



Science Scene explains developments
in new weekly column
LIFE&ARTS PAGE 11

Longhorns face Kansas
after falling to Wildcats
SPORTS 7

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Friday, January 20, 2012

TODAY

Calendar

Round Table Discussion

The department of British studies will be hosting a round table discussion today in the Harry Ransom Center's Tom Lea Room at 2:45 p.m. The topic of today's discussion is the film "The Iron Lady."

RoboCup 3D

Patrick MacAlpine will discuss the key components of UT Austin's RoboCup team today at 11 a.m. in Painter Hall 3.14.

'Long Gone Lonesome'

Tonight the National Theater of Scotland presents the U.S. premiere of "Long Gone Lonesome, a Celebration of the Life of Thomas Fraser." The event will be at the Bass Concert Hall at 8 p. m. and tickets range from \$10-32. Make sure to grab your tickets!

Longhorn Judo

Come learn and practice Judo with Longhorn Judo. Newcomers are welcome for more information 'Like' Longhorn Judo's Facebook page. They meet in the Recreational Sports Center.

Today in history In 1961

John Fitzgerald Kennedy was inaugurated as the 35th President of the United States in the newly renovated east front U.S. Capitol building.

Quote to note

I want them to be 100 percent invested into everything they commit to, which is Texas," Kelly said. "We'll have a clear understanding that we're here to win championships.

— **Angela Kelly**
New head women's soccer coach

PAGE 7

Perry drops out of presidential race



David Goldman | Associated Press

Republican presidential candidate, Texas Gov. Rick Perry pauses while announcing he is suspending his campaign and endorsing Newt Gingrich, Thursday, Jan. 19, 2012, in North Charleston, S.C.

Gov. endorses Gingrich, cites money as factor for suspending campaign

By Chris Tomilson
The Associated Press

Gov. Rick Perry dropped out of the presidential race on Thursday, endorsed his old friend Newt Gingrich and returned home to Texas, where

he failed White House candidate has three years left to serve as the chief executive.

"I have come to the conclusion that there is no viable path to victory for my candidacy in 2012," Perry said in North Charleston, S.C., just two days

before the primary there. "I believe Newt is a conservative visionary who can transform our country."

Money also was a factor, with spokesman Ray Sullivan saying: "We have spent the bulk of our funds." He added that Perry hasn't ruled out run-

ning again for governor or the White House in 2016 if President Barack Obama is re-elected.

Perry ended his campaign where he launched it last August, when tea party

PERRY continues on **PAGE 5**

Opinion: Perry leaves presidential race and questions behind

By The Daily Texan
Editorial Board

"The worst presidential candidate in American history," according to liberal political commentator James Carville, is returning to Texas to continue his reign as the longest-serving governor in state history. And if Rick Perry has his way, he'll probably lay low for a few weeks, which means no shooting coyotes on morning jogs or tweeting pictures of himself jogging in the same Nike shorts ubiquitous in the halls of UT's sorority houses.

After this brief pause, we predict, it's full steam ahead with the battles he abandoned when he left Texas in August to launch his presidential campaign, one of which was an assault on higher education.

Our governor launched his presidential campaign on Aug. 13, exuding confidence, wearing cowboy boots and riding on Texas' reputation as one of the most employed states in the country. "What makes our nation exceptional is that anyone from any background can climb to the highest of heights," he said in his announcement speech.

Things started off well, as he was declared the winner of the Sept. 7 GOP debate. Among the statements that drew attention at the time,

BOOTS continues on **PAGE 4**

Debate arises over Occupy UT's student organization status

By Jody Serrano
Daily Texan Staff

Efforts to raise awareness about the Occupy UT movement have prompted a debate between the group and the Office of the Dean of Students over University policies and procedures regarding on-campus demonstrations.

Concerns regarding Occupy UT's status as an unofficial student organization first arose in December but are becoming a hot topic this semester as the group's activity is becoming more regular. Occupy UT members have said a physical occupation and camping overnight at the University is a possibility, and they plan on having a series of teach-ins with faculty members and a walking tour on the history of racism on campus within the next few weeks.

Soncia Reagins-Lilly, senior associate vice president and dean of students, said her office

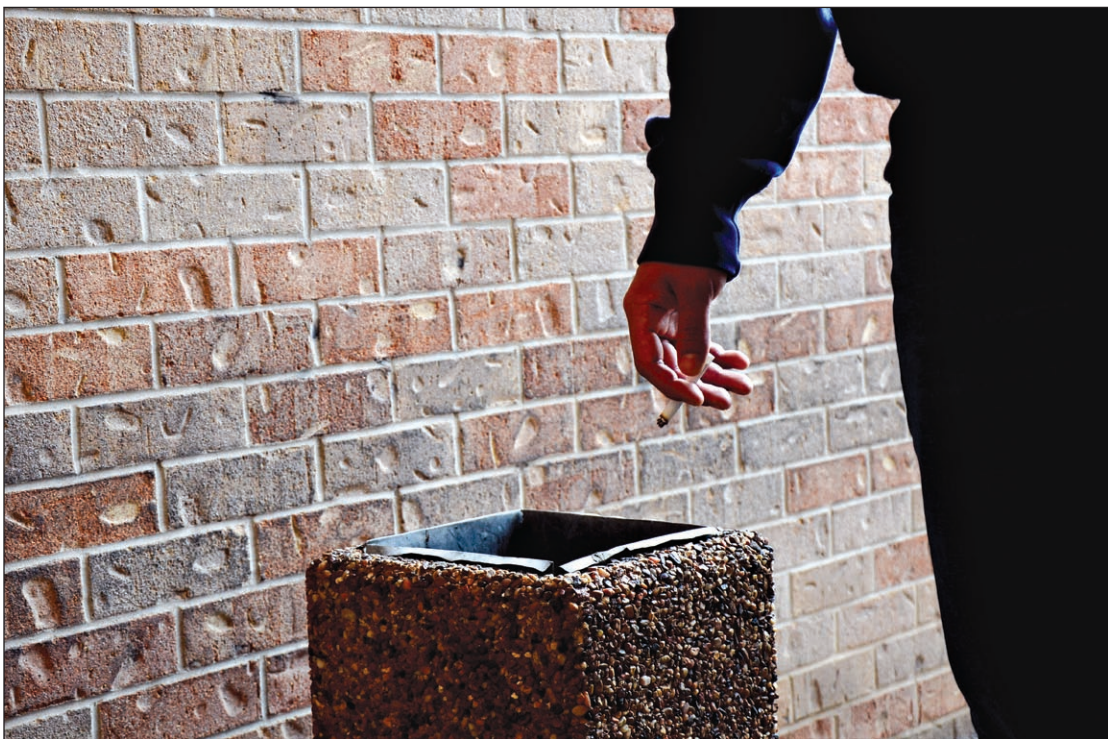
tries to meet with every new student organization and was not looking for conflict with Occupy UT. She said the group has not told her office about upcoming events, making its attempts to facilitate and work with the organization difficult.

Reagins-Lilly said she has informed members of the group about certain policies but cannot make any recommendations without knowing the group's intentions.

"We facilitate freedom of expression, demonstration and controversial speakers — that is what we do," she said. "It becomes adversarial when students, faculty and staff that aren't aware of the guidelines and procedures set up and we show up and say, 'this is how you have to do it.'"

University administrative members have met with Occupy UT since the group's inception last fall. Occupy UT member Lucian Villaseñor said the

OCCUPY continues on **PAGE 2**



Rebeca Rodriguez | Daily Texan Staff

In partnership with several other organizations, the University of Texas is offering free six-week tobacco cessation classes for faculty and staff in four locations beginning in January.

Smoking cessation program to aid staff

By Alexa Ura
Daily Texan Staff

The University is offering employees a class that will tackle tobacco cessation treatment in a different way.

UT employees can participate in a free six-week tobacco cessation class through the HealthPoint Work-Life Balance and Wellness Program. In partnership with Seton Healthcare's Tobacco Education Resource Center,

the program is a personalized treatment that addresses participants' specific needs. The participants meet with program facilitators once a week during their session to determine the severity of their tobacco use and find ways to end their nicotine addiction.

Mary Delgadillo, clinical manager at the center, said the program is based on the Mayo Clinic tobacco treatment model that addresses smoking as an addiction and not

a habit.

"Everyone is under the impression that tobacco use is a nasty habit instead of a severe addiction," she said. "We combine the support system methodology and replacement therapy to maximize treatment. We create individual plans for everyone and also provide participants with a relapse prevention plan."

SMOKING continues on **PAGE 2**

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NEWS BRIEFLY

Exxon settles for \$1.6 million over polluting Montana rivers

BILLINGS, Mont. — Exxon Mobil agreed Thursday to pay \$1.6 million in penalties to the state of Montana over water pollution caused by a pipeline break last summer that fouled dozens of miles of shoreline along the scenic Yellowstone River. Montana Department of Environmental Quality director Richard Oppen said the penalties in the case mark the largest in the agency's history. The Texas oil company will pay \$300,000 in cash and spend \$1.3 million on future environmental projects, according to a copy of the document obtained by The Associated Press.

Also Thursday, Exxon increased its estimate of how much crude spilled into the river during the July 1 accident near Laurel to 1,509 barrels, or more than 63,000 gallons. That's up from earlier estimates of 1,000 barrels spilled — a number that Gov. Brian Schweitzer had disputed as too low.

Rick Santorum won Iowa caucus by 32 votes, new recount shows

MOUNT PLEASANT, S.C. — Rick Santorum on Thursday pleaded with conservatives not to give up on his presidential hopes, urging them to resist calls to rally behind Newt Gingrich. "There have been two contests," Santorum said. "We won one." He made that claim even though the Iowa GOP did not declare a victor because of missing ballots at some precincts.

Santorum bested Romney by 34 votes in the final tally of Iowa's caucuses, Republican officials said Thursday. But no winner was declared because some votes remain uncertified two weeks after the event's closest contest ever. The state GOP initially declared Romney the victor — by just eight votes.

"This is a solid win. It's a much stronger win than the win Gov. Romney claimed to have," Santorum declared.

Romney, who won New Hampshire's primary, called the Iowa results a "virtual tie." Santorum called it a sign that any calls for him to leave were premature.

US, Israeli military discuss Iran after Strait of Hormuz dispute

JERUSALEM — The top U.S. general, visiting Israel at a delicate and dangerous moment in the global standoff with Tehran, is expected to press for restraint amid fears that the Jewish state is nearing a decision to attack Iran's nuclear program.

Thursday's arrival of Army Gen. Martin Dempsey, just four months after he took office as chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, underscores Washington's concern about a possible Israeli military strike.

It also spotlights key questions at the center of the global maneuvering to prevent an Iranian bomb:

— How effective are the current economic sanctions in pressuring Iran's leadership? Israel wants a far tougher regime, while the Americans seem confident the current path will suffice.

— Could aerial bombardment or missile strikes, the expected Israeli military toolkit, damage nuclear installations deep underground enough to be worth a counterstrike from Iran? Some think Israel is mainly saber-rattling to scare governments into tougher sanctions.

