu Ghraib,” fields questions after giving a lecture about his investigation of the prison scandal.

Past land links student, Shami



Photos by Tamir Kalifa | Daily Texan Staff

Above, students and supporters gather around gubernatorial candidate Farouk Shami at the Lyndon B Johnson Center at Texas State University for a group photo. Below, Sama’an Ashrawi, a Middle Eastern studies sophomore and avid Farouk Shami volunteer, listens to the gubernatorial candidate during a speech given at a San Marcos cafe.

Family connections tie college supporter to Democratic candidate

By Alex Geiser
Daily Texan Staff

In the hallway outside of a room in Texas State University’s LBJ Student Center, students moved in around gubernatorial candidate Farouk Shami on Wednesday night for a group picture. There, smiling wide in the center of the back row, stood Sama’an Ashrawi, a 19-year-old Middle Eastern studies sophomore at UT and a self-proclaimed Shami admirer.

Ashrawi, a half-Palestinian sophomore from the Houston suburbs, has been following Shami — who is also Palestinian — around and volunteering for his campaign since he decided to run for office. Whether his attraction to Sha-

mi is purely cultural, familial or political — Ashrawi supports the underdog candidate.

“I love the guy, that’s why I follow him around everywhere,” Ashrawi said.

He said he lucked out Wednesday night because his homework load was light, but elections only happen every four years, so supporting his candidate would have taken precedence either way.

Shami and Sama’an Ashrawi’s father, Ibrahim Ashraw — who immigrated to U.S. in his late 20’s — both grew up in nearby areas in Palestine where their families knew of each other. People in Palestine are closely connected, Sama’an Ashrawi said.

When talk of Shami run-



ning for office in Texas surfaced two years ago, the two families grew closer. Ibrahim Ashrawi volunteered for the campaign, and his son — Sama’an Ashrawi — went

headfirst into garnering support around campus by telling his friends about Shami and convincing them to go with

GOV continues on page 2

IN MEMORIAM

Innovative English fashion icon found dead

By Gerald Rich
Daily Texan Staff

Lee Alexander McQueen, the renowned avant-garde British fashion designer known for runway spectacles and meticulous construction, died Thursday at the age of 40.

The cause of death has not been officially confirmed. Metropolitan Police found him in his London home at 10 a.m. and consider the case “non-suspicious.” McQueen died almost three years after the suicide of his close friend and fashion stylist Isabella Blow and shortly after his mother’s death on Feb. 2, which left McQueen devastated.

“...been a fucking awful week,” McQueen published five days later on his now-erased Twitter stream, “but my friends have

been great but now i have to some how pull myself together.”

His untimely death came days before London Fashion Week and weeks before his latest collection was set to premiere at Paris Fashion Week. McQueen’s line, McQ, was scheduled to show at New York Fashion Week Thursday afternoon but has since been canceled.

The designer’s Web site was closed Thursday and replaced with a message asking for privacy on behalf of his family’s loss. There has been no mention of the possible future of McQueen’s unreleased collection and current lines.

McQueen’s designs over the last two decades earned him British Fashion Designer of the Year four times between 1996 and

2003. He was also named a Commander of the British Empire by Queen Elizabeth, and his designs were most recently worn by Lady Gaga in her “Bad Romance” music video.

“He brought a uniquely British sense of daring and aesthetic fearlessness to the global stage of fashion,” said Anna Wintour, editor-in-chief of American Vogue, in a statement. “In such a short career, Alexander McQueen’s influence was astonishing — from street style, to music culture and the world’s museums.”

McQueen accentuated the human form and elevated it with highly conceptual fashion shows. His collections have featured homages to the Lord of the Flies, Alfred Hitchcock and mental asylums in his sometimes chill-

ing displays of beauty.

“That’s true fashion design,” said Alex King, a textiles and apparel senior. “It’s not just making pretty clothes; he’s sending out a message of what he thinks of the world.”

King decided to rededicate her senior fashion collection to the designer.

“I always look at the way he constructs clothes,” she said. “He’s always loved birds, and my collection is [inspired by] birds of paradise. Now that he is gone, I’ll try and take more inspiration from him as a tribute.”

In addition to birds, McQueen continuously flirted with the idea of fashion as armor. His spring 2010 collection featured

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CONTACT US

Main Telephone:
(512) 471-4591

Editor:
Jillian Sheridan
(512) 232-2212
editor@dailytexanonline.com

Managing Editor:
Ana McKenzie
(512) 232-2217
managingeditor@
dailytexanonline.com

News Office:
(512) 232-2207
news@dailytexanonline.com

Sports Office:
(512) 232-2210
sports@dailytexanonline.com

Life & Arts Office:
(512) 232-2209
lifeandarts@dailytexanonline.com

Retail Advertising:
(512) 471-1865
joanw@mail.utexas.edu

Classified Advertising:
(512) 471-5244
classifieds@dailytexanonline.com

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CORRECTION

In the Thursday, Feb. 11 edition of The Daily Texan, there was an error in the headline and story headlined "University to introduce application in Spanish" on Page 1. Only some Web pages will be translated into Spanish, including the housing, financial aid and admissions information pages. The application will not be translated into Spanish. The Texan regrets the error.

TODAY'S WEATHER

High 50 Low 34

Fuzzy chops like her bear from 1st grade.

ICON: Student vows to dedicate collection to McQueen

From page 1

stunning reptilian and sea-monster-themed prints that shielded the models like scales.

"I grew up with three older sisters, and I saw them go through a lot of shit," McQueen told the Guardian several years ago. "I always wanted to be able to protect them. They would call me up to their room and I'd help them pick out clothes for work. Just, you know, what skirt with what cardigan, but I was always trying to make them look strong and sheltered."

McQueen was the youngest of six children and the son of a taxicab driver. He studied and worked in fashion until his entire graduation collection was bought by Blow in 1990. She

also convinced him to use his middle name instead of his first name, Lee.

Two years later, he released a collection in London that immediately caught the attention of the fashion world.

"He was the forerunner of styles like the low-hipped pants," said Eve Nicols, a senior textiles and apparel lecturer and England native. "He originated that way back before it was even thought of here. He called them bumster pants."

In 1996, McQueen became the head designer of Givenchy and had already earned the title "the hooligan of English fashion." In the five years he worked as head designer, he managed not only to insult the French press by calling Hubert de Givenchy

"irrelevant" but also completely redefine the label's style and aesthetics.

After his contract ended, he sold approximately half of his own company to the Gucci Group, whose parent company was a rival of Givenchy's, claiming the label had "constrained" his creativity.

McQueen's designs have been praised by critics around the world, despite initial criticisms that they were purely for shock value. Figures like Lady Gaga, Rihanna, Sarah Jessica Parker and Nicole Kidman have sported his works. The designer has boutiques in London, Milan, New York, Los Angeles and Las Vegas.

"His life was an era of fashion," King said.



Christophe Ena | Associated Press

British fashion designer Alexander McQueen waves after his Fall-Winter 2009-10 ready-to-wear collection in Paris on March 10.

CHARITY: Race promotes group recycling

From page 1

Charities have runners and individuals raise money prior to and during the race. As the profile of 26 for 26 as a non-profit elevates, the impact will expand as well, Williams said.

Rob Hill, the marathon's Green Initiative Coordinator, and a network of volunteers and staff are working to ensure that all elements of the race are as environmentally efficient as possible. He said it is even more important to be waste and energy efficient because the marathon has fewer sponsors who are donating less money.

In 2008, the first year of the marathon's green initiative, the group recycled around

14,000 pounds of cardboard. The Green Initiative examines every aspect of the marathon, Hill said. The stage where bands play is solar-powered; cars and trucks stationed around the course are forbidden from idling; and this year, almost all water stations are getting water from city spigots and hydrants rather than purchasing plastic water jugs.

To help organize the different recycling and water elements, Hill said there is a "green team" made up of about 90 volunteers. Ten members of UT sorority Kappa Delta Chi are part of the green team and will help make sure recycling and trash are properly separated.

"We do several different service projects, and environmental issues are very easy for us to contribute to and make awareness for other students," said sorority member Berenice Medellin. "We were contacted by the Austin Marathon volunteer coordinator and decided to be a part of the green team."

Through these efforts, the marathon is a way for Austin to raise its reputation for being a "green" city, Hill said.

"We're a big destination marathon. About 75 percent of runners come from outside our area," he said. "People associate Austin with music and with the Capitol, and hopefully, they will associate us with being green."

PRISON: Book places blame on senior staff

From page 1

how the U.S. treats its prisoners of war.

"The overwhelming public reaction was that this reflected some kind of public policy," Gourevitch said. "The honor of the nation was at stake, and a serious debate had to be had."

Then, people became distracted by the question of how the photographs came to exist in the first place, he said.

"It became a mix of soap opera and witch hunt in which the

whole story shifts over," he said.

Gourevitch said one of the purposes of his book was to demonstrate the soldiers were acting with the approval and encouragement of high command. The soldiers knew what they were doing was wrong, but the photographs were a way of documenting their war stories "the way Tolstoy described battle in the Napoleonic wars," he said.

