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SYSTEM

Thursday, March 2, 2017

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WORLD

UT students use Skype to stop conflict across globe

By Meraal Hakeem @meraal_hakeem

UT students and Voices Against Violence exchanged Skype calls over the past month with students in India to discuss what they can do to prevent interpersonal violence on their college campuses.

"It's a really beautiful learning experience," VAV adviser Lauren White said. "These exchanges are a great opportunity for seeing what kind of work people are doing to prevent interpersonal violence on an international level."

VAV, a program under the UT Counseling and Mental Health Center, focuses on prevention outreach, specifically in interpersonal violence prevention. This includes sexual violence, relationship violence and stalking, White said.

UT alumnus Greg Pardo came across an article in the University's alumni magazine about the campus climate regarding sexual assault and other forms of interpersonal violence on campus. Pardo, who lives in Kolkata, India,

SKYPE page 2

WHAT'S INSIDE

NEWS

Freshman pitch entrpreneurial ideas. **PAGE 3**

McRaven cuts UT Houston expansion

By Van Nguyen and Anusha Lalani

Plans for the UT System's heavily criticized Houston expansion have come to an end.

In a memo to the Board of Regents Wednesday, UT System Chancellor William McRaven said his decision to cancel the 300-acre expansion was based on concerns the development would overshadow work done at the other 14 UT System institutions.

"I accept full responsibility for the lack of progress on this initiative. I am grateful to the Regents, my System staff and the university presidents for their engagement over the last year," McRaven said in a memo to Board of Regents Chairman Paul Foster.

At a news conference, McRaven continued to emphasize the work done at the other 14 institutions when pressed with questions on why he chose to end his plans.

UT System Regent Kevin Eltife said McRaven made the best decision because of the lack of issues that are not addressed at other UT institutions.

"I would just applaud what he's done today because I think it's the right move for the System," Eltife told The Daily Texan. "All of the institutions have needs that are not met and we need to meet those needs before we ever embark on a project, especially a project of this size."

In January, McRaven appeared at a Senate Finance Committee hearing where he was criticized for not

HOUSTON page 2



Joshua Guerra | Daily Texan Staff

Retired U.S. Admiral and UT System Chancellor William H. McRaven spoke at the Belo Media Center on February 21.

POLICY

U.S. district court talks Texas voter ID law

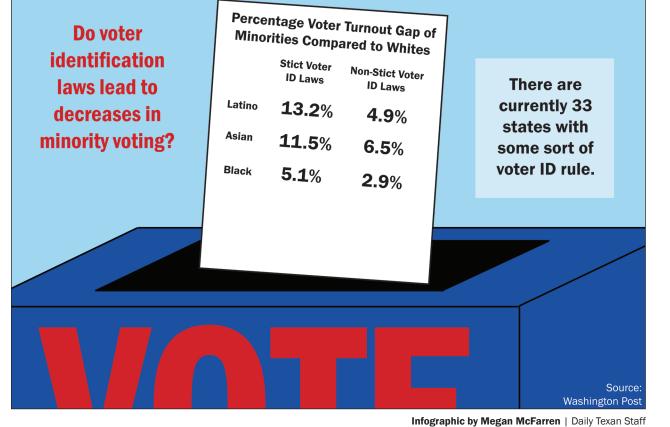
By Lisa Dreher @lisa_dreher97

A U.S. district court judge heard arguments Tuesday over whether a Texas law requiring government-issued identification to vote is discriminatory, but without the U.S. Department of Justice's backing.

U.S. Attorney General Jeff Sessions reversed the department's position under the previous administration Monday, saying the state legislature should have time to change its law before court proceedings decide whether it is discriminatory against minorities.

"Thus, there is no basis for further judicial action at this juncture, when the state is 'acting to ameliorate the issues raised' in this case and has requested reasonable time to do so," the department said in its filing Monday.

In 2011, the Republican-majority Texas Legislature passed Senate Bill 14 requiring voters to present one out of six forms of government-issued identification: driver's licenses, military IDs, passports, concealed handgun licenses, personal ID cards issued by the



to intentionally discriminate.

Texas then temporarily amended the law before last year's November presidential election to include allowing utility bills, birth certificates and paycheck stubs or government documents with a name and address. People would have to sign an affidavit if they used these forms besides those the state originally required. The agency will still remain a party in the case, but will no longer argue the law is discriminatory. one way or the other, whether a properly conducted voter-ID system is improper and discriminatory," Sessions said Tuesday during the hearing.

scriminatory," Sessions said
uesday during the hearing.Powe said.Sessions said the U.S. Su-Powe said the Texas law vi-
olates people's right to vote by

tionately poor," Powe said. "They don't have passports because they're not traveling to foreign countries."

Law professor Lino Graglia, who also studies constitutional

OPINION

Texans spend too much time on state history. **PAGE 4**

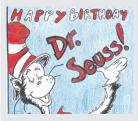
SPORTS

Men's basketball goes winless on road. PAGE 6

LIFE&ARTS

Texas fllms have heart bigger than state **PAGE 8**

REASON TO PARTY



PAGE 7

ONLINE

Study up on the SG candidates with our interactive election explorer.

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Department of Public Safety and citizenship certificates.

The department, under the President Barack Obama administration, sued Texas in 2013 saying the state's voter-ID law discriminated against those who cannot obtain identification documents. A Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals ruled in 2016 the law discriminated against minorities, but did not find the state's law was written

"With regard to the question of voter-ID, I'm not sure it's been inclusively settled, preme Court has previously ruled in favor of state voter-ID laws. In 2008, the Supreme Court upheld an Indiana voter-ID law requiring photo IDs to vote. UT law professor Lucas A. Powe Jr., who studies constitutional law at the Supreme Court, said the Court argued Indiana's law was only cautious.

"(The Court said) Indiana was taking an appropriate step

discriminating against minorities who institutionally have less economic opportunities, which inhibit obtaining licenses. Powe said the plaintiffs will likely win, citing the Fifteenth Amendment, which prohibits state action infringing on the right to vote because of race.

to prevent voter fraud, even

though there was no evidence

of voter fraud ever in Indiana,"

"Poor people tend not to have drivers licenses because they don't have cars, and blacks and Hispanics are disproporlaw, said states have a right to enforce voter-ID laws to prevent voter fraud.

"When you go to vote, they want to see if you are a registered voter or have some other proof that you're entitled to vote," Graglia said. "The state can take reasonable steps to prevent voter fraud. They can't do unreasonable things that tend to deter or prevent voting."

STATE

Child Protective Services bills pass out of chambers

By Mikaela Cannizzo & Claire Allbright

Two House bills and a Senate bill that would change the way Child Protective Services operates in Texas unanimously passed out of their respective chambers Wednesday afternoon.

House Bill 5 authored by Rep. James Frank, R-Wichita Falls, would make the Texas Department of Family and Protective Services an executive level agency that reports directly to the governor.

Frank said HB 5 is a big step toward performing the child welfare system and will streamline the management of Child Protective Services, which is housed under DFPS.