In the background, rarely openly discussed, is the somewhat prickly relationship between the Obama administration and the rightist government in Israel. The antipathy, born largely of disagreements on the Palestinian front, may not be helping navigate a situation as delicate as Iran.

But the main thing for Israel is the acute sense that a Rubicon is about to be crossed — that a nuclear-armed Iran, whose President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad calls for Israel's destruction, is a direct existential threat.

Most of the West does agree with Israel that Iran, despite denials, is developing nuclear weapons technology. But the United States is clearly concerned that a military attack could backfire, fragmenting international opposition to Iran and sending oil prices skyrocketing.



Ben Curtis | Associated Press

A child walks away carrying a bowl of food after receiving it at a food distribution center for those displaced by last year's famine or by conflict, in Mogadishu, Somalia on Thursday.

After months of Somali famine, refugees slowly return to farms

By Abdi Guled & Katherine Houreld
The Associated Press

MOGADISHU, Somalia — Six months after the U.N. declared Somalia's capital a famine zone, the number of refugees in the capital is dwindling, as most of the men have gone home to try to revive devastated herds and withered crops.

The women — and the kids — would like to join them, but many don't have enough money. That means fewer hands on the farm and a smaller harvest.

At a sprawling Mogadishu refugee camp that holds 2,700 stick huts, one woman said she was grateful for a plastic sheet over her ramshackle stick hut that keeps her children dry. For another woman, it's a daily cup of porridge for everyone in her family. A third woman says there are fewer problems than there used to be.

But hardship — and danger — remain. U.N. security personnel say there have been six improvised explosive devices found or detonated in Mogadishu the last two days, including a blast Thursday at a police checkpoint near a refugee camp that exploded shortly after U.N. personnel and international journalists visited a nearby feeding site. Two police and four refugees were killed in the blast, which did not appear to be

aimed at the visiting delegation.

Somali police forces have been fighting each other at a key intersection, and Somali government soldiers in a highly contested Mogadishu neighborhood have abandoned their posts because they have not been paid.

But one promising sign is a lack of men in the refugee camps. Many have gone home to plant crops and

“Our children can eat well again and fill their stomachs with food.”
— Halima Haji Mohammed Omar

try to resurrect herds devastated by a crippling drought. The drought in the parts of Somalia controlled by al-Shabab militants — who allow few aid groups in — turned into famine. Seasonal rains have fallen in drought areas in recent weeks, raising hopes that the situation will improve.

"The situation is getting better now because our farms are growing again. We can go back and feed ourselves without depending on anybody," said Halima Mohammed Abdulla, a mother of five who has been living in a Mogadishu refugee camp for five months.

Like many other women here, she said she would like to go home but doesn't have enough money to pay for transportation. Another woman, Halima Haji Mohammed Omar, said her husband was planting fewer crops, because the family's children were not around to help, a trend that could result in an overall smaller harvest.

After months without rainfall across the region, the U.N. on July 20 declared several parts of Somalia a famine zone. Exhausted, rail-thin women were stumbling into refugee camps in Kenya and Ethiopia with dead babies and bleeding feet.

"Our children can eat well again and fill their stomachs with food," Haji said by phone.

The aid group Doctors Without Borders said Thursday it is closing its two largest medical centers in Mogadishu after the shooting deaths of two staffers in late December. The group said the two 120-bed medical facilities treat malnutrition, measles and cholera. Other MSF projects will remain open.

Oregon, Washington hit by snow, flooding

By Rachel La Corte
The Associated Press

OLYMPIA, Wash. — People in the Pacific Northwest faced difficult travel conditions and worries about flood waters Thursday after a windy winter storm dropped more than a foot of snow in some places, causing school closures, knocking out power to thousands and leaving hundreds of accidents in its wake.

Rising water from heavy rains swept a car carrying at least three people into an overflowing creek in the Willamette Valley community of Albany, Ore. Two people escaped but at least one child was missing and feared drowned Wednesday night, a Fire Department spokeswoman said.

The National Weather Service issued flood warnings for several Oregon rivers.

Nearly a foot of new snow fell in Olympia, Wash., where 11 inches was measured at the airport Wednesday. The record is 14.2 inches on Jan. 24, 1972.

Lewis County, south of Olympia, had the highest snowfall amounts, ranging from 12 to 17 inches.

"It's unusual to get this much snow for western Washington," said Dennis D'Amico, a meteorologist at the National Weather Service in Seattle.

Emergency management officials warned that an icy Thursday morning commute was the next likely challenge for western Washington drivers.

Sub-freezing temperatures were the rule late Wednesday. Light freezing drizzle fell in Seattle

and Tacoma.

Thursday's forecast was for a mix of snow and rain, and the Weather Service warned that urban and small stream flooding was possible Friday, when another storm was expected to hit the state. Rain and temperatures in the 40s would start melting snow on the ground.

Forecasters warned that heavy rain combined with snow melt could lead to some Washington river flooding, especially in the Chehalis River Basin, an area that has been hit by significant floods in recent years.

Officials in Lewis County said they didn't yet have concerns about flooding on the Chehalis River, but were monitoring the amount of snow they receive.

More than 40,000 Western Washington electrical customers lost power at least temporarily late Wednesday, in many cases as icy, snow-laden tree limbs drooped or fell onto power lines. Many of the outages were quickly restored.

In Oregon, high winds hammered parts of the coast and caused power outages that initially affected tens of thousands of customers, with reports of gusts as high as 113 mph. There were no immediate reports of serious damage.

Jake Munson, an 18-year-old student at the Art Institute of Seattle, joined two friends in sliding down on an air mattress covered with a clear plastic bag.

"I've done the whole tubing thing, but I had more fun doing this," he said. "It's way faster and riskier. There's fear — you don't want to run into a pole or something."



Rick Bowmer | Associated Press

A submerged school bus lays on its side as Diane Garibaldi looks on Thursday, in Salem, Ore.

FBI shuts down hosting site Megaupload, arrests CEO

By Matthew Barakat
The Associated Press

McLEAN, Va. — One of the world's largest file-sharing sites was shut down Thursday, and its founder and several company executives were charged with violating piracy laws, federal prosecutors said.

An indictment accuses Megaupload.com of costing copyright holders more than \$500 million in lost revenue from pirated films and other content. The indictment was unsealed one day after websites including Wikipedia and Craigslist shut down in protest of two congressional proposals intended to thwart online piracy.

The Justice Department said in a statement that Kim Dotcom, formerly known as Kim Schmitz, and three others were arrested Thursday in New Zealand at the request of U.S. officials. Two other defendants are at large.

Megaupload was unique not only because of its massive size and the volume of downloaded content, but also because it had high-profile support from celebrities, musicians and other content producers who are most often the victims of copyright infringement and piracy. Before the website was taken down, it contained endorsements from Kim Kardashian, Alicia Keys and Kanye West, among others.

The Hong Kong-based company listed Swizz Beatz, a musician who married Keys in 2010, as its CEO.

Before the site was taken down, it posted a statement saying allega-

tions that it facilitated massive breaches of copyright laws were "grotesquely overblown."

"The fact is that the vast majority of Mega's Internet traffic is legitimate, and we are here to stay. If the content industry would like to take advantage of our popularity, we are happy to enter into a dialogue. We have some good ideas. Please get in touch," the statement said.

A lawyer who represented the company in a lawsuit last year declined comment Thursday.

Megaupload is considered a "cyberlocker," in which users can upload and transfer files that are too large to send by email. Such sites can have perfectly legitimate uses. But the Motion Picture Association of America, which has campaigned for a crackdown on piracy, estimated that the vast major-

ity of content being shared on Megaupload was in violation of copyright laws.

The website allowed users to download films, TV shows, games, music and other content for free, but made money by charging subscriptions to people who wanted access to faster download speeds or extra content. The website also sold advertising.

The indictment was returned in

the Eastern District of Virginia, which claimed jurisdiction in part because some of the alleged pirated materials were hosted on leased servers in Ashburn, Va.

Dotcom, a resident of both Hong Kong and New Zealand, and a dual citizen of Finland and Germany, made more than \$42 million from the conspiracy in 2010 alone, according to the indictment.

The boots have left the presidential stage

continues from **PAGE 1**

Perry said, “It is a Ponzi scheme to tell our kids that are 25 or 30 years old today, ‘You’re paying into a program that’s going to be there.’ Anybody that’s for the status quo with social security today is involved with a monstrous lie.”

“I kind of feel like the piñata here at the party,” Perry observed later in the debate. The nation responded to his performance with the critical eye that comes with front-runner status. There were two more debates, neither a success, before the infamous debate in Michigan that will forever be remembered as the “Oops Debate,” during which Perry could not remember the third in a list of federal agencies he would cut if elected president.

After Michigan, Perry continued to slide in national polls, and his campaign increasingly took on an air of desperation. This triggered a series of unfortunate events, including a head-scratching ad about religion followed by forgetting the number of Supreme Court justices, the voting age and the date of the presidential election. It was an awesome fall from prime time footing to late-night fodder.

After placing fifth in the Iowa caucus on Jan.

3, he stayed in the race, despite making a brief return to Texas to contemplate a path forward. Then, he dropped out of the race Thursday — just in time to avoid another debate appearance — and endorsed Newt Gingrich.

As he did so, Texans breathed a sigh of relief — not because it was so hard to share our governor with the rest of the country, but because Perry’s continued embarrassments reflected

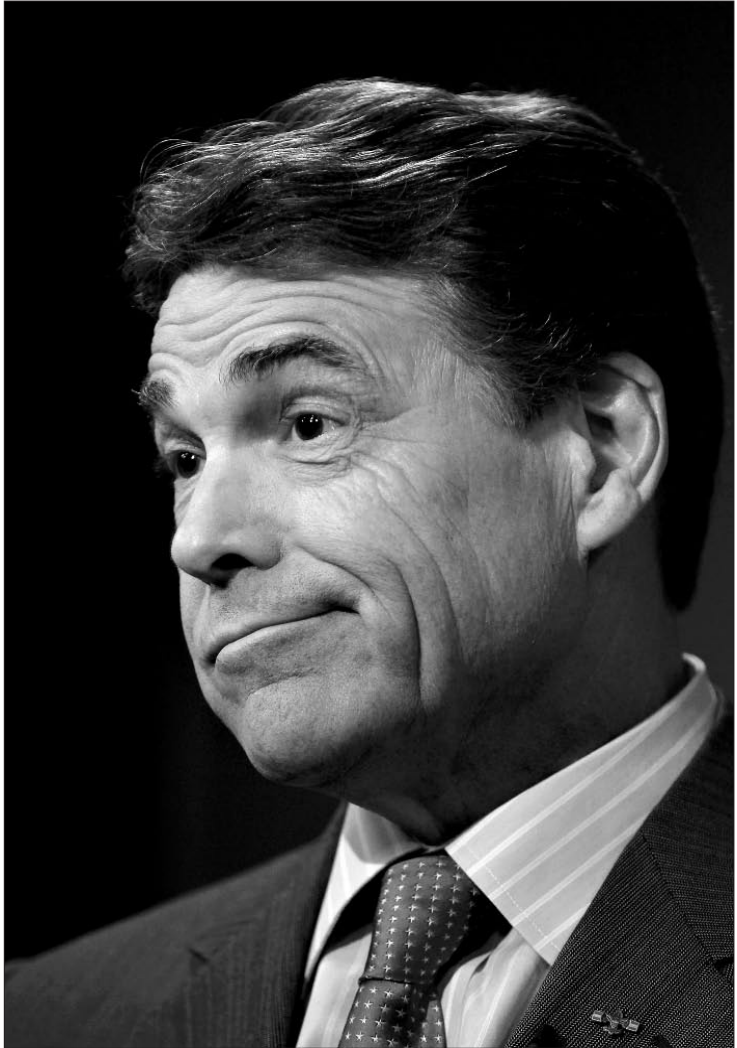
we still have a Texas candidate, Congressman Ron Paul, R-Surfside.