Gourevitch said the story of Abu Ghraib is still relevant today, not only because the war

continues, but also because high command has not been held accountable.

"It troubled me that it never came up in the presidential elections," he said. "There has been absolutely no attempt to register a public debate."

UT alumus Kevin Endres said the photographs distract from a broader debate of public policy concerning torture.

"The conversation needs to move to the question of why we don't have a bigger problem with this," Endres said.

GOV: Shami's run inspires Texan Palestinian groups

From page 1

him to any event between Austin and Houston.

"It's the first time somebody from the community has stepped up politically," Sama'an Ashrawi said. "Everybody, all of a sudden, wanted to be a part of it. The community has energy again."

Whether Shami wins the election or not, Sama'an Ashrawi said this is a big step for Palestinians in the U.S.

Growing up, Sama'an Ashrawi said family dinners were filled with discussions that focused primarily on local and Middle-Eastern politics. As a result, he acquired a genuine interest in the subject early in life.

"Politics were like my bedtime stories growing up," Sama'an Ashrawi said. "I had to be political because of my dad, and I'm a lot smarter for it now."

Colleen McKinney, a communication design major at Texas State and one of the two friends Sama'an Ashrawi brought Wednesday night, said that since high school, Sama'an Ashrawi has known more about politics than most people.

"Whenever he talks about politics, there is this light that lights up his face," McKinney said.

When Shami arrived at the San Marcos Cafe on the Square, he spoke briefly with the campaign workers and other people as he passed before reaching the back of the restaurant where Sama'an Ashrawi sat with his friends. Shami smiled, greeted Sama'an Ashrawi with a hand-clap turned hand shake and took the open seat next to him.

"Sama'an Ashrawi, keefak Habibi?" he said, asking how he was doing in Arabic.

Mahmoud Al-Batal, associate professor in the Department of Middle Eastern Studies, said

Habibi, or my beloved, is used widely in the Middle East and among Arabs everywhere to refer to a close friend.

Shami spent time at Sama'an Ashrawi's table conversing with him and his friends before getting up and mingling with the other people who had filled the cafe.

After working the crowd Shami recited his campaign speech, detailing his ability to create jobs in Texas and restating how he is not a career politician and, for this reason, has the happiness of the people at heart. Sama'an Ashrawi's eyes were fixed on the hair care magnet as he spoke.

As the crowd petered out and Sama'an Ashrawi had to leave, he went up to Shami, who took his hand and pulled him close. They exchanged a kiss on both cheeks Al-Batal said cheek kisses are commonly used greetings in the Middle East reserved for friends. He said it is atypical for two people who just met to exchange kisses, but normal for good friends akin to shaking hands.

After the kisses, as Shami said bye to Sama'an Ashrawi's friends, he told them that although Sama'an Ashrawi and him are not related, he loves him like a grandson.

"The next thing he's going to say is going to make me cry," Sama'an Ashrawi said. "That's my guy right there."

Sama'an Ashrawi, who has three "Farouk for Governor" shirts, said as the days get closer to the March 2 primary, he plans on wearing one of his shirts at least once a week as a way of sparking interest. He also has more than 50 campaign signs he plans to put up around Austin.

Early voting starts Tuesday and ends Feb. 26. Both the Democratic and Republican primaries will be held March 2.

FEE: UT System sets fixed rates for Dallas, El Paso universities

From page 1

plan for their college costs, and also since it's locked in at four years, it encourages students to graduate in four years," said UT-

Dallas spokeswoman Meredith Dickinson. "Students who enrolled in 2007 who remain enrolled past their period of guaranteed fixed 2007 tuition eligibility will be transferred onto the rate plan applicable to fall 2008."

UT-Dallas is one of the two universities in the UT System that allows fixed tuition rates. UT-El Paso is the other.

"I don't think [the program] makes sense for UT-Austin because the University has to plan for the next two years," said Lauren Ratliff, president of the Senate of College Councils and Tuition Policy Advisory Committee member. "They have to charge you more to give you a larger fixed rate just to prepare for what may or may not happen. It doesn't allow universities to be flexible and look at the best way to meet their needs."

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Vahid Salemi | Associated Press

Escorted by his bodyguards, Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad, center, is greeted by a crowd of demonstrators as he attends a rally commemorating the anniversary of the 1979 Islamic Revolution in Tehran, Iran, on Thursday.

Snow, salt runoff ignite New York sidewalk 'fireball'

By Marcus Franklin
The Associated Press

NEW YORK — An explosion in a transformer underneath a Manhattan sidewalk sent flames up the front of a landmark building Thursday, shattering windows and blackening the front of several stories. No injuries were reported.

Deputy Fire Chief James Daly said firefighters were initially called out for a report of smoke coming out of a manhole.

He said firefighters had been out all night to deal with manhole fires because of runoff from snow and salt coming into contact with electrical grids below ground.

Carol Paplin, who works for an office furniture dealership on the sixth floor of the building on Sixth Avenue in the Chelsea district, said she detected a sulfur odor as she approached the building at 10:30 a.m., but as she got to the entrance the smell faded and she went inside.

Firefighters arrived at 10:44 a.m. to respond to the report of smoke and evacuated a Radio Shack store, Daly said.

Building workers were told via the public address system that there was a fire on the sidewalk but not to be alarmed, Paplin said.

About 11:20, the explosion happened, with the fireball reaching three stories high.

Another announcement instructed those in the building to evacuate using a back staircase.

"Everyone was calm, although there were many people without their coats and pocketbooks," said Paplin, who was walking through her office when she saw the fireball.

About 50 to 100 people were evacuated from the commercial building. Daly said there were no injuries.

It took firefighters an hour and 45 minutes to bring the blaze under control, but Daly said there was minimal damage to the building because it is fireproof.

The building is part of the Ladies' Mile Historic District, so named for the shops and stores that were along parts of Broadway toward the end of the 19th century. That area was given its designation in 1989.

The structure, known as the Simpson, Crawford and Simpson building, "is an incredibly important building historically and architecturally," said Elisabeth de Bourbon, spokeswoman for the city's Landmarks Preservation Commission.

Done in the Beaux Arts style, the building was constructed at the beginning of the 20th century. It has been used as a department store, a warehouse and an automobile showroom.



Louis Lanzano | Associated Press

Firefighters hose away broken glass in front of a blackened building in Manhattan after a transformer exploded Thursday.

Iran smothers protests, exalts nuclear progress

By Brian Murphy & Nasser Karimi
The Associated Press

TEHRAN, Iran — The Iranian security forces unleashed a crushing sweep against opposition protesters Thursday as President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad used the 31st anniversary of the Islamic revolution to defy the West and boast his country was now a "nuclear state."

The massive show of force appeared to give authorities the upper hand on the most important day of the Iranian political calendar. The state-backed rally dwarfed anti-government gatherings, which were far smaller than other outpourings of dissent in recent months.

Police clashed with anti-government protesters in several sites

around Tehran, firing tear gas to disperse them and paintballs to mark them for arrest. Gangs of hard-liners also attacked senior opposition figures.

Still, the day's events showed that authorities must rely on full-scale pressures to keep a lid on demonstrations. Opposition supporters are certain to regroup and look for weak spots in the ruling system.

In his address to a crowd of hundreds of thousands, Ahmadinejad sought to shift attention from the nation's political troubles, boasting instead about Iran's advancements in nuclear technology. He also dismissed new U.S. sanctions and denigrated President Barack Obama's efforts to repair relations.

"We have the capability to enrich uranium more than 20 percent or 80 percent but we don't enrich [to this level] because we don't need it," he said. "When we say we do not manufacture the bomb, we mean it, and we do not believe in manufacturing a bomb. If we wanted to manufacture a bomb, we would announce it."

The Obama administration dismissed Iran's contention that it is enriching uranium at a higher level.

Even if untrue, Ahmadinejad's claim "further solidifies our impression and that of the international community that Iran's nuclear intentions are anything but peaceful," said State Department spokesman P.J. Crowley.



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VIEWPOINT

A suspicious resignation

University of North Texas President Gretchen M. Bataille surprised students and faculty when she announced her resignation Wednesday — effective Feb. 28. Bataille did not indicate why she chose to step down. Her strong track record with faculty and popularity with a student body of more than 35,000 make the decision even more peculiar, perhaps pointing to pressure from higher levels of authority such as the University of North Texas Board of Regents.

UNT's Student Government Association President Dakota Carter said, "The student body feels a sense of loss. Everyone is very upset ... she has been nothing but a great president, and this came out of the blue," according to the Chronicle of Higher Education.

Bataille's "Message to the UNT Community" avoided her motive. "I believed that it was critical for me to communicate directly with those of you I have viewed as my friends and colleagues as we built on a strong foundation to build a better future for this campus," Bataille wrote. She went on to say in a press release, "When I accepted the UNT presidency, I made the commitment to serve as a transformational leader. I saw a great opportunity to forge a clear direction for the university's future and to take it to new heights." Bataille's somber tone and decision to exclude the cause lead us to believe resigning wasn't her choice.