"I believe this body is ready to ... give CPS the resources and clear direction and tools to make our child protective service system a model for the rest of the country," Frank said. "This after all, is the goal of HB 5, to have CPS among the best-run, best-performing child welfare agencies in the country."

HB 5 passed out of the House by a vote of 144-0 and will move to the Senate.

The House also passed House Bill 4 by a vote of

CPS page 2



Biology sophomore Mahaly Baptiste paints a car for a class assignment.



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TOMORROW'S WEATHER

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High Low 52 72 I'm the bubble master.

APD focuses on preventing distracted driving

By Catherine Marfin @catherinemarfin

POLICE

The Austin Police Department began amping up their approach to combating distracted driving in the Austin area last month.

As part of a new initiative, APD Sgt. Michael Barger with the department's Highway Enforcement Unit brings a team comprised of five to six bicycle officers and three motorcycle officers to the downtown area from 7 a.m. to 2 p.m. one day per week. Officers focus on ticketing drivers who are not complying with Austin's hands-free ordinance, which went into effect in 2015 and prohibits the use of electronic devices while driving. The first initiative took place Feb. 10 and has since occurred on a weekly basis.

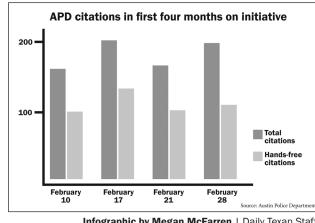
"If they're holding (their phone) down in their lap, an officer in a patrol car can't see that," Barger said. "But my guys on bicycles, on motorcycles, they can look right down into your car."

While the initiative focuses on distracted driving, officers also give out citations for other violations. During their first initiative, APD issued a total of 162 citations and warnings, 99 of which were hands-free violations. On average, the team has issued 200 total citations and 110 hands-free citations per initiative, Barger said.

The initiative is the second part of a larger project to combat distracted driving. Since early 2016, highway patrol officers have utilized Capital Metro to combat hands-free violators on IH-35. Once per month, officers board city buses, spot drivers using electronic devices and dispatch motor units to give the violator a citation. APD issued 40 hands-free citations in about three hours Feb. 4, using this method, according to KEYE TV.

"There are (hands-free) ways that you can use your cell phone," Barger said. "So when people tell us 'Oh, I was just checking my voicemail,' or checking this, or checking that — we're not giving them a break on that."

First-time offenders face a fine of \$220, while second time offenders face fines upward of \$300, Barger said. First-time offenders can eliminate the citation from their driving record by purchasing a Bluetooth device and bringing its receipt to the Municipal Court when they pay their fine.



Infographic by Megan McFarren | Daily Texan Staff

Undeclared sophomore Catherine Meyer was driving with her parents downtown during Tuesday's initiative when they were pulled over by a bicycle cop. Meyer said drivers shouldn't take the new

initiative lightly. "It's real, it's happening," Meyer said. "It's easier for people to pick up their phones and look at it than to have to go another step and (buy) Bluetooth ... but just try to avoid it."

Texas is currently one of four states with no statewide ban against texting while driving. The Texas Legislature has previously rejected bills that would have made cellphone use while driving a misdemeanor, but the issue has resurfaced this legislative session.

"We cannot legislate stupidity," state Sen. Bob Hall, R-Edgewood, told KXAN. "Everyone knows it's unsafe to do it."

While APD has focused the initiative on the downtown area, Barger said his team has plans to soon move their operation to other areas of the city, including into West Campus. The weekly initiatives will continue throughout Austin until APD feels they have made a significant impact, Barger said.

"Our goal is to have zero violations," Barger said. "If we continue to write tickets, we will continue to do the operation."

Freshmen compete for startup accelorator

BUSINESS

By Noel Mahouch @noel_wissam

mentorship and resourc-

es at Capital Factory, the

largest startup accelerator

neurship Agency, a hub

for entrepreneurship on

campus, hosted Freshman

Founders Demo Day, one

of the organization's many

events that aim to foster

"Demo Day is a great way

to learn what other stu-

dents are working on and

bring together different

pockets of entrepreneur-

student entrepreneurship.

Entrepre-

in Austin.

Longhorn

Twenty freshmen pitched their business ventures to a panel of judges on Wednespromoting self-love. day for a chance to win full

ThermaSec, a company that modernizes fire alarms through thermal imaging. Physics sophomore Isaac Laseter said he found inspiration for the idea while at home.

"There was an infrared gun in a shop by my house that pretty much measures heat from a wall, and I thought, that can be easily applied to a home or storage with fire," Laseter said. "From there, it took off."

Mechanical

problem-solving perspective

is practical for any scenario. "Even if you don't want to be an entrepreneur, just having the mindset of trying to find problems will be better for you and better for the community," Charolia said.

Since its founding, the Freshman Founders program has guided dozens of students through the entrepreneurship process, including the development of Group Threads, a company founded by UT students that automates shirt design and delivery process, Kamin said.

Success stories such as Group Threads are leveraged to create a stronger network for members, as

"We work extremely hard to source mentors in the Austin startup community as well as professors right here on campus," Kamin said. "We match our freshmen with the mentors that would be the best fit for them."

Louise Epstein, managing director of the Cockrell School of Engineering's Innovation Center, was a judge of the event and stressed the availability of resources for students interested in entrepreneurship.

"Here's how serious we are: My cellphone number is on the Innovation Center's website for students to reach out to," Epstein said. "You can look at books, but we are the ultimate personal resource, and our goal is to help students commercialize their innovations."

HOUSTON

continues from page 1

informing the Texas Legislature of the plans for the land prior to the purchase, according to the Austin-American Statesman.

"In all due respect, I don't think you give a damn what the Legislature thinks," said state Sen. John Whitmire, D-Houston during the hearing. "I believe your style is it's your way or the highway. The Legislature is not involved in your decisions."

The criticism was not the tipping point for the cancellation of the expansion, said McRaven, but he could not get legislators behind the idea of an expansion.

"I was not able to develop a shared vision," McRaven said at the press conference.

The System's Houston Advisory Task Force, created by McRaven in January last year to provide recommendations for the land, sent a report to McRaven earlier this week with ideas for a data institute focused on health care, energy and education. McRaven said he hopes to see some of these ideas implemented at other UT institutions and will send the report to the Board of Regents later this week.

While there is no time line, McRaven said the System will continue to protect the investment and work with the city of Houston moving forward. He recommended the Board of Regents to consult with the real estate office on ways the System can divest from the land.

McRaven did not say whether or not this would include a buyout from the University of Houston System who has been critical of the lands purchase in the past.

Chairman Tilman Fertitta of the UH System Board of Regents told The Daily Texan last month that the expansion is unnecessary because of the lack of funding the state is receiving.

