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CAMPUS

Faculty choose UT childcare

By Madlin Mekelberg
@madlinmeke

While UT students across campus spend their days studying, there are more than 400 children finger painting, solving puzzles, playing catch and eating snacks at the UT Child Development Center.

The center consists of two schools where students, faculty and staff can enroll their children between the ages of six weeks and five years for year-round childcare.

"We divide the children up by their age and we provide developmentally appropriate activities to help them grow intellectually,

physically, socially and emotionally," director Hara Cootes said. "We've got the leaping frogs class, the dolphins class and other names like that so they can build a community within their classroom."

Maria Perez, a childcare specialist at the center, said she teaches two- and

three-year-olds in her "osito class," or "little bear class."

"In this age group, you can see their cognitive skills start kicking in and they start having a dialect with their peers and learning about sharing and having respect for each other," Perez said. "As the

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Jonathan Garza / Daily Texan Staff

The UT Child Development Center offers year-round enrollment for children of students, faculty and staff.

STUDENT GOVERNMENT

GSA elections to include executive alliances

By Nicole Cobler
@nicolecobler

When graduate students vote in Graduate Student Assembly elections Wednesday and Thursday, they will choose between executive alliances running for the presidential and vice-presidential positions for the first time in the organization's history.

In the past, students ran independently, and those elected president and vice president had no say in their partnership.

Presidential candidate Frank Male and running mate Virginia Luehrsen will run in alliance against presidential candidate David Villarreal and running mate Brian Wilkey. Both pairs focus on issues including graduate student tuition policies and the need for increased community involvement.

Last year, roughly 1,000 of the 11,000 graduate students at UT voted in the elections.

Villarreal, a history graduate student, said that he and Wilkey would focus on promoting graduate health and self-care, affordable housing, expanding the graduate-student voice, and maximizing graduate student resources.

Villarreal said he chose Wilkey as his running mate because of Wilkey's desire for efficiency in GSA. Although both candidates each have one year of experience in GSA, Villarreal said his close relationship with Columbia Mishra, the current GSA president, makes him qualified for the position.

"In some ways we're running as outsiders, which I think is actually a strength of ours,"

Villarreal said. "The job of the vice president is to manage and run the assembly meetings, and I thought, in many ways, [Wilkey] is already doing this job, so he would be an ideal candidate to carry over."

One of the pair's biggest goals, Villarreal said, is to institute a campaign to promote mental-health awareness. Villarreal, who suffers from narcolepsy, said he understands the challenges of finding resources on-campus for health issues.

"One of the only reasons I learned about disability services was from a friend," Villarreal said. "People shouldn't learn about their fundamental rights by word of mouth."

If elected vice president, Wilkey said he hopes to create a central database for all the resources available to graduate students. Wilkey, a human development and family sciences graduate student, said students approaching him with questions made him realize University services are not well-advertised.

"Very often those resources are available for graduate students, but they are not promoted and often under-utilized," Wilkey said.

Villarreal has also been working closely with GSA student affairs director Jaime Puente to write a graduate student bill of rights aimed at creating a baseline minimum stipend to help graduate students cope with the cost of living.

Wilkey said although he has not worked directly on the bill of rights, it is one of

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From top left, clockwise: Presidential candidate Frank Male; vice-presidential candidate Virginia Luehrsen; vice-presidential candidate Brian Wilkey; presidential candidate David Villarreal.

Pu Ying Huang / Daily Texan Staff

STUDENT ELECTIONS

begin Wednesday at 8 a.m. and end Friday at 5 p.m.
Vote at utexasvote.org.

UNIVERSITY

Drought spurs conservation innovations

By Alyssa Mahoney
@TheAlyssaM

As drought conditions continue to worsen, the University is in the process of expanding its water conservation efforts by targeting dorm residents' water usage.

Markus Hogue, UT's irrigation and water conservation coordinator, said while state legislators are considering water conservation policies, the University already has several water-saving technologies in place, including an irrigation system that reduced water usage by 66 percent in 2013. The drought will develop, persist or intensify in the majority of Texas at least through May, according to the National Weather Service.

"Luckily for UT, they saw it," Hogue said. "They saw the writing on the wall, and they started preparing for it. The timing couldn't have been better. We put [the system] in right when we needed it the most."

The University's

DROUGHT page 2

CAMPUS

Grad students finalists in urban design competition

By Justin Atkinson
@jusatk

Students from UT have been named as finalists in an urban design competition alongside groups from Georgia Tech, the University of Maryland and Harvard.

The Gerald D. Hines Student Urban Design Competition tasks graduate student teams with creating a design proposal that promotes healthy living for a designated city, with Nashville, Tenn., as this year's location. The contest requires interdisciplinary cooperation between varied majors to assist with the financial aspect of land development.

UT's team, led by landscape

architecture graduate student Katie Summers, includes architecture graduate student Yishuen Lo, business administration graduate student Tarek Salloum, architecture graduate student Mitchell Peterson and architecture graduate student Mark Christopher Nordby. The faculty advisor for the group is architecture professor Simon Atkinson.

Summers said the collaboration between architecture and business helped to diversify the team's final product.

"We pulled our individual strengths together. We all had a hand in each pieces' development," Summers said. "I think that's what makes our team so strong, our ability to



Caleb b. Kuntz / Daily Texan Staff

Katie Summers, Mark Nordby and Mitchell Peterson are three members of UT's team competing in an urban design competition

build upon one another."

Salloum, a business graduate student, said becoming a finalist came as a surprise

to him.

"Whenever I received the

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UNIVERSITY

Administrators unsure of transfer credit quality

By Leila Ruiz
@leilakristi

While the University continues its push to increase four-year graduation rates, UT officials said high numbers of transfer credits present a challenge to ensuring students receive a quality education while obtaining their UT degrees.

At a town hall meeting Tuesday to discuss the transformation of the undergraduate curriculum at the University, Greg Fenves, executive vice president and provost, said ensuring the quality of the

credits transferred to UT is one of the challenges the University faces.

"Students are increasingly transferring new credits to their degree at UT Austin, and, at Texas, we have no control of that," Fenves said. "We don't have quality control over those courses."

According to Fenves, about 80,000 classes are transferred in to the University each year, with 25 different courses accounting for about 50 percent of the transfer credits.

Since 2012, the

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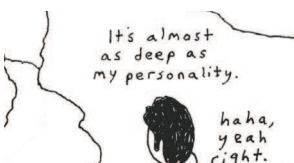
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FRAMES FEATURED PHOTO



Trainer Abel Davilla works with amateur boxer Anibal Martinez at Lord's Gym on North Lamar.


Pu Ying Huang / Daily Texan Staff

The Texan strives to present all information fairly, accurately and completely. If we have made an error, let us know about it. Call (512) 232-2217 or e-mail managingeditor@dailytexanonline.com.

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TOMORROW'S WEATHER

High 60  **Low 44**

Vegetarian with a side of mystery meat. Petroleum engineering

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University has campaigned to increase four-year graduation rates from 52 percent to 70 percent by 2017.

David Laude, chemistry professor and senior vice provost for enrollment and graduation management, said he did not think these transferred classes held students back in any way that hard work could not overcome.

“The residency requirements do the appropriate job of ensuring that a student has been assimilated into UT’s intellectual environment and given an opportunity to thrive,” Laude said. “There are a great number of students who matriculate without significant placement credit and perform extremely well in my chemistry course. Hard work is an amazing equalizer.”

Petroleum engineering

senior Matthew Inman said he felt unprepared for the Calculus 408D class that he used Advanced Placement credits to test into, instead of taking the precursor Calculus 408C class.

