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## VIEWPOINT

Austin needs an urban rail system that connects the city's center with its outer edges. But that can only happen if UT students have a greater say in the planning process. **PAGE 4**

## TODAY

**All-day photo exhibit spotlights De Cesare** UT professor Donna De Cesare, an award-winning photojournalist, exhibits "Unsettled: Children in a World of Gangs," which looks at the effects of war and gang violence on Central America youth. Sid Richardson Hall (SRH), floor 2. Free and open to the public.

**Noted ESPN talent appearing on campus** ESPN anchor and national correspondent Jeremy Schaap will speak as part of the Frank Deford Lecture in Sports Journalism, beginning at 11 a.m. at the Belo Center for New Media (BMC). Free and open to the public.

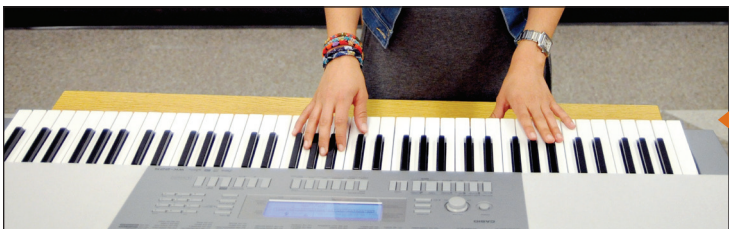
### WHAT IS TODAY'S REASON TO PARTY?



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Men's golf clinches Big 12 title.  
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Aca-awesome Ransom Notes senior preps for concert.  
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#### UNIVERSITY

## Observatory director to retire

**By Jordan Rudner**

He first developed an interest in astronomy as a high school junior in Kent, England. He joined the UT Faculty in 1969. Now, after 10 years as director of UT's McDonald Observatory, David Lambert is planning to retire.

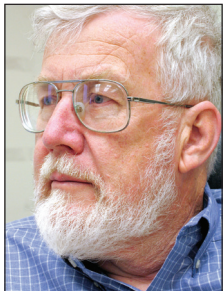
"When I step down, I shall be 75, and that sounds old

enough to let someone younger have a shot," Lambert said. "It will be nice to get fresh blood into the system."

Lambert, who is also an astronomy professor, will step down by August 2014. He said he has not yet decided if he will continue to teach. Astronomy professor Chris Sneden is chairing the search committee to find a new director — he said the committee has already

compiled a shortlist which includes candidates who already work at UT.

"The ideal director has to lead a major research enterprise and hopefully improve it through the years, but the director has got to be more than a good scientist," Sneden said. "The director must be a person who is able to work with



**David Lambert**  
UT astronomy professor

**RETIRE** *continues on page 2*

#### CAMPUS



**Emily Ng** | Daily Texan Staff

Advertising senior Dominic Ferrario and Plan II psychology junior Elyssa Klann serve pancakes during the third annual Pancakes for Parkinson's fundraiser benefiting the Michael J. Fox Foundation in Gregory Plaza on Wednesday morning.

# Cakes for a cause

Pancakes for Parkinson's fundraises for research in honor of professor

**By Zach Lozano**

Sitting in James Vick's multivariable calculus class, students may notice that Vick does not write on the

board very much. Vick suffers from Parkinson's disease, a condition affecting the central nervous system that causes uncontrollable jitteriness and shakiness.

Although young adults

are usually not the key demographic for Parkinson's disease, UT students showed support for Parkinson's disease research at Pancakes for Parkinson's 3rd annual fundraiser Wednesday at Gregory Plaza. The fundraiser is held in honor of Vick, whose daughter Stuart Smith first thought to organize the

fundraiser shortly after her father was diagnosed.

Vick, mathematics professor and a former vice president for student affairs, was diagnosed five years ago with the disease and since then organizations from Texas Round Table to RecSports

**CAKES** *continues on page 2*

#### UNIVERSITY

## UT leads many colleges, moves into online space

**By Jordan Rudner**

The UT classroom is coming to the web, and the web is coming to the classroom.

"In the next 18 to 36 months, some really profound changes are going to occur in public higher education," said Steven Mintz, executive director of the UT System Institute for Transformational Learning. "Nationwide, universities are going to move aggressively into the online space — students are consuming education in multiple ways."

The University's new approach focuses on two primary goals: making its resources available to people outside of the University and making the educational experience more personal for students. Part of that initiative is massive open online courses, or MOOCs, which are courses that anyone in the world can take online for free. Earlier this month, the UT System debuted four of these courses

on the edX platform. Within three days, nearly 15,000 students had enrolled.

"MOOCs are aimed at large audience around the world, to showcase some of the strengths of the University," said Harrison Keller, vice provost for higher education policy and research.

Gene Powell, chairman of the UT System Board of Regents, said he feels this reflects the System's role on the forefront of education innovation.

"There's a paradigm shift going on in higher education in America," Powell said at a recent board meeting. "The UT System is leading it."

Personalized learning initiatives largely rely on data analytics, which Mintz said he hopes will make the educational experience more effective. For example, some online courses will anonymously track students' keystrokes, using speed as one factor for calculating understanding.

**MOOC** *continues on page 2*

#### CAMPUS



Students attend a candlelight vigil held to honor the people affected by the recent tragedies in Boston and West.

**Amy Zhang**  
Daily Texan Staff

## Vigil honors last week's victims

**By Zach Lozano**

Following a bombing in Boston and an explosion in West last week, UT students held a vigil on West Mall Wednesday in honor of the victims.

"Whenever crisis and devastating events happen, it is important to stand up and show support," Student Government president Horacio Villarreal said. "This shows the victims that we support and care for them."

Student Government and the Senate of College Councils sponsored the vigil, in which students held candles in remembrance.

On April 15, a pair of bombs went off during the 117th annual Boston Marathon. The bombing killed three people — including an 8-year-old boy — and injured more than 200 people. About 27,000 runners entered the competition this year. Two brothers, Dzhokhar and Tamerlan Tsarnaev, have been identified as

suspects behind the bombing. Dzhokhar is being held in custody, while Tamerlan was killed in a standoff with the police later during the week of the bombing.

Two nights after the Boston bombing, an unrelated explosion occurred at a fertilizer plant in West, a small town about 20 miles north of Waco. The explosion killed 14 people, injured more than 200 people

**VIGIL** *continues on page 2*



"It makes me scared that something like that could happen so close, so it's important to show this kind of support," Flowers said. "It reminds people how unity and coming together are vital to emotionally healing and being there for others."



NEWS BRIEFLY

Kidnapping suspect brought back to U.S.

LOS ANGELES — A fugitive charged with abducting and sexually assaulting a 10-year-old Los Angeles girl was returned to the U.S. Wednesday after being arrested in a Mexican village where he'd checked himself into a rehabilitation facility under a fake name, authorities said.

Tobias Summers, 30, was being brought to Los Angeles to face 37 felony charges, including numerous sexual assault counts, FBI Special Agent in Charge Tim Delaney told a press conference.

Summers was a fugitive for nearly a month. Police Chief Charlie Beck credited the arrest to a \$25,000 FBI reward.

Group urges Kuwait to ditch media fines

KUWAIT CITY — An international press freedom group is urging Kuwait to abandon proposals to tighten media laws that could bring fines of nearly \$1 million for insulting the Gulf nation's ruler and allow further clampdowns on blogs and websites.