It was a cruel and inevitable dose of national humble pie for the candidate who entered the race with a campaigning repertoire of all-I-do-is-win but left with embarrassment and chagrin.

When Perry left the Lone Star State, Texas was coming off a brutal legislative session featuring wide-ranging cuts and fierce partisanship. If he had managed to carve his way to the White House, Perry would have been able to side step the ruthless after-effects of the decisions he made to lay the best track to Washington. But now he will have to face them.

At the same time, we’re far from a lame-duck governor. Texas has at least three more years of Perry, and there’s no indication that he’ll slow down. Moreover, the state’s higher education controversy won’t likely be receding anytime soon, as Perry and his supporters are back in town.

Either way, we know that the closing of this chapter has at least one man elated: “Maybe all the hate tweets will be subdued now that he’s back to Texas. I want my twitter account back!” Rick Perry, a pastor in New Haven, Conn., who self-identifies as “THE OTHER RICK PERRY,” tweeted after the governor’s announcement.



Matt Rourke | Associated Press

“After Michigan, Perry continued to slide in national polls, and his campaign increasingly took on an air of desperation.”

the constituency that has elected him in office again and again. Perry’s return does not diminish the state’s influence on the national stage but allows Texans to distinguish between the bright light and the spotlight.

Now that he’s coming home, Texas money will flow to other candidates, and the state can take its place as a more important stakeholder in the nomination process. And lest we forget,



LEGALESE

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

You should write for The Daily Texan

By You
Daily Texan Columnist

Have something to say? Say it in print — and to the entire campus.

The Daily Texan Editorial Board is currently accepting applications for columnists and cartoonists. We’re looking for talented writers and artists to provide as much diversity of opinion as possible. Anyone and everyone is encouraged to apply.

Writing for the Texan is a great way to get your voice heard. Our columnists’ and reporters’ work is often syndicated nationwide, and every issue of the Texan is a historical document archived at the Center for American History.

Barack Obama may not be a frequent reader, but a copy of the Texan runs across UT President

William Powers Jr.’s desk each day, and the opinions on this page have great potential to affect University policy.

It’s no rare occurrence for Texan staff members to receive feedback from local or state officials, or to be contacted by a reader whose life was changed by an article. In such instances, the power of writing for the Texan becomes real, motivating our staffers to provide the best public service possible.

If interested, please come to the Texan office at 25th and Whitis streets to complete an application form and sign up for an interview time. If you have any additional questions, please contact Viviana Aldous at (512) 232-2212 or editor@dailytexanonline.com.

You can be a Daily Texan columnist or cartoonist.

Have something to say? Your words could be here.

Memorable missteps from the campaign trail

“You don’t need to be in the pew every Sunday to know there’s something wrong in this country when gays can serve openly in the military but our kids can’t openly celebrate Christmas or pray in school.”

— In a December ad courting social conservatives by appealing to Perry’s Christian faith.

“This is such a cool state. I mean come on. ‘Live free or die.’ You got to love that right? I come from a state, you know, where they have this little place called the Alamo and they declared, ‘Victory or death.’ We’re kind of into those slogans, man. It’s like, ‘live free or die,’ ‘victory or death.’ Bring it.”

— In a bizarrely energetic speech on Oct. 29 in New Hampshire.

“And I will tell you it’s three agencies of government when I get there that are gone: commerce, education and the, uh, what’s the third one there? Let’s see ... I would do away with the education, the, uh, commerce and let’s see, I can’t. ... Sorry. Oops.”

— When talking about his plans during the Nov. 9 Michigan debate to eliminate three federal agencies if elected president.

“Those of you that will be 21 by Nov. 12, I ask for your support and your vote.”

— Misidentifying the voting age and the election date at a town hall meeting on Nov. 29 at the Institute of Politics in New Hampshire.

“When you see his appointment of two, from my perspective, inarguably activist judges, whether it was, uh, not Montemayor...”

— In an attempt during a Dec. 9 interview with the Des Moines Register Editorial Board to name Supreme Court Justice Sonia Sotomayor when discussing what he believes is Obama’s war on religion.

EDITORIAL TWITTER

Follow The Daily Texan Editorial Board on Twitter (@DTeditorial) and receive updates on our latest editorials and columns.

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Please recycle this copy of The Daily Texan. Place the paper in one of the recycling bins on campus or back in the burnt-orange newsstand where you found it.

SUBMIT A GUEST COLUMN

The editorial board welcomes guest column submissions. Columns must be between 600 and 800 words. Send columns to editor@dailytexanonline.com. The Daily Texan reserves the right to edit all columns for clarity, brevity and liability.

SUBMIT A FIRING LINE

Email your Firing Lines to firingline@dailytexanonline.com. Letters must be more than 100 and fewer than 300 words. The Texan reserves the right to edit all submissions for brevity, clarity and liability.



Republican presidential candidate and former House Speaker Newt Gingrich, accompanied by his wife Callista, speaks in Bluffton, S.C., Thursday, Jan. 19, 2012.

Hot GOP debate wraps up turbulent day

By David Espo
The Associated Press

NORTH CHARLESTON, S.C. — The race for the Republican presidential nomination took a turn toward the South Carolina surreal Thursday as Rick Perry dropped out, Newt Gingrich faced stunning allegations from an ex-wife and Mitt Romney struggled to maintain a shaky front-runner's standing.

An aggressive evening debate capped the bewildering day.

Former Sen. Rick Santorum played aggressor for much of the night, trying to inject himself into what seemed increasingly like a two-way race with little more than a day remaining until the South Carolina polls open on Saturday. He accused Gingrich and Romney of "playing footsies with the left" when it came to health care. Both men rejected the allegations.

The debate began a few hours after first word that Romney had been stripped of his Iowa caucus victory, only to be stung a few hours later by Perry's withdrawal and endorsement

of Gingrich.

Gingrich, in turn, was accused by an ex-wife of seeking an open marriage so he could keep his mistress.

"Newt's not perfect, but who among us is," said Perry, abruptly quitting the race just before the first-in-the-South primary.

Gingrich angrily denounced the

The audience gave Gingrich a standing ovation when he assailed the media, a reaction he can only hope is reflected in voter sentiment on Saturday.

All four remaining GOP candidates lustily attacked Obama, while Santorum in particular sought to raise his own profile.

race, first Gingrich and then Santorum challenged Romney over his well-documented switch of position on abortion. Once a supporter of abortion rights, he now says he is "pro-life."

Gingrich didn't exactly question Romney's change in position, but he didn't embrace it, either, saying, "He had an experience in a lab and became pro-life."

Romney bristled. "I'm not questioned on character or integrity very often. I don't feel like standing here for that."

Recent polls, coupled with Perry's endorsement, suggested Gingrich was the candidate with the momentum and Romney the one struggling to validate his standing as front-runner. Whatever else the impact, the day's events reduced the number of contenders vying to emerge as Romney's principal conservative alternative.

"I'm not questioned on character or integrity very often. I don't feel like standing here for that."

— Mitt Romney, presidential candidate

news media for putting his ex-wife front and center in the final days of the race. "Let me be clear, the story is false," he said. Santorum, Romney and Paul steered well clear of the controversy. "Let's get onto the real issues, that's all I've got to say," said Romney, although he pointed out that he and his wife, Ann, have been married for 42 years.

Santorum jabbed at both Gingrich and Romney, but seemed to focus more attention on the former. If Gingrich is the party nominee, he said, "You sort of have that worrisome moment that something's going to pop. And we can't afford that in a nominee."

In a reflection of the complex political dynamics of the

PERRY continues from PAGE 1

and evangelical Christian leaders hailed him as a charismatic conservative and some early polls showed him as a front-runner for the Republican nomination. But soon after, Perry's verbal gaffes and poor debate performances sent his campaign into a tailspin from which it never recovered.

It was too soon to tell whether Perry's rocky turn on the national stage had damaged him politically at home. But already there were signs of his diminished clout.

Several Texas donors who fueled his bid indicated they were likely to back Mitt Romney, the former Massachusetts governor who is considered to be the more moderate candidate in the race. And South Carolina House speaker David Wilkins, who had supported Perry, ignored the governor's recommendation and shifted his support to Romney, too.

Short of a Gingrich victory leading to a job for Perry in Washington, Perry will most likely stay in Austin where, despite his dismal presidential campaign, he's still considered the most powerful politician in the state. He has appointed more than 1,000 people to key government positions since becoming governor in 2000. State lawmakers also depend on his support.

But that doesn't mean he won't face serious headwinds.

Democrats insist the failed presidential run has diminished his power and embarrassed Texans. Conservatives also have complained about the \$2.6 million the state has spent on his security detail while he campaigned outside the state. Top Republicans, meanwhile, have been positioning themselves to replace him whether he won the presidency or retired in 2014.

Roy Blount, a Perry supporter and deep-pocketed Republican donor in Texas, said he expects Perry to remain popular and powerful.

"Everything he stood for resonates with Texans," Blount said. "He's got this state as a leading state, and he wants to continue that and expand it."

The Texas Democratic Party was ready Thursday to begin exploiting any perceived weakness created by Perry's decision and called on him to focus on problems at home, including legal questions about the constitutionality of the school finance sys-

tem, as well as water shortages and greenhouse gas emissions.

Perry's biggest supporters, in turn, welcomed him home. Bill Hammond, president of the Texas Association of Business, said "Gov. Perry has always been good for Texas business."

Mark Jones, chairman of the political science department at Rice University, said Perry risks becoming a lame-duck governor and must not rule out seeking a fourth term if he hopes to continue being effective.

"As long as he can maintain the illusion that he could be governor through 2019, that allows him to maintain authority not only among the legislators, but also among donors, lobbyists and his appointees," Jones said.

Perry's early missteps called into question whether the Texas politician, who had never lost a race in nearly 30 years, was ready for the national stage. His biggest flub came in a nationally televised debate in early November, when he could not remember the name of the third Cabinet department he pledged to eliminate.