This is the second time a female president at a major Texas university stepped down under questionable circumstances in the past year. Dr. Elsa Murano resigned as president of Texas A&M University last June amid pressure from the Texas A&M System Board of Regents after Chancellor Mike McKinney wrote a suspiciously scathing review of Murano's inclusive style of leadership. However, during the McKinney-Murano fiasco, the public was aware of the feud. In this situation, even Bataille's relationship with UNT System Chancellor Lee F. Jackson seems healthy — except in one area.

Jackson's review of Bataille was genuinely positive, noting Bataille's ability to increase the visibility and reputation of UNT and her instrumental role in the push for tier-one status. However, the lack of federal research money and fundraising were cause for concern according to Jackson, who predicted "unprecedented challenges" ahead. Additionally, Bataille disapproved of moving administrative offices from Denton, —where the UNT campus is — to downtown Dallas. She remained in Denton while a number of other prominent administration members relocated. Jackson maintains that had nothing to do with Bataille stepping down. "I really don't want to go into things that didn't work, but focus at this point on her accomplishments and how far we've come in four years," Jackson said, according to The Dallas Morning News. Focusing on how far she took the university seems counter-intuitive, considering nobody besides members of the Board of Regents knows why Bataille can't continue to serve the university. The board also refused to comment.

After watching the leadership situation unravel at Texas A&M and our own University's administration make frustratingly secretive decisions regarding budget issues, it wouldn't be surprising to discover Bataille was on the wrong end of an internal argument and pressured into resignation. The uncanny focus on federal research money and fundraising in a time of exclusive decision-making is a familiar theme among universities in Texas. It's easy to see the similarities between UNT and UT. Bataille improved the educational atmosphere of the school but didn't bring in money, much like the teaching assistants and adjunct professors who won't return to UT next year. When the pressure to bring in money outweighs the responsibility to educate, everyone's job is on the line.

— Jeremy Burchard for the editorial board

Student Government needs a new system to better represent students

By Carly Castetter
Daily Texan Guest Columnist

I don't expect the average student to care or even know about Robert's Rules of Order. I don't expect them to care about the internal structuring of Student Government. I don't expect them to know the pieces of legislation that we vote on every Tuesday in the Glenn Maloney Room.

What I do expect students to care about is the efficacy of their voice — the ability for the people they elected to conduct business freely, efficiently and thoughtfully. The creation of the Speaker of the Assembly would do just that.

I believe that now, more than ever, is the time for Student Government to act as what it is charged to be — "The official voice of the Student Body."

Yet I fundamentally disagree

with where many believe the voice is coming from.

Does the student voice rest in two people at the head of a powerful, appointed executive board that more often than not acts as a mouthpiece for the administration? Or does it rest with the body of directly elected representatives who come from a diverse background?

Many don't know the rules SG has in place to ensure fair, open debate and deliberation have been violated — not by representatives, but by your vice president, Shara Ma. Ma refused to introduce Assembly Bill 15, the controversial Speaker of the Assembly legislation two weeks ago, even though it went through all the proper channels and protocols.

Representatives John Lawler, Matt Daley and I were told it

would not be heard. This refusal is an abuse of power — a symptom of a greater problem within the internal structure of SG.

After a year of talking how the SG assembly is "our assembly" and Tuesday nights are "our time" to take up concerns and initiatives important to the student body, the Executive Board decided to go back on that promise and impose its will on the Assembly.

In another example, on Tuesday night, Ma spoke during her executive report to take a position on the bill, violating her duty as chair to be an impartial moderator, bypassing the scheduled time for debate. Is that creating transparency in the democratic process?

Now I'm not saying that the assembly should have a stronger say than the executive branch,

but there at least should be a greater balance between two.

There's a reason why our state and federal legislatures are set up this way. There's a reason why they both have Speakers for the representative bodies. It is because it works.

It creates a system of checks and balances that respects each role.

I've been in Student Government for three years, served in various capacities and seen the transition from a closed door ticket-system where favorites were chosen and groomed to become your next SG President.

My question to the students of UT is, do you wish to continue this or do you want something better from your "official voice"?

Castetter is a university-wide representative and co-author of A.B. 15

GALLERY



LEGALESE

Opinions expressed in The Daily Texan are not necessarily those of the UT administration, the Board of Regents or the Texas Student Media Board of Operating Trustees.

FIRING LINES

E-mail your Firing Lines to firingline@dailytexanonline.com. Letters must be fewer than 300 words. The Texan reserves the right to edit all submissions for brevity, clarity and liability.

THE FIRING LINE

What's wrong with the Weinermobile

We all know how mega-corporations like Oscar Mayer couldn't care less about the health of their consumers — e.g. McDonald's commercials during children's TV shows.

This is no exception. It's just marketing, for heaven's sakes! Nobody mentioned the fact that wieners are one of the worst foods you can eat.

They are extremely high in saturated fats, sodium and cholesterol. A friend of mine who used to work in a meat processing plant said that if you knew what went into a wiener, you would never go near one again.

Additionally, it's well-known that consumption of processed meats is strongly correlated with pancreatic and colon cancer.

A recent study of 200,000 people showed that eating an average of one wiener per day results in a 67-percent increase in the probability of pancreatic cancer and a 30 percent increase in the probability of colon cancer.

Yet, here's this giggly girl bragging about how her "Wienermobile" was "a sensation with the neighborhood kids" and getting on the front page of The Daily Texan.

Surely you can do better than this.

— Ron Morgan
alumnus

Fight domestic violence



By Anna Russo
Daily Texan Columnist

Look around. Can you see three people? It's likely that one of those three people has been a victim of dating violence. According to the Texas Advocacy Project, nearly one in three teens have experienced the most serious forms of dating violence and abuse, including sexual abuse, physical abuse or threats of physical harm to a partner or self.

The organization also reports more than 200,000 children and 10,000 adults are raped every year in Texas. According to the UT counseling program Voices Against Violence, about 875 of the rape cases in Texas occur at UT — and that's a measure of only those that are reported.

The most important issue at UT is not tuition increases or budget cuts or even the closing of the Cactus Cafe, but rather the 875 cases of rape reported annually at the University and the presumably higher amounts of dating violence. In an effort to end violence against women and men at UT, 25 women will participate in the Women's Resource Agency's annual production of Eve Ensler's "The Vagina Monologues" next week.

For those of you unfamiliar with "The Vagina Monologues," don't get thrown off by the word "vagina" just yet. Although the "Monologues" is a play about vaginas and them experiencing sex, love, rape, menstruation,

mutilation, masturbation, birth and orgasms — among other things — the play is first about empowering women and ending violence against women.

The monologues will make you laugh, cry and — for those you who don't have a vagina — make you wish you were blessed with womanhood.

This year's production will not only raise awareness of this troubling issue at UT, but the proceeds of the production will benefit the University and the Austin community. Each year proceeds will go to local or campus organizations working to end violence against women and empower women. The two beneficiaries this year are the Texas Advocacy Project and Voices Against Violence Survivors Fund.

The Texas Advocacy Project provides free legal services statewide to victims of domestic violence, sexual assault and stalking. The organization works directly with victims, shelters, law enforcement agencies and courts across Texas to deliver effective legal services to Texans in need. The group focuses only on cases involving domestic violence, sexual assault and stalking but specializes in helping victims who can't find help from traditional nonprofit service providers because of cultural, linguistic, geographic or economic barriers.

The Voices Against Violence Survivors Fund provides services for survivors and allies of victims of violence at UT, including individual

counseling, anonymous telephone counseling, group counseling, connection to resources in community and various advocacy services. The program, part of the UT Counseling and Mental Health Center, also provides training and outreach programming that includes interactive performances by peer educators and other educational programs that can be customized for faculty, staff and students.

"The Vagina Monologues" isn't a production for just women. It's a production for people who care about women and love women and want the best for women. It's a production for those who have a vagina and for those who don't have a vagina. It's a production that is not meant to embarrass but rather empower. It's a production meant to enrich the UT and Austin community monetarily and intellectually. It's a production for everyone at UT because violence against women doesn't just affect women — it affects everyone.

Next week, let's put our differences aside whether they be over the Cactus Cafe or budget cuts and get behind a cause that we can all support: ending violence against women.

Performances will be held Feb. 18, 19 and 20 at 7 p.m. in the Recreational Sports Center, Room 2.104. Tickets are \$10 and can be purchased at the door, on the West Mall or in the Gender and Sexuality Center.

Russo is a government and womens and gender studies senior.

Big classes, little learning

By Cameron Ingram
Daily Texan Columnist

Standing on the threshold of upper division status, I must take a moment to reflect on my time in behemoth-sized introductory courses. It has been so easy to assume a faceless relationship with them. I just wander in and 50 minutes later slink on out, the superficial glaze of what was just dictated at me gradually sloughing off as I leave, to be repeatedly reapplied coat after futile coat.