A report Wednesday by the New York-based Committee to Protect Journalists said the steep fines could bankrupt media outlets and bring jail time for journalists unable to pay.

Kuwait has the most politically open system among the Gulf Arab nations, but the ruling family is now locked in escalating showdowns with opposition groups.

—Compiled from Associated Press reports



Image shows the damaged famed 12th-century Umayyad mosque without the minaret in the northern city of Aleppo, Syria on Wednesday.

Photo Courtesy of Aleppo Media Center

Fighting topples Syrian minaret

By Ryan Lucas  
Associated Press

BEIRUT — The 11th-century minaret of a famed mosque that towered over the narrow stone alleyways of Aleppo's old quarter collapsed Wednesday as rebels and government troops fought pitched battles in the streets around it, depriving the ancient Syrian city of one of its most important landmarks.

President Bashar Assad's government and the rebels trying to overthrow him traded blame over the destruction to the Umayyad Mosque, a UNESCO world heritage site and centerpiece of Aleppo's walled Old City.

"This is like blowing up the Taj Mahal or destroying the Acropolis in Athens. This

mosque is a living sanctuary," said Helga Seeden, a professor of archaeology at the American University of Beirut. "This is a disaster. In terms of heritage, this is the worst I've seen in Syria. I'm horrified."

Aleppo, Syria's largest city and a commercial hub, emerged as a key battleground in the nation's civil war after rebels launched an offensive there last summer. Since then, the fighting has carved the city into rebel- and regime-held zones, killed thousands of people, forced thousands more to flee their homes and laid waste to entire neighborhoods.

The Umayyad Mosque complex, which dates mostly from the 12th century, suffered extensive damage in October as both sides fought to control the walled

compound in the heart of the old city. The fighting left the mosque burned, scarred by bullets and trashed. Two weeks earlier, the nearby medieval covered market, or souk, was gutted by a fire sparked by fighting.

With thousands of years of written history, Syria is home to archaeological treasures that date back to biblical times, including the desert oasis of Palmyra, a cultural center of the ancient world. The nation's capital, Damascus, is one of the oldest continually inhabited cities in the world.

At least five of Syria's six World Heritage sites have been damaged in the fighting, according to UNESCO, the U.N.'s cultural agency. Both rebel and regime forces have set up bases in some

of Syria's significant historic sites, including citadels and Turkish bath houses, while thieves have stolen artifacts from museums.

The destruction of the minaret — which dated to 1090 and was the oldest surviving part of the Umayyad Mosque — brought outrage and grief.

"What is happening is a big shame," said Imad a-Khal, a 59-year-old Christian businessman in Aleppo. "Thousands of tourists used to visit this site. Every day is a black day for Syrians."

The main Western-backed opposition group, the Syrian National Coalition, accused the government of intentionally committing "a crime against civilization and humanity" by destroying the minaret.

Scalpers sell tickets to murder trial in Arizona

By Brian Skoloff  
Associated Press

PHOENIX — Ticket scalping is nothing new in the sports and music world, but for a murder trial?

Dozens of people flock to court each day for a chance to score one of a handful of seats open to the public in Jodi Arias' ongoing murder trial in Arizona. This week, one trial regular sold her spot to another person for \$200 — and both got reprimands from the court on Tuesday.

Desiree Lee, a regular attendee, said another woman had traveled from Michigan to see the trial but couldn't get a seat because she was too far back in line.

"She was asking a couple of people ahead of me if they wanted to sell their seats," Lee, who lives in the area, told ABC15 in Phoenix. "I said yes ... I seriously didn't know I was going to get in trouble."

Arias faces a potential death sentence if convicted of first-degree murder in the June 2008 killing of her one-time boyfriend at his suburban Phoenix home. Authorities say she planned the attack on Travis Alexander in a jealous rage. Arias initially denied involvement then later blamed it on masked intruders. Two years after her arrest, she said it was self-defense.

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VIEWPOINT

City planning needs student involvement

Going to school in the center of an exciting and growing city makes the UT experience unique among Texas' public universities. But along with growth come growing pains — traffic, most notably — which cause the glamour of urban life to fade. To make Austin more accessible and to keep pace with comparably sized cities, we need a rail transit system that can effectively and efficiently connect the densest and most vibrant parts of the city, and students need to be involved in the planning that is necessary to make this happen.

Plans to build an urban rail system similar to those in Houston and Dallas have been in the works since the mid-1990s, yet no tangible progress has since been made in Austin's center. In March 2010 Capital Metro opened the Red Line, a 32-mile commuter rail service that brings suburbanites into downtown Austin. But congestion in downtown and near campus necessitates a rail service that can move people around the city's urban core.

On April 24 Student Government unanimously approved a resolution that asks the city to better involve students in the planning process to bring the city just such a rail line.

The resolution raises concerns about a 2012 proposal that planned for rail to run through the UT campus along San Jacinto Boulevard, a route that is too far from the density of activity and residents along the western edge of campus. The resolution endorses a rail line along or near Guadalupe that would "directly serve students in their home communities, by building through the heart of residential student density."

The resolution further demands "additional public input concerning the proposed urban rail program in the form

of a Citizen's Advisory Committee or an additional formal process that includes a student voice." Such a student voice has been missing from prior urban rail initiatives in Austin.

The Urban Land Institute, a city planning think tank, issued a report in February that specifically calls for University students to be engaged as stakeholders in the planning process for Austin's future urban rail. Student Government's City Relations Task Force can provide a sustained student voice at City Hall, but more students must get involved in order for our voices to be heard by city policymakers.

Jace Deloney, co-founder of Austinites for Urban Rail Action and a commissioner on the city's Urban Transportation Commission, spoke on behalf of the resolution during the April 25 Student Government meeting. In his presentation, Deloney recalled that at a recent community meeting regarding the urban rail project, "one of the comments we received was that 'just because a bunch of UT students who don't vote want a certain route doesn't mean that it is the optimal one.'" Deloney described the comment as a call to action for students who care about the city in which they live.

Students should absolutely care about Austin. After all, the city is our home for at least four years — sometimes longer, if you're lucky enough to find a job in town after graduation. In the past two years, students have shown that their voices can lead to results. John Lawler, a former Student Government representative who also advocated for the resolution, pointed to successful student-led campaigns to get a cycle track built along Rio Grande Street and to reduce the number of new parking meters in West Campus as recent examples of how students can effect

