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The Texan begins a rundown of the year's
best albums, films »LIFE & ARTS PAGE 6B



THE DAILY TEXAN

Monday, December 4, 2006

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Longhorns head to Alamo Bowl

*Texas set to face Iowa
at the Alamodome
after back-to-back losses*

By William Wilkerson
Daily Texan Staff

Gator Bowl or Alamo Bowl?
Jacksonville or San Antonio?

The hassle of making travel
arrangements or the luxury of
being a football's throw away from
the stadium?

For Aaron Ross, there was no

question where he wanted the
Longhorns to play their bowl
game — in his hometown of San
Antonio.

On Sunday, he got his wish. Texas
(9-3) will meet Iowa (6-6) on Dec. 30
in the Alamo Bowl. A Ross family
invasion on the Alamodome is
already in the works.

"My whole family is going to
be there," said Ross, who attended
Fox Tech High School for two years
before moving to Tyler. "And if they
can't all get in they will be outside
tailgating, waiting for me."

The Gator Bowl decided early
Sunday afternoon to take West
Virginia over Texas. Now the
Longhorns will make their first
appearance in the Alamo Bowl. The
payout is \$2.25 million, compared
to the \$2.5 million of the Gator
Bowl.

It will be Texas' third time to
play in the Alamodome. Texas beat
SMU 37-10 in 1993, and fell 22-6
to Nebraska in the 1999 Big 12
Championship.

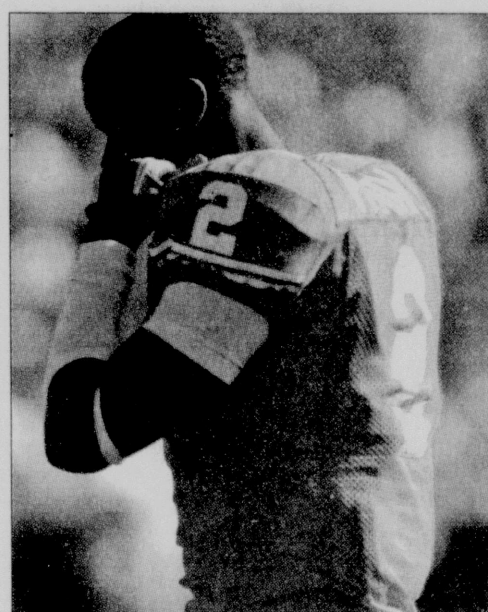
"We look forward to welcom-
ing the history and tradition of the

Texas Longhorns to San Antonio,"
said Bob Cohen, Alamo Bowl chair-
man. "We couldn't be more excited
with this matchup."

It will mark the second time the
two schools have met, with the
first a 55-17 Iowa win in the 1984
Freedom Bowl.

"It's going to be a good one,
with two traditional powerhouses
going at it," Justin Blalock said.
"We are looking forward to getting
down there, having a good time,

ALAMO continues on page 2A



Texas receiver
Billy Pittman
reacts following
the team's loss
to Texas A&M.
The Longhorns
are headed to
San Antonio
to play in the
Alamo Bowl
against Iowa.

Pat Michels
Daily Texan Staff

THAT HOLIDAY GLOW



Jordan Gomez | Daily Texan Staff

Brandon and Morrissa Lockridge keep warm at the 39th annual Zilker Tree lighting ceremony Sunday at Zilker Park. This year's tree features a spiral pattern designed by City of Austin electricians and is comprised of 3,309 25-watt bulbs.

Zilker tree lighting marks season's beginning

*3,309 lights stretching 155 feet
turn on for 40th anniversary*

By Andrew Egan
Daily Texan Staff

In a flash of lights and silent awe, Austin wel-
comed the holiday season with the 40th Annual
Zilker Tree Lighting Ceremony Sunday night in
Zilker Park.

"It's a rite of passage here in Austin," said
Mayor Will Wynn. "I'm glad it's cold tonight.
It'll get us into the holiday spirit."

The Zilker Tree is one of the main attractions

of the annual Trail of Lights Festival, which
begins Dec. 9.

Standing at 155 feet and consisting of 3,309
individual multicolored lights, the tree has been
an Austin favorite since its inception in 1965.

The uniqueness of the tree delighted the
crowd and past experiences left an indelible
impression on the 6-year-old winner of the city-
wide tree art contest, Lia Wiese.

"Some of [my classmates] drew regular
Christmas trees, but I drew the Trail of Lights
tree," Wiese said. "It was just the first thing that
came to me."

Wiese said she spent two whole art periods

on the drawing and has been coming to the Trail
of Lights as long as she can remember. For her
efforts, Wiese won the honor of lighting the tree
with Mayor Wynn.

"This is my first time actually winning some-
thing, and I think it's my first time even partici-
pating," she added.

Temperatures fell into the mid-40s Sunday as
Wynn and Wiese activated the lights, including
the tree's star, which consists of 150 frosted bulbs
and measures 10 feet across from one point to
another.

TREE continues on page 2A

LBJ launches social innovation competition

*UT System, A&M, Rice students
to compete for \$50,000 prize*

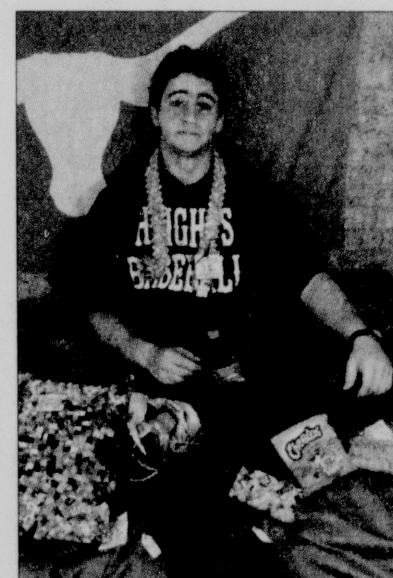
By Laura Blewitt
Daily Texan Staff

Students from the UT System, Texas A&M
University System and Rice University will have the
chance to compete for a \$50,000 prize to make their
ideas for a social entrepreneurship project a reality.

The RGK Center for Philanthropy and Community
Service, a graduate student program at the Lyndon
B. Johnson School of Public Affairs, launched the
program this year, whereby one student or group of
students with an idea for a social project will compete
for the \$50,000 seed money to get their project off the
ground, said RGK center Director Peter Frumkin.

The winner should have an innovative vision seek-
ing to accomplish important social purposes, said
Heather Alden, program coordinator for the Social
Innovation Competition. For example, PlayPumps
International uses children's merry go rounds to
pump water from underground storage tanks, she
said. Another example is Teach for America, which
is a group of recent college graduates who commit
to teach in rural and urban public schools.

LBJ continues on page 2A



Alan
Yancelson,
co-founder of
wrapperbags.
com, displays
a few of the
products that
he markets
for charity.

Craig Handley
Daily Texan Staff

Wrapper items aid low-income women

*Handmade bags, accessories
a creative, charitable enterprise*

By Cara Henis
Daily Texan Staff

About 80 women in Mexico City have found a
way to transform discarded chip and candy wrap-
pers into a method of supporting their families with
the help of a UT student and his mother.

UT undeclared sophomore and Wrapperbags co-
founder Alan Yancelson, along with his mother,
Wrapperbags founder Melody Yancelson, are in the
process of expanding their online business, which
sells fashion accessories made from recycled food
wrappers. All products sold by Wrapperbags are
made by low-income women in Mexico City, thus
providing these women and their families with a
stable income, Alan Yancelson said.

"The more money that goes into it, the more fami-
lies we can sustain and the more jobs we can create,"
Alan Yancelson said.

Wrapperbags sells items ranging from various
types of purses to pencil bags and belts. Each
item is woven in the native Nahuatl style and

BAGS continues on page 2A

Downtown businesses try to raise relocation money

*New Marriott would
displace day care center,
Latin American cafe*

By Alex Au
Daily Texan Staff

Along Congress Avenue and Second
Street Saturday, hundreds of onlookers
and supporters enjoyed the sounds of
Christmas carols and an all-female mari-
achi group as they warmed their bodies
with complimentary hot chocolate, chips
and queso, and other goodies.

While some parents watched their
children chat with Santa Claus, others
contemplated the future of the only
downtown day care center as they
browsed the brightly colored student
crafts on sale to raise money for the
business's relocation.

The only bilingual day care program
in Austin, Escuela Del Alma, plans
to relocate as White Lodging Services
Corporation, a hotel development and



Las Manitas
Avenue Cafe
on Congress
Avenue is one
of two Austin
businesses that
must relocate to
make room for
three Marriott
International
Inc. hotels.

Peter Franklin
Daily Texan Staff

management company, makes room for
three Marriott International Inc. hotels
on the 200 block of Congress Avenue.
The day care lacks the money to relocate
and has yet to secure another location
downtown, said Dina Flores, the day
care's owner. The building's lease is set
to expire this month, but will probably
be extended through August 2007 to
give the center time to find a new space

and to raise money to relocate, she said.
Flores would not specifically discuss
the details of negotiations for the lease
extension, which began about three
weeks ago, because she said White
Lodging feels the discussion should not
take place in the public realm. White
Lodging was not available for comment

MANITAS continues on page 2A

TOMORROW'S WEATHER

High
63
Low
45

The one good idea
the Aggies had:
If Bevo comes into your class
and moos, class is cancelled.
Even though he couldn't get
through the door.

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25 cents

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TREE: Design based upon city's first electric street lamps

From page 1A

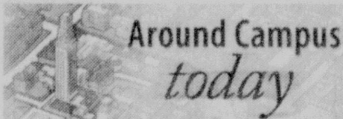
Based on the city's first electric street lamps, also called Moon Towers, the Zilker Tree defies obvious conventions of Christmas trees. Beth Walterscheidt, President of the National Christmas Tree Association and co-owner of Evergreen Farms Christmas Trees, said the choice between an electric tree and a traditional, live tree is

simple preference.

"It would be nice if they could find [a real tree] to use," Walterscheidt said. "But I know they want an extremely tall tree to put out there."

This year, Walterscheidt said she provided two 8-foot trees for Gov. Rick Perry and decorated another tree for the Blue Room in the White House.

The Zilker Tree will remain lit through Dec. 31.



Around Campus today

Find more listings at www.dailytexanonline.com. To submit your event to this calendar, send your information to aroundcampus@dailytexanonline.com or call 471-4591.

UT SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA, 8 p.m., Bates Recital Hall. The Orchestra will be performing under the baton of guest conductor William Jones, who has received international acclaim for his work as a conductor, as well as a clinician and teacher for student orchestras. The program will include *Academic Festival Overture* by Johannes Brahms, *Symphony No. 3, Eroica*, by Ludwig Van Beethoven and *Blue Cathedral* by School of Music visiting composer Jennifer Higdon.

Dr. Miri Talmon will lecture about Israeli food in the movies; how it reflects trends in Israeli society and culture and negotiates ethnic and collective identity. The culinary tour will take us from the melting pot to multicultural and fusion food, through Israeli cinema from the early 1970s to 2004 and will be accompanied by juicy excerpts from popular Israeli films.

MATRIX, 6 p.m., Baptist Student Ministry - 2204 San Antonio. Free meal and small group Bible studies. See www.utbsm.net for more information.

FOOD FOR THOUGHT: Films, Food and Israeli Identity, 5 p.m., PAI 4.42.

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MANITAS: Center faces challenge of finding new space

From page 1A

this weekend.

"It's stressful not to know where this change is going to happen, or when this change will happen," said parent Allison Rowland. "The fact is, there's going to be teachers who need a place to work, and there's going to be kids who are going to need someone to take care of them, and that won't change."

Rowland said she walks over and visits her son everyday during lunch, an event that is only possible because of the day care's downtown location. Because of its ethnically diverse environment,

Escuelita del Alma is teaching her 1-year-old son to respect diversity and speak Spanish phrases, she added.

Cynthia Perez, owner of Las Manitas Avenue cafe, which shares a close relationship with Escuelita Del Alma and is negotiating along with the day care for a lease extension from White Lodging, said there needs to be a day care downtown to serve the needs of people working there.

"You're going to bring 45,000 people downtown, and there's no room for your children?" Perez said.

Finding another location downtown for Escuelita Del Alma is

difficult, because day cares do not pull in as much profit as retail stores and take up ground-floor retail space, Flores said.

"I'm not against business, progress and development. I'm against city politicians who should be helping people who are underrepresented rather than helping the wealthy people build another Marriott, when there's already 17 in Austin," Perez said.

Three City Council members sent a Sept. 28 letter to the CEO of Marriott International defending the local businesses at stake and asking that Marriott revise its development plan, Flores said.

White Lodging responded that it could not build around the businesses, because the convention hotel would require the entire space of the block, she said.

Instead of the city giving tax breaks to corporations, the corporations should be lining up to give Austin money for clean air, clean water and other social responsibilities, especially those benefitting children, Perez said. What makes Austin unique is the culture and the people, not corporations, she said.

"Now for economic development, green is the only color that matters, and whoever's in the way moves," Perez said.

LBJ: Five finalists to present plans to panel of judges in May

From page 1A

The student or students with the best idea for social change will be chosen through a three-step process. The first step requires participants to submit a three-page "dream paper" by Feb. 16 outlining what they would like their project to focus on, Alden said. From there, 30 participants will be chosen to write a 10-page full venture plan.

Five finalists will then be selected to present their venture plans on May 5 to a panel of judges from the business, philanthropy and nonprofit community, Alden said. These judges will select the final winner.

"We're not expecting students to take over the world, but they can start small. Their ideas should have scalability and be far-reaching. The projects are only limited by the ambition and imagination of the contestants," Alden said.

The \$50,000 may only be enough money to barely get the winner started, but the competition plans to help the winner collect more money from investors, Alden said. The audience of the final presentations will include venture capitalists who may be interested in funding the project, she said.

The MFI Foundation and other private donors provided the prize money, Frumkin said.

