





**LIFE&ARTS PAGE 8** 

# THE DAILY TEXAN

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Friday, November 18, 2016

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**CITY** 

APD chief

announces

departure

for Houston

By Will Clark

@\_willclark\_

Austin Police Chief

Art Acevedo announced

Thursday he will leave Aus-

tin to become the police

chief in Houston, which

has the nation's fifth-larg-

est police department,

according to the Austin

Acevedo served Austin as police chief for more

than nine years, and it is not yet clear who his

Mayor Steve Adler said in a statement Thursday that the task of finding a

replacement for Acevedo

a huge deal, and replacing

him will be a daunting task

in part because he gave so

much of himself to his job

and his community," the

statement said. "But Austin

is a safe city with a strong

police force, and we'll have

talented applicants to take

his place. We'll shortly

have a new city manager

and a new police chief, and

this gives Austin a unique

opportunity to enter a

Ken Casady, Austin Po-

lice Association president,

said a change in leader-

ship could be beneficial,

citing several controver-

sial discipline cases the

chief and the department

for a fresh start," Casady

said. "We've had a lot of

negative things that have

ACEVEDO page 2

I know we're ready

have faced.

new era in our history."

"Losing Art Acevedo is

American-Statesman.

successor will be.

will not be easy.

bit.ly/dtvid

## Officials address post-election fears

**By Lisa Dreher** @lisa\_dreher97

Austin-elected officials addressed community members' fears of deportation and hate crimes following last week's presidential election at a City Hall press conference Thursday afternoon.

City Council members Gregorio Casar, Leslie Pool and Delia Garza joined Mayor Steve Adler in condemning racism and anti-immigration policies following nationwide protests of President-elect

Donald Trump and anxieties at home, especially from UT students.

"Many of our offices have been contacted by parents whose children have been afraid to go to school," Garza said. "I hope [UT students] know that they're not alone and that everyone is feeling that fear and apprehension."

Students marched downlast Wednesday town and Sunday in protest of Trump's election.

"I don't think we're gaining anything by hurting folks or breaking laws," said Garza, who represents District 2. "It's everyone's constitutional right to protest."

APD officials said six people were arrested during Austin protests Sunday night. In a "60 Minutes" interview the same day, Trump said it upset him to hear reports of harassment toward minorities.

"I am saddened to hear that," Trump said. "I would say don't do it, that's terrible, because I'm going to bring this country together."

**ELECTION** page 2



Alex Dolan | Daily Texan Staff

City Council member Delia Garza addressed the community's fears of deportation and hate crimes after Donald Trump's election.

**CAMPUS** 

## Anti-fascist group protests student arrests

#### By Paul Cobler & Sarah Philips

The Revolutionary Student Front, a self-described anti-fascist organization, marched Thursday in protest of three of the group's allies being arrested last month for attempting to remove a Celtic cross spray-painted on Blanton Art Museum.

A Celtic cross is a symbol sometimes associated with anti-Semitism and white power movements. On Oct. 26, three people were arrested around 3 p.m. on charges of graffiti for spreading white paint on a pillar at the museum. RSF, who associated themselves with the incident, said it was done to cover the cross that had been graffitied onto the pillar in February, which they said the University had failed to properly address. RSF members marched

**NATIONAL** 

**PROTEST** page 2



Alex Dolan | Daily Texan Staff

A member of the Revolutionary Student Front leads the protest Thursday in front of the spot at the Blanton Museum of Art where UT failed to remove Celtic cross grafitti for nine months.

**CAMPUS** 

## Senate introduces resolution on affirmative action at UT

### By Paul Cobler & Sarah Philips

The voice of student support for affirmative action is growing louder as the Senate of College Councils introduced a joint resolution with the Graduate Student Assembly in support of the University's holistic admission policy this week.

On Wednesday, GSA passed the joint resolution during their general assembly meeting, and Thursday, Senate president Sergio Cavazos introduced Joint Resolution 1603 to Senate's general assembly, likely to be voted on at their next meeting Dec. 1.

"In terms of joint resolutions, it's always great when our [organizations] can come together on campus," said Cavazos, who co-authored the resolution. "In light of



Emmanuel Briseño | Daily Texan Staff

Sergio Cavazos President of the Senate of College Councils speaks at the Senate general assembly. the Supreme Court case Fish-

the events on campus with YCT and the other conversations that have gone on, we think it's important to emphasize the need for a diverse student body."

Last year, GSA and Senate passed a resolution formally supporting the University in

University, as well to create a broader resolution focusing

er v. The University of Texas.

Cavazos said the resolution

was created to emphasize Sen-

ate and GSA's support for the

**RESOLUTION**page 3

## Trump higher ed plans may undo Obama policy, affect student loans

By Van Nguyen @nguyen\_van

President-elect Trump's plans for higher education policy will reverse

legislation already in place if implemented. In 2010, President Barack Obama moved to allow the federal government to issue

loans, rather than having banks and private financial institutions play the middleman in facilitating the process. Trump has said he will reverse Obama's legislation and

put banks back into the system. In May, Sam Clovis, a policy advisor for Trump's campaign, told Inside Higher Ed that loans should be distributed locally by banks, rather than through the federal government.

"We think it should be marketplace and market driven," Clovis said to Inside Higher Ed.

This process will be costly for either students or the federal government, said Craig Lindwarm, director of congressional and governmental affairs at the Association of Public and Land-grant Universities.

"If that's the decision that's made, then there are going to be consequences, [and] Congress is going to have to find a way of paying for it," Lindwarm said. "Students are going to pay potentially increased interest rates."

The Congressional Budget Office estimated the move in 2010 saved the government close to \$60 billion over 10 years and much of that funding went to the Pell Grant program, which directly benefits students, Lindwarm said. If Congress reverses Obama's legislation, Lindwarm said APLU does not want the students to pay for it.

"Direct loans are much

more efficient, and keeping [it] makes a lot more sense," Lindwarm said.

According to UT's Office of Financial Aid, private student loans are generally more expensive and may not offer the benefits that come with federal student loans.

These benefits include fixed interest rates for monthly payments and income-driven repayment plans, student loan repayment plans where students pay based on a certain percentage per month and debt forgiveness after a certain number of years.

Currently the caps for these plans range from 10-15 percent of income and debt forgiveness after 20-25 years, according the Federal Student Aid website. Trump said at a rally on Oct. 13 that he wants to change the

**TRUMP** page 2

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### **CONTACT US**

**Main Telephone** 

(512) 471-4591 **Editor-in-Chief** 

Alexander Chase (512) 232-2212 editor@dailytexanonline.com

#### **Managing Editor**

Jackie Wang (512) 232-2217 managingeditor@ dailytexanonline.com

### **News Office**

(512) 232-2207 news@dailytexanonline.com

**Sports Office** sports@dailytexanonline.com

### Life & Arts Office

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#### **Multimedia Office**

(512) 471-8618 multimedia@ dailytexanonline.com

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Low

There's a dollar in mv wallet.

## FRAMES FEATURED PHOTO thedailytexan



Emmanuel Briseño | Daily Texan Staff

Catherine David performs Thursday afternoon as part of the Blanton Museum of Art's Beat the Rush.

### **ACEVEDO**

continues from page 1

happened in the last year. I think it's good for not only Chief Acevedo, but for the Police Department to have a change-up."

Earlier this year, Austin police officer Geoffrey Freeman fatally shot 17-yearold David Joseph. Acevedo fired Freeman in March after

determining Freeman violated multiple department policies. Since then, Freeman has appealed his case to get his job back.

The APD Public Information Office did not confirm Acevedo's departure but said they will release a statement concerning the matter soon.

Houston's public information office was not available for comment.



Stephany Tacy | Daily Texan Staff

Austin Police Chief Art Acevedo greets a protestor at a Donald Trump rally in downtown Austin on Nov. 9th. Acevedo annat he will be leaving Austin to become the po chief of Houston.

