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CAMPUS

Panel seeks homelessness solutions

By Forrest Milburn
@forrestmilburn

Mac McKaskle spoke through the choking and tears in his eyes as he recalled last summer, when synthetic marijuana, or K2, had swept throughout the Drag and deep into the homeless communities throughout West Campus, leading many of the street youth he knew and cared for toward a path of addiction.

McKaskle is currently a leader of Micah 6, an

organization near campus dedicated to helping homeless youth, has only seen his drive for social justice issues increase whenever he sees his friends and family fall into addiction or mental issues.

“These young people... are not travelers from around the country who just showed up in the wonderful city of Austin,” said McKaskle, director of Street Youth Outreach at Micah 6. “They’re part of a really awful system the city provides for its young people.”

McKaskle spoke Thursday

evening alongside three other community leaders at a panel — hosted by Texas Hillel and University Interfaith Council — aimed at discussing ways of addressing homelessness around campus.

The other panelists were Lori Warren of Keep Austin Housed, Val Romness of the Challenger, a local street newspaper featuring homeless writers, and Steven Hebbard of Community First! Village, a master-plan

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Briana Vargas | Daily Texan Staff

A panel hosted by Texas Hillel and University Interfaith Council spoke Thursday about the ways to address homelessness.

CAMPUS

Increase in permits yields fewer citations

By Mikaela Cannizzo
@mikaelac16

The number of parking citations issued on campus has decreased over the past several years simply because less drivers have failed to display permits, according to Bobby Stone, director of Parking and Transportation Services.

According to the most recent available data from Parking and Transportation Services, citations issued on campus decreased by approximately 19 percent between 2011 and 2014. Revenues from permits sold to students also increased from \$12,942 to \$14,911 within the same time span.

Stone said permits are required when parking in the street or on surface lots, and violations result in citations. He said an increase in garage parking, where permit and non-permit parking are allowed simultaneously, has contributed to the overall citation decrease.

“For some students getting parking citations is a learning experience,” Stone said. “Since most of the citations issued are for people who have not paid to park on campus, I can’t characterize the citations we issue as a problem but rather view it as an important service in support of all the students who purchase permits to park.”

Parking in a garage allows payment by the hour without requiring a permit, but Stone said he recommends students buy one that meets their particular needs.

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UNIVERSITY

Cody Young case prompts policy review

By Cassandra Jaramillo
@cassandrajar

The University wants to re-examine and change its policies on releasing student information about the punishment of students who have committed criminal acts, President Gregory Fenves said Thursday.

Until now, University policy has conflicted with a provision in federal law known as FERPA that pertains to the release of and access to educational records. Fenves asked lawyers to review the law and he now plans to change University policy. According to Fenves, seeing Cody Young’s story in the Daily Texan prompted him to re-evaluate disciplinary processes.

“I want to thank you for the service that you provided in the reports,” Fenves said. “That’s when I started asking the question, ‘Why can’t we get this important

REVIEW page 2



Marshall Tidrick | Daily Texan Staff

Mathematics senior Cody Young, who filed a complaint with the University after being a victim of racially charged verbal assault, feels the University’s punishment is not proportional to the crime committed.

CAMPUS

Record-setting, former Wendy’s cashier dies

By Rachel Lew
@rachelannlew

A former employee of Wendy’s in the Union affectionately known as “Junior the Wendy’s Guy” died on Monday at the age of 61.

Ishmael Mohammed Jr., or Junior, worked at Wendy’s in the Union for over 13 years — from 1998 until 2012. Junior became famous among UT students for his cheerful energy and his speedy service. Junior broke the world record for most sales at a fast food restaurant in 2005, making 246 sales for Wendy’s in 30 minutes.

Junior’s daughter Kimberly Guerin said police notified her of her father’s condition on Friday.

“They said they found him unconscious at a bus stop [in Austin],” Guerin said. “When he was taken to the ER, they performed surgery, but he never regained consciousness. We took him off of life support Sunday

morning, and he passed away on Monday morning.”

Guerin said she is not sure what happened but said there was evidence Junior had prior brain damage.

“I know he had been mugged before and that he had had stitches before,” Guerin said. “There have been altercations with people on the street, so they think it was probably a fall, but no one really knows because no one was there.”

After leaving the Wendy’s in the Union in 2012, Junior went home to New York. In 2014, UT alumnus Benjamin McPhaul saw him asking for money outside the Cactus Cafe. McPhaul created a GoFundMe page and successfully raised more than \$30,000 to help place Junior in short-term housing.

McPhaul said Junior’s personality was the reason his GoFundMe page was a success.

“If he was having a bad day,

WENDY’S page 2

CAMPUS

Students pledge to ‘unplug’ for a day

By Audrey Zhang
@thedailytexan

UT students are pledging to “unplug” from technology in order to reconnect with themselves and their peers this Friday.

Unplug UT is a campaign run by the Counseling and Mental Health Center that concludes this year’s Mental Health Promotion Week. Students can sign a pledge online to “unplug” for any amount of time and spend the time doing more fulfilling activities.