At this point the competition is very flexible, Frumkin said. It has also been expanded to the A&M System and Rice University in order to reach more students and get the project moving in its first year.

The RGK Center founded the project with the desire to get graduate students at the center to put their training and learning into action, Frumkin said.

Students interested in participating in the competition should visit <http://rgkcenter.utexas.edu/competition/>.

ALAMO: Texas reaches ninth straight bowl game

From page 1A

and showing the fans what they came to see."

The mood of the team was upbeat and animated when the announcement was made, according to both Ross and Blalock.

"We are excited, it's going to be fun," Ross said. Even with the way things quickly downward spiraled for Texas at the end of the season since losing consecutively to Kansas State and Texas A&M. Offensive coordinator Greg Davis doesn't think it will be hard to motivate the players.

"The possibility of 10 wins in six straight years — no one else in the country is doing that," he said. "When you start talking about 'no one else in the country,' that's pretty good motivation."

"We put ourselves in this position. It is up to us to make the most of it," added Blalock.

There is also the fear of what kind of affect a third straight loss to end the season would do to next year's team. Blalock, one of the 23 seniors, didn't even want to mention another loss.

"If you finish on such a bad streak as that would be, I don't want to say it would be insurmountable, but it would be a lot to overcome," said Blalock, an Outland trophy finalist. "We are really spoiled around here. We win so much. Sometimes you don't know what to do with yourself."

This will be Texas' ninth straight bowl game, all under Mack Brown. It matches the Longhorns longest streak since the Longhorns went to nine straight bowls from 1977-85. This year's bid is also Texas' 12th bowl in the last 13 years and its 46th bowl bid overall, which puts them in a tie for No. 2 on the NCAA all-time chart.

BAGS: Women receive 100 percent of earnings

From page 1A

come in various colors, which can be custom ordered, Melody Yancelson said. The type of wrapper used in the product depends on a customers' color choice, she said. For example, if a yellow bag is ordered, Lays Potato Chip bags might be used. Prices range from about \$15 to more than \$125.

The women who make the merchandise belong to a nonprofit organization called Mitz, meaning "for you," in Nahuatl.

A teacher at The Children's House of Palo Solo, a Montessori school in the lower-income Palo Solo neighborhood of Mexico City, established Mitz several years ago, Alan Yancelson said. Every time the Yancelsons or

other retailers place an order with Mitz, the women receive 100 percent of the money, he said. However, all of the women are related to a child attending the Montessori school, so they must give at least 20 percent of their earnings to the school to help invest in their children's education, Melody Yancelson said.

"The whole idea of the project is to get these kids an education and get them off the streets, so they can become something instead of having them begging," Melody Yancelson said.

Melody estimates Wrapperbags has ordered about \$15,000 to \$20,000 worth of products from Mitz in the last 2.5 years. In addition to online sales, Wrapperbags supplies merchandise to retailers in San Antonio and Dallas,

Melody Yancelson said. With this money and income from other retailers, Mitz has supplied the school with new computers and bathrooms, she said.

On a recent trip to the school, Alan Yancelson said he was touched when he learned an alumna from the Montessori school was running in a local election, which she would not have been able to do without educational opportunities.

Providing more high-paying job opportunities to people in Mexico may help lessen Mexican immigration to the United States, said Richard Flores, associate dean of the UTeach-Liberal Arts program.

More information on Wrapperbags and Mitz can be found at www.wrapperbags.com.

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WORLD BRIEFLY

Venezuelan president wins another term in office

CARACAS, Venezuela—President Hugo Chavez, an outspoken opponent of the United States who has used Venezuela's oil wealth to give handouts to the poor, won re-election to another six-year term by a wide margin on Sunday, official results showed.

With 78 percent of voting stations reporting, Chavez had 61 percent to 38 percent for challenger Manuel Rosales, said Tibisay Lucena, head of the country's elections council. Chavez had nearly 6 million votes versus 3.7 million for Rosales, according to the partial tally.

Turnout was 62 percent, according to an official bulletin of results, making Chavez's lead insurmountable.

Minutes after the results were announced, Chavez appeared on the balcony of the presidential palace singing the national anthem.

Chavez had anticipated a crushing victory over tough-talking political veteran Rosales, who has galvanized the opposition by promising to unseat a man he accuses of edging the country toward totalitarianism.

U. S. soldiers raid, destroy buildings held by insurgents

BAGHDAD, Iraq — American soldiers destroyed two buildings being used by insurgents in a town in Anbar province, killing six militants, two women and a toddler, the military said Sunday.

It was the latest of several recent raids during which women or children have been killed or wounded as U.S. forces attacked insurgents in residential areas. In some of the attacks, the U.S. command accused the militants of taking over buildings for use as safe houses and of using civilians as human shields.

Elsewhere, the U.S. military said three American soldiers were killed Saturday by roadside bombs — two in the Anbar province.

In Baghdad, the death toll from Saturday's triple car bombing at a food market in a predominantly Shiite area rose to 53 civilians dead and 121 wounded, said police Col. Nabil Abdul Kadir.

Compiled from Associated Press reports

Bush won't use report to pull out troops

Study group report comes with release of Rumsfeld memo calling for change

By Ben Feller

The Associated Press

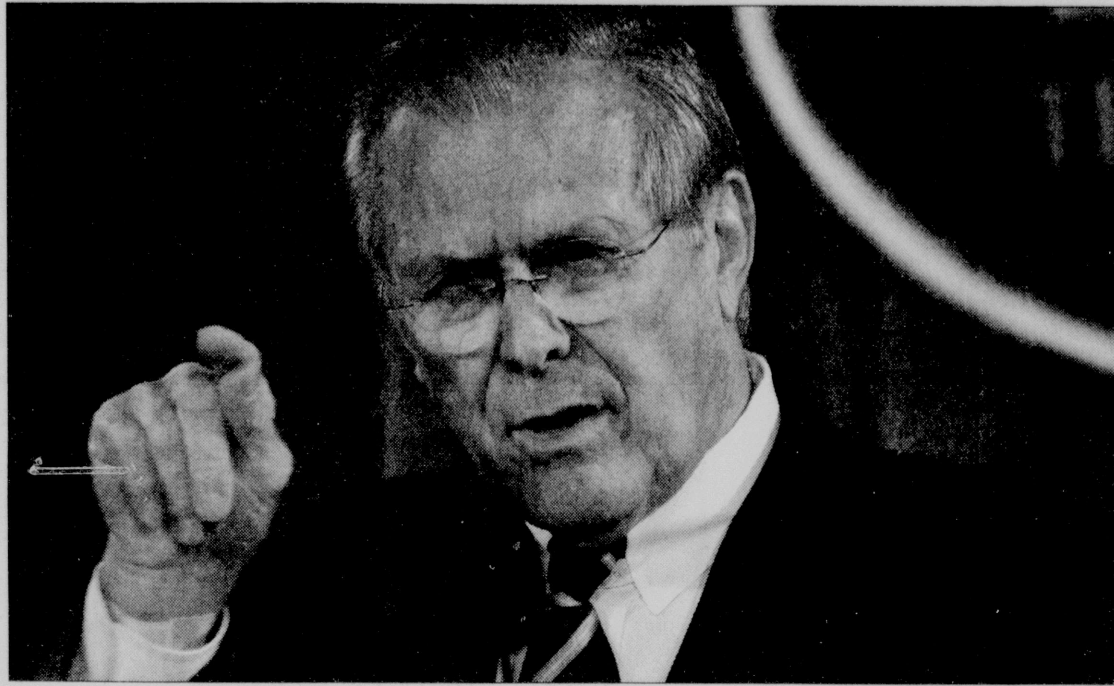
WASHINGTON — While President Bush acknowledges the need for major changes in Iraq, he will not use this week's Iraq Study Group report as political cover for bringing troops home, his national security adviser said Sunday.

"We have not failed in Iraq," Stephen Hadley said as he made the talk show rounds. "We will fail in Iraq if we pull out our troops before we're in a position to help the Iraqis succeed."

But he added: "The president understands that we need to have a way forward in Iraq that is more successful."

The White House readied for an important week in the debate over Iraq: Bush planned a meeting Monday with Abdul-Aziz al-Hakim, the Shiite leader of the largest bloc in Iraq's parliament, and awaited the recommendations Wednesday from the bipartisan commission.

Yet his administration, hoping



Chris Greenberg | Associated Press

Defense Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld gestures during a media briefing at the Pentagon in this Oct. 26 file photo. It was disclosed that Rumsfeld called for major changes in tactics two days before he resigned.

to find a new way ahead in Iraq, found itself on the defensive from the second recent leak of an insider's memo on Iraq in a week.

The latest, first reported in Sunday's New York Times, showed that Donald H. Rumsfeld called

for a "major adjustment" in U.S. tactics on Nov. 6 — the day before an election that cost Rumsfeld his job as defense secretary.

Hadley played down the memo as simply a laundry list of ideas rather than a call for a new course

of action.

He said that Bush — just before a pivotal election — was not portraying a different sense of the war to the public than his own defense secretary was giving him in private.

Clinton takes steps toward presidential run

By Beth Fouhy

The Associated Press

NEW YORK — Sen. Hillary Rodham Clinton met on Sunday with New York's Democratic governor-elect to solicit his support for her likely White House bid, the latest indication she is stepping up plans to join a growing field of potential contenders for 2008.

One rival, Indiana Sen. Evan Bayh, announced Sunday he was establishing an exploratory committee to raise money for a possible presidential run. He expects to decide over the Christmas holidays whether to seek his party's nomination.

A top aide to Clinton said he did

not know when the former first lady would decide about pursuing the presidency or set up an exploratory committee. Clinton aides, however, have begun interviewing possible campaign staffers in recent weeks, Howard Wolfson said.

Clinton, who long has topped national polls of Democratic hopefuls, spent two hours with Gov.-elect Eliot Spitzer at his Manhattan home.

"We just had a great, wide-ranging meeting on so many issues that affect the city, the state and the country," Clinton said as she left the meeting.

Last week she contacted leading state lawmakers, including

Democratic Reps. Charles Rangel and Nita Lowey, and the state party chairman, Denny Farrell, to assess her prospects and seek their support.

Clinton's Senate colleague, Chuck Schumer, told reporters Sunday that Clinton had called him to arrange a meeting next week. But he was coy about the purpose of the get-together.

"She wants to sit down and talk next week, which we're going to do. It could be about legislation. I have no idea what it's about, and until we sit down and talk, that's all I'm going to say about it," said Schumer. He added, "I think she'd make a very good president, but

let's wait and see. Everyone's sort of jumping the gun."

Wolfson told The Associated Press that Clinton "is reaching out to her colleagues in the New York delegation and asking for their advice and counsel and their support if she decides to make a run."

Clinton easily won re-election last month to a second term in the Senate. Wolfson noted that Clinton long has said she would begin actively considering a presidential bid after that election. "That process has begun," Wolfson said.

Iowa Gov. Tom Vilsack announced his bid for the Democratic nod last week; Bayh is taking the initial steps.

NATION BRIEFLY

President debates lifting ban on drilling in Alaskan bay

WASHINGTON — President Bush is deciding whether to lift a ban on oil and gas drilling in federal waters off Alaska's Bristol Bay, home to endangered whales and sea lions and the world's largest sockeye salmon run.

Leasing in a portion of the area rich in oil and natural gas ended nearly two decades ago — while Bush's father was president — in the outcry after the Exxon Valdez oil spill in 1989.

But with natural gas prices higher, the Interior Department's Minerals Management Service proposed reopening up the North Aleutian Basin. That includes Bristol Bay and part of southeastern Bering Sea.

White House spokesman Scott Stanzel confirmed Saturday the president was considering taking that step.

Environmentalists oppose drilling there because of the potential for oil spills and harm to wildlife. They have speculated in recent days that Bush might allow such drilling before Democrats regain control of Congress in January.

Doctors recommend changes to ads targeted at children

CHICAGO — Inappropriate advertising contributes to many kids' ills, from obesity to anorexia, to drinking booze and having sex too soon, and Congress should crack down on it, the American Academy of Pediatrics says.

The doctors' group issued a new policy statement in response to what it calls a rising tide of advertising aimed at children. The policy appears in December's Pediatrics.

"Young people view more than 40,000 ads per year on television alone and increasingly are being exposed to advertising on the Internet, in magazines, and in schools," the policy says.

Advertising examples cited in the statement include TV commercials for sugary breakfast cereals and high calorie snacks shown during children's programs and ads for Viagra and other erectile dysfunction drugs shown during televised sports games.

Compiled from Associated Press reports

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Men and Women 18 to 45	Up to \$1000	Healthy & Non-Smoking	Fri., Dec. 8 through Sun., Dec. 10 Fri., Dec. 15 through Sun., Dec. 17
Men and Women 18 to 50	Up to \$2000	Healthy & Non-Smoking	Thu., Dec. 14 through Tue., Dec. 19 Outpatient visit: Jan. 16
Men and Postmenopausal or Surgically Sterile Women 18 to 50	Up to \$1500	Healthy & Non-Smoking	Fri., Dec. 15 through Mon., Dec. 18 Multiple outpatient visits
Men and Women 18 to 45	Up to \$2100	Healthy & Non-Smoking	Tue., Dec. 19 through Thu., Dec. 21 Tue., Jan. 2 through Thu., Jan. 4 Multiple outpatient visits

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VIEWPOINT

Producing producers

For sale: Three hours of credit; receipt of grade upon completion. Market cost: Low with regard to competitive, peer institutions. Guaranteed to increase job prospects upon graduation.

As we head into the final week of another semester in the consumer age of education, where students expect their education prepackaged and academics expect students to buy what they're selling, we find discomfort in a headline from Friday's Texan, "Mobile Campus may send info from Blackboard."

Nowhere is the rise of consumerism on campus more apparent than in the five-year contract the University and Student Government signed with the private company Mobile Campus to deliver text message advertisements to students' cell phones. Now members of the University's Information Technology department are considering using Mobile Campus as a way to share Blackboard class announcements.