Test taking has been no more than a frantic regurgitation of concepts laboriously memorized, half learned — the almighty GPA eclipsing all and devouring any other consideration. My lack of investment has naturally carried over to discussion sections, where the bulk of students, myself included, just stare vacantly forward at an apprehensive but earnest teaching assistant and contribute nothing. The only truly burning question on anyone's lips: Is this going to be on the test?

This issue has been somewhat addressed by first year interest groups and dorm-sponsored study sessions. Founded in May 2008, undergraduate studies courses were intended to make undergraduate education more "holistic," offering an interdisciplinary approach under the tutelage of a distinguished professor. This goal of optimizing undergraduate education, however lofty, buckles under the hulking proportions of these mandatory seminars. Nothing can compare with a mutually involved class environment where rapport is delicately forged, enveloping students and professors alike.

I experienced this kind of atmosphere once, in a first year Latin course, which like most language classes boasted a comparably modest 20 students. Since our professor made it a point to challenge each student's

knowledge individually, it was vital that we come to class every day on top of our game. Because we all knew and saw each other regularly, the ability to perform reaped recognition and pride; we all tried eagerly to prove ourselves. As the semester went on we began to trust each other — competition evolved into support and motivation to truly learn Latin.

Dr. Ekland-Olsen, Rapoport Centennial Professor of Liberal Arts and provost at the time undergraduate studies courses were accepted, shared a similar anecdote with me. He taught a course, "Boundaries and Dilemmas," which culminated in end-of-the-year essays addressing pressing ethics issues. Once turned in and graded, all of the papers were printed, bound and distributed amongst the class as mementos. He remarked that these were among the best papers ever written for one of his courses, further reinforcing that scholastic accountability delivers results.

I've yearned for this kind of solidarity in my larger classes, but it just hasn't been feasible. By the end of the semester I simply want to move on. A three-month commitment boils down to a numbers game: "If I make a B on this test I'll have an A overall, but one quiz is dropped, so factoring that in..." There must be a systematic way to evaluate students' performances, but fixating heavily on grades inhibits learning. In high school we're taught that the ultimate reflection of academic ability is our standardized test scores. Nothing could be further from the truth. Coming into college with this in mind, compounded with the impersonal nature of mega-courses, has had a profound impact on my education. I'm ready to scale down.

Ingram is a sociology sophomore.

Where there's smoke, there's fire



Tamir Kalifa | Daily Texan Staff

Members of the Austin Fire Department diffuse a fire on the second floor of an apartment complex at 38th Street and Speedway. The two-alarm structure fire drew over 50 firefighters and 15 engines.

Austin Fire Department personnel responded to a two-alarm fire at the Jacksonian apartment complex in Hyde Park on Thursday afternoon.

Firefighter Elizabeth Donelson said 50 AFD personnel and 15 fire engines responded to the two-story apartment fire at 38th Street and Speedway. The fire was caused by plumbers who were sweating the pipes on the first floor, a process that uses a propane torch to solder pipes together.

Donelson said two apartments were damaged by the fire and two others

were damaged by excessive smoke and water from sprinklers.

Five residents were displaced by the fire and were aided by the American Red Cross. One Jack Russell terrier was rescued by AFD personnel. No one was injured.

Structural damage is estimated at \$150,000, and content damage is estimated at \$40,000. No smoke alarm was installed in the apartment where the fire originated.

— Bobby Longoria

NEWS BRIEFLY

Report: "Preliminary talks" for UT to join Big Ten Conference

Officials from the Big Ten athletic conference have had "preliminary talks" with UT in an attempt to attract the Longhorns to the Big Ten, according to an anonymous source reported by the Lawrence World-Journal on Wednesday.

Nick Voinis, UT's senior associ-

ate athletics director for communications, said the University's athletic program does "not comment on speculation and rumor."

Both the Big Ten and the Pac-10 have acknowledged the possibility of expanding their respective conferences. The Big Ten, which actually has 11 teams, might add one more team, while the Pac-10 might add two. Expanding to 12 teams allows conferences to create north and south divisions and to host a revenue-garnering football conference championship.

Both conferences would benefit from tapping into the Texas football market. While the Big Ten already serves more than 25 percent of households with televisions in the U.S., Northwestern University in Illinois is the southernmost reach of the conference. The Pac-10's reach only encompasses four states on the Pacific coast.

UT flirted with joining both conferences after its previous suit-or, the Southwest Conference, was dissolved in 1996.

While a change to either confer-

ence would greatly increase traveling distances and costs for UT athletic programs, the Big Ten also generates the largest amount of revenue of any conference. In 2007-08, due to UT sports' television appearances, the University received the largest share of revenue from the Big 12 at \$10.8 million. Even though the Big Ten pays all its universities evenly, less profitable programs such as Indiana and Illinois University each received about \$14.8 million.

— Shabab Siddiqui

Wilson legacy included supporting Afghan war

East Texas Congressman had chair of Pakistan Studies named after him

By Shamoyita DasGupta

Daily Texan Staff

Former Texas Rep. Charlie Wilson, the "liberal from Lufkin," who was revered by some but well-known for several controversial moves in his political and personal lives, died Wednesday at the age of 76.

In August 2008, Wilson caused a stir when his longtime friend, Buddy Temple, worked to create the Charlie Wilson Chair in Pakistan Studies in the College of Liberal Arts.

When the T.L.L. Temple Foundation in Lufkin proposed a \$500,000 challenge grant to UT, the University responded with \$536,000, allowing the chair to be installed. This decision was met with objections from several professors from the South Asia faculty in the College of Liberal Arts.

In a letter to Liberal Arts Dean Randy Diehl, Itty Abraham, associate professor and director of the South Asia Institute and 12 professors claimed why Wilson was not a suitable representative for the chair. They believed that a chair in his name would "implicitly [endorse] an ideological and romanticized vision of his legacy, and thereby of South Asian history as well," according to the letter.

In 1980, as a member of the U.S. House of Representatives, Wilson became aware of the Soviet war in Afghanistan. Having recently been appointed to the Defense Appropriations Subcommittee, Wilson was one of 12 men in charge of funding CIA operations.

Using his position on this subcommittee, Wilson began secretly funneling money into the hands of the Mujahideen, the Afghan rebels at the time. This monetary aid allowed the Mujahideen to win the war and push the Soviets from Afghanistan.

The UT faculty members who protested the chair position voiced their concern that Wilson's actions during the war ultimately allowed for the creation of the Taliban, as well as for support for Osama bin Laden, according to the letter. The chair's responsibilities include supporting travel for undergraduate students to Pakistan, as well as research in Pakistan studies. The funds will also be used to pay for conferences about Pakistan and to bring distinguished speakers to the University from Pakistan, according to a press release.

Other members of the faculty of the College of Liberal Arts supported the idea, believing that Wilson's work in South Asia was worth noting.

"[Wilson] wanted [the U.S.] to stay there and make sure they helped develop Afghanistan [after the war]," Abraham said. "The U.S. didn't, [but] had people listened to Charlie Wilson at the time, maybe we wouldn't be in this situation today."

The search for a representative to fill the position of the chair will begin in the fall.

Despite his controversial history in U.S. politics, Wilson was a devoted friend who was dedicated to his roots in East Texas.

"He was a big presence in East Texas, and he was irreplaceable," Temple said. "He accepted people for what they were, and he didn't try to change them."

"He was a big presence in East Texas, and he was irreplaceable."

— Buddy Temple

Charlie Wilson's close friend

Students celebrate traditional Lunar New Year

By Priscilla Totiyapungprasert

Daily Texan Staff

Valentine's Day is not the only holiday people will celebrate Sunday as many Chinese-Americans, and other Asian-American groups, will ring in the Lunar New Year with mouthwatering feasts and firecracker explosions.

Lunar New Year falls on the second new moon after the winter solstice and represents a time to rejoice for the upcoming spring. Although predominantly known as Chinese New Year because of its origins in China, other countries celebrate the holiday including Korea and Vietnam as well as countries with large Chinese populations such as Malaysia and Thailand.

This year marks the Year of the Tiger, one of the 12 animals that make up the Chinese zodiac.

Amy Wong Mok, the founder and CEO of Austin's Asian American Cultural Center, said the most significant aspect of the holiday is the gathering of families to start a clean slate, pay respect to elders and tighten family bonds.

While families clean the house before the New Year, once midnight strikes, the house must be left in the state it is in. The kitchen god then visits each household where families hope the god will send a good report back to the heavens.

"You sweep out all the good luck if you clean the house on New Year's Day," Mok said. "And you're not supposed to be working on Chinese New Year because it's time to relax and party."

Common features of Lunar New Year partying include a wide variety of foods in a pot-luck-style feast — a favorite part for college students eager for a break from instant noodles — and adults giving children red envelopes filled with money.

The Chinese New Year celebration lasts 15 days, but most families only celebrate the eve and actual day of the New Year, Mok said.

The Vietnamese celebrate their new year, called Tet Nguyên Đán, on the same day as Chinese New Year.