Psychology senior Gustavo Molinar, one of the students that helped propose the initiative, said the campaign targets students’ well-being.

“It’s intentionally placed at the end of the week so students have the ability to practice self-care,” Molinar said. “Unplugging allows students to take care of themselves and recognize how being too plugged in affects mental health.”

Katy Redd, assistant

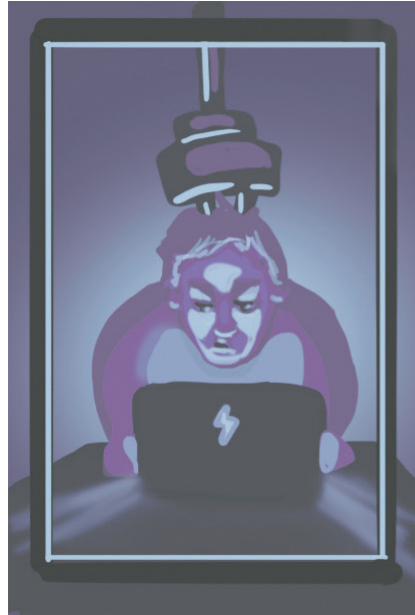


Illustration by Joanna Levine | Daily Texan Staff

director for prevention and outreach at the CMHC, said taking the time to unplug improves student health and performance.

“We know technology can benefit us tremendously,” Redd said in an email. “And there are times when taking a moment to put down our devices can

be helpful so that we can authentically connect to the people around us. Research shows that downtime replenishes the brain’s stores of attention and motivation, and encourages creativity, and is essential to achieve our highest levels of performance.”

Molinar said the

constant presence of social media can fuel unhealthy and competitive attitudes.

“We see others doing fun things or things we wish we could be doing, but we don’t really see the holistic person,” Molinar said. “No one really talks

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Record Store Day offers diverse vinyl selection.

ONLINE

ONLINE

Find out why telling secrets helps with mental health in our video at

dailytexanonline.com

REASON TO PARTY



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TOMORROW'S WEATHER

High 78 Low 67
oh noooooo

FRAMES FEATURED PHOTO thedailytexan



Canoeing rowers float by on Lady Bird Lake in Zilker Park on Thursday afternoon.

Briana Vargas | Daily Texan Staff

REVIEW

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information out to our students and the community?"

Public interest on the case increased after Young, a mathematics senior, called the police on Feb. 20 around 7:30 p.m. after three white men, one of whom was never identified, threw glass bottles and yelled "fuck you, n-----" at him in West Campus, according to an Austin Police Department arrest affidavit. Four days later, Young submitted a complaint to the Dean of Students Office, which handles administrative disciplinary processes.

Young was required to sign a University nondisclosure agreement on March 31 to know what disciplinary action was taken against the former UT student, Tucker Sauer, who assaulted him. However, two weeks later, Fenves said in a campus-wide email that Sauer was suspended until 2017.

"They made me sign a nondisclosure agreement and that legal action can be taken against me [if I said the result of the case], and without any notice they decided to send an email out," Young said. "I wasn't told they were going to release this, and I was sitting

with this secret in my mind."

Fenves said he did not know the reasoning behind the nondisclosure agreement, but would look into the protocol. Soncia Reagins-Lilly, dean of students and interim vice president for student affairs, said the office is constantly reviewing its regulations, and new policies will give the office more flexibility and transparency.

"As University policies are modified, we are going to share information as appropriate," Lilly said. "It certainly provides us with flexibility."

Mindy Montford, an attorney representing Sauer

and former UT student Lucas Henderson in their criminal case and who served as an adviser during the disciplinary process, declined to comment on the University sanction.

Now that Young can speak openly about the suspension, he said he finds the suspension too lenient and feels upset by the resolution.

"The punishment is not proportional to the crime," Young said. "This guy is going to get to come back and gets to graduate as a Longhorn with a diploma."

Fenves, who took the helm in June 2015, said he is looking at changes that can

reinforce the University's values of openness and inclusion.

"I feel awful for what he has gone through, and because of that and because of your reporting, we have made some major changes on our policies on discipline around hateful acts of violence," Fenves said. "We are going to enforce those strictly at the University of Texas."

Young, reflecting back on the 40 days he spent waiting for the final resolution, said his voice wasn't heard until he spoke out about the case.

"I started to get taken seriously when I went to media," Young said.

PANEL

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community that provides affordable housing for the disabled, chronically homeless.

With help from his wife and a group of formerly homeless caretakers, Hebbard is developing a home of sorts at his village that will sleep roughly

55 chronically homeless people — defined as a person who has been homeless for more than a year — from east Austin.

"We're doing that work with people that are formerly homeless and in many cases have experience with hospitality," Hebbard said. "The creative talent is intense, but folks in many cases need a situation to channel that talent."

Many of the panelists discussed how one of the root problems leading to

homelessness is a lack of a home life or families, with many coming out of foster care. The absence of a family or community is one of the issues that later lead to the addiction and violence that fuel stereotypes and backlash from passerbys, panelists said.