The University, by way of Student Government, receives 15 percent of the profits that Mobile Campus brings in, so UT has an incentive to get more students to sign up with the program to increase advertising revenue. But pushing classroom messages by means of Mobile Campus could make students feel obligated to sign up for the program.

Blackboard may not be the only way Mobile Campus is looking to sink its teeth into student enrollment. An optional program in the contract UT and Mobile Campus signed about a year ago involves using the service in coordination with the football ticket draw. Mobile Campus already has unprecedented access to UT facilities and freshmen orientations for such a commercial enterprise.

It all comes back to consumerism. As Mishal Al-Johar put it on our Web site Friday, "I cannot believe the University is even considering taking part in this blatant commodification of the classroom."

The University has an opportunity, and arguably an obligation, to make its students not just informed consumers of knowledge, but also active producers. It's not worth getting too caught up in the semantics between consumer and producer. But the more passive we train our students to be, the more we fail as an institution.

So in the short term, we recommend ITS rethink using Mobile Campus as a way to relay classroom information. But in the long term, UT might do well to actively assert its priorities as a producer of producers, not just in its language, but also in its actions.

Horns up, Horns down



Pulling out

Back in 2003, America didn't have the restraint or foresight to abstain from the regrettable act of indiscretion that is the war in Iraq. Three years later, the Iraq Study Group's pending recommendation for an exit strategy might just be the final straw that breaks the quagmire's back. Bush officials have taken a liking to phrases like "graceful withdrawal" as of late, and the congressional seachange last month reflected a collective feeling that we need to shift tactics before another wave of troops gets sent in.

It's too late for abstinence, but pulling out is looking pretty good.



Keeping pay phones ringing

A new push in Austin to revive pay phones from their death beds is coming a little too late. Though it's to our dismay, our country embodies a cell-phone-dependent culture — one that has essentially killed pay phones. The campaign slogan, "Hang up. Pull over. Use a pay phone," lacks the oomph to convince people to get off their convenient cordless cell phones, stop driving to their destination and rummage around for a quarter and dime to donate to an outdoor phone booth that someone probably used as a urinal.

Pay phones have a better chance at surviving in an antique art museum.



Bling Bling Barbie

Every year, the holiday season is marked by the changing leaves and the transition of otherwise typically opportunistic retailers and toy companies into shameless smut peddlers. Mattel's new "My Bling Bling Barbie" is a pitch-perfect example of the latter. Barbie's sales are lagging, no doubt, but this latest impression of a "Bratz"-era video-ho is just sad.

PS: "Bling Bling"?! What year is this?



Shuttle diplomacy

Of all the space shuttle crews in history, the one being launched this Thursday is the most culturally diverse. The seven astronauts include two African Americans, an Alaskan, one of Indian descent, a man from New Jersey, a British-born specialist and a Swede. Space has surely seen its share of middle-aged white dudes.

It's nice to imagine that in our long-off extraterrestrial travels, where we all wear identical Kevlar suits, we might maintain a bit of the beautiful diversity here on Earth.

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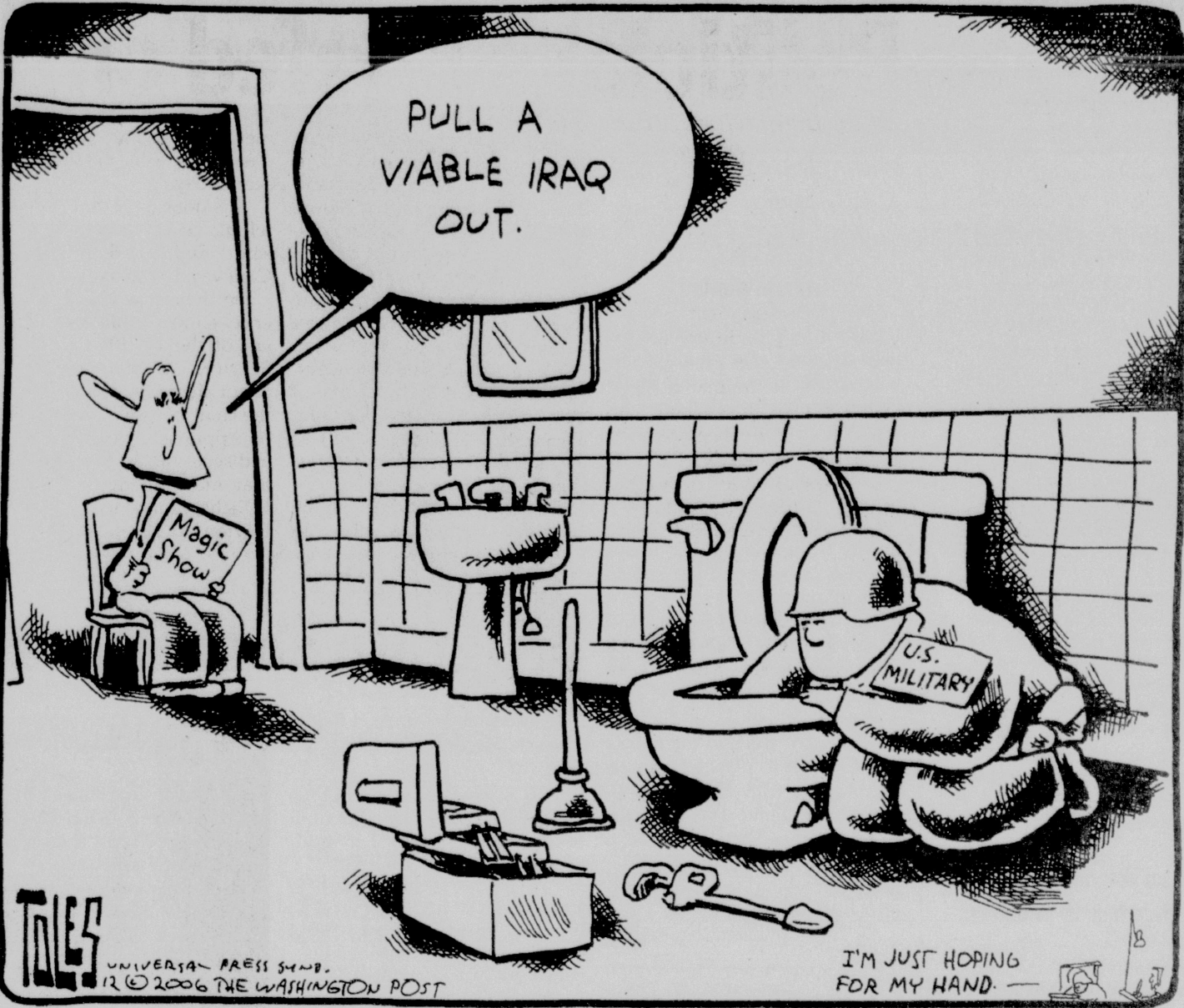
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Please e-mail your column to editor@dailytexanonline.com. Columns must be fewer than 600 words. Your article should be a strong argument about an issue in the news, not a reply to something that appeared in the Texan. The Texan reserves the right to edit all columns for brevity, clarity and liability.

LEGALESE

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\$2.1 million worth of weird

By Abhinav Kumar
Daily Texan Columnist

If you've ever opened your eyes in Austin, you've probably seen the famous "Keep Austin Weird" logo. According to the KAW Web site, this movement prides itself on the "collaborative fission of coordinated individualism." KAW strives to accentuate Austin's weirdness, promote local businesses, and represent the general attitude of Austinites.

But what happens when this "collaborative fission of coordinated individualism" is threatened to become an argumentative fusion of disoriented collectivism?

This seemingly encompassing ideal does not represent the views and beliefs of at least one Austinite. Andrew Allemann, a recent University of Texas Business Honors graduate, flirted with the notion of opposition. He and that opposition went out for a couple of drinks, and after a drunken night of passionate love-making, Allemann gave birth to a countering movement — one to reflect his thoughts concerning the Austin community and where it should be headed.

The movement, called Make Austin Normal, serves the purpose of getting Austinites to talk and debate about what actually makes Austin unique. Allemann was inspired to spearhead the initiative after experiencing ironic and borderline hypocritical scenarios, such as an extremely expensive local boutique shop on South Congress or a gas-guzzling SUV in suburbia displaying the "Keep Austin Weird" bumper sticker.

I had the privilege of interviewing Allemann who said he created MAN as a response to how "trite" KAW has become. He believes that KAW no longer stands for what it was originally coined for, as evidenced by the fact that since October 2003, Outhouse Designs,

The owner of Waterloo records closed with, 'Keep Austin Weird saved Austin \$2.1 million. I'd like to see Make Austin Normal do that.'

a screen printing company, owns the trademarks for the "Keep Austin Weird" logo. Allemann feels that "Keep Austin Weird is abused to help a few select companies and people trying to promote the environment." The few select companies he was referring to include many Austin favorites, such as Waterloo Records and BookPeople.

Allemann further justified his views by saying that he is not against local businesses and that he is not against environmental groups, he is simply against being protectionist and isolationist.

Ironically, Allemann has his own small business in Austin.

"Austin is growing," says Allemann, "And I am against keeping out chain stores, so that we have to spend \$100 any time we simply want some simple clothes."

The MAN Web site offers a politically charged blog through which Allemann comments on critical events affecting Austin. The site also sells merchandise including T-shirts and coffee mugs with the logo "Make Austin Normal" and even more simply, "Normal."

Even though Allemann himself realizes that MAN is a minority, it has garnered much attention in media venues such as ABC, The Austin-American Statesman, The Financial Times, Austin Monthly and Texas Cable News.

However, not all of the attention has been positive. In a recent phone survey conducted by me, no one working at Waterloo Records had even heard of MAN. The KAW Web site had this to say about Allemann: "This guy actually sells crap that says 'I Love Big

Box Stores' and 'Buy from Chain Stores.'"

When I interviewed Mark Finn, a floor manager at BookPeople, he stated that MAN was just "one guy with a Cafe Press store." Finn was not threatened by the claim that BookPeople had close ties with KAW, and replied, "Anytime you set up a catchphrase or movement [Keep Austin Weird], you invite some wisecracker to create an opposite [Make Austin Normal]."

Finn also commented that the purpose MAN was merely "illegitimate reactionary spin created by someone who thinks the problem with Austin is that there aren't enough Chili's or Starbucks." Furthermore, Finn called into question why Allemann had moved to Austin in the first place, and was happy to refer Allemann to "some developing communities in the Dallas/Fort Worth area that would be perfect for him."

Finn recalled that he himself moved here to get away from "Generica" and experience the weirdness that is Austin.

Finn admits that a company (Outhouse Designs) owning the rights to the "Keep Austin Weird" logo is ironic, but he believes that this does not mean it will make people dislike local businesses. "We're all working together to provide a model of an economic alternative, but we still have to compete in a corporate world," he said. "The element of irony doesn't turn people off."

A slightly less fiery and more agreeable testimony came from my interview with John Kunz, the owner of Waterloo Records. Kunz flat out said that he was not opposed to chain stores and

that he was a proponent of the free market. However, he was opposed to any business, big or small, gaining an unfair advantage through venues such as local government money.

Kunz was reminded of such a fiasco involving Borders Bookstore. In 2002, Schlosser Development Corp. tried to create an "urban village" with a Borders in the area where Sixth and Lamar Streets intersect near Whole Foods, BookPeople and Waterloo Records. Schlosser was awarded more than \$2.1 million by the Austin City Council in tax waivers and fee abatements as an incentive package.

A case study by Civic Economics, a strategic planning consulting firm, found that "local merchants generate substantially greater economic impact than chain retailers." The study revealed that if someone was to spend \$100 at a chain like Border's, only \$13 would be funneled back into the Austin economy. However, if you spent \$100 at a local business such as Waterloo Records, about \$45 would go back to fuel the Austin economy.

Kunz made a point to show the distinction that he was not against chain stores, but was against tax money as an incentive for a business. He also stated that as a result, "BookPeople and Waterloo joined forces to rally local businesses and Austinites in the biggest e-mail protest campaign the Austin City Council had ever seen." The effect of the KAW movement resulted in Border's withdrawal to build in the Sixth and Lamar location in April 2003.

The owner of Waterloo Records closed with, "Keep Austin Weird saved Austin \$2.1 million. I'd like to see Make Austin Normal do that."

Kumar is a pre-med and business honors sophomore.

FOUND POETRY

A pat on the back, on the way out

Editor's Note: The following excerpts accompany the piece "Rumsfeld: 6 Years Of Accomplishments" on the Department of Defense Web site.

I. WAR ON TERROR

- Overall: A multinational coalition has liberated 50 million people in Afghanistan and Iraq, with formation of representative governments and security forces.
- Liberated 31 million Afghans from Taliban control and destroyed Al-Qaeda sanctuary — conquering elements that successfully fought off the Soviet Union for over nine years — and stood up a Loya Jurga governing council eight months after operations began.
- Liberated 26.7 million Iraqis from a brutal dictatorship and turned over sovereignty of the country to an Iraqi government in 16 months. ...
- Conducted safe and secure elections in Afghanistan and Iraq:
 - Elections in Iraq
 - Jan. 30, 2005 election — 55 percent turnout
 - Oct. 15, 2005 constitutional ratification — 63 percent turnout
 - December 15, 2005 election — 78 percent turnout
 - March 16, 2006 — permanent Iraqi Government seated ...
- Suspected terrorists held at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, have revealed information that has helped thwart attacks against our troops, the American people and our allies.