"The state is facing huge budgetary constraints, and the UT System wants to waste taxpayer dollars on what is clearly an unnecessary duplication of services," Fertitta said. "I think many in the legislature see this for what it is."

communications senior. The venture pitches covered a scope of issues from a solution to student homelessness to a clothing line

The winning pitch was

engineering sophomore Salman

2

ship that exist on campus,

Charolia said observing said agency Vice President the entrepreneurs at the are current mentors to Kelsi Kamin, a corporate event reminded him that a the freshmen.

the company's members

UH representatives were not able to respond at the time of publishing.

THE DAILY TEXAN

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CPS

continues from page 1

145-0. HB 4 would give monthly payments to families caring for their relatives who would otherwise be in the foster care system.

An amendment proposed by state Rep. Mark Keough, R-The Woodlands, which would require relatives to be legal residents in order to receive payments, faced opposition on the House floor and was not adopted.

"Today the House showed that improving child protection is among our highest priorities," House Speaker Joe Straus said in a statement. "We have taken a couple of very important steps toward providing better protection and care for children in terrible circumstances, with more to come in the weeks ahead."

Senate Bill 11, which aims to improve CPS through a more efficient structure and increased funding, will advance to further deliberation in the House. The 31 Texas senators all voted favorably on the bill after some deliberation and the adoption of nine amendments.

The author of the bill, Sen. Charles Schwertner, R-Georgetown, said it alleviates multiple issues that have strained the program in the past by providing a thorough and timely investigation for each child's specific situation and by placing children in communities, rather than residential treatment centers.

"This is an issue that we all need to get right for all the constituents of the state of Texas that we serve, for the children in the state of Texas," Schwertner said.

Schwertner said he encourages local community engagement in the system while maintaining state responsibility of the program. According to reviews of the agency and discussions with CPS workers, Schwertner said CPS needs a structural change in order to improve the quality of care

children receive.

"Those that argue that we just need to throw money at it, I think are missing the point," Schwertner said. "We need to be doing it different."

Gov. Greg Abbott listed CPS reform as an emergency item during his State of the State Address last month. He said the advancement of these bills is a step in the right direction.

"Today's actions by the House and Senate are a significant first step toward reforming the child welfare system and creating a culture that gives every child a chance to not only survive, but thrive in Texas," Abbott said in a statement.

SKYPE

continues from page 1

passed on the information to the Kolkata Consulate, which went on to provide a grant to Shakti Vahini, a non-governmental organization that focuses on issues regarding gender-based violence.

"Shakti Vahini has this one program that brings together college students in India and trains them on how to do work around interpersonal violence awareness, resourcing and such," White said. "On the calls, we really see the different contexts we are working in. In some schools in India, women have curfews while there are none for men."

Justin Atkinson, a government and women's and gender studies senior who is also a "MasculinUT" representative at VAV, said the calls help VAV gain cultural context about how rape culture is a



universal problem.

said. "While there are times

during the calls when we need

to clarify terminology, there

"Interpersonal violence, like rape, relationship violence, stalking, is happening in different ways in Texas and India, but the sexism and homophobia that informs that violence is pretty similar," Atkinson

are times when the Indian students share stories that sound like something your friend could have told you."

To provide the best services and programs for its students, Katy Redd, CMHS Prevention and Outreach associate director, said the center must look at what other universities around the country and

Senator Eddie Lucio, D-Brownsville. listens to more than 500 people testify at the Texas State Capitol on February 2. Students from different universities around the state spoke on SB 962 to allow sexual assaults to be reported online.

Joshua Guerra Daily Texan file

the world are doing to support their students.

"We see what we can adopt from other universities and what things that are working with us we can share with them," Redd said. "At the end of day, we want the best for our students, and to do that, we need to be innovative and creative."

SCIENCE&TECH

SOCIOLOGY



Illustration by Mel Westfall | Daily Texan Staff

UT professors reveal real facts regarding fake news

Stroud said more people

By Aditya Singh @thedailytexan

Over the past year, the term "fake news" has become a buzzword for politicians and media sources alike, but UT professors say the concept has deeper roots.

"Fake news ... reports on things that are factually untrue, not debated perceptions," said Natalie Stroud, communication studies associate professor and assistant director of the Strauss Institute for Civic Life.

Matt McGlone, associate professor of communication studies and expert on lies and deception, said fake news in the U.S. dates back to the late 1800s during which the Hearst Corporation made up news to get America into the Spanish-American war. He added that fake news outside of the U.S. can be traced even further, to propaganda efforts from the Greeks to the era of Alexander the Great.

"Ideally you read news to be informed, but that is not the only reason we

now than ever are getting their news from social media, including Facebook and Twitter. She added that while some criticize social media for using algorithms that show users similar things to what they have already liked, people are psychologically predisposed to do this most of the time.

McGlone said this is a change from widespread broadcast news and that social media has led to poorly written news stories that use lower quality sources.

"(This) tells you something about many of the people who are spreading the fake news," McGlone said. "They aren't reading them, but if the headline matches what (they) already believe then (they) will send it off."

Art Markman, psychology professor, said one of the psychological effects of fake news stories is the continued influence effect, where people find out an article is fake, but the information continues to affect their judgement and beliefs, due to the emotional influences of fake news. "A lot of the fake news we get is designed not just to create a belief in a particular fact but to create an emotional reaction," Markman said.

are," Markman said.

Last November, Oxford Dictionary announced the 2016 word of the year was "post-truth," which means objective facts are less influential in shaping public opinion than emotional appeals. McGlone said this is a major symbol of the post-modern era of politics that we live in now. "Postmodernism is that

truth is relative, and that your truth is different from my truth, that there's no real or objective truth," McGlone said. "But if there is no objective truth, then how can you determine what a lie is?"

McGlone said fake news, a term being thrown around on every outlet, channel and even more demonstrably from our president, has caused a "destabilizing" effect in the trust and sense of security that the public feels for the media.

"We are seeing a postmodern nightmare," Mc-Glone said. "In addition to it existing, fake news becomes an accusation that is being hurled to challenge anything that casts ZIA LYLE, SCIENCE&TECHNOLOGY EDITOR Thursday, March 2, 2017

ENERGY

Artists join scientists in creating new solar cells

By Freya Preimesberger @freyapreim

Researchers are using paper to devise an easier, more environmentally-friendly way of harnessing the power of the sun.

UT chemical engineers, biologists and artists recently collaborated to develop a method of creating solar cells on paper. These paper solar cells provide a foldable, more environment-friendly method of collecting solar energy compared to traditional photovoltaics, which are materials that convert sunlight into electricity. Potential uses for this new product include body-integrated electronics or small sensors. The researchers published their findings in Energy Letters on Jan. 31.

Modern photovoltaics are typically composed of silicon and glass panels, making them bulky and difficult to transport. Paper solar cells, on the other hand, are biodegradable, flexible and cheap to make. James Sham, researcher in UT's art and art history department and co-author of the paper, said that his inspiration for solar paper came from observing the Brazilian government bringing solar panels into indigenous forest communities.

"The more panels they bring in, the more they have to deforest," Sham said. "In my mind this was a conflict between two ways of life. I started to imagine whether it would be possible that it did not compete with nature. I started thinking about building solar panels like leaves a disperse amount of leaves



Illustration by Connor Murphy | Daily Texan Staff

across a wide acreage."