### **PROTEST**

continues from page 1

through campus for several hours around noon yesterday to protest the arrests.

RSF said the University failed to take appropriate action concerning the Celtic cross, even though the Campus Climate Response Team said they knew about the incident immediately after it occurred. Compared to the almost immediate removal of Black Lives Matter graffiti from various campus statues in February, RSF said the University arrested three "without any activists supporting evidence" and then removed the white paint covering the Celtic cross.

UT spokesperson J.B. Bird said campus staff and Blanton facility services attempted to take the symbol down, but the impression remained on

the pillar.

"It seems to be quite a stretch to claim that for eight months the University did nothing about the graffiti," Bird said the day after the activists were arrested. "Immediately, the day the graffiti was noticed, it was attempted to be removed."

Biology freshman Geneva Pantoja said she sided with RSF's side of the story, saying the people who painted over the Celtic cross shouldn't have been arrested.

"I feel like the University is in the wrong," Pantoja said. "I feel like they should have taken care of the Celtic cross instead of ignoring it. From what they're saying, it doesn't seem like they had any real evidence to arrest them."

Some of the chants shouted by the protesters included anti-police rhetoric.

"They have the right to

say whatever they want," said Cindy Posey, associate director of communications for University Operations, when asked about the chants.

Finance senior Irfan Merchant said he doesn't usually get involved with political situations. He said he agreed that the University should have taken more actions against the Celtic cross but didn't agree with some of the anti-police RSF chants during the protest.

"Yes, there's evidence that some of the police in history have taken some very wrongful action, but by protesting and saying such mean things and mean slander and showing such aggressive attitude, it's not going to fix the problem, so it doesn't matter," Merchant said.

Bird said the Blanton Museum is contacting outside firms to remove the remnants of the Celtic cross.

### THE DAILY TEXAN

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### **ELECTION**

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Pool said Austin's city election was successful, but it was diminished by the presidential one, which she took as a personal defeat.

"This loss is very personal and for a lot of reasons," Pool said. "I admire President Obama's steady hand during these times of uncertainty."

District Attorney-elect Margaret Moore, Travis County

Sheriff-elect Sally Hernandez and Travis County Judge Sarah Eckhardt were also present at the press conference.

Eckhardt said her daughter told her no one in her public school class stood for the pledge last Wednesday afternoon.

"Closing the border and deporting our friends and neighbors ... and children will not make us great," Eckhardt said. "I am looking forward to my daughter and classmates, all of her classmates, feeling that they can stand for pledge to the flag of the United States, because they all belong."

During the press conference, Casar said the daughter of one of his constituents called her father crying because she thought someone would deport him.

"They fear that in the future someone will come for them," Casar said. "This is a test of our values, and we clearly stand on the side of fairness and justice."

Hernandez said Travis County has not joined a task force to deport illegal immigrants, although Trump's immigration plan calls for the deportation of criminal illegal immigrants "in joint operations with local, state, and federal law enforcement," according to his website.

"While some speak of building walls, I will continue to bridge the gap and rebuild trust in our communities." Hernandez said. "Our values have not changed, as you've heard of everyone, just because of the Election Day."

### TRUMP

. Lisa Dreher, Meraal Hakee

. Ethan Elkins . Todd Lim, Bella McWhorty

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continues from page 1

caps to 12.5 percent payments a month and loan forgiveness after 15 years.

Richard Murphy, UT economics assistant professor, said in an interview with The Daily Texan last month that changing the caps will only have a small impact on the economy.

"The way [IDRs] are set up today means there are still many hurdles and making minor adjustments to the terms will make little meaningful difference to the life of graduates," Murphy said.

Murphy said few students use these plans because of the complicated application process.

Clovis also told Inside Higher Ed in May that they were considering keeping colleges accountable if students default on their loans by restricting access to federal funding if too many students default.

"If you are going to study 16th-century French art, more power to you. I support the arts," Clovis said to Inside Higher Ed. "But you are not going to get a job. If you choose to major in the liberal arts, there are issues associated with that." Clovis said if colleges allow this practice to continue,

colleges will be punished.

Lindwarm said policy, known commonly as risk sharing, may have unintended consequences.

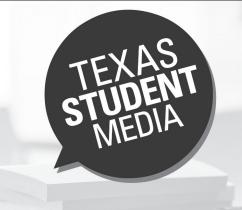
"Some of those consequences could create incentives for institutions to favor in admissions the students to least likely default on student loans. The last [thing] we should be doing is closing doors," Lindwarm said.

Richard Reddick, UT educational administration professor, had similar concerns with the effects of risk sharing on underrepresented students.

"First generation and low income students, students of color, and other underrepresented student populations could be scrutinized in such a way that their already limited pathways to college could be compromised [from risk sharing]," Reddick said in an email. "The best thing for everyone would be for the president elect to rapidly formulate a plan, so policy makers and researchers could actually respond to a strategy, rather than this scattershot assemblage

of campaign promises."





**TEXAS STUDENT MEDIA BOARD OF OPERATING TRUSTEES MEETING** 

The University of Texas at Austin **Jesse H. Jones Communication Center, Building A Lady Bird Johnson Room (CMA 5.136)** 2504A Whitis Avenue, Austin, Texas 78712 November 18, 2016 at 10:00 a.m

## Org campaigns against Nike labor practices

By Van Nguyen @nguyen\_van

Students at UT-Austin have been working for more than a year now to bring better working conditions to those employed in factories with sweatshop conditions where UT-Austin apparel is created, according to a report from the Worker Rights Consortium, an organization who protects the rights of those who sew apparel affiliated with more than 150 universities, including UT.

Andrea Flores, co-chair of UT United Students Against Sweatshops, said the organization has been campaigning against Nike through protests and demonstrations for the last year to let the University know of the company's business practices.

Flores and other members of USAS met with Nike and UT administrators Tuesday morning to address these concerns. She said the Nike representatives were only interested in giving a talk on strengthening business ties, rather than discussing working conditions.

"Our goals are to defend the WRC or [to] cut ties with Nike," Flores said. "These reports are coming out, [but] all we're talking about is strengthening business ties."

Flores said USAS walked out of the meeting after Nike representatives refused to sign a form to allow the WRC into its factories.

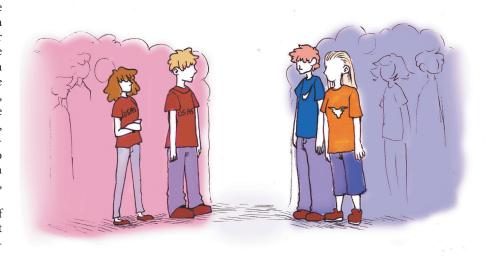


Illustration by Victoria Smith | Daily Texan Staff

"University students across the country are calling on their universities to sever business ties as all Nike collegiate apparel is being sourced from the Hansae factory in Vietnam where over 8300 workers were soon confirmed to be producing under sweatshop conditions," USAS said in a press release.

WRC began investigating the Nike factory in Hansae, Vietnam, where all Nike collegiate apparel is produced, in October 2015 after they learned of worker strikes. Because Nike did not allow WRC to enter the factories. they used alternative means to investigate the factory, such as conducting offsite interviews with their employees. The report, released in May, found violations including excessive temperatures inside the factory, insufficient breaks, verbal harassments, forced overtime and firing pregnant workers.

The Fair Labor Association, an organization similar to WRC, was hired by Nike to investigate the Hansae factory, but Flores said there is a conflict of interest here since they were paid. The report released by the FLA confirms there was a strike for several days in October and November 2015 but for reasons related to bonuses and not working conditions.

J.B. Bird, UT director of media relations, said the University has worked with students in the past on the issue of worker conditions by engaging directly with Nike.