Perry could only manage to say, "Oops." Making fun of himself afterward, he told reporters: "I stepped in it."

It was a cringe-inducing moment replayed more than a million times on YouTube. The memory lapse not only solidified Perry's reputation for weak debate performances, but it gave the impression that he couldn't articulate his own policies.

Perry, 61, was relatively unknown outside of Texas until he succeeded George W. Bush as governor after Bush was elected president in 2000. A former Democrat, Perry had already spent about 15 years in state government when he became governor. He went on to win election to the office three times, the most recent in 2010.

Part of Perry's appeal came from his humble beginnings as a native of tiny Paint Creek, Texas. He graduated from Texas A&M University and was a pilot in the Air Force before winning election in 1984 to the Texas House of Representatives. He switched to the GOP in 1989 and served as the state's agriculture commissioner before his election as lieutenant governor in 1998.

APPLICATION DEADLINE FOR DAILY TEXAN EDITOR

QUALIFICATIONS:

1. Candidates must be registered students at The University of Texas at Austin in the semester the election is held.
2. Candidates must have a minimum grade point average of 2.50 on all work undertaken at The University.
3. Candidates must have:
 - Completed at least one semester as a permanent staff member of *The Daily Texan* in news, sports or on the copy desk.
 - Completed at least one semester as an issue staff member of *The DailyTexan* in an area other than the one covered above.
 - Completed J360 (Media Law) before taking office or demonstrate competency in media law as determined by the Texas Student Media Board of Operating Trustees.
 - Obtained signatures from at least five members of the Texan staff supporting the candidate for editor. It is a goal of Texas Student Media and *The Daily Texan* to encourage staff to run for editor. It is preferable to have at least two certified candidates.

Any student desiring to run with one of the above qualifications waived, must complete a waiver form and present evidence supporting waiver. Waiver Forms available in HSM 3.304.

GENERAL PROVISIONS:

1. The editor shall be a registered student in accordance with UT institutional rules. The editor may take no more than 12 semester hours as an undergraduate or 9 semester hours as a graduate or law student, but no fewer than 3 semester hours, during each long term. The editor need not enroll for classes during the summer session.
2. The term of office shall be June 1, 2012 through May 31, 2013.
3. Any member of the Board of Operating Trustees of Texas Student Media who becomes an applicant for editor shall resign from the Board at the time he or she applies.
4. Any person who shall have served a regular full term as editor shall be ineligible for a second term.

The TSM Election is held concurrently with the Student Government Election.



DEADLINE FOR APPLYING
Noon, Wednesday, February 1, 2012

Applications must be picked up and returned to the Office of the Director of Texas Student Media, HSM 3.304, or you may download the application from our web site: <http://www.utexas.edu/tsm/media/texan/>.

The Board will certify applicants at their next meeting at 1 p.m. on Friday, February 3, 2012, in the College of Communication (CMA), LBJ Room #5.160, 2600 Whitis Avenue.

A Student's Right To Privacy

The information below is considered directory information. Under federal law, directory information can be made available to the public. You may restrict access to this information by visiting <http://registrar.utexas.edu/restrictmyinfo>. Please be aware that if you would like to restrict information from appearing in the printed directory, you must make your changes at this web page by the twelfth class day of the fall semester. If you request that ALL your directory information be restricted NO information about you will be given to anyone, including your family members, except as required by law. Any restriction you make will remain in effect until you revoke it.

- | | | |
|---|---|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• name• local and permanent addresses• phone number• e-mail address• public user name (UT EID)• place of birth• dates of attendance• enrollment status | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• classification• major field(s) of study• expected date of graduation• degrees, awards, and honors received (including selection criteria)• participation in officially recognized activities and sports | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• weight and height if member of an athletic team• student parking permit information• the most recent previous educational institution attended• job title and dates of employment when employed by the University in a position that requires student status |
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Texas Student Media Board of Operating Trustees has openings for 4 student board positions.

- *College of Communications, Place 2 (unexpired term: 03/12-05/14)
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Pick up an application at the Hearst Student Media building (HSM), 25th and Whitis Ave, Room 3.304, or print a application from our website: <http://www.utexas.edu/tsm/board/>

Deadline is noon on Wednesday, February 1, 2012



FUN IN THE SACK



Rebeca Rodriguez | Daily Texan Staff

Lila Haham participates in a class at Austin Aerial Yoga on Thursday evening. The yoga poses are supported by a fabric hammock similar to the ones used by acrobatic dancers.

City requires advance permits for SXSW

By Alexa Ura
Daily Texan Staff

South By Southwest organizers are trying to avoid last minute chaos before the festival by addressing venue permit application changes announced earlier this week.

After criticisms of last minute changes in ordinance guidelines last year, city officials held an open house to address 24-hour and multi-day permitting for this year's SXSW. Representatives from city departments involved with SXSW gathered at the former Austin City Limits studio at UT to meet business and venue owners Thursday night. Organized by Austin Music People, the event was made to answer questions about new application periods for 24-hour

and multi-day event permits.

This year, venues must submit applications for 24-hour permits 21 days before events, and multi-day permits must be submitted 30 days before events. Applicants are required to include a temporary event impact plan in their application assessing anticipated attendance, traffic and parking issues and other potential impacts.

Don Pitts, manager for the city's music office, said the change was prompted after about 40 percent of venues waited until a few days before their event to submit applications.

"As a city we need to raise the bar in terms of the huge responsibility of this event," he said. "We are here today to prepare ahead of time and be able to distribute resources during

the festival. It's not about moving the goal post for participants but about working as the same team."

Pitts said these plans are important so the city can better prepare for crowd mobs during events that "tweet out surprise guests at the last minute" like they did last year.

Austin Police Department Special Events Department officers also spoke to business and venue owners to ensure a safer event. Commander William Manno said having a set deadline is a big help to police.

"Last minute permits make it difficult to assess the impact on surrounding areas for wherever that permit is for especially in the case of neighborhood areas," Manno said. "If we have those applications in before, we can better prepare for noise,

traffic or other issues."

Joseph Strickland, Home Slice Pizza co-owner, said that last year's SXSW was a difficult one because of the changes in outdoor event guidelines City Council members made a few weeks before the festival.

Home Slice Pizza has hosted a 3-day unofficial party during SXSW since they first opened six years ago. Strickland said last year was the first year they had any problems with code enforcement.

"Austin Music People is doing a better job at working with the city and sending information out through community outreach this year and that's all you can ask for as a business owner," he said. "We need to know guidelines beforehand in order to comply with them."

Finish@UT allows students chance to complete degree

By Jody Serrano
Daily Texan Staff

Students who did not complete their degree at the University of Texas now have the opportunity to obtain an online degree from three UT system schools.

The University of Texas Board of Regents approved the Finish@UT program for launch at UT-El Paso, UT-Arlington and UT Permian Basin this spring. The program targets adult students ages 25-35 who have UT college

mission," she said. "At this particular time with limited resources they have chosen to focus on other hybrid programs and new technology."

UT Permian Basin participant Amy Lay said before Finish@UT came into existence she was unwilling to spend her time at institutions that did not have a solid online program in place. Lay had 104 attempted hours in English when she came into Finish@UT and chose to apply her hours to a degree in humanities, which only requires 54 additional hours.

“Some of our students have moved to other locations due to military service or relocations for employment. This allows them to continue their studies here at UT-Arlington and earn their degree from here.”

— J. Blake Carpenter, Finish@UT Adviser

credit but did not finish due to extraneous circumstances. University Vice Chancellor Martha Ellis said the UT system wanted to give the estimated 3.4 million adults in Texas with incomplete degrees the opportunity to finish their college education.

Ellis said the program has been in development for about three years and currently has more than one hundred students enrolled. She said Finish@UT is a breakthrough program for UT because it allows students to take classes at their home campuses and also allows them to enroll in online courses at participating UT system schools. Ellis said students can also design their degree and choose their classes based on their past credit.

Ellis said the program will extend to cover UT-Brownsville in the future and there are no plans to make it available at the University.

"One of the things that you find is that offering undergraduate degrees online at UT is not a major part of their

"I spent many years working with research and the demonstration of environmental and architectural sustainability instead of following the commonly prescribed method of attaining the college degree first after high school graduation," Lay said. "Now I am back at the beginning, but with amplified perspective."

Lay said she felt not completing her degree sometimes impeded her from getting a job.

J. Blake Carpenter, UT-Arlington Finish@UT advisor, said the institution has several students who request online courses specifically and responded very well to the program.

"Students like having the convenience of taking courses around their work schedules," Carpenter said. "Some of our students have moved to other locations due to military service or relocations for employment. This allows them to continue their studies here at UT-Arlington and earn their degree from here."



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1/24/12
vs. Iowa
Frank Ewrin Center

1/28/12
vs. Baylor
Waco, Texas

1/30/12
vs. Missouri
Frank Ewrin Center

Young Horns face tough challenge



Clint Chapman scored 11 points during Texas' loss to Kansas State. Chapman and the other veteran Longhorns will have to play their best to compete with Kansas.

After an 84-80 loss to Kansas State, Longhorns will take on Jayhawks after their win over No. 3 Baylor

By Sameer Bhuchar
Daily Texan Staff

As if things couldn't get any tougher for the Longhorns, now they have to prepare for a battle against one of the most storied programs in college basketball, No. 7 Kansas.

Coming from a heartbreaking loss to Kansas State marred with turnovers, Texas dropped to 2-3 in Big 12 play while Kansas is fresh off a victory against the third best team in the country, Baylor. Everyone knows head coach Rick Barnes is dealing with a young squad, but the expected growing pains are really starting to hurt.

"They overpowered us inside," Barnes said after the 84-80 loss to Kansas State. "But we fought."

Against Kansas, it is going to take more than just the fighting spirit to pull off the upset. It'll take a great deal of maturity and patience. Kansas only averages marginally higher numbers in most statistics, with a point or two more here and there, a few more rebounds and a couple more assists a game. But those extra passes on offense and the will to snag another rebound is what separates the boys from the men in college basketball.

And how do you prepare for yet another killer game in a murderous schedule?

"You tell [your players] that is why they came to Texas," assistant coach Chris Ogden said.

Texas will need yet another contribution from its star and veteran leader, J'Covan Brown, who averages a league-best 19.2 points a game. Brown, who has been battling an ankle injury, is accompanied by a cast of talented role players who are learning on the fly what it is like to play Big 12 basketball week-in and week-out.

One freshman who has emerged as a viable secondary scoring threat is Sheldon McClellan. Against the Wildcats, McClellan notched

19 points to go along with three rebounds. Though his team is younger than most in the Big 12, he still feels that any player on the Longhorns' squad can put up big numbers when they play within Barnes' system.

"We have to look for open shots on the offense, not take too many one-on-ones. We just got to use each other and help each other," McClellan said. "Everyone on this team is capable of making 20 points a night."