II. SHAPING THE JOINT FORCE FOR ASYMETRIC WARFARE ...

- Missile Defense — Limited operating capability implemented:
 - Emplaced 11 ground-based interceptors in Alaska and 2 in California to address long-range threats (ICBMs with range of approximately 10,000 miles). ...
- Humanitarian Operations and Disaster Relief
- Hurricane Katrina/Rita
 - More than 2 million pounds of food, 34,000 MREs, and almost 180,000 bottles of water were distributed.
 - Military forces peaked at nearly 72,000—50,000 National Guardsmen and 22,000 active-duty personnel—a total deployment for Katrina more than twice the size of the military response to Hurricane Andrew.
 - DoD military personnel evacuated more than 80,000 Gulf Coast residents and rescued another 15,000.
- Military forces provided significant medical assistance, including 10,000 medical evacuations by ground and air and the delivery of medical treatment to more than 5,000 sick and injured people. ...
- Evacuated nearly 15,000 American citizens from Lebanon.

UNIVERSITY BRIEFLY

Publications seek change in rules for prior review

Texas Student Publications signaled to the UT System Board of Regents Friday that they want to eliminate prior review, which mandates that an adviser review all Daily Texan content before publication.

The Board of Regents sent the TSP board a draft operating agreement perpetuating prior review, much to the surprise of many TSP board members who thought the mandate would be eliminated. The TSP board, which manages all student media and assets, responded by sending the regents its version of the draft operating agreement that attempts to remove prior review.

TSP board member Brian Ferguson said as long as the student media remains a part of the University and subject to the Board of Regents Rules and Regulations, prior review will remain a looming possibility.

"If I had to be a betting man on this deal, I'd say that prior review under this revision will be gone till the first time somebody screws up, and then it'll be back in style," said Ferguson.

The Board of Regents declined to comment as the discussion is ongoing, said Anthony de Bruyn, spokesman for the UT System.

—Jessica Sondgeroth

Car accidents temporarily close Dean Keaton Street Friday

Two accidents shut down West Dean Keaton Street at the University Boulevard intersection for about half an hour Friday afternoon.

Both accidents, which involved three cars, occurred at about 3:30 p.m. No one was injured in the wrecks, although one woman was visibly shaken.

Austin police shut down West Dean Keaton Street from about 4 p.m. until 4:30 p.m. to clear out the wrecks, said Senior Patrol Officer Ryan Herning.

One of the wrecked cars managed to damage the fencing surrounding the construction area along Dean Keaton, which has partially closed University Boulevard for much of the semester.

—Nolan Hicks

Politicians briefed on upcoming session

Conference prepares to address forthcoming issues

By Julio Trujillo
 Daily Texan Staff

Education, Medicaid reform and property taxes are expected to be some of the major policy issues in the 80th session of the Texas Legislature beginning in January, according to veteran and freshman legislators at the Pre-Session Legislative Conference hosted by the Lyndon B. Johnson School of Public Affairs.

Friday was the last day of the four-day conference and orientation, where about 31 new and 20 returning Texas legislators attended to learn about the logistics of legislating and to discuss major policy issues they will likely face when the Legislature meets next month, said Barry Bales, LBJ School assistant dean for professional development. Although several immigration bills have been filed since filing began Nov. 13, immigration was not a formal subject of discussion during the conference.

The 2006 orientation is the 30th anniversary of when an LBJ pre-legislative conference

merged with new member orientation to form the program as seen today.

"It's done a pretty good job in telling us how our jobs work," said Rep. Barbara Mallory Caraway, D-Dallas.

On the last day of the conference, senior legislators and leaders of the Health and Human Services Commission spoke about Medicaid and Tom Pauken, the chair of the Texas Task Force on Appraisal Reform moderated a discussion on property taxes that included Reps. Fred Hill, R-Richardson, and John Otto, R-Dayton. At times, the discussion became a soft debate between

the moderators and some of the freshman legislators about whether a local sales tax could be implemented in some areas to help shift the tax burden away from property taxes.

Bales said the panels at the orientation come from discussions with the speaker of the house and the lieutenant governor on what they expect the most important issues of the legislative session will be.

"These are some of the most critical policy issues that are going to be discussed in the upcoming session," Bales said.

Bales said there are a lot of prominent issues that come up

in the panels at the conference and they tend to be among the issues that people talk about in the legislative session.

"The freshman orientation has been most valuable in giving us a broad coverage of the issues," said Rep. Joe Heflin, D-Crosbyton.

There was so much information covered at the orientation that some legislators said they felt slightly overwhelmed.

"I haven't felt any thing quite like this since I was a freshman at Baylor," said Rep. Valinda Bolton, D-Austin. "It's like trying to take a sip of water from a hydrant."

UT drama program showcases young thespians' skills

By Cara Henis
 Daily Texan Staff

Samantha Cook, an Austin area high school senior, found theater monotonous when it meant just memorizing lines. Now, as a participant in the UT Connections Youth Theater program, she and other high school students do more than act.

The program provides 25 high school students with the opportunity to learn basic theatre skills. At the end of the program, students perform in a Fall Informance, a showcase of scenes and theatre games.

High school students in the program work with University students and faculty to create and produce an original theatrical show at the end of the school year, said Nitra Gutierrez, a theater and dance graduate student, and UT Connections community relations director.

About 50 people attended Sunday's event, which served more as an open class than a performance, showcasing miniscenes the students created and different theater games they play in class. The event was meant to give parents and community members a chance to watch

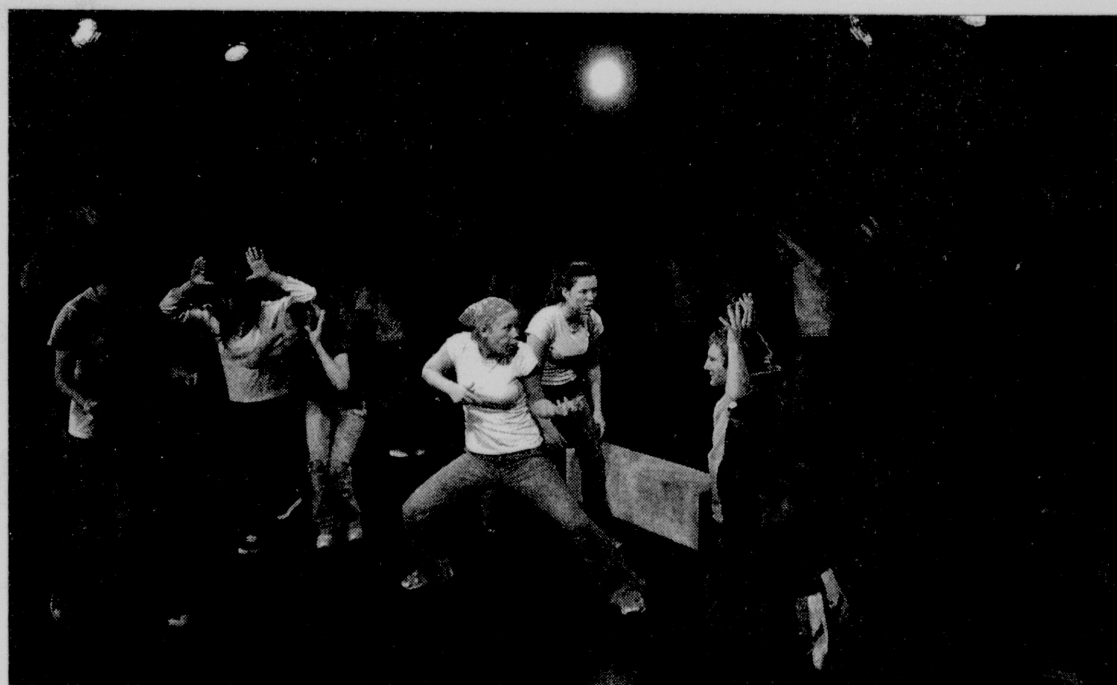
how the students will eventually create one large work by April, Gutierrez said. Their larger final work will be in the Cohen New Works Festival, she said.

"The product is what people see, and they don't see the work and the heart that goes into the process," said April Gentry-Sutterfield, theater and dance graduate student and UT Connections artistic director. "We want the audience to see the process."

After opening with students stretching and simultaneously saying tongue twisters, one of the four student groups performed a scene. Scenes varied in theme from the relationships among a circle of friends to suicide.

Between scenes, the high school students showed the audience different theater games they use to develop various skills, said Sally Vander Gheynst, theater and dance graduate student and UT Connections education director.

Some students entered into the program in September after an audition, while others have been in since the program started last spring. These students may not



Celsio Gonzalez | Daily Texan Staff

High school students in the UT Connections theater program participate in an informal showcase for an audience of family and friends Sunday.

be the "drama stars" of their high school, or even participate in theater, Gentry-Sutterfield said, but the point is to give them an equal

theater education. With this, the group hopes to eventually influence the culture of theater here in Austin, Vander Gheynst said.

"As it continues to grow, the idea is that the students will continue to represent UT Connections," she said.

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Jordan Gomez photos | Daily Texan Staff

Above, Pallbearers carry the casket of former state Sen. Frank Madla past the row of honor guards at the Texas State Cemetery Friday. **Below,** Helen Madla sits next to her son-in-law Raul Jimenez III as he is presented with the Texas flag that covered Madla's casket.

Late former senator honored at funeral

By Michelle West
Daily Texan Staff

More than 100 people paid their respects to former state Sen. Frank Madla of San Antonio at a funeral held Friday afternoon at the Texas State Cemetery.

Madla, 69, died in a fire at his home in San Antonio Nov. 24. Madla's mother-in-law, Mary Cruz, and 5-year-old granddaughter, Aleena Jimenez, both died afterward as a result of injuries sustained from the fire. The official cause of the fire has not yet been determined.

Sen. Leticia Van de Putte, D-San Antonio, worked with Madla in the Texas Senate, told the family at the Catholic ceremony, "We are heartbroken at your unbearable loss."

Madla is survived by his wife, Helen Madla, who was also in the home at the time of the fire, but survived. He is also survived by his mother Epimena Madla, son Dr. Frank Madla III, daughter Marci Madla, step-granddaughter Crystal Torres, brother Ralph Madla and sister Mary Ellen Ibarra, according to Madla's obituary in the San



Antonio Express-News.

"One thing I'll always remember is his uncanny ability to turn a one-hour drive into a six-hour ordeal," Van de Putte said. The former senator's love of photography often made for frequent stops during road trips, she said.

"His gifted eye saw the potential in everyone," she added.

Friends and colleagues spoke

of Madla as a mentor and a compassionate man of faith.

Sen. Eddie Lucio, D-Brownsville, described Madla as a "holy man" and the big brother he never had.

"I called him 'Pancho,'" Lucio said. "It was no secret that he was my best friend."

Madla resigned in May after losing in the March Democratic primary to Sen. Carlos Uresti,

D-San Antonio, a former state representative.

"When Frank lost his re-election," Lucio said, "I lost with him."

Gov. Rick Perry and his wife, Anita Perry, sent a letter of condolences to be read aloud to the family during the funeral.

In the final minutes of the ceremony, bagpipes solemnly played "Amazing Grace" while soldiers folded a Texas flag that had been draped over Madla's coffin. Lt. Gov. David Dewhurst later presented the flag to the family, and a soldier presented a bouquet of flowers to Madla's widow.

"I can't imagine that in heaven there's not a Senate," Dewhurst said. "And if I know Frank, Frank's already campaigning."

Madla worked as a junior high school teacher in San Antonio. After the end of his 30-year career in the Legislature, where he worked in both the House and Senate, he continued to mentor younger legislators.

"We will forever hear the great roar of a quiet man," Van de Putte said.

New Orleanians gather virtually to rebuild city

By Laura Blewitt
Daily Texan Staff

More than 2,500 New Orleanians living in 21 cities came together via video conference Saturday to vote on ways to improve the city and its rebuilding at Community Congress II.

Community Congress II, part of the Unified New Orleans Plan, aims to gather input from evacuees and current residents on the future of New Orleans. In Austin, about 30 people participated in the vote from the George Washington Carver Branch of the Austin Public Library.

The congress was based out of New Orleans and broadcast to the 20 other participating cities. Atlanta, Baton Rouge, Houston and Dallas, the cities with the largest populations of Katrina evacuees, were able to communicate via satellite, said Carling Dinkler, New Orleans Media Relations representative.

Dinkler said participants voted on six primary topics broken down into different sessions: roads, transportation and utilities; flood protection; rental and affordable housing; neighborhood stability; education and health services and other public services.

Some issues participants voted on included whether or not to spread available funds evenly throughout the city and whether or not standards and programs to reduce flood risk should be created

and enforced by the city, according to the consensus report.

According to a report released after the meeting, 40 percent of participants currently live in New Orleans and plan to stay. Thirty percent of participants are living elsewhere, but hope to return.

Displaced New Orleanians in Austin are accustomed to a community environment that Austin doesn't have, said Shawn Lemieux, evacuee and United Way representative.

The Louisiana Front Porch Project, an effort to bring evacuees in Austin together in a more comfortable setting, started with success in November and is planned to become a monthly event, Lemieux said. The project gives participants an opportunity to come together, make ties and talk about their priorities in a laid-back environment, she said.

According to the Community Congress' consensus report, participants in the Community Conference II will have the opportunity to get involved in Community Congress III Jan. 13.

Edna Holmes said she chose to evacuate to Austin, because she has four children who live in the Austin area.

"Austin is OK, we used to come visit a lot, but it's too different from New Orleans," Holmes said. "There's really no place like home."



Celsio Gonzales | Daily Texan Staff

From right, Katrina evacuees Willie Holmes, Edna Holmes and facilitator Robert McKelvin listen to a televised community congress discussing rebuilding plans for New Orleans.

Activists protest Iraq war at City Hall as U.S. and Iraqi death tolls mount

By Jihae Min
Daily Texan Staff

As the U.S. military death toll climbed to 2,887 this weekend, antiwar activists protested the United States' ongoing war in Iraq in the form of a funeral procession Saturday at City Hall.

About 100 protesters dressed in black funeral attire protested the war and the Bush administration's justifications for it, such as the invalidated claims of weapons of mass destruction and Saddam Hussein's connection to al-Qaida, saying the thousands of deaths are needless. The Iraqi civilian death

toll has also reached more than 655,000 since the March 2003 invasion, according to a study titled "The Human Cost of the War in Iraq" by the Johns Hopkins University Bloomberg School of Public Health.

