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THE DAILY TEXAN

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CAMPUS

SG debate brings rare political unity

By Van Nguyen
@nguyen__van

After Monday night’s presidential debate, UT held its own general election debate, and participants found a lot to agree on.

The debate, hosted by Student Government, brought student and state representa-

tives from University Democrats, the Texas Democratic Party, College Republicans, the Texas Republican Party, Youth for Johnson/Weld, the Texas Libertarian Party, the Texas Green Party and International Socialist Organization together to debate state and national issues observed this presidential

election year.

Higher education funding, Texas voter ID laws, police relations, the Syrian refugee crisis and climate change were all discussed, with most representatives agreeing on issues like climate change and components of a solution for improving police relations and the Syrian

refugee crisis.

“It’s been amazing here how much stuff we have agreed on,” Texas Libertarian Party chair John Wilford said. “Hold your politicians to the fire because that’s when change is really going to happen. We all agree, it’s the people in Austin and in Washington that are at fault.”

Rather than focusing on the general election candidates, the debate focused on party policies and issues affecting students.

University Democrats president Ashley Alcantara, Plan II and government senior, said the biggest goal

DEBATE page 2

POLICE

Police effort discourages distracted driving

By Katie Keenan
@KeenanArroyo

In a caravan of 20 motorcycles, ten patrols and a Capital Metro bus, Austin Police Department officers took to Research Boulevard on Wednesday afternoon to enforce a hands-free city ordinance, which prohibits Austin drivers from texting, calling or manipulating electronic devices while on the road.

The ordinance went into effect in January 2015 to address the dangers of texting and driving. According to the American Automobile Association, driving while texting is three times more deadly than driving while intoxicated, and 80 percent of drivers cite distraction as a serious problem that makes them feel unsafe on the road.

“Our goal is to raise awareness with the city and with the public of the dangers of distracted driving,” APD Sergeant Michael Barger said. “We’d obviously like to have people not get tickets, we want this to be a notice to them that we’re out there.”

Police caught upwards of 20 drivers texting or calling on their cell phones during the patrol on Wednesday. Officers on the Capital Metro bus coordinated their communication via walkie-talkie with patrol officers on the freeway who were

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FRAMES FEATURED PHOTO thedailytexan



Katie Bauer | Daily Texan Staff

A kayaker paddles past Auditorium Shores on Wednesday afternoon.

NATIONAL

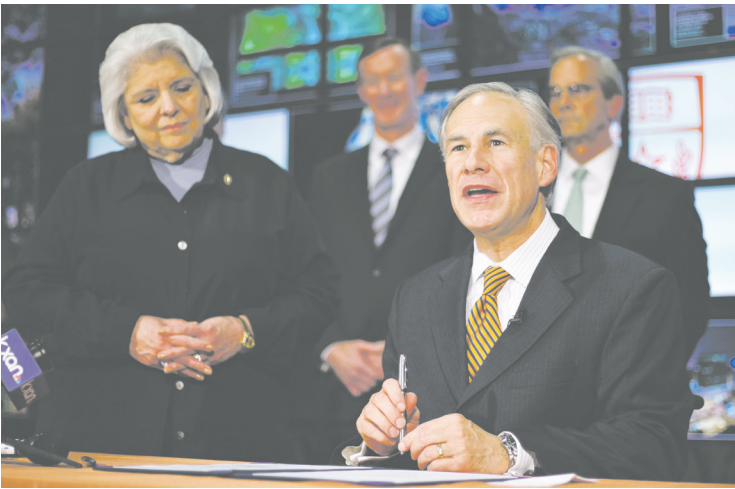
Abbott tightens leash on aiding refugees

By Sarah Philips
@sarahphilips23

The state of Texas recently threatened to pull out of the federal refugee resettlement program over security concerns related to Syrian refugees, a move that the Texas Civil Rights Project has condemned as furthering suffering of populations of the world.

On Sept. 21, Gov. Greg Abbott’s office announced its intention to withdraw from the resettlement program if the Office of Refugee Resettlement cannot assure security.

“Despite multiple requests by the State of Texas, the federal government lacks the capability or the will to distinguish the dangerous from the harmless, and Texas will not be an accomplice to such dereliction of duty to the American people,” Abbott said in a statement. “Therefore, Texas will withdraw from the refugee resettlement



Gov. Greg Abbott announced that if the federal government could not distinguish between harmless and dangerous refugees, he would pull Texas out of the Syrian refugee resettlement program.

Daulton Venglar
Daily Texan Staff

program. I strongly urge the federal government to completely overhaul a broken and flawed refugee program that increasingly risks American lives.”

Abbott said in the statement that Texas had done its part for the refugee resettlement program, but said accepting refugees from “terrorist-based countries” is not something he would support.

In the statement, Abbott

outlines how Texas intends to withdraw from the program completely if the Office cannot assure the safety of Americans.

The Texas Civil Rights Project came out in opposition to Abbott’s plan to withdraw.

“During a time when the entire world is facing the most serious refugee crisis in decades, governments at all levels should step up to provide constructive

solutions and offer assistance, not walk away from their responsibilities,” said Efrén Olivares, South Texas regional legal director for the Project.

Undeclared freshman Jaga Acharya is a refugee. He came to America from Nepal when he was 14 years old.

“As a refugee who has found a better education, future and life in general,

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HEALTH

New abortion rule calls for stricter disposal

By Van Nguyen
@nguyen__van

A new rule in Texas will require fetal remains from abortions and miscarriages to be buried or cremated.

The Texas Health and Human Services Commission introduced the rule early in July with little to no announcement. While it is not a Texas law enacted by the Legislature, the rule will no longer allow abortion providers to dispose fetus tissue in sanitary landfills.

On Sept. 30, the rule will go into the Texas Register, a journal of state-agency rule-making in Texas, and will require a 30-day public comment period before it can go into effect.

Hearings were held in early August to listen to testimony on the rules, but no changes were made. The rules were republished in the register with updated information to clarify some


issues several organizations had.

Blake Rocap, member of the NARAL Pro-Choice Texas legislative counsel, said the Department of State Health Services did not take the requests from public comment and testimony over the summer seriously.

“This new rule continues to treat embryonic and fetal tissue as a separate category of medical waste, a distinction with no basis in science,” Rocap said in an email. “Just like the state abortion restrictions that the U.S. Supreme Court struck down in June, there is no public health benefit to requiring stricter disposal methods of one type of tissue over another.”

The Texas Medical Association and Texas Hospital Association raised concerns on who would bear the costs of the burials and

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CAMPUS

System launches new learning platform

By Van Nguyen
@nguyen_van

The UT System is developing TEx, a new online learning platform, which will benefit students in the System and bring a UT education to potential students around the world.

The Board of Regents established the UT System Institute for Transformational Learning, known as UTx, in 2012 to make learning more accessible and affordable as well as help increase the number of Texans with a college degree. UTx in collaboration with Salesforce, a cloud computing company, will be in charge of the TEx development.

The program allows for real-time feedback and sup-

port services tailored to students' needs.

Faculty members in the program will monitor student progress and alert them whenever the professor believes they need assistance.

The team will develop software and digital tools to help students with their studies. They are also working on an online marketplace of courses.

"We are at the forefront of developing the next-generation model of higher education," Marni Baker Stein, chief innovation officer for UTx said in a news release. "This new partnership will greatly enhance our efforts to deliver alternative and accelerated pathways to high quality education."

The initiative will be

implemented at several UT institutions next fall, according to the UTx website.

"I truly believe UTx houses the most disruptive executive thought leaders in higher education," Vala Afshar, chief digital evangelist for Salesforce, said in a statement. "We are thrilled to partner with this innovative team to build a personalized learning platform."

At UT-Rio Grande Valley last fall, a prototype program was used in a new biomedical sciences degree program. No students in the program were required to buy any textbooks, and all course material was provided through iPads that the students received at the beginning of the semester.

The program allowed students to go through

coursework at their own pace. It also allowed for a hybrid-learning environment, which put students in classrooms, laboratories and clinics in the Rio Grande area.

According to the UTx website, the UTRGV program was created to help fill the needs for Texas' health care demands.