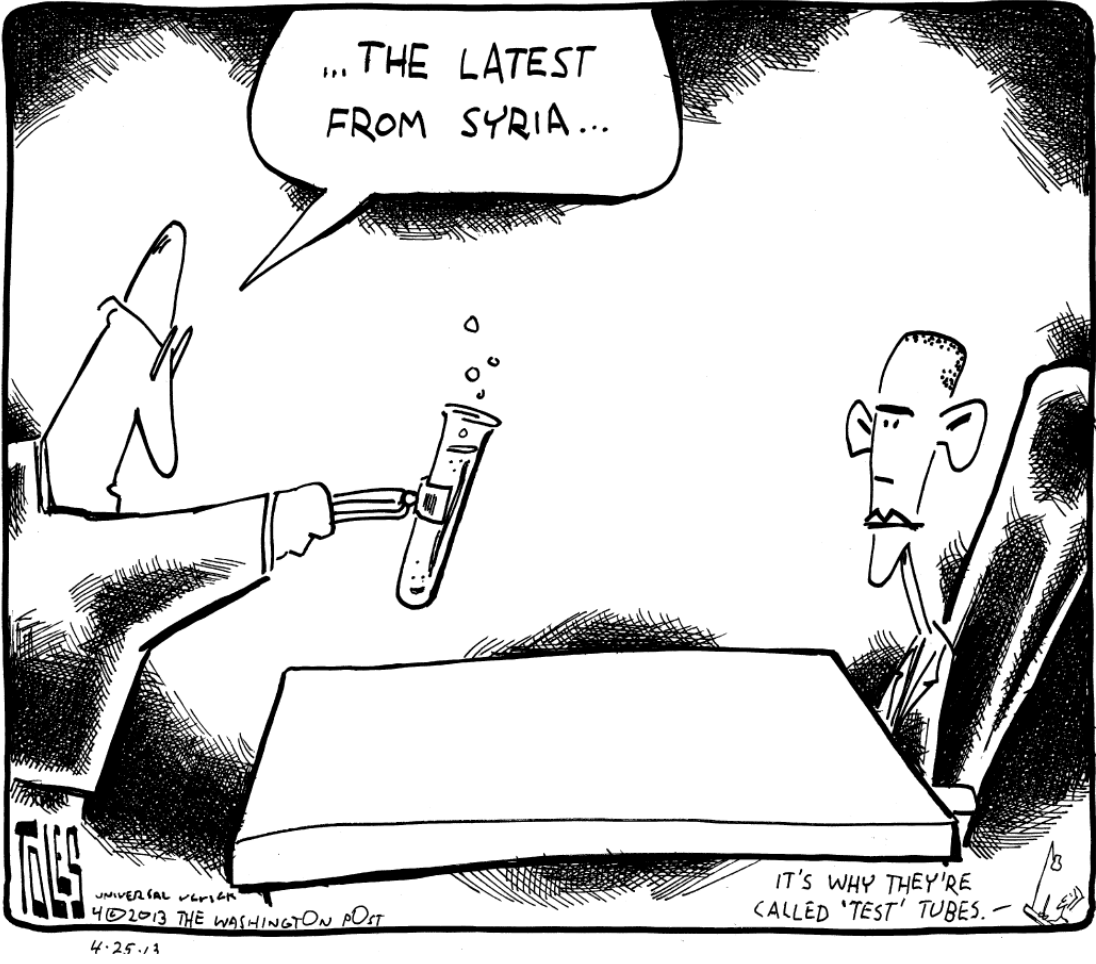
The UT campus and West Campus are among the most densely populated census tracts in the state. Failing to link these neighborhoods to a new rail system would be a disservice to the students who live there.

change in the city.

According to new census data, the UT campus and West Campus are among the most densely populated census tracts in the state. Failing to link these neighborhoods to a new rail system would be a disservice to the students who live there — all of whom contribute to the city's property tax revenue every time they mail their sky-high rent checks.

With this in mind, we welcome the city planners to our campus to discuss students' goals for a future urban rail system, and we support Student Government's efforts to put more student voices in the ongoing dialogue about urban rail. We think students contribute a lot to what makes Austin great — both in the money we spend and in the youthful energy we contribute — so it only makes sense that we would play a role in what is potentially the most transformative investment the city will make in the near future.

GALLERY



Demand a decent Drag

By Barron Peper

Guest Columnist

Nearly 10 years ago, the Austin City Council approved a plan to improve the Drag between MLK Boulevard and 29th Street. Ten years later, the Drag is just as neglected as it was when the project was approved, students are unaware of the plan and the city of Austin is in no hurry to improve the Drag's conditions. Why? Because City Council is simply not ranking UT students as a priority.

"I don't think city government services its students very well," said architecture professor Larry Speck, who supports the improvement plan. "I don't think they're in franchise with the students in this city. [They think] this is just a student area, so maybe we don't have to pay attention to it like we might a downtown street, but students vote too and they deserve equal treatment."

The components of the plan to improve the Drag are simple, but the effects would be phenomenal: Trees would be planted periodically from MLK to 29th Street, sidewalks would become up to 10 feet wider and, at busy crosswalks, the sidewalks will pull out eight feet, providing generous standing space and reducing crossing distance.

It can be difficult to picture what the Drag could be, but to do so, look to some of UT's successful community spaces. You enter the Texas Memorial Union courtyard and find people meeting with friends, doing homework, eating lunch, reading a book and even just people-watching. It's an enjoyable place to be — it is shaded, convenient and has a soothing water feature. There is no reason why the Drag cannot incorporate similar characteristics of successful community spaces.

Every year, hundreds of students make the decision to come to this campus largely because of its beauty, legacy and the community spaces it holds. These spaces give the impression that we take pride in who we are. And yet, shockingly, you walk down the Drag — a street directly adjacent to our distin-

guished University — and get the impression that people don't care about the place. The Drag is an opportunity for the University to engage a part of Austin just outside of its borders and to share the UT legacy of beauty, strength and community. It is a shame that UT and Austin are associated with such a pathetic street.

Speck agrees. "The current conditions of the Drag are wrong. Wrong because I believe in the idea of community that comes with great public space," Speck said. The Drag can and should be a great public space, one that has the potential to foster community. "Thousands of people walk from their homes in West Campus. The Drag's improvement is fantastic for the city. This is economical. This means they don't have to build more streets and build more buses, because people are walking from their homes to school and work. But, you have to have a little bit of infrastructure," Speck said.

According to the Economic Impact section of the UT website, students contribute \$823 million to the local economy every year. Consequently, we deserve the same considerations as local residents. Simple implementation of trees and sidewalk adjustments will transform the atmosphere of the Drag, helping to develop it into a place to experience, rather than a place to quickly pass through. Moreover, Guadalupe is a gateway between the city and the University. It is one of Austin's iconic streets. If it looks neglected, if the thousands of visitors UT brings to Austin for football games and other campus events walk down the Drag and get the impression that we don't care, it reflects poorly on our city and our school. Students need to demand of their city government what any citizen can: to take care of their streets and sidewalks. Citizens are right to demand that of their city, and students are citizens.

Peper is an architecture junior from Waco.

FIRING LINE

Give Luhnow credit for Astros' promising future

When I first saw that there was a column in the Texan concerning the Houston Astros, I knew I would be reading another piece that would call my beloved 9 a laughingstock and wonder why the old days have left us so suddenly. I was surprised, however, that the author, who purports to be a fan, left out the most important person within this entire process: General Manager Jeff Luhnow.

I always hear people ask, "Why did we get rid of Hunter Pence/Wandy Rodriguez/so-and-so?" It's simple: We were going to lose with them, so why not lose without them and build for the future? Luhnow recognized this and made the best of a horrible situation and picked up Carlos Correa, someone who could help compose one of the best middle infields

in the game in the future. Luhnow also has the first overall pick again in this year's draft, and it appears we could receive a franchise starter in Stanford's Mark Appel.

Yes, the Comcast Sports Net debacle is awful, and yes, the current product is awful (although I'd say the Marlins have it a lot worse), but the rational fan can see that there is a light at the end of this tunnel and that this light is something to look forward to. The rational fan can also see that Astros owner Jim Crane, unlike his predecessor Drayton McLane, can handle losing if it is coupled with building. It's going to be rough, but good times are ahead, and I'm ready for them.