One of the superstitions associated with the holiday is what happens on New Year's Day sets the precedent for the rest of the year, said biology junior Thuc-Van Nguyen.



Jeff Heimsath | Daily Texan Staff

In preparation for Lunar New Year celebrations, Deng and Mai Dong choose Chinese candies at MT Supermarket to pass out to friends and family.

"You want to make sure you start the year off happy," Nguyen said. "If something bad happens that day, like you do poorly on a test, it's supposed to be an omen for the rest of the year."

Human development senior Kim Tran will be traveling home to Port Arthur this weekend to celebrate Vietnamese New Year with her extended family.

On New Year's Eve, the Vietnamese community in Port Arthur usually throws a festival with karaoke, a beauty pageant and dancing.

When morning comes, Tran's family usually set off firecrackers before visiting their grandparents' house to meet up with Tran's relatives. After eating, people indulge in Lucky Chess, a Vietnamese dice game.

In Korean culture, children dress in colorful traditional clothing called hanbok. They then receive money after performing sae-bae — a bow — to their elders as a sign of respect.

During Korean New Year, families also eat dduk gook, a rice cake soup for Lunar New Year.

"My parents would tell me to eat it in order to get older," said economics sophomore Pil Jeong.

Procedure offers alternate method for losing weight

Adolescents struggling with obesity can seek help with laparoscopic surgery

By Shamoyita DasGupta

Daily Texan Staff

A new laparoscopic adjustable gastric banding surgery may be an effective alternative to treating obesity in adolescents, according to a statement released Wednesday by the UT-Southwestern Medical Center.

Recent research has shown the band could be a preferable alternative for teenagers seeking gastric bypass surgery, although considerable research is still needed to confirm this, said Dr. Edward Livingston, chief of GI/endocrine surgery at UT-Southwestern.

The laparoscopic procedure differs from gastric bypass surgery in several ways. The surgeon uses laparoscopic tools to place silicone bands around the upper part of the patient's stomach, creating a pouch that holds less food so that the patient becomes full quicker and eats less.

These bands are adjustable by a plastic tube that runs from the bands to a device beneath the skin. Saline can be injected or extracted through this tube, changing the tightness of the silicone bands around the stomach and allowing for fewer complications and improved weight loss. The procedure is also less invasive and reversible should complications arise, said UT-Austin nutrition professor Lydia Steinman.

In contrast, gastric bypass surgery, formally known as Roux-en-Y gastric bypass, is a permanent procedure that uses surgical staples or a plastic band to create a smaller pouch at the top of the stomach. This pouch is then connected directly to the small intestine so that food bypasses the rest of the stomach

completely.

Though popular, gastric bypass surgery is riskier than the newer laparoscopic procedure. Unlike the laparoscopic procedure, the bypass surgery forces patients to make significant adjustments to their lifestyles and eating habits, whereas the new procedure would not require the same changes.

Steinman agrees that the procedure would be useful to those struggling with obesity.

"Some individuals don't lose weight as quickly as they do with the surgical procedure," Steinman said. "[Gastric bypass] is very, very popular and very effective, [but] you have to think hard about it because it's permanent. That's why I like the banding, because it can be taken out."

Approximately 8 percent of UT students struggle with obesity, said Amanda Buller, a dietitian with the University Health Services. Of these students, few have undergone either of these procedures, Buller said.

Despite the effectiveness of these procedures, some still believe that they are drastic alternatives to becoming healthy without surgery, particularly for adolescents.

"I definitely think it would be premature recommending this for an adolescent population," Buller said. "There's growth that's still occurring, the body is still changing and maturing."

Both Steinman and Buller recommend proper nutrition and physical activity in place of more extreme surgical procedures.

"My recommendation would be to focus on incorporating small, consistent, moderate portions throughout the day, with an emphasis on eating breakfast," Buller said. "It's most important that people are engaging in healthy lifestyles, regardless of weight."

Lunar New Year Events

WHERE: Chinatown Center on North Lamar

WHEN: Saturday, Feb. 20 through Sunday, Feb. 21

WHAT: A two-day festival consisting of Texan Lion/Dragon Dance Team, firecrackers, Hawaiian dancing, a fashion show, musical performance by Divine Land Marching Band and more

WEB: www.chinatownaustin.com

WHERE: Asian American Cultural Center

WHEN: Saturday, Feb. 13, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

WHAT: "There will be different Asian cultural performances of dance, music, martial arts demonstration, calligraphy, Lion Dance and authentic Asian foods for the entire family to enjoy throughout the day."

WEB: www.asianamericancc.com



NEVER GRADUATE

MEN'S BASKETBALL

Longhorns 'this close' to making it happen

By Laken Litman
Daily Texan Staff

Despite dropping five out of their last seven games, the soon-to-not-be 14th-ranked Longhorns' coach Rick Barnes isn't worried.

After Texas' 80-68 home loss to Kansas on Monday night, Barnes told his team that they are "this close" to being the team they want to be.

"We're going to get it fixed," Barnes said. "We knew all year that J'Covan [Brown] was a guy we needed to be able to help run things. But he had to understand he couldn't be casual with the ball, or I wasn't going to reward him. But we have to have him on the floor to create for the other guys. It's time."

Though Brown leads the team with 54 turnovers — one of the Longhorns' biggest handicaps this season — in the last three games, he has finally started to understand his role on the court.

Brown's breakout game was a week and a half ago against Baylor, where he contributed 15 points in 30 minutes of play and notably went 4-for-5 from the free-throw line. On Big Monday, Brown brought Texas within eight points of Kansas by scor-

CLOSE continues on page 8



Bruno Morian | Daily Texan Staff

Longhorn freshman guard J'Covan Brown, right, battles with Jayhawk sophomore defender Tyshaw Taylor, left, during Monday night's 80-68 loss at the Frank Erwin Center. Brown scored a season-high 28 points against the Jayhawks.

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL No. 14 Texas at Kansas

Win streak, conference on the line for Horns

By Sameer Bhuchar
Daily Texan Staff

The Texas women's basketball team has more than just basketball to play — they are playing a numbers game as well.

Riding a four-game winning streak, the No. 13 Longhorns (17-6; 6-3 Big 12) have surged back into the thick of the Big 12 race. But with only seven conference games left, Texas only has a limited amount of opportunities to climb to the top of the standings.

"We are at the point of the season where we have to win everything if we want to be at the top," said guard Kathleen Nash. "The team has been playing each game with a real sense of urgency. Luckily, we are playing well, but we just have to keep it going."

Nash always has long-term team goals in the back of her mind, but she can't afford to look past the present.

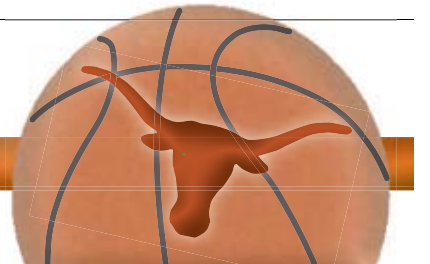
"The [Big 12] tournament is always in the back of my head, but I can't think about it right now,"

STREAK continues on page 8

UT vs. Nebraska

Saturday at 3 p.m., Frank Erwin Center

half-court press



Texas spotlight

J'Covan Brown, Point guard

After Monday's blowout loss to Kansas, Texas coach Rick Barnes announced that J'Covan Brown would be the starting point guard against Nebraska.

Brown provided the spark at the point that nearly ignited a Texas comeback and brought the Horns to within single digits against No. 1 Kansas, but it proved to be too little too late. But it also proved that Brown may just be the spark that this team needs to get out of its funk.

The Longhorns' offense has been stagnant at best during this 2-5 stretch, but with Brown and his offensive potential at point guard, he has the potential to breathe some life back into it.

— Chris Tavarez

Nebraska spotlight

Ryan Anderson, Guard

Nebraska has a much better shot at beating Texas than anyone may realize. Not because they're on the upswing (which they may be after losing to Baylor by just two), but because Texas has just been that bad lately. But if they want to actually release some of that anger from the Big 12 title game, Anderson will have to show up.

Anderson is the Cornhuskers' only scorer who is averaging double digits with 10.3 per game, and he's their best rebounder with an average of 4.7.

His numbers may not be gaudy, but with the way Texas has been playing lately, they could look really good on Saturday.

— C.T.

What to watch for

Time to cut the false optimism

No matter how much Texas coach Rick Barnes tries to gloss over the fact, the Longhorns are in trouble. Big trouble. They've lost five of their past seven games, including two at the Frank Erwin Center, a place where Texas used to count on guaranteed victories. While Barnes may stick with his rosy outlook, he does realize that something needs to be done. He showed that by benching senior guard Justin Mason and pushing his loyalty aside — something he rarely does.

Just what the doctor ordered

Texas goes from one end of the Big 12 spectrum to the other. Three days after losing to No. 1 Kansas, the Longhorns face hapless Nebraska, currently mired in last place with a 1-8 conference record. The Cornhuskers are the perfect candidates to provide an easy, confidence-building win for the struggling Longhorns, but the Huskers could surprise. They took Baylor to the wire this week, and they have a lone conference win against Oklahoma, a team that beat Texas last weekend.