TEx will transition from using traditional transcripts to using block chain technology, called ChainScript, to retain all student academic information and achievement.

UTx is also working on targeting students in technology-related fields and preparing high school students in Texas for college. Students studying technology-related fields will help fill the need

for cybersecurity, business and engineering. High school students who take college courses in dual credit will be targeted for healthcare and technology fields.

UT System Chancellor William McRaven introduced his vision, called "Quantum Leaps," for the future of the UT System in 2015. The mission was to increase the talent, size and diversity in the System. UTx will be a step to accomplish this goal, McRaven said.

"UTx is advancing innovative and sustainable models of education," McRaven said in a statement. "Our goal is to smooth the road for thousands of students to high-quality learning and a rewarding career."

ABORTION

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cremaions in a joint letter to the department.

They also asked the department to reconsider the rules for miscarriages, ectopic pregnancies and molar pregnancies, as an exception was not made for them.

The costs of the new procedures will be offset by current spending on "transportation, storage, incineration, steam disinfection and/or landfill disposal," according to Carrie Williams, chief press officer for the Texas commission.

Williams also said the rules only apply to fetal tissue generated by healthcare facilities.

"I find it absolutely ridiculous that Gov. [Greg] Abbott

and his cronies are pushing this issue," said public relations junior Joseph Trahan, communications director for University Democrats.

"Requiring a cremation or burial necessitates money, which often times, the women who are choosing to have an abortion don't have an abundance of. A woman's right to choose has been upheld by the Supreme Court, and I guarantee Texas Democrats will fight this within the legal system."

Paige Kubenka, member of Texas Students for Life, supports the law and said the organization is for the lives of human people at all stages of life.

"[The rule] gives the fetus the respect that we give other humans when they pass away," said



Texas State Senator-Elect Bryan Hughes speaks at a panel on abortion rights at The Texas Tribune Festival on Saturday Sept. 24, 2016.

Daulton Venglar
Daily Texan Staff

Kubenka, a rhetoric and writing freshman.

In a fundraising letter sent out in July, Abbott said he would do everything in his power to protect "Texans' basic rights and dignities."

"I believe it is imperative

to establish higher standards that reflect our respect for the sanctity of life," Abbott wrote. "But I don't believe human and fetal remains should be treated like medical waste and disposed of in landfills."

Ciara Matthews, Abbott's deputy communications director, said the governor wants the 85th Legislature to consider the rules in the upcoming session in hopes they will turn the rules into state law.

DEBATE

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of the night was to advocate for voter participation in the election.

"I think the bigger goal of our party right now is to make sure students are registered to vote and actually voting," Alcantara said. "We're less concerned that students are supporting the Democratic Party because that's historically the case on campus. We're more concerned, that because of Texas voting laws, it's going to be more difficult to vote, and they're not going to notice they're missing an opportunity to vote."

All the representatives agreed racial income disparity needs to be decreased in order to improve race relations in America, but not everyone agreed on how to regulate police.

"We need to disarm, disband and defund the police," said International Socialist Organization representative Elizabeth Dean, a linguistics and Russian studies senior.

Robin Armstrong, Republican Party National Committee member, said there needs to be greater transparency in the investigation of a police shooting, while Clifton Walker, Texas Democratic Party candidate recruitment and campaign services director, advocated for a greater use of police body cameras.

Wilford said the police department needs to be given a role similar to that of the fire department.

"If I need you, I'll call you," Wilford said.

All representatives, except for those from the Texas Republican Party and College Republicans, agreed on the issue of the transgender bathroom debate.

"It's little boys saying that and using it as an excuse to get into the girls' restroom," Armstrong said when discussing why the laws are needed.

Travis County Green Party co-chair Ashley Gordon responded, saying the issue was never a problem before the LGBT movement.



Karen Pinilla | Daily Texan Staff

Students and representatives from the Green, Socialist, Democratic, Republican and Libertarian parties participate in the General Election Debate hosted by UT's Student Government.

"This has nothing to do with little boys trying to sneak in and see what's going on in the little girls' restroom, they've been doing that already," Gordon said. "This is all about legal discrimination of transgender women."

Santiago Rosales, Student

Government speaker of the assembly, said the debate highlighted the importance of this year's election while also engaging students.

"The youth vote is often characterized as an unimportant vote," Rosales said. "The influence of the youth

vote is continuously growing, and as a result of that, it's important that students be able to voice concerns they have with the political process, and that officials of the political parties in Texas have an opportunity to talk to students about that."

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ABBOTT

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I feel that Governor Abbott should change his stance because America is built on refugees," Acharya said. "This country is generous and a safe haven for many helpless refugees around the world."

Undeclared freshman Yoga Karki is a Foundation Scholar at the University. She was born in a refugee camp in Nepal and began

her process to become a refugee migrant in 2010.

Karki said the transition wasn't easy.

"I often cried, I was often bullied, and I was even excluded from other classmates," Karki said. "I still remember telling my father to take me back to Nepal because every day being bullied at school felt terrible."

But at the end of the day, Karki said her struggle empowered her to do

better. She feels the United States does treat refugees as equals.

"I was encouraged by myself and started to work hard," Karki said. "I started to make all the bullying and struggles that I faced at schools as my inspirations and encouragements. Since 2010, I have been given all the opportunities that are given to other people who are not [a] refugee."

Acharya said as a world superpower, the Unit-

ed States should treat refugees humanely.

"I don't believe that the action of a few evils should dictate the future of those innocent refugees who are in need of help to survive, as I once was before I came to the United States," Acharya said. "People of this country should treat refugees humanely and generously because I can guarantee that each and every one of those refugees would do the same if the roles were vice versa."

APD

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either on motorcycles or in patrol cars. When a driver was noticed using his or her electronic device, officers immediately notified those who were out on the road to pull them aside and issue a citation. A few drivers noticed the increased police presence and attempted to quickly conceal their devices, evading a ticket of up to \$500 that would have been issued to them otherwise.

"It's something that needed to be done, because even

though the law has passed, we're still seeing a lot of violations out here," APD Lieutenant Jerry Gonzalez said. "I think this is just gonna bring more awareness. Eventually I think people are gonna start learning that we are serious about this."

Many of the offenders that officers run into are not the typical millennial cell phone users, Barger said, adding that driving while using a cell phone has a lot to do with the way electronic devices were introduced into people's lives.

"It's actually people from

the 25 age group on up that are statistically likely to be using their cell phones," Barger said. "The younger generation has actually been taught, from the moment that they start learning how to drive, that using a cell phone is not appropriate."

Ariana Rivera, international relations and global studies junior, said enforcing the hands-free law is essential to ensuring people drive safely, in addition to abiding by other traffic laws.

"I feel like everybody just crosses wherever they please, and I feel like if you're not

paying attention you can definitely hurt somebody," Rivera said, admitting that she also texts and drives. "I do kind of regularly, which I shouldn't, because I know something can happen in a second."

First-time offenders have the chance to obtain a reduction on their fine amount if they purchase a Bluetooth device, Gonzalez said. If the offender refrains from receiving a second violation in the three months after they received their first, they could have the ticket removed from their record.

WORLD

Lecturer talks favelas, dark side of Olympics

By Wesley Story
@wesleystory0

In 2009, Rio de Janeiro’s municipal government published a list of 119 favelas, or Brazilian slums located in urban areas, to be partially or fully removed before 2016.

Bianca Freire-Medeiros, visiting professor from the University of São Paulo, led a lecture on Wednesday titled “Rise and Fall of the Touristic Favela in the Olympic City.” Freire-Medeiros discussed the consequences of favela tourism in Rio de Janeiro in the context of the 2016 Olympic Games.

In Rio, it’s hardly possible to overlook the poverty and inequality that affect many citizens’ lives. However, tourism was used as social justification by those in charge to redefine favelas in symbolic and physical terms, Freire-Medeiro said.

“Two apparently incompatible logics took place at the same time,” Freire-Medeiros said. “On the one hand, favelas were embraced, not only as

territories of tourist potential and economic opportunity but also as a fundamental part of the Brazilian national myth. But on the other hand, those same territories ... were deemed either invisible or disposable.”