Alice Lazare, a government and women and gender studies senior, is preparing to join the Episcopal Student Center on a faith-based service corps trip next year, where she will be able to use some of the skill

sets and ideas discussed during Thursday's panel.

With students living in a dense area close to homeless populations, students need to find a way to peacefully co-habitate, perhaps by simply offering a friendly greeting or salutation, Lazare said.

"It seems really simple, and I get that it's hard," Lazare said. "It's not a contract to talk to every homeless person you see ever again, it's just saying 'hi.'"

After the panel discussion,

McKaskle said he continues to help as many youth as possible with his organization because he only wants what's in the best interest of those he serves on a day-to-day basis.

"When I turned 60, I said that I didn't want to spend the next five years of my life working a nine to five job," McKaskle said. "I want to do something for the world, problem-solving. But I want to do whatever I need to help the world, because I like doing that."

THE DAILY TEXAN

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Table listing issue staff members including Copy Editors, Photo Editor, and various reporters.

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The Daily Texan Mail Subscription Rates

Table showing subscription rates for one semester, two semesters, summer session, and one year.

Texan Ad Deadlines

Table showing ad deadlines for Monday through Wednesday.

WENDY'S

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you couldn't tell," McPhaul said. "He really had an infectious personality that left a mark on a lot of people."

Guerin said the money McPhaul raised ran out in February 2016, and she set up a GoFundMe page to raise funds to provide a funeral for Junior.

"At the time I had started the page, I was hoping to gain money before so we could have done a proper Muslim ritual and burial because that was his religion," Guerin said. "Now it's just kind of doing what we can so we don't have to sign the body over."

Guerin said she was not in contact with her father much during her childhood because of family issues but said her father was intelligent and generous.

"People who met him never really knew his history, but I think it's important for people

to know where he came from," Guerin said. "He used to own convenience stores in New York when I was little. He was always willing to help anybody out. He was extremely successful, a great businessman, and very, very smart."

Megan McMillin, Union director of alumni relations and development, said she remembered Junior as a kind person with a happy personality.

"He definitely was very energetic and just a bright presence and face," McMillin said. "He always greeted everyone that came — even if they weren't ordering from Wendy's."

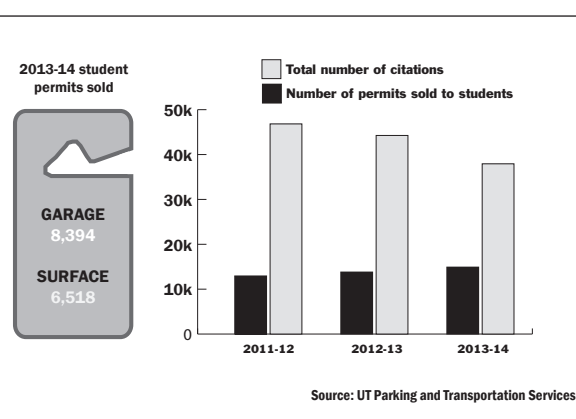
UT alumnus Ilya Kuperman said Junior had become a legend among his generation of students.

"When I first came to UT, I already heard of him, and people had told me stories of Junior during orientation," Kuperman said. "He had a level of energy that you could feel when you walked past."



Jonathan Garza | Daily Texan Staff

Ishmael Mohammed Jr., also known as "The Wendy's Guy," died on Monday.



Infographic by Sammy Jarrar | Daily Texan Staff

PERMITS

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Class "C" permits are most popular among students and offer parking in designated areas and Longhorn Lots, which include mostly lots on the eastern edges of campus. Collectively, students have spent over \$5,000 on these permits per year.

However, PTS classifies parking convenience for class "C" permits as low. The price of these permits for the 2016-2017 year will be \$133 and can be purchased online.

Advertising graduate student Brandee Dudenhoefer said she commutes to campus and parks on the street, but does not have a permit. She said she has received about four citations over the past two years because she did not arrive to the meter on time to pay for her parking.

"I know there are permits

you can purchase, but the areas in which you can use these permits are far from the buildings I go to and I can't make it to campus early enough," Dudenhoefer said. "When I first came to school here I decided to forgo a permit because many people had told me what a hassle it was and you're not guaranteed parking as the lots fill up fast."

According to the PTS website, "purchasing a parking permit signifies that an individual has been granted the privilege of parking a vehicle on University property and does not guarantee a parking place on campus."

Stone said the number of citations issued is not abnormal for a campus with over 50,000 students, 17,000 faculty and staff and 100,000 visitors at any given time.

In the future, Stone said the addition of more garage parking is likely in order to maintain a balance between users and parking spaces.

CAMPUS

Comedy-based campaign fundraises for CMHC

By Hannah Daniel
@hannahdaniel

Operation Raising Funny, a comedy-based fundraising campaign benefiting the Counseling and Mental Health Center, released its first video this Monday.

The campaign is led by Humans of the Forty Acres, an organization that has extended the concept of Humans of New York to the UT campus.