“I ended up getting a ‘B,’ which isn’t bad, but had I either taken 408C first or had been more prepared for the class, I probably would’ve done a lot better,” Inman said.

Inman said his multiple AP credits will help him graduate on time in 2016. Four-year graduation rates in the Cockrell Engineering School are amongst the

lowest at the University at 41 percent.

The University is working at both ends of the issue to find a balance. According to Fenves, the University partners with community colleges around Texas to ensure that their course standards meet the rigor of the University.

Laude has worked to improve graduation rates by implementing new programs targeted at freshmen. 360 Connections, places each incoming freshman in a small, 20-person group that meets once a week, and

“**Students are increasingly transferring new credits to their degree at UT Austin, and, at Texas, we have no control of that.**

—Greg Fenves
Executive vice president

the University Leadership Network helps incoming freshmen develop leadership and academic skills to graduate in four years.

CHILDCARE

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months go by, you can see how they start growing and developing into the little people that they are.”

Perez said she focuses on creating an environment in the classroom where parents will feel comfortable dropping their children off for the day.

“It’s really exciting to work here with such diverse families, and I love that we’re able to help both the staff and faculty so that they have childcare and are able to go to work and be at peace,” Perez said.

According to Cootes, who has worked at the center since it first opened in 1992, the close relationship between the University and the center contributes to the quality of the education the children have access to.

“We had a parent who made instant ice cream with nitrogen—it was a chemistry professor,” Cootes said. “We have all of these talents that we exploit, [and] I think that that’s really unusual and brings a richness to our program that other programs don’t have access to.”

Admission to the center is competitive — Cootes said the current waiting list for admission to the center has more than 700 applicants.

“Having a waiting list means that there are some families who can’t use us, and that’s very frustrating,” Cootes said. “I wish we could provide care to everyone who needs it.”

Vice Provost Neal Armstrong is the coordinating administrator of the UT Child Development Center Faculty Recruitment and Retention program, which is designed to offer spaces at the center to potential hires and to faculty members who are considering leaving UT.

“To faculty who have families and children and need daycare, it’s an attractive program,” Armstrong said. “If we can provide that kind of help for them, then I think the odds of getting faculty to say ‘yes’ to a position here or to stay here are enhanced.”

Cootes said UT’s center is different from other universities’ programs.

“I really commend the University for having the foresight to start their own program to control the quality and to expand its availability,” Cootes said. “That’s really important, and not all of the universities see that as valuable.”



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CAMPUS

Panelists discuss upcoming India elections

By Wynne Davis
@wynneelynn

A student organization hosted a discussion Tuesday night on the upcoming 2014 elections in India and its current political atmosphere, featuring English assistant professor Snehal Shingavi and author Rahul Mahajan.

The talk, “Is Intolerance on the Rise in India?,” was put on by the Azad Forum for Social Justice, an organization centered on raising awareness about politics in South Asia. Journalism professor Robert Jensen, who moderated the talk, said it was an opportunity to learn about another part of the world and get an understanding of how U.S. trends affect other areas.

“In the United States, there’s been a growth and appreciation of diversity and multiculturalism along with the need to be tolerant,” Jensen said. “But often tolerance is used as a defense against critical thinking and engagement. I think this notion of tolerance without critique is very dangerous, and that’s what we’re here to do tonight.”

Narendra Modi is the prime ministerial candidate for the Bharatiya Janata Party, but he is surrounded by controversy because of his alleged involvement in massacres of Muslims in India, according to Mahajan.



English assistant professor Snehal Shingavi and author Rahul Mahajan discuss the rise of religious nationalism in the context of the upcoming 2014 election in India at the Belo Center for New Media on Tuesday night.

Mahajan said Modi has not been held accountable for his involvement in the massacres in the 12 years since they occurred.

“It’s quite a remarkable thing — a politician who is deeply involved in a series of massacres that probably claimed 2000 lives, and then, later in 2002, essentially campaigns on the

basis of the massacres,” Mahajan said. “The problem with figuring out all of the details of this is that the investigations were done in a context where [those questioned] were subject to large amounts of coercion.”

The latest polls show Modi is headed toward a victory in the upcoming election, Mahajan said.

In order to add context to

Modi’s candidacy, Shingavi said Hindutva, an invented phenomenon meant to revitalize the Hindu religion and culture, is associated with the massacres but is not meant to be violent.

Parvathy Prem, an aerospace engineering graduate student, said she came to fully understand the progression that led to the current state in India and

get opinions on the matter, as she has thought a lot about the matter in the last few months.

“As an Indian, I think the upcoming elections are hugely important,” Prem said. “I also thought it was interesting that both speakers thought the way to go about fighting communalism is going about economic change.”

Mengwen Cao / Daily Texan Staff

DROUGHT

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irrigation system detects breaks and automatically turns the system off. Hogue said that feature alone saved 10 percent, or 10 million gallons, of the system’s overall usage in 2012. A system program uses live weather data, including factors such as sunlight and humidity, to determine how much water is needed.

Hunter Mangrum, an environmental specialist at the University, said UT has installed retrofits — new features that are compatible with existing systems — in dormitories with the hope of using less water. In some bath areas, Mangrum said, shower and light timers and low-flow toilets, urinals, shower heads and faucets were installed.

Mangrum said the

water-saving techniques the University can implement in older buildings may be limited.

“We still have major hurdles, and a lot of times that has to do with how buildings are built and everything that we try to pack into a building,” Mangrum said. “That’s not just a UT problem. That’s a global problem.”

Hogue said the University has saved water by changing the outdoor landscape surrounding the buildings. According to Hogue, the University’s landscaping master plan will allow the University to include more drought-resistant plants.

“Students suggested, ‘Let’s change out the landscape, so we changed out the landscape,’” Hogue said. “We put in plants that are used to the Texas weather and used to the



Hunter Mangrum, the environmentalist specialist for the Division of Housing and Food Services, describes the University’s rain-water reuse system that was constructed outside of Jester West last September.

Caleb B. Kuntz
Daily Texan Staff

Texas environment — huge water reduction.”

Mangrum said he thinks student input is important to making water conservation a priority on campus.

“What I would like to see in three years [or] five years are students consciously thinking about when they turn on

a sink faucet and how long it’s on for,” Mangrum said. “Even a bigger dream than that is that students have so much buy-in that they are creating the new technologies.”

Hogue said he’s working on a project that will have real-time data of the water usage of every building and area on

campus, and he is working with other universities and associations who are interested in making similar changes.

“Not only are we saving [water] on campus, but think of the impact we’re having on our community [by] spreading the word,” Hogue said.

CAMPUS

Grant winner studies developing language

By Leila Ruiz
@leilakristi

The National Science Foundation awarded a \$15,107 grant to linguistics graduate student Lynn Hou to be used to research the emergence of a new signed language in the Oaxaca region of Mexico.

Hou was visiting a colleague’s home villages, sister communities San Juan Quiabije and Cieneguilla, when she noticed an abnormality in the communication of deaf people there.

“I was impressed by how they had their own signs that did not appear to be related to Mexican Sign Language ... and how they could communicate with hearing people of varying degrees of fluency,” Hou said in an email. “I wanted to learn more about the lives of the deaf people in San Juan and Cien.”

It was there that Hou realized it was an emerging new language, which has been unofficially named Chatino Sign Language by Hou and her colleagues.

“We have a natural situa-

tion, something that could not be replicated in a laboratory setting, where the children are acquiring a young language and are most likely contributing to the structure of the language by creating more new signs,” Hou said.