Security in and surrounding the city was increased in preparation for the games. In the first week of the Rio Olympics, the metropolitan region of Rio registered 59 armed shoot-outs, an average of 8.4 per day, or almost double the previous week. Many of the favela residents also reported human rights violations, such as home invasions and threats by the police, according to Amnesty International, a human rights organization.

The games have a history of leaving cities in debt. According to Fortune Magazine, Sochi, Russia in 2014 and Montreal, Canada in 1976 experienced similar effects.

“I’m interested in economic development, so I often think about city planning and mega events like

the Olympics,” said Allison Long, community and regional planning graduate student. “Cities always want the big football stadium or next professional sports team, but who does that actually benefit? Sometimes it’s not good for the economy at all.”

Instead of investing on infrastructure in the favelas, already existing investments were radically downsized in order to help pay for construction. Cheaper short-term measures were preferred such as the demolition of settlements and forced convictions.

Paloma Diaz, scholarly programs director and faculty liaison for the Teresa Lozano Long Institute of Latin American Studies, helped coordinate the speaker series. Diaz said the Institute’s lectures feature speakers who are using new tools to help with their research.

“We want to show other scholars that these different tools are emerging every day, and they’re there to enhance their work,” Diaz said.

Bianca Freire-Medeiros, visiting professor from the University of São Paulo, speaks to an audience at the Nettie Lee Benson Latin American Collection on Wednesday.



Gabriel Lopez
Daily Texan Staff

CAMPUS

Guest lecturer tells students to balance digital, real worlds

By Reagan Ritterbush
@Reagan0720

Lara Putnam, professor and chair of history at the University of Pittsburgh, spoke Wednesday at Garrison Hall on the importance of digital research and its impact on future historians’ researching practices.

“We don’t own the past and never will,” Putnam said. “But we can learn to understand its implications on society using different methods of research.”

Putnam discussed the role of historians finding societal connections across different scales of time and criticizing sources in order to gain a better understanding of how to pick out good information from a source. She emphasized how digital research will make it easier for historians to do their job by being able to compare data from different time periods.

“Being able to aggregate data sources digitally will

help historians connect societies across time on a transnational level,” Putnam said. “It will also allow historians to share their findings with the public without an intermediate.”

Putnam, however, stressed the need for future historians to not only learn and use digital research, but to incorporate those skills into the old forms of data research, such as primary and secondary sources that include books, transcripts and handwritten documents. She suggested historians conduct place-based research, which involves historians physically going to the place where they are researching.

“It’s unrealistic to say that we need to stick to the old ways of research and to ignore advances in technology,” Putnam said. “We need to make sure people know that the data they see online isn’t just from digital research, but from books and hand-written research as well.”

History graduate student Andrew Akhlaghi said the lecture helped him see how digital research was changing the way historians collect sources and how this new change will impact his future career.

“This has given me the push to think about different research projects I can do,” Akhlaghi said. “I’m going to have to rethink what classes I take and where I want to ultimately work.”

Associate history professor Tatiana Lichtenstein, who helped run the lecture, said she hopes the lecture taught students about the two methods of research that will help improve the quality of data-collecting.

Future historians need to find a balance between doing research in front of a computer day in and day out and actually going outside and getting a better understanding of what they are studying through experience,” Lichtenstein said.



Katie Bauer | Daily Texan Staff
Professor and chair of history at the University of Pittsburgh Lara Putnam tells an audience of graduate students the importance of combining older forms of research with newer digital based data collection.

CAMPUS



Thomas Negrete | Daily Texan Staff

UT students meet in the Multicultural Engagement Center on Wednesday night to discuss the myth of model minority. Students present on the obstacles Asian Americans face in today’s society.

Minorities defy model minority stereotypes

By Sunny Kim
@sunny_newsiee

Growing up, comments from Rachana Jadala’s peers made her feel as if she was not living up to be a proper Indian-American woman. These comments make up the model minority myth, which was discussed by a group of students Wednesday at the Multicultural Engagement Center.

The model minority myth is when a minority group, such as Indian-Americans, is perceived to achieve a higher degree of socioeconomic success in terms of high education, fiscal income, family stability and more. Although it may sound benign and even flattering to be described in those terms, the myth creates a dangerous assumption that Asian-Americans and Indian Americans have overcome past instances of prejudice and discrimination in modern times, according to

electrical engineering senior Alex Bi. Bi is a co-director of The Asian Desi Pacific Islander American Collective, which hosted the discussion.

“[People tell me] you’re really loud for an Indian girl, you’re really good at dancing for an Indian girl, you’re really bad at biology for an Indian girl,” Jadala, business sophomore, said.

During the workshop, Milla Lubis, a social work and psychology senior, who is also a co-director, asked students what Asian-American stereotypes came to mind. Student’s responses included phrases such as “human calculator,” “can’t speak English,” and “perpetual foreigner.”

English sophomore Clara Wang, who is an Asian-American, said people assume Asian-Americans are smart, but it’s not always meant as a compliment.

“We’re not being labeled as intelligent, we’re being labeled as competent at

tasks,” Wang said. “Qualities of being a CEO would be like risk-taking, being very bold and we’re not seen as those things.”

Tony Vo, assistant director of the Center, said there are some positive outcomes of the myth such as access to STEM-related fields.

“STEM field professions and STEM field majors here at UT, it’s geared easier access for Asian-Americans,” Vo said. “We can benefit in positive ways but I think that it’s a mixed bag and at the end of the day you don’t get to choose if it’s positive or negative, you take all of it as an Asian-American person.” Jadala said she hopes people make a conscious effort to steer clear of racial comments.

“I think that the first step is being aware that you have these prejudices and the second step is just unlearning [common stereotypes],” Jadala said. “Expose yourself to different types of people.”

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COLUMN

College Republicans should not vote blindly

By Laura Hallas
Daily Texan Senior Columnist
@LauraHallas

Last week, the College Republicans officially declared their support for Trump. I was extremely disappointed in my fellow Longhorns’ decision, but not for the reason you might think.

Political parties can provide an ideological basis for voting, but partisan politics can only go so far. The College Republicans’ endorsement fit into a troubling pattern of blind partisanship that fails to account for the nuances of party politics. Name alone isn’t valid justification for a decision that will define a party and potentially a nation. Young voters shouldn’t feel the same pressure to vote along party lines this election.

Trump’s unprecedented campaign has understandably put conservative college groups in a difficult position. A fairly simple premise — release a statement supporting your party’s nominee — has been turned on its head by the laughably non-traditional nature of this cycle’s presidential candidates. Both the Democrats and Republicans have experienced partisan shifts in the form of Sanders’ and Trump’s campaigns, but the Republicans were the ones who actually wound up with the outsider as their nominee.

The very nature of a non-traditional candidate means that there won’t be universal support for the candidate. A candidate like Trump could bring out new voters, sure. But what about the Republicans who are left?

“[An outsider] does make the [traditional] party support a little bit less

“
The College Republicans’ endorsement fit into a troubling pattern of blind partisanship that fails to account for the nuances of party politics.

pronounced,” government professor Christopher Wlezien said. “The positive support from all Republicans might presumably be less than in other election cycles where we have people who are more reliable Republicans, they’ve been Republicans they’ve done Republican things, and people are confident they are going to do Republican things in the future.”

Typically speaking, there is a legitimate rationale to voting for partisan sponsorship. Supreme court justices are decided by the president, and many voters feel that the alternative party’s candidate is worth voting against at all costs. It’s not as though there is no establishment support for Trump — many high-profile Republicans like Ted Cruz and Paul Ryan have, by politics of their offices, been forced to endorse Trump despite their earlier objections.

But the College Republicans have options besides endorsement. They could say they did not feel they could make a recommendation for either candidate. They could go as far as to endorse Clinton, like Republican Congressman Richard Hanna. Even the Bushes, Texas’ most prominently established Republicans, have recused themselves from endorsement or even



Brooke Crim | Daily Texan Staff

College Republicans meet to discuss their presidential endorsements on September 21, 2016. The group announced its support for Donald Trump via its Facebook page last week.

openly opposed Trump. In the final and least likely scenario, the College Republicans could have researched each candidate’s statements, party track record, policy recommendations, and past performance and decided to publicly support Trump as a hallmark of their party’s values.