The project was inspired by co-founder Jordan Cope's experience with people in his own life affected by mental illness. The campaign chose humor as its fundraising platform because it grabs students' attention, Cope said. Although the project's aim is to raise money, Cope said everyone working on the campaign hopes to reduce the stigma associated with mental illness in the process.

"People who need to go to the Mental Health Center should be able to do so without feeling different from the rest of their community," Cope, an international relations and global studies junior, said. "If we can even help one person feel more encouraged to use the resources at the Mental Health Center, then our campaign has been successful."

The video, which now has over 10,000 views on Facebook, is of a prank in



Members of the student run group, Humans of Forty Acres, have launched a new initiative called Raising Funny to benefit the Counseling and Mental Health Center. Raising Funny hopes to raise money through funny videos and reduce the stigma associated with mental illness in the process.

Stephanie Martinez-Ardnt
Daily Texan Staff

which eight models held an impromptu fashion show on the crosswalk in front of the Co-Op. The models, all student volunteers, struck poses in the street as bystanders looked on. Engineering junior John Jennings, who surprised the crowd with his break-dancing, said the

prank was improved by the fact that it was filmed on the day of Explore UT.

"The kids were great," Jennings said. "They'd whip out their phones and take videos, so that was a lot of fun."

A second video is currently in the works and will

be published on April 22. The videos are filmed and edited by the Humans of the Forty Acres photographers and then posted to their Facebook page. When students share the videos on social media, they also spread the link to a fundraising page where anyone

can donate.

The release date of the first video was selected to coincide with CMHC's first annual Mental Health Promotion Week. Biology freshman Reshma Jadhav said she appreciates the attention given to mental health on campus lately.

"I think it's really important for all students to know that there is a mental health facility on campus, because that support is really valuable," Jadhav said. "This fundraiser is a good idea because the facility needs funds to have a big impact."

CITY



Elise Cardenas | Daily Texan Staff

Matt Reilly is the program director for KUTX 98.9 who recently held their semi-annual membership drive to raise money.

KUT breaks donation record in spring membership drive

By Anusha Lalani
@anusha_lalani

KUT and KUTX raised more than \$625,000 collectively in their semi-annual membership drive, which lasted eight days and ended April 6.

Since the 1980s, KUT 90.5, Austin's NPR station, and KUTX 98.9, The Austin Music Experience, ask their listeners to invest in their content through a membership drive held once each semester. After they make their one-time donation, members can choose to become sustaining members, a special set of donors that make continuous monthly donations.

Because KUT and KUTX are nonprofits, the stations are able to provide content to their listeners through their donations, said public relations manager Erin Geisler.

Sylvia Ponce Carson, associate general manager of development and marketing at KUT 90.5,

said the stations get 80 percent of their revenue from the local community through business sponsorships and individual member donations.

"We are very proud of the fact that KUT and KUTX have been directly supported by the Austin community for so long — and that the amount continues to increase year after year," Carson said in an email.

Last spring, the membership drive raised \$500,000. This past fall, the stations raised \$620,000.

Matt Reilly, program director for KUTX 98.9, said the reason for the continuous support from listeners is because of the quality of the content they provide.

"I think what differentiates KUTX from streaming services is twofold: curation and context," Reilly said in an email. "The mix of new and classic songs — regardless of genre — presented by passionate hosts has resonated with our listeners as well. It's a

personal touch that an algorithm can't give you."

David Munoz, a sustained member, said he has been an active listener for almost 20 years.

"The investment has made me smarter, and more informed," Munoz said in an email. "I've heard and bought music I would not have had an opportunity to hear on commercial radio."

UT alumnus James Babyak, who has been a sustaining member for three years, said he donated because he appreciated the stations' relevant coverage.

"[I've listened] for many years on my commute to work and school and received valuable news pertaining to local elections, UT policy changes and energy issues," Babyak said in an email. "As a student, I would value the range of perspective from national to local issues. I enjoyed being connected to the pulse of Austin music and local events."

Redd said.

"I've heard some students who try not to be in front of screens an hour before bedtime, or turn their phone off when they're having a meal with another person," Redd said. "Whatever works for you."

Biology freshman Justin Yun said he took the pledge because he often experiences the detriment

of being too plugged in.

"I just cannot sit still without glancing at my phone every five seconds," Yun said. "Sometimes this has really isolated me from the outside world, and I feel less connected with people. Instead of being on my phone all the time, I can spend time with friends or even just enjoy the weather doing nothing."

UNIVERSITY

Out-of-state enrollment declines at UT but increases nationwide

By Caleb Wong
@caleber96

When Jon Burstain came as a freshman to UT Austin from Iowa, he didn't know anybody on campus.

"I originally thought everyone had a Southern accent," said Burstain, a finance junior. "I was totally wrong."