Ugly vs. Ugly

No one would dispute the claim that Texas has been playing some ugly basketball lately. The Longhorns' recent games have featured many more missed free throws and layups than well-executed defenses and made three-pointers. The last-place Huskers almost beat No. 24 Baylor this week, but the final 55-53 final score indicated the type of play they've become accustomed to. Baylor shot 40 percent in the game. Nebraska shot 31.6 percent. The Huskers average just 65.8 points per game.

— Blake Hurtik

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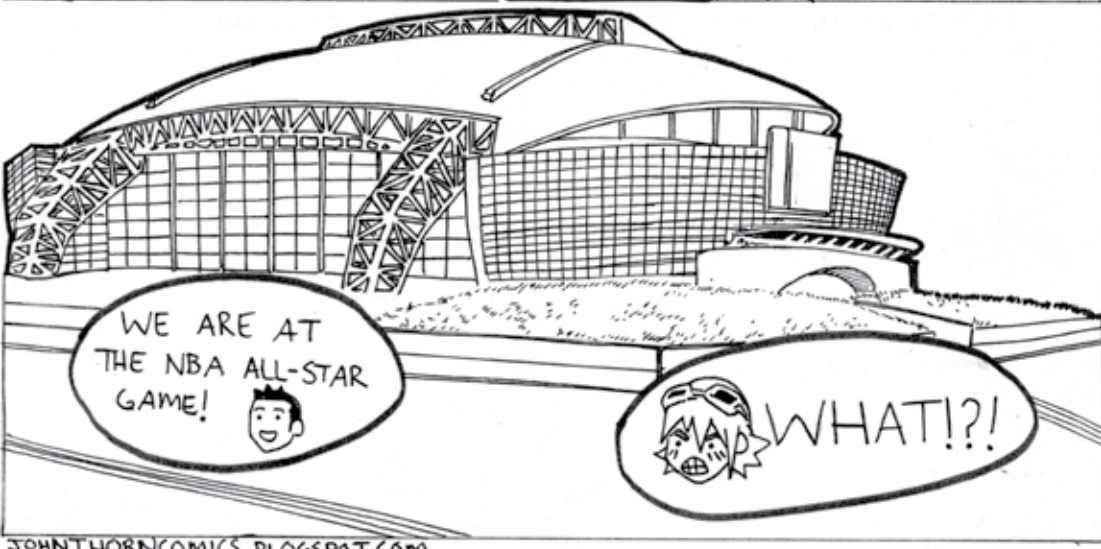
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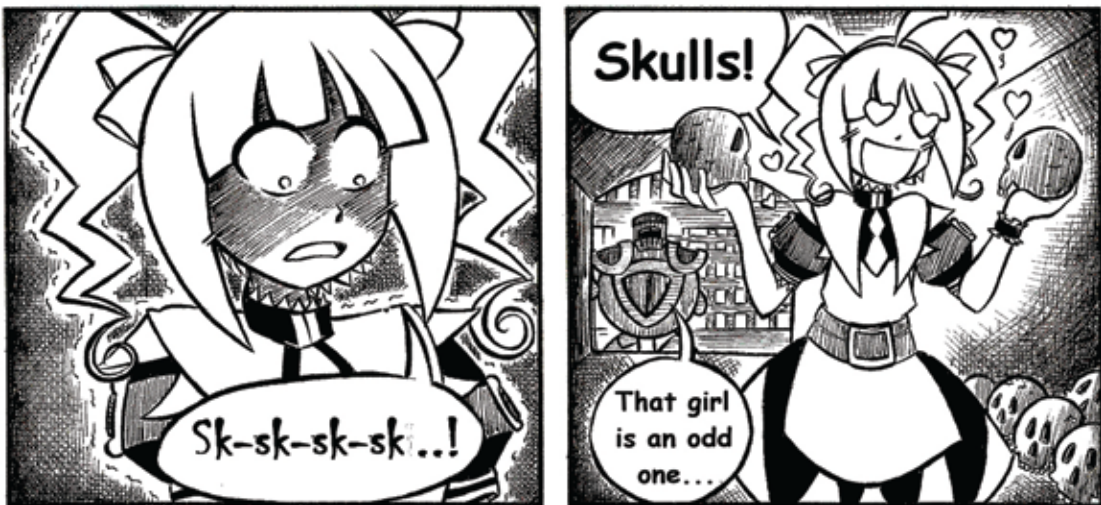
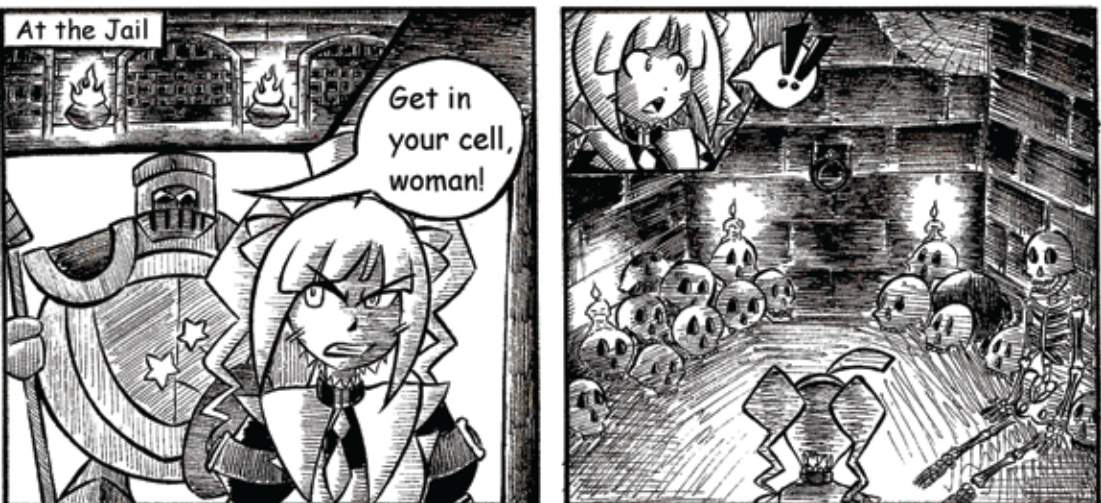


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Yesterday's solution

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5	6	1	7	4	8	9	3	2



Ellysium



The New York Times Crossword

Edited by Will Shortz No. 0108

Across

1 Repeat offenders?

5 Cover

11 Ask too much?

14 Sarcastic reply

15 Unsuitable for mixed company

16 Note traded for bills

17 "That's how it looks to me, anyway"

20 Cheers

21 Weak heart, for example?

22 Does badly at the box office

24 Rubber

27 Org. that awaits your return

28 Hightail

31 In the vicinity of

34 John no one knows

35 Like some glasswork

36 13th-century literary classic

37 Night light used by Sherlock Holmes

40 Therapist's comment

41 King defeated at Châlons

42 Disembarrass

43 Cricket match

44 Eye shadow?

45 Put in one's (interfere)

46 Mason's assistant

48 "South Park" boy

50 1950s-'60s actor known as the Switchblade Kid

52 White robe wearers

55 Crows and others

60 French dip's dip

61 Chevy model discontinued in 2001

62 Deadfall, e.g.

63 Jack, for one

64 Docile marine mammal

65 Daring, in a way

Down

1 Plame affair org.

2 Things used during crunch time?

3 Extreme exposure

4 Follow closely

5 "Vamoosel"

6 Cheat, slangily

7 Clive Cussler best seller made into a 1980 film

8 Member of Sauron's army

9 Miss

10 Dings

11 Charles IX's court poet

12 It may be played for money

13 Ball, quinquennial dance in Harry Potter

18 Irritated reactions

19 1995 thriller about identity theft

22 Chocolate chip, e.g.

23 Stir to action

25 Land

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE

J	I	M	A	M	S		P	A	G	E	A	N	T	S
A	R	R	I	V	A	L	M	E	D	E	V	A	C	
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N	E	S	T	E	D			C	O	N	T	R	O	L

Puzzle by Patrick Berry

26 Speedy Gonzales cry

29 Words that affect one's standing?

30 Father Time's prop

32 Monk's first name on "Monk"

33 Stopped flowing

38 Thorn, once

39 Acted as an informant

47 Muddies up

49 Carriage trade

50 Goya's "La Desnuda"

51 1989 Radio Hall of Fame inductee

53 Italian boxer Benvenuti

54 Not just nibble

56 Prompter action



57 Practice overseers: Abbr.

58 Not just nudge

59 Invisible ink user

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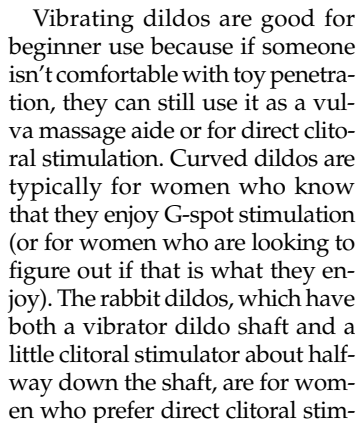
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"I think it's a very congenial program," she said. "I had my book launch at BookPeople this weekend, and lots of friends came that I met through the program. It was really great."