One player who won't need a 20-point performance but is certainly due for another big rebounding game, is senior forward Clint Chapman. Chapman is one of Texas' only big men and he has, at times, given Texas a threatening big man's edge with his ability to score and rebound. The only problem is that it has come in bunches. He had a nice 11 points and five rebounds off the bench against Kansas State but was rendered ineffective a week before against Missouri, managing only six points and four boards as a starter that game.

Whether Barnes elects for him to start or ride pine at the get-go against the Jayhawks, he is that X-factor contributor whose veteran leadership needs to show more.

"[Chapman] being here for a while and knowing what coach wants has helped him improve. And him being able to relay that to younger guys [has made them] more receptive," Ogden said. "We are going to need [Chapman]. We are going to need [Alexis Wangmene] to step up, we are going to need J'Covan. We are going to need all of the seniors to really take this team and not let them lose."

Kansas, meanwhile, has its pieces in place to make yet another run at a Big 12 and even national title. The Jayhawks just beat the No. 3 Baylor Bears and are oozing with confidence.

"I think we made a big statement tonight," senior guard Tyshawn Taylor said after downing the Bears. "I told my team with, like, 11 minutes left that we have to make a statement. I don't know if people are sleeping on us — they know we're good — but I don't know if people knew what we could do."

The Jayhawks are stacked with experience and speed top to bottom. Thomas Robinson and Taylor average 17.8 and 16.2 points a game, respectively, good for second and fifth best in the conference. Robinson's 12 rebounds a game is good for tops in the league. Texas' nearest competitor in this category is freshman Jonathan Holmes, who pulls down about 5.3 boards a night.

Texas has its work cut out for itself in tomorrow afternoon's game. A win would prove the Longhorns have the capability to play to their potential, a mark some thought Texas would have reached sooner, but a loss would mean yet another drop in the conference rankings and the affirmation that it is going to be a long year in the Big 12.

COMPARING TEXAS AND KANSAS (NATIONAL RANKING)

	Texas Stats	Kansas Stats
Top Performer: J'Covan Brown 19.2 ppg 3.4 rpg 3.8 apg		Top Performer: Thomas Robinson 17.8 ppg 12.3 rpg 1.7 apg
Points per game	75.8 (42nd)	76.8 (36th)
Rebounds per game	34.7 (64th)	39.2 (26th)
Assists per game	13.4 (144th)	16.4 (21st)
Field goal percentage	.451 (119th)	.485 (23rd)
Scoring Defense	65.2 (120th)	60.1 (27th)

Brown getting necessary support from teammates

By Christian Corona
Daily Texan Columnist

J'Covan Brown was practically unstoppable last weekend against Missouri. The junior guard drilled his first three shots from beyond the arc, giving him nine points before 12 minutes had been played.

Even with Brown turning one of the finest performanc-

es of his career, a 34-point outburst that saw him come within a point of his career-high, the Longhorns were blown out by the Tigers. Despite Brown dropping 23 points, including another trio of 3-pointers, on Missouri in the second half, Texas never trailed by less than five in the final 30 minutes.

But, as evidenced by the way his teammates played against Kansas State Wednesday night, Brown might not have to do ev-

everything by himself after all.

Texas insisted before last night's game that its offense, not its defense — despite giving up 84 points to Missouri — was what needed fixing. The Longhorns lost, 84-80, despite the Wildcats missing five consecutive free throws in the final minute, but went a long way towards curing those offensive woes. A 19-2 run helped Texas trail by just one at halftime, 43-42, instead of the 13-point ad-

vantage the Tigers held over the Longhorns this past Saturday.

"We knew going in we were going to have to score 80 points to beat [Missouri]," said Texas assistant coach Chris Ogden. "Games get down to half-court offense, especially this time of year. Teams take away your transition for the most part. If they're a good team, a tournament team, it comes down to half-court execution."

Thanks to Brown's team-

mates, who shot better than 60 percent from the floor Wednesday night, Texas was able to keep this game much closer than when it fell to the Tigers by 11. Despite winning just one game away from home this season, the Longhorns nearly pulled off an upset in Manhattan's "Octagon of Doom," where Missouri suffered its only loss and where Baylor nearly fell for the first time as well.

BROWN continues on PAGE 8

SOCCER

New coach aims to improve program

By Sara Beth Purdy
Daily Texan Staff

Angela Kelly has seen many years of success in soccer that fit well with the ideology and desire to win that exists at Texas. Kelly, who comes to the Forty Acres after 12 years with the Tennessee Volunteers, was named the head coach of the women's team this past December. She is replacing former head coach Chris Petrucci, who has been reassigned following 13 years at the helm.

Lately the Longhorns have suffered the same late season collapse that many programs, both at Texas and around the country, seem to be cursed with. After starting the season strong each of the past few years, the

Longhorns have walked away from the post-season early after losses in the first round of the NCAA tournament. At the start, Kelly seems to be ready to take on the challenge of building up the program.

"I am so excited to become a part of such a winning tradition here at Texas," Kelly said. "Our staff will be incredibly invested in the vision of this program and taking Texas women's soccer to national prominence."

Chris Plonsky, the University of Texas women's athletic director, is confident that Kelly has what it takes to bring national prestige back to Texas.

"I love her hunger to win, her presence, her energy," Plonsky said. "She has absolute focus on

developing elite female student athletes into champions, personally and competitively."

Kelly's background lends itself to her credibility as a successful coach. She was well groomed to become a nationally recognized coach growing up despite never having a desire to coach at all. As a native of Scotland, Kelly watched her father play professional soccer in Glasgow before her family immigrated to Canada.

While in Canada, Kelly saw success early and often. She enjoyed nine years of success as a member of the Canadian National Team, which included a



Angela Kelly, who coached at the University of Tennessee, was named head coach of the Texas soccer team. She hails from Scotland and coached the Canadian national team.

Courtesy of University of Tennessee Athletics

KELLY continues on PAGE 8

NBA

HORNETS
88

ROCKETS
90

MAVERICKS
94

JAZZ
91

LAKERS
87

HEAT
98

NHL

PENGUINS
4

RANGERS
1

SPOTLIGHT

Jimmy Feigen

Position: Free/Fly
Height: 6'5"
Class: Senior
Hometown: San Antonio, Texas

Senior swimmer Jimmy Feigen has been named the Swimmer of the Week by collegeswimming.com. Last week, the Longhorns had an impressive 161-131 victory over No. 7 Auburn. Feigen helped Texas in this victory by finishing first in both the 50 and 100 freestyle events and he was a part of the winning 200 medley relay team.

TWEET OF THE DAY

Myck Kabongo @1MK2

"Everyone back home that was watching I promise you that our team will continue to get better & be the hardest working group of guys! G2S"

SPORTS BRIEFLY

Conradt nominated for charity award by Recognize Good

Former Texas women's basketball coach Jody Conradt has been named a Legend for her community service by the non-profit group, Recognize Good. Conradt, along with seven other nominees, are apart of the group's campaign "Say Thanks Austin."

All of the nominees will receive online votes from the public and the candidate with the most votes before Feb. 3 will earn 10,000 for his or her charity.

Conradt has worked with the Neighborhood Longhorns program, a non-profit learning program that helps underprivileged students in the Austin Independent School District.

— Lauren Giudice

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

Seniors needed for success against Sooners

By Stefan Scrafield
Daily Texan Staff

Coming off a close victory over a feisty Iowa State squad, the Longhorns will look to get to the .500 mark in conference play this Saturday against the Oklahoma Sooners.

Both Texas (12-5, 2-3 Big 12) and Oklahoma (11-5, 3-2 Big 12) have struggled to string together wins early on in conference play. A Longhorn win would tie them with the Sooners in the Big 12 and give the team the opportunity to put together a win streak with upcoming games against Missouri (0-5 Big 12) and Texas Tech (2-3 Big 12), two teams whose records put them in the bottom half of the conference standings.

"I've looked at Oklahoma's record in the Big 12 this year and they've been win-loss, win-loss as well," said Texas head coach Gail Goostenkors. "So something's got to give. It's going to be a battle up in Norman."

Since being blown out 75-58 by Texas A&M, the Sooners' last three contests have all been decided by eight points or less, two of which were decided by just three points.

The biggest challenge for the Longhorns on Saturday afternoon will be stopping Aaryn Ellenberger and Oklahoma's guard-heavy scoring attack. Ellenberger, a sophomore from Las Vegas, leads the Big 12 with 48 three-pointers and ranks third in conference in scoring, averaging 18.2 points a game. Her .444 three-point shooting percentage ranks her 12th in the nation.

Redshirt junior Whitney Hand and sophomore Morgan Hook round out the Sooners' backcourt and are second and third, respectively, among the team's leading scorers. Hand, whose 6-foot-1-inch frame makes her one of the tallest



Elisabeth Dillon | Daily Texan Staff

Yvonne Anderson has been crucial for the Longhorns this season and had a game winning shot with one second left in Texas' win over Iowa State on Saturday. She and the other seniors will be vital in Texas' tough conference match up against Oklahoma.

guards in the country, also leads the team in assists and is second in rebounding.

Texas will have to rely on seniors Yvonne Anderson and Ashleigh Fontenette's veteran leadership to force the Sooner guards to look for the pass and create turnovers. Anderson is

currently fifth in the conference averaging just under three steals per game.

Although sophomore post Cokie Reed's status remains uncertain, the Longhorns, who head to Norman with a mediocre 2-2 record on the road this year, should have the advantage

in the paint.

The Sooners will be without their leading rebounder and highest scoring post, Joanna McFarland. The 6-foot-3-inch junior is out indefinitely after suffering a broken jaw late in the game against Oklahoma State last Saturday. Mc-

Farland is averaging 8.7 points and 8.1 rebounds in 15 starts for the Sooners this year.

Texas will need to capitalize on its rare advantage down low and win the rebounding battles in order to give themselves a chance to win Saturday's important conference matchup.

WEEKEND PREVIEW

TENNIS

Longhorns to face Rice in Houston rematch

By Lauren Jette
Daily Texan Staff

The Longhorns return to the courts tomorrow, looking to continue building on success in recent matches.

No. 19 ranked Texas (1-0) will travel to Houston to take the No. 39 ranked Rice Owls (2-0) at 6 p.m. The teams will battle it out at the Met Club in downtown Houston.

Led by junior Daniel Whitehead, ranked no. 112, the Longhorns are coming off of a 5-2 victory over SMU earlier this week, while the Owls kicked their season off with a double-header against Lamar University and Prairie View A&M last Saturday in Houston. The Owls came away with both 7-0 victories.

When these teams met in Austin last April, Texas walked away with a 6-1 win over the Owls. Current players that saw action in that meeting included junior Chris Camillone, who teamed up with Whitehead to post a victory in doubles, and junior Ben Chen, who posted a singles victory, as did Whitehead.

This season marks the final year for Rice's head coach Ron Smarr, who is the college tennis leader with 857 wins over his 41 seasons as a head coach.

Texas returns home next weekend to host Maryland in the Intercollegiate Tennis Association's Kick-Off Weekend.