At many public universities, the in-state percentage of new freshmen has fallen as more out-of-state students enroll. At the University of Alabama, for example, 72 percent of incoming freshmen were classified as in-state in 2004. In 2014, only 36 percent of incoming freshmen came from Alabama, outnumbered by their out-of-state peers. At the University of South Carolina, the enrollment of in-state freshman dropped from 71 percent in 2004 to 50 percent in 2014, according to a data analysis from the Washington Post.

But at UT, the in-state student percentage has largely remained the same over the years. The top ten percent rule mandates that 90 percent of incoming freshmen must come from within the state, limiting the number of out-of-state and international students to 10 percent, UT President Gregory Fennes said.

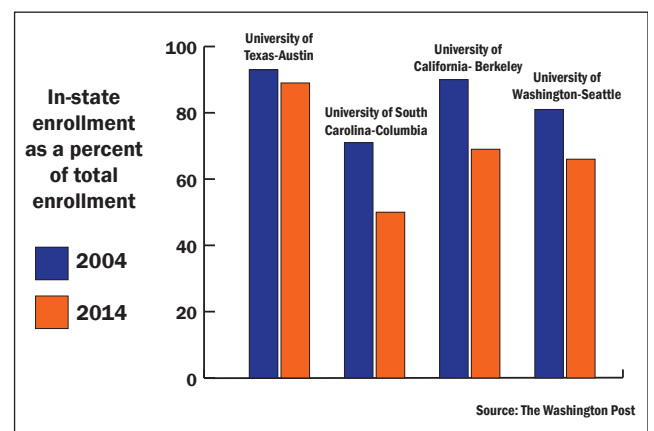
"It's a very high in-state percentage compared to most flagship universities," Fennes said.

Many public universities used to accept out-of-state students to increase their geographic diversity, said George Pernsteiner, president of the State Higher Education Executive Officers association. Now, these public universities accept more out-of-state students, in part, to offset state budget cuts to university budgets, he said.

"There's also now a financial dimension to it that is, I think, pretty pronounced in a lot of states, especially the flagship institutions," Pernsteiner said.

UT administrators declined requests to further on this issue.

Burstain, the director of the Student Government's Out of State and Transfer



Infographic by Sammy Jarrar | Daily Texan Staff

Students Agency, said he would like to see more out-of-state students accepted into UT. Since the Texas legislature has decreased state funding to "abysmal" levels for public universities, Burstain said, they should consider allowing UT to admit more out-of-state students to UT. While the state funded 47 percent of UT's budget during the 1984-1985 academic year, the state only funded 12 percent of UT's budget in 2013-2014 academic year.

"You add quite a bit of diversity and an eclectic array of ideas from different regions in the United States," Burstain said.

However, Shawn Killian, aerospace engineering junior from Chicago, said the

University does not need nor necessarily should take more out-of-state students.

"I kind of like the fact that there aren't too many people [from out of state]," Killian said. "I really get to let myself learn what it means to be a Texan."

Education professor Beth Bukoski said if UT were to take more out-of-state students, the University would need to consider how it would remain true to its founding as public institution to serve Texans.

"What that number [of out-of-state students] should be, I don't know," Bukoski said. "If they desire to enter more out-of-state students, they need to think about how this is fulfilling our mission."

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UNPLUG

continues from page 1

about the struggles that we're facing. It's important to understand that we shouldn't be competing with others, that everyone's experience is different, and that we're doing the best we can."

There are many ways to balance technology use with unplugging,

COLUMN

Fear must not persecute homeless community

By Khadija Saifullah
Daily Texan Senior Columnist
@coolstorysunao

Last week, UT's community was shaken to its core. The tragic murder of UT freshman Haruka Weiser has deeply affected it. As more details are being released from officials about the tragedy, the past week has been terrifying for all UT students and faculty. There has been a distinct change in the atmosphere on campus. A SURE Walk booth stationed at the lobby of the PCL and students walking together at night are just some of these changes.

The shock that hit the University community is a natural response. No one would have seen this irreparable misfortune coming. The way we address our fear, however, is vital in the process of recovery and in ensuring that this never happens again. There has been a misdirection of the anger and grief towards the homeless population because of the homicide that hit so close to home.

There is a petition going around aiming to remove the homeless from Guadalupe Street right in front of campus. I doubt that the signers of this petition are doing so out of hate, but rather out of fear.

Many homeless people have been raised in unfathomable conditions and have been abused and developed psychological problems as a result. About one-third of the homeless population suffers from mental illness.

According to the Daily Mail, the suspect behind the homicide was diagnosed

“

It is crucial to remember that Austin's homeless people are human beings. Instead of living in fear, which, understandably, is the reflex reaction after such a sudden and shocking tragedy, we should be proactive enough to try to alleviate their conditions in any way possible.

with depression, schizophrenia, and autism and was neglected and abused throughout his childhood. Yet a study by the American Psychological Association states that mentally ill people are actually less likely to commit crimes against people or property.

The petition itself states that the tragedy highlights the need for “expanding treatment for the mentally ill, increasing rehabilitation facilities and making aid more available to those who are unable to provide for themselves.”