"The university takes human rights issues seriously," Bird said in an email. "We work with two independent monitors, including [WRC,] an organization that United Students Against Sweatshops asked us to join. We are committed to pursuing our business affairs in a socially responsible and ethical manner."

The University has not publicly addressed WRC or FLA's reports.

UT-Austin signed a \$250 million, 15-year deal with Nike in 2015. The contract is considered to be the largest apparel deal in collegiate sports history, The Daily Texan reported last year.

Matthew

and chief

ABC News.

political com-

discussed the

results at the

Katarina De La

Daily Texan

Rosa

ity Center.

### UT student murder case awaits DNA test results

By Lisa Dreher @lisa\_dreher97

defense attorney for Meechaiel Criner, the 18-year-old charged with the murder of UT dance freshman Haruka Weiser in April, said he is waiting for DNA results that have been delayed by the Austin Police Department's DNA lab backlog.

"It's delaying my ability to investigate my case and advise my client and do all the things I need to do," said Ariel Payan, Criner's attorney.

According to official documents, biological matter from the crime scene was swabbed for analysis. Tom Vinger, press secretary for the Texas Department of Public Safety, said in an emailed statement that five individual evidence reports were written and released in April and May of this year. Vinger said a report related to the trial is due sometime this month, but the department cannot confirm that the test results Payan is looking for will be included in that particular report because it is an ongoing case. Criner is scheduled to stand trial on March 27, 2017.

Since APD's forensic lab was shut down in June due to use of improper and outdated methods, the overflow of forensic tests sent to the DPS has slowed evidence testing and recording of the results.

"When you have a major metropolitan's lab fail, that's caused us a ripple effect through the whole system," Payan said.

Vinger said law enforcement and prosecutors may still request testing of evidence as the case moves along. After an evidence report is sent to him, Payan

said he has to personally review and evaluate it.

"The problem is when I get it, I have to do all my fact-checking to make sure they did it correctly, and

that's going to take a while

too," Payan said.

Austin City Council voted Nov. 3 to approve sending an undecided amount of APD's tests to the Southwestern Institute of Forensic Sciences in Dallas to alleviate the backlog.

Vinger said their lab in Austin currently processes about 20 of APD's cases per month and averages more than 1,200 cases a year.

"[The] DPS ... works as quickly as possible to address the high demand at our crime labs within existing resources," Vinger said in an email.

David Gonzalez, adjunct professor of law at UT and a defense attorney, said Payan could file a speedy trial motion, claiming Criner's Sixth Amendment right to a speedy and public trial is being violated by the delay. Gonzalez said despite the backlog, DPS should not rush its procedures because it could lead to mistakes.

"I think most importantly on a capital murder case, you want the integrity of the evidence and the science," Gonzalez said. "Especially in this case where that evidence exonerates him because it's not his DNA.

Payan said a Travis County case was dismissed because the defense attorney filed a motion for a speedy trial due to the backlog, but doing so could further stall Criner's case.

"It doesn't really [move] me or Mr. Criner to file a motion for a speedy trial at this point, because we need to see the evidence," Payan said.

### **CAMPUS**

## Political strategist unpacks election results

By Meraal Hakeem

@meraal\_hakeem

Many nationwide polls didn't predict Donald Trump would win the presidency, but Matthew Dowd, a political strategist and chief political commentator for ABC News, said he saw Trump's victory coming.

At a lecture hosted Thursday by the UT Center for Politics and Governance in partnership with the New Politics Forum at the Annette Strauss Institute for Civic Life, Dowd unraveled the meaning behind the election results and analyzed what might lie in America's political future. Dowd said every 75 to 80 years, there is a major change in history when institutions do not meet the demands of society, resulting in great shifts.

"People always notice the hurricane, the volcanoes and earthquakes," Dowd said. "But what they don't realize is the shifting of tectonic plates long before they happen. The same is true of our politics. The tectonic plates of our culture,



economy, political institutions have all been shifting over the past 15 to 20 years, and this year, there was an eruption."

Dowd said some voters wanted a change after 15 to 20 years of policies that did not cater to their needs. Dowd said this need for change influenced many white working- and middleclass individuals to vote for Trump.

As technology advances and values change, political parties need to adapt to voters' evolving mindsets, Dowd said.

"I think the only way for a party to respond is if there is a threat to their existence," Dowd said. "A threat comes from new arrivals, and new arrivals are independents."

Dowd started the website ListenTo.Us to help establish and promote the policy issues most Americans agree on. UTCPG executive director Ryan Streeter said Listen-To.Us is a way for civilians to get involved in politics.

"It's an effort to get people together to build consensus around ideas and issues that help people put country over party," Streeter said.

Psychology freshman Tyana Nixon, who attended the lecture, said Dowd's focus on the good of the country over party preference was insightful, especially in the wake of the election.

"Although this seems to be a difficult time for America," Nixon said, "I believe that as long as we all look at the bigger picture and not let our differences get to us, we will be able to overcome our different issues and focus on the growth of the nation as a whole."

### RESOLUTION

continues from page 1

less on the Supreme Court Case and more on the policy of affirmative action.

"We want to emphasize that these policies themselves really create a diverse campus, and we really need to emphasize that for our students," Cavazos said "I think that's where the biggest difference is. Last year was very precedent-oriented and making sure we supported UT's stance on the case."

There are three legislative student assemblies on campus: Senate, GSA and Student Government. SG is currently not included in the joint resolution, which Cavazos said was due to SG's resolution supporting a ban of the Young Conservatives of Texas from UT that was voted down on Tuesday.

"We felt, Senate and GSA did, that we're strictly related to academics, and we were staying in our lane so to speak by passing this and same with GSA," Cavazos said. "There's always room to collaboration, but we know they had a very different resolution, and we didn't want to intertwine them."

Before the joint resolution was introduced, the assembly

voted unanimously to pass Senate Resolution 1607 in support of creating a centralized financial aid handbook.

Senate vice president Austin Reynolds said he co-authored the resolution to reduce confusion when students first apply for financial aid at UT.

"For a lot of people that have used financial aid before, it is a very confusing proce Reynolds said. "We wanted to consolidate all the necessary information into a handbook, a PDF, so you wouldn't have to print it out, and it would be available on the financial aid website."

Government freshman Lillian Bonin, the other co-author of SR 1607, said she authored the resolution to address the issues she encountered when applying for financial aid prior to entering the University.

"This was very, very personal to me, and this came to mind because I am here on a grant scholarship," Bonin said. "While I was trying to find out about [my grant] there was no information available on the website, and I was told different things by the financial aid office. So this is me and Austin [Reynolds] coming together on an idea because we've both had really bad experiences with financial aid."

### **CAMPUS**

## Professor provides free hearing loss screenings

By Brittany Wagner @brittanywagner\_

A faculty initiative in the Moody College of Communication is offering free speech and language screenings to children who suffer from hearing loss and can't afford treatment.

The initiative is led by Madhu Sundarrajan, clinical assistant professor of communication sciences and disorders, and graduate student Caitlin Baker.

Sundarrajan said they are offering free screenings to children under eight years old in the Austin area who may have any type or degree of hearing loss. Sundarrajan invited Baker to be a part of her program. The pair use a standardized test to analyze the speech and language capabilities of the children. The testing materials are compact enough to make the duo

mobile, enabling them to travel to area school districts to perform the 20-minute screenings. "[We look] at different

areas of language," Sundarrajan said. "We also add a spontaneous language sample, where the child gets to talk about what they did last weekend [for example], and that gives us a good idea of what their skills are in a typical conversation setting. We add that information to what we get out of [the standardized test to] make a conclusion." Sertoma, a national ser-

vice club dedicated to improving the lives of those affected by hearing loss, awarded Sundarrajan a one-year grant for the project in March.

Holly Walls, director of mission activities and COO of Sertoma, said 35 agencies applied for the grant earlier this year and a team of speech pathologists Our grant program is all about reaching people with hearing problems. It supports parents who have children with hearing issues or speech issues ...

and audiologists judged the proposals.