"It was a solemn procession to make statements about how we feel about the war that is senseless," said Sandra Molinari, a member of CodePink Austin.

CodePink Austin, Austin Against War, Veterans for Peace and Woman in Black organized the protest.

"It's important for leaders to hear our voices, the voices of people,"

"War is out of date. We should settle our dispute peacefully and diplomatically."

Jack Prince,
Veterans for Peace treasurer
and a Marine veteran of the Korean War

she said. "Once more and more voices come out and say no more, this is enough, perhaps our leaders will listen and pay attention."

The organizations held a similar protest in May, but Saturday's

protest had three times more participants, Molinari said. People are starting to pay more attention to the situation, especially those who have lost family members in the war, she said.

Jack Prince, treasurer of Veterans for Peace and a Marine veteran of the Korean War, said the Bush Administration should leave the Iraqis to settle their own problems and try to find a new policy to bring peace to the Middle East.

"War is out of date. We should settle our dispute peacefully and diplomatically," he said. "I know what a war is and what combat is. I feel very sorry for troops in Iraq, because they should have never been sent in the first place."

UT government professor Clement Henry, a Middle East expert, said starting a war in Iraq

without concrete justifications was unwise and illegal.

"It was an exercise of American imperialism, completely misguided from the start," he said. "History will judge this war to be a disaster and to be actually an end of America hegemony."

Henry said the U.S. military's presence in Iraq is doing more harm than good, but rather than immediate withdrawal, there have to be some diplomatic efforts and preparations for U.S. troops' departure, including cooperation with neighbor countries such as Turkey, Saudi Arabia and Jordan.

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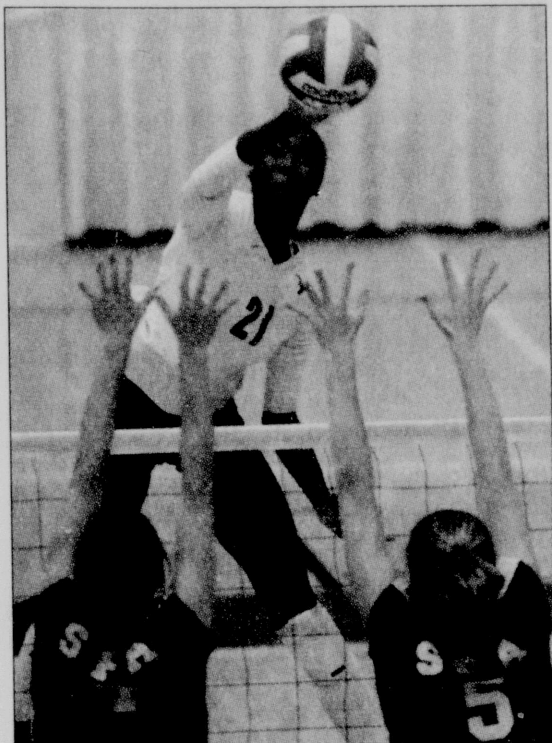
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SPORTS

THE DAILY TEXAN



Tina Hogue | Daily Texas Staff

Destinee Hooker hits a kill against Stephen F. Austin Saturday. Texas won 3-0 to advance to the Sweet 16.

VOLLEYBALL

Longhorns advance to Sweet 16

Texas routs Prairie View A&M, Stephen F. Austin, faces No. 10 Wisconsin at home Friday

By Brad Gray
Daily Texas Staff

It was easy to see the disparity between the Texas volleyball team and its first and second round opponents.

The Longhorns made use of their significant height advantage and breezed by Prairie View A&M and Stephen F. Austin, sweeping both teams 3-0 to advance to the Sweet 16.

"We just got beat by a better team," Stephen F. Austin head coach Debbie Humphreys said of her match Saturday.

This week, however, things will start to even out.

Texas will have to buckle down in order to face the No. 10 seed Wisconsin Badgers. Although Texas

beat Wisconsin 3-0 at the beginning of the season, Texas coach Jerritt Elliott envisions a much closer match-up this time around.

"Wisconsin was injured early in the preseason so they didn't really get to train that hard," Elliott said. "It's been a long time since then, and they've improved dramatically."

Against Prairie View A&M on Friday, freshman Destinee Hooker unveiled a move she hadn't shown at Gregory Gym thus far and began hitting jump serves. Hooker earned five aces off of hits that whirled across the court with enough curve to throw the Prairie View defenders off balance.

"We've been utilizing her and the jump serve and we'll continue to do so if it keeps working," Elliott said.

Hooker's transformation from raw talent into a more polished player stunned Prairie View A&M hitter Shannon Harrison.

"I'm used to playing against her in San Antonio and we went to the same church back home," Harrison said. "She was always tall, but she wasn't quite grown

into her height. She's more aggressive now."

Michelle Moriarty broke the Texas school record of 4,250 career assists Saturday night against Stephen F. Austin in only her junior season.

"It's great to have individual stuff, but the best thing would be to have a national championship," Moriarty said.

Middle blockers Jennifer Todd and Lauren Paolini didn't miss a beat against Stephen F. Austin, combining for 13 kills and a .540 hitting percentage. Neither Paolini nor Todd hit a single error.

"We had a great rhythm with the middles tonight," Moriarty said. "I just wanted to balance the offense when I was setting."

The Longhorns host the Austin Regional this coming weekend. The winner of Texas' game against Wisconsin on Friday will face either No. 2 Stanford or California on Saturday.

For the first time in the tournament, Texas will no longer be the overwhelming favorite.

"Every round you get further in the tournament, it gets that much more intense," Moriarty said.

COLUMN

Florida deserves to play Ohio State



By Eric Ransom
Daily Texas Staff

The Gator Bowl passing on Texas doesn't quite hold water this year.

Luckily for the BCS, the process didn't pass on the Gators in the national title game.

Besides some sour grapes from Michigan coach Lloyd Carr, there's little controversy in Florida gaining a berth to the championship.

The Gators deserve their shot at Ohio State.

Escaping from the SEC with one loss is impressive enough to gain a national title bid. Simply, Michigan had its chance. The Gators withstood the nation's toughest schedule, juggled a two-quarterback system and even managed to field a championship-level defense.

Now, do the Gators stand a better chance than the Wolverines at beating Ohio State?

Who knows, but I'd much rather watch something I haven't seen before this season.

As for the Longhorns' season, it's best personified with a half-hearted shrug.

The Alamo Bowl is a long way from the national title game, or even a BCS game. But the easy thing to do is badmouth the party down in San Antonio.

College football is funny though, since the Alamo was exactly where Michigan was sitting last season. The Wolverines almost won it too, had a last-second miracle play worked against Nebraska.

In this exact same space last week, I said with little hesitancy that Texas was heading to the Gator Bowl.

In my defense, I also figured USC would roll over UCLA.

In the Gator Bowl committee's eyes, they're getting the hotter team. The game holds some local interest with Baytown resident Drew Tate coming back to his homestate. Iowa enters a game on a three-game losing streak but potentially could prove a problem for Texas, a team with two-straight losses.

How? It'll come down to if Colt McCoy is healthy.

A statement from the team's trainers said the quarterback is making progress, and as of today the redshirt freshman has 26 days to get ready for kickoff. But as the game against Texas A&M proved, no one will know McCoy's status until he plays. And even then, nobody knows if he'll be the McCoy of October, instead of the McCoy of November.

At the very least, the Longhorns can beat a 6-6 Iowa, grab dinner at Mi Tierra and be home by midnight.

NOTEBOOK

Snead transfer made official

By William Wilkerson
Daily Texas Staff

Freshman quarterback Jevan Snead confirmed that he intends to transfer, signing paperwork Friday that released him from his scholarship.

Sophomore defensive end Chris Brown and sophomore offensive tackle Greg Dolan also announced they are transferring in a statement released from the team on Friday night.

"All three guys told us they had a great experience, but they felt their best opportunity for more playing time was to transfer," Texas coach Mack Brown said. "That's totally understandable, and we appreciate everything they did for our program during their time here. We wish all three the best of luck in the future."

Snead played in eight games as the backup to Colt McCoy. He completed 26 of 49 passes for 371 yards with two touchdowns and two interceptions. He also rushed for a touchdown.

"I just think that for me to reach my goal of being a starting quarterback, I need to go somewhere else," Snead said. TCU, Houston and Louisville have all been rumored as possible choices for Snead.

McCoy Update

Without Snead, the Longhorns will have little depth under center for their bowl game. McCoy suffered a pinched nerve in his

neck at the tail end of Texas' loss to Texas A&M.

Team trainer Kenny Boyd said McCoy is making "significant progress" in a statement released by the team.

"One thing we know about Colt is he'll work really hard and do everything in his power to get back," Boyd said.

McCoy's backup will likely be walk-on senior Matt McCoy, who has only seen limited playing time in blowout games. The only other scholarship quarterback on the roster is freshman Sherrod Harris, who is redshirting.

Receiver Quan Cosby could be thrust into the position. He was a second-team All-American selection by USA Today at quarterback in 2000 and a two-time 2A all-state pick at quarterback and defensive back. Receiver Billy Pittman also played quarterback in high school.

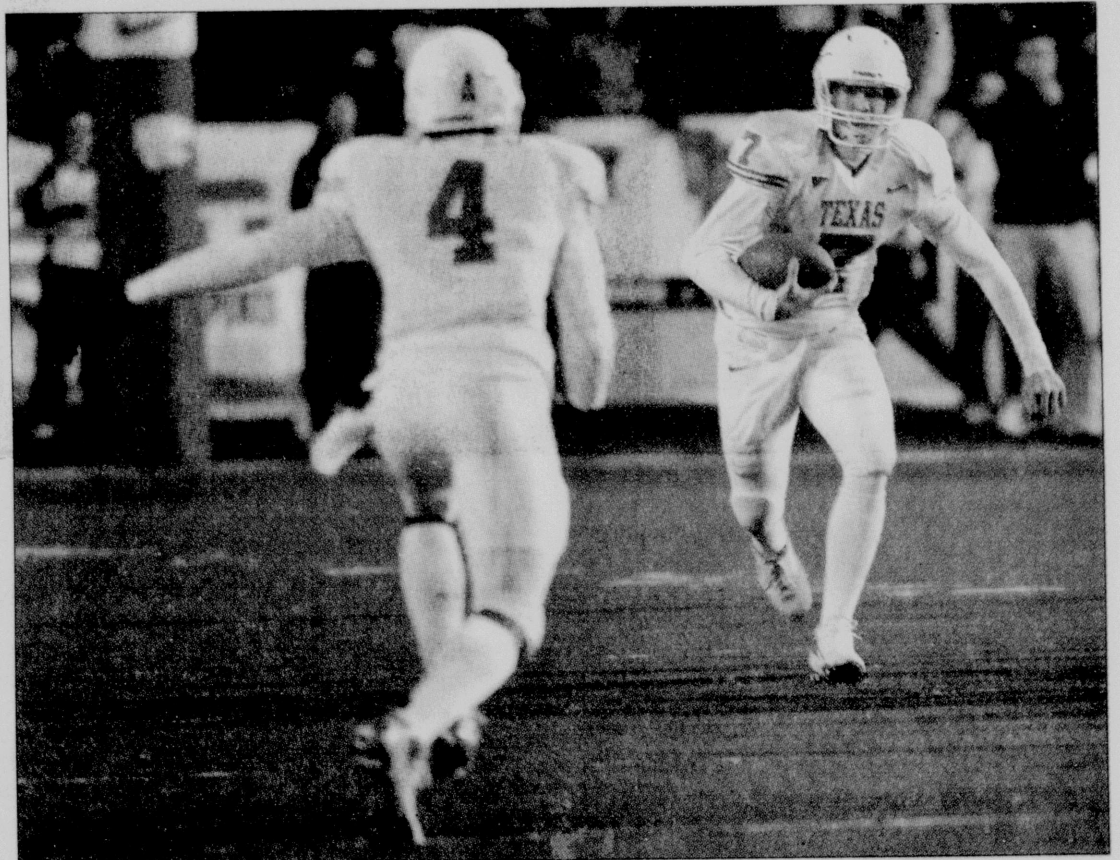
Other Big 12 set to go bowling

Even after losing consecutive games to Texas, the Oklahoma Sooners are still finding ways to outdo their biggest rivals.

At one point in the season, the Longhorns' berth in the Fiesta Bowl was almost taken for granted.

Now Bob Stoops and his boys are headed to Arizona for the BCS bowl, while Texas' bowl game will occur before the new year.

For the seniors, the bowl bid means they'll have played in



Jacqueline Walker | Daily Texas Staff

Jevan Snead runs for yardage against Kansas State while receiver Limas Sweed looks on. Snead reportedly is considering TCU, Houston and Louisville. Chris Brown and Greg Dolan also intend to transfer.

each of the different BCS bowls during their time at Oklahoma.

"That's what I thought about, this would be the only one I haven't been to out of five years, four BCS games," quarterback Paul Thompson said. "So that's real big, and just a testament to this coaching staff and to this organization."

Oklahoma used a 21-7 triumph over Nebraska in the Big 12 championship to clinch their bowl bid. The Huskers, meanwhile, will be in Dallas for the Cotton Bowl.