It is crucial that we remember that Austin's homeless people are human beings. Instead of living in fear, which, understandably, is the reflex reaction after such a sudden and shocking tragedy, we should be proactive enough to try to alleviate their conditions in any way possible.

Several organizations, including United Muslim Relief and Humanity First, pack and distribute meals and hygiene kits monthly



Marshall Tidrick | Daily Texan Staff

APD is investigating the homicide case of UT freshman Haruka Weiser.

for the homeless, and that's the least we can do to fill the communication gap.

As a petite female like Haruka, I can't help but be reminded of the nightmare that happened last week every time I walk back home from campus. I can't help but dwell upon the fact that I, too, was in the vicinity of danger as I walked home from the PCL on Sunday night. I can't help but remind myself that it could have been me or any vulnerable woman walking home in the wrong place at the wrong time. I can't help but clench my keys in my hand as I see

someone suspicious watching me as I walk back from campus. As Haruka's parents wrote in their open letter, we struggle to find meaning behind her senseless murder.

Yet when we forget that others are human beings, and when we stop treating them as such, we make the same mistake a killer made last week — we forget that human lives have value. For a University that prepares its students to change the world for the better, we are better than that.

Saifullah is a neuroscience sophomore from Dallas.

COLUMN

Texas and Mexico should maintain critical trade relations

By Alyssa Fernandez
Daily Texan Columnist
@blancoalyssa

Mexico and Texas share more than a border. They have a trading partnership that is essential to reigniting economic growth within the United States. While certain Republican politicians advocate excluding Mexico's participation in the U.S. economy, doing so would only stagnate businesses and threaten 463,132 jobs that rely on trade with Mexico.

According to the Mexican Consul, Carlos González Gutiérrez, there exists a mutual acknowledgment of Texas-Mexico trade in the political and fiscal spectrum because they rely on each other.

“Texas is Mexico's most important partner in the United States,” Gutiérrez commented in The Texas Tribune. “We trade annually about \$200 billion, which is twice the amount of [trade between] the U.K. and the U.S. It's three times what Mexico trades with California, and our prosperity depends on Texas and Texas' prosperity depends on Mexico.”

Greg Abbott's visit to Mexico last September demonstrates the complexity of this situation in his attempt to mend cordial relations. While Abbott's voters expected this trip to defend his strict immigration stance, its central focus was on business relations between Texas and Mexico.

In consideration of Texas' long-term economic strength, the great victory of this

“

Texas is Mexico's most important partner in the United States. We trade annually about \$200 billion, which is twice the amount of [trade between] the U.K. and the U.S. It's three times what Mexico trades with California, and our prosperity depends on Texas and Texas' prosperity depends on Mexico.

— Carlos González Gutiérrez,
Mexican Consul

trip was agreeing that Mexico open its oil and natural gas supply to the Texas private sector. Over the next ten years, coordination between the Texan and Mexican industries, especially energy, will contribute a projected 21.3 percent growth rate by 2022.

No other state could replicate this economic success with Mexico due to their geographical limitations. C.J. Alvarez, assistant professor in the department of Mexican-American Studies, explains how Texas' unique, 1,254 mile-long border is unprecedented in other U.S. states.

“Think about U.S. and China trade, we trade more with China but all that trade is done across the ocean in ships,” Alvarez

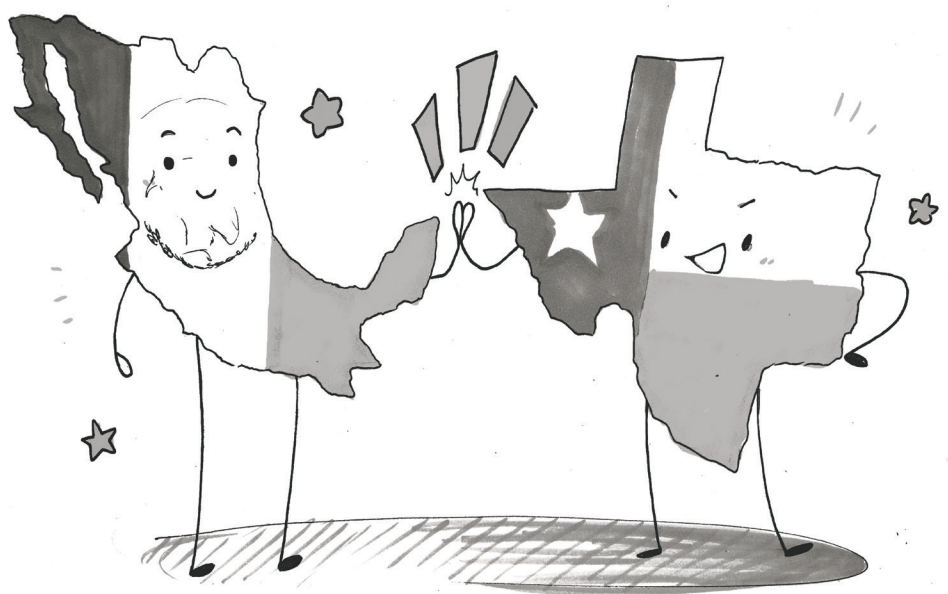


Illustration by Victoria Smith | Daily Texan Staff

said. “All the trade between Mexico and the U.S. goes overland, sometimes it's by rail, pipelines and usually in trucks. So one way to get at the difference between Texas, Arizona and California is to point out the physical infrastructure. The transportation infrastructure of Texas is simply bigger.”