"Our grant program is all about reaching people with hearing problems," Walls said. "[It supports] parents who have children with hearing issues or speech issues [and pays for] new equipment for labs and audiology clinics to help support students or clinics reach those who cannot afford a lot of the treatments and appointments that they

need in order to have good

hearing health."

Baker said she values getting to interact with the families and knowing she can help their children onto a path of success even if they have limited health insurance coverage. "The ability to commu-

nicate is an extraordinary ability we often take for granted," Baker said. "I am so happy I have found a profession where I can help make sure all children have the opportunity to communicate to the best of their ability."



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THE DAILY TEXAN EDITORIAL DEPARTMENT

**FORUM** 

## Controversial vote casts doubt on Electoral College

**By Jordan Shenhar**Daily Texan Forum Editor
@jshenhar

In this space last week, we urged readers of all political persuasions to stay hopeful that President-elect Donald Trump might somehow channel his vitriolic campaign rhetoric into positive reforms to America's political culture — and to stay vigilant against any of his potential abuses of power.

Since then, Trump has appointed alt-right sympathizer Stephen Bannon as his chief strategist and offered Lt. Gen. Michael Flynn, currently employed as a lobbyist by the Turkish government and as a security analyst on Russia's state-run TV station, the role of national security adviser. He has refused to divest from his business holdings, setting up unprecedented conflicts of interest through which he could rob and defraud the American public with no oversight. He dodged the question of whether he would prosecute Hillary Clinton for using a private email server during her term as Secretary of State. Meanwhile, he's conducted classified conversations with foreign leaders on his private cell phone.

So in lieu of debate over whether any of this is acceptable or normal — it is not — our Forum this week tackles the electoral quirk that created this quagmire in the first place, given that Hillary Clinton's lead in the national popular vote increases daily.

When Alexander Hamilton proposed the Electoral College in Federalist No. 68,

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The Electoral College spent most of modern American political history as a vestigial rubber stamp on the popular opinion it was designed to temper.

he hoped that it would "afford as little opportunity as possible to tumult and disorder" by functioning as a two-step verification system for the presidency. The process of having the general public cast votes for designated electors — who would in turn choose the president — was designed not only to provide rural states with a disproportionate say in the outcome of the race, but also as a check against popular will lest the people elect a demagogue.

The power of individual electors is how Andrew Jackson lost the 1824 election despite winning pluralities in the popular and electoral votes, and how Democrats effectively traded the presidency to Republican Rutherford Hayes in exchange for a promise to end Reconstruction in 1876. But after direct elections came into vogue around the turn of the 20th century, the Electoral College spent most of modern American political history as a vestigial rubber stamp on the popular opinion it was designed to temper.

It's ironic, then, that this year's winner of the



Chase Karacostas | Daily Texan file photo

Students stand in line to vote early at the FAC on Oct. 26. The gains Hillary Clinton made in Texas relative to other Democrats helped her win the popular vote, but not the Electoral College.

electoral vote — exactly the sort of populist whom Hamilton intended to keep away from the presidency — actually lost the popular vote. Our two featured articles this week address this inconsistency from different angles: Columnist Ethan Elkins argues that a national popular vote would better represent the will of the people, while guest contributor Aaron Lassmann fears that abolishing it would represent a dangerous

breach of America's federalist traditions. And on our website, you'll find a take on the philosophical underpinnings of a Trump presidency from philosophy professor Al Martinich and classics professor Tom Palaima.

As always, we encourage you to share your thoughts at *editor@dailytexanonline.com*.

Shenhar is a Plan II, economics and government senior from Westport, Connecticut.

COLUMN

# Small states unfairly benefit from use of Electoral College

By Ethan Elkins
Daily Texan Columnis

Daily Texan Columnist @ethanerikelkins

Donald Trump will be the 45th president of the United States of America. With a projected 306 electoral votes outnumbering Hillary Clinton's 232, he has a clear path to the White House. However, Clinton leads the popular voter by a margin of over one million votes. The electoral college system is gruelingly outdated, and it needs to be updated to better reflect the outcome of the popular election.

History continues to repeat itself. In all but one election (2004) since 1988, the Democrats have won the plurality. Clinton's margin is even smaller than that of Al Gore in the 2000 election. In both cases, the entire state of Florida contributed to each candidate's defeat. With a 0.2 marginal difference, it is surprising that most of the electoral map is the color red. Still, the electoral college system has always operated on the same principle, and it continuously causes unrest each election for both major parties.

The Electoral College was first proposed at the Constitutional Convention of 1787 and was ratified with minor changes. While constituents now directly elect electors and electoral votes have been added with the addition of states to the country, the basic principle of the College remains intact. In modern elections, presidential electors are often pledged to vote for the party that nominated them, which usually leaves no room for adjustments in set states.

Only two states of the 50 allow their electors to divide their votes: Nebraska and Maine. The votes are divided based on the outcome of the popular vote. In this election, three of Maine's votes went to Clinton and one was delegated to Trump. Though more complicated, this method allows for a more accurate representation of the voters and better reflection of the popular vote. Trump won the crucial state of Florida by just over a one-point margin, so it is ridiculous that all 29 votes went to him. While gerrymandering could make divided votes ineffective, the votes would still be more representative.

"As Trump says, "The system is rigged.' He's right," government professor Bryan Jones said. The Electoral College favors smaller states that Republicans tend to carry and gives an advantage to the party. It generates winners who are unable to carry the will of the nation.

"Californias are worth nothing compared to the Wyomings or South Dakotas," Jones said. He thinks the nation should follow the example of other notable democracies and just count the votes.

Trump may have been onto something in 2012 when he called the electoral college "a disaster for democracy." His sentiments have perhaps changed after the events of Tuesday evening. The winner-take-all methodology of the system is ineffective because it permits a candidate with less votes to become elected. Those who are upset with

44

The electoral college favors smaller states that Republicans tend to carry and gives an advantage to the party. It generates winners who are unable to carry the will of the nation.

the results of the election or merely discontent with the Electoral College system must push for reform so that future presidential elections can be more representative.

Elkins is a journalism sophomore from Tyler.

**FORUM** 

# Electoral College safeguards federalism in political process

By Aaron Lassmann

Daily Texan Forum Contributor
@aaron\_lassmann

As the entire nation is aware, Donald J. Trump is the president-elect, set to become the 45th president of the United States, winning the electoral college with 306 votes to Clinton's 232. Yet, Trump lost the popular vote by over a million votes so far, resulting in calls by Clinton supporters to abolish the Electoral College and an online petition encouraging members of the electoral college to be "faithless electors" and cast their votes for Clinton instead of Trump. However, these protests and attacks against the electoral system undermine the basis of our system of government.

Trump is not the first, but the fifth, person to win the presidency but lose the popular vote. The two most recent occurrences of this are George W. Bush in 2000 and Benjamin Harrison in 1888. Obviously, this is not the most common occurrence, but, as it has transpired in two of the past five elections, concern for the system is understandable, especially from the losing side. Yet the American system is designed with this in mind. Our government is built upon the concept of federalism, providing for a balance of power between the state and national level.

Federalism emerged as part of a balance between states with strong individual interests and the need for unification under a strong national government in the writing of the Constitution. Federalism protects individual states by providing them with various methods to impose influence at the national level despite being smaller in population size, which would normally, under straight popular vote, result in little say. The most recognizable manifestation of this principle is seen with the Senate, where each state has two senators and two votes, regardless of size.

Various reasons exist for the creation of the Electoral College, with the need for an election to be decided by more qualified citizens most commonly cited. Though, despite other potentially stronger reasons for its initial existence, the Electoral College was still partially designed with federalism in mind, as the number of electoral votes per state is slightly unweighted with the determination being based in part on the number of Sena-

tors as well as the number of representatives.