Texas heads to Auburn for invitational meet

By Wes Maulsby
Daily Texan Staff

Texas will lead a loaded field into Birmingham, Alabama this weekend for the Auburn Indoor Invitational Indoor Track and Field Meet.

The No. 4 ranked Longhorns will face other top 10 teams, with No. 5 Clemson, No. 6 UCF and No. 9 Florida State competing. Alongside those teams are more high profile programs such as Auburn, Alabama, Ole Miss, Mississippi State, South Carolina, Samford and Tennessee.

This will be the second com-

petition for Texas this season following the Leonard Hilton Invitational in Houston last weekend. Sophomore Marielle Hall took first place in the mile and was on Texas' distance medley with Morgan Snow, Julie Amthor and Katie Hoaldrige. Texas also won the 4x400 relay along with having dual-winners in the high jump with Shanay Briscoe and Victoria Lucas each reaching 1.76 meters.

The meet will begin with the field events at 11 a.m., continue with the running events with the 60-meter prelims at 12 p.m., and will conclude with the 4x400-meter relay at 6:40 p.m.



Daniel Whitehead

NFL FOOTBALL

Division Championships loom for football alumni

By Lauren Giudice
Daily Texan Staff

As the playoffs progress, former Longhorns are making an impact. As the NFC and AFC Championship games loom, some Longhorns still have hope for a Super Bowl.

Ravens running back Ricky Williams rushed six times for 27 yards in Baltimore's win over the Houston Texans last week. Although he is the backup for Ben Tate, Williams will likely aid the Ravens in their matchup against the New England Patriots. Defensive end Cory Redding had three tackles and one quarterback hit during the win.

Williams and Redding will face former Longhorn offensive tack-

le Kyle Hicks. Hicks and the Patriots dominated the Denver Broncos 45-10 in the AFC Divisional Playoff last weekend.

Although cornerback Aaron Ross didn't make much of an impact in the NFC Divisional Playoff, the Giants defense was vital in the upset victory over the reigning Super Bowl champion Green Bay Packers.

Ross will be facing one of his best friends and former Texas teammate, cornerback Tarell Brown in the NFC Championship game. Brown had an excellent game last weekend, boasting an interception and two passes defended. Both players were drafted in 2007 and hope to take their teams to the Super Bowl on February 5th.

BROWN

continues from PAGE 7

Sheldon McClellan, the most reliable scorer alongside Brown this season, scored in double figures for the 11th time during his freshman campaign. The rookie guard had 19 points while fellow freshman Myck Kabongo had 14 points and 10 assists against Kansas State. Clint Chapman played most of the second half in foul trouble but managed to pour in 11 points and hit both of his field goal attempts and each of his seven free throw attempts.

"Everybody can score on this team," McClellan said.

Kabongo, who played his "best game by far," according to head coach Rick Barnes, in a win over Oklahoma State Jan. 7, and Chapman have provided much-needed relief to Brown recently. Chapman, who redshirted last season, had not scored in double figures in his first 96 career contests but has scored at least 11 in three of his last five.

"I'm just now starting to get back to the speed of the game," Chapman said. "The only new thing that I've added to that is being a leader, since I'm one of the few veterans on the team."

There aren't a lot of moral victories at a basketball program as proud as the one at Texas, but the way people around the Longhorns' leading scorer played in the "Octagon of Doom" — one of the loudest, toughest places to play in all of college basketball — was very encouraging. It's the type of performance that could help Texas get into the NCAA tournament for the 14th consecutive season.

KELLY

continues from PAGE 7

starting role at midfield for every game at the 1995 FIFA Women's World Cup. For her efforts, Kelly became the third woman to earn a spot in the Canadian Soccer Hall of Fame.

As a senior in high school, Kelly was recruited to play for the University of North Carolina Tar Heels under legendary head coach Anson Dorrance. While at UNC, Kelly earned All-American status as a senior and earned All-Conference honors three of the four years on the team. Along with pro-soccer star, teammate and roommate Mia Hamm, Kelly helped the Tar Heels earn four consecutive national titles in women's soccer.

Kelly then brought the same success to the teams she coached that she experienced as a player. Her coaching career started as a student assistant for the Tar Heels. After a push from Dorrance, Kelly took a job as an assistant coach at Tennessee. Four years later, when the job opened up, she took over the Lady Vols.

Prior to her arrival at Tennessee, the program had never won any conference championships and couldn't even dream of a spot in the post-season NCAA tournament. In 12 years, Kelly pushed her team to nine tournament appearances, which included five sweet sixteen appearances and posted a final mark of 10-8-2 in the post-season.

Not only is she committed to winning on the soccer field, she is committed to success in the classroom as well. At Tennessee she cultivated strong academic values which manifested in 142 athletes selected to academic All-Conference Honors in the SEC.

Despite leaving a successful program that she built up, Kelly is excited about coming to Texas and the potential that lies ahead.

"In my opinion ... this is a place where soccer can be played at the absolute highest level," Kelly said. "The talent within the state of Texas alone can win national championships."

Eager to get started, Kelly has already aligned herself to the values that are present in many Longhorn fans — that is, the desire to win big.

"I want them to be 100 percent invested into everything they commit to, which is Texas," Kelly said. "We'll have a clear understanding that we're here to win championships."

‘Extremely Loud’ fails to capture magnitude of tragedy

By Alex Williams
Daily Texan Staff

Since the dawn of cinema, Hollywood has been quick to exploit tragedies new and old for cinematic value, not to mention the occasional awards season boost in prestige. It wouldn't be too difficult to amass an impressive DVD collection solely from films based on the atrocities of the Holocaust and World War II, and the period is represented almost annually in the Best Picture race. Therefore, it's only fitting that the greatest catastrophe our generation has ever faced, Sept. 11, be mined for similar cinematic gravitas. Unfortunately, "Extremely Loud and Incredibly Close," based on the best-selling novel by Jonathan Safran Foer, is not the film to begin addressing that horrific day, with a shamelessly manipulative, nauseatingly twee helping of Oscar bait.

From its very first scene, "Extremely Loud" launches a full-scale attack on the audience's heartstrings, staging a fairly offensive credits sequence featuring Tom Hanks falling from one of the Twin Towers. You see, Hanks' Thomas Schell is the father of 9-year-old Oskar (Thomas Horn), a young boy teetering on the line separating precocious and autistic (although Oskar's voice-over informs us he was never officially diagnosed). When Oskar finds a key in his father's closet a year after his death, the grief-stricken boy is convinced that there's something out there that his father meant for him to find and proceeds to travel all over New York City in search of the single lock that fits his key.

One of the more recent films to attempt to wring the final bits of pathos out of the Holocaust genre is "Extremely Loud" director Stephen Daldry's last film, "The Reader," which was bafflingly nominated for Best Picture in 2008. Unfortunately, Daldry has just gotten better at turning up the big emotions, and "Extremely Loud" is shamelessly calculated to shake every last tear out of its audience. From a pervasive voice-over that reveals every thought running through its lead's head, to the way the film deals out its flashbacks so its most manipulative moment (a recording of a phone call made from inside a collapsing tower) is saved



Photo Courtesy of Warner Brothers

Thomas Horn and Tom Hanks star in "Extremely Loud and Incredibly Close," which was directed by Stephen Daldry. The film chronicles a son dealing with the loss of his father in the 9/11 attacks.

for last, the film feels tailor-made to devastate at every turn.

Despite this, the film manages to be something of a bore, flabby and overlong with too many self-indulgent flourishes and detours, some more effective than others. Many of the characters Oskar encounters in his journey are relatively compelling figures, especially the mute tenant played by Max von Sydow. Sydow gives a soulful performance without dropping a line of dialogue, and the excruciating pain in his face as he listens to a tape from inside the towers is more convincing than any other element in the film. Also strong are Viola Davis and Jeffrey Wright as a couple

driven apart by the tragedy.

Hanks is as affable and charming as ever, but the plot requires that his role be a strictly supporting one. It's a shame, since Hanks usually brings a sense of play and adventure to the film that's lacking elsewhere. Meanwhile, Sandra Bullock does her best as Oskar's grieving mother, but much of her material is the most cloying in the film, and too many of the plot's biggest contrivances are hung on Bullock being equally naïve and streetwise, which makes for a bit too much to swallow. Meanwhile, Horn is fairly terrible, unable to give the film momentum, genuine emotion or even likability. Oskar

is shattered by his father's death, but Horn isn't quite equipped to express that, and instead endless voice-over spells out every bit of subtext the film could have had. Horn is mostly reduced to acting like a petulant brat, often being needlessly cruel to his mother.

The fact that films like "Extremely Loud and Incredibly Close" exist is worrisome. Sept. 11 was for many Americans one of the worst days of our lives, and done right, a film about that day can be a devastating but rewarding examination of the still-wounded American psyche. Done wrong, you have things like a CGI Tom Hanks leaping from the Twin Towers or Nicolas Cage

trapped beneath their rubble as in "World Trade Center," a reduction of everything that happened that day to a vehicle for stars looking to get some positive reinforcement. Meanwhile, honest, chilling efforts such as Paul Greengrass' "United 93," are underappreciated and ultimately forgotten. I shudder to think that someday, the Oscar-bait Holocaust film will be replaced by the 9/11 film, and if they're all as calculated and soulless as this film, we are in for dark days indeed.

"Extremely Loud and Incredibly Close" tells a story that in the right context could have been effective, but by putting such a small story in the context of such

a massive event, it feels not only cheap and offensive, but also like Daldry is trying to lessen the significance of what happened on Sept. 11, which is the worst thing a film like this can do.