It's inevitable that Texas and Mexico became trading partners due to their location and closely related history. Any attempt to wall off this mutually beneficial partnership is irresponsible, if not disrespectful to the

advancement of Texas' economy and culture.

Citizens must recognize the growing Texas-Mexico border economy as a market of opportunity rather than a drain on resources. It's not politicians or businessmen that hinder economic growth, but rather a set of predisposed prejudices held by citizens. We are all beneficiaries of this trade and should work in unison with Mexico to expand opportunity within both of our borders.

Fernandez is a Spanish and rhetoric and writing junior from Allen.

COLUMN

Well-intended ‘plus size’ clothing label alienates customers

By Sunny Kim
Daily Texan Columnist
@sunny_newsiee

As you flip through a magazine, you see pictures of stick-thin models posing for the camera. They have the physique that women desire: a beautiful smile, flawless skin and a slender body.

The media has defined skinnier as beautiful, and this definition has pressured young women to slim down, even when they don't need to. A study conducted by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services in January 2016 that shows 91 percent of women are unhappy with their bodies and resort to dieting and 80 percent of women say images of women in the media makes them feel insecure.

To combat this stigma, the fashion industry has coined the term “plus size” to promote acceptance of all body types. However, the term is problematic, because it continues to put women in a box — if they are not suited in normal sizes, they are categorized

into plus size.

Opposition to this label is gaining powerful support. Celebrities such as Melissa McCarthy, Meghan Trainor and Amy Schumer are also sick of the word and don't believe it's empowering.

Shelby Stebler, a journalism freshman and writer for SPARK Magazine, discusses how the plus-size movement is progressive, but the label can be problematic.

“[The label] classifies women as being large and in some way not normal,” Stebler said. “[By] classifying them in this category of otherness, it could make women feel out of place. I would say the label itself is negative, but the movement to include women of all shapes and sizes is positive. Women need to see their body types represented as beautiful in media.”

However, there are women who are proud to be labeled plus size. Tess Holliday said to People Magazine that the whole thing is actually “silly, because the term has never been used in a negative way,” adding “when [wom-

en] look online, or look in magazines, they see that label, or see that term, they feel like they're not alone.”

While inclusivity in weight can comfort some women, it still creates a potentially toxic exclusionary atmosphere. This becomes more problematic when different clothing shops have different standards for “plus-sized.” Some define it to be a size 10 and up, while others say a size 6 is considered the same. These inconsistencies make the term even more ambiguous and ineffective.

Additionally, assuming that “normal” size is between a 2 and a 6 is inaccurate, as the majority of women in the U.S. are a size 14 and above, according to Houston-based Plunkett Research. It's ridiculous that the phrase “plus size” defines some women who are smaller than average.

Some women are a size 0, others a size 14. Department stores should simply expand their clothing sizes to cater to all women instead of labeling certain sections as plus size. All women, regardless of their size, should

“

[The label] classifies women as being large and in some way not normal. [By] classifying them in this category of otherness, it could make women feel out of place. I would say that the label itself is negative, but the movement to include women of all shapes and sizes is positive.

— Shelby Stebler,
SPARK Magazine writer

feel beautiful and confident as long as they are practicing a healthy lifestyle. The label needs to be abolished to progress into a more sensitive and caring society that will effectively increase messages of body positivity.

Kim is a journalism freshman from Austin.

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL



Joshua Guerra | Daily Texan Staff

Senior center Imani Boyette protects the ball against Texas' 70-55 win over Oklahoma State on Feb. 10. Boyette was taken by the Chicago Sky in Thursday's WNBA Draft.

Boyette taken by Chicago Sky with No. 10 pick in draft

By Jasmine C. Johnson @AllThatJasss

Hours before the 2016 WNBA Draft began, senior center Imani Boyette had an array of emotions — a mix of anxiousness, nervousness and excitement. Though the WNBA wasn't always a thought for the 6-foot 7-inch Los Angeles native, it still didn't stop her from envisioning how it'd feel to be selected in the WNBA Draft.

When WNBA president Lisa Borders announced Boyette as the 10th overall pick to the Chicago Sky, everything Boyette imagined became a reality. She didn't freak out.

She hugged head coach Karen Aston first, followed by her mother, former WNBA player Pam McGee, and then her father. And then she "ascended" to the stage, without tripping. She even managed to

hold it together for a brief interview with ESPN's Holly Rowe.

"I'm really, really excited to go to Chicago," Boyette said. "I think it's a great fit for me and the way I play."

Chicago Sky head coach Pokey Chatman felt the same. In need of a true center, Chatman was thrilled that Boyette was still available when it was Chicago's pick.