Hou plans to use the research money to return to Cien and San Juan and observe the interactions between 10 deaf children and members of their communities for nine to 12 months.

Richard Meier, head of the linguistics department and Hou’s dissertation advisor,

said he believed that because Hou is a deaf researcher, she will be particularly aware of the subtle nuances of signs and gestures of the deaf people of Oaxaca.

“[Hou and research colleague Kate Mesh] have been able to trace certain signs for negation in Chatino Sign Language to the gestures that are widely used by deaf and hearing people in this part of Mexico,” Meier said. “They also have evidence that the use of these gestures becomes more systematized in

Chatino Sign Language.”

Biology sophomore Jessica Bolen, who is minoring in linguistics, said part of the draw to studying emerging languages is because these new languages often appear in cultures and places most would never expect.

“Most, if not all, of the teachers I have do their research on things like this — emerging languages that show it’s a huge cultural impact and something people will always be studying and learning from,” Bolen said.

UNIVERSITY

McCombs debuts interdisciplinary certificate program

By Nicole Bueno
@itsmorebueno

The Business and Public Policy Program, a new certificate program offered by the business school to all majors, will launch in fall 2014 after being approved last month by the McCombs School of Business.

Three years ago, five professors created the business, government and society department within the McCombs school, the first new department in the business school in 50 years. David Spence, law

and business professor, said the group founded the program as a way to keep up with the changing demands of businesses.

“We responded to part of a trend of the business school to devote increasing attention to the relations between business and government,” Spence said. “Lots of people who aren’t business majors will go on to work in the private sector.”

The program requires 18 hours, nine of which are specific to the department. In addition, certificate candidates will get admission

priority if they choose to participate in the Washington Campus program, recently offered by the University as an alternative to the required “Issues and Politics in American Government” credit.

David Platt, associate dean for undergraduate programs in the McCombs school, said the program is a collaboration between professors from across campus.

“Businesses exist in the larger context of the world around them,” Platt said. “The business and public policy certificate program is the outcome of much

thought and preparation by BGS ... to respond to the interests and career goals of UT Austin students.”

Robert Prentice, business professor and the new department’s chair, said the interconnection seems to be getting stronger within ethics and business.

“Business students need more of a liberal arts edge to get a different view,” Prentice said.

Although no summer classes will be offered, students can take the three classes starting fall 2014. Prentice said they will

accept around 40 students into the certificate program. The program is accepting applications until March 1, though Prentice said extensions will be readily granted.

“I wish I had been able to take something like this, and we want everyone to have enough time, so it’s definitely a soft deadline,” Prentice said.

In the future, Prentice said he would love to craft the program into a major, but the certificate program will remain as an independent program open to all UT students.

ELECTIONS

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the most important things he and Villarreal hope to continue pushing if elected.

“It kind of goes unmentioned because it is priority number one for us,” Wilkey said. “That’s something that affects change at a campus-wide level.”

Wilkey and Villarreal both said their four platform points contribute to their overall goal of increasing representation for graduate students.

According to Wilkey, only about 60 percent of GSA members show up to the assembly’s meetings.

“We claim to speak as a representative body for all graduate students,” Wilkey said.

Physics graduate student Frank Male and information studies graduate student Virginia Luehrsen will run on a platform centered on graduate student housing, community, time-to-degree and dismissal procedures. Male and Luehrsen are both currently in their third year as GSA members.

Luehrsen said the positive feedback she’s received from her department prompted her to run for the vice-presidential seat, and she asked Male to join her at the top of the ticket.

“I’ve been in [GSA] for so long, and it’s important to me that it stays strong,” Luehrsen said.

The 99-hour rule is one of Male’s main concerns. Currently, if graduate students exceed 99 hours in pursuit of their degrees, they may be subject to out-of-state tuition.

“Graduate students tend to already live on a shoestring budget so having that happen would just be devastating,” Male said.

Male said he also hopes to expand the current Milestones Agreement Program, which was created to help individual graduate students stay on track for finishing their degree. Male said the current system often notifies students they are being dismissed only several weeks before the end of a semester.

“Because it’s so nebulous, it’s difficult to know how well you’re achieving your goals and working towards graduation,” Male said.

Luehrsen said the duo’s experiences in GSA make them a good combination to help broaden the scope of what the organization can do.

“Between my skill set of navigating with the other legislative student organizations and my ability to network with representatives in other departments, and [Male’s] working with administration, makes a really good combination,” Luehrsen said.

URBAN

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email from [Summers], I could not believe it at first,” Salloum said. “It was surreal for me. The first picture that came to mind was our first meeting back in November at Caffè Medici. Here we are, after four months, and a dream is coming true. We are definitely closer now.”

According to Lo, the team’s development plan, Greenheart Village, focuses on establishing a new model of urban living and rebranding Nashville as an active, healthy and engaged community.

“The design utilizes adaptive infrastructure, such as buildings, landscape and streets, to respond to ecological, social and economic changes,” Lo said. “Land use and programs inside buildings would change depending on market demands. So, instead of presenting buildings as static products, the design recognizes that buildings could adapt and change over time.”

The graduate student teams from all four universities will make their final presentations April 3. Summers said the team’s success could mean larger recognition for UT’s architecture program.

“I think we have a strong proposal that we can build off of for the final presentation in April,” Summers said. “We have a lot of work ahead, but I think it will pay off with a win — not only for ourselves but for the University.”

ENDORSEMENTS

Campus-wide SG choices

Editor’s note: These endorsements were originally published Tuesday, February 25. Voting begins Wednesday at 8 a.m. at utexasvote.org. Our editorial board will republish these endorsements through Thursday, February 27, when the polls will close at 5 p.m, in an attempt to provide students with a convenient guide to the myriad elections occurring this semester.

Executive Alliance
This Wednesday and Thursday we encourage you to vote Rady-Strickland for executive alliance. While both teams are highly qualified, we’re persuaded by Rady-Strickland’s realistic goals and strong understanding of the limitations of Student Government. Although their platform points are less ambitious than their opponents, Rady-Strickland’s recognition of the importance of relationships with administrators will provide their legislation with a smoother road to enactment.

University-Wide Representative
Mauricio Garcia, government senior: As a transfer student from UT-Brownsville, Garcia will encourage greater

representation in Student Government of often-overlooked groups of which he himself is a member: students from the Valley and transfer students.

Taral Patel, biology sophomore: The fire-brand of the bunch, Patel wants to refocus Student Government legislation away from unimportant issues like toilet paper ply count and onto serious issues, such as sexual assault.

Braydon Jones, government junior: As chief of staff for current Student Body President Horacio Villarreal and Student Body Vice-President Ugeo Williams, Jones is the best-qualified candidate for the position and won us over with his deep understanding of Shared Services.

Maira Jorge, anthropology junior: Jorge impressed us with her support for undocumented Longhorns as well as her desire to eventually work in University student affairs.

Lee Lueder, finance, Plan II and business honors junior: Lueder spoke persuasively during the debate on requiring Student Government members to attend other student organization meetings, an important step toward increasing SG involvement on campus.

COLUMN

Campus conversation on Shared Services has been too one-sided

By Andrew Clark
Guest Columnist

As the Senate of College Councils president, I’ve written for the Texan on a number of University-related issues, the majority of which the organization I represent had taken a stance on. Today, however, I am writing about an issue, Shared Services, which Senate has not yet spoken on, and, consequently, these thoughts are only my own and not those of Senate.