Sham worked with R. Malcolm Brown, molecular biosciences professor and co-author of the paper, to cultivate bacteria for use in the paper solar cells. Sham said paper made by these bacteria have a unique texture that allows them to tightly bind to photovoltaic devices.

"This paper doesn't come from trees or plant matter it's cultivated from bacteria," Sham said. "Theoretically, all we need is a wet lab set up so we can manufacture this on site. In some future universe, when we're starting to colonize Mars, you can't just bring a whole bunch of solar panels from Earth to Mars."

Vikas Reddy Voggu, chemical engineering graduate student and first author of the paper, said that in addition to being produced sustainably, the paper solar cells have comparable production rates to those of solar panels in space. He added that the paper solar cells are also flexible and easy to transport.

"These solar cells can be folded like origami - once you fold them, the transport costs can be reduced," Reddy said.

Reddy added that the devices are compatible for sticking directly onto the skin, raising the possibility for their use on our bodies in everyday life. According to the study, the paper solar cells can easily work with other electronics, such as in small sensors used in field work.

The paper solar cells project was part of the Rapid Design Pivot Program, in which artists work with scientists in a laboratory setting in order to facilitate innovation. Sham and Brian Korgel, UT chemical engineering professor and co-author of the paper, designed the program together.

Sham said that they designed the program so that artists could help researchers approach scientific problems in a nonlinear way and create new solutions.

"Most artists I know will intentionally try to do something nobody else will do in order to get a result that is miraculous or new in some way," Sham said. "When we brought artists in and gave them freedom to attack ideas they normally wouldn't, (the paper solar cells) are the kinds of things that happen."

Earn your JD.

read news," McGlone said. "We read news to see our expectations satisfied."

Stroud said this idea of confirmation bias, or only believing information that validates one's own beliefs, is intertwined with political beliefs and mass media.

"We have seen historically that people gravitate towards news that matches their political beliefs," Stroud said. "If a fake news story affirms something about a specific candidate, it's easier for us to accept it without questioning it."

news sources can make it difficult for readers to separate correct and incorrect information.

"The danger with the onslaught of fake news is that it undermines people's ability to figure out who the reliable sources

you in a bad light."

McGlone said people can determine truth through observation, scientific reason or an authority figure, but these methods are all being challenged today.

"Things like media and Markman said fake information literacy are probably the best ways to solve our fake news problem," McGlone said. 'They are not quick fixes by any means, but they are the best ways to instill an enduring sense of how to judge an information's value to you."

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OPINIONALEXANDER CHASE, EDITOR-IN-CHIEF | @TexanEditorial Thursday, March 2, 2017

COLUMN

Texans waste valuable time in state history classes

By Madalyn Marabella Daily Texan Columnist

Led by Tom Oliverson, the Texas Legislature recently passed a resolution chastising Texans for using "the Republic of Chile flag emoji in digital forums when referring to the Lone Star Flag of the great State of Texas."

That Texans confuse these two flags in the first place is surprising; Texas steeps its residents in a blend of history and pride more potent than the patriotism of most countries. However, many Texan-bred students have questioned if the education system's emphasis on Texas history — and the correlative statepride that prompts such an inconsequential resolution — enriches students' educations.

Texas requires two years of Texas history: 4th and 7th grade. From what little I remember of my own 7th grade social studies class, we spent the majority of class time watching movies, including two artistically embellished versions of "The Alamo."

I might be able to justify the two yearlong cinematic detours if my own demographic didn't lack basic knowledge of U.S. history, geography and civics. In a study by the National Assessment of Educational Progress, between 73 to 82 percent of students did not achieve a "proficient" score on an exam testing U.S. history, geography and civics. Since we have no reason to believe that Texas completely defies this trend, Texas cannot devote two full years of social science to state history.

To be fair, the only fact I retained from 6th grade world history is that the assassination of Archduke Franz Ferdinand caused World War I, which is a gross over-simplification. Elementary and middle school history classes, by necessity, must greatly simplify what they teach. So maybe there's merit to scaling down the topic we study to a more manageable size — our modest state instead of the entire U.S.

Though not the most impactful use of students' or educators' time, Texas history is probably here to stay — at least as long as we have Oliverson's fastidious state-patriotism in the legislature. If we want to maximize the value to students, we need to make a few changes to the curriculum.

Executive Vice President of the Texas Public Policy Foundation, Kevin Roberts, who taught Texas history for many years, warned that when teaching history in general, it is "easy to shy away from difficult topics (such as) slavery and segregation."

The TEKS (Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills, the required topics for all Texas public schools) for 4th grade Texas history do not mention either of these topics. The 7th grade TEKS mention slavery, but only as it pertains to the outbreak of the Civil War and tensions during the Reformation. Roberts believes firmly in the value of teaching Texas history, but also acknowledges that the curriculum



Illustration by Victoria Smith | Daily Texan Staff

must explore complex topics more deeply.

The word "minority" as well as the names of actual minority groups, do not appear at all in the 4th or 7th grade TEKS, either. Its cursory reference to the assimilation of various "racial, ethnic, and religious groups" does not do enough to prepare students to understand modern complexities surrounding race and religion.

COLUMN

Adjusting the curriculum's paradigm to avoid framing Texas as a homogeneous population would allow students to apply their knowledge of Texas history to contemporary state and national events. Texas history courses should prime students for a better understanding of events outside of Texas.

Marabella is a business honors, Plan II and Spanish freshman from Austin.

COLUMN



Gabriel Lopez | Daily Texan Staff

Executive Alliance candidates Alejandra Guzman and Micky Wolf pose for the cameras on Wednesday, March 1. They hoped to rally their supporters in the ongoing SG elections.

Guzman-Wolf offer solution

Student Government does not adequately represent students

By Audrey Larcher Daily Texan Columnist @veg_lomein

Come As You Are. Representing All Longhorns Like You. These slogans of inclusivity have rung in students' ears for the past few weeks as teams campaign to run for Student Government. But behind these catchy phrases, the policy platforms lack substance for minority students. These candidates fly banners of diversity, but their campaign promises are not viable for minority students on our campus — instead of relying on SG to advance niche interests, students must take action within their communities for tangible change.

The discordance is particularly apparent in Isaiah and Sydney's campaign. Their video opens with the presidential candidate detailing his identity as a black student raised by a single mother who now relies on financial aid, although his membership with Texas Wranglers and Silver Spurs goes unmentioned here. Sydney presents herself as a woman raised by two parents who participates in Greek life. Representatives from Texas Sweethearts, Fiji and many other social groups follow, claiming this ticket embodies UT. The message that Isaiah and Sydney's video wants to communicate - that everyone belongs at UT — is jarring when the viewer considers who is speaking. Of course the students in the video feel comfortable on campus. They belong to groups that cost up to \$6000 per semester to participate in, an incredible price tag for lower-income students. They belong to groups that have a history of excluding Latinos, a demographic that makes up 19.5 percent of our undergraduate population. They all belong to groups that solidified their place at UT long ago and do not have to fight significant barriers to exist as they are.

around diversity in theory, SG's infrastructure cannot produce solutions that support marginalized students in practice.