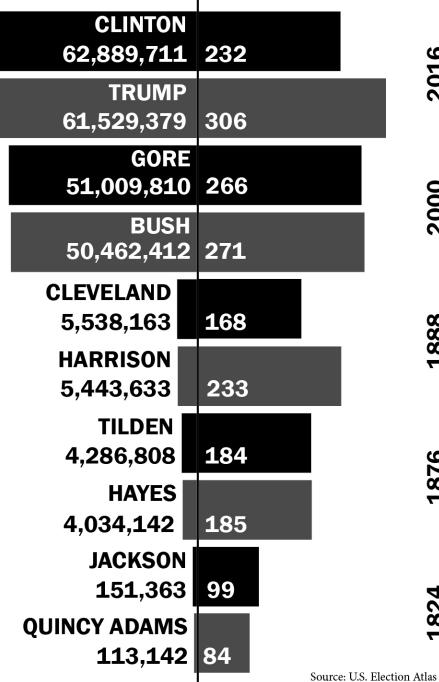
Today, the electoral college has developed to where it is in effect solely an institution of federalism, since in all states except for two (Maine and Nebraska) all electors are bound together on a winner-takes-all basis with the popular vote of that state. The modern system provides for many other states besides the most populous to have a greater say in the choosing of the president. This balance of power to less populous areas allows for their interests to be heard and encourages candidates to develop platforms and policies that appeal to the populous coasts and rural "flyover" country.

Federalism is a core component of our government, and an attack on the Electoral College is an attack on it. The devolution of federalism would be harmful for the balance of power between various groups that has characterized and provided stability to our system of government. If concern for the small, occasional discrepancy between popular vote and the winner is of paramount concern, then we might as well abolish the Senate and change House elections to strict proportionality by party, destroying the balance that makes our system work for everyone.

Lassmann is a biology freshman from League City, Texas.

### **POPULAR VOTE**

### **ELECTORAL**



Infographic by Elizabeth Jones | Daily Texan Staff

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### **FOOTBALL**

Senior receiver Jacorey Warrick said it was tough to watch bowl games from home last year. This bowl season, he wants to be out on the field in a burnt orange jersey one last time.



Zoe Fu

## With two games left, Texas has one goal: capture one win to earn bowl eligibility

**By Tyler Horka** @TexasTy95

When the Longhorns departed from Lubbock two weeks ago, they seemed to be oozing with optimism. Texas picked up its first road win of the season against Texas Tech just one week after upsetting then-No. 8 Baylor.

The victory gave head coach Charlie Strong a winning record for the first time since his team started 2–1 this year. But all that momentum came crashing down in a deflating defeat to West Virginia last week.

Now there's just one goal left in play for Strong and company as they travel to Kansas for the second time in the last month to take on the Jayhawks at 2:30 p.m. on Saturday.

"We have to get to a bowl game," Strong said. "And we have to play well. We've got to play well on the road."

The Longhorns missed bowl season a year ago after compiling a 5–7 record. Sitting at 5–5 this year, Texas is two catastrophic meltdowns away from watching the postseason action from home again.

But Strong said he doesn't foresee a letdown in Lawrence. He said he's confident his team will continue to improve enough to manufacture another rare win on the road.

"You know, there's no reason we should have a letdown at all," Strong said. "We're trying to get to a bowl game, and we need to get one win to get there, and we deserve [it]. Our seniors deserve that, and I don't think our guys will have a letdown."

Last year's seniors felt the pain and disappointment of sitting out during the postseason. Their college careers came to a halt much sooner than they would have hoped. That's a feeling this senior class would like to do without.

"That's never something you want to do," senior wide receiver Jacorey Warrick said. "It's not a good feeling to see all these other teams playing and you're sitting at home. We definitely want to make the bowl game."

In Strong's first season in Austin two years ago, the Longhorns stumbled into the Texas Bowl with a 6-6 record. Hopes of a winning season in Strong's inaugural campaign dissipated in a 31-7 trouncing at the mercy of the Razorbacks.

Two years later, Strong is still searching for a winning season at Texas. Senior linebacker Tim Cole has been through the ups and downs throughout Strong's time on the 40 Acres. He said he'd like to see Strong notch another win to keep moving the program forward.

"This coaching staff deserves it," Cole said. "Just how hard we have worked and what we have gone through to get this win and continue on the path to get to a bowl game would be a nice ending of the season."

Saturday's matchup won't quite provide the glitz and glamour of a pressured

We're trying to get a bowl game, and we need to get one win to get there, and we deserve [it]. Our seniors deserve that, and I don't think our guys will have a letdown.

> -Charlie Strong, Head coach

environment. The Jayhawks lured in a crowd of just 27,282 fans per game last season. But Strong said the amount of people in the stands doesn't matter as long his team puts on a show and performs well.

"You know, what I tell them is that, as coaches, we're the ones who have got to provide the enthusiasm," Strong said. "We've got to get them up and get them going."

**SWIMMING AND DIVING** 

## Anderson dazzles fans, finishes first

By Vanessa Le @vanessale

One might assume senior Mark Anderson closes his eyes while he dives into the water below. After all, he can practically do the meticulous routines in his sleep.

But his familiarity with what it takes to perform a successful dive didn't come to him overnight; rather, the elegance of his moves is a testament to dedication and experience. He displayed that hard work and diligence at the Texas Diving Invitational on Thursday.

three-time All-The American and two-time reigning Big 12 Diver of the Year dominated throughout the six trials of Thursday's one-meter final event with 443.85 points. Anderson came prepared with tricks up his sleeve and showed it with his last dive of the day: an inward, two-and-a-half somersault in the tuck position that rang up his highest score of 82.15 points.

"I didn't want to think about the final place; I wanted to dive how I had been training," Anderson said. "I wanted to keep it in pionship and Saturday's platperspective and not think

too far ahead. I was thinking about my hurdle and how I wanted to try to get my arms up sooner and step down harder. Once I did that, the hurdles came together."

Anderson's success on Thursday came as no surprise to burnt orange fans. He entered the meet as the men's Big 12 Diver of the Week after sweeping the two diving events during Texas' recent battle against North Carolina State.

Behind Anderson, Texas' dynamic freshman trio also competed in the final round of the day. Grayson Campbell tallied 377.35 points to edge out Arizona State's junior David Hoffer for second place, while Jacob Cornish and Reed Merritt grabbed the No. 4 and No. 7 slots, respectively.

"It's a great opportunity to have an invite this close to the U.S. Nationals, which is a real important event for us," head coach Matt Scoggin said. "It's a great dress rehearsal opportunity to dive against some of the best divers in the country."

The Longhorns look to continue their success at the Texas Diving Invitational in Friday's three-meter chamform event.



Senior Mark Anderson dominated the field in Thursday's events at the Texas Diving Invitational. He compiled a score of 82.15 in the one-meter final.

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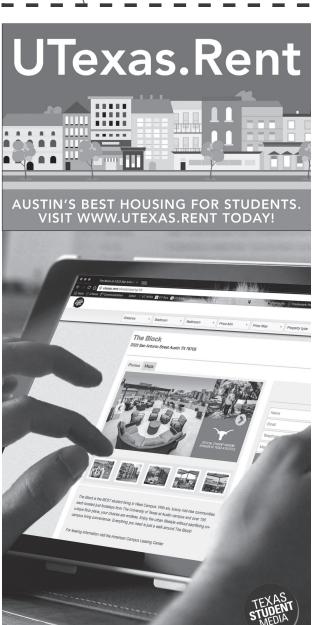
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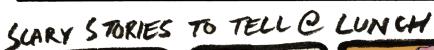






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BY JACKY TOWAR

### TWENTY-TEEN

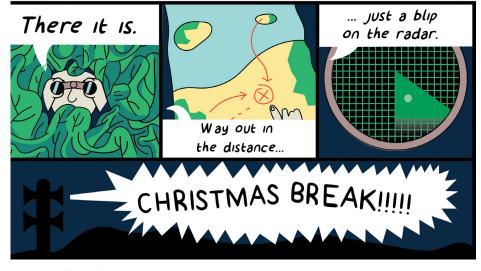






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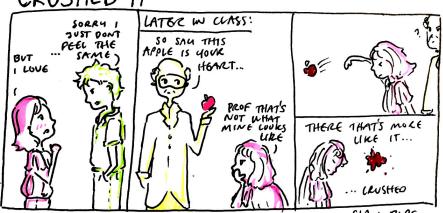
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Tiffany HinoJoSA

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No. 1014

### Today's solution will appear here next issue

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Your antivirus

software sucks.