Extremely Loud and Incredibly Close

Director: Stephen Daldry
Genre: Drama
Runtime: 129 minutes

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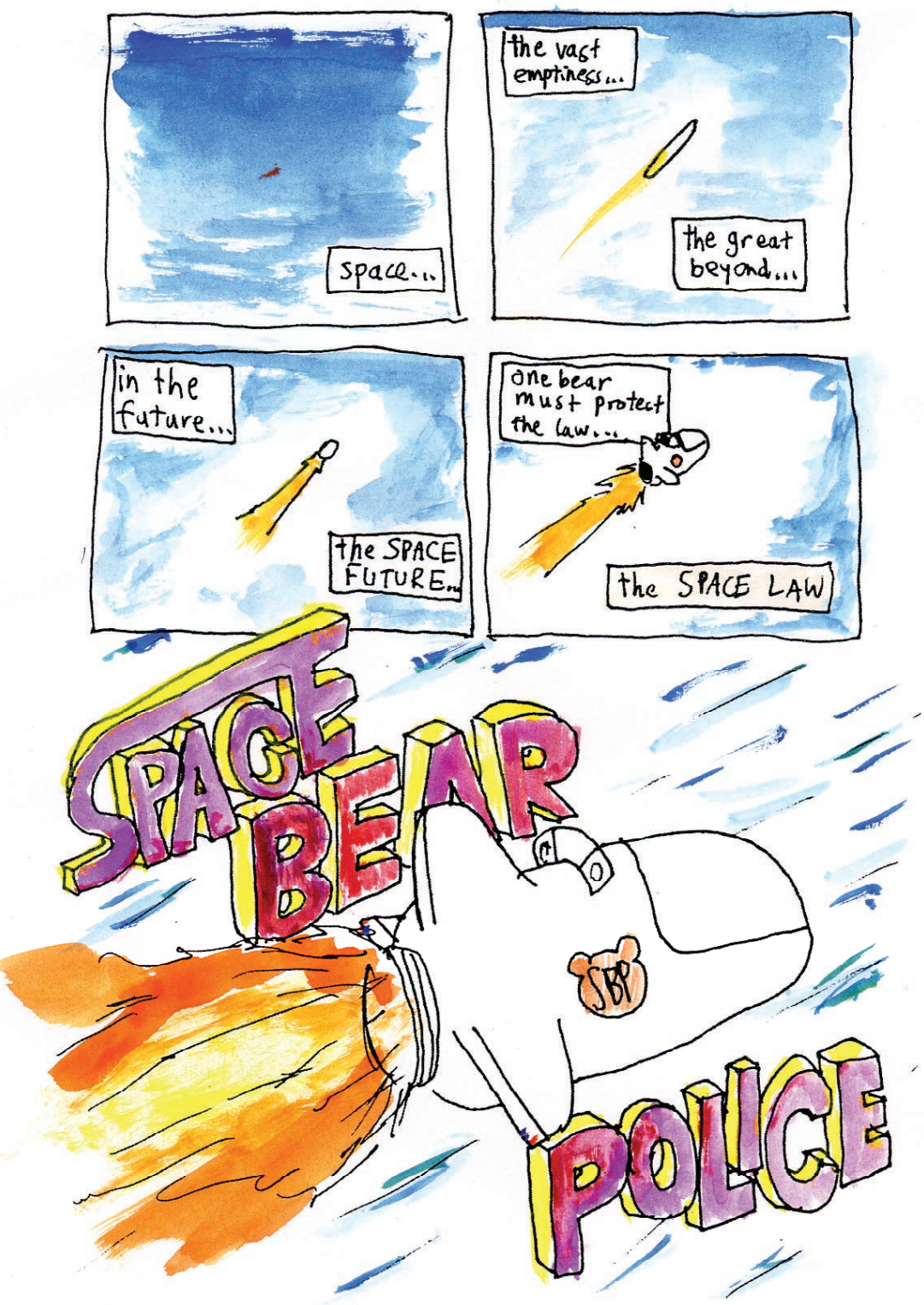
SPRING'S AROUND THE CORNER Solution: 7 letters

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

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Across
1 Like Celsius
8 Alchemist's goal
15 Early Appalachian crossers
17 Like friendly acquaintances
18 Google Maps offering
19 Prepare for gardening, maybe
20 Last article in the Constitution
21 Striking things about rec rooms
22 Creature on the New York coat of arms
23 They're grounded when they're misbehaving
24 Columbia ____ Minn.
25 Betrays one's blue state

Down
26 Four front?
27 Rat race remedy, briefly
28 Pariahs and others
29 Where to make tracks
31 Drops for dirty clothes
32 "Les Mots" autobiographer, 1964
33 Pieces for grilling
34 Govt. instrument
35 Place for grilling
36 Option for a seal
39 Taiwan Strait city
40 Ascribe to
41 Questionnaire info
42 Big mouth
43 Tons
44 One may clash with another

Down
1 Leave a black mark on, say
2 Carried the day
3 Goes after
4 Treas. and the like
5 "Ah"
6 Point on a line: Abbr.
7 Japanese island
8 Triptych trio
9 "Well, golly"
10 Fed.
11 Questionnaire info
12 "Route 66" car
13 Rancors
14 Goal facilitators
16 Teriyaki ingredient
22 Orange half of a TV duo
23 Cuts up
25 Training unit
26 "The Alchemist" novelist Coelho
27 Rough to drive on, perhaps
28 Staples, e.g.

Across
45 Effect used to measure astronomical distances
48 It does a body good
49 Galore
50 What brains do well on



Puzzle by Doug Peterson and Barry C. Silk

29 Daly City's county

30 Smokeys, so to speak

31 Volcano south of Quito

16 Teriyaki ingredient

32 Occupies

33 Cocktail party bite

35 Kansas-Nebraska Act signer

36 Simpson who was Time's first Woman of the Year

37 Start of some salutes

38 Loser at Salamis and Plataea

40 Rocker Liz

41 Sweet, in music

43 ____ Longa, ancient city founded by the son of Aeneas

44 Trolley

46 Cut back

47 Like some univ. courses

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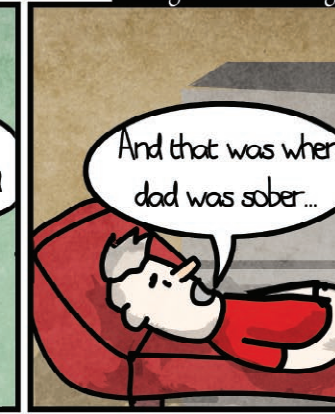


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5		2	7		3		
				4		1	2
					7	8	9
6							5
	9	5	6				
8	4			1			
			3	4	1		8
				8	6	2	4

Yesterday's solution

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

Advances span scientific spectrum

Editor's note: This is the first in a semester-long series recapping some of the exciting new scientific developments of the week. Robert Starr is a Ph.D student studying biophysics.

SCIENCE SCENE

By Robert Starr

The Secret to Multicellular Life, Revealed?:

Scientists at the University of Minnesota have created multicellular life from single cellular yeast in the lab. Starting with the yeast and artificially selecting for heavier cells, the cells began clumping together after several generations to form multicellular life. While this isn't a direct analogue for how multicellular life probably evolved in the wild, the experiment may shed insight as to how that step took place several billion years ago.

Looking Into a Black Hole:

Similarly, several astronomers met this week in Tuscon to discuss hooking up many single radio telescopes into a multi-telescope set-up in order to record a black hole in action with more clarity than has ever been seen before. While a black hole itself can never be seen directly, since light can't escape it, by using these telescopes together scientists hope to be able to see matter falling into and feeding a black hole in real time, which should give as good a picture possible of what a black hole "looks" like.

The World's Tiniest (And Chillest) Computer:

From the very big to the very small, researchers at IBM have created the tiniest memory storage yet. Using only 12 iron atoms — as opposed to the usual million or so — they can record either a 1 or a 0, the basis of binary code, the language of computers. The catch? This only works at

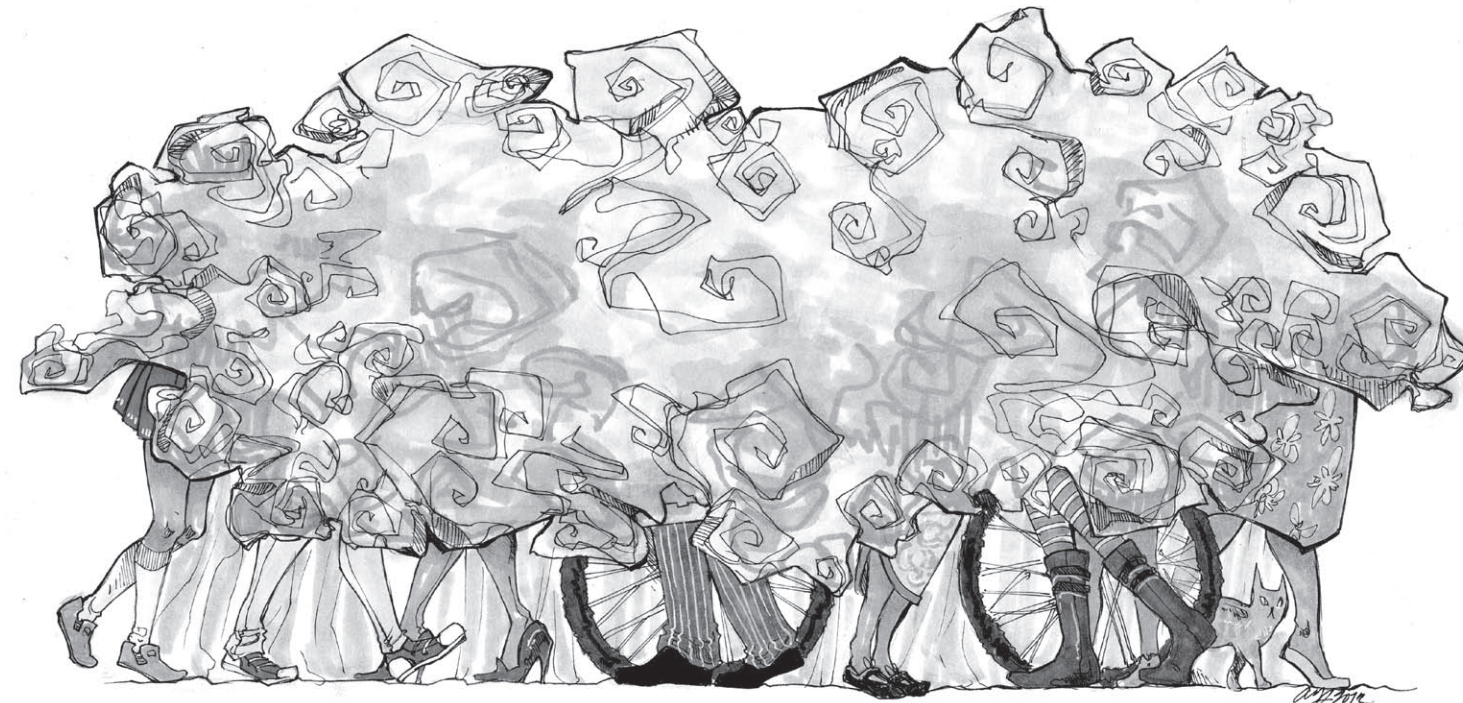
temperatures around absolute zero, or approximately -459.67 degrees Fahrenheit — far too cold to use the computer comfortably. However, the researchers say that they could make a similar system work at room temperature using 150 atoms.

Mars Rocks!:

We appear to have had verifiable Martian visitors last summer — albeit in rock form. Scientists have confirmed, using age and chemical signatures as evidence, that rocks found during a July meteor shower last year originated from Mars. This represents a unique opportunity, since no spacecraft has ever visited Mars and returned with rock samples. Scientists can study these Martian rocks from the comfort of our home planet. Due to their rarity these rocks are quite pricey, selling at about 10 times the price of gold.

Crash and Burn:

Martian rocks aren't the only alien visitors we've had. The Rus-



down. The danger wasn't necessarily of it falling on anyone important, but the fact that it was full of highly toxic fuel is very unsettling. Most of the spacecraft burned up in the atmosphere, leaving an estimated 440 pounds of it to crash in the Pacific Ocean.