Joseph Cook  
Journalism sophomore



CAMPUS

# Panel links issues of climate, economics

By Alexandra Dubinsky

Hoping to advance environmental policy and sustainability awareness, experts discussed the relationship between climate change and economics at a panel Wednesday evening.

The Campus Environmental Center, the only UT-sponsored environmental student-run organization, hosted “Climate Change in Texas: Risks and Opportunities,” featuring former Austin Mayor Will Wynn.

As chairman on the Board of Directors of Austin Energy for nine years, Wynn said he has seen the momentum of climate change and global warming fluctuate. Wynn also highlighted the dichotomy between Texas as the worst carbon-emitting state and yet the state that offers the most renewable energy, attributable to wind power.

“There’s a revenue source for some land out in West Texas that wasn’t particularly profitable otherwise,” Wynn said. “That’s a good example, though. You can make an economic argument, set aside the environmental debate and show somebody how it’s beneficial economically. That’s really [what] the big opportunity and challenge is for in Texas — to figure out and sell the economic benefits of environmental protection and just know it in our heart that we’re also helping the environment.”

Others on the panel included Ramon Alvarez, senior scientist at the Texas office of Environmental Defense Fund; Zach Baumer, climate program manager for the city of Austin; and Kerry Cook, professor at the department of geological sciences.

“Adapting to climate change means that you have to make some changes, it doesn’t mean you have to lose money or shut down your business.”

—Collin Poirot, Plan II honors senior

Cook said by 2050, Austin’s climate will increase by three degrees Fahrenheit and precipitation will decrease by 10 percent in the winter and 15 percent in the summer.

“We have a huge challenge in front of us to perform interdisciplinary research when we have different jargon, different ways of approaching and different ways of thinking about this,” Cook said. “We are trying to educate the next generation of scientists more broadly so they can all communicate effectively.”

Collin Poirot, political communication, Plan II honors and history senior and assistant director of the Campus Environmental Center, said the importance of this discussion is highlighted by the fact that people don’t know what to believe.

“Adapting to climate change means that you have to make some changes, it doesn’t mean you have to lose money or shut down your business,” Poirot said. “It just means you have to change the way you go about your business, and people don’t want to have to do that.”

CAMPUS



Emily Ng | Daily Texan Staff

English professor Dr. James Cox, organic chemistry professor Dr. Brent Iverson and human biology junior Camille Alilaen demonstrate a funny dance in order to get out of jail on Wednesday.

# Camp ‘arrests’ professors to meet fundraising goal

By Alexandra Dubinsky

When English professor James Cox and chemistry professor Brent Iverson were arrested Wednesday morning, the only way they could receive bail was by following members of Camp Kesem in a sing-along and dance song on Speedway in front of thousands passing by.

Camp Kesem, a college student-run summer camp, free of charge for children whose parents have or had cancer, held a jail-a-thon fundraiser to reach their goal of \$40,000. Professors were willingly arrested if their students raised enough money while students were able to donate \$5 to arrest anyone.

After visiting the camp last summer, Iverson, whose twin daughters, Alexandra and Alanna Iverson, cofounded the chapter at UT, said the scene of

the children was so moving that he came back a changed person.

“When cancer affects family, it affects more than one person,” Brent Iverson said. “The kids get the brunt of it. It takes a financial toll on the family and this gives them the opportunity to just be a kid which is oftentimes the best thing you can provide for families affected by cancer.”

According to Alanna, Camp Kesem received its grant from the Livestrong Foundation in 2011. While the first week-long session occurred in 2012, Alanna said she could see the transformation unravel from both campers and counselors.

“The camp was more amazing than words can say,” Alanna said. “Getting to see the growth in such a short time was incredible.”

Last summer, 24 kids attended the camp, and

this summer the organization expects to double its attendance according to psychology senior Rebecca Torres. With about 19 counselors on site, two nurses and a therapist, Torres said the program corresponds to the needs of the children accordingly by providing a balance between fun and guidance.

“I went to a camp that was similar when I was a young kid, and it meant so much to me, and I remember I loved it, especially all the counselors,” Torres said. “That experience drives me more to make sure they have just as good of an experience as I did and to let them know they have a second family here with Kesem.”

On May 4, Camp Kesem will be hosting a “Share the Magic” fundraising event at The Upper Decks from 4:30 to 7:30. Ten percent of the profits will go directly to funding the camp.

CAMPUS

# Speaker breaks free from norm, talks prison privatization

By Amanda O’ Donnell

Prison privatization, the delegation of government prison control to private companies, proved a controversial topic in a lecture given by Malcom Feeley, a University of California, Berkeley law professor.

The Wednesday afternoon lecture, titled “Prison Privatization in Australia and the United States: Differences in the Role of the State” discussed the successes of prison privatization in Australia, including less violence, reduced suicide rates and more dedicated prison officials. Feeley said despite some very strong arguments against prison privatization, Australia has proved the

possibility of success.

“In Australia, I found something that genuinely surprised me, and that was pretty good prisons,” Feeley said. “There’s no good moral theory for privatization other than cost-benefit analysis. Propriety of punishment isn’t something people readily condone.”

Government professor Rhonda Evans Case said Feeley’s lecture is the first of a new series hosted by the Clark Center for Australian and New Zealand Studies.

“We’re bringing people who have held the Fulbright Distinguished Chair in American political science in Australia to UT Austin after they come back from doing four to six months of research in

Australia,” Evans Case said. “When you’re a Fulbright, you are able to travel all around Australia and learn about it, and also talk about American politics in various forms.”

Feeley said that although Australia has experienced success with prison privatization, the culture there is also fundamentally different from that within the U.S. in that it is less crowded and has considerably less violence.

“My answer about ‘Should we privatize prisons and can they work?’ is: it all depends,” Feeley said. “Not a very powerful answer, but it seems to me that that is the only reasonable answer. It can’t be categorically yes, or categorically no.”

Government senior Mariela Rubio said she hopes research

There’s no good moral theory for privatization other than cost-benefit analysis. Propriety of punishment isn’t something people readily condone.

—Malcolm Feeley, University of California, Berkeley law professor

like Feeley’s helps to fuel experimentation with privatization in the U.S.

“I’m in the human rights and politics class, and this is the exact kind of topic we deal with,” Rubio said. “After hearing Feeley talk, I’m intrigued that privatization is met with so much opposition here in the U.S. Australia acts as a direct example of this method working for and improving the country that works to employ it.”

## NEWS BRIEFLY

### Concealed carry bill approved

Universities would not be able to prohibit students with concealed handgun licenses from storing handguns and ammunition in their vehicles on university property if a proposed law passes the Texas Legislature.

The Texas Senate Committee on Criminal Justice approved the bill by a 4-1 vote Wednesday. The bill, filed by state Sen. Glenn Hegar, R-Katy, would prevent universities from adopting policies that would disallow licensed students from storing weapons in privately owned vehicles in parking garages, parking lots and streets located on university property.

State Sen. John Whitmire, D-Houston, and Senate Committee on Criminal Justice chairman, said he believed Hegar’s proposal is a reasonable alternative to separate legislation that would allow concealed carry license holders to carry concealed handguns inside campus buildings.