### The New Hork Times Crossword

**ACROSS** 1 Connections

**4** Connections to the sternum 8 Not assured at all

13 "You can figure as well as I can" 16 Treasure 17 Cream song with the lyric "Dance floor is like the sea, / Ceiling is the sky"

18 Things that may be compressed

19 Excluded category in the Paleo diet 20 Little treasure

**21** Now 22 Kind of wave

23 Wasabi go-with in sushi meals 24 List heading

25 People who are

26 Shavit with the 2013 best seller "My Promised Land"

**52** Ask 27 Where Spike Lee earned his M.F.A. 30 Little: Fr. 31 Not identifying with one's assigned sex

**34** 1851 Sojourner Truth speech 35 Online addresses. in part 36 "Ur hilarious!"

37 Bit of evasion 39 Two or three sets, say 42 Where the Ta

Mahotsav festival is held 44 Either director of "Inside Llewyn Davis" 46 Part of MSG

49 Info in a Yelp listing: Abbr. ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE

Edited by Will Shortz 50 Either half of a 1973 "duel"

51 Lacked options 54 Tribe whose

55 Dessert so-called for its portions of flour, butter, eggs and sugar

56 Purchase at a golf pro shop 57 Purchases at a golf pro shop

58 Flushed

DOWN

1 "Don't you doubt 2 "You cheated! 3 Round

containers? 4 Bet (on) 5 Subj. of many antiglobalization

protests 6 Threat of a strike, in labor negotiations

7 Lead 8 Birdbrained 9 Birdbrain 10 Typical "S.N.L."

can control the

volume with?

12 "Me?" follower

PUZZLE BY NATAN LAST 15 Terse and **33** Some "CSI" figs. **43** Floral symbol of patience unadorned, as **34** App with over 200 free stations 45 "... but I could

35 Place to play motto 26 "Babalú"

28 Ones ranking above knaves 29 Not realized 31 Fashion mogul Gunn

**40** Something not many people laugh at 41 Blew it

**36** Things that might be batted at a ball 39 Approach

Crosswords for young solvers: nytimes.com/studentcrosswords.

48 Superlatively 50 Contends (for)

**53** Clément Marot poem "A \_\_\_ Damoyselle Malade" Online subscriptions: Today's puzzle and more than 7,000 past puzzles, nytimes.com/crosswords (\$39.95 a year). Read about and comment on each puzzle: nvtimes.com/wordplay.

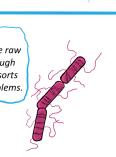
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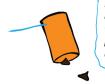
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MEN'S BASKETBALL | NO. 23 TEXAS 85 - 52 EASTERN WASHINGTON

## Mack provides boost off bench in win

By Shane Lewis
@TheRealSPLewis

Texas rode a wave of early hot shooting from behind the arc to cruise to a 85-52 win over Eastern Washington on Thursday night. The Longhorns sprung out to a commanding 27-15 lead thanks to five three-pointers in the game's first 12 minutes. The team never looked back after the early outburst.

Senior guard Kendal Yancy ignited the scoring barrage for the Longhorns, hitting consecutive threes in the game's opening minutes to give Texas a quick 6-2 lead.

Yancy said the quick start set the tone for the team and that the threes were a result of the team's inside-out game plan.

"It got us going, you know, two threes is big," Yancy said. "We tried to focus on getting it inside. If [Eastern Washington] came in, we kicked it out. It made us want to get the ball inside and make plays of that."

Texas would hit six more threes in the second half to finish the game with 11, one more than they made in its first two games combined.

Eastern Washington made a concentrated effort to collapse on Texas' big men and deny them entry passes. Head coach Shaka Smart said the team responded by attacking from outside.

"When teams are really trying to key in on your bigs and take those passes away, that just means your guards are going to have more opportunities," Smart said. "Those guys need to be ready to take advantage."

Sophomore guard Tevin Mack overcame a slow start to finish as Texas' leading scorer. The guard shot one of five from the field in the first half but caught fire in the second. He scored 15 of his 19 points after halftime. Mack was lethal from three-point range, draining four of his eight shots from deep.

Freshman guard Andrew Jones continued the strong start to his rookie campaign. The guard finished with 17 points and provided an early spark for the Longhorns, scoring 12 points in the first half.

Jones also helped set the



Joshua Guerra | Daily Texan Staff

Sophomore forward Tevin Mack came off the bench and filled up the bucket for a team-high 19 points. He drilled four of his eight three-point attempts and added three rebounds.

tone on defense with his aggressiveness. The freshman excelled on that end while locking down his man on the perimeter. He finished with a game-high three steals.

"I knew they were a bunch of shooters, so I wanted to get at them early — make them handle the ball and see if they could handle it under pressure," Jones said. "After the first couple of possessions, I realized I could be aggressive, stay low and use my quickness and athleticism to make them make decisions with the ball. They were a little shaky with it."

As a team, the Longhorns suffocated the Eagles while

forcing a season-high 16 turnovers. They limited Eastern Washington to 36 percent shooting from the field.

The Longhorns now prepare for their first road trip of the season. The team will travel to Brooklyn to take on Northwestern in the semifinals of the Legends Classic on Monday at 8:30 p.m.

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL



Joshua Guerra | Daily Texan Staff

Freshman forward Joyner Holmes had three blocks in the Longhorns' dominant victory over Houston Bapitist. She'll need another big defensive effort against Miss. St.

# Aston preaches defense ahead of ranked contest

By Dalton Phillips
@thedailytexan

The No. 8 Longhorns look to build on a big-time home performance heading into Sun-

day's matchup against a physical Mississippi State team.

After beating Houston Baptist 98–46 Wednesday, the team travels to Starkville, Mississippi, to take on the Bulldogs for its second away game of the season. The matchup is one of three road games in the Longhorns' next

10 contests.

Texas won narrowly in last year's home game against Mississippi State, coming away with a six-point, 53-47 victory. This year, the Longhorns hope to maintain defensive consistency as the team searches for cohe-

sion on both ends of the court.

"We do have some things that we will have to really dramatically improve on before we get to Sunday," head coach Karen Aston said. "I think the players understand that preparation is really important."

Aston recognizes the importance of an elite defense to the team's lofty aspirations. She also knows there is no reason this year's young, athletic squad can't perform at that level.

"The one thing that I think we can do if we'll commit to it is putting pressure defensively on a team for 40 minutes," Aston said. "There's just no excuse for why we can't do that, because we have depth at every position."

Wednesday's win against Houston Baptist demonstrated some of the team's defensive potential, as the Longhorns forced six turnovers in the first 10 minutes and showed off an impressive full-court press en route to a blowout victory. The game contrasted Texas' lackluster defensive effort in its season-opening loss to No. 11 Stanford; the team allowed

//

We do have some things that we will have to really dramatically improve on before we get to Sunday. I think the players understand that preparation is really important.

-Karen Aston,

Head coach

71 points to the Cardinal on 54 percent shooting.