Elsewhere in the Big 12, Texas A&M accepted a spot in the Holiday Bowl, meaning they'll

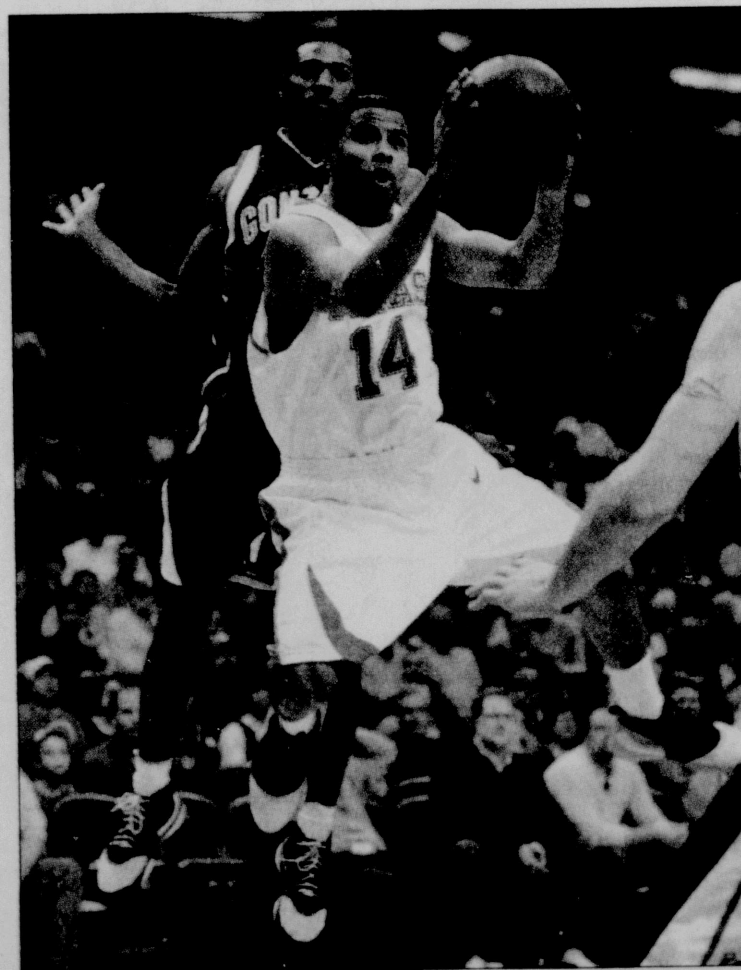
play against the California Golden Bears in San Diego, Calif.

"The Holiday Bowl in San Diego provides a stiff challenge," A&M coach Dennis Franchione wrote on his web site. "Cal has

FOOTBALL continues on page 2B

MEN'S BASKETBALL

Gonzaga forces Longhorns to play like freshmen



Paul Connors | Associated Press

Texas guard D.J. Augustin drives past Gonzaga guard Pierre Marie Altidor-Cespedes during the first half of the Basketball Hall of Fame Challenge basketball game Saturday in Phoenix.

Derek Raivio sinks 7 3-pointers in 87-77 Bulldogs victory

By Cody Hale
Daily Texas Staff

There was one important thing Gonzaga coach Mark Few wanted to take advantage of against the Longhorns.

And that's exactly what his Bulldogs did.

"I really think they're going to be good," Few said of Texas, "but right now, we talked about trying to exploit their youth."

Despite a strong start, the Longhorns (5-2) were unable to hold off a more experienced Gonzaga team in Phoenix, Ariz. on Saturday. The 87-77 final score a bit deceptive after Texas went on an 18-0 run with five minutes remaining.

There was a list of things that the Longhorns could have done differently in this game.

Texas, a team that is known to run the court on offense, had a tough time getting the ball down in the low post and rushed shots all game. The transition defense failed to get back in time as Gonzaga continued to find the open man — with

Derek Raivio filling that role more than once.

The senior guard drilled seven three-pointers on his way to 27 points in the first game of the Basketball Hall of Fame Challenge. Raivio connected on 50 percent of his three-pointers and fell two short of the school record set by Dan Dickau.

"We weren't aware of where he was sometimes," Texas freshman Kevin Durant said. "Especially in transition, he was getting wide open shots, because we didn't see him. They just made an extra pass, and he was wide open."

With many college scouts in the arena, Durant surely didn't fail to impress as he matched his career high with 29 points on 8-for-18 shooting and 10-for-10 from the foul line. Durant also added nine rebounds as another freshman, Justin Mason, was the second-leading scorer for Texas with 17 points and four assists.

Sophomore guard A.J. Abrams struggled for the first time this season, finishing with just seven points on 3-for-17 shooting.

But a lot of that had to do with how hard it was for Abrams to find an open shot.

"I had to work harder than I have any other game just to

get open," Abrams said. "It's disappointing. We had a couple of days to prepare for them, and we didn't come out there and show what we can do."

Much of the reason the Longhorns weren't able to show what they could do is because the team is not interacting as well as they should with one another.

"We haven't learned to listen and communicate," Texas coach Rick Barnes said. "We don't understand yet the fine line between winning and losing, and it goes back to listening and communicating."

The Longhorns trailed by four with 14 minutes to go after Durant hit two free-throws to make it 55-51, but turnovers killed Texas' run and allowed Gonzaga to start a 12-0 run of its own. The Longhorns committed turnovers on their next three possessions as the Bulldogs scored off each one.

But Texas can learn from early games like this. And many times, the Longhorns can learn something from their opponent as well.

"We're moving the ball a lot better, we're just having fun," Raivio said. "When we've got three or four guards out there playing together, it's a lot of fun."

MEN'S SWIMMING

No. 1 Texas finishes second behind Arizona

By Adam Bielamowicz
Daily Texan Staff

Texas coach Eddie Reese stressed one thing to his team in the week leading up to the Texas Invitational swim meet.

"I told them that we wanted to have six strong sessions," said Reese.

Consider the Longhorns six-for-six.

The men's swimming and diving team competed fiercely in three morning and three evening sessions as they finished second to Arizona at the Texas Invitational

swim meet this weekend, as the Wildcats edged the Longhorns in the team competition 787 to 689.

But despite finishing second, the Longhorns still took care of business over the weekend.

"Winning the team competition is always nice, but all of these teams are here to qualify for the NCAAAs," Reese said.

The Longhorns closed up the weekend with four automatic qualifiers for the NCAA Championships in March, two each by sophomore Michael Klueh and freshman Ricky Berens. In addition,

Texas collected 18 total provisional qualifiers from individual swimmers and relay teams.

"I was really proud of the way the guys swam," said Reese.

After four Longhorns made the finals in the first-day morning preliminary round, Thursday saw the Longhorns capture two of their automatic qualifiers. Berens qualified with his second place finish in the 100-yard butterfly, and Klueh followed that with a third place finish in the 500-yard freestyle.

"It's really nice to qualify now and get it out of the way," Klueh

said. "Now that I'm there, all I have to worry about is getting better for that meet."

After collecting seven final berths in the day two prelims, Texas collected seven provisional qualifying times Friday, two of which came on relays. The Longhorns finished second in the 200-yard medley relay and picked up a victory in the 800-yard freestyle relay, falling just two seconds shy of an automatic qualifier, defeating second-place Arizona State by almost 11 seconds.

"Our relays were great all week-

end," said Reese. "That 800 time is the best I've seen in the nation so far."

After putting five swimmers into the finals during the Saturday prelims, Berens and Klueh each punched another ticket to the NCAA Championships. Berens finished third in the 200-yard butterfly while Klueh collected a second place finish in the 1650-yard freestyle.

In addition, Saturday saw the diving team excel as junior Brian Smith and freshman Mike Wong finished one-two in the 10-meter

platform event. Their scores qualified both for the NCAA Zone D Diving Championships in March.

"Our diving team had a productive meet," said diving coach Matt Scoggin. "Smith had several months off with a wrist injury, and it's great to have the real Brian back with the [Longhorns]. And we've seen all year that Mike can do amazing things."

The meet ends the fall season for the Longhorns. They will kick off the spring season with a dual meet against defending national champion Auburn on Jan. 12.

WOMEN'S SWIMMING

Senior Tinnon sets school record for third-place Longhorns

By Colby White
Daily Texan Staff

Texas coach Kim Brackin has been stressing the importance of competing through training all season. She has stepped the intensity in the workouts, believing

that the gain that will be made in the long term will outweigh the slight drop off now.

Her point may have finally been proven this weekend.

No. 12 Texas finished third in the three-day Texas Invitational this

weekend, falling to No. 1 Stanford and No. 2 Arizona. Arizona placed first with a score of 860 and Stanford finished with 756.

But the third-place finish is misleading. Texas' performance throughout the event was a testament to their depth. The final day saw Texas record five NCAA automatic qualifying swims. Senior swimmer Elizabeth Tinnon set the school record for the 100-yard breaststroke with a time of 59.96. She shaved .18 of a second off the previous record, held by her.

"It's been a long time coming,"

said Brackin. "Elizabeth is extremely talented, and she has been working toward that for years."

Seniors Connie Brown and Katie Robinson both set new personal bests and NCAA automatic qualifying times in the 100-yard freestyle and 200-yard butterfly respectively.

But with the impressive performances over the weekend, it looks like the training may be finally kicking in.

"Overall, I'm really pleased with the entire team effort. Everybody — every single person — had a


great swim, from lifetime bests to 'B' cuts to automatic cuts," said Brackin. "The No. 1 thing we've gotten out of this meet is confidence and incentive to continue working hard through what is always a stressful time with [the] upcoming finals."

The national rankings may give Texas a gift just in time for Christmas. No. 9 Florida and No. 10 USC were both in attendance at the Invite and both finished below the Longhorns. No. 11 Michigan participated in the Eastern Michigan Invitational

over the weekend and though they finished first, the EMU Invite included no ranked teams and many small schools such as North Dakota and Kalamazoo.

When the new rankings are released during the upcoming week, Texas may be able to jump over these teams and become the only team with a losing record in the Top 10.

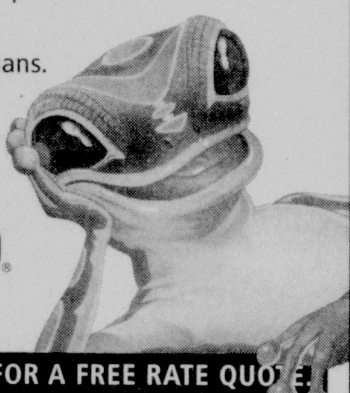
The Longhorns will have to travel to Athens and face off against No. 7 Georgia, who boost an impressive 7-1 record in dual meet competition.



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FOOTBALL: A&M late hit draws apology

From page 1B

been the second-best team in the Pac 10 over the last five years, and they have both the offensive and defensive players of the year in the conference."

Missouri will play Oregon State in the Brut Sun Bowl.

"We're very excited to be a part of the Brut Sun Bowl," Tigers coach Gary Pinkel said. "This game has a long-standing tradition of providing a great experience for the teams, and I can attest to that from personal experience since I've had a chance to play there twice before with Washington."

Kansas State rode their upset of the Longhorns into the Texas Bowl, where they'll face Rutgers, who was a defensive stand in overtime away from playing in a BCS bowl.

It was also announced Sunday that Texas Tech accepted a bid to the Insight Bowl where they'll encounter Minnesota, and that Oklahoma State will be facing Alabama in the PetroSun Independence Bowl.

Aggies apologize for late hit

Kellen Heard's late hit on

Colt McCoy as the quarterback was walking off the field following an interception late in the Longhorn's 12-7 loss to the Aggies drew outrage from the crowd.

A&M's head coach apologized in a letter to Brown that he later posted on his web site.

"We regret and apologize for the late hit on Colt by Kellen Heard," Franchione's note says. "We do not teach this type of play or condone it. After meeting with Kellen, I know he feels badly that this happened, and he expressed that he did not want to display malicious intent."

"We will handle this situation as a coaching staff with consequences for the action. Kellen is in complete agreement and said that he wants Colt to know that he certainly regrets it and he apologizes for the incident."

The Holiday Bowl-bound Aggies won't say how Heard is to be disciplined.

"Kellen and his teammates know this will not be dealt with lightly, and that's enough for the public to know, too," Franchione wrote on his website.

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The New York Times

Crossword

Edited by Will Shortz

No. 1023

ACROSS

1 End place for many a car accident

6 Mire

9 "Shhh!"

14 Novelist Calvino

15 Bother

16 The "U" of UHF

17 Astronaut's attire

18 Fluffy scarf

19 Go into

20 Not the real Charlie of Star-Kist ads?

23 Born: Fr.

24 Big part of an elephant

25 Ambulance worker, for short

26 Tetley product

29 Vintage French wines?

32 Rabble-rouse

34 Inexperienced

35 Italian volcano

36 Assistant in a con game

39 Nix by Nixon, e.g.

40 Mire

42 Peanuts

44 1960's sitcom ghoul on the terrace?

47 1976 and 2001, e.g.: Abbr.

48 Sunbather's shade

49 Founded: Abbr.

50 Korean automaker

53 What 20-, 29-, 44- and 53-Across are of each other

56 Actress Sarandon

59 "Exodus" hero

60 Muscat native

61 Prank

62 Lower, as the lights

63 Stirred up

64 With feigned shyness

65 Reverse of WNW

66 Trap

DOWN

1 "Start eating!"

2 Reply to "Who's there?"

3 Brownish gray

4 Annual award named for a Muse

5 Stressful spot

6 The Sultan of Swat

7 Smell

8 Uncle Sam facial feature

9 Director Tarantino

10 Arm bone

11 Major defense contractor

12 "But I heard him exclaim, ___ he ..."

13 Driveway surface

21 Bye-byes

22 Referee

26 Pisa landmark

27 French political divisions

28 Regarding

29 City on Biscayne Bay

30 Have the throne

31 Emphatic no

32 In armed conflict

33 Pesky swarm

35 Catch sight of

37 Lollygag

38 "___ luck!"

41 Effectiveness

43 Racetrack habitués

45 Deface

46 Like beds before housekeeping

50 Australian "bear"

51 Word before tube or circle

52 Off the direct course

53 Bucket

54 "Exodus" author

55 Poker player's declaration

56 Anatomical pouch

57 Tres - dos

58 Muddy enclosure

Puzzle by John Calvin Williams

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BAA IRA AES
FAMOUS LAST WORDS
ALEUTIAN ISLANDS
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Undeclared

by Jesse Franceschini

theukrainian@gmail.com

YOUR FRIEND DOESN'T DANCE MUCH ON 6TH STREET, DOES HE?