Whitmire said he will not bring legislation allowing guns in campus buildings up for a hearing in his committee, citing the Dec. 14 shooting at Sandy Hook Elementary in Newtown, Conn., and law enforcement’s quick response to the Jan. 22 shooting at Lone Star College-North Harris near Houston.

“Quite frankly, I think there’s probably people right at this moment on campus with illegal guns in their trunk and on their person, but they’re doing it illegally, and that’s wrong,” Whitmire said. “For us, the state to allow it, sanction it, I think is wrong at this time.”

State Sen. Brian Birdwell, R-Granbury, authored legislation in the Senate that would allow concealed carry licensees to carry on campus. Birdwell’s chief of staff Ben Stratmann told The Dallas Morning News that he believes the legislation is “still alive.”

The situation is different in the House. A bill authored by state Rep. Allen Fletcher, R-Cypress, allowing concealed handgun license holders to carry those weapons on campus, gained the approval of the Homeland Security and Public Safety Committee and is set to be heard before the full House.

—Joshua Fechter

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## FEELING A DRAFT

With graduation near, two NFL nuts find ample free time on their hands ...

1

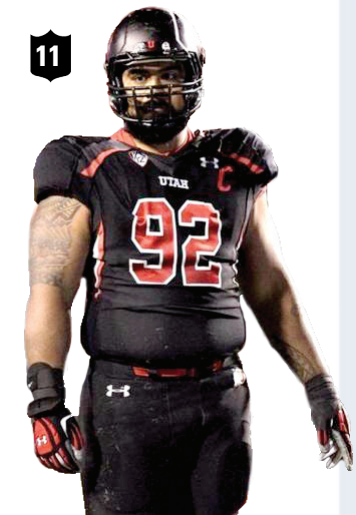


## LUKE JOECKEL

Before signing Alex Smith, the Chiefs were in desperate need of a quarterback. Now that they've got one, they're going to need someone to protect his blind side. He helped

Ryan Tannehill become last year's No. 8 pick and helped Johnny Manziel become the first freshman Heisman winner. Joeckel is a no-brainer here at No. 1.

11



## STAR LOTULELEI

Lotulelei has, by far, the best name in the draft and has one of the best games, too. The 6-foot-2, 311-pounder made 42 tackles,

10 for loss, including five sacks last year while breaking up four passes, recovering four fumbles and forcing three others — massive numbers for a defensive tackle that will fit in great in San Diego's 3-4 scheme.

16



## KENNY VACCARO

With the Rams losing both of their starting safeties from last year after Craig Dahl signed with the 49ers and Quintin Mikell was released last month, the hard-hitting and versatile Vaccaro is a perfect fit.

27



## DEANDRE HOPKINS

Andre Johnson asked the Texans to draft a wide receiver and, with Austin and Allen off the board, Hopkins would be a good way to fulfill Johnson's request.

Clocked at 4.41 seconds in the 40-yard dash at Clemson's Pro Day, Hopkins scored in all but one of the Tigers' games last season, ending his Clemson career with a 13-catch, 191-yard, two-touch-down performance.

**By Christian Corona**  
Sports Editor

1. Kansas City - Luke Joeckel, OT, Texas A&amp;M

2. Jacksonville - Dion Jordan, OLB, Oregon

3. Oakland - Sharrif Floyd, DT, Florida

4. Philadelphia - Dee Milliner, CB, Alabama

5. Detroit - Eric Fisher, OT, Central Michigan

6. Cleveland - Ezekiel Ansah, DE, BYU

7. Arizona - Lane Johnson, OT, Oklahoma

8. Buffalo - Geno Smith, QB, West Virginia

9. NY Jets - Jonathan Cooper, OG, North Carolina

10. Tennessee - Chance Warmack, OG, Alabama

11. San Diego - Star Lotulelei, DT, Utah

12. Miami - Xavier Rhodes, CB, Florida State

13. NY Jets - Barkevious Mingo, DE/OLB, LSU

14. Carolina - Sheldon Richardson, DT, Missouri

15. New Orleans - D.J. Fluker, OT, Alabama

16. St. Louis - Kenny Vaccaro, S, Texas

17. Pittsburgh - Alec Ogletree, MLB, Georgia

18. Dallas - Sylvester Williams, DT, North Carolina

19. NY Giants - Jarvis Jones, OLB, Georgia

20. Chicago - Tyler Eifert, TE, Notre Dame

21. Cincinnati - Tavon Austin, WR, West Virginia

22. St. Louis - Keenan Allen, WR, Cal

23. Minnesota - Bjoern Werner, DE, Florida State

24. Indianapolis - Desmond Trufant, CB, Washington

25. Minnesota - Manti Te'o, MLB, Notre Dame

26. Green Bay - Menelik Watson, OT, Florida State

27. Houston - DeAndre Hopkins, WR, Clemson

28. Denver - Datone Jones, DE, UCLA

29. New England - Jamar Taylor, CB, Boise State

30. Atlanta - D.J. Hayden, CB, Houston

31. San Francisco - Matt Elam, S, Florida

32. Baltimore - Cordarrelle Patterson, WR, Tennessee

**By Trey Scott**  
Managing Editor

1. Kansas City - Luke Joeckel, OT, Texas A&amp;M

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31. San Francisco - Jonathan Cyprien, S, FIU

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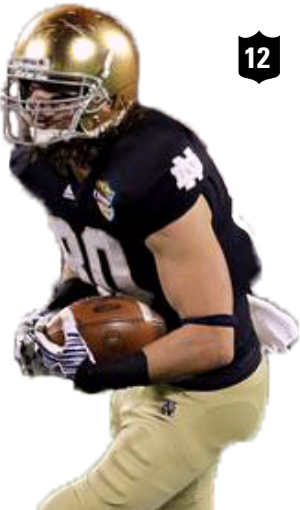
8



## EZEKIEL ANSAH

The offseason signing of Mario Williams did little to help Buffalo get after the quarterback; the Bills finished with a middle-of-the-road 36 sacks. Add the freakish Ansah, who'd play outside linebacker in the Bills' 3-4 scheme, and you've got the makings of a dynamic front-seven. With two games per year against Tom Brady, Buffalo, which signed OLB Manny Lawson in the offseason, can afford to get greedy with pass-rushers.

12



## TYLER EIFERT

Offense is the priority here, and without reaching to take a tackle to replace Jake Long, the Dolphins get Ryan Tannehill the next best thing: a versatile weapon in the passing game.

19



## XAVIER RHODES

This has been a cursed position for the Giants in recent years. Aaron Ross is back on the team after failing to meet big expectations in his first go-round. Terrell Thomas can't stay healthy, while results have been mixed for Prince Amukamara in two seasons.

23



## GENO SMITH

Yes, the Vikings spent a first-rounder two years ago on Christian Ponder, but Smith here is too good to pass up. Why waste the prime of Adrian Peterson's and Greg Jennings' careers with Ponder, who has completed only 59 percent of his passes in his career?



NFL DRAFT



Former Longhorns defensive end Alex Okafor tries to make a tackle against the TCU Horned Frogs on Thanksgiving Day last season. Okafor, who is expected to be drafted in the early rounds of the NFL draft, had eight tackles and 4.5 sacks in the Alamo Bowl last December.