Step It Up, China:

In other bad news, the "Second National Assessment Report on Climate Change" has come out and, not surprisingly, reaffirms that if China continues their rate of dirty energy consumption, the results will likely be catastrophic. The report estimates that carbon dioxide emissions will start to fall by 2030 and won't reduce significantly until the latter half of the 21st century unless something is done before then. The report was not done to set policy and doesn't make any suggestions as to how to reduce carbon dioxide emissions. It does, however, predict consequences given the current state of things, which include droughts in some regions and flooding in others, affecting the country's ability to provide food to its people and consequently causing an increase in the cost of farming.

Most of the spacecraft burned up in the atmosphere, leaving an estimated 440 pounds of it to crash into the Pacific Ocean.



Illustrations by Ao Meng | Daily Texan Staff

'Red Tails' aims for sky, loses momentum with simplicity

By Alex Williams
Daily Texan Staff

"Red Tails" has the potential to be a landmark film for many reasons. First off, it's a film that George Lucas has been prodding into theaters since the 1980s, and it represents a true passion project and possible redemption for the man who both created and ruined "Indiana Jones" and "Star Wars." It also happens to be the first blockbuster in recent memory featuring an all-black cast. No one can deny "Red Tails" has its heart in the right place, and while its attempts to do to the Tuskegee Airmen what "Remember the Titans" did to high school football are certainly noble in spirit, the film undercuts itself at every turn, more than content to let its episodic, predictable story play out in the least interesting way possible.

Based on the true story of the Tuskegee Airmen, "Red Tails" focuses on a squadron of fighter pilots led by Major Stance (Cuba Gooding Jr.) and Colonel Bullard (Terrence Howard). Faced with World War II-era racism, pilots such as Lightning (David Oyelowo), Maurice (Michael B. Jordan) and Junior (Tristan Wilds) struggle to overcome adversity and prove their dominance both in the skies and on the ground.

"Red Tails" director Anthony Hemingway cut his teeth directing TV shows like "True Blood" and "Treme," and his history on "The Wire" is reflected in the film's cast. Alumni like Wilds, Jordan and Andre Royo pop up, but all are underserved by the film's lackluster script. "Red Tails" is at its



Photo Courtesy of 20th Century Fox

In this image released by 20th Century Fox, Cuba Gooding Jr. portrays Major Emmanuel Stance in a scene from the film, "Red Tails."

best when its characters take to the skies, but even then, the film's dialogue remains embarrassingly bad. However, the special effects are great, treating the space above the clouds with an infectious sense of wonder, and when "Red Tails" lets its characters do what they do best, the film takes on a kinetic energy and intensity that disappears as soon as the planes land.

"Red Tails" tries to give every character, no matter how minor, an arc, and every one is unsatisfying. For example, Jordan's character shows up early in the film to state his intentions to become a fighter pilot, has a few scenes building toward that end and quickly disappears from the film until its climax. The film's score is equally useless, only popping up at a few moments to call undue attention to itself.

Just as clumsy is the film's take on race, which is

toothless and utterly lacking in any sort of subtlety. Every white character is one-note and racist, and the film moves through their inevitable redemption like checking off boxes on a list until the characters learn that black fighter pilots aren't so bad after all! Even worse is the film's treatment of Bryan Cranston, who shows up for two scenes to play a mustache-twirling villain before vanishing (and seemingly being replaced by Gerald McRaney).

"Red Tails" is a tonal mess, and its bizarre editing means that storylines featuring a POW camp, a wholly non-verbal romance, and every character's struggles with racism are all jumbled together like ingredients in a casserole. Even so, its skybound scenes are undeniably impressive, and when "Red Tails" aims high, it often soars, making the inevitable crash back to mediocrity painful to watch.

TEXTING

continues from PAGE 12

we're romantically interested in. Now we've made conversations out of re-reading the back-and-forth message rundowns to our friends.

Whether we like it or not, we are judged by our texts just as we are judged by our Facebook timelines and Twitter feeds. Texting is more than figuring out the whens and wheres of a potential date; it's a representation of who we are. Leave it to our generation to take a form of technology as impersonal as texting and employ it in our personal relationships.

Text messages are more than asking how someone is doing or what their plans are later that night. They can be the reason you went to bed with a smile plastered on your face, or the badge you show off to your friends and gush over or an enigma you desperately need to decode. When you can't help but light up when you see your phone light up, it's obvious that a text message is so much more than words on a screen.

In a swarm of acronyms and emoticons, how do you ensure that your text will stand out? Ideally a text should strike the perfect bal-

ance between being concise, clever and charming. But since we can't hire out Zooey Deschanel to pen our text messages to our crushes, it's best to keep this in mind: text messages are supposed to be the gateway to face to face interaction, so in your messages you should come across as someone that person actually wants to be around. It really is as simple as being the most likable version of yourself while not losing your personality in LOLs and ROFLs.

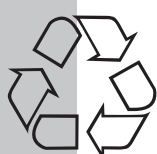
Because the winking face is the unofficial emoticon of choice for the supremely creepy and wildly promiscuous, it's best to just avoid expressing your feelings through smiley faces. If you need to text a smiley face to clarify that you are indeed smiling, then you aren't using your words correctly.

As technology continues to re-define every aspect of our lives, including the way we ask people out on dates, texting is a facet of the dating world that could determine your future with someone. With a little perfectly timed textual charm, it seems that a text message is this generation's quickest way to have the guy or girl of their dreams in the palm of their hand.



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PORTLANDIA VS. AUSLANDIA

Portlandia airs Fridays at 9 p.m. on IFC.

Illustration by Nicole Collins | Daily Texan Staff

By Aleksander Chan

Fred Armisen, of “Saturday Night Live,” and Carrie Brownstein, formerly of the band Sleater-Kinney and currently of Wild Flag, don gender-bending costumes, floppy wigs and peculiar accents in their highly improvised comedy series, “Portlandia.” The show, the highest rated program network IFC has ever aired, just kicked off its second season. While the show

is staged as a satire of the famously progressive city, Portland, its send-up of hipster culture, from farm-raised poultry to oppressively off-beat indie bands, elicits a striking sense of familiarity — “Portlandia” is just as much a comedy about Austin as it is about Portland. Below, we connect the hipster threads between “Portlandia’s” best sketches and their Austin counterparts.



Photo courtesy of IFC



Photo courtesy of IFC



Photo courtesy of IFC



Photo courtesy of IFC

In “Portlandia”: “I don’t have a driver’s license! I don’t need it!” This clip, of Armisen aggressively biking through Portland’s Pearl District as a gruff, punky bi-

cyclist, is less than two minutes long, but is a precise skewering of the sense of self-importance huffed by some hardcore “biker’s rights” enthusiasts.

In “Portlandia”: Armisen and Brownstein play Toni and Candace, the incredibly judgmental and unhelpful proprietors of the fictional Women & Women First bookstore, where no one is able to leave without suffer-

ing one of their ill-conceived feminist barbs. In one episode, Toni (Brownstein) chastises Heather Graham’s personal journal: “That sounded more like a brag journal. A journal should be a document of misery.”

In “Portlandia”: As the Roving Singles, Armisen and Brownstein are the musical accompaniment at an acupuncture’s office, and they’re hilariously out of touch playing their songs while a client is laying facedown with

needles in her back. “Every time you hit a high note it drives the needles deeper ... it hurts,” she says. A perfect encapsulation of how some indie bands are so twee and quirky as to be insufferable — quite literally in this case.

In “Portlandia”: Ordering a meal is comparable to the Spanish Inquisition, especially if you are to determine the methodological philosophy your chicken dinner was raised in — though it helps that the restaurant that Armisen and Brownstein are dining at

keep a dossier on their entire meat selection. “His name was Colin,” their waitress says as she hands them a file on their main course. Unsatisfied with this level of information, they travel 30 miles outside of town to gauge the veracity of their food’s organic upbringing.

Bicyclists



Danielle Villasana | Daily Texan File Photo
21st Street Co-op’s MF100

In Austin: Residents, namely UT students, are all too familiar with the bicyclists that zip across campus, some in every direction humanly possible. For everyone who

has been cut off by, run into and made to wait in a long line of traffic for one of our pedaling classmates, “Portlandia’s” depiction is almost too dead-on to believe.

Feminist Bookstores



Lawrence Peart | Daily Texan File Photo
Book Women

In Austin: Austin’s own feminist bookstore, BookWoman, is decidedly less vitriolic — in fact, it’s a pretty standard genre bookstore. However, the likelihood of finding booksellers as un-

helpful as Toni and Candace isn’t at all specific to feminist shops. Really, what “Portlandia” decries is not necessarily the bookstores themselves, but the occasional pitfalls made by some in the name of feminism.

Indie Bands



Trent Lesikar | Daily Texan File Photo
Fun Fun Fun Fest

In Austin: As the “live music capital of the world” with a mantra of “keeping Austin weird,” our encounters with offbeat local acts are about as regular as the sunrise.

Plenty are silly, many are weird, but it’s all part of Austin’s sunny, hippie charm. You don’t live here without at least some appreciation for all things off-kilter.

Organic Food



Danielle Villasana | Daily Texan File Photo
In. Gredients potluck

In Austin: While it’s hard to imagine any local eatery holding documents on all their meat, the occasional snobbery faced by shoppers of Whole Foods, whose head-

quarters serves as a mini-epicenter of downtown, can feel just as grueling and — at times — superfluous. Every shopping decision can feel rife with implications.

Texting utilized as dating tool

Editor’s note: This is the first in a weekly series exploring the many perils and joys of modern dating.



By Anjali Mehta

Each generation reinvents the dating scene; we’ve graduated from the days of poodle skirts and burger joints to Match.com and going “Facebook official.” But as the rules of the dating game change, the goal has remained the same: to win over the one you love.

With cell phone service providers integrating unlimited text messaging into their service plans to cater to the millennial mindset that communication is best done electronically, it seems that before you can have a first

date, you’ve got to nail that first text.

According to a study by the Pew Research Center’s Internet & American Life Project this past September, young adults between the ages of 18-24 send an average of 109 text messages a day. Clutching their cell phones, the fingertips of students and young professionals alike tap happily away as they engage in one of our generation’s favorite pastimes. On a walk to class, you’re likely to catch half the students with their heads down consumed by their cell phones, carpal tunnel and oncoming traffic be damned.

Texting is the perfect medium for young adults ready to put themselves out there in the dating world but not yet ready for a face to face rejection. With the relief of preventing a foot-in-mouth situation, texting is an ideal first line of defense against potential awkwardness with a new crush.

Additionally, a text is the first taste of our compatibility with someone. We test out each other’s sense of humor as we carefully consider all of the ways a potential punch line could be misconstrued before sealing our fate with a quick tap on the “send” button. It’s also in those first few text messages that you learn the basics about a person, from hobbies to class schedules.

Alongside mastering the art of texting the person you like, text messages can be the center of the conversations you have with people other than the original recipient of the text. They become the center of coffee shop talk for any given group of girls as they share the texts with each other, praising the clever and witty ones and attempting to read between the lines of the casually vague ones. It’s not enough to just text the people

TEXTING continues on PAGE 11



John Massingill | Daily Texan Staff