IS IT THAT OBVIOUS?

WHAT PART OF PARALLEL WEAVE DON'T YOU UNDERSTAND? CAN YOU EVEN TWO-STEP?!

JUST BUY ME A BEER.

SUDOKU FOR YOU

Friday's solution

1 9

6 7

7

1

8 9

3

2 9

8 6 2

5

1

6 8 4

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8

1

5

7

2

5

8 1 2 5 4 6 9 3 7

5 9 4 3 2 7 6 1 8

3 7 6 8 9 1 2 5 4

1 5 8 9 6 3 7 4 2

6 4 7 2 8 5 3 9 1

9 2 3 7 1 4 8 6 5

4 8 1 6 7 9 5 2 3

2 3 9 4 5 8 1 7 6

7 6 5 1 3 2 4 8 9

Memphis... by Ryan Hailey

Daryl, how much do you love me?

This much!

How much do you love me?

This much!

That's what I get for dating a girl with mechanical arms. They can love more.

3132

R. DARST

THE GOVERNMENT IS A BOTTOM-UP LEADERSHIP

THE LEADER DOESN'T NEED TO KNOW MUCH AS LONG AS HIS/HER STAFF DOES

THE PROBLEM COMES WHEN THEY DECIDE TO APPLY IT RECURSIVELY TO ALL LEVELS OF THE GOVERNMENT.

Happy Friday

by A.J. Gonzalez and Fernando Leos

Staring contest... GO!

You know this has to end by the third panel. Also, I draw the strip.

Damn it!

Ph.D. OFU

by Jeremy Johnson (soon to be murdered)

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THEY GAVE ME WEST CAMPUS, YOU?

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FUN FUN FUN REVIEW

Indie stage puts others to shame

By Jess Williamson
Daily Texan Staff

The indie stage was the place to be at Fun Fun Fun Fest last Friday. With huge names like Spoon and Peaches, who needs some lame dance tent? The best thing the punk stage could offer up was aging roosters like Circle Jerks. The competition was seemingly put to shame by the large and in charge indie stage.

Naturally, a hearty percentage of the crowd spent the afternoon looking cool and name-dropping with like-minded hipsters.

Everyone seemed to stick around for Austin's house band, Spoon. But the day belonged to the little guys, like The Octopus Project. It's tough to describe the heart-warming joy one feels approaching Waterloo Park and hearing the gloriously hypnotic beat of the Octopus Project off in the distance. While approaching

the indie stage, I was elated to see singer Yvonne Lambert onstage front and center with her perfectly flipped hair and odd collection of every kind of instrument no one has ever heard of. Her style points are off the chart.

Her band mates, Toto Miranda and Josh Lambert, combined beat machines and keyboards with real horn and string samples while Yvonne swayed back and forth with her hands carefully manipulating the antennae-like extensions of her Theremin, captivating and hypnotizing the audience with each distorted note.

Peaches, however, stole the whole show. An amazing set was culminated with clothing removal and gyration, especially noteworthy considering the December temperatures.

The show came to a close when Peaches collapsed onstage and was carried off on a stretcher. Oh, theatrics.

FUN: Tent best place to dance

From page 6B

having previously graced a successful series of free concerts also held in Waterloo Park.

Occupying a white tent scarcely larger than the average UT lecture hall, the afternoon was kicked off by Houston's DJ Ceelus, as a chill hung in the air and in the first of the crowds began to file in. Few were around for his excellent genre-blending and accessible set. The tent remained scarcely populated through an excellent early-afternoon performance by London's Whitey, who in a black trench coat and fedora churned out an hour's worth of superlative dance rock blending frenetic instrumentalism with catchy lyrics and a decidedly British attitude.

The tide finally began to turn late in the set of San Antonio's Dirty South Ravers, two DJs wearing what looked like 22nd-century Ghostbusters suits, with vaguely military armor and massive, mysterious plastic backpacks. Attended by less than ten people at first, curious concertgoers began to migrate to the tent, perhaps attracted by the assertive, unpretentious electronica mastered by the pair. Within minutes the tent is completely filled with a dancing, throbbing crowd of dozens, as it would be for the rest of the night.

And so it would persist as the sun went down and the haze of smoke and strobe lights lingered in the air. By sunset the Austin Fuzion tent had claimed its status as perhaps the festival's best place to stay and dance, wooing even the dyed-black hair crowd.

Perhaps the evening's greatest moments came in the form of Austin's Learning Secrets

duo, who DJed a paradoxically both energetic and mellow set. Learning Secrets succeeded at getting the whole tent moving and, in one surprisingly transcendent moment, singing along to Journey's "Don't Stop Believing" with enthusiasm and more importantly, not the slightest hint of irony. Momentum was sustained by Thomas Turner of Austin's Ghostland Observatory, eschewing the harder edge his band is known for to perform an uncharacteristically cut-and-dry DJ set punctuated by current hip-hop hits and occasional bits of David Bowie.

Quintron and Miss Pussycat, New Orleans natives, captivated the crowd in a vibrant performance incorporating multiple instruments, catchy melodies and ample screaming. Quintron started their set in a suit and tie, eventually shedding down to an unbuttoned undershirt covered in sweat, perhaps the best evidence of the duo's onstage bravado.

As the night came to a close, Austin's always-dependable DJ Mel, and later Barcelona's Prefuse 73, maintained a mellow and intimate atmosphere. Most of the crowds had by this point migrated to see Spoon or the Circle Jerks. But those who chose to stick around were amply rewarded.

"We don't usually drink during a show," said Quintron earlier in the evening as he accepted a beer from an audience member. "But if it'll help set a bad example and make the dance tent outshine the punk tent, then why not?"

But Quintron had no reason to feel as if in second-place — if the "dance tent" had anything at all to prove Friday, it rose to the challenge, bringing Austin's electronica scene to the forefront.

FEST: Punk Stage worth visit

From page 6B

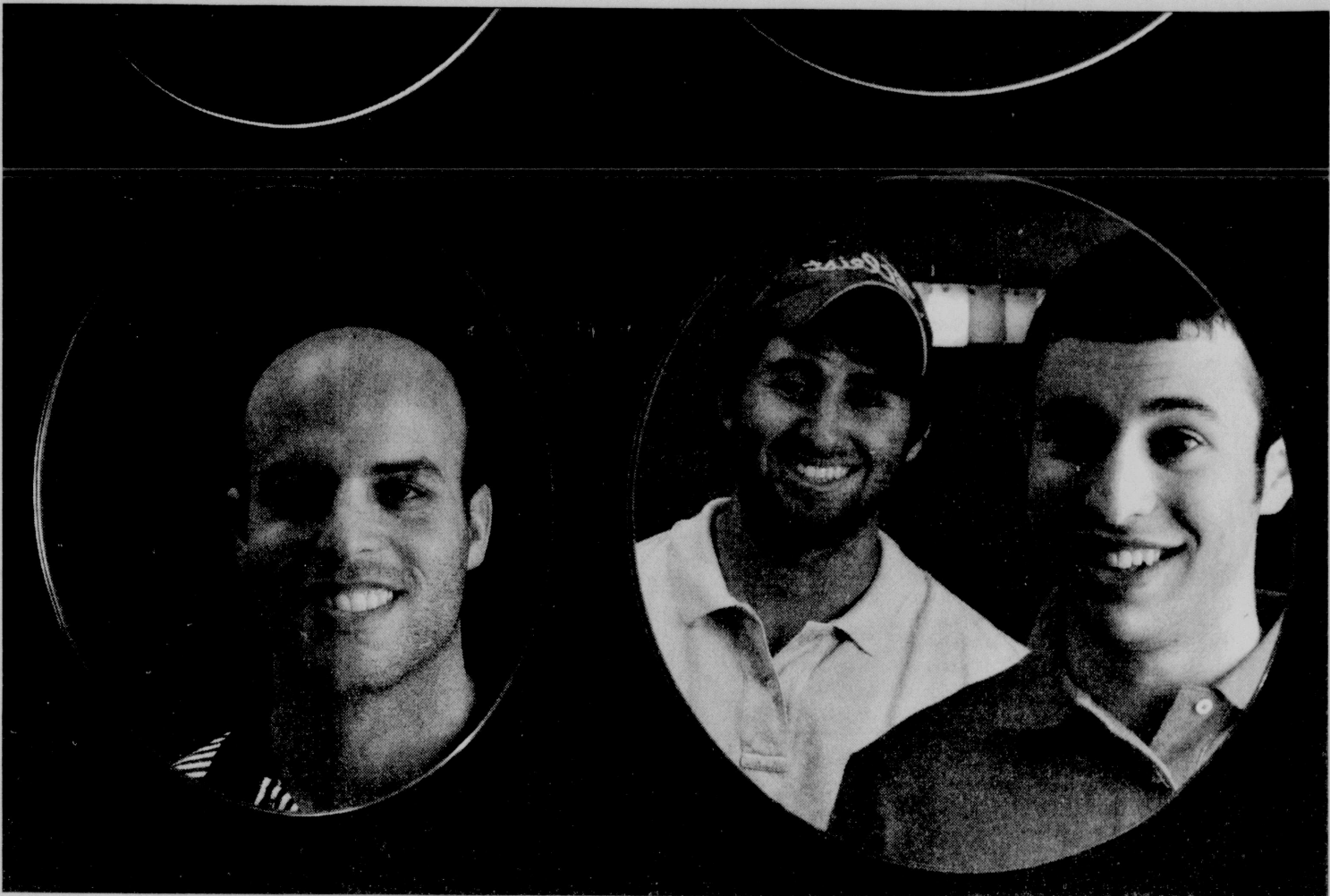
they had the power to erase all the night's early shortcomings. Beginning with their live staple "What's What," Mike Wiebe and his cohorts tore through great versions of their road-tested cock-rock, all the while dashing about the stage like an asylum escapee. What the show lacked was more of Wiebe's signature stage diving and what the show needed less of was the damnable below freezing temperature. Overall though, the Gamblers rescued the Punk Stage from utter musical suicide with their once again electric live performance.

Making my way back over to Negative Approach after enjoying what America fears worst: A forward-thinking woman who enjoys sex (Peaches), I was greeted with the sight of one of the most ridiculously rough mosh pits in recent memory. Back in the old days of the '80s Midwestern Hardcore Punk Scene, Negative Approach were considered on par with the likes of Minor Threat and Black Flag. However, on this reunion tour, which featured only some of the original members, the band's punk edge had clearly been filed down. Much like Sex Pistols' reunion tour, Negative Approach sounded much more metal then they ever did punk. To think about it in a different way, bands like Minor Threat were notorious for caring about everything, from politics to drug. By contrast, bands like Negative Approach were notorious for not giving a damn about absolutely anything and this baseless nihilism rang loud and clear Friday

night, making onlookers all the more ready to see the main attraction.

As soon as the Circle Jerks leapt on stage you could feel the electricity in the air. Keith Morris, always the showman, bantered with the crowd hilariously behind his waist-length dreadlocks. As soon as the music started a career-ending mosh pit erupted, threatening to swallow all who entered. Honestly, the same guys who were in mosh pits at 16 apparently had not realized they weighed 100 pounds more 10 years later. The Circle Jerks, always wrought with political commentary, pointed out the Capitol in the distance as the site of atrocities across the street, encouraged the crowd to think with their hearts not their heads, and blasted such political greats as Robyn Hitchcock's "I Wanna Destroy You."

Camping out at the Punk Stage was entirely worth it to hear the insightful political commentary and surprisingly well-practiced punk wail of Morris. Not to mention lead guitarist Greg Hetson is also a member of Bad Religion, effectively giving the audience a two for one deal on punk celebs. After the show fought it's way to a stop, Morris encouraged everyone to check out the end of Spoon's set as we left. And so, before I walked out and after the Jerks had played their encore, I walked over to Spoon and heard a few great tunes from the Indie giants. The message is clear with the Circle Jerks: Quality music comes in many forms, though few so quality as good old-fashioned hardcore punk.



Jason Sweeten | Daily Texan Staff

Brett Riesenfeld, Eric Tarlo, and UT alumus Scott Rubinsky started ATX Menus, a Web site that allows students to place orders online at more than 150 restaurants in the Austin area.

MENU: Web site a 'long-term' project for trio

From page 6B

to order online.

"We've learned that just giving students a flier isn't going to work. It takes six or seven times to get it in their head," said philosophy junior Tarlo. "But these students are coming to college having been using the computer since second grade, so once they realize there is no gimmick, I think they will be comfortable with the Web site."

To reach the student population, Tarlo, Rubinsky, and Riesenfeld explored such marketing tools as fliers, sponsorship of club events and giving free food to organizations. They've also spent time speaking with UT business classes, such as an introductory marketing class, with the permission of the professors. And tapping into a current craze, the company employs a more creative form of advertising: they put Sudoku challenges on their fliers and post the answers on the Web site. Such ideas prove their greatest advantage is their innate understanding of students.

"These are students that know the campus and know its students," said Asa Christianson, Pita Pit owner and ATXMenus.com participant. "They know how to promote their business."

Students are clearly jumping on the ATXMenus.com wagon. Christianson said that when his restaurant is featured on the Web site, he generates 30 to 35 deliveries a day as opposed to the usual 10. When a restaurant is featured, the Web site posts

"People are borderline incredulous when I tell them I created ATXMenus.com. It is a very, very awesome feeling."

Brett Riesenfeld,
ATXMenus.com creator

a banner ad on its home page that promotes that restaurant's special.

"There's definitely evidence that the Web site is working," Christianson said. "And it's good for us because [online ordering] runs faster and gets the delivery out faster, with less chance for us to screw up the order."

Also impressed with the Web site is William Carner, a UT business senior lecturer who allows the three ATXMenus.com partners to speak in his classes about their entrepreneurial experiences.

"It's just a really neat concept," Carner said. "It's one of those

from pocket change to design ideas to emotions.