Shared Services came about as a part of the Report on Business Productivity, in which business leaders examined the operations of UT to determine areas where the campus could optimize efficiency. Although there has been a robust dialogue on this project so far, it feels at times like only the side of the detractors is being told.

There are a few recent examples of this one-sidedness. First, a January Faculty Council meeting where some faculty members inserted politically charged language into an otherwise well-intentioned resolution questioning Shared Services. Second, a Feb. 7 protest orchestrated by the Texas State Employees Union and the UT Save Our Community Coalition condemning the University. Finally, there was even a recent tongue-in-cheek denunciation of McCombs School of Business Dean Tom Gilligan’s position on Shared Services published in this newspaper. These dramatic reactions create a dialogue that is harmful to the whole process and prohibit a reasoned debate.

One major call from detractors of the proposed plan is that they want to see the data which has led the University to consider Shared Services. Some of these detractors even imply that the University’s inability to produce data immediately means that it has something to hide. This is simply not the truth.

When UT contracted the consulting firm Accenture to work on the Task Force on Business Productivity, the firm was charged with examining UT operations to locate inefficiencies. Using professional expertise and information on UT, they made the determination that the University could save up to \$30 million annually by centralizing operations like human resources, payroll, IT and procurement. Vice President and Chief Financial Officer Kevin Hegarty then assembled multiple committees made up of UT staff and faculty to examine the claim and verify its validity. It was determined that the figures were accurate, and so Hegarty spent the better part of the fall semester attending meetings and hosting town hall forums to engage as many people as possible on the project and solicit feedback from the campus. The data people seek is forthcoming, but it will not be here until units such as the College of Liberal Arts and the McCombs School of Business

ness, both of which are part of a pilot Shared Services program designed to see how much the model could actually save, have completed their trial runs of the program. The claim that the campus is jumping into something without adequate information is false. The process has been reasoned, public and cautious.

Admittedly, the involvement of Accenture in Shared Services is a complicated subject, which certainly could have been more transparent. Much has been said about Accenture’s spotty history with the State of Texas, during which several contracts between the state and the company were canceled for their failure to provide the services requested.

The sentiment among detractors of the Shared Services project seems to be that, because Accenture’s services were once inadequate, their efforts at UT are destined to fail. The logic of this argument seems to line up with the old saying about throwing the baby out with the bath water. Just because some of Accenture’s employees may have made mistakes in the past does not mean the entire company is full of people who cannot be trusted to deliver on their contract. With as much as Accenture recruits new hires on our campus, I would guess that many upperclassmen are like me and have friends employed by Accenture. Certainly in my case, their character didn’t change by being attached to the name Accenture.

Shared services is not an uncommon practice; it has been implemented by several other large universities and systems, such as the University of California institutions, Michigan, UNC, Wisconsin, Purdue, NYU and Yale to varying degrees. It has long been a practice in the private sector, too. Why? Because it increases efficiency and thus lowers overall costs. In today’s fiscal climate, every dollar matters. Any improvement that can be made benefits the University and all of its students, faculty and staff. It is absolutely true that losing 500 jobs, as the report calls for, would be a major change to the status quo. However, this reform will be done largely through attrition; the alternative to implementing Shared Services, by keeping the current course, would result in layoffs. And, as Faculty Council Chairwoman Hillary Hart reported at the January meeting, UT is already averaging 250 layoffs annually. In this situation, not only does the University sacrifice efficiency, but people who want to work here are losing their jobs.

What we really need is the return of an informed dialogue on Shared Services, rather than charged rhetoric on data and Accenture. Moreover, this process needs to be driven by those potentially affected by this project: the University’s hardworking staff members. It is disappointing to say the least when a faculty member who disagrees with the idea of Shared Services calls the president of the Staff Council a “lackey” for being open to a pilot program. This is not an environment that encourages reasoned debate on the merits of the University’s plan or lack thereof. Let’s be open to the idea of a pilot program, so that this can be studied further. This is an opportunity today to help shape UT for the future and we should not allow it to be squandered.

Clark is a international relations and global studies senior.

COLUMN

Editorial board wrong to call out SG’s efforts on toilet paper



By Rachel Huynh
Daily Texan Columnist
@racheljhuynh

This paper’s editorial board recently published an editorial criticizing Student Government for its upcoming legislation in favor of two-ply bath tissue on the basis that the issue was a trivial cause unworthy of University time or resources. The Texan editorial board, however, was wrong.

When compared to some of SG’s more substantial initiatives — like Invest in Texas or the creation of the Student Activity Center — it may at first be difficult to see why a push for moving from one- to two-ply bath tissue is important.

But I’m here to tell you that AR 29 is barely about bath tissue. It’s about SG actually listening to students’ concerns and acting on them, no matter how trivial those causes may seem.

“This legislation is a concrete way to show students that SG is actually listening,” said Liam Woolley-MacMath, McCombs representative and legislation co-author. “Students have been complaining about campus bath tissue since at least 2008, and it’s become a disappointment that their needs are ignored year after year.”

And there is clear student support for the change. The Undergraduate Business Council, known as UBC, of which I am a member, took a unanimous vote in favor of the legislation.

“Generally, UBC is extremely critical of legislation and often votes against pieces,” Woolley-MacMath said. “A unanimous ‘yes’ from the official student governing body of McCombs shows that students really do want it.”

The editorial board’s other complaints about the resolution were that the legislation is non-binding, and, if enacted, would increase costs and would not affect all facilities on campus.

It’s obvious that any update to campus facilities would increase costs. But, in this case, the University is open to absorbing them. The legislation included a quote from associate dean for business affairs Susie Brown, in which Brown said that “If [SG] can show enough folks are seeking the change, it will be easier for UT Facilities to justify the cost increase.” Student support, in other words, is vital for securing funding from the UT administration.

Additionally, since some facilities like the SAC are currently equipped with two-ply bath tissue, increasing the two-ply order from one building’s worth to a whole University’s worth should bring in major savings from economies of scale.

The University would also enjoy the same savings of reallocated custodial labor time due to less tissue replenishment — higher-quality materials, of course, result in less usage.

As for the board’s complaint about AR 29 being non-binding, Woolley-MacMath said, “As anyone who has ever attended an SG meeting would know, all legislation is non-binding. However, administrators and students respect SG and are reasonable about making changes. And, as the legislation shows, Facility Services is willing to financially support this legislation.”

The board also called out the co-authors for citing UT Facilities Custodial Services for possible financial support when those entities do “not manage or supply bath tissue to auxiliaries of the University, [which are not] addressed by Woolley-MacMath’s legislation.” Auxiliary buildings actually are covered by the legislation, which clearly resolves that “the University of Texas at Austin Student Government recommends a change on a University-wide scale to supplying restrooms with two-ply, environmentally friendly bath tissue.” Though the co-authors of the legislation did not explicitly address costs of changes to the few auxiliary buildings still equipped with one-ply, they generalized cost allocations after seeing that costs of similar changes at Texas Christian University were described by administrators as “negligible.”

An editorial scoffing at legislation that was from and for the students — from an authoritative board in the official student newspaper, no less — does not benefit anybody. Instead, it makes students uncomfortable with voicing real concerns to their representatives and makes it that much more complicated to secure funding from administration.

Neither of the co-authors asked for publicity when they decided to write that piece of legislation. When TCU’s Student Government made the move to two-ply, they made national news in an extremely positive, albeit amused, light. When our University’s SG tries to quietly make the same student-initiated change, it’s publicly criticized instead. “SG covers student life issues, and this is a student life issue,” Woolley-MacMath said. “We’re just doing our job.”

The people that this legislation could affect the most, however, are not the students but the custodial staff.