When Trump's travel ban affected 110 of UT's community members, the current SG administration could do nothing but release statements of support for those students. The statement urged students to speak out against bigotry — but when SG itself had the chance to challenge the bigotry demonstrated at the Young Conservatives of Texas Bake sale, it resorted to divisive quarreling that tarnished an opportunity to take any meaningful action.

And even the opportunities SG does have to act in solidarity are contingent on higher authority. The success of AR 35, the legislation that called for the removal of Jefferson Davis' statue, was a win for black students who grapple daily with our university's legacy of racism. But SG's bill only asked the administration to take action

— they couldn't have done it on their own.

to racist threats on campus

By Noah M. Horwitz

Daily Texan Senior Columnist @NmHorwitz

This is the fourth Student Government election process in which I have contributed to the Texan's editorial coverage. There has surely never been a campaign quite like this one.

The past has seen a lot of — and I use this word quite seriously — bullshit. Three years ago, we had a joke of a campaign between two identical candidates who only spewed out useless bromides. Two years ago, we elected the editor of the satire publication as a joke (though I did vote for him). Last year, the Tower committed a coup against the students by, in conduct befitting of a banana republic, invalidating an election for unknown and ambiguous reasons.

But most offensive to the students, the issues discussed were superficial and frivolous.

"What starts here?" was the first question Riley Brands, the editor-in-chief in 2015, asked in our editorial interview that year to the candidates. One can imagine the non-answers that were received.

The first question Alexander Chase, the current editor-in-chief, asked this year in the editorial interview was what the candidates would do to combat rising white supremacism and violence against Muslim students on campus.

We live in a different world now than we did even last year. College students vying for SG are being asked how they will fight back against neo-Nazis, what to do if our fascist president forces Muslims to register with the federal government, and how they would respond to ICE showing up at Jester and going door-to-door rounding up undocumented Longhorns, pulling them out of their dormitories and out of the only land they have ever known.

For these reasons, I cannot support the Houston.

ticket of Blake Burley and Robert Guerra. I am impressed by their passion, and believe that they possess the best of intentions, but their emphasis on staying apolitical is simply unacceptable in these dark, sobering times. Pericles's ancient quote about politics taking an interest in you, even if you do not care for it, feels relevant. Our new executive alliance must be willing to passionately, unequivocally stand up for students, no matter who they are — just as Kevin Helgren has.

The ticket of Isaiah Carter and Sydney O'Connell would be great for this University. However, their positions on "hate speech," as explained in the Texan, could lead to a troubling clampdown on free speech at this University. And the so-called "email scandal," though I think it is a bunch of malarkey, could prove distracting.

Likewise, the ticket of Alejandrina Guzman and Micky Wolf seeks to represent and fight for all students. I take pause, though, at Guzman's previous support for both the hateful Boycott, Divestment, Sanctions movement and a dunderheaded move to kick the Young Conservatives of Texas off campus following their shameful antics. (Wolf opposed both these measures, and the ticket now reassures us that they have adopted Wolf's position.)

Ultimately, I was most impressed by Guzman and Wolf's passion for protecting their prospective constituents. They promised to register as Muslims if the dreaded registry comes about. They promised an initiative aimed at protecting undocumented Longhorns.

Carter often discusses separating himself from his office. This is misguided. We elect leaders because of who they are. Guzman and Wolf, I believe, will bring their unique perspectives and views to the office, and those traits, those views will be among their main strengths.

Vote for Guzman-Wolf.

Horwitz is a first-year law student from ouston.

This video highlights a broader issue amongst all SG campaigns that is present in the Guzman-Wolf platform for lower rent and Burley-Guerra's proposed MLK Day of Service. Although the Executive Alliance hopefuls rally

GALLERY

At an institution where bureaucracy already makes student affairs needlessly complicated, we do not need an extra body to simply make voices heard. And the word 'heard' is not metaphorical — SG is not publishing resolutions online, so physically attending meetings is the only way to keep up with their work.

Students demonstrated their anxiety, fear and dissatisfaction with campus climate at Fenves's Town Hall, but we do not have to work through SG to address these issues. There are enough student orgs on campus to facilitate discussion and galvanize communities into action. Cocks Not Glocks made their voice heard across the nation. Texas Rising links students directly to the state legislature, where their work informs tangible change.

In the age of Trump, voters are concerned about the various elected officials responsible for shaping policy. The SG Executive Alliance should not be one of them. Instead, students may want to get involved with grassroots organizations on campus and pay more attention to municipal and state level politics, where the real power lies.

Larcher is a Plan II and economics freshman from Austin.



Illustration by Yulissa Chavez | Daily Texan Staff

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LEGACY

Texans honor famous battle

By Chris Boyd Peck @ChrisBPeck

On most days, Mark Hegman is an engineer, but on April 22, he is General Sam Houston fighting for Texas's independence at the Battle of San Jacinto.

The famous battle that led to the defeat of the Mexican Army, led by Santa Anna, is reenacted every year by the Texas Army. In 1969, Texas Governor Preston Smith recommissioned the Texas Army to act as the official ceremonial and reenacting group in the State of Texas. They organize and perform various reenactments across the state from the signing of the Texas Declaration of Independence to the Battle of San Jacinto.

"Our primary goal is to keep alive the memory of those men who fought and died to make Texas free from Mexico," Texas Army General Jerry Tubbs said. "(We) do whatever we can as often as we can and wherever we can to promote Texas history."

Hundreds people of participate in the reenactment annually. In order for the event to run smoothly, Tubbs said it is vital that participants wait and listen to their commanding officers for orders.

"I jokingly say that it is like herding cats," Tubbs said. "(But) out there everyone knows that when Jerry says jump, it is how high and how far."

In addition to a strict chain of command, the Army enforces many policies to ensure the battle is as safe as possible. In the morning they have a group safety meeting, where the procedures of the battle are fully explained including how the pyrotechnics will work during the battle. In the rare case that someone gets hurt, someone yells "Buster" and everything stops until medical attention arrives.

"If we have any newer

reenactors, (then) we go through some drills just to make sure that everyone on this battlefield knows what they are doing and is safe," Martin Vasquez said. "Accidents can happen, but we want to make sure that we don't have any."

history teacher, he realized

first-hand the power of reen-

actments. On days he dressed

up, he said his students

performed better than on

you bring this story to life,"

Vasquez said. "You are able

to learn so many more

things you wouldn't get from

They also make it a point

"The Texans tell their side of

to portray both sides of the

the story, and the Mexicans tell

their side of the story," Tubbs

said. "There were no bad guys.

It was only people fighting for

Reenactments like the

Battle of San Jacinto al-

low people to immerse

themselves in the world of

tory because if we were we

would be killing each other,"

Tubbs said. "We are emulating

history to best of our ability

to give folks the ability to see

what life was like during those

times for both sides."