The College Republicans do not face the same obligations to constituents and are thus more likely to exhibit the ambivalent voting of an establishment organization coming to terms with an outsider candidate. College students by nature are educated, relatively affluent and do not have long

voting records to fall back on. This is statistically not the profile of a Trump voter.

If the College Republicans truly considered their members’ views, Republican values and the future of their party and still decided to vote Trump, so be it. I would happily rescind this column. But the evidence indicates otherwise, and an active political group looking to shape the future of American politics should make decisions based on values rather than partisan label alone.

Hallas is a health and society and Plan II sophomore.

COLUMN

At first debate, Trump’s bravado lets him down

By Nahila Bonfiglio
Daily Texan Columnist
@NahilaBonfiglio

Donald Trump has long had a strained relationship with the truth, and that didn’t change during Monday’s debate. His arguments continued to build upon falsehoods as the debate wore on, as opposed to Clinton who progressively improved throughout the night.

Trump started the debate out on top — confident, calm and surprisingly coherent — but as many anticipated, that didn’t last long.

As the debate got underway, Clinton took the lead, making plenty of mistakes herself, including not challenging some of Trump’s unfounded claims. Still, her firm grasp of policy and her obvious preparation quickly became clear. Meanwhile, Trump continually failed to answer even the most basic questions.

While Trump was still full of bluster and bravado, Clinton made one of her best points of the night. She asserted that in the next several years a country would emerge as “the world’s clean energy superpower”, and she sees no reason why it can’t be the U.S. She tackled job growth and clean energy in one breath with a brief explanation of her clean energy plan, which includes how she plans to expand our nation’s clean energy infrastructure and manufacturing to create jobs.

Trump, meanwhile, was in the midst of losing his composure and retreating into his comfortable space of lies, exaggerations and

“
Trump’s own phrase best describes every answer that came out of his mouth — “semi-exact” — his favorite kind of fact.

unexplained, quietly uttered wrong’s.

When he mocked Clinton for not being on the road as much in the past several weeks, Clinton had one of her several mic-drop moments of the night. “I think Donald just criticized me for preparing for this debate. And yes I did. And you know what else I prepared for? I prepared to be president.”

While Trump was congratulating himself for taking “advantage of the laws of the nation” to avoid paying federal income tax, Clinton moved toward another of her strongest moments of the night: Discussing the implicit racism that is growing more and more apparent in our nation.

Clinton took care to outline her plan and to emphasize that this issue is not exclusive to the police. We all have inherent bias, and until we include ourselves in our examination of the problem, we are failing. Trump spent his time talking about his endorsements, why the system is currently failing — it’s Obama’s fault, obviously — and talking about his plan to implement stop and frisk policies in problem areas. Stop and frisk, as



Daulton Venglar | Daily Texan Staff

Republican presidential nominee Donald Trump speaks at a rally in Austin on August 23, 2016. During the first general election debate, Trump’s confrontational personality often let him down.

mentioned by Lester Holt, has been shown to disproportionately target minority men.

Both candidates performed better than anticipated, but Clinton grew more assertive and self assured as the evening progressed, as opposed to Trump who gradually lost his composure. Trump’s own phrase best describes every answer that came out of his mouth — “semi-exact”

— his favorite kind of fact. If you want a leader who prefers fully exact facts, make sure that you are registered to vote this November. And when November comes, vote. Vote as though your lives depend on it, because in this crazy election, they just might.

Bonfiglio is a journalism junior from Oak Creek, Colorado.

COLUMN

Marijuana industry depends on new president

By Ethan Elkins
Daily Texan Columnist
@ethanerikelkins

Discussions regarding the legalization of marijuana — either medically or recreationally — have made their way to Texas. In June, Gov. Greg Abbott signed a bill into law allowing epilepsy patients to use oils containing small amounts of THC, the main chemical that causes the psychological effects of cannabis. A month earlier, a bill to legalize the recreational use of marijuana escaped the House Committee on Judiciary and Civil Jurisprudence, though it was never given a vote on the floor.

Twenty-five states and the District of Columbia have legalized medical marijuana usage, and four plus the District have initiated laws to legalize recreational usage. Despite some conservative apprehension, the pot climate in the United States is subject to change, and the next president of the United States will have a crucial role

in shaping the marijuana industry as more states consider legalization.

Legalization would be a major step compared to decriminalization — making possession a misdemeanor rather than a felony — which is supported by Democratic nominee Hillary Clinton. She has expressed a disapproval of the incarceration rates, particularly in the black community, that are a result of prohibition, and as president, she would move marijuana to be a Schedule II substance, making possession a less severe offense. The new classification would also allow for institutional research on the plant.

Donald Trump has no clear stance on marijuana. Before politics, he supported legalization, but his views have reversed after entering the presidential race. Though unclear, it appears Trump is not directly opposed to some forms of legalization. However, with or without federal approval, five states will be voting to legalize recreational marijuana use on election day.

Should a conservative president choose

to backpedal progress by deploying the Drug Enforcement Administration in states that have already taken legalization measures, thousands of people could lose their jobs. By December 2015, over 25,000 people were employed by some component of Colorado’s marijuana industry.

“Not even recreationally speaking, many people would lose their medicine,” said Madison Lamance, a University of Denver student who legally works for a grower in her area. “Weed has become a substitute for pills, which tend to be more addictive.”

Big businesses are also capitalizing on marijuana legalization. Scotts Miracle-Gro, a dominant force in the lawn and garden business, has seized the opportunity to do what it does best: help customers grow plants. In an interview with Forbes, CEO Jim Hagedorn described how he is attracting a new type of customer. He has already spent \$155 million acquiring two companies that sell fertilizers and hydroponics equipment, perfecting their products with Scotts Miracle-Gro. Already

“
Legalization would be a major step compared to decriminalization — making possession a misdemeanor rather than a felony — which is supported by Democratic nominee Hillary Clinton.

profitable in unexplored territory, the company is paving the way for businesses to enter the cannabis industry.

Though legal marijuana may not be coming to Texas this legislative session, it may not be a complete fantasy, especially under a Clinton presidency. No matter which candidate wins in November, the effect on the cannabis industry will be profound.

Elkins is a journalism sophomore from Tyler.

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INNOVATION

UT students launch loved ones to space with Orbital Memorials

By Freya Preimesberger
@freyapreim

A startup launched by two UT students is giving its customers inner peace through outer space.

The company, called Orbital Memorials, will launch customers' loved one's ashes into low-earth orbit for less than \$300. The first capsule is expected to launch at the end of next year.

When a customer places an order with Orbital Memorials, they are sent a kit with a small capsule to fill with one gram of their loved one's cremated remains. Orbital Memorials then puts the capsule, along with multiple others, into a rocket and sends it into orbit, where it will circle the earth for around two months before naturally reentering the atmosphere and coming down as a "shooting star."

The service provides launch updates regarding the capsule as well as a keepsake replica, a

Certificate of Mission Completion and a spaceflight patch.

UT computer science senior Max Svetlik and mechanical engineering senior Ryan Menz said they were inspired to create their service after seeing a couple scatter ashes in downtown Austin.

"We're both aspiring astronauts so we wanted to bring space to everyone," Svetlik said. "We wanted to do something honoring people, but in space, which sounds kooky, but we settled on sending remains into space."

With the recent privatization of the space industry and by the likes of SpaceX, space travel costs have plummeted, said Svetlik. People are now able to buy seats on public flights for as little as \$95,000, according to Business Insider.

Orbital Memorials contracts the launching to commercial services, which allows them to provide their service at reduced cost.

"The launch provider we

currently have is also interested in doing deep space missions, so your remains would be sent into deep space in suborbital lobbs," Menz said. "The rocket would go into space briefly, come back down, and you'd be able to get back the ashes that went into space."

Currently, the capsule will burn as it comes down through the atmosphere, so the ashes will not be recoverable. The remains are not scattered while in orbit and they do not add to space debris.

The startup has partnered with Austin-area Solace Eco-Friendly Funeral Services and web-based funeral resource organizations. Other private companies, such as Elysium Space and Celestis, Inc., also offer space burial services.

According to Svetlik, bringing new ideas to the funeral business can be challenging.