Andrew Torrey  
Daily Texan  
file photo

# Former Horns wait to be drafted

By Rachel Thompson

At the Ritz-Carlton Hotel in Philadelphia in 1936, professional football teams selected their chosen players for the first-ever NFL draft.

Seventy-seven years later, teams are still doing it, with a few more rounds and slightly more advanced technology. The 2013 NFL draft will commence Thursday evening at New York City's Radio Music Hall, bringing with it a cluster of Longhorns ready to sport the caps of their new teams.

Former Texas safety Ken-ny Vaccaro has earned buzz from scouts and coaches for his speed, strength and hard-hitting abilities. Vaccaro is considered by analysts to be one of the top safety prospects in the draft and will most likely go in the first round. Vaccaro was included in a small group of players invited to New York City for the draft.

"It is an experience he should enjoy," head coach

Mack Brown said of Vaccaro's invitation. "It is a great compliment to not only Ken-ny and not only [assistant head coach/defensive backs coach] Duane Akina, but to our entire program."

Rumors of teams thinking about drafting Vaccaro have included the Rams, Saints, Cowboys and Titans after had private workouts with the latter two. But Vaccaro is keeping an open mind in terms of rosters.

"I'm fired up to go anywhere," Vaccaro said. "This has been a dream my whole life. Wherever I go, I'll excel at that team."

Defensive end Alex Okafor is also projected to be drafted in the early rounds, thanks to his power, fundamental-ly-sound hand usage and production as a pass rusher. Sporting his Texas jersey for the final time against Oregon State in the Alamo Bowl, Okafor tallied eight tackles and an Alamo Bowl record of 4.5 sacks.

"Alex Okafor is a guy I like," NFL analyst Mike Mayock said. "I love the way

he sacked Geno Smith in the end zone [during the West Virginia game.] He has some burst off the edge. He does everything really well. He's got good hustle."

Speedy wide receiver Marquise Goodwin wowed scouts and fans alike with a 4.27 second 40-yard dash at the NFL Combine, the fastest in history by a wide receiver. Goodwin, who is an Olympic long jumper, is projected by some to go sometime during the fourth round. Despite the praise he's earned for his quickness on the field, Goodwin said his speed often overshadows the other abilities he has to offer an NFL team.

"I definitely have a lot more to me than just my speed," he said. "I'm physical, I block and I can catch, I can run routes, I can get open."

Goodwin's impressive performance at the senior bowl also grabbed the attention of scouts and analysts.

"I came out of the Senior Bowl going, 'This kid's a legitimate football player,'"

Mayock said. "[He has] potential return skills [and] runs as fast as anybody in the NFL runs."

Defensive tackle Brandon Moore surprised some with his announcement to enter the draft after just one season at Texas. Moore contributed including 18 tackles and two sacks this past season, alternating between inside and outside.

Moore's size makes him a notable candidate, but lack of tapes could mean Moore will go in the mid-to-later rounds of the draft, *CBSports.com* analyst Rob Rang noted.

Wide receiver D.J. Monroe could earn a spot on a team as a late draft pick. Monroe spent five years with the Longhorns but only started twice last season.

"I'm just ready to see who is interested and who is not," Monroe said. "I'm ready for another step, another chapter to open. This is my last goal in life. I feel like I accomplished the rest, and now I'm about to show them I can play in the NFL."

MEN'S GOLF

## Texas wins Big 12 title, Stone best individual

By Jacob Martella

Despite shooting an 8-over-par 288 in the final round, the Longhorns won their first Big 12 Championship since 2004 on Wednesday.

"Anytime a golf tournament says 'championship,' it's a big deal," head coach John Fields said. "And the Big 12 Championship, for the University of Texas and our athletic department is a very big deal. We don't take it lightly."

The Longhorns came into the final day of competition with only a six-shot lead over Oklahoma State. But the Cowboys had troubles of their own, shooting a 6-over-286 in the final round.

Because of inclement weather, the tournament was shortened from four to three rounds. On Monday, rain caused an hour-long rain delay during the first round and forced six teams to finish their second rounds Wednesday.

Freshman Brandon Stone took home the individual championship, edging Oklahoma State's Talor Gooch by three strokes with an even-par 210 during the week. His second round score of a 3-under-67 was tied for the lowest individual round score of the tournament. Senior Cody Gribble finished the tournament in a tie for third, five shots off of Stone's pace with a 5-over-215. Sophomore Kramer Hickok finished tied for tenth with an 8-over-218.

Texas had a rough start to the tournament after shooting a 10-over-290 in the first round. In the second round, however, the Longhorns took over the lead with a 1-over-281 and were one of the few teams to finish their second round on Monday.

The Big 12 championship is Texas' first since 2004, which



Brandon Stone  
Freshman



Cody Gribble  
Senior



Kraner Hickok  
Sophomore

was the end of three straight conference championships. In those seasons, however, the Longhorns finished no higher than tied for third in the NCAA Championship. Despite winning the national championship last season, Texas finished in second the Big 12 Championship behind Texas A&M.

Texas will compete next in the NCAA Regional Championship May 16-18 at a site to be determined. If the Longhorns advance, they will look to defend their national championship at Capital City Club in Atlanta, Georgia May 28 through June 2.

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD. The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

REUNIONS

Solution: 6 letters

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

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Yesterday's Answer: Graduation

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## ART

# Artists find inspiring oasis in Elgin

By **Stephanie Robalino**

ELGIN — Jillayne Hunter and KB Thomason live in a minimalist oasis. With stark white walls, natural light and a Zen rooftop garden, the building looks like it could be found in downtown Manhattan. But instead of Manhattan, Hunter and Thomason reside in Elgin, participating in an artist residency program.

Together, they form “The House of ia,” an art collective working out of a studio space in Elgin. “ia,” which they define as “the in between,” represents both the artists’ collaborative work, as well as the physical space where they live and create.

“We immediately found an effortless understanding for one another’s creative inspirations,” Thomason said. “We share a mutual desire to let go in order to receive uncharted direction from the demands of our artistic processes.”

Through support from a private grant, Hunter and Thomason are renting the studio space from the Sawyer Foundation.

The foundation is facilitated by Margo Sawyer, a visual and installation artist, and professor of sculpture and studio art in the masters of fine arts program at the University of Texas.

Sawyer selected Hunter and Thomason as the first residents of the space in Elgin partly because she was impressed by how well they worked together. Sawyer feels strongly about the importance of building community within the art population and recognizes the significance in having like-minded people living and working in a space that is completely dedicated to the creation of new works.

“They are both amazing artists and it has been a pleasure to watch how the space and place has been an inspiration for their work,” Sawyer said. “They are creating works from dawn to dusk.”

Sawyer chose Elgin as the location for her studio, explaining that the city reminded her of artistically vibrant Marfa, an art oasis in a small desert town. She hopes that the quiet nature of Elgin will

inspire new works from Hunter and Thomason and that the experience of the residency will be one of the factors in furthering their careers as artists.

“Elgin is out of the city, and yet close enough to Austin to pull from and pour into the creative pool,” Hunter said. “Elgin is desolate in this way, so there is a necessity to create. We are able to wake up to a blank slate.”

One of the duo’s newest projects is a short experimental film called “Quiet Creases” that explores the concept of non-verbal communication. Hunter and Thomason recently shot a dinner party scene that served as a platform for further experiments in the filming of “Quiet Creases.”