"We are not recreating his-

1836 without leaving 2017.

what they believed in."

"It's really different when

other days.

a book.

war truthfully.

counterpart, Vasquez's Hegman, said he once had to call the state police in order to remove someone from the park because they had not filled out proper registration and fulfilled safety requirements.

"I got a call from some senator about (the incident)," Hegman said. "I told him that even if he showed up or if the governor showed up, without the proper registration, he couldn't get on the field either."

Many of the reenactors are history buffs who studied prominent figures in Texas history as a hobby. Though Vasquez has been portraying Santa Anna for about three years, he has been studying him for about 15. When he was a middle school

9

TEXAS FILM

continues from page 8

and sometimes Los Angeles. Director Wim Wenders makes the familiar landscape foreign, creating an uncomfortable but enthralling viewing experience.

Dazed and Confused (1993)

Austin's very own Richard Linklater helped popularize the city's laid-back atmosphere with "Dazed and Confused," an extremely fun "day in the life" high school stoner comedy.

"Dazed and Confused" proved to be the perfect debut feature for Matthew McConaughey, helping him shape the easygoing Southern-boy persona he would play for years after.

As a filmmaker, this relaxed movie helped then little-known Richard Linklater propel his freewheeling style into the mainstream juggernaut.

Friday Night Lights (2004)

The film that inspired the now iconic television show, "Friday Night Lights" does not get enough credit although it refined and redefined the underdog sports film.

Based on a true story, the film follows the 1988 Permian High Panthers football team and the city that rallies behind them. "Friday Night Lights" manages to not only capture the spirit of Odessa, but

BULLOCK

continues from page 8

along the path of the revolution, from the events leading up to it and to its culmination.

"I've grown to enjoy the story of Mexico's independence from Spain on the eve of Stephen F. Austin's arrival in Texas," Clavey said. "Watching the needs and interests of these two parties clash in the 1830s is like watching the rise of a perfect storm."

also Texans' passion for high school football.

Though director Peter Berg is generally a hit-or-miss, "Friday Night Lights," was a solid celebration of high school football and small Texas towns.

No Country for Old Men (2007)

An Academy Award winner for Best Picture, "No Country for Old Men" the perfect modern western.

Though born and raised in Minnesota, writer-directors Joel and Ethan Coen obviously have a vast knowledge of and pure love for West Texas. Tommy Lee Jones' character Ed Tom Bell, feels like he could very well just be a crotchety old man alone at a West Texas diner reading a newspaper.

Josh Brolin stars as the film's semi-protagonist and Javier Bardem as Chigurh, one of the most terrifying villains of all time. "No Country for Old Men" showcases the vast emptiness of West Texas and its tenacious citizens.

Bernie (2011)

As much of a celebration of East Texas as "No Country for Old Men" is of West Texas, director Richard Linklater's delightfully strange dark comedy "Bernie" takes it another step further by casting real citizens of East Texas town Carthage in supporting roles.

Jack Black plays Bernie Tiede, a beloved member of the town of Carthage who murders his close friend. Matthew

Though Texas Independence Day gave rise to a new sense of identity within Texans, the value of independence was within Texans from the early days of frontier living.

"Independence wasn't just a value that popped up one day in the minds of Texans in the 1830s," Clavey said. "It was born of the difficult years in which the resources of a new and struggling Mexico were spread thin."

McConaughey plays the detective covering the case. The plot may sound well-trodden, but Linklater puts his own hilarious, authentic spin on the trope.

Though it never received the recognition it deserved, "Bernie" is an underrated gem worth seeking out.

The Tree of Life (2011)

Acclaimed director Terrence Malick's masterpiece, "The Tree of Life" is about a childhood in Waco, but also the history of the universe.

One of the most abstract films set in Texas, Malick's film investigates the meaning of life through life itself, its creation and its active living. While some find the film divisive in some ways, others have called it one of the best movies of all time.

Hell or High Water (2016)

Rounding off the list is last year's "Hell or High Water," the most recent love poem to West Texas.

The movie still fires on all cylinders, telling an emotional story of two bank-robbing brothers and the beleaguered police officers assigned to their case.

Featuring many scenes in and around West Texas locales, "Hell or High Water" reflects its citizens perfectly, with a wry sort of humor that only makes sense if the viewer has spent a significant amount of time in the region.

But a newfound spirit was awakened during the revolution and have ingrained themselves in generations of Texans to come.

"Texas Independence Day is a reminder that the fierce spirit of survival that drove this province into a new nation has not subsided since then, but paid itself forward to each new generation of the peoples and cultures that proudly count themselves as Texans," Clavey said.

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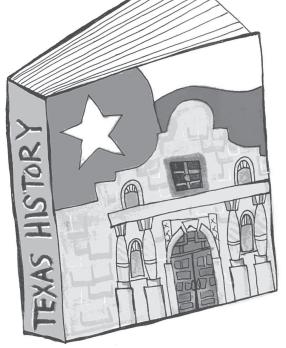
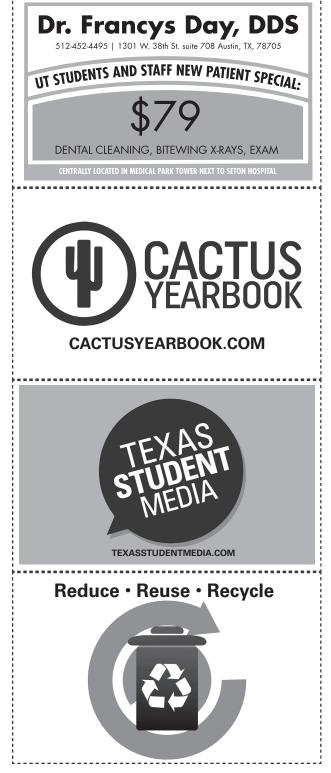


Illustration by Bix Boots | Daily Texan Staff

5





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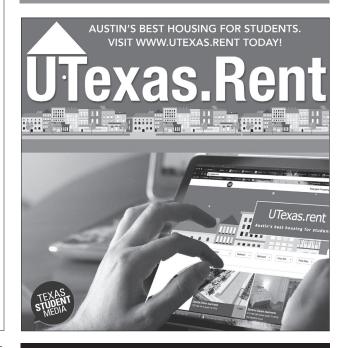
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TYLER HORKA, SPORTS EDITOR | @texansports Thursday, March 2, 2017

MEN'S BASKETBALL | TEXAS TECH 67-56 TEXAS

SPORTS

Texas finishes season without road win

By Trenton Daeschner @TrentDaeschner

Playing away from the Frank Erwin Center this season has been downright agonizing for Shaka Smart's club.

The Longhorns entered Wednesday with an 0-10 record in true road contests and an 0-13 record away from The Drum. Texas' matchup with Texas Tech in Lubbock presented one last chance to grab a true road win this season.

But any hope of ending Texas' road woes evaporated into thin air as the Red Raiders blew open the game to begin the second half and never looked back. Texas Tech cruised to a 67-57 victory on its senior night, dropping the Longhorns (10-20, 4-13 Big 12) to 0-14 away from the Erwin Center this season.