“If you ask all of the custodial staff in DHFS, they really prefer where we’re at with the two-ply paper now,” Early said. “It makes their job easier because they only have to change the roll one to two times a week instead of daily.”

The editorial mocked the legislation purely because it was about a detail of facility supplies. Well, that’s exactly what all of our custodial staff dedicates their time to every day — the details of facilities — and by calling the legislation a ‘bullshit cause,’ they are discounting the hard work of all the custodians dedicated to serving students.

“I love my job,” said Custodial Services Manager Andrew Yanez, who supports the legislation. “Our custodians impact students every day with the work they do, and I love seeing the fruits of my efforts while remaining behind the scenes. I want to serve without being in the spotlight.”

It’s about time that we let SG do the same.

Huynh is a Plan II and business honors senior.

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TEXAS
STUDENT
MEDIA



Jonathan Garza / Daily Texan Staff

Texas sophomore guard Brady Sanders drives to the hoop during Texas' 62-50 win over TCU on Tuesday. Sanders, who celebrated her 21st birthday Tuesday, finished with nine points on 4-for-9 shooting and added four rebounds.

Second-half surge topples TCU

By Rachel Wenzlaff
@RachelWenzlaff

Tuesday night's game didn't put a damper on sophomore guard Brady Sanders's 21st birthday, as the Longhorns came back to post a solid 62-50 victory over TCU.

"No one want [wants] to lose at home, and no one wants to lose on their birthday," sophomore center Imani McGee-Stafford said. "So, not only did we want to protect the drum, but it's [Sanders'] birthday and we

wanted to send her home with the 'W.'"

Despite the birthday celebration by the team, it was uncommonly quiet in the Frank Erwin Center; the only significant applause of the first half came when junior forward Nneka Enemkpali got back on her feet after taking a hard fall late in the first.

Crowd energy is an important motivating factor for the Longhorns and having minimal enthusiasm from the stands didn't help Texas early. The Longhorns didn't

play well in the first half and trailed by seven at half to one of the Big 12's worst teams.

But Texas knew this was a game they couldn't afford to lose.

"Gotta protect the drum," said McGee-Stafford, who grabbed a season-high 17 rebounds. "We've come this far. We're not trying to give it up."

It was a big game for redemption. Earlier this season, TCU beat Texas for the first time in series history. The Horned Frogs held Texas to its lowest shooting

percentage during conference play — 30.4 percent — and it was the only game this season in which no Texas player recorded double-digit points.

Texas came out of the locker room running in the second half. Two free throws by Enemkpali were immediately followed by a layup from senior guard Chassidy Fussell. The crowd finally stood up and the sound of cheering filled the arena.

"I thought our team came out of the half and just decided that they were going

to win the game on the defensive end and on the backboards," head coach Karen Aston said.

Texas snagged 55 rebounds to TCU's 29. The Longhorns weren't as quick to the basket in the remainder of the second period. But, after junior guard Krystle Henderson's three-pointer broke the Longhorns out of their deficit to put Texas up by two, the Longhorns calmed down and became more consistent in their shooting, leading to their 12-point win.

MEN'S BASKETBALL

Streaking Bears claw for tournament berth

By Stefan Scrafield
@stefanscrafield

Despite losing both of its games last week by a combined 40 points, No. 24 Texas managed to hold on to an AP Top 25 ranking this week.

The Longhorns (20-7, 9-5 Big 12), who have as many losses as most teams ranked in the top 25, will have their hands full yet again Wednesday night as a striking Baylor team comes to the Frank Erwin Center.

The Bears (18-9, 6-8 Big 12) fell victim to the Big 12's incredible depth in January, losing six of their first seven conference games. But February has been a different story — Baylor has won five of its seven contests this month and rolls into Austin on a four-game win streak.

Texas was one of many teams who took advantage of Baylor's struggles last month, thrashing the Bears in Waco, 74-60. The contest proved to be a breakout game for freshman point guard Isaiah Taylor. The youngster had a career-high 27 points, most of which came via his signature floater.

Baylor @ Texas



Baylor's zone defense struggled mightily throughout the game, leaving many open mid-range opportunities for the Longhorns. Baylor is the only team in the Big 12 that can match up against Texas' size inside, so head coach Rick Barnes will need his guards to continue to be active in the middle of that zone in order for the offense to be effective.

For the Longhorns, the season's last four games have become increasingly important. Once the clear-cut runner-up in the conference, Texas has fallen to third in the standings and has the potential to tumble even further. With just four games separating the second- and ninth-place teams in the Big 12, Texas could find itself closer to the league's cellar than its ceiling if the losses continue to mount.



Shelby Tauber / Daily Texan Staff

Freshman point guard Isaiah Taylor attempts a layup against Kansas last Saturday. Taylor finished 1-for-14 in the contest.

BASEBALL | TEXAS 2, UT-PAN AM 1



Caleb Kuntz / Daily Texan Staff

Texas freshman pitcher Morgan Cooper pitches in the eighth inning of the Longhorns' extra-innings win. Cooper pitched one inning of scoreless relief, allowing only one hit.

Felts comes off bench, wins game

By Evan Berkowitz
@Evan_Berkowitz

In front of a small crowd Tuesday night at UFCU Disch-Falk Field, No. 15 Texas walked off in 11 innings against UT-Pan American behind a two-out single from senior catcher Jacob Felts, who came in as a defensive replacement in the 10th.

"I was thankful to get the opportunity," said Felts, who, after three years of starting, has found himself on the bench. "It's been tough waiting. [A walk off] always feels good."

The Longhorns (6-3) were behind the whole game, struggling to get the offense rolling. It appeared that UTPA (5-4) was on its way to beating Texas for the first time since 1971 behind the arm of junior pitcher Alex Henson. Henson shut down the Texas offense, limiting the Longhorns to just two hits in six innings, including stopping hot-hitting senior outfielder Mark Payton in three at-bats.

"Their pitcher kept us off balance," head coach Augie Garrido said. "He did a really good job, and we got into a rut of lobbing fly balls and rolling over balls."

Entering the bottom of the ninth, Texas had only mustered two hits and trailed 1-0. But they were finally able to scratch across a run in the bottom of the ninth on three walks and a sac fly from sophomore outfielder Ben Johnson.

While the Longhorns struggled at the plate, the pitching staff kept them in the game, putting eight different pitchers on the bump. Sophomore pitcher John Curtiss got the start for the Longhorns — the plan was for him to go just two innings. It was the first time pitching for Curtiss since May 24, 2012, when he hurt his rotator cuff in the Big 12 Tournament and required surgery. Curtiss allowed just one hit in those two innings, keeping the Broncos off the board.

"It felt really good," Curtiss said. "I feel great and the arm feels healthy."

Freshman pitcher Josh Sawyer followed Curtiss but wasn't quite as lucky. A single to the right and hard-luck blooper bunt single gave UTPA the first threat of the game. But, after a pop out and a caught stealing, it looked as though Sawyer may have found his way out of the inning. UTPA junior infielder Jesus Garcia had other plans, ripping a two-out pitch to center to give them the early 1-0 lead.

The six other pitchers for Texas combined for 10 shut-out innings, including the final three from senior Nathan Thornhill who picked up his second win on the season.

So, despite being outthit 10-4, Texas was able to escape with the win.

"Runs determine the outcome, not hits," Garrido said. "We played the last two innings differently than the first nine. It was about the end, and these guys got rewarded."