"The funeral home business is very conservative because what they've been doing for hundreds of years has been

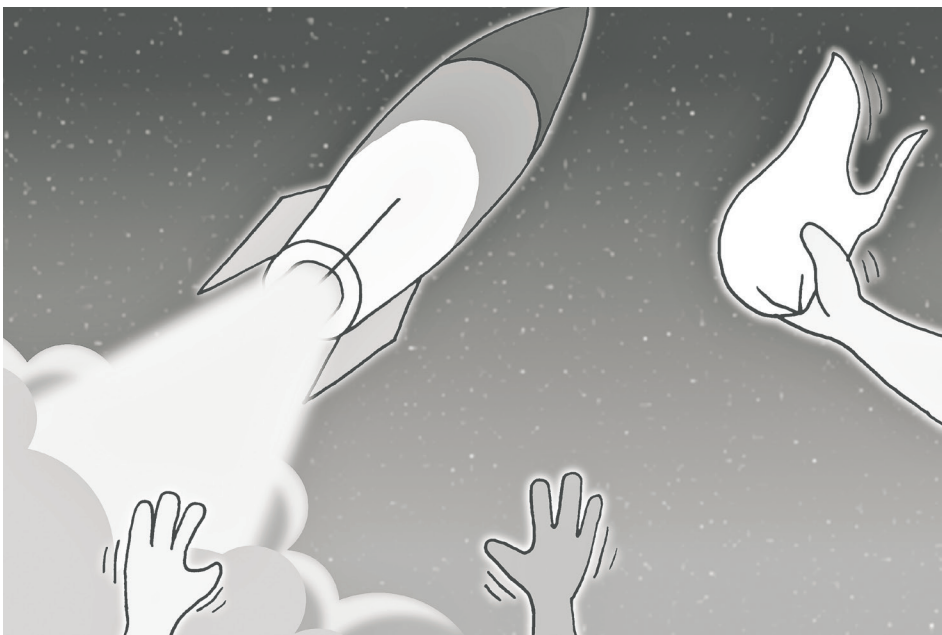


Illustration by Albert Lee | Daily Texan Staff

working, so there's a lot of resistance to things like this," said Svetlik. "It's tough, but I think there are enough forward-thinking people in the industry who will be able to make an impact on a wide scale."

Customers can place orders for the service at orbitalmemorials.com.

"Our mission is twofold — one part is letting families remember their loved ones in an interesting way, and the other is

to bring access to space to the hands of individuals and families because previously it was a luxury restricted to governments," Menz said. "It's pretty neat to see the shift in public access to space."

BIOLOGY

Some bats use more than echolocation to find prey, latest research reveals

By Jack Stenglein
@thedailytexan

Human-created, or anthropogenic, noise is a serious problem for both humans and animals, according to Mike Ryan, UT professor of integrative biology. Ryan recently co-authored a study showing how bats might deal with this noise and still find prey.

The study focused on the fringe-lipped bat, which, unlike most insect-eating bats, eats Tungara frogs. While most bats use echolocation to find prey, the fringe-lipped bat can also hunt using the lower frequencies of the frog's

mating call.

To study this ability, the researchers played the frog calls on a speaker, which the bats located using low-frequency hearing and minimal echolocation. However, when background noise was introduced, the bats could not find the speakers.

This was when the bats increasingly used their echolocation, according to Ryan. The researchers added robotic frogs with the same calls and moving vocal sacs. Ryan said the bats' echolocation allowed them to sense the movement of the robot's vocal sac despite background noise.

"It's able to adapt and flip

between two very different sensory channels: passive hearing and active echolocation," Ryan said. "We're very interested in how they handle the different streams of info and make decisions — when one channel is blocked, can you just flip a switch and start paying more attention to another?"

Ryan said the ability to switch between streams of information is not unique to bats. Humans exhibit this trait when talking in a loud room. People watch the lips of the person they are talking to in order to better understand them.

"We've discovered that some animals have found ways to combat [background]

noise," Ryan said. "We can read lips, but these bats have a much more sophisticated way of dealing with noise."

George Pollak, UT neuroscience professor, led a study in which he recorded the different calls of Mexican free-tailed bats and played them back to see how the bats' neurons responded.

While Pollak said he cannot conclusively link his study with Ryan's, he said the results of Ryan's study suggest some nerve cells in the bats' brains react to the robotic frogs but not the speakers, allowing the bats to distinguish between them.

"When you deal with the

nervous system, success is partial," Pollak said. "We understand aspects, but there are ten million questions unanswered. It's one of the most complex systems in the universe."

Answering these questions could increase understanding of our own auditory systems, Pollak said. Humans detect accents, recognize male or female voices and hear imperfections in music, all of which the brain must encode and represent.

Pollak said understanding what happens when humans — and bats — combine multiple inputs is even more difficult. It is unknown how the auditory system works when the

brain is focused on the input, and attention itself is not fully understood either, Pollak said.

Ryan said the next step toward answering questions about fringe-lipped bats processing information is to introduce interference, like vegetation movement, that affects the bat's ability to detect the frog's vocal sac.

However, on the neuroscience side, the way forward — determining what causes the brain to handle information the way it does — is less clear, Pollak said.

"We know a lot, but there's a lot more we don't know," Pollak said. "It's such a complicated question."

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BASEBALL

Pierce forms relationship with players

By Ezra Siegel
@SiegelEzra

Redshirt junior infielder Bret Boswell took the plate with the score tied in the tenth inning of Texas’ exhibition against USA Baseball’s Under-18 National Team.

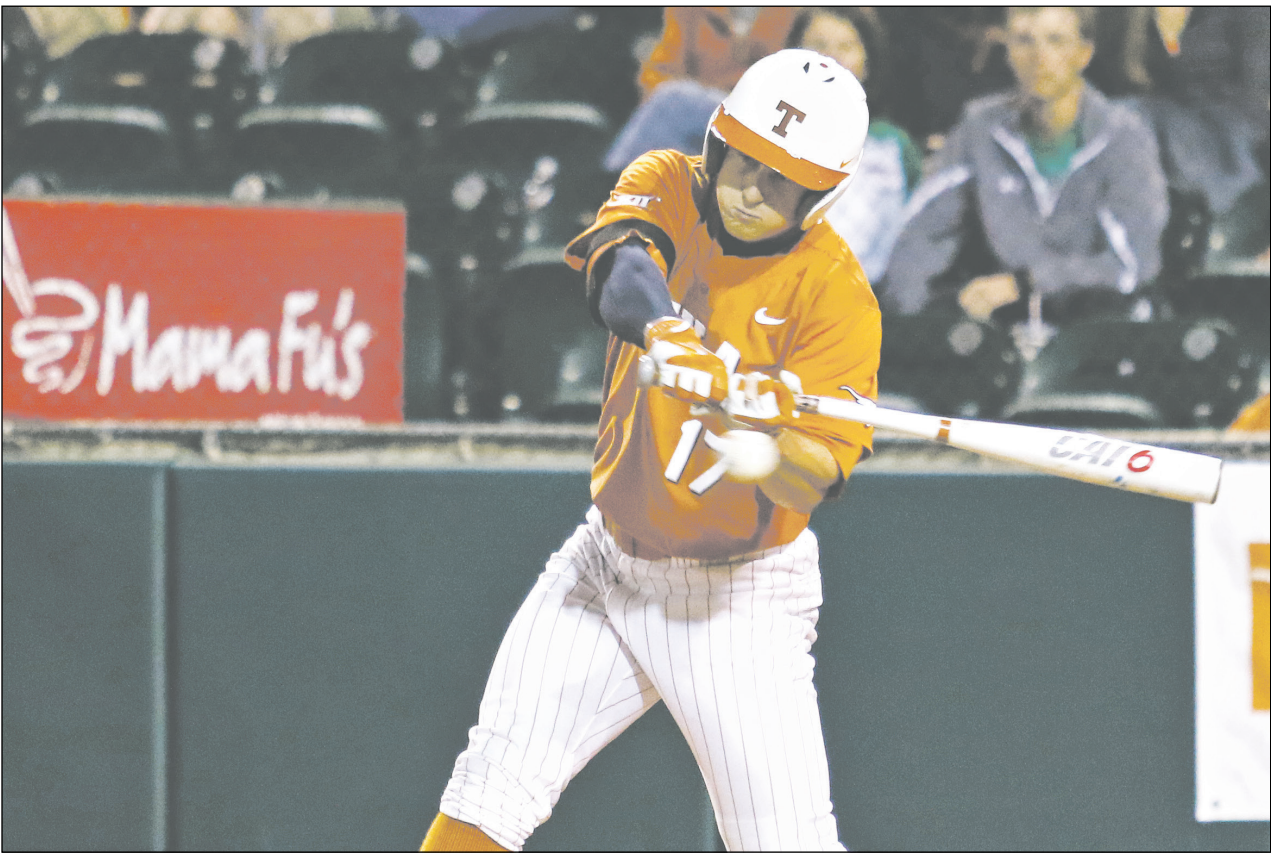
The contest marked the first dugout appearance for new head coach David Pierce. And with the swing of a bat, Boswell blasted the ball deep into center field to drive in the winning run, putting an exclamation point on a new era of Longhorn baseball.