It's important to remember that, like any other sex toy, the Silver Bullet needs to be washed with soap and water and stored in a cool, dry place after use. The other most basic sex toy is a dildo. A dildo can come in a di-



Masturbation can be really fulfilling, be it with or without your partner. Some people, especially young people, sometimes balk at toy use as if it were a fetish or a crutch for people with unfulfilled sex lives with real people. "There is no such thing as cheating when you are exploring your body's sexual potential," wrote Claire Cavanah and Rachel Venning, famed founders of sex-toy megashop Babeland, in their new book "Moregasm: Babeland's Guide to Mind-Blowing Sex." "Vibration brings blood flow and just plain feels good. Are you cheating if you whip up a cake with an electric mixer instead of a spoon?"

make sure you don't run out and get a cheap jelly rubber toy. The jelly rubber toys are often fun to look at and pretty widely available at lower quality novelty sex shops, but studies have shown

ed like a silicone, elastomer, hard plastic or acrylic toy.

If you don't have enough cash to get a high-quality toy — the best can be up to \$150 — then make sure to at least wrap a cheap

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CAFE: Artist urges students to fight for music venue

From page 12

initially drawn to Austin for its vibrant music offerings and its openness to genre-flouting musicians like himself.

“The reason I moved here is the culture of live music — any night of the week, you can come up with different genres and, even more importantly, you find Texas music with genres that wouldn’t fit in a music bin for, say, rock or folk or hip-hop,” he said. “You find musicians that work in all of these genres constantly, musicians that defy easy categorization. And I think that defines the Austin sound the most, this cross-pollination of different root forms, different pop forms, all across the board.”

Forsyth extolled the venue as a “department” that is just as important to the UT campus as the English department, citing its cultural significance to students.

“I think it’s important that the Union be used for students; I think its Open Mic night is one of those great things that songwriters who need a new place to go can go to. That’s the type of music that exists outside the music department,” he said. “Here’s something that’s really important: Most people in the world get their poetry from a song. That’s the most used method of communicating word and rhyme. The cafe is definitely one of them; it’s a poetry department.”

Forsyth urged the Austin community, and UT students especially, to fight for the Cactus Cafe to stay open.

“I hope that all of the UT students — if they have an interest and if they feel it in their heart — would stand up for the Cactus Cafe,” he said, choosing his words carefully. “It may not be as flashy as the sports program, but I think in their own private space, it’s something really ... incredible.”

‘Wolfman’ characters lack development

By John Ross Harden
Daily Texan Staff

According to popular folklore, the only way to stop a werewolf is to shoot it with a silver bullet.

We may need several silver bullets to halt director Joe Johnston’s most recent project, “The Wolfman,” from joining the list of recent sub-par monster flicks.

Based on the 1941 classic “The Wolf Man,” this modern rendition that opens in theaters today is a shining example of trying to do too much with too little.

The film opens with Lawrence Talbot (Benicio Del Toro), a famed stage actor in America, returning home to his family estate in Britain after receiving word of his brother’s sudden slaughter. Upon arrival, Talbot is introduced to his deceased brother’s fiancée, Gwen (Emily Blunt), which sparks an instant attraction. The perceived love between the two is emphasized heavily by Johnston through many irrelevant scenes of the two flirting and eventually locking lips.

This attraction acts as a driving force for Talbot to remain at the estate, all the while investigating the details surrounding his brother’s gruesome death.

While pursuing his inquiry, Lawrence is attacked by the very beast that killed his brother — only to survive.

The vicious attacks, which of-



Courtesy of Universal Pictures

Universal Pictures’ “The Wolfman” is a remake of the 1941 monster-movie classic. Director Joe Johnston’s take on the story goes overboard, and the film’s big stars do a mediocre job.

ten include full displays of decapitation and stomach-churning gut-ripping are abundant in the movie. It would not be a stretch to say at least half of the film is devoted to the Wolfman’s brutal killings.

If you’re squeamish, these scenes may not be to your liking, but at least bear with the story line — if you’re able to.

Adding to the new monster’s current list of complications — love,

shock, mourning — is his relationship with his psychotic father, Sir John Talbot (Anthony Hopkins).

Surprisingly, Hopkins only does a mediocre job with this role. Based on his character’s psychological is-

sues, though, this is almost expected. Hopkins portrays a delusional, self-appointed prophet of sorts, but at the same time, he’s a con- niving figure throughout the entire film. His continual use of the Bible’s reference to “the prodigious Son” when addressing Lawrence leaves the audience stupefied as to what John’s intentions really are for his son.

Here lies a large flaw in the film — the lack of appropriate character development. Characters are constantly introduced to the story without any clear explanation of who they are or why they’re there. This had my mind trying to piece together a puzzle that should have been established from the get-go.

However, the lack of character development may not solely rest on the director’s shoulders.

Johnston — whose previous directing experience includes lackluster pictures like “October Sky” and “Hidalgo” — stumbled into the director’s chair in early 2008 after the original director, Mark Romanek, dropped out following a rumored creative conflict with Del Toro.

Overall, there were many unfilled voids in this movie — from the first drop of blood to the last. “The Wolfman” lacked the seriousness necessary in cinema, especially when recreating horror movies.

Grade: C+

BAND: Fictionist appeals to listeners of all varieties

From page 12

of Pink Floyd and Led Zeppelin. Elsewhere, [Maxfield] was influenced by singer-songwriters like James Taylor and Joni Mitchell, so it’s safe to say we come from varied backgrounds.”

Jones also cited Radiohead, Wilco and Counting Crows as influences. With such a varied collection of genres, it’s easy to expect the result of the band to be a mess, but that’s not the

case with Fictionist. The group possesses all of the characteristics of a great band across many musical styles. They have indie-pop sensibilities without the obnoxious traits of the genre, playing tunes built on the foundations of classic rock and tempered with psychedelia; jazz improvisatory techniques float on top of post-rock atmospherics. As soon as a catchy chorus hits the ear, it’s countered by a noodling guitar solo and mood-

setting backdrop.

What’s most important, though, is that it works. The genre-switching is obvious, but it does not detract — it serves only to ensure the listener that he is listening to Fictionist and Fictionist alone.

The band is currently touring in support of its second album, *Lasting Echo*, a record that expands on the band’s debut and takes it in new musical directions.

“We took our first record and

decided on the core of that album, what elements we liked the best,” Jones said. “Then we just asked ourselves how we could define those elements and our sound further. We wanted to show our ability to rock and create a big sound, which we especially do in concerts, being a six-member band. On the flip side, we wanted to show our ability to be gentle and play ballads.”

The sound comes through in tracks like “Sunshine of a

Shell,” a song that starts off with a lone piano melody behind Maxfield’s haunting vocals. Slowly, the tension builds until it can do nothing but explode into a fireball of sound, a generous helping of epic layers in sentimentality. This ability to play masterfully with dissonant elements is the reason — if given the right circumstances — Fictionist is going to flourish and quite possibly become a band as big as its sound.

EXHIBIT: ‘Making Movies’ reveals rare documents

From page 12

a rare early draft of the “Annie Hall” script and screenplays from “Lord of the Flies” and “Shakespeare in Love.” Screenplays, unlike photographs and images, are really only exciting when you can read the contents of the pages. This is why many of the walls are papered with carefully selected portions of the scripts. The same is true of memos, letters and notes, which are amusing and fascinating.

According to Wilson, one of the most interesting documents in the show is a memo written by David O. Selznick that chronicles the creation of production designer as a position. Such a position is integral to films made today.

“It’s probably the most historically significant document in the exhibit,” he said.

Wilson made an effort to point out the talent required in sometimes less-recognized crafts, particularly costume design.

“I’ve been thinking a lot about costumes and how they function in the movie,” he said.

Walter Plunkett, costume designer for “Gone With the Wind,” was one of the greats and is well represented in the exhibit.

“He focused on the characters and believed costumes should be invisible,” Wilson said. “A lot of this show is not about the art, but the art of using skills to develop characters.”

“Making Movies” tells us the story of an industry unmatched in the intensity and focus it demands. The letters, memos, scripts and storyboards on the walls have forceful pencil markings, words and scribbles drawn through them. Drawings and set designs are composed of thick and harried brushstrokes painted with the knowledge that hundreds more were to be made. Photographs and films were taken thousands of times with the understanding that anything less than just right was unacceptable.

One section of the exhibit is devoted to the exhibition and publicity involved in promoting movies, specifically in Texas.

“It brings the whole thing home,” Wilson said.

Most interesting is a letter to

the editor of The Daily Texan from W.E. Hellums at Interstate Theaters, dated May 12, 1953, responding to an editorial written in the Texan about theater ticket prices.