SPORTS BRIEFLY

Texas seeks repeat of last year's Big 12 title

The sixth-ranked Longhorn's swimming and diving team seeks a repeat of its Big 12 championship this weekend at the Lee and Joe Jamail Texas Swimming Center. Texas has not competed since its win in Arizona three weeks ago.

The Longhorns will host Iowa State, Kansas, TCU and West Virginia — the only other Big 12 schools with women's programs.

Head coach Carol Capitani said one of the team's main motivations is continuing the tradition of quality the program has established.

"Each day, during the week leading up to the conference championship, players will have a chance to come with an inspirational quote and have a chance to share with the team," Capitani said. "It is a good indicator of progress made between freshman and senior years."

"Nothing is for granted," Capitani said. "We need to go win the Big 12. The best athletes want to be good."

—Alpesh Patel



Carol Capitani
Women's head coach

Horns chase 18th title in a row this weekend

The No. 8 Longhorns men's swimming and diving team will look to claim its 18th consecutive Big 12 title at the Lee and Joe Jamail Texas Swimming Center this weekend.

Texas has won every league title since the tournament began in 1996 and has earned 34 conference championships under head coach Eddie Reese.

"We have real good guys that buy into the program," Reese said. "They know what delayed gratification is and work hard from September until now to prepare."

After another strong season, the Longhorn men are favored to win the title this weekend. "This is a meet where you're going to see real good swimmers," Reese said. "You're going to see a number of people that will be on the 2016 Olympic team, and when the NCAA's come here, you will see a lot of them that are going to be there."

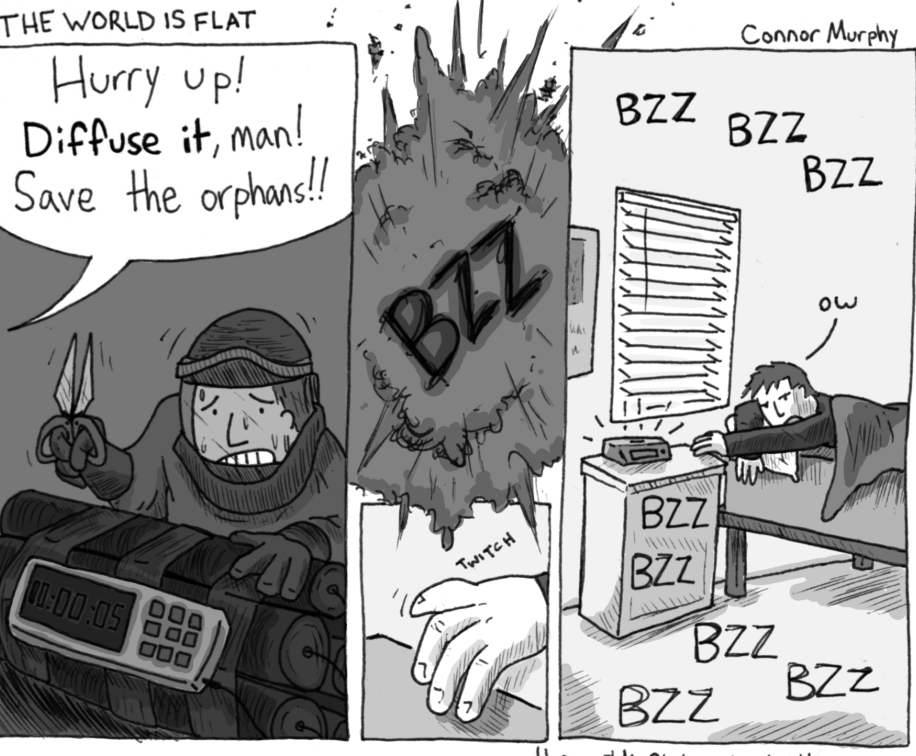
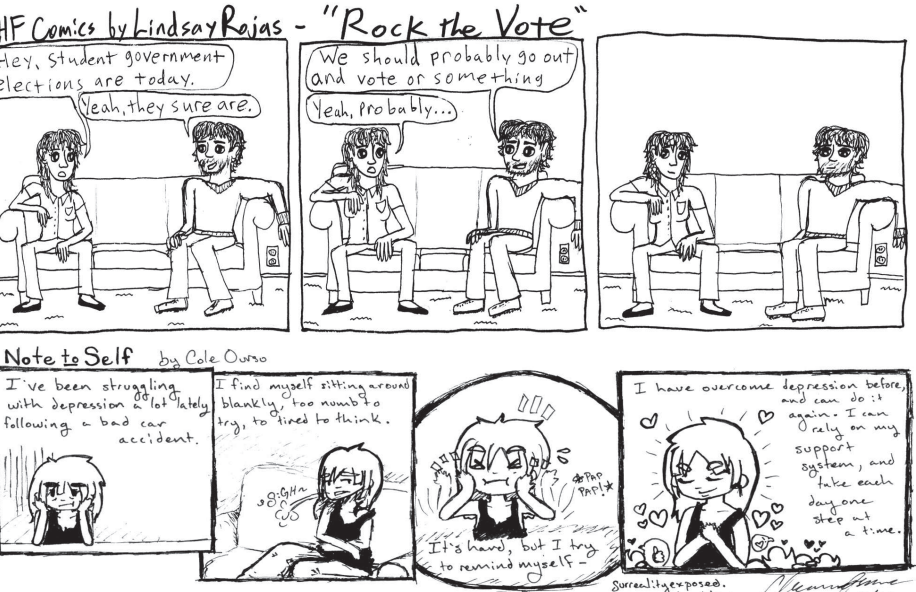
This weekend's meet will feature the Longhorns, TCU and West Virginia, the only three Big 12 schools that compete in men's aquatics. Texas claimed the 2013 Big 12 title against the same two schools with 985 total points.

"We've got probably three or four good guys in each event, they've got one or two," Reese said. "There's going to be some real competitive races."