"There's not too much in our pockets," Riesenfeld said with a laugh.

All three plan to spend a year post-graduation working solely with and stabilizing the business. Tarlo sees a glimmer of a career in the business and is entertaining the idea of making ATXMenus.com his full-time job. Riesenfeld and Rubinsky hope to attend UT law school. Uncertainties loom ahead, but all three resolve to continue their involvement in the business.

"This is a long-term project for us," Riesenfeld said. "It's not something we hope to get in and out of, and we've divvied up the roles in such a way that we should be able to work the Web site from anywhere."

Meanwhile, the business's local popularity is reward enough for all three.

"People are borderline incredulous when I tell them I created ATXMenus.com," Riesenfeld said. "It is a very, very awesome feeling."

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HAPPY FEET (PG) (1150 1220 215 245 445 515) 715 745 945
STRANGER THAN FICTION (PG-13) (1245 440) 730 1020
FLUSHED AWAY (PG) (1230 250 510) 805 1035
BORAT (R) - ID REQ'D (1230 250 515) 805 1035
SABEL (R) - ID REQ'D (1235 440) 730 1020
THE QUEEN (PG-13) (1130 140 420) 1000

WESTGATE STADIUM 11
SO. LAMAR & BEN WHITE 800-FANDANGO 3694
Adv. Tix on Sale PURSUIT OF HAPPINESS (PG-13) ★
Adv. Tix on Sale ERAGON (PG) ★
Adv. Tix on Sale BLOOD DIAMOND (R) - ID REQ'D ★
Adv. Tix on Sale ERAGON (PG) ★
Adv. Tix on Sale CHARLOTTE'S WEB (G) ★
THE NATIVITY STORY (PG) (1155 215 445) 715 945
VAN WILDER: RISE OF TAJ (R) - ID REQ'D (1200 230 556) 1000
BOBBY (R) - ID REQ'D (1140 220 500) 745 1030
TENACIOUS D IN: PICK OF DESTINY (R) - ID REQ'D (1235 310 525) 720 1040
DEJA VU (PG-13) (1210 110 320 410) 650 720 955 1030
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SABEL (R) - ID REQ'D (1235 440) 730 1020
THE QUEEN (PG-13) (1130 140 420) 1000

GATEWAY STADIUM 16
CAPITAL OF TEXAS AT 183 BEHIND WHOLE FOODS 800-FANDANGO 3694
Adv. Tix on Sale PURSUIT OF HAPPINESS (PG-13) ★
Adv. Tix on Sale ERAGON (PG) ★
Adv. Tix on Sale BLOOD DIAMOND (R) - ID REQ'D ★
Adv. Tix on Sale ERAGON (PG) ★
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THE NATIVITY STORY (PG) (1155 215 445) 715 945
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CASINO ROYALE (PG-13) (1155 1225 1255 305 345 430) 840
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BORAT (R) - ID REQ'D (1230 250 515) 805 1035
SABEL (R) - ID REQ'D (1235 440) 730 1020
THE QUEEN (PG-13) (1130 140 420) 1000

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FOR YOUR CONSIDERATION (PG-13) (1220 300 520) 750 1000
THE QUEEN (PG-13) (1140 1245 220 345 500) 645 730 920 1010
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Top 25 Albums of 2006

The blood, sweat and egos it takes to put together our Best Albums and Films of the Year Lists can break up friendships and result in a nasty battle of hair pulling and name-calling, figuratively of course. We searched blogs, the depths of our film geekiness and enforced our street cred to compile our top 25 movies and albums of 2006. Throughout this week, we'll be counting down to the top 5, which will run in Friday's issue. So get ready to argue with us and your friends about what made this year entertaining.



25 Saves the Day Sound the Alarm

Not long ago, label suits told Chris Conley his powerhouse, charming emo was going to be household listening for millions of wide-eyed teenagers. He wasn't feeling this notion and regressed into obscurity.

Last April, Conley surfaced. While nobody has paid much attention, his maturation from boyish crooner to rough-edged punk has resulted in the year's most slept on release.

Like his genre brethren, he's still very much depressed. But when Conley cries, "I took a wrench to my chest/carved out my ribs...I can't stand my own face anymore," he seems considerably more sincere.

His razor-sharp, At the Drive-In-inspired post-punk rages on for 12 very concise (the album is barely longer than an episode of "The Office"), very memorable jams.

—Ramon Ramirez

24 Tortoise A Lazarus Taxon

Named after the paleontological term for a reappearing species, *A Lazarus Taxon*, is actually a box set containing three CDs, a DVD, and a twenty page booklet. *A Lazarus Taxon* features remixes by Japanese artist Nobukazu Takemura, Autochre, and Mike Watt, along with Yo La Tengo and Joy Division covers.

The DVD has almost all of Tortoise's music videos and rare live footage of the band. Tortoise has been changing music for the last twelve years and *A Lazarus Taxon* solidifies Tortoise's status as a powerful, irreplaceable force.

—Jess Williamson

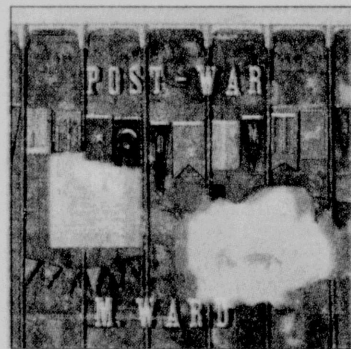
23 The Game Doctor's Advocate

In a nutshell, *Doctor's Advocate* is The Game's homage to West Coast G-Funk and the heroes who took this sound to the masses. From his plethora of name-checks to the fact that for 72% of *Advocate*, Game raps like a younger Dr. Dre with a sharper tongue, the album shamelessly borrows from the past.

However calculated (Game didn't have Dre produce a single track to show he can stand on his own, yet every producer brought in sans Kanye tries to replicate Dre's signature club-banging aesthetic), *Advocate's* top-flight production coupled with Jayceon Taylor's quick-wit and fearless bravado allow it to work at every level.

Essential jams. Especially if you own a low-rider.

—RR



22 M. Ward Post-War

When I heard that M. Ward's *Post-War* would be his first "band record," I was afraid that it would stray from the brilliance of his first few albums. He was "going electric" and fans of his early work could end up like the folkies booing Dylan at Newport. To the contrary, *Post-War* may be his best album yet, relying on the capability of Matt Ward to make any song his own.

Single "Chinese Translation" features Jim James of My Morning Jacket on backing vocals and was accompanied by a great video you probably haven't seen. Even a throwaway like "Magic Trick" sounds like Pete Seeger could add it to his songbook.

I guess that M. Ward is a singer-songwriter, but something about truncating his name separates him from the pack. Matt Ward (and, for argument, Leslie Feist) is the name of a coffeehouse yawner, but M. Ward is a bona fide artist.

—Zach Ernst

21 Lupe Fiasco Food & Liquor

Everything about the Islamic, bespectacled lyricist from Chicago is antithetical to the mores of the modern hip-hop movement. With his debut LP, Fiasco skate-boarded on to the rap scene from way out in left field, knocking down praise-worm monuments to typical rap idols like mail-boxes.

With lines like "Could you please put your titties closer to the 22s?" Lupe's disdain for the rapid materialism of rap culture is evident, but *Food & Liquor* is much more than a bland reproach.

Like Nas' *Illmatic* and Kanye West's *The College Dropout*, F&L is the sort of debut that bears the freshness and insight of a young artist destined to make an impact on the culture. Fiasco has a knack for storytelling and word-play, and his unique stream-of-consciousness flow tends to string together concepts that range from the mundane to the profound.

Lupe's first effort is an instant-classic.

—Reggie Ugwu

LIFE & ARTS

THE DAILY TEXAN

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Students' business offers online food ordering

By Tara Seetharam
Daily Texan Staff

Amid the college clamor of mid-terms, all-nighters and Thursday night adventures, UT students Brett Riesenfeld, Eric Tarlo, and alum Scott Rubinsky put their time and energy into turning a fledgling idea into a reality called ATXMenus.com, with hopes of one day becoming authentic entrepreneurs.

"As freshmen, we found ourselves frustrated with a lack of dining options," said Riesenfeld, a government senior. "We didn't have much except an idea, but we made it work."

The three law-school hopefuls converted a long-time friendship into a business partnership in the summer of 2005. ATXMenus.com

is a collaboration of more than 150 local restaurant menus that offers convenient online ordering with no extra charge. Modeled after a similar Web site created by students at Pennsylvania State University, ATXMenus.com has no flat fees and only charges restaurants when an order is placed. The Web site is organized by food category, including drink specials, meal specials and catering options.

ATXMenus.com has been effectively up and running for over a year. The student-founders insist that it's been a tough road, filled with days of winning over restaurant owners, perfecting the Web site and hardest of all, persuading skeptical students

MENU continues on page 5B

fun fun fun fest



REVIEW

Festival highlights electronica, indie, punk, techno music in Waterloo Park

TECHNO STAGE

By Patrick Caldwell
Daily Texan Staff

For five years, attendees of Austin's biggest and most famous outdoor music festival have had to contend with often-searing temperatures, sending concertgoers scrambling to find water and shade as they hop from big name act to big name act. How convenient for illustrative purposes, then, that Friday's inaugural Fun Fun Fun Fest offered such a stark contrast from the more celebrated Austin City Limits Musical Festival in both talent and environment, a difference no more dramatically apparent than at the Austin Fuzion tent.

With a focus on presenting the best in electronica, techno and anything else that might not have fit into the indie or punk themes found on the other two stages, the Austin Fuzion tent was a more modest and understated offering right from the start. The name might be familiar to the local music-savvy — Austin Fusion carried a true pedigree, the title



Drew Smith photos | Daily Texan Staff

Above, Brit Daniels of Spoon manhandles his six-string. The band was the headlining group on the Fun Fun Fun Festival main stage.

Top, "Impeach my bush," cried Peaches Friday evening at the Fun Fun Fun Festival in Waterloo Park. Peaches, A.K.A. Merrill Beth Nisker, tore up the main stage with her band's electronic music.

FUN continues on page 5B

PUNK STAGE

By John Bradley
Daily Texan Staff

The first noteworthy thing about Waterloo Park's Fun Fun Fun Fest was that there seemed to be literally no entrance to the park. Hoping to catch the Lower Class Brats' set, I missed their entire show circling the park several times over, finally coming upon the ticket table, a grimy shack maintained by uninterested worker bees.

After a series of minor setbacks, the first fully digested band taken in was a foursome of geriatrics from New York, Electric Frankenstein. They sound like the soundtrack to a mediocre '50s horror movie, because that would undoubtedly sound retro, ironic and interesting, but mediocre and boring, which is the worst music of all.

Luckily for patrons the always-solid Riverboat Gamblers soon stormed the stage and advanced on the excited audience like wolves on a lamb. Near the front of the stage a small but dedicated mosh pit swirled, it was clear that

FEST continues on page 5B

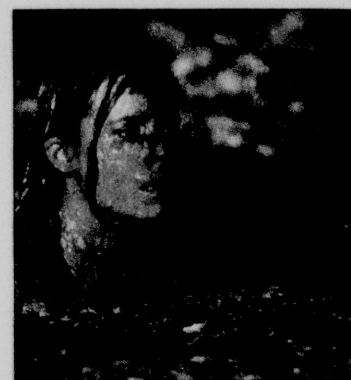
Top 25 Films of 2006



25 'The Puffy Chair' Director Jay Duplass

Indie arthouse film at its finest. In a year where dark horse "Little Miss Sunshine" won the hearts of the mainstream audiences, another, less publicized film stormed the festivals and makes the list on its pure, low-budget gumption. A first-time effort for the Austin-based Duplass brothers, "The Puffy Chair" follows three 20-somethings on a road trip to deliver a big, puffy recliner for a birthday present. In essence, it moves around the dynamics of Josh's relationship with his brother Rhett and his girlfriend Emily. This character-oriented gem makes the list and — if we're lucky — the queue of your Netflix.

—Lauren Thompson



24 'The Descent' Director Neil Marshall

While I was skeptical at first this British horror film, the brilliant suspense and claustrophobia-inducing thrills of "The Descent" kept me on edge throughout the whole film. The story follows the struggle of a group of six girlfriends on their annual caving trip. The expedition goes horribly wrong when the girls fall victim to a cave-in, as well as some man-like creatures that reside in the uncharted tunnels. Director Neil Marshall also doesn't skimp on the fake blood and gruesome sound effects.

—Emily Watson

23 'A Scanner Darkly' Director Richard Linklater

Adapting a Phillip K. Dick story normally means Hollywood adds as many action sequences and explosions as possible to his sci-fi yarns (i.e. Total Recall, Minority Report, Paycheck) but Richard Linklater crafted a beautiful think piece out of one of Dick's more personal stories starring Keanu Reeves and Winona Ryder. By using the rotoscoping technology pioneered in Linklater's film, "Waking Life," he was able to take Dick's story about drugs and addiction and make it a more dreamlike yet still grounded feature than its epic predecessors.

—Alex Regnery



22 'Tenacious D: The Pick of Destiny' Director Liam Lynch

Before this movie, Jack Black could only rock your face off on stage, but this year he did it on the silver screen. "Tenacious D" has it all: acoustic guitars that somehow manage to rock, an amazing soundtrack, Meat Loaf starring as Jack Black's father, and appearances by Ben Stiller, former Black Sabbath lead singer Dio, Tim Robbins and Dave Grohl as Satan.

—EW



21 'Superman Returns' Director Bryan Singer

Bryan Singer left the X-Men franchise in the hands of Brett Ratner much to the chagrin of Professor Xavier fans, but for Man of Steel fans he was a godsend. Paying much homage to Richard Donner's original, Singer crafted a fine film full of thrills, gorgeous cinematography, and romance. Brandon Routh did the impossible by filling Christopher Reeve's shoes but also made the character his own, providing the world with its "S" clad savior once again.

—AR