“Our inspiration for this project sparked an interest in taking a closer look at non-verbal language and expression in our patterns of verbal communication, in a seemingly curated social environment, aka, the dinner party,” Hunter said.

The filming process involves 14 distinctive people from different walks of life,

socializing in a dinner party setting. Through the film, Hunter and Thomason explore the inside of this common scenario by examining concepts such as witnessing degrees of intimacy, gesture, transparency, body language, information in expression, as well as the ritualization and performance aspects of human relations. The artists hope to further explore the medium of film.

Following their residency in Elgin, which will expire in June 2013, Hunter and Thomason plan to return to Europe to attend a two-month summer performing arts intensive and complete a fall residency in Stolzenhagen, Germany. They plan to show the works they created during their time in Elgin in Berlin and France, and will continue to seek financial support to fund their careers. After that, Hunter and Thomason are unsure of where their artistic endeavors will take them next.

“The House of ia is a nomadic house,” Thomason said. “Our embrace of the unknown has become a perpetual practice.”



Photo courtesy of Jillayne Hunter and kb Thomason

Artists Jillayne Hunter and KB Thomason are “The House of ia,” an art collective based in Elgin.

## NOTES

*continues from page 10*

Michael Aaron, a journalism sophomore, first heard Khoury sing with the group last year.

“I’ve heard Caroline sing several times, and I think she has an immense amount of talent,” Aaron said. “There is definitely a lot of soul in her voice. She reminds me of Christina Aguilera in a way.”

Though she is only 5 feet 2 inches, Khoury described her voice as surprisingly strong and soulful. While she knew she wanted to join an a cappella group in college, she was unaware of how much it would impact her life.



I am so blessed to have found an outlet to sing while in school. Ransom Notes was the best decision I’ve made at UT.

—Caroline Khoury,  
journalism senior and music director

“I realized that if I didn’t have Ransom Notes, I’d probably be depressed without even knowing it, because music would have been missing,” Khoury said.

She has found her love for music leaking into other areas of her life. Recently, she has explored combining her passion for performing with her future journalism career.

“I think if I never did anything in music again, I’d be extremely sad,” Khoury

said. “As a journalist, I can see myself being a potential music critic.”

Her final performance with Ransom Notes will be Sunday, April 28 at 7 p.m. in Hogg Auditorium, the day after a free performance at the Blanton Fifty Fest.

“I am so blessed to have found an outlet to sing while in school,” Khoury said. “Ransom Notes was the best decision I’ve made at UT.”

## PSYCHIC

*continues from page 10*

willingness to deceive.

The main ideas come down to basic psychology. People often have an inflated opinion of themselves and nobody will argue too much if you say something flattering — sensing that your mark is “kindhearted” or “good friend” will start you out on the right foot during a psychic reading.

Questions that sound like statements are also effective. “Are you an only child?” can be counted as a hit no matter how the subject answers — “No, I’m not” can garner a psychic’s response of, “I didn’t think so,” whereas

“Yes, I am” requires nothing more than a smile and a nod.

From here, the subject will more or less lead you down a path where you can make educated guesses that sound right. Eventually, in your predictions you may come up with a genuine miss — a statement with a reaction of, “No. That’s not right at all.”

Remain calm. You might take this opportunity to remind your subject that psychic powers are mysterious and more of an art than a science, so you’re not going to be right all of the time.

Another option is to rephrase the statement as something metaphorical. For example, “No, you didn’t have an actual puppy. What I meant is that you have the outlook of a

puppy, full of wonder about the world around you.”

And, of course, when all else fails, blame the subject for blocking your connection to the spirit world by not keeping an open enough mind.

These techniques may seem obvious and transparent, but people have an obvious desire to want to believe in psychics. As we enter adulthood, we need to make more and more decisions for ourselves. It would be nice to think that somebody has all the answers and can walk us down the right path. Unfortunately, there isn’t. Nobody knows how your choices will play out and you’re going to make mistakes. It’s better to make them on your own than let a charlatan with a crystal ball make them for you.

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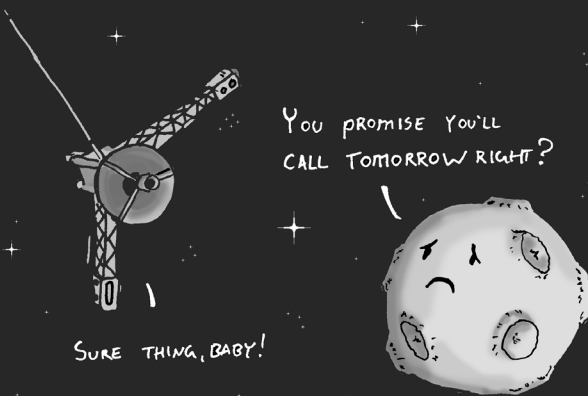
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# TODAY'S REASON TO PARTY



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Bubba the MonKey



Forrest Lybrand



Cat Problems



Danielle LaHue

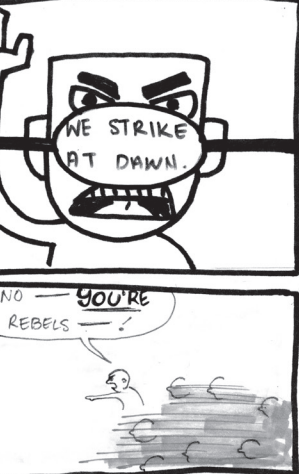
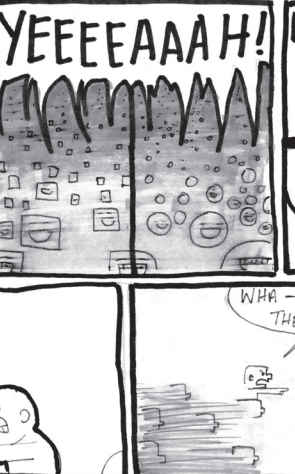