Freshman guard Jacob Young, who has been in a deep shooting slump for most of the season, showed no hesitation from beyond the arc throughout the game. Young converted 4-of-9 three-pointers enroute to a season-high 14 points. Freshman forward Jarrett Allen turned in another double-double, finishing with 10 points and

11 rebounds.

Texas received an early boost in the first half from senior forward Shaquille Cleare, who finished with 15 points on 7-of-8 field goals. He accounted for nine of Texas' first 17 points.

Cleare showed off some nifty passing ability with under 9 minutes remaining in the first half. Cleare received a pass in transition near the top of the key, then took a few dribbles forward before seeing Allen cutting to the basket from his right.

Cleare lobbed up a pass, and Allen finished the alley-oop to tie the game, 16-16.

The first 14 minutes of the game were largely

Young with just over six minutes left in the first half gave the Longhorns a 22-21 lead. But then Texas Tech took command of the game, going on a 10-2 run over the next five minutes to take a 31-24 lead.

The Red Raiders looked like they were going to head into halftime up 34-26 after a three from Texas Tech senior forward Aaron Ross. But then Young took an in-



Gabriel Lopez | Daily Texan Staff

remaining in the game. But

nine points was the closest

deficit Texas could get the

The Longhorns close out

the regular season at home

on Saturday at 3 p.m. against

No. 11 Baylor. It's senior day

for Cleare, guard Kendal Yan-

cy, transfer forward Mareik

Isom and walk-on forward

rest of the way.

Ryan McClurg.

back-and-forth. A three from Senior center Shaquille Cleare will finish his last year at Texas without a victory on the road. Cleare had 17 points in the loss at Texas Tech Wednesday night.

> bounds pass and raced up the floor with just seconds remaining, launching up a deep three and draining it as the buzzer sounded.

> Young's teammates quickly rushed onto the floor to congratulate Young as they headed to the locker room only down 34-29.

But Texas Tech stormed out of the locker room and

went on a 14-2 run in the opening four minutes and 11 seconds to blow open the game at 48-31.

As they have time and again this season, the Longhorns didn't quit and battled back. A pair of free throws from sophomore guard Kerwin Roach Jr. got the Longhorns within nine at 52-43 with just under 11 minutes

BASEBALL

Freshman shortstop shining defensively early in season

By Vanessa Le @vanessale

When a ballclub insists on including a freshman in its starting lineup, one would expect to see a brawny slugger with an astronomical batting average at the plate.

But the Longhorns' firstyear starter weighs 170 pounds, making him the second lightest player on the team. His batting average doesn't even graze the Mendoza line and lingers around .074.

Yet the calmest rookie is arguably making one of the loudest impacts on the team. Freshman David Hamilton commands the Longhorn defense at shortstop and has yet to give head coach David Pierce a reason to hesitate about his proficiency with the glove.

ignated hitter Kody Clemens said. "Just sitting from the dugout watching him make those plays, it was great. He's

a good kid, too." But Hamilton's resilience will be put to the test as Texas transitions from hosting the Cardinals at home to facing the Cardinals in Stanford, Calif. for its first road series of the season on Thursday.

"We don't want to let being on the road scare some of the younger guys," redshirt junior second baseman Bret Boswell said. "It'll be their first time away - especially at a big school like Stanford, it might be a little scary at first, but I'm sure they'll relax and they'll realize it's the same game, just a different place." Pierce hopes Hamilton's defensive consistency will trickle down to the bullpen at the weak end of the team, where coherence is still in question for the Longhorns. "I think we're still trying to formulate our bullpen," Pierce said. "We're not going to just go from the eighth to the ninth as a setup to a closer when we've got a guy getting it done. That's just college baseball. I've seen that so many times where it bites you, so when you've got a hot hand, you want to stick with it." With Stanford sitting at No. 19 in the nation, Pierce expects his 21st-ranked squad to bring confidence to Palo Alto on both sides of the ball and build character as a result of the foreign environment. "I think you get your first taste of how your team is going to be that visitor and how the crowd is completely against you," Pierce said. 'You really have an opportunity to win and come together and really create some chemistry that you don't quite get at home."

SIDELINE

NBA







TOP TWEET

Quandre Diggs @qdiggs6 " Prayers up for the homie @KDTrey5 bounce back bro!"

TODAY IN HISTORY 1962

Philadelphia Warriors Wilt Chamberlain scores 100 points in an NBA game.

SPORTS BRIEFLY

Longhorns earn **Big 12 honors** Brooke McCarty became the first player in program history to earn the Big 12 Player of the Year honor. The junior guard averaged a teamhigh 14.1 points per game this season while shooting 43.3 percent from beyond the arc. Senior guard Brianna Taylor captured the Big 12 Defensive Player of the Year award after leading the Longhorns on the defensive end this season. This is the second consecutive year a Longhorn has won the award as Imani Boyette won a share of it last season. Joynes Holmes snagged the Big 12 Freshman of the Year title after winning seven Big 12 Freshman of the Week honors this season and carrying the Longhorns in the post. The forward led all Big 12 freshman in scoring, rebounding and double-doubles. Holmes was a unanimous selection to the Big 12 All-Freshman Team. Head coach Karen Aston joined her players with an honor of her own, claiming the Big 12 Coach of the Year award in her fifth season in Austin. Junior guard Ariel Atkins joined McCarty and Holmes on the All-Big 12 First Team, and joined Taylor on the Big 12 All-Defensive Team. Senior center Kelsey Lang received All-Big 12 Honorable Mention. The Longhorns are looking to continue their success in the Big 12 Tournament this weekend in Oklahoma City. -Sydney Rubin

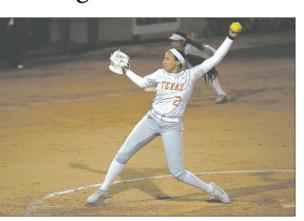
SOFTBALL | TEXAS STATE 2-1 TEXAS Longhorns fall 2-1 against Texas State

By Wills Layton @willsdebeast

Bevo the Longhorn could not best Boko the Bobcat as Texas lost to Texas State Wednesday night 2-1.

In a mid-week game sandwiched between last week's Mary Nutter Classic and this upcoming weekend's series with No. 6 Arizona, Texas came out with a strong defensive and pitching performance that did not result in a win.