Junior guard Brooke McCarty finished with 16 points and 4 assists against Houston Baptist, embracing her increased role as both a scorer and a playmaker. She said she's expecting a grueling game after last year's matchup, when she logged 37 minutes.

"I remember most the competitiveness of the game," McCarty said. "They're pretty tough on defense, and they're very physical. They played like that all game."

Texas looks to pick up some momentum and work out some kinks before facing its next ranked opponent in No. 4 South Carolina on Dec. 1. Texas can enter the matchup with a two-game win streak with a win over the Bulldogs. Aston said she's emphasized matching Mississippi's intensity on both ends to avoid a letdown.

"The biggest thing is you have to be really tough, mentally and physically," Aston said. "They play in a very physical league, and they try to kind of bully you a bit."

Texas and Mississippi State tip off on Sunday at 5 p.m.

**CROSS COUNTRY** 

# Moore aims for individual, team goals at National Championship

By Maria Cowley
@thedailytexan

The Longhorns take on the National Championship for the eighth consecutive year on Saturday in Terre Haute, Indiana.

Coming off of a tough meet at the regional championship last week, the Longhorn men face another challenging 10,000 meters on a course that hasn't been kind to them because of its strenuous conditions — including rain, snow and mud. The team finished last in the event last season.

Redshirt senior Nate Moore, who finished fourth at regionals and led the team to a second-place finish, said the team has been taking it easy, focusing on recovery more than anything else.
"The biggest key

"The biggest key is lots of sleep," Moore said. "Lots of time spent on that couch. You don't want to spend your time hiking. You want to lay low and hydrate."

And it's better to be safe than sorry — especially after last year, when the team spent two days prior to the championship stranded in an Atlanta airport. Spending the night at the airport made for an uncomfortable situation, especially for Moore, who ran a fever afterwards.

This year, the team is determined to prove it's much improved.

"We've got more depth," Moore said. "We're stronger on the front end and have guys who can do better at scoring low points."

Scoring low points — quick finishes — will be crucial against several Power Five teams, including longtime rivals No. 2 Colorado and No. 9 Oklahoma State.

"In this race, 10 seconds will separate 40 runners," assistant coach Brad Herbster said. "It's really important that we step up, close those gaps and win those battles."

Though Texas would be thrilled with a first-place finish, the team is shooting to land in the top 15. The Longhorns say the more teams they beat, the better. And Moore, the only redshirt senior on the team, has goals of his own to add to the mix.

"I'd like to seal off my cross country career with an All-American title," Moore said.

VOLLEYBALL

# Longhorns look to remain unbeaten at home as they get ready for postseason

By Steve Helwick

@s\_helwick

Texas continues to trail Kansas in the Big 12 standings, but its eyes are cast upon a different team from the Sunflower State this weekend.

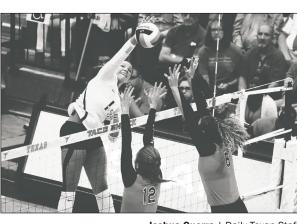
The No. 7 Longhorns (20–4, 12–2 Big 12) will match up against the Kansas State Wildcats (19–8, 8–6) on Saturday at Gregory Gym. Texas seeks its seventh straight home sweep in the penultimate match of its regular season.

"We had a good challenge with them the first time," head coach Jerritt Elliott said. "They're a disciplined team. We'll get ready with film."

But last outing, the match extended further beyond a three-set sweep. On Oct. 1 in Manhattan, Kansas, the two conference opponents traded sets until Texas emerged victorious in a sudden-death fifth frame, 15-12.

Freshman outside hitter Micaya White was crucial in delivering the road victory for the Longhorns. She posted a 20-kill, 16-dig double-double in the match. Additionally, she added five blocks and two service aces to her standout performance.

"Our staff has a ton of belief in this team, and it's empowering to them to know how



Joshua Guerra | Daily Texan Staff

Although Texas has dropped four games this season, freshman outside hitter Micaya White has been a beacon of consistency all year long for head coach Jerritt Elliot.

good they've grown to be," Elliott said.

Although the last meeting was close, Texas is a completely different animal when playing conference games at Gregory Gym. The Longhorns are 6–0 at home in Big 12 matches, with two remaining this season. Texas lost just six sets in those games.

In the latest outing, Texas swept Texas Tech at home to rebound from a difficult loss at Iowa State.

"I really like the way we came into practice with a good mentality and positive energy," junior libero Cat Mc-Coy said. "We were just [having] fun, and that's why we played so well."

Kansas State's in-state rival, Kansas, continues to lead the Big 12 with two games remaining in the waning regular season. The Jayhawks escaped West Virginia on Wednesday night in five sets. While Texas hoped for another Big 12 title, the team is starting to shift its focus.

"We've just got to have fish

"We've just got to have fish memory — gone and out," Elliott said. "They've got bigger focuses. Our goal is to a be a top-four seed. I think we have a chance of still doing that, potentially."

Texas looks to pick up another win streak with a victory over Kansas State. The first serve is scheduled at 7 p.m. on Saturday.

### **SIDELINE**

NFL



NCAA



NH



### TOP TWEET

Mack Brown
@ESPN\_CoachMack

"Any fool can criticize, condemn, and complain, but it takes character and self-control to be understanding and forgiving." Dale Carnegie

## TODAY IN HISTORY

1986

Roger Clemens wins American League MVP. He's one of the 10 pitchers in MLB history to receive MVP honors.

### SPORTS BRIEFLY

## Several Longhorns up for individual awards

Despite the Longhorns' mediocre 5–5 record to this point in the season, multiple players are enjoying rather impressive individual efforts this year.

Junior running back D'Onta Foreman, sophomore offensive lineman Connor Williams and sophomore punter Michael Dickson are all semifinalists for position

Here's a list of the hardware those three Longhorns have a chance of obtaining at the end of the season.

### Foreman:

**Doak Walker Award** – presented to the nation's premier running back

Walter Camp Award – player of the year award Williams:

Outland Trophy - pre-

## sented to the nation's best interior lineman **Dickson:**

Ray Guy Award – presented to the college punter of the year

—Tyler Horka

**0&A I GROUPLOVE** 

## Grouplove frontman talks latest album, inspirations

By Cat Cardenas @crcardenas8

It was love at first sight when Hannah Hooper met Christian Zucconi at a gig in Manhattan seven years ago. The duo left everything behind for an artist's residency on the Greek island of Crete. where they met the people who would help them form indie pop band Grouplove. This year, they released their third album, Big Mess, after a year-and-a-half-long break from touring. The Daily Texan spoke with frontman Christian Zucconi about their latest album and his chemistry with Hooper.

The Daily Texan: How did the process of making *Big Mess* start?

Christian Zucconi: We had just gotten home after years of touring and felt displaced. We just felt like we needed to get to know each other off the road and get to know ourselves as artists again. [Making Big Mess] brought us closer to our true selves, which is what we needed. You don't have many other friends, you don't get to see your family. It's kind of isolating. Our dreams, our lives didn't feel right. It felt like a giant big mess and these songs just helped us get through that.

DT: How do you and Hannah complement each other when you're making music?

**CZ:** We just kind of complete one another somehow. It's this crazy thing where I'll write a song and think it's awesome, and Hannah will come in and she'll just add a verse that I never would've come up with. It's true collaboration.



**Photo Courtesy of Atlantic Records** 

Following years of nonstop touring, the members of indie pop band Grouplove put their whirlwind lifestyles on hold. In an effort to adjust, the group began work on their most recent album, *Big Mess*, released Sept. 9, before embarking on their latest tour.

That's how it is with the band, too. We don't have a process, but when our minds get together we influence each other and make Grouplove songs.

DT: Your daughter Willa has been one of the biggest changes for the band. How did she inspire you throughout the writing process?

**CZ:** When we wrote the album, Hannah was pregnant, so songs like "Traumatized,"

"Welcome to Your Life,"
"Enlighten Me," "Heart of
Mine" — all of them are
influenced by Willa and the
fact that she was coming.
It put us in this whole new
mind frame.