## Why Do I Keep Scrolling?

A. NGUYEN



BOATS CAN'T SINK P. BURAPAPATE



## The New York Times Crossword

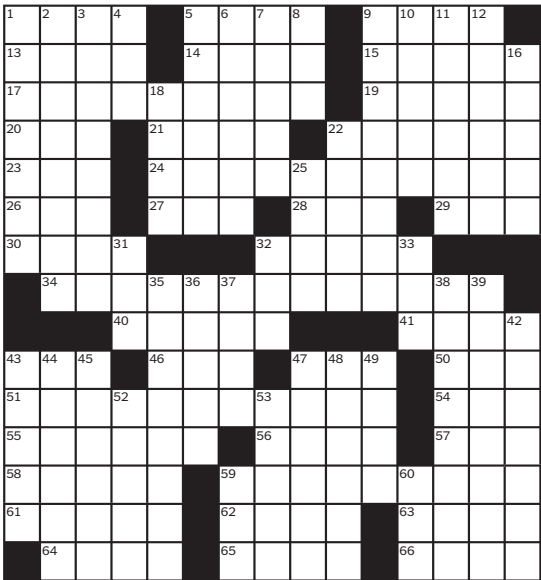
Edited by Will Shortz

No. 0321

- ACROSS**
- 1 Side effect of steroid use
  - 5 Handoff that isn't
  - 9 Biblical verb
  - 13 Climb using all four limbs
  - 14 Break
  - 15 Rocker Chris
  - 17 Undecorated type?
  - 19 Butler player of note
  - 20 Case studier: Abbr.
  - 21 One acting on impulse?
  - 22 "Crud!"
  - 23 Furor
  - 24 Subjects of some park sign warnings
  - 26 First name in horror
  - 27 Classical \_\_\_\_
  - 28 Yellowfin tuna, on menus
  - 29 Packed letters?
  - 30 Part of a fast-food combo
  - 32 Commercial name for naproxen
  - 34 Some homeowner transactions when interest rates fall, informally
  - 40 Elliptical, in a way
  - 41 An article may be written on it
  - 43 Y or N, maybe
  - 46 Rapa \_\_\_\_ (Easter Island)
  - 47 Highball?
  - 50 "Wicked!"
  - 51 Certain lap dog
  - 54 Like 32-Across, for short
  - 55 Sound
  - 56 Rose's guy, on Broadway
  - 57 Exec's degree
  - 58 Abounds
  - 59 Wok dishes
  - 61 Western \_\_\_\_
  - 62 59-Down treatment, informally
  - 63 Castaway's locale
  - 64 Richard with the 1989 #1 hit "Right Here Waiting"
  - 65 Big rushes
  - 66 Lays it on the line?
- DOWN**
- 1 Sets upon
  - 2 Cyberspace space
  - 3 Company whose name roughly means "leave luck to heaven"
  - 4 "Star Trek" extra: Abbr.
  - 5 Bending muscle
  - 6 Night light
  - 7 Oscar winner for "A Fish Called Wanda"
  - 8 Seasonal mall figure
  - 9 Slap up?
  - 10 Japanese beer brand
  - 11 Cavalry sidearms
  - 12 Like LeBron James vis-à-vis Kobe Bryant
  - 16 Kutcher's character on "That '70s Show"
  - 18 Jewel box?
  - 22 Census form option
  - 25 Point of \_\_\_\_

### ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE

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



PUZZLE BY JEFF CHEN

- 31 It may be fine
- 32 Census datum
- 33 Bad marks
- 35 John Coltrane played it
- 36 McJob holder
- 37 "... to say
- 38 "You have my word!"
- 39 Airplane light icon
- 42 Jewel boxes
- 43 Borders
- 44 When many clocks are punched
- 45 Conceptual framework
- 47 A wolf has a strong one
- 48 Underworld boss?
- 49 Kobe \_\_\_\_
- 52 Bookstore section
- 53 Deserved
- 59 See 62-Across
- 60 Barbecue offering

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

Today's solution will appear here tomorrow

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

SUDOKU FOR YOU



MUSIC

A cappella senior hits right note

By Katie Paschall

With all of her might, Caroline Khoury stepped on the arched platform and into the spotlight to perform the song she had been waiting two years to sing.

Khoury was accepted into the UT a capella group, Ransom Notes, her junior year. She had not performed since high school and immediately knew this group was what she had been missing.

Freshman year, her roommate encouraged her to audition for the group. Khoury soon realized she missed the deadline for auditions, and during her sophomore year there were no open spots. Khoury, now a journalism senior and music director for Ransom Notes, auditioned for the group her junior year.

“I was sitting in my room junior year, minding my own business when I randomly remembered about Ransom Notes,” Khoury said. “I don’t know if it was by chance, luck or God, but when I looked up audition dates, they were in two days.”

More than 70 girls auditioned for the group and only three made it, Khoury included. She auditioned with “Broken-Hearted Girl” by Beyoncé and “At Last!” by Etta James.

Within two weeks of making Ransom Notes, the group had Khoury performing monthly for crowds of 200 people. Her first performance with the group solidified her passion for music.

The Ransom Notes consist of 13 people: six boys and



Gabriella Belzer | Daily Texan Staff

Caroline Khoury, a senior member of the Ransom Notes, practices for her upcoming April concert. The Ransom Notes is an a cappella group at UT consisting of 13 people who perform 20 to 30 gigs a year.

seven girls. They perform anywhere from 20 to 35 gigs during the school year and have an annual winter concert in December and spring concert in April. With a repertoire covering everything from Beyoncé and Patty Griffin to the Red Hot Chili Peppers, the Ransom Notes explore many genres

of music.

“For my first gig with Ransom Notes, all I remember are the smiling faces in the audience,” Khoury said. “I was standing on the smallest, gray-carpeted platform and realized there was no other place I wanted to be.”

Lexi Bixler, director of Ransom Notes and

economics senior, said that Khoury was a shoo-in from the second she sang the first verse of her audition performance.

“We look for two main things in our potential candidates: talent and personality,” Bixler said. “Caroline was outstanding in both areas and has grown into a fearless

performer. Her incredibly powerful voice, control and clarity set her apart.”

Khoury and Bixler worked closely this year as they organized rehearsal schedules, picked setlists for gigs and pieced together arrangements for the group.

“Caroline has been an incredible music director

and absolutely wonderful to work with,” Bixler said. “She is a perfectionist, yet has a disarming quality about her that allows her direction to be accepted.”

The Ransom Notes have performed for many UT students throughout the years.

NOTES continues on page 8

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SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

‘Real’ career as fortune teller not foreseeable in your future

SCIENCE SCENE By Robert Starr

Remember last year when all the banks around the world merged into one? What about Paris Hilton’s unexpected marriage? Or how about when a solar star dwarf, whatever that is, broke off from the sun, causing serious damage to our planet? No? Maybe it’s because none of these things actually happened in 2012, even though psychics predicted that they would.

One cannot definitively say there are no “true” psychics, just as no one can definitively say that there’s no Bigfoot in the forests, aliens in the sky or good Chinese food in Austin — all one can do is point out is that psychic predictions are hit-or-miss, with a heavy emphasis on the miss.

Or, to put it another way, psychics who swear their powers are real don’t perform any better than self-proclaimed fakes, who use simple techniques that exploit human psychology to create the illusion of clairvoyance.

In 1949, psychologist Bertram Forer gave his class a personality test and then, a week later, returned with evaluations providing analysis of the individual students’ character traits. When asked, the students said they found the analysis very accurate — only one of the 39 ranked the effectiveness of the test below a four out of five.



Illustration by Ploy Buraparatte | Daily Texan Staff

There was a catch, though. Every one of those personalized evaluations said the exact same thing.

The content of the analysis consisted of sentences taken from an astrology book, and included statements such as “You have a great need for people to like and admire you” and “Your sexual adjustment has presented problems for you,” which are true of virtually everybody, to one degree or another. When presented together in a scientific manner, like a personality test, or a metaphysical one, like a psychic reading, it’s easy to mistake their universality

for profundity.

And this is the effect induced by an unpersonalized paragraph — imagine how much better you could do if you’re in the same room as someone, able to pick up on body language, reactions and, most importantly, their desire to fill in the blanks for you.

The de facto manual on this is Ian Rowland’s book “The Cold Facts Book of Cold Reading,” which offers a slew of tips for would-be fraud psychics. The process requires no extrasensory powers, just a little practice and a

PSYCHIC continues on page 8



We predict many of you will watch the Science Scene video. Are we right? [bit.ly/dt\\_vid](http://bit.ly/dt_vid)