“I think that it’s kind of like a fresh start for a bunch of guys,” sophomore outfielder Tyler Rand said. “You have brand new coaches, you have a clean slate. Everybody’s coming out here to prove themselves and I think it’s just going to be all but good things going here on forward.”

The program’s fresh start comes at a much-needed time. The team finished 25–32 last season — its worst season in over 10 years under head coach Augie Garrido. And Pierce brings a strong resume to rebuild the program.

The former Tulsa and Sam Houston State coach won his conference in four out of his last five years. And now he’s ready to reshape the Longhorns’ culture.

“[Garrido] had his philosophies and the way he did things,” Pierce said. “I respect every part of the game that he coached and the way that they played the game ...



Joshua Guerra | Daily Texan Staff

Redshirt junior Brett Boswell attempts to connect with the ball. The infielder from Rockwall was named to the Big 12 Baseball Championship All-Tournament team in 2016 after going 9-15 in four appearances. He hit .241 on the season last year.

We’ve utilized what they’ve done, and then our job is to try to create our philosophy in the way we want to do things.”

Pierce’s players rave about their new coach. They said they don’t expect a down season after the transition; Pierce is ready to step in and start winning.

“Coach Pierce came here and he was ready to get to work,” junior catcher Michael Cantu said. “He wants to win now; it’s not one year, it’s not two years. He wants to win now. I think this team is

ready to win now, so he’s getting right on it and he’s made the adjustment a lot easier for all of us.”

Pierce said he’s taking the same approach he took upon taking over Tulsa and Sam Houston State’s programs. Despite the different in size between Texas and Tulsa, he believes his coaching style will translate anywhere.

Texas’ seniors have also made a point to help Pierce in his transition — they want the entire team to buy in.

“I think [the seniors have]

been awesome,” Pierce said. “It’s not any one thing they’ve done, I think it’s the reception. When you have good players and you start looking at some changes like the way we warm up, they’re very open-minded and that’s the way the coaching staff wants to do it, so we’re all on-board. I’ve really appreciated that so far.”

While the Longhorns’ win over Team USA’s under-18 team is a positive start, the team still needs a full offseason

to prepare for a full schedule. Piece said he’s still watching film and making relationships to get to know his players.

But the Longhorns insist their program now has a different feel to it. And they believe Texas fans are in for an exciting 2017 season.

“It’s great,” senior outfielder Zane Gurwitz said. “All of the rumors about [Pierce] — being a great coach, a very easy guy to get along with — they’re all true ... They’re great coaches and they know the game of baseball.”

SIDELINE

MLB	
	METS 5
	MARLINS 2
	MARINERS 12
	ASTROS 4
	BRAVES 12
	PHILLIES 2
	PIRATES 8
	CUBS 4

SPORTS BRIEFLY

Longhorns prepare for Orange-White meet

After an eventful off-season, the Longhorns are set to begin their season with the Orange-White meet on Thursday and Friday.

The men enter the season coming off their second consecutive NCAA title and No. 12 title overall in 2015–16. The team brings back several talented swimmers, including senior Jack Conger, junior Joseph Schooling and sophomore Tate Jackson. Conger and Schooling competed at the 2016 Summer Olympics in Rio, where they earned golds in the 400x200-meter relay and 100-meter butterfly respectively.

Jackson said the team feels pressure to repeat as champions this season — but said it’s not necessarily a bad thing.

“I think I would say it’s a good pressure,” Jackson said. “You know, the coaches always say that you’ve got to go into the season knowing that you kind of have a target on your back ... It reminds us like ‘hey, there’s people out there trying to take our spot.’”

The women’s team also has a chance to repeat — it looks for its fifth consecutive Big 12 championship this season. But the team has even higher expectations for 2016–17.

“We want to be a top-5 team at the end of the season,” junior Mimi Schneider said. “For swimming, the end of the year matters most, so Big 12’s and NCAA’s are always the highlights of the year.”

The women return 13 Big 12 individual champions this season — along with a talented freshman class. They face a loaded schedule in 2016-17, headlined by a matchup with Stanford freshman Katie Ledecky, a five-time gold medalist.

The women’s team hits the pools on Thursday, while the men compete on Friday at the Lee and Joe Jamail Texas Swimming Center.

The Longhorns hope the tune-up meet helps them find their championship form before the regular season kicks off on Oct. 21.

“It does a really good job of setting us up to see where we are, give us time to race, and getting us in that meet mindset with a fun environment before there is a lot of pressure,” Schneider said.

—Turner Barnes

VOLLEYBALL



Joshua Guerra | Daily Texan Staff

Freshman outside hitter Micaya White spikes the ball. White shined in the Longhorns’ 3-1 win over Oklahoma, tallying 26 kills on the evening. Wednesday’s victory extended Texas’ road conference winning streak to 10 games. The Longhorns are now 11-2 in 2016.

Longhorns extend road streak

By Steve Helwick
@Naqwerty3

Texas exited Norman, Oklahoma on Wednesday night hoisting a 10-game winning streak in conference play.

The No. 5 Longhorns overcame an early deficit to slide past the Oklahoma 3-1 on the road. The unranked Sooners fought close throughout, keeping the point differential within five points in each of the four sets.

Freshman outside hitter Micaya White led the way for the Longhorns with a game-high 26 kills. She ranks No. 1 on the team in kills and points on the season, and continued her impressive freshman year on Wednesday. Defensively, the Longhorns held their ground, totaling 57 digs in the victory.

The Sooners utilized a late 6-0 run to overwhelm the Longhorns in the opening set. The two teams traded points throughout the frame, as the largest Sooner lead was four. Junior Marion Hazelwood starred for the Sooners, recording eight of her 19 kills in the match during Oklahoma’s

momentum-shifting run.

Hazelwood has been the Sooners leader throughout the year. The junior from Beach City, Texas, was top on the team in blocks heading into Wednesday and No. 4 in kills. She was named to the All-Big 12 First Team as a sophomore in 2015 as well as the AVCA All-Southwest First Team.

Set two replicated the close nature of the first, but produced a different result. Down 23-22, Texas flipped the script of the match to win 25-23 after a series of opportune kills by White.

Texas stole the lead during the third set, utilizing a 6-0 run after the teams were deadlocked at 18. Once again, White’s dominant play at the net pushed the Longhorns to victory. She was responsible for the final three points scored for Texas in the 25-20 set, the Longhorns’ most lopsided win of the match.

Despite Oklahoma’s strong play, the Longhorns ended the match by winning three straight sets. The Sooners held a three-point lead early in the fourth frame, but Texas responded with a narrow

25-22 victory to finish the night.

The Longhorns relied on their senior leadership in the final set. Outside hitter Paulina Prieto Cerame notched five kills in the final set, including a streak of three in a row. Prieto Cerame positioned herself on the left side of the court throughout the match, ready to rise above the net and pounce whenever the ball came back onto Texas’ side.

The match concluded on a challenge from the Sooners’ sideline. Oklahoma believed Texas touched the ball before it exited the court, but no evidence altered the referee’s decision. The call stood, securing Texas’ sixth 3-1 victory of the season.