DT: You guys are extremely involved with your work from the set design, to the songwriting and designing the merch. What impact do you think that has on your audience?

**CZ:** It's just authentic, and it feels more real. We just feel, in the world today, there's a lot of inauthentic things out there ... we just want to present the real deal. Whether people get it or not, we pride ourselves on being authentic in our art. I think our audience and our fans get it and feel how balls-to-thewall, energetic and cathartic and real we are.

DT: I've heard Hannah's

account of how you guys met. What was it like from your perspective? What made you say yes to going to Crete with someone you had just met?

**CZ**: Meeting Hannah was the best thing that ever happened to me. She changed my life. She had such an amazing, radiant energy when I met her. I never laughed as much before with anyone else. She was just enlightening to be

around. When I heard she was a painter, I got nervous. I liked her so much, I just wanted it to be good. When I saw it, I knew right then and there she was the real deal. I had to say yes. We were struggling in New York trying to make it as artists, and it just felt like a no-brainer to go out there together. It was the best decision I've ever made. We fell in love in Greece and the rest is history. It changed our

### **MOVIE REVIEW | 'BLEED FOR THIS'**



"Bleed For This" defies conventional sportsmovie structure with a gripping true story of recovery.

Photo Courtesy of Open Road Films

# Miles Teller delivers harrowing tale of pro boxer in new biopic

By Penn Harrison

@PennHarrison

"You know what scares me about giving up? It's easy."

In 1991, a brutal car wreck left champion boxer Vinny Pazienza with a broken neck. Doctors said his chances of walking again were slim and that he'd never fight again. Miles Teller stars in "Bleed For This," writer-director Ben Younger's big-screen dramatization of Paz's miraculous return to the ring — an inspiring, if predictable, testament to a man who refused to back down

Teller balances Paz's superhuman determination with down-to-earth charisma and humor. He's a sly, upbeat, nononsense guy with an endless supply of energy. Teller makes Paz's multifaceted transformations credible — from cocky champion before his accident to frustrated convalescent to a dogged fighter refusing to accept physical limits.

from impossible odds.

Aaron Eckhart co-stars as Paz's trainer Kevin Rooney. Rooney used to train Mike Tyson, but the trainer's career dwindled after trading the boxing ring for the bottle. Eckhart adds comedy and energy to the film's bleakest moments, while Ciaran Hinds nails his role as Paz's father, Angelo. He pushes Vinny to start boxing as a kid, but after Paz's accident, refuses to en-

dorse future fights. The three lead roles are, like the script, equal parts tough and tender.

Ben Younger's vibrant di-

rection immerses the audience in each scene. His visual style relies heavily on well-timed close-ups, gritty, handheld camerawork and cutaway shots but never distracts from the content of each scene. His camera astutely captures the place that made Vinny who he is: the blue-collar backstreets of Providence, Rhode Island, and the loving, quirky Italian-American family that brought him up. Each time Paz strides into a ring in Las Vegas, Younger cuts between him and his mother, aunts, sisters and cousins, huddled around a TV in a tiny living room, breathlessly anticipating each hook and jab.

Younger pulls no punches portraying Vinny's injury. After the car crash, doctors build a "halo" around his neck. Four screws link metal bars to his skull through his skin. We grimace in pain as Vinny bangs these bars against a car door; we hold our breath as he leans under a bench press to lift the bar for the first time in months; we feel his agony as he refuses anesthesia, then rips the arm off a chair when doctors screw calcified links out of his skull. When he sets foot in the ring, we feel the glory of his recovery and the risk of his return. There's no guarantee his fragile neck can withstand a punch.

### "BLEED FOR THIS"

**Director:** Ben Younger **Genre:** Drama **Length:** 1h 57m

Rating: ★★★★

"Bleed For This" succumbs to countless sports movie conventions. Its structure - an early victory, an obstacle and the hero's comeback - has been used time and time again. Paz's family cares for him and cheers him on throughout the film, but his mother, sisters and aunts lack the depth of his male relatives. Vinny adores boxing, but the film barely mentions why. His father hints at "roughness" getting him into the sport as a kid, and Paz publicly reps his blue-collar upbringing in each fight, but is being a product of his environment the only fuel for his fiery persistence?

Despite those flaws, the subject material in "Bleed For This" packs a winning punch. Paz didn't give a damn about a broken neck; the pain only fueled his future fights. What didn't kill him made him stronger, and failure to win back his strength was akin to a death sentence. After his comeback fight, a news reporter asks Paz the biggest lie he heard while boxing. "It's not that simple," he replies. "That's the biggest lie. It is."

His mind was committed, and he refused to accept any obstacle. It is that simple.

### EVENT PREVIEW

# Annual Austin festival promotes local women's fair trade products

By David Spector

@\_spectography\_

Indigenous Mayan women proudly show off their bright, century-old traditional looms, exploding with colors and textures. Around them, women from across the globe sell handmade jewelry and garments.

On Nov. 19–20, the 13th annual Austin's Women and Fair Trade Festival will bring together women who create their own goods to share their products. The event will be held at the First Unitarian Universalist Church of Austin and features eight different fair trade vendors.

Festival coordinator Cristina Gonzalez said it's important to preserve the vendors because they have large cultural significance to their respective home countries. Jolom Mayaetik, a native women's cooperative participating in the festival, uses ancient techniques such as backstrap loom weaving and natural dyes, both of which would later be taken over by modern textile production.

"The patterns that they place on these shirts are symbols that trace back before colonization," Gonzalez said. "They have a deep cultural meaning behind them."

Jolom Mayaetik incorporates modern technology such as sewing machines and pedal looms, allowing a younger generation of women to access the textile culture. Gonzalez said they try to create a niche for vendors who are often put out of business by larger corporations.

"Jolom Mayaetik is also starting a program where they teach younger generations about the symbolism behind the weaving,"



Mary Pistorius | Daily Texan Staff

Cristina Gonzalez is the coordinator for this year's 13th annual Austin's Women and Fair Trade weekend. She believes in the festival's emphasis on the importance of fair trade and handmade goods.

Gonzalez said. "Involving the young generations helps that so they won't lose that part of their identity."

The Austin Tan Cerca Foundation works to empower women economically by allowing them to receive all of the benefits from their cottage industry. Co-founder Josefina Castillo said fair trade allows person-toperson interaction between buyers and makers and connects women in remote places to buyers in the U.S.

"It's a way of sharing conversations with the vendors and getting to know who is making your products," Castillo said. "This is part of our economic justice component. It's a way to promote alternatives to free trade."

natives to free trade."

Gonzalez said NAFTA, a free trade agreement, was seen by many to have had adverse effects on Mexico because of its lowering of standards and regulations and an increase in foreign investment. Drafted in 2015, a new free trade deal, the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP), was introduced that raised tensions between advocates of free trade and their opponents for its

perceptual similarities to

NAFTA. Although the deal has not been actualized yet, there is much controversy surrounding it. Sam Rines, an economics advisor at Texas-based advising firm Avalon, said he thinks it will have adverse effects on Mexico by lowering the influx on trade.

"With 70 percent of its exports headed to its northern neighbor, part of Mexico's need to join the TPP is to defend its share of the U.S. export market," Rines said.

In the future, Castillo said she believes fair trade can be a solution to past free trade deals that have harmed Latino communities.

"We are always trying to promote fair trade because we think that free trade has only damaged the quality of life on both sides of the border," Castillo said.

Gonzalez said she hopes fair trade overtakes free trade in the future.

"I want to a free trade del

"I went to a free trade delegation and got to see the effects that NAFTA had on the Texas-Mexico border," Gonzalez said. "If people were to step up and say, 'Hey, this is an exploitation of communities,' it has to come from people stepping up and saying something."