The game opened with a two-run home run by Texas State junior Ariel Ortiz, putting the Longhorns in an early deficit. The team fought back but came up short in the comeback attempt. While the team has been successful in the last few weeks, head coach Connie Clark has been adamant that being consistent is the key to longterm success. "Consistency really is just about the mental side of the game," Clark said. "Our game beats you up a little bit and you're going to fail a lot more times than you're going to succeed. You hear that from everyone you're going to talk to. It's about competing on the next pitch." The Bobcats started staff ace junior Randi Rupp, who sported a 0.99 ERA and 6-1 record coming into the game. According to



Juan Figuera | Daily Texan Staff

Senior pitcher Tiarra Davis allowed one earned run and had five strikeouts in Wednesday night's loss against Texas State. Texas will look to rebound against Arizona.

senior and starting pitcher important to us to go at them Tiarra Davis, who was just with our best and I'm glad named Big 12 Pitcher of the that its on our turf with as Week, Texas State provided a much travel as we have going regional challenge. on on the weekends." "Texas State comes in and The loss drops the Longplays us really hard and alhorns to a record of 11-6 ways gives us good competiwhile the Bobcats improve to tion," Davis said. "They're go-10-3ing to put up a good fight and While the team has a quick it's something that regionally turnaround before traveling to Arizona, coach Clark is is important for us especially in RPI." sure to take advantage of the Head coach Connie Clark short amount of practice time echoed Davis's comments, the team has. emphasizing the importance We'll just take it one day of having a home game in the at a time," Clark said. "We get midst of all the road tournaone day of practice this week ments and series the team has so we're excited to get after it. I have some good things been competing in. "This has implications as scheduled, mostly focused on the things that we need to do better as opposed to any one opponent that we're going to face."

you get down the stretch for potentially hosting and when you're getting these regional matchups," Clark said. "It's

That doesn't mean he isn't trying to fix Hamilton's competence at the plate though.

"We talked a lot, but he got a new haircut and we're trying everything," Pierce said. "The kid is resilient he's a tough kid. He's quiet, doesn't look like he's got that toughness to him but I'm telling you, he's a tough kid and he's fighting it right now. He's just got to continue playing defense and trust himself."

While Pierce waits for some offensive luck to grow along with Hamilton's hair, the head coach hopes his shortstop's defensive game stays sturdy. Hamilton has found himself starting at shortstop during 8 of 9 games so far in the season. He's collected a team-best 31 fielding assists and has turned seven double plays to tie senior first baseman Kacy Clemens for the most on the squad.

"(Hamilton is) an amazing player," sophomore des-

Rachel Zein | Daily Texan Staff Freshman shortstop David Hamilton has been impressive thus far playing the infield. Hamilton has turned seven double plays and collected 31 fielding assists.



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MAE HAMILTON, LIFE&ARTS EDITOR | @thedailytexan Thursday, March 2, 2017

STATE

Bullock explores state history

By Sydney Mahl @sydney_mahl

Ripped from the pages of history books, exhibits at the Bullock Texas State History Museum stand frozen in time as constant reminders of Texas' unique history. Through a series of artifacts, first-hand accounts and video presentations, the second floor guides visitors through the tumultuous 1800s when Texas fought to gain independence from Mexico.

Texas Independence Day is celebrated on March 2 to commemorate Texas gaining independence from Mexico in 1836 after a seven-month long rebellion. In Austin, The Bullock Texas State History Museum celebrates Texas Independence Day every day, sharing information to visitors about Texas history, including key events leading up to Texas' independence.

At the annual Texas Independence Day Dinner gala at the museum, Joyce Spivey Aldridge, the volunteer programs manager for the Bullock Museum and a living history interpreter, will personify Susanna Dickinson, a survivor of the battle of the Alamo to honor her.

"I am excited by the stories of Texas history that celebrate the passions of a courageous people fighting for issues in which they believed," Aldridge said. "Particularly, I find the stories of women to be the most inspirational. I am reminded of what strength is when I study the stories of women who survived and thrived in the Texas frontier." Like Aldridge, Bullock Museum volunteer docent Bruce Clavey is also inspired by the events that led to and came out of the revolution. Clavey has volunteered at the Bullock Museum since October 2012.

"Like many Texans, I enjoy a good, dramatic retelling of events leading up to the Texas Revolution," Clavey said. "It was clearly the all-out fight for life and land and the memory of fallen countrymen and not a hastily drafted paper declaration that brought about the Republic of Texas."

The museum has many artifacts from the rebellion, like the William Fairfax Gray Diary. Gray used the diary to document March 2, 1836, the date of the adoption of the Texas Declaration of Independence. Gray penned eleven other pocket-sized diaries, providing a firsthand account about Texas during the revolution.

"We are so very proud to serve as a history museum for and about the people of Texas," said Bullock Museum Interim Director Margaret Koch. "Texas Independence Day is a critical point in the history of Texas and an important one for us to study."

Much of the second floor of the museum is dedicated to walking visitors

BULLOCK page 5



Illustration by Madi Beavers | Daily Texan Staff

FILM Films feature Texas pride

By Justin Jones @justjustin42

The range of stories set in Texas is as big as the state itself. From Westerns to slashers to dark comedies, the state gives films a specific flavor other locales cannot.

To honor the 181st anniversary of Texan independence, The Daily Texan has compiled the ten greatest Texas movies of all time, from "The Searchers" to "Hell or High Water," in order of release.

The Searchers (1956)

Legendary filmmaker John Ford's masterpiece, "The Searchers" revolutionized the classical western genre with its emotional, powerful story. The plot follows Ethan Edwards' journey across the state in search of his niece Debbie, who was captured by Native Americans. Accompanied by Martin Pawley, Debbie's brother, the two set off on an adventure-filled with danger and self-reflection, as Edwards continuously struggles with his racist nature.

Starring frequent Ford collaborator John Wayne as the complex Ethan Edwards, Ford takes a stand against the traditional racist cowboy heroes of the past by holding up a mirror to the audience. Simply by placing the larger-than-life and eminently-likable Wayne into this closed-minded role, the viewer cannot help but root for him against their own better judgment. Ford's exploration of his main character sets "The Searchers" apart from all other Westerns, delivering a large-scale adventure with a deeply complex lead.

Giant (1956)

Clocking in at over 3 hours, "Giant" is an epic so massive it does justice to the scope of the



Illustration by Geo Casillas | Daily Texan Staff

state itself.

The classic western, directed by George Stevens, features terrific performances from Elizabeth Taylor and James Dean, his final role before his death. It explores the impact of the booming oil industry on Texan farmlands, as well as segregation and racism, a surprisingly progressive work in the Western genre.

Epic in scope and powerful in narrative, "Giant" succeeds as both a work of art and a representation of Texas.

The Texas Chainsaw Massacre (1974)

The infamous "Texas Chainsaw Massacre" presents audiences with a clear, unrestrained portrayal of horrific violence committed in Kingsland, Texas.

With a budget of only \$300,000, "The Texas Chainsaw Massacre" proved the horror genre could revolutionize popular culture without breaking the bank long before "Paranormal Activity" hit theaters.

Director Tobe Hooper fundamentally changed the horror genre, helping popularize the wildly gory, brutal teen-slasher.

Paris, Texas (1984)

"Paris, Texas" leans on the more experimental side of Texas films.

It follows an amnesiac (Harry Dean Stanton) wandering around the South Texas desert, inexplicably obsessed with the city of Paris, Texas. It is stylistically fascinating, using the sweeping Western style of filmmaking to capture modern images of neon signs, advertisements

TEXAS FILM page 5

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