With the victory, the Longhorns continue to remain undefeated in true road games in 2016. Texas hasn’t lost a road match since falling to TCU in October of 2015.

The Longhorns continue their road journey on Saturday when they take on Kansas State in Manhattan, Kansas. First serve is scheduled for 7 p.m.

FOOTBALL

Defense must improve at start of conference play

By Michael Shapiro
@mshap2

Defensive coordinator Vance Bedford had plenty of questions to answer Wednesday as he addressed the media prior to No. 22 Texas’ battle with Oklahoma State.

After his defense surrendered 50 points at California in week three, Bedford’s job security was called into question. But following a vote of confidence from head coach Charlie Strong earlier in the week, Bedford said he’s only focusing on improving the Longhorn defense moving forward.

“We blew a lot of assignments,” Bedford said. “That’s because of a lack of communication and also bad tackling. If we clean those things up, we’re going to play a lot better.”

Many of Texas’ defensive issues stem from issues in the secondary. The Bears scored three touchdowns on passes of over 20 yards in Texas’ 50–43 loss in week three.

The Longhorn defense shouldn’t expect to see anything easier in Stillwater, Oklahoma. Junior quarterback Mason Rudolph leads a potent Cowboy passing attack, which ranks No. 11

ranking in passing offense through four weeks.

And Rudolph has plenty of weapons at his disposal. Junior wide receiver James Washington already boasts 25 catches for 488 yards in 2016.

“He’s big, he’s physical, he’s strong, you have to be aware of him,” Bedford said. “He’s a running back playing wide receiver.”

Oklahoma State is one of many explosive spread offenses the Longhorns will face in Big 12 play. The conference accounts for four of the top 10 spots in the nation in total offense.

Bedford highlighted the need to generate turnovers against Oklahoma State’s powerful offense. Texas has just one takeaway in 2016.

“The biggest thing when playing spread offenses is you need to get takeaways,” Bedford said. “We haven’t gotten those this year.”

Texas’ defense must turn things around if it wants to compete for the Big 12 title. But Bedford is confident his group can make the necessary improvements heading into conference play.

“We’ve got an opportunity to go to Stillwater and play a lot better,” Bedford said. “We’re going to communicate, we’re going to execute and we’re going to make more plays.”



Joshua Guerra | Daily Texan Staff

Senior safety Dylan Haines chases a Notre Dame runner. Haines and the Longhorn defense have struggled through three weeks, giving up an average of 34.7 points per game.

12:00

9

12

3

6

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4:20

9

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BOUGHT IT OFF MY BUDDY REAL CHEAP, WHICH IS NICE.

IT RUNS GREAT, TOO.

IF THERE'S JUST ONE THING THAT BUGS ME,

IT'S THE BACKSEAT DRIVING.

YOU WERE SUPPOSED TO MAKE A RIGHT.

The New York Times Crossword

Edited by Will Shortz No. 0825

ACROSS

1 Grind

6 What the shaded squares in this puzzle symbolize

15 Brand with a trademark on the phrase "Set it and forget it"

16 Area to roam

17 In a state of entanglement

18 Goya or Del Monte product

19 Sticks one's nose in

21 Soccer coverage?

22 Actress Williams of "Game of Thrones"

23 "Better Call Saul" ailer

25 Ones working at home?

29 Move like the sun in the sky

30 "Focus!"

33 "___ never work!"

34 Japanese city known as "the nation's kitchen"

35 Combat setting for an air cav, once

38 Announcement after a deep breath

40 In a comfortable position

41 One of the ABC islands

43 Years in old Rome

44 Dish offering

47 Where many drafts are produced

50 Collude with

51 Choice word

52 Brunch beverage

54 Rural allergen

56 Larger-than-life statues

57 Something pulled out before turning in

62 Dialogue, e.g.

63 "Misery" director

64 Turn up

65 French abbot thought to have originated the saying depicted symbolically in this puzzle

66 Beach souvenir

DOWN

1 Nana

2 What the gutsy display

3 Like one end of a battery

4 Cold War missiles on mobile launchers

5 Queens neighborhood next to Jamaica

6 1990s fad

7 Fig. in car ads

8 Village leader?

9 Roman composer George

10 Villainous resident of Crab Key island

11 Outkast and Mobb Deep

12 ___ World Trade Center

13 Ottoman official

14 Some, in Somme

20 Choice word?

23 Galore

24 Illinois city where John Deere is headquartered

26 Juilliard deqs.

27 Gymnastics position

31 Way to Sugar Hill, in song

32 ___ far gone

35 "For the benefit of all" org.

36 ___ Spring

37 Remote control button

38 ___ Steinbrenner, principal owner of the Yankees

39 U.S. base in Cuba, for short

42 "Show up ... or else!"

45 Stores for future use

46 Patrician estates

47 1990s war locale

48 Charge

49 Cause a commotion

53 Rippled and lustrous

55 Copier

56 Check the birth date of, say

57 Medicare beneficiaries: Abbr.

58 Park place?

59 Retreat

60 Keats's "___ Dream"

61 Slangy suffix with two or three

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE

T	A	S	K	R	A	M	P	S	W	I	N	G
V	L	O	G	I	O	N	E	R	I	E		
T	A	U	S	C	A	L	V	I	N	B	A	L
A	N	N	C	O	C	A	P	A	C			
P	O	D	R	A	C	I	N	G	M	A	C	A
E	N	T	E	R	O	N	E	M	O	R	E	
R	I	A	N	B	A	N	E	T				
F	A	N	T	A	S	I	S	P	O	R	T	S
T	L	C	T	H	Y	P	A	R				
B	A	K	L	A	V	A	K	E	E	N	E	S
A	N	S	E	L	Q	U	I	D	D	I	T	C
T	A	S	N	C	I	S	E	R	A			
P	O	O	H	S	T	I	C	K	S	S	M	U
A	R	I	A	A	L	A	M	O	A	P	B	S
W	E	L	L	R	O	S	E	N	O	S	S	O

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ALUMNI

Beer Museum offers drinks with side of history

By Stephen Acevedo
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College students all over the country proudly mount their empty beer and liquor bottles atop shelves and cabinets in their apartments. UT alumni Virginia and Matt Benavidez and their friend Cameron Paxton decided to get creative with their collection of empties and educate the people of Austin about the history of beer.

In its current form, the Beer Museum is a mobile pop-up that travels to local breweries and festivals, displaying its collection of more than 1,500 bottles and cans and educating patrons about the history of beer. It will hold its next exhibition on Oct. 15 at the NXNW Oktoberfest.

The idea for the Beer Museum came about when Virginia and Matt began saving the empty bottles and cans from different craft beers they had been trying.

“The collection got so big that we didn’t know what to do with it, so we started looking for a beer museum to donate the bottles to,” Virginia said. “When we found that [it] didn’t really exist anywhere at the time, we decided that we would become that beer museum.”

Although the Beer Museum has only been active

for two months, its origins can be traced back to when the now-married couple met while studying film at UT in 2008. Virginia was already 21 and had been trying new craft beers for a while at that point, but her parents were the ones to open Matt’s mind to a world outside the American staples of Bud Light, Coors Light and Pabst Blue Ribbon by giving him whatever beer they had on draft when he visited their home.

“I would try the beer they had and it would blow my mind, especially their Live Oak Pilz,” Matt said.

The two met their future partner, Cameron Paxton, through a mutual friend and began playing music together as a band. Paxton said it only took a few drunken nights of band practice to realize their shared love for trying new craft beer with each other.

Now, Virginia, Matt and Paxton each play a distinct role in running the Beer Museum. Virginia deals with museum operations, Matt handles brewing and Paxton takes care of the graphic design for displays and runs the Beer Museum’s website.

Although the mobile pop-up works for them right now, the Beer Museum owners plan to upgrade their setup in the future. They said their ultimate goal is to move their



Stephanie Tacy | Daily Texan Staff

From left to right, Virginia and Matt Benavidez and Cameron Paxton are the founders of the Beer Museum, a traveling pop-up exhibit that educates people on the history of beer. The museum will make its next appearance at the NXNW Oktoberfest on Oct. 15.

museum into a brick and mortar where they can have a permanent spot to host their customers, offering both educational exhibits and a brewery.