—Courtney Norris



Eddie Reese
Men's head coach

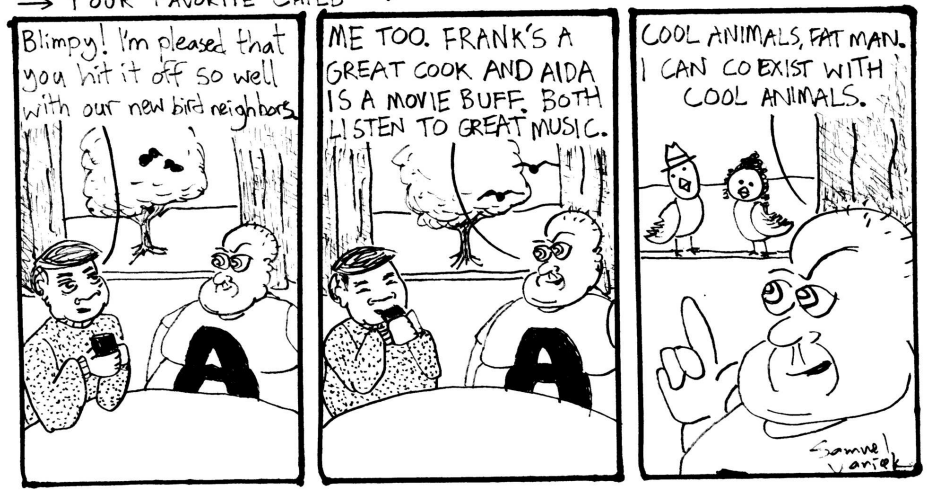
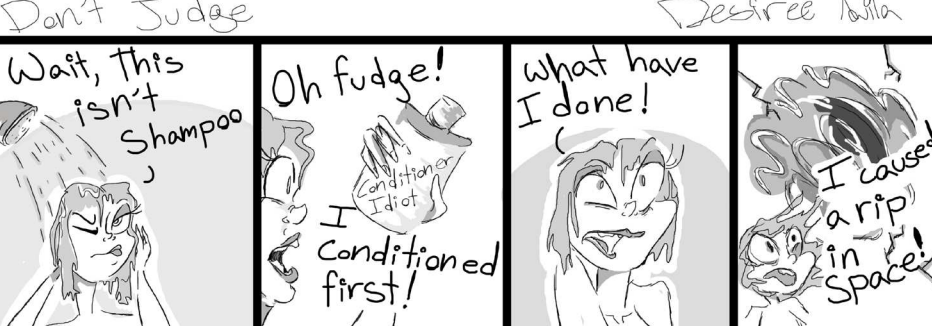
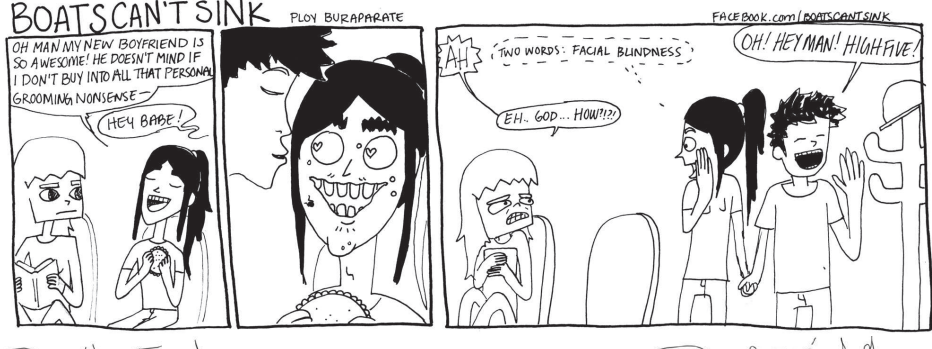


SUDOKUFORYOU

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Today's solution will appear here next issue

7	6	5	3	1	4	8	2	9
3	4	2	8	9	6	1	5	7
9	1	8	7	5	2	6	3	4
4	7	3	6	8	1	5	9	2
6	5	9	4	2	7	3	8	1
2	8	1	9	3	5	4	7	6
5	2	4	1	7	3	9	6	8
8	3	6	2	4	9	7	1	5
1	9	7	5	6	8	2	4	3



The New York Times Crossword

Edited by Will Shortz No. 0122

- ACROSS**
- 1 Arcing shots
 - 5 Liberal arts subj.
 - 9 2010 Jennifer Aniston movie
 - 14 Spread unit
 - 15 Keen on
 - 16 Drop off
 - 17 "South Park" boy
 - 18 "Where America's day begins"
 - 19 "___" grant
 - 20 & 23 Giant in fairy tales
 - 24 ___ Quimby of children's lit
 - 27 Rock band named for an inventor
 - 28 Do some diner work
 - 29 Tough spot
 - 30 Kicked to the curb
 - 34 Ending with tea or cup
 - 35 Story mapped out in this grid, from lower left to upper right
 - 39 Much binary code
 - 40 Flat takers
 - 41 Music genre that influenced No Doubt
 - 42 Top point value of a Scrabble tile
 - 43 Debussy masterpiece
 - 47 Purposely loses
 - 49 View from a highway overlook
 - 52 Publishers of 35-Across, with "the"
 - 54 Hungry as ___
 - 56 Trial fig.
 - 57 Answer to "That so?"
 - 58 Associate with
 - 59 Like many highlighter colors
 - 60 Where many Sargents hang, with "the"
 - 61 Do-it-yourself libation
 - 62 Ray of fast-food fame
 - 63 Bad marks for a high schooler?
- DOWN**
- 1 Criticize severely
 - 2 Pump figure
 - 3 Ranch irons
 - 4 Lacking reason
 - 5 Weather map notations
 - 6 Get used (to)
 - 7 Woodworker's supply
 - 8 Some cats
 - 9 Actresses Shire and Balsam
 - 10 Letter-shaped girder
 - 11 Emulate Jack Sprat
 - 12 Ungar of poker
 - 13 Broomstick riders
 - 21 Ache for
 - 22 Walk through deep snow, say
 - 25 Company endorsed by Tiger Woods
 - 26 Relative of a lutz
 - 28 Hospital count
 - 31 Most cool, in slang
 - 32 City east of St. Lo
 - 33 Heavy station wits
 - 34 Swiss "king of hoteliers"
 - 35 Rio vis-à-vis the 2016 Olympics
 - 36 Egyptian "key of life"

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE

W	O	R	D	W	O	O	T
C	I	D	E	R	A	B	L
O	L	D	I	E	T	E	E
R	E	E	N	A	C	T	S
D	E	R	I	D	E	E	A
N	E	D	S	B	E	N	E
C	A	B	D	A	V	I	S
O	W	E	N	R	E	S	E
R	E	V	E	L	L	E	N
K	E	Y	S	T	E	E	S
S	T	E	E	P	R	U	I
C	A	R	W	A	X	L	I
O	G	E	E	U	P	A	S
O	R	N	E	A	L	T	A
K	O	O	K	L	O	O	K

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
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38								39			40	
41								42			43	44
45								46			47	48
49								50			51	
52								53			54	55
56								57			58	59
60								61			62	63

- PUZZLE BY JARED BANTA
- 37 It has a low percentage of alcohol
 - 45 N.F.L. career rushing leader
 - 51 Justin Timberlake's former group
 - 38 Record again
 - 46 One of 11 pharaohs
 - 53 Hammerin' ___
 - 42 Like some farm cultivators
 - 48 Provide an address?
 - 54 In the house
 - 44 Drink sometimes served in a hollowed-out pineapple
 - 49 Fizzle (out)
 - 50 "Star Wars" droid
 - 55 Dribble catcher

For answers, call 1-900-285-5656, \$1.49 a minute; or, with a credit card, 1-800-814-5554. Annual subscriptions are available for the best of Sunday crosswords from the last 50 years: 1-888-7-ACROSS. AT&T users: Text NYTX to 386 to download puzzles, or visit nytimes.com/mobileword for more information. Online subscriptions: Today's puzzle and more than 2,000 past puzzles, nytimes.com/crosswords (\$39.95 a year). Share tips: nytimes.com/wordplay. Crosswords for young solvers: nytimes.com/learning/xwords.

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SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

Website promotes Longhorn love

By Brigitt Benestante
@BBenestante

From UT students looking for a quick hook-up to those looking for a love connection, one website is attempting to form relationships because, as it claims, “Horns were meant to be in pairs.”

Business freshman Mark Kilagblian started *Hookuphorns.com* in October 2013. The dating website specifically caters to students and matches them according to their desires in a relationship.

“I thought that maybe by making this website, I could try and connect people,” Kilagblian said. “I thought that making it UT specific would make people more comfortable. That was the driving force behind it.”

Business sophomore Kylie Adler is a friend of Kilagblian and a member of Hook Up Horns. Adler was there when the idea for Hook Up Horns was initially born.

“One day, Kilagblian and I were sitting in the SAC between classes, and he told me that he was interested in developing an app or something of that sort,” Adler said. “I was on my laptop and saw some post on the UT Facebook page about a guy looking for a girlfriend based off of his ‘requirements,’ and [Kilagblian] was inspired.”

Hook Up Horns took

shape as a dating website that allowed students to personalize what kind of relationship they desire. When creating an account on the website, a user is allowed to specify whether they’re looking for a date, a “hook-up” or just a friendship.