"Everyone talks about her height, her length, her ability to affect the side of the basketball we struggle with the most," Chatman said in an interview with the Chicago Tribune. "I think offensively we'll see her come into her own as the days turn to weeks to months to years."

As a player whose field goal percentage has increased from 48.3 percent to 56.1 percent since her freshman year, Boyette isn't new to gradual offensive improvement. But she

"I've come a long way and I'm just really excited to get home, get back to work and get ready for training camp."

—Imani Boyette

expects her ability to affect shots will be the one skill that most easily translates to the next level.

In the meantime, Boyette will return to Austin and work on her game while preparing to "ascend" the stage at graduation.

"I've come a long way and I'm just really excited to get home, get back to work and get ready for training camp," Boyette said.

TRACK & FIELD

Longhorns to host nationally ranked teams in Texas Invitational

By Leah Vann @Vanntastic_Leah

The Longhorns have had a week of rest since the Texas Relays but are preparing to host some of the nation's top competitors again in the Texas Invitational this weekend. Out of the ten teams competing, three are in the nation's top ten for both men and women: LSU, Arkansas and Texas.

Setting the stage for the upcoming NCAA Championships will be the men's 4x100 meter and 4x400 relays. The 4x100 relays featuring No. 2 TCU, No. 4 Texas, No. 5 LSU, and No. 7 Iowa.

"We need to work a little bit more on our men's [4x100] to piece it together," associate head coach Tonja Buford-Bailey said. "You need more opportunities to go through races like that

because there are multiple people you're counting on."

Later in the meet, Texas will have a chance at revenge in the 4x400 meter against LSU, which edged them out of first place by 0.35 seconds at Texas Relays two weeks ago.

On the individual level, TCU's Ronnie Baker currently holds the top time in the 100 meter at 9.95 seconds. Lining up against him will be No. 3 Longhorn Senoj-Jay Givans with a current time of 10.08 seconds. No. 2 Byron Robinson will challenge UTSA's No. 5 and No. 8 in the 400m hurdles, along with five other athletes from the top 20.

On the women's side, Longhorn senior Morolake Akinosun holds the current top time in the 100 at 11.07 seconds and will face a trio of LSU sprinters who rank in the top 15. Akinosun will

"It's free admission, so hopefully people will meander over after the spring football game and check out the track meet."

—Tonja Buford-Bailey Associate head coach

also compete against No. 1 Arkansas' Taylor Ellis-Watson in the 200 meters.

"This is a chance for the athletes to compete at home and get events in before LSU next weekend and the relays coming up," Bailey said. "It's free admission, so hopefully people will meander over after the spring football game and check out the track meet."

WOMEN'S TENNIS

Texas ready for final double header weekend of the season

By Aspen Detrick @A_dtrick14

The Longhorns are preparing for their last double header weekend of the season where they will face West Virginia and Iowa State at Whitaker Courts.

After conquering then-ranked No. 12 Texas Tech and No. 28 TCU on their home courts, Texas has leapt to a season-high No. 25 spot in the ITA rankings.

As for this week's opponents, both the Mountaineers and Cyclones are unranked teams and coming off a loss last time out. The

Longhorns have been undefeated against both squads for at least the last three seasons.

Texas' first matchup, West Virginia, has a seven game losing streak which puts them at 0-5 in conference play.

Iowa State's league record holds up a little better at 3-2, their two dubs over West Virginia and Kansas State. Starting in Waco on Friday to play Baylor, the Cyclones will be heading down to Austin with a recent win or lose under their belt.

Senior Breanna Addison remains the highest

positioned play in the Big 12 Conference at No. 11. The Texas duo of Addison and sophomore Dani Wagland hold on to the second highest doubles team in the conference.

Players on the Texas team will be looking to further their perfect records including Addison who is 6-0 in league play at first singles and junior Neda Koprcina who holds a perfect 9-0 record at second singles.

West Virginia will be at Whitaker courts Saturday at noon and Iowa follows behind them at the same time Sunday.

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by Mel W.

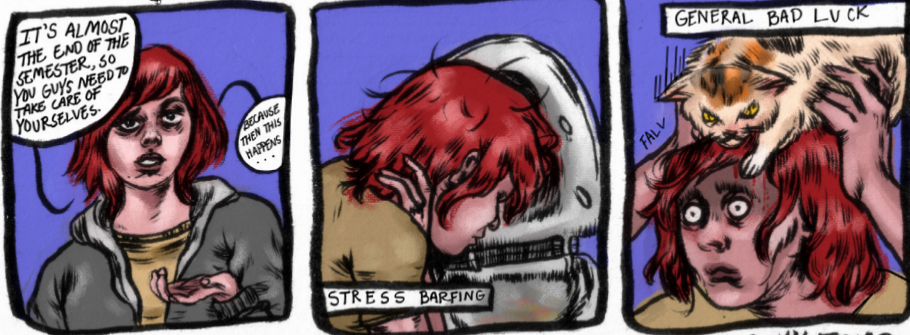
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