“As people move through the exhibits, we’re going to recreate some historic and ancient beer recipes so they can taste what beer would’ve

tasted like during certain pivotal points of beer history,” Virginia said.

While the owners certainly take pride in their knowledge and appreciation for different craft beers from all different time periods around the world, Paxton said they don’t intend to alienate people who may

not be as well-versed in the world of beer. They are inclusive of those who drink everything from Bud Light to sour beers.

The folks at the Beer Museum wanted to remind college kids that while it’s good to be educated about all the different beer options, they should still make

time to enjoy the watered-down classics.

“I feel like you’re not going to get the true college experience if you don’t just blow your money on the cheapest stuff you can find sometimes,” Virginia said. “There’s definitely a time and a place for PBR, and that’s college. There’s nothing wrong with that.”

CAMPUS

Veteran draws comedy from military experience

By Grace Speas
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When most comedians get on stage, they’re hoping for a laugh from the crowd. But when Eric Krug, history junior and Iraq veteran gets behind the mic, he just hopes the show ends without anyone throwing a punch.

“I realize that I’m darker and a little bit dirtier,” Krug said. “Most of the material I draw from right now is the election and making fun of people’s high level of political correctness in general. But I honestly don’t like offending people.”

While stationed in San Antonio in 2005, Krug began driving up to Austin on the weekends to perform his sets. After his service, he moved to Austin and established himself in the area, winning the “Funniest Person in Austin” contest in 2008. Krug said his sets include jokes that masquerade as offensive but are never meant to be truly critical.

He recently stood on stage at the Velveeta Room, a comedy lounge featuring old-school comics and unpredictable audiences. As Krug was getting into his bit about his time in the

war, an older gentleman stood up and warned him that he shouldn’t joke about Iraq veterans. Krug didn’t mind the criticism — he was used to it.

He recently did a tour in Europe and was booed for 20 minutes by a Wales audience that didn’t like the way he joked about its country.

“Me and the audience, we just didn’t mesh. It wasn’t anything personal,” Krug said. “Comedy is a process of validation. When I started doing stand-up, I was playing to the reactions of other comics. If you’ve proven yourself to be a decent comic to them, you don’t mind certain reactions anymore.”

Matt Bearden, a comedian who has been in the Austin scene for 20 years, saw Krug for the first time at an open mic night. He said Krug was the last person on the list — and the last people are generally “scrubs.”

“I could tell he was green, but after hearing him, I knew he would be good,” Bearden said. “I think he offends a lot of people. You have to be a little clever to follow along, but that’s why we enjoy him. I’ve seen every type of bad comic, and

it’s fun to see a good one.”

Krug has a love for the Austin comedy scene but plans to move to Los Angeles after obtaining a history degree to continue his comedy career. As a student and a performer, Krug said he often juggles passions for his education and comedy.

Brendan K. O’Grady, who runs Sure Thing Records, the label that recorded Krug’s album at Austin Sketch Fest in May, said Krug manages to embed history in his comedy and do it pointedly.

“It’s hard to have a five minute joke on being a presidential historian,” O’Grady said. “But he manages it and is universally relatable and extremely funny. His comedy is time-minded and intelligent, and he always has a unique take on something that people aren’t talking about.”

Krug’s brand is his wit, and he continually produces new content to uphold that reputation.

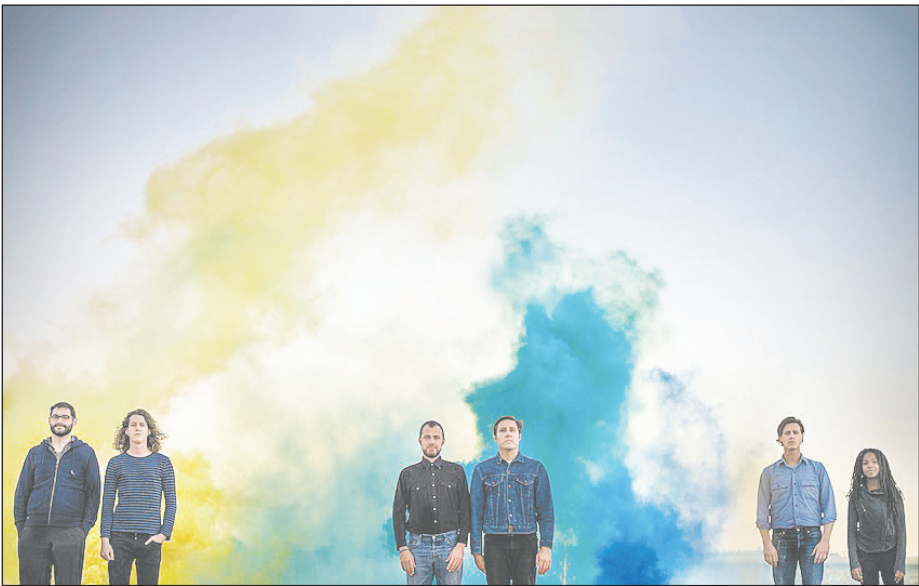
“Stand-up comedy is an art form in itself,” Krug said. “I started all of this because I was interested in being a filmmaker, but I got into stand-up because you can create the whole show, start to finish, by yourself. It’s unique in its autonomy.”



Courtesy of Kelly Dwyer

Eric Krug, history junior and Iraq War veteran performs stand-up comedy in Austin and abroad. He recently released his first full-length comedy album.

MUSIC



Courtesy of Pedro Anguila

Local instrumental rock band Balmorhea will perform on their home turf for the first time in two years on Thursday at Empire Control Room & Garage.

Balmorhea is back: Austin group hits the right note after two years off

By Katie Walsh
@katiehannawalsh

It’s been two years since Michael Muller and alumnus Rob Lowe joined their four bandmates on a stage in their hometown. But the local six-piece instrumental group Balmorhea is back and will perform on their home turf Thursday at Empire Control Room & Garage. The Daily Texan spoke to co-founder Muller about the band’s early days, its ties to West Texas and their upcoming album.

The Daily Texan: You and Rob met here in Austin while he was at UT. What was it like in those early days when you guys were first starting to mess around with music together?

Michael Muller: We were both so young, I don’t think we had any clue as to the scene or the industry or business side [of music.] We just had some song ideas and started playing together and realized we had a mutual connection and fondness for the same style of music. We were pretty naive to everything ... Now here we are 10 years later.

DT: The songs y’all write “reflect motifs of the American Southwest,” according to the band’s website. Why is that landscape

so important to you guys?

MM: It just sort of made sense. When we were thinking of a narrative for what the songs felt like, it felt like that landscape — the starkness of it. It’s extremely beautiful, but also intense in a way, and almost frightening because it’s so open and you don’t know what’s out there.

If you listen to our records and drive around out there, you get a sense of what we were thinking about. The music is totally open to interpretation, which is also what we like — anyone in the world can put their own emotions or feelings to go along with it.

DT: There is so much discussion of how it’s nearly impossible to support yourself as a full-time musician in this city today. Was that not the case back when you guys were starting out?

MM: We only recently started making money. The first eight tours we did we lost money, and the only way we were making any sort of profit was from getting songs placed in advertisements, films and television shows.

It’s totally a passion thing — playing and making music. We both had other jobs and still had to pay the bills.

DT: What can we

expect of y’all’s upcoming show Thursday?

MM: This is the first full-band show in over two years. We are going to draw from our whole catalog and will also perform two new songs that we just finished writing for our next record. We are going to be recording that next month here in Austin [and it will be out in] late spring at the earliest.

DT: What is different about this record?

MM: In the past, we have always collaborated with everyone to come up with the full structure of each song. But with this record, we were sort of on a hiatus as a full band, so Rob and I just went into our rehearsal space with a bunch of riffs and loops, and since last March [we’ve] fleshed out each song, spending countless hours on each one.

On the last 7-inch record and Stranger, there was a little more experimentation and contemporary synthesizers and electronic components, and with the new one it’s even more so. It’s a little more sparse. It’s more akin to the Constellations record, which was more classical and dark.

Balmorhea will play a show at Empire Control Room & Garage Thursday at 7 p.m.