“Dear Miss Chambers,” it reads. “This letter is addressed to you not because we think the public is particularly interested in the mechanics of arriving at a movie admission price, but because of Texan Amusement editor Dorothy Campbell’s alarming inability to quote accurately and her unnatural interest in repeatedly editorializing on the determination of theatre prices, a subject about which she obviously knows little, and about which she seems anxious to write factless, inaccurate articles, but about which she is apparently unwilling to make an intelligent effort to find out a few facts.”

“Making Movies” can be seen in the Ransom Center Galleries on Tuesdays through Fridays from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. The exhibit runs from Feb. 9 to Aug. 1. More information is available on the Harry Ransom Center’s Web site.

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- (4) have completed at least one other semester as an issue staff member of The Daily Texan in an area other than the one covered above;
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- (8) be upper-division by the time they begin their term.

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THE DAILY TEXAN



Hollywood history on display



Photos by Chris Kosho | Daily Texan Staff

Above, Ao Meng stops to look at some of the 350 items housed at the Harry Ransom Center's new exhibit, "Making Movies." Below, Steve Mielke takes a few minutes of his lunch break Wednesday afternoon to browse through the exhibit.

Ransom Center offers behind-the-scenes look at movie industry



By Susannah Jacob
Daily Texan Staff

"Making Movies," a new exhibit at the Harry Ransom Center, is a thoughtfully assembled documentation of mainstream Hollywood filmmaking history. Featuring more than 350 items from the center's extensive collection, the exhibit places particular emphasis on the jobs and creative work that go into the production of a film.

"I'm trying to convey all of the work and effort required to make a movie," said Steve Wilson, organizer of the exhibit and associate curator of film at the Ransom Center.

The exhibit is divided by the filmmaking jobs Wilson sought to highlight: director, screenwriter, producer, production designer, art director, actor, costume designer, hair and makeup artist, cinematographer, special effects designer, editor and composer. The list's exhaustiveness alone communicates the extensive, behind-the-scenes work Wil-

son wants represented.

"[The exhibit is based] loosely on the natural order of which of these jobs are needed," Wilson said.

The show boasts big names — references to actress Gloria Swanson, producer David O. Selznick and actor Robert De Niro are scattered throughout the rooms.

Most refreshing is how these materials are displayed: The way in which each individual's contributions fit into the movie production process is deemed more educational than seeing all of their materials concentrated in one space with an eye toward impressing visitors.

Recognizing this fact allowed Wilson to illuminate one of the most thrilling parts of the center's holdings: how the different collections tie into each other, which is exactly what "Making Movies" does. Aspiring screenwriters will drool at the related offerings:

EXHIBIT continues on page 11

Local blues artist spreads advocacy for legendary cafe

By Francisco Marin
Daily Texan Staff

He got his start at the Cactus Cafe at a time when the Austin music scene was exploding with real, gritty potential — and he isn't ready to let it go any time soon.

Guy Forsyth's storied life is about as legendary as the venue itself. As a fresh-faced, 21-year-old guitarist busking on the streets UT students traverse every day, he sought to join the ranks of John Hammond, Bill Monroe and Rory Block — all icons of the blues scene that played the cafe before him.

The acclaimed venue has been mired in controversy since UT officials decided that the closing could save approximately \$66,000 in response to Gov. Rick Perry's orders to identify budget cuts up to 5 percent. University President William Powers Jr. called the decision to "reconfigure the use" of the venue "reasonable" in a recent public forum.

Forsyth, now a renowned Americana and blues musician, said the issue goes deeper than the financial woes that have led to the possible closure

WHAT: Guy Forsyth

WHERE: Saturday, 9 p.m.

WHEN: Austin Music Hall

WEB: myspace.com/guyforsythband

of the cafe.

"This is a real, honest-to-God example of Texas music history right under [the University's] own roof, and the thought they would let that disappear for a tiny amount of money seems really foolish and nearsighted and a real waste," he said. "The history that exists there as an origin of Texas' most interesting and influential songwriters will be remembered even if it fades into legend and there's no longer the actual institution. As a performance space, it's just unparalleled."

Forsyth decried the possible closure in a Feb. 3 post on his blog, calling the venue a place to "be healed, understood and made whole."

As an early member of the supergroup Asylum Street Spankers in the mid-90s, Forsyth was

CAFE continues on page 11



Guy Forsyth, center, sits with his band, Rob Hooper, left, and Will Landin. Forsyth is an advocate for keeping UT's Cactus Cafe in place.

Courtesy of Brenda Ladd

Spend Valentine's with that special something

Wide assortment of sex novelties are suitable for couples and singles

By Mary Lingwall
Daily Texan Staff

Valentine's Day is typically celebrated with food, jewelry and other "romantic" things. And while chocolate truffles and lobster dinners might get some people all warm and gooey inside, I don't think I'm alone in wanting something with a little more stimulation. Whether you are single and

looking to pass Valentine's Day alone in the peace and coupleless quiet of your own bedroom or you are in a relationship where sex is happening, chances are that a quick trip to pick up a sex toy could improve your overall enjoyment of the beloved Hallmark holiday.

Some couples are reluctant to bring in sex toys because of misconceptions such as if a girl starts to use a big dildo, her boyfriend's normal-sized penis won't satisfy

VALENTINE'S continues on page 10

Grad student offers her take on Greek tragedy

By Kate Ergenbright
Daily Texan Staff

The story of Alcestis is a minor one compared to that of other, more notable Greek gods and mythical figures like Zeus or Athena. Within the world of Greek mythology, Alcestis is simply known as the perfect self-sacrificing wife who takes her life for her husband and willfully goes to the underworld in his place.

Although her story is the subject of an Athenian tragedy by the famed playwright Euripides, little is really known about Alcestis beyond her reputation as the ideal female companion.

But Alcestis finally receives her

own voice in Katharine Beutner's feminist retelling of her tragic tale.

"When I read the play, I was really dissatisfied with the ending. In the play version, she's silent, and it's all about her husband and his best friend Heracles," Beutner said. "I thought it would be really interesting if somebody retold a version of the story giving a voice to Alcestis, a woman who never got a voice."

The majority of "Alcestis" was completed during Beutner's time in the creative writing master's program at UT.

"My experience in the M.A. program was really wonderful," Beutner said. "I worked with great pro-

fessors that I ended up wanting to work with in the Ph.D. program."

A doctoral student studying 18th century British literature, Beutner is currently on fellowship this semester and is working on completing her dissertation.

Beutner's "Alcestis" begins with her childhood and the death of her mother, continuing through her marriage to Admetus, a favorite of Apollo that wins her hand in marriage by harnessing a chariot driven by a lion and a boar, and follows her through her time spent in the underworld.

Beutner's novel is an intricate blend of the original myth and her own imagination.

"In the original myth it's kind of shocking how much weird stuff there is," Beutner said. "Basically what I made up are the details of her family life, and everything in the underworld is essentially completely invented."

Beutner ends her novel with an interesting twist on the common model in Greek mythology of women being kidnapped by gods, when Alcestis falls for Persephone, queen of the Underworld.

"You can have male gods going after women, you can have female goddesses going after men, or you can have male gods going after

GREEK continues on page 10

Utah band draws from diverse genres

Musicians try to make a name for themselves touring country on bus

By Robert Rich
Daily Texan Staff

On Tuesday night, the members of Utah's Fictionist parked the city bus they are touring on and sleeping in at a Wal-Mart parking lot because they had heard it was RV-friendly. The obnoxious sounds of a leaf blower at 4 a.m. prompted them to hit the road early and begin traveling for the day. Just after they left the parking lot, the Fictionists realized they had left their drummer inside the Wal-Mart.

Such is life for a touring rock 'n' roll band looking to make a name for themselves in an increasingly competitive music world.

The group formed at Brigham

Young University after a meeting between band vocalist and multi-instrumentalist Stuart Maxfield and keyboardist Jacob Jones set off a series of lineup changes that eventually became the six-piece band touring today.

Like any group, one of the most important aspects was discovering a name.

"We had played under a couple of different names before deciding on Fictionist," Jones said. "That name came out, and it just felt like it fit what we were trying to do musically."

If he means telling stories, then he's right on the money. Fictionist creates a unique brand of music that takes listeners through a plethora of soundscapes, inspiring reflection on experiences past and present, and invoking a sense of tale-telling as if each of the band's songs

WHAT: Fictionist

WHERE: Saturday, 10:30 p.m.

WHEN: Lambert's

TICKETS: \$5

was constructed to perfectly fit a story of countless emotions. Fictionist is chameleon music — put it on at any time of day, under any circumstances — the songs adapt to fit the mood without sacrificing the meaning for which they were written. It's beautiful, really.

The band's collection of diverse backgrounds contributes to their original sound.

"I personally came from a jazz-influenced background, stuff like [John] Coltrane and Miles Davis," Jones said. "At the same time, I was raised on a lot

BAND continues on page 11



Courtesy of Fictionist

Utah rock 'n' roll band Fictionist, which formed at Brigham Young University, creates a unique brand of music that draws from genres such as jazz and classic rock bands.