“Hook up Horns was meant to encompass all types of relationships,” Kilagblian said. “I think, a lot of the times, the problem is that people have a hard time moving from the friendship stage to the relationship stage, or they meet someone at a bar, and they hit it off, but it just never quite gets to that point. So it’s good to have a platform where everyone knows that [a relationship] is the goal.”

Although Hook Up Horns is designed for students, there are no restrictions keeping non-students from joining. The site only requires a name, a birthday, an email and a ZIP code for users to join.

Once Hook Up Horns was ready for launch, Kilagblian and his friends advertised around campus. They put up posters on campus and in West Campus, in dorms, posted the website on Facebook pages and passed out flyers to people on the street.

Although the site has advertisements and an option for users to pay to promote their profiles, Hook Up Horns does not turn a profit. Kiaghbian said he has no



Illustration by Nathan Burgessillo / Daily Texan Staff

plans to make money off of the website.

“It’s not really meant to be profitable,” Kilagblian said. “It’s just helping me get my feet wet as far as web design and coding goes.”

Since its launch in October, the website has acquired more than 200 members. Radio-television-film freshman Chanelle Gibson recently joined the site after

hearing about it through the UT Class of 2017 Facebook page.

“It’s hard to be forward with people in person when you don’t know what they’re looking for,” Gibson said. “It’s easier online when you do know what they’re looking for.”

Unlike Gibson, who has not yet met anyone through the site, Adler said the site helped her make

a connection.

“Hook Up Horns did help me meet a guy I had a relationship with,” Adler said. “We met in person at a football game and later realized, through [Kilagblian], that we were mutual friends of his and had a 100 percent match on the website.”

Kilagblian wants to continue pursuing the online dating market. He currently

has plans to come out with a dating-themed app, but hopes Hook Up Horns will catch on with each new class of students.

“In Texas, online dating hasn’t really taken a hold yet,” Kilagblian said. “I think by introducing Hook Up Horns, as we move forward, it will get more and more popular with undergrads who will be more comfortable with this kind of thing.”

MUSIC

John Laird is the founder of Side One Track One, which is one of the nine music blogs housed within the Austin Music Blogger Alliance.



Photo courtesy of Pooneh Ghana

Awards show to recognize local bands and music industry workers

By Samantha Grasso
@samjgrasso

Austin Music People and the newly formed Austin Music Blogger Alliance have joined forces to pay tribute to unrecognized bands and industry workers of the Austin music scene.

This year, the two groups are collaborating to host the 2013 Austin Music Blogger Awards, a night to celebrate the city’s best local musicians of 2013 as nominated by members of the alliance. In addition, the awards show will feature Austin Music People’s Austin Music Industry Awards, which focus on celebrating individuals who work behind the scenes in the Austin music industry.

John Laird, founder of Side One Track One, one of the nine music blogs within the alliance, said, although the group originally met last summer to discuss ways to become a stronger resource for local artists, it wasn’t until early January of this year that the idea was proposed to host the first ever Austin Music Blogger Awards, known as AMBAs. The idea of forming an alliance shortly followed.

“[Chris Apollo from the blog Republic of Austin] was like, ‘Hey, I have an idea to do a blogger awards, what do you guys think?’” Laird said. “So it just came together super fast. As that was coming together, we were like, ‘Well, maybe we should have this blogger alli-

ance, and maybe the AMBAs can be a kick-off thing for that.”

While organizing the AMBAs, Laird said Apollo originally envisioned partnering with Austin Music People, known as AMP, the nonprofit advocacy group for “brands, bands, and fans” of the Austin music industry. At the show, AMP will present awards for categories such as “best venue sound engineer,” “best local music promoter” and “best concert tech,” and all ticket sales will go to the group.

“There are service industry workers that are the reason we’re the Live Music Capital of the World,” AMP executive director Jennifer Houlihan said. “There are 10 people behind the scenes for every one that’s on stage. A lot of times nobody is getting rich off it. They do it because they love it. If we can, as a nonprofit, [say], ‘You are noticed. We do appreciate your contribution. We do recognize that ... it takes a village to make this happen,’ then we’re grateful for that opportunity.”

While Laird said putting the event together in six weeks was initially chaotic, the alliance pushed for the quick turnaround in order to host the awards before South by Southwest. The lineup for the night includes A Giant Dog, MIRROR TRAVEL, Shivery Shakes, Orthy, Magna Carda and Jess Williamson.

“We want to be just one level below [Pitchfork-level

AUSTIN MUSIC BLOGGER AWARDS

When: Thursday, doors at 7:30 p.m., show at 8:30 p.m.

Where: Spider House Cafe and Ballroom

Cost: \$12 in advance

.....

coverage] for bands that are on the way to that, but we just want to give them a push and show some recognition for the fact that they’re grinding it out day in and day out — trying to be where those other bands are,” Laird said. “Not only is that a reflection of all the bands that are playing that night but all the nominees [too]. ... It’s a great way to support the scene.”

Dougie Do, keyboarder for the Austin hip-hop band Magna Carda, said being chosen to perform at the AMBAs didn’t faze him until he saw the large amount of attention the event was generating. In addition to performing at the awards show, Magna Carda’s song “Shoes \$ Money” is also nominated for best single.

“[Being nominated] feels pretty weird still, mostly because we had never even thought this far ahead when we were in the process of creating the song,” Do said. “We just can’t help but smile when we see it, though. It’s an honor to even be up there with the rest of those bands.”

CITY

Austin’s oldest needlepoint store opens in new location

By Jack Ken
@DailyTexanArts

The first needlepoint shop in Austin, The Needle Works, opened in 1978. Located in the 26 Doors Shopping Center near Seton Medical Center, the shop sat across the street from the famous Santa Rita Cantina.

But the store came on hard times. The store went through a succession of proprietors. Then, in the late ’90s, Colleen Church bought and moved the store to its current location on Medical Parkway.

“I decided to try something new after a decade in the real estate business,” Church said.

Needle Works employees said they attribute the store’s success to the increased interest in needlepointing across the general population.

“Interest alternates cyclically between knitting and needlepoint,” Church said. “A few years ago, knitting was all the rage, and hardly anyone did needlepoint of any kind.”

Church noted that the

two forms are reaching a parity of sorts.

“We’ve been seeing small upticks in the needlepoint community that don’t show any signs of diminishing,” Church said.

Needle Works also has a teaching network that enables needlepointers of all skill levels to come by the store and learn from each other and in-store teachers.

Carol Wallin, a Needle Works employee, said because other stores do not cater specifically to needlepoint, they often have problems keeping a range of supplies in stock.

“We have pretty much everything someone could ask for,” Wallin said. “And, if we don’t, we’ll order enough for the customer and anybody else who might ask for a specific thread.”

The rise of the Internet has made it possible for anyone to buy yarn and stitching supplies with ease, which has put more pressure on niche-oriented shops like Needle Works.

“If brick-and-mortar

Interest alternates cyclically between knitting and needlepoint. A few years ago, knitting was all the rage, and hardly anyone did needlepoint of any kind.

—Colleen Church, Owner of The Needle Works

stores vanish, venues for teaching new needlepointers, venues for passing on valuable hands-on know-how, won’t exist any longer,” Church said. “It could very well mean the death of the art form.”

But Church and other needlepoint enthusiasts look to the community’s response to these underlying problems.

“There’s been a massive push in the past few years to support your local needlepoint shop,” Church said. “To buy locally rather than from an Internet supplier a thousand miles away.”



Illustration by Aaron Rodriguez / Daily Texan Staff