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CAMPUS

## Group advocates transgender care

By Nicole Cobler  
@nicolecobler

Members of UT's Queer Students Alliance are working on legislation with the goal of convincing University administrators to expand health care benefits available for transgender students. Legislation author Devon

Howard, women's and gender studies junior, said the ultimate goal of the legislation is expanded medical services for transgender students, including hormonal treatments, gender reassignment surgeries and mental health counseling covered by the University. "It's really important

that we address the needs of students and what they need to transition to not only feel comfortable with their body, but to be able to function and get a good education at the University," Howard said. According to national nonprofit organization Campus Pride, many of UT's

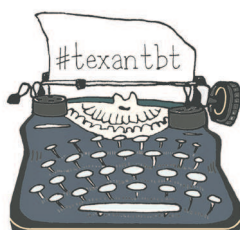
peer universities, including the University of California system, the University of Michigan-Ann Arbor, the University of Wisconsin-Madison and the University of Illinois at Urbana Champaign cover hormone and gender reassignment services for students. UT does not offer these

services because of the expenses associated with specialized medical care, according to Theresa Spalding, medical director for University Health Services. Spalding said the University does offer general medical care for all transgender

CARE page 3

THROWBACK

## Snow day cancellation a source of gloom, glee



By Reeana Keenen  
@KeenanReeana

After drudging to 8 a.m. classes in the frigid and somewhat icy conditions Jan. 28, many students were less than pleased when they learned the University had decided to suspend classes until noon, only to cancel them altogether later that day. But students had a different reaction when the University did something similar on Feb. 4, 1905, first suspending classes until 10 a.m. and then declaring it an official snow day.

The Texan published an article Feb. 10, 1905, detailing the day's fun-filled events as students happily embraced the icy weather and the much-needed break from classes.

"By 12 o'clock a hundred or more burly students had gathered on the hillside eager for the fun," the article said.

Though UT students were equally as unfamiliar with snow as they are today — it was the coldest year in the Austin area to date at the time — the students of 1905 were eager to make use of the ice and snow any way they could.

"Chairs were surreptitiously robbed of their legs, while a sturdy football player used the remnants for a vehicle to skim the icy hill," the article said.

SNOW page 2

CAMPUS

## Arborists save trees through relocation

By Julia Brouillette  
@juliakbrou

Jim Carse went from climbing trees as a Boy Scout to preserving and moving trees as the University's assistant manager of urban forestry.

With his team of four arborists, Carse helps manage and maintain the trees on the main campus as well as on several other UT properties, such as the Pickle Research Campus.

"It's a fun job," Carse said. "I like working with the students and teaching people about trees. I've always loved that."

Carse is currently involved in the process of transporting 12 trees from the grounds where the Dell Medical School will stand in 2016.

"There are a lot of trees that exist there now that need to either be cut down or moved, and we've chosen to move as many as we can," Carse said.

Roughly 50 trees have been relocated throughout campus in the past 15 years, according to Carse. Each of the 12 trees being moved will stay on campus.

"It's a big process to move big trees," Carse said. "But the University is and has



Michael Embesi, arborist for the City of Austin, and Jim Carse, the University's urban forester, work to preserve trees by relocating them from construction sites. The two often rely on each other's professional opinions when working on projects.

been very dedicated, both with support and funding, to try and save trees, so we're excited about it."

A crew excavates the trees, which are supported by metal pipes and lifted by

crane onto a truck for transportation. Carse said he is able to hire private companies to help with tree maintenance, if necessary.

"We have about 5,000 trees on main campus,"



Lauren Ussery / Daily Texan Staff

Carse said. "We hire out contractors to do some of our bigger pruning jobs."

Since the University is state-owned property, the

TREES page 2

MULTIMEDIA

Learn more about arboriculture and efforts to relocate and save UT and Austin trees at

dailytexanonline.com.

UNIVERSITY

## University integrates food culture program

By Zachary Keener  
@Zak\_Keener

Students will now have more opportunities to study the diverse food culture of Texas with the American studies department's recent integration of Foodways Texas, a nonprofit that educates the community on the culture that surrounds food.

"As a subject, Foodways captures many aspects of food," said Lisa Powell, an original collaborator for the program and a UT American studies alumna. "Foodways involves learning about what, why and how people eat, and the cultures surrounding the

production, preparation and consumption of food."

The University's Division of Diversity and Community Engagement helped get the program started through its incubator program by providing seed money. The nonprofit is also partnered with the Dolph Briscoe Center for American History.

Elizabeth Engelhardt, American studies department chair, said the move will make the program a more permanent resident at the University.

"It's always been part of the University," Engelhardt said. "The program proved over the past few years that

FOOD page 3

HEALTH

## CVS to stop selling tobacco products

By Kate Dannenmaier  
@kater\_tot7

As part of an effort to prioritize customers' health, CVS pharmacy announced Wednesday it would stop selling cigarettes and other tobacco products by October — but between the low rate of student smokers and the high availability of cigarettes, it is unclear how much the impact the decision will have.

According to Jessica Wagner, manager of health promotion at University Health Services, most UT students will not be affected by the decision. Wagner said when compared to other colleges nationally, UT has a smaller proportion of self-reported smokers.



"Data from our fall 2013 implementation of the National College Health Assessment demonstrate that the majority of UT students responding to our survey have never used cigarettes — 64.4 percent — and only

a small portion — 2.4 percent — are daily smokers," Wagner said in an email.

Architecture freshman Samuel Robbins said he believes that for those few students that do smoke daily, CVS' decision will not be

disruptive. Robbins, who said he is in the process of quitting smoking, thinks devoted smokers already know how to overcome barriers to feeding their addiction.

CVS page 2

# LONGHORN Life ...

Find the latest news on the lives of longhorns in a special edition to the Daily Texan. Feb 7th





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## TOMORROW'S WEATHER

**High** **43** **Low** **35**

Is wallop okay for like, a 37 point win? Yep, that's a wallop

## FRAMES FEATURED PHOTO



**Amy Zhang** / Daily Texan Staff

A man walks by The Contemporary Austin on Wednesday afternoon.

## CVS

continues from page 1

“Because there’s no place on campus that sells cigarettes already, I don’t think that it’s going to influence [smokers] that much, since the people who would’ve quit have already quit, and the people who are going to continue to smoke have other places right on Guad,” Robbins said.

Radio-television-film freshman Chris Jambor said while he frequently buys cigarettes from CVS, the change won’t pose any great inconvenience for him.

“There’s a lot of other corner markets that I normally go to that have cheaper cigarettes anyway,” Jambor said. “CVS never had any kind of discounts on their tobacco, so they were always kind of discouraging.”

Jambor said there was not much that would be able to keep him from smoking. He said he understands that cigarettes are unhealthy, but his affinity for tobacco is too strong for him to ever want to quit.

“I’m aware of the great risk posed to my life [by smoking], but it doesn’t matter,” Jambor said.

Civil engineering sophomore Abdulla Saleh, who buys his cigarettes online, said he didn’t care that CVS was going to stop selling tobacco. Saleh said he wasn’t surprised by the policy shift.

“They should’ve done this a long time ago,” Saleh said. “I mean, it’s a pharmacy.”

## TREES

continues from page 1

City of Austin’s tree ordinances do not apply to trees on campus, but Carse said the University still follows the ordinances as closely as possible.

“We want to be a good example to our neighbors and to the community,” Carse said. “That’s why the University has kind of gone out of its way to preserve some of these big trees.”

Michael Embesi, the City of Austin arborist, manages trees that stand outside campus but within Austin. Embesi said he works closely with Carse when trees on the edges of campus are in question.

“There are times that we share responsibilities on certain projects, and there are times that we rely on each other for our professional opinions,” Embesi said. “We’ll call one another in those situations.”

According to Embesi,

Austin stands out among other cities for its commitment to preserving trees.

“I’m very honored to work in a city that holds such high value to the natural environment,” Embesi said.

Embesi works with other arborists to issue permits to development companies and residents. These permits allow tree removal or construction near a specific tree.

“The city arborist is required to assess impacts to [Austin’s] trees, which could include the outright removal of the tree, or it could include requests to build close to that tree,” Embesi said.

Trees offer numerous social and environmental benefits, according to Embesi.

“Trees benefit us environmentally, but they also bring an incredible value to us socially because of that comfort level that those trees bring to our communities,” Embesi said.

## SYSTEM

# Regents to approve funds for future constructions

**By Madlin Mekelburg**  
@madlinbmek

The Facilities Planning and Construction Committee of the UT System Board of Regents approved plans for the Texas Advanced Computing Center Office Building project and the first phase of the Dell Medical School project at its meeting Wednesday.

The computing center is a research center on the J.J. Pickle Research Campus that houses a variety of advanced computing technologies. President William Powers Jr. presented the project to the board and said the University intends to increase the computing center’s staff from 127 to 150 individuals and construct a visualization lab.

“TACC is one of our high priorities on the campus and has been one of the most successful enterprises over the last decade,” Powers said. “It has grown over the last decade, has much more activity

at TACC itself and it has simply outgrown its office space.”

The committee also approved the first phase of the Dell Medical School project, which included a design development plan, an amendment to the Capital Improvement Program to revise funding and an appropriation of other funding from other sources.

The design plans consisted of an education and administration building, a research building, a medical office building and a parking garage — totaling 578,000 square feet of new buildings. The predicted total project cost is \$334 million.

Board Chairman Paul Foster will present recommendations at Thursday’s meeting for developing a new screening process for open-record requests filed by regents.

All decisions made by the board committees on Wednesday are subject to approval by the full board at Thursday’s meeting.

## SNOW

continues from page 1

Among the items used as makeshift sleds were dismantled kitchen tables, soap boxes and rocking chairs.

To make the experience more exciting, a group of “forty funny fellows” poured water over a hill outside the Main Building and smoothed out the ground to make it better for fast-paced sledding. After several attempts at sledding down the hill, one of the football players succeeded in sledding a short distance.

“Saturday morning Mough Robinson got a soap box and, after various plunges a-la-tackle, a-la-head,

succeeded in coasting about ten feet eastward from the Main Building,” the article said.

The daring of the students increased throughout the day as they attempted to find more creative ways to traverse the slippery slope.

“The Engineers made a long slide and with this a dozen would go down like a cannon ball,” the article said. “Starting at the top of the hill and with an experienced man at the front to guide, the ponderous slide would go flying down the hill, turn in and out of the trees, jump public roads, keep to the path clear to the outer edge of the campus and then down the [Inner Campus Drive].”

Sledding was the main activity, but not everyone was thrilled at the prospect of dodging trees and other obstacles on makeshift sleds; some women opted for a slightly more graceful sport and decided to try ice skating in places where the ground was flat.

“The Co-eds did not attempt much coasting,” the article said. “Some did go down in the big slide ... However, bands of them tried skating around the [Inner Campus Drive] and level parts of the campus. Several falls resulted, always when out of sight of anyone.”

Though the students of 1905 may have been more excited about a midday school cancellation, they were still not safe from the weather’s fickleness. Much like the days following the Jan. 28, 2014 snow day, the cold and icy weather in 1905 was followed by sunny, warm weather.

“Sunday the sun came out and ruined all the fun by melting the ice and sleet,” the article said.

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## CARE

continues from page 1

students, including pap smears for students who identify as male, and said the University is committed to working with transgender students as much as possible.

“It would be wonderful if we could provide all services to all patients, but we just don’t have the ability to do all that,” Spalding said. “Trying to be as gender neutral as possible is what we try to do.”

Spalding said the University does offer many resources for

mental health to all students, including students who may be suffering from depression as a result of the stigmas associated with gender identity issues.

“Mental-health services wise, we have a lot that we offer,” Spalding said.

Currently, the insurance plan available for students to purchase, offered through Blue Cross Blue Shield, meets the minimum essential health requirements of the Affordable Care Act. Insurance coverage for one year is \$1,432 per student.

Adrienne Howarth-Moore, director for human services at University Health Services, said the plan’s coverage does not include gender reassignment.

“Certain treatments may be covered if the absence of that treatment would cause a decline in their physical health,” Howarth-Moore said. “Gender reassignment in general is not currently covered because that is currently not considered medically necessary.”

Marisa Kent, co-director of the Queer Students

Alliance, said many students do not understand certain transgender students’ desire for sex-related surgeries.

“It’s not something most people can understand,” Kent said. “Nobody really understands the pain and the struggle [of] living in a body they feel like is not even their own.”

Howard said although some students may view gender reassignment surgeries as purely cosmetic, for some transgender individuals, medical intervention is a critical issue.

“A lot of people see these

surgeries as something that is elective and it’s not,” Howard said. “It’s something that needs to be done for survival.”

The alliance already passed a resolution for gender inclusive housing through Student Government, and Kent said she hopes SG members are equally receptive to the transgender health care benefits resolution.

“We are definitely taking steps in the right direction, but transgender health benefits is our biggest focus,” Kent said.

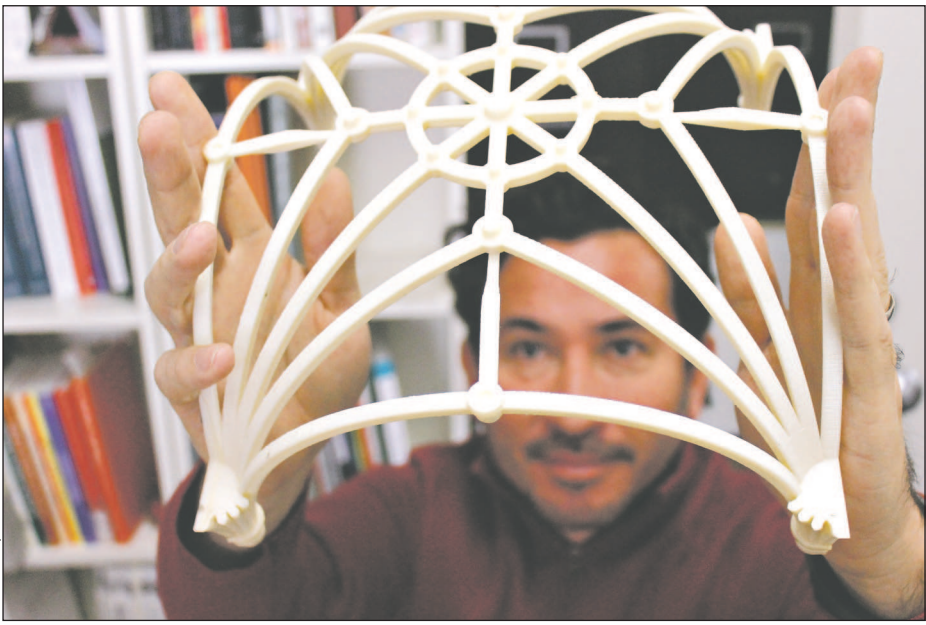
Once the resolution is

written, it will be sent to SG for a vote. If the resolution passes, it will be sent to the UT System Board of Regents, who are under no obligation to act.

“It’s really problematic because we are ranked one of the most liberal and forward-thinking universities in the world, but we don’t have a lot of things other universities have,” Kent said.

The alliance will hold a town hall meeting Feb. 19 at 6 p.m. in Room 420 in Waggener Hall for students to give their input on the resolution.

## CAMPUS



Jonathan Garza / Daily Texan Staff

Benjamin Ibarra Sevilla, assistant professor in the School of Architecture, is writing a book on the history of Central American architecture and culture.

# Book explores Latin culture, Iberian architecture impact

By Hayden Clark  
@HaydenS\_Clark

With a \$5,000 grant from the Office of the Vice President of Research, assistant professor of architecture Benjamin Ibarra Sevilla will write a book that explores the influence European colonists and indigenous cultures in Central America through architecture.

Ibarra Sevilla said his book will investigate how Spanish colonists used the native people to create European Gothic structures, such as churches.

“I am aiming to reveal some of the important aspects of the buildings in the context of history of construction [and] in the context of building systems and transference of technology,” Ibarra Sevilla said.

Associate architecture professor Michael Holleran said the buildings provide insight into the merging of European and indigenous cultures.

“What [Ibarra Sevilla] is able to do through the specifics of the architecture, through the durable, built record of what’s there, is to look very specifically at what was interaction of the cultures,” Holleran said.

Ibarra Sevilla said he hopes readers appreciate and understand the significance of the people of that era and what the two different cultures were capable of doing together.

“It’s important people recognize that those buildings used European technology that were built by indigenous people, who learned really, really quickly how to build these types of structures, which

are similar to the Gothic appearance in Europe,” Ibarra Sevilla said.

Assistant architecture professor Sarah Lopez said the subject of Ibarra Sevilla’s book is one that has not previously been given much attention by researchers.

“There’s very little primary research that’s been done on the architecture of Central America,” Lopez said. “[The book will] fill in a lot of questions and gaps we have in our knowledge about architectural history at large”

Ibarra Sevilla said he wants readers to appreciate what the people of that time accomplished, specifically the native people of Central America.

“I want people to learn and value the work of the indigenous people in that period of time,” Ibarra Sevilla said.

## CITY

# Austin HIV, AIDS rates on rise

By Jeremy Thomas  
@JeremyOBThomas

HIV and AIDS cases are on the rise in the Austin/Travis County area, according to a study by the Travis County Medical Society Journal. Despite the increase in reported cases, slightly less than 27 percent of UT students report ever being tested for the disease, according to a University study.

Each fall, the UT registrar’s office provides University Health Services with a list of 8,000 random students to survey for information on topics such as sexual and mental health, drug use and alcohol. The information received goes into UT’s National College Health Assessment. In 2013, 934 students gave survey responses, and only .1 percent reported being treated for HIV in the last 12 months.

“Even though we have a very small number of students that test positive for HIV, [UHS does] not have a ton of students that report that they use condoms all the time,” said Gulielma Fager, University Health Services health promotion coordinator. “With only one in four of our students being tested, we don’t know if there are students in our population who could have HIV and not know it.”

HIV is a virus that spreads throughout the body and damages specific cells in the immune system. Over time, the virus kills T-cells in the immune system, preventing the

### UT’s National College Health Assessment, 2013

**26.7 percent** of students (26 percent of males, 27% percent of females) report ever being tested for HIV

**31 percent** of students who have ever had any sex partners report discussing HIV/STI testing with their most recent sex partner before engaging in any sexual activity

body from fighting diseases. HIV infections can then form into AIDS.

In the January/February 2014 issue of the Travis County Medical Society Journal, a study found the number of people living with HIV in the Austin/Travis County area increased more than 40 percent since 2006. Philip Huang, medical director of the Austin/Travis County Health and Human Services Department, said people are receiving better treatments now and live longer with the disease.

“But then, still, we are getting a whole lot of new cases,” Huang said. “There seems to be some complacency, perhaps, that people don’t take [HIV/AIDS as] seriously as they used to.”

Marketing senior Ariel Brown said she thought students might not take the issue of HIV/AIDS as seriously as they should.

“Most young people aren’t really that concerned with the disease because we have more knowledge of it, unlike in the ’80s or when the disease was first recognized,” Brown said. “This

disease can affect everyone and not just a single group of people.”

University Health Services also tries to encourage students to use condoms for reasons other than HIV prevention, according to Fager.

“Chlamydia is transmitted in the same way as HIV in that it is a fluid-based infection, so that means if someone has chlamydia, that means they were having unprotected sex with someone,” Fager said. “And if they’re having unprotected sex, they’re at risk for HIV. As long as they’re using condoms, they’re preventing HIV and chlamydia.”

Fager said using condoms is the best course of action students can take to prevent contracting HIV.

“I want students to think of condoms as their seat belts and airbag,” Fager said. “It doesn’t matter what you think of the person’s driving. It’s still incredibly important for people to use condoms because that’s the most effective way that people can reduce their risk — that and knowing your status, and the only way to know your status is to get tested.”

## FOOD

continues from page 1

it could be self-sustaining.”

Engelhardt said the purpose of the move was to allow the program to integrate with the University and open opportunities for students to study food.

“Being under American studies means that we’ll be able to build over time, train graduate students in food studies, undergraduates in food studies and expand the intellectual mission of the program,” Engelhardt said. “We don’t quite have [classes] mapped out yet, but already

we have faculty members and graduate students who want to teach issues with food studies. ... Our undergraduates will get to participate.”

Nutrition senior Jose Mendez said he would be interested in studying food culture at the University.

“I know other students who are interested in studying food,” Mendez said. “If there was a program to study food, I think that would be great to study different topics and different culture and their food.”

Powell said Foodways involves many members of the community, from produc-

tion to delivery to consumption of food.

“Studying Foodways involves examining not only the food that gets put on the table, but also all the steps that were taken to grow/raise, harvest, clean, process, prepare and serve that food,” Powell said.

According to Powell, Foodways Texas provides interaction between those studying food and those who handle food everyday.

“Having Foodways Texas at the University helps to facilitate these types of interactions between students and those outside of the University,” Powell said.

## RESEARCH



Russell Poldrack, director of the Imaging Research Center, does research regarding brain function and control. The MRI scanner helps in understanding brain activity during risk-related behavior.

Claire Trammel  
Daily Texan Staff

# Decrease in self-control linked to risky behavior, decision making

By Nicole Stiles  
@nicolestiles42

Risky behaviors, such as drunk driving and unprotected sex, are caused by decreased self-control functions in the brain, despite prior beliefs that it was people’s desires that caused risk-taking, according to University researchers.

Sarah Helfinstein, post-doctoral integrative biology researcher, conducted brain activity studies using data collected at the University of California, Los Angeles. According to Helfinstein, most other risk-related studies focus on brain responses to different levels of risks, while her research focuses on brain activity before a risk is taken.

“Even though the actual risk itself is the same, what the difference is, when you take the risk or when you don’t take the risk is activation in [self] control regions of the brain,” Helfinstein said.

Tom Schonberg, researcher in the Imaging Research Center at the University, said

people don’t know whether a risk is beneficial or harmful until after they have already taken the risk. Schonberg said to study risk prediction further, focusing on brain activity right before a risk is taken is vital.

“The unique part of what [Helfinstein] did in this study is to look at what happens one step before deciding whether to stop or go on; before you know what is going to happen,” Schonberg said.

Russell Poldrack, director of the Imaging Research Center, said after years of brain function and control research, these analyses of the data are being used to help further understand the decision-making behind risky behavior.

“The goal of the project [is] to help us understand the brain systems that are involved in memory, executive function and control, risky behavior and how they all relate to each other,” Poldrack said.

The conclusions that researchers drew from these studies can be implemented in

many different areas, according to Helfinstein.

“It helps us understand better why people choose to take or not take health-relevant risks [like] smoking cigarettes, experimenting with drugs or having unprotected sex,” Helfinstein said.

Poldrack said the implications of this research could be much bigger in the future, and conclusions from these studies could affect the treatment of mental illness and the prediction of future criminal behavior.

“It is certainly relevant to some of the disorders in which people are known to take impulsive risks, like ADHD or, particularly, bipolar disorder,” Poldrack said.

This is just one step toward understanding how people can avoid dangerous risks, according to Helfinstein.

“If we can move on to better understand how to strengthen [self] control systems when confronted with these decisions, it might help people,” Helfinstein said.



The Silver Spurs honorary service organization is currently accepting applications. Visit [www.utsilverspurs.com](http://www.utsilverspurs.com) to learn more about one of the oldest and most recognizable groups on campus.

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HORNS UP: UNIVERSITY TRIES TO KEEP US INFORMED ABOUT SNOW



Last week, the joy of the year's second snow day was slightly hindered by the University's apparent inability to let us know ahead of time that campus would be closed. A text message at 8:20 a.m. announcing a delay until noon is hardly helpful to students who have 8 a.m. classes, and a follow-up text at 11:26 a.m. announcing a closure for the day is just as bad for commuters already on the roads. So we appreciate the fact that the University sent us not one, but two emails this afternoon, in which she advised the entire UT community that there might be severe weather over the next two days — although a slim chance of light freezing drizzle is hardly what most of us would consider severe. Nevertheless, horns up to whomever makes these weather-related decisions. If a light dusting of snow or a sprinkle of freezing drizzle does indeed bring the entire city to a grinding halt once again, it's nice to be prepared.

“We appreciate the fact that the Univeristy sent us not one, but two emails this afternoon, in which she advised the entire UT community that there might be severe weather over the next two days — although a slim chance of light freezing drizzle is hardly what most of us would consider severe.”

COLUMN

As nation's eyes turn to Sochi, UT should remember Regnerus



By Travis Knoll  
Guest Columnist  
@tknoll209k

The Sochi Olympics have drawn fire because of Russia's law against “gay propaganda” and police repression of gay activists in the country. But gay activists aren't just drawing attention to the expected abuse by Russian authorities, but also to Olympic sponsors, who, in their minds, legitimize discrimination by not speaking out forcefully enough against anti-gay laws. Scenes of activists being tackled while standing beside Coca-Cola logos and McDonald's advertisements asking viewers to send “Cheers to Sochi” have only reinforced this initial impression. But when I think of Sochi, I don't just think of a slew of spineless sponsors; I think of UT, and how UT is itself responsible for legitimizing anti-gay propaganda.

UT directly supported sociology professor Mark Regnerus' “New Family Structures Study,” which showed the alleged negative effects of gay parents raising children, by issuing a glowing press release about the study on the official UT website. In it, they called the study “particularly significant” because it was the first large national sample of children raised by gay parents.

But the study's overly broad definition of “gay,” which also drew mainly on gay parents who were already divorced, should have given UT reason to pause from the start. Questions in March 2013 about whether the Witherspoon Institute, a conservative think tank, played a concrete role in the study should have at least made the University question its original decision to jump on the bandwagon. While the University may have argued at the time that any flaws in Regnerus' study should be hashed out in sociology conference halls, Regnerus himself has violated his own mandate. He promoted the study last year from Hawaii to Michigan, from Washington, D.C., to Eastern Europe, to argue that gays shouldn't marry.

The University, in a letter to Attorney General Greg Abbott on Oct. 2, 2012 obtained in an open records request, attempted to explain its public relations collaboration with Regnerus. The letter argued that the study was not just Regnerus' creation, but also the University's “intellectual property.” The letter argued the University deliberations surrounding the study were confidential and not subject to release because its departments “offer direction or insight” to University officials about how to respond to

“The University must allow for dissenting opinions and even research trial and error, but academic freedom does not require the University to rubber-stamp questionable research in high-stakes polarizing debates.”

the predicted backlash and how to articulate “the University's position” on the study as a whole. That “direction or insight” led to the aforementioned press release. For UT, it seems, the study wasn't just a study backed by notoriously conservative funders, but rather UT's study. “It is the University's responsibility to protect the fruits of the state's investment by shielding from disclosure the details of its research efforts and discoveries.”

The University wished to “assure that its media responses accurately reflect the global educational mission critical to an institution of higher education. ... The public's perception of the University inevitably affects its broad educational policy. Our success in cultivating and maintaining good media relations either strengthens or weakens the University's reputation in the community, state, and nation.”

To be fair, the Office of Public Affairs is generally open to promoting research when a professor requests assistance, no matter how obscure.

Some could argue that refusing initial support to a professor on a controversial topic would chill campus research and freedom of speech. That said, the University can defend its brand while respecting academic freedom. As the Austin Chronicle reported in September 2001, UT journalism professor Robert Jensen published a controversial op-ed in the Houston Chronicle claiming that 9/11, while atrocious, was no more horrendous than U.S. military actions abroad days after the attack. Then-UT President Larry R. Faulkner responded to Jensen in a letter to the Chronicle by saying he respected Jensen's right to publish the piece, but that Jensen's views did not represent those of the University. Jensen accepted those two arguments while rejecting Faulkner's overall criticism that he was a “fountain of undiluted foolishness.” Jensen is still here, and as controversial as ever.

This exchange raises important questions: If Jensen had asked the Office of Public Affairs to publish his op-ed in a press release on the University website three days after 9/11, would they have done it? Secondly, if the head of a university can distance itself from an individual's column, why can't the University do the same for a press release promoting a poorly analyzed study, which has been misconstrued by its primary author and others to deny rights to a certain class of people? The University must allow for dissenting opinions and even research trial and error, but academic freedom does not require the University to rubber-stamp questionable research in high-stakes polarizing debates.

The University cannot replace promoting quality research with a public-relations spin and bad science. The press release makes UT as responsible for promoting the study as Regnerus himself. Having called out Jensen while helping Regnerus, the University comes off as politically selective in who or what it singles out, directly or indirectly, for rebuke or support. While some could argue that “all press is good press” for Regnerus and that he deserves no more attention, the study is still being used in legal arguments nationally and internationally to deny rights to others. With the world's eyes turned on Sochi for the next two weeks, the University should start to rebuild its brand by owning up to its initial mistake, one that indirectly legitimized the anti-gay actions of Russia.

*Knoll is a first-year master's student in Latin American studies from Dallas.*

COLUMN

West Campus' growth, density pose problems for UT students

By Charlotte Swain  
Daily Texan Columnist  
@charlotteann56

In recent years, the addition of large apartment complexes, such as the Block, to the West Campus area has made the neighborhood more populated than ever. The Block alone built six mega-complexes in 2007 and 2008 and two more mega-complexes — the Calloway House and 2400 Nueces — which opened over the summer. This increase in the development of huge luxury apartments have made West Campus more popular than ever. But it's also making the neighborhood too crowded.

West Campus is accepted by most to be the region bounded by Guadalupe to North Lamar Boulevard from east to west and 29th Street to MLK from north to south. While opinions may vary on where exactly the boundaries lie, it is clear that West Campus, though full of life, is not a large area. And yet, due to the influx of high-rise condominium and apartment complexes, it maintains one of the highest population densities in all of Austin. Between 2000 and 2009, the population of West Campus nearly doubled from 10,000 to 17,000 people per square mile. While these numbers would not be considered unlivable in New York or another densely populated city, the rapid nature of this growth could prove to be a very real problem in the near future. As building continues, the price for convenient West Campus living will become more and more unattainable for the average student.

With no room for outward expansion, the only way for investors to build is up. In 2013 alone, three new luxury apartment buildings, including the aforementioned Calloway House and 2400 Nueces, were added to the already-high

“In 2013 alone three new luxury apartment buildings, including the aforementioned Calloway House and 2400 Nueces, were added to the already-high number of complexes in the area.”



Mengwen Cao / Daily Texan Staff  
A student looks at a West Campus construction project in August of 2013

HORNS UP: CVS TO STOP SELLING TOBACCO PRODUCTS IN STORES



On Wednesday, the nation's second-largest pharmacy chain, CVS, announced that it will stop selling tobacco products in the next few months — a bold move considering tobacco sales are responsible for \$2 billion of the company's yearly revenue. According to numerous news outlets, CVS explicitly cited health reasons for its decision, claiming that removing tobacco products is an important step as the company increasingly commits to providing more health care services. A recent report from the U.S. surgeon general estimates that the country still spends \$132 billion to \$175 billion annually on treatment for smoking-related diseases, and claims that tobacco is still the nation's leading cause of preventable, premature death. Given the substantial toll that drugs take on our nation, it's no surprise that health care groups and President Barack Obama alike have praised CVS for the decision. Needless to say, we agree wholeheartedly.

“A recent report from the U.S. Surgeon General estimates that the country still spends \$132 billion to \$175 billion annually on treatment for smoking-related diseases, and claims that tobacco is still the nation's leading cause of preventable, premature death.”



### SOFTBALL

continues from page 6

“We may go out and dominate early, get a false sense of how good they think they are and then get thumped later on,” Clark said.

But Texas is no slouch coming into the season. Despite losing both Blaire Luna and Taylor Hoagland and bringing in seven freshmen, the Longhorns are ranked 10th and senior

shortstop Taylor Thom, who played with the U.S. National team over the summer, said it’s something they’re embracing.

“I think we all are excited about the ranking and excited to prove that we are in the top 10,” Thom said.

Texas is also coming off of its first College World Series visit since 2006, and senior catcher Mandy Ogle said knowing what it takes to get there will help them

with this tough stretch.

“You always talk about what you actually need, but, by actually being there, I think it’ll be easier to get back to it,” Ogle said.

“We know what it felt like and we just want to get back there again.”

The development opportunities that come with playing a tough schedule should pay off when Big 12 play starts in March, especially with the conference being wide open.

Oklahoma lost a couple of its starters, including pitcher Keilani Ricketts, leaving Baylor with the most experienced pitching staff in the conference.

Thom said that the difficult nonconference schedule will help them gain consistency, especially with a younger team.

“I think, right now, since we do have a lot of young faces, we aren’t very consistent,” Thom said. “So if we can get through this preseason and work on our

consistency, we’ll be better off in the Big 12.”

But getting through the tough nonconference schedule and into conference play will be the test for the Longhorns early on. With difficult opponents and a young team, senior Brejae Washington expects this year to be a challenge.

“I think it’s going to be something different that we aren’t used to,” Washington said.

“

I think we all are excited about the ranking and excited to prove that we are in the top 10.

—Taylor Thom, Senior shortstop

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By DAVID OUELLET

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E D O T O S T H G I N K E E W  
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C C Y E U N R C C O E N H M N  
I W A A T H G E P D P L W A S  
R M M J W A T S P M O U B L E  
A A I U K A L O T S U A I G H  
Y V G Z I E S K O S E P G N C  
M I U L I R G T S B E K D I T  
O S E N I L D A E H O U O P E  
N A L D A V I D N L O T G P K  
D I N R G A R A G E A W O O S  
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## WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

## Texas wallops Red Raiders

By Jori Epstein  
@JoriEpstein

Texas overpowered a slow defense Wednesday night to smother Texas Tech, 88-51. The Longhorns held a 48-4 scoring advantage in the paint to prove head coach Karen Aston that they are, in fact, "a lot better at home."

"You can really tell the difference in our team's personality and their comfort at home," Aston said. "The crowds are growing and becoming a bigger part of it, but there's no question that it's made a difference for our team this year."

Texas started off slow, allowing the Red Raiders (6-16, 0-11 Big 12) to score first off a foul shot by sophomore guard Brady Sanders. The teams exchanged leads three times in the first five minutes before the Texas offense took off on a 28-3 run. Texas scored 22 points in the paint, while shutting out Texas Tech's interior presence but didn't limit itself to inside shooting. Texas shot 75 percent from the free throw line and hit 46.7 percent of its shots from behind the arc.

"They're getting more comfortable," Aston said. "We've slowed down a bit



Towering above the Texas Tech interior defense, sophomore center Imani McGee-Stafford got plenty of clean looks around the rim. McGee-Stafford finished the day with 13 points while shooting 75 percent. The Texas interior outscored its opponent 22-0 in the paint.

Lauren Ussery  
Daily Texan Staff

but I thought we'd slowed down too much. I started calling a few more plays, trying to get back to our transition game."

Texas' comfort and big lead made it possible for 11 players to enter the game in the first half, 10 of whom scored and five of whom hit threes. Sophomore center Imani McGee-Stafford's perfect five shot attempts highlighted the half as she towered above defenders. Texas finished the half up

51-22.

"Everyone was shooting around and feeling good before the game," sophomore guard Empress Davenport said. "It had to do a lot with our focus."

The Longhorns (15-7, 6-4 Big 12) continued to stretch their lead through the second half, as Davenport, Sanders and McGee-Stafford cruised to double figures in scoring. After struggling with just two points in 14 minutes

against Baylor on Saturday, Davenport connected on 7 of 9 from the field to finish with 15 points. Though she said she "didn't get as many rebounds as [she] needed to," Aston thought Davenport's comeback was crucial.

"It was really important she had a good game," Aston said. "It's a maturity game. She played a very solid game, was focused and kept her emotions in check."

Texas showed why it leads the Big 12 in 3-point field goal percentage. The Longhorns also improved their conference best field goal percentage defense as they restricted the Red Raiders to a mere 26 percent shooting.

"We focus every day on getting better offensively," Aston said. "I think it's evident that every day we are getting better, more comfortable with the system and with each other."

## SOFTBALL

## Texas kicks off season with tough road games

By Jacob Martella  
@ViewFromTheBox

Texas' nonconference schedule looks similar to the way its season ended last year — a long slate of road games against tough teams.

The Longhorns will open up the season on the road for the first time since 2007, taking on No. 19 LSU in Baton Rouge on Thursday. From there, they'll head to Lafayette to play North Carolina and then No. 15 Louisiana-Lafayette twice.

"We always play a really difficult nonconference schedule," head coach Connie Clark said. "It prepares and challenges us so that, when we get to conference and postseason, we feel that we have been

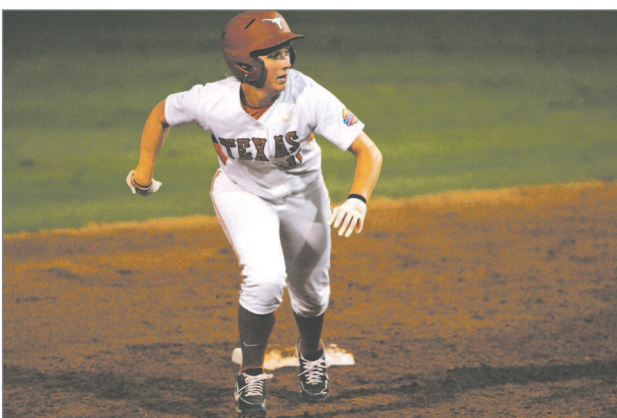
there before."

Texas will face six teams ranked in the preseason ESPN.com rankings, including two contests with No. 5 Washington, as well as facing three teams that received votes in the poll.

Four out of the five tournaments for the Longhorns will feature at least one ranked opponent. The Judi Garman Classic will be the toughest tournament, with Texas running up against Washington, No. 4 Michigan and No. 7 Arizona State.

Even coming off of a College World Series run, Clark expects her young team to experience some growing pains during the difficult stretch.

SOFTBALL page 5



Sarah Montgomery / Daily Texan Staff

Senior shortstop Taylor Thom looks to play a prominent role for the Longhorns as they start the season on the road.

## FOOTBALL



Photos courtesy of (clockwise) TWC News/Lauren Mickler, Jermaine Roberts, David Minton/DRC, Terrell Cuney  
Offensive Linemen Terrell Cuney (top left), quarterback Jerrod Heard (bottom left), safety Edwin Freeman (top right) and cornerback Jermaine Roberts (bottom right) sign their letters of intent on Wednesday to play football at Texas.

## Pair of big defensive tackles highlight Texas' signing day

By Drew Lieberman  
@DrewLieberman

Texas inked 20 commits to bring the 2014 class total to 23 on Wednesday at National Signing Day. Recruiting website Rivals ranked Texas' class as the 20th best in the country and second best in the Big 12 behind Oklahoma.

There were no surprise flips to or from the Longhorns on Wednesday, but Texas did land two key defensive players.

The first was defensive tackle Chris Nelson from Lakeland, Fla., where head coach Charlie Strong spent a lot of time recruiting in the past. Despite plans to not officially announce until after 1 p.m., Nelson signed his letter of intent in the early morning.

By 10:40 a.m. it appeared that all 22 expected letters of intent were signed, and the Longhorns were only waiting on ESPN Top 300 defensive tackle Poona Ford's decision between Missouri, Purdue and Texas.

Ford chose the Longhorns before noon, giving

Texas its second signing day commitment at a position of need. After Strong replaced former head coach Mack Brown, Texas lost all three of its projected defensive tackle commits within a few days.

"It's just so hard to find defensive linemen, so when you have a chance to grab a couple, you have to get them in your program," Strong said.

After signing zero defensive linemen last year, landing the pair of tackles who had committed to Louisville while Strong was the head coach there is an important step for the Texas defense.

In total, six of the Longhorns' 23 new players are from outside of Texas, a ratio almost unfathomable during the Mack Brown era.

"You just have to make sure you go get your needs wherever that might be," Strong said of the high number of out-of-state recruits. "But we are always looking to control this state and stay within this state."

One of the concerns that seem to be building up after a couple of lackluster

recruiting classes and performances on the field is Texas' hold on talent within the state.

Texas landed zero of the state's top nine recruits as ranked by Rivals and ESPN this year. Texas' struggles to land the top Texas recruits has been apparent as in-state recruiting rivals Baylor and Texas A&M made their presence known, picking up four of those nine.

Though this may be a cause for concern, Strong said Texas is still Texas and should always have a chance to land elite Texas recruits.

"We're still the University of Texas. We will always be the flagship university of this state," Strong said. "You know you are going to get in every door you can, so now it's just about selling the University and selling this town and just selling ourselves and the program."

The good news for Longhorns fans? The last time Texas had the 20th ranked class by Rivals was 2005, the year the program claimed its fourth national title.

## SIDELINE

## NBA

SPURS	125
WIZARDS	118

SUNS	108
ROCKETS	122

MAVERICKS	110
GRIZZLIES	96

## NCAAM

OKLAHOMA	86
WEST VIRGINIA	91

## TOP TWEET

Emmanuel Acho  
@theEMANacho  
"Congrats #signees joining #LonghornNation today. U don't commit to a coach, u commit to a University..& the greatest 1 in the world! #Hookem."

## TODAY IN HISTORY

## 2006

The Pittsburgh Steelers defeated the Seattle Seahawks 21-10 in Super Bowl XL. It was the fifth Super Bowl victory for the Steelers. Jerome Bettis announced his retirement after the game.

## SPORTS BRIEFLY

## Men's golf to open spring season

Texas tees off in the Aloha State Thursday for the team's first tournament of 2014, the Amer Ari Invitational.

The 18th-ranked squad will be competing in Waikoloa, Hawaii, against 19 other teams, including five top-20 teams, led by Georgia Tech and Oklahoma State, who are ranked second and third, respectively.

Last year the then-second ranked Longhorns men's team tied for fourth place, led by Cody Gribble and Brandon Stone at the three-day Amer Ari spring debut.

The tournament will be held at the same venue as last year, Waikoloa King's Course.

Texas starters Gavin Hall, Toni Hakula, Beau Hossler, Brax McCarthy and Kramer Hickok, along with individual Will Griffin, look to start their spring season off strong, after finishing seventh at the Isleworth Collegiate Invitational last October.

The Longhorns will start in a shotgun format at 11:30 a.m.

—James Grandberry

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Issue 2: It's not as  
awkward as it sounds.

Zodiac  
Girls

By: Lilly & Toned

Alright, now to find  
Astronomy  
301 and-

HEY  
THERE!  
Hazel,  
right?

Oh yes, my  
name is  
Hazel. Do I  
know you?

Oh, I'm just  
a guy who  
lives on  
your floor.

Meme  
What  
you

But I would like to get  
to know you better.  
Tell me a little bit  
about yourself~

uh...

Wait... So were you a  
LARPER or were you in a  
girl gang?

uh...

Uh, well...  
I used to be in a group  
called the Zodiac Girls.  
We would dress up and keep  
trouble in line.  
You may have seen us on the news  
from time to time.

Naptime Comics

aw gross this gum  
is still fresh...

oh well...

\*trip\*

\*splat\*

eventually...

Riki Tsuji @nobodyrobot

Tom's Crisis

What is Tom's  
crisis about  
today?

How should I know?  
This is UT, it  
could be  
anything.

\*Sobs\*

\*Sobs\*

Candlebot Comics: Gotta Catch My Ride

AHHHH I'M GUNNA  
BE LATE!!!

FWEEEEEE

HELL YEA

Isabelle N. Palacios "candlebot.tumblr"

Snailhat Comics

Cool Google Glasses,  
dude!

WRONG!  
ZAP

MY SKIN!!

"Bing" Bifocals"

A. McShane

I USED TO FEEL  
VERY SMART

UNTIL I REALIZED  
HOW ADVANCED TECH-  
NOLOGY WAS

HUMAN BRAINS  
ARE INFERIOR!

I GOT A LAPTOP BUT DIDN'T  
TAKE CARE OF IT

TOO MANY  
FILES

(SCRATCHES)

YOU'RE  
SLOW

WHEN IT DOESN'T WORK,  
I DON'T GET FRUSTRATED

STUPID  
COMPUTER

I FEEL VALUABLE

LONG NECK BEARS

HEY WILL  
YOU-  
NO

ANSWERS  
STILL  
NO

K  
COOL

forgive me  
mutter

S. BUTLER

nacelles.tumblr.com

SUDOKU FOR YOU

Today's solution will appear here next issue

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

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

The New York Times  
Crossword

Edited by Will Shortz No. 0102

ACROSS

1 Some support beams

6 100%

9 Key of Chopin's Polonaise No. 6

14 Hit the highlights

15 Husband and wife, e.g.

16 Sponge

17 Food or drink dispensers

19 \_\_\_ to the top

20 First word in the English lyrics of "Frère Jacques"

21 Nick of "The Deep"

22 Kind of cartridge

23 Burning the midnight oil

25 Like virtually all gold medalists in Olympic table tennis

27 Science of light

28 Lads

29 Performs, in the Bible

30 Shimmery silks

31 "You \_\_\_" (2011 Lady Gaga song)

32 Robert Frost poem that includes "Good fences make good neighbors"

33 Three-toed runners

37 Designed (for)

39 Yoga pose that strengthens the abs

40 Pope who declared "I am a sinner. This is the most accurate definition"

42 With skill and grace

43 Hog

44 Ignoring

45 Maid on "The Jetsons"

46 \_\_\_ squash

48 Sea eggs

50 Sci-fi novelist \_\_\_ Scott Card

51 Taking liberties

53 Mock attack

54 "Star Trek" prosthesis

55 Oceanward

56 Tour de France stage

57 Board member: Abbr.

58 Full of spunk

DOWN

1 "\_\_\_ la Douce"

2 Relate to

3 Successful, as an applicant

4 Sound of support

5 Ingredient in Florentine dishes

6 "Someone Like You" singer

7 Hircosity

8 1968 #1 hit for the Supremes

9 Feeling romantic

10 Going without help

11 Car not in a garage

12 Gatekeeper's grant

13 "Voilà!"

18 Forget-me-\_\_\_

24 Future court case

26 Mistreatment

27 \_\_\_ Mae ("Ghost" role)

28 Parts of clogs

30 Softened up, in a way

32 Where Snickers, Skittles and Starburst are manufactured

34 Crash pad?

35 Frees

36 It goes around the world

38 Diplomatic agreement

39 Inconsequential

40 Little bloom

41 Don's place

42 Charlie Chan's creator Earl \_\_\_ Biggers

43 "Grand Canyon Suite" composer

44 Red Sox Hall-of-Famer Bobby

47 Tea type

49 Company with a 1998 Nasdaq IPO, that hired its first employee in 1996

52 Mauna \_\_\_

PUZZLE BY TODD GROSS

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Review



GAMES

# MELEE resurgence hits campus

By Sam Grasso  
@SamJGrasso

Matthew Chan took a seat on the floor of his North Campus apartment while his roommate Edgar Handal plugged a Wii gaming system into a television in front of them. Handal, an engineering alumnus, apologized for having to set up the system, explaining they haven't played Super Smash Bros. Melee in two weeks. After traveling to New Jersey in January and placing 33rd out of more than 600 entrants in the 2014 Apex tournament series, Handal said he was "smashed out."

"Not all tournaments are equal," said Chan, a music education fifth-year senior. "Leading up to [Apex] we played every day for at least four or five hours."

The size of turnout for Apex is a reflection of the large Melee resurgence since the game's decline in 2008, though Melee's story began seven years earlier.

In 2001, Nintendo released Super Smash Bros. Melee, the successor to 1999's Super Smash Bros. Handal said although the video game's developers didn't intend for Melee to be played competitively, it became popular in the fighting game community.

"Melee is kind of a 'lucky accident' for the competitive community," Handal said. "You really examine the game and sometimes the decisions made by the developers seem like they didn't think everything to the extent that the competitive community has taken it."

Chan and Handal, who joined the scene in 2008 and 2007 respectively, are two of the current Melee leaders and tournament organizers in Austin, with tens to hundreds of other players involved in the resurgence. The players come from all different backgrounds and range in age from teens to mid-twenties.



Shelby Tauber / Daily Texan Staff

Music education senior Matthew Chan and his roommate, engineering alumnus Edgar Handal, play Super Smash Bros. Melee together in their North Campus apartment Monday night.

"A lot of the people we've met have been fun people, good friends and people to hang out with," Handal said. "You want new people to come in and you want them to be friends with each other, and you want everyone to get better at the game."

Members of the Melee scene bond over their shared interest in the video game online through message boards, YouTube uploads or tournament live-streams. In person, Melee fans meet under the UT student organization Smash Club, and hold Smashfests and tournaments open to all members.

In 2008, the release of a new game, Super Smash Bros. Brawl, drew players away from

Melee and caused the scene to become stagnant. Joshua Jebamony, linguistics senior and member of the Austin melee scene since 2007, said he realized he didn't like Brawl competitively and saw Melee tournaments quickly die out as the new game amassed popularity.

Although the Melee scene shrunk after the new release, Chan and Handal wanted to reverse the process. As officers of the Smash Club, the duo committed to promoting Melee and supporting the community, hosting regular Smashfests and tournaments on campus.

"We would use meetings as get-togethers where we play Smash as a way to get newcomers to just play and

have a good time," Chan said. "It's safe to say, for the both of us, that we're passionate about Melee, and the community by extension."

As Melee grew older, tournaments started broadcasting online through live streams. In July 2013, the Melee scene saw a spike in the game's revival during the Evolution Championship Series, known as Evo, which was the largest Melee tournament in the world, with just less than 700 entrants. Melee matches at Evo 2013 also reportedly broke the record for the most-watched fighting game of all time, with about 134,000 viewers live-streaming the event.

"Thousands of those people

[who watched the live-stream] don't play Melee but were watching the best of the best, so that generated a ton of lasting interest," Jebamony said.

Last December, Chan and Handal played on Melee's momentum from Evo and hosted Forte, one of the largest two-day Smash tournaments in Texas in years. The tournament had 86 entrants and even brought in a nationally known player.

"A lot of the out of state people commented that it was really well-run, which we were really proud of because it was our first multiple-day event and one of the largest events we've ever hosted," Handal said.

While Chan said they're

proud to be a part of the community and love building it, he said they wanted to change the Austin Melee scene as a whole, making it more friendly and approachable to both new players to the scene and to the game itself.

"The overall sense of unity in the community is really cool," said Phillip Kieval, English freshman and new Smash Club member. "You build a sense of pride in your local scene and its players. They give you something to cheer for at a national scale as well as set goals for you to achieve for yourself. We all push each other to get better so we can represent our community on a scale greater than just ourselves."

CITY

# Franklin's chef to host TV show

By Alexandra Dubinsky  
@DailyTexanArts

From a food trailer in an East Austin parking lot to the TV screen, Aaron Franklin, owner of Franklin Barbecue, along with his wife Stacy, never imagined their brisket could create such a worldwide following.

"I've been super into barbecue for a long time," Franklin said. "My wife and I had backyard barbecues for years before this opened, but this has grown a little more than I thought it would be, for sure."

Since it opened shop in late 2009, Franklin Barbecue generates three-hour lines, serving 1,600 pounds of meat on any given Saturday, and has established a reputation for selling the best barbecue in the country. Now, Franklin can add debuting his own TV show to his list of accomplishments.

In collaboration with KLRU-TV and Austin PBS, the new series, "BBQ with Franklin," will educate its viewers on all things barbecue: its history, its techniques and its overall culture. From choosing the right kind of wood and temperature to learning how to properly slice a brisket, "BBQ with Franklin," set to air in 2015, will answer questions about perfecting the art of smoking and barbecuing meats.

"It's cool to learn stuff," Franklin said. "People ask so many questions and send so many emails on, like, 'How hot should I cook this?' 'What should I do?' It seems



Jenna Holtzman / Daily Texan Staff

Aaron Franklin, owner of Franklin Barbecue, never thought his backyard barbecues would grow into the business they have become. Franklin will host a TV series, "BBQ with Franklin," that will air on KLRU-TV next year.

like it would be easy to just show them."

Franklin's love for barbecue originated as a kid when his parents owned a barbecue stand in Bryant. After realizing it was too much work, they sold it and, years later, Franklin is picking up right where they left off.

Franklin said the idea for the show started as a web series after Franklin's YouTube channel received 1 million views. As a way to bring the barbecue community together, Franklin's YouTube channel is a series of 10 short instructional videos on making everything from ribs to pulled pork and sauce, to a barbecue rendition of Thanksgiving.

"At first, we wanted to do

a video on how to cut a brisket because there's nothing online," Franklin said. "It's totally wrong, I think. ... So, we did the web series with the idea that it might turn into a show and I'll be darned if it did."

Sara Robertson, creative director at KLRU-TV and executive producer of the show, said viewers should expect to get a good sense of what makes Texas a special place for barbecue.

"The Austin indie/DIY food scene will also be featured," Robertson said. "There are some people doing incredible things with food right now. It's an exciting time to be in Austin."

Peter Hansen waited in line for three hours this

past Saturday after flying all the way from Denmark for one day, just to eat at Franklin Barbecue.

"I came to try everything on the menu," Hansen said. "And I would tune in all the way from Denmark if only I could watch [the show]."

Fortunately for Hansen and other foodies around the world, PBS intends to continue streaming online in addition to distributing the series to stations across the country. With Franklin's knowledge and expertise, fans will learn how to recreate the barbecue they wait so long in line for.

"In the end, we hope we inspire someone to learn something new and try it themselves," Robertson said.

# Author chronicles hunt for stolen art

DALLAS — From a fairy tale-inspiring castle in the Bavarian Alps to a serene sculpture of Mary and Jesus tucked away in a Belgian church, sites and works of art across Europe can give travelers a glimpse of the heroic work done by the group depicted in the new movie "The Monuments Men."

The group's mission was to save cultural treasures during World War II. And just like the group's previously unsung accomplishments, many of the places and objects they saved have been "hidden in plain sight" for decades, said Robert Edsel, the Dallas-based author of the book "The Monuments Men," which inspired the movie starring George Clooney, Matt Damon and others.

Edsel talked about a few of the many places and artworks in Europe tied to the work of the 350 men and women from Allied countries, most of them already established as architects, artists, curators and museum directors when they reported for duty. Eventually, they returned more than 5 million cultural items stolen by the Nazis as part of a systematic looting operation.

## Works of art in Belgium and the Austrian salt mine where they were hidden

Visitors to the canal-lined, storybook town of Bruges, Belgium, may look in awe at Michelangelo's

## The group's mission was to save cultural treasures during World War II.

marble sculpture "Madonna and Child" in the Church of Our Lady, but few know of its harrowing wartime journey. Taken from the church by German officers in 1944, the sculpture was eventually discovered by Monuments Men on a dirty mattress in a salt mine near Altaussee in Austria.

In the town of Ghent, not far from Bruges, visitors at Saint Bavo Cathedral can gaze at another work that was discovered by Monuments Men at the Altaussee mine: "The Ghent Altarpiece." Made of panels painted by Jan van Eyck in 1432, the famous work of art was taken by the Belgians to France in 1940 for safekeeping. But in 1942 it was taken by the Germans.

Tourists can also visit the Altaussee salt mine where those works — along with 6,600 paintings, 140 sculptures and other pieces — filled more than 100 tunnels. The works stored in the Austrian mine about 45 minutes from Salzburg housed treasures Adolf Hitler wanted to one day fill his planned museum in Linz, Austria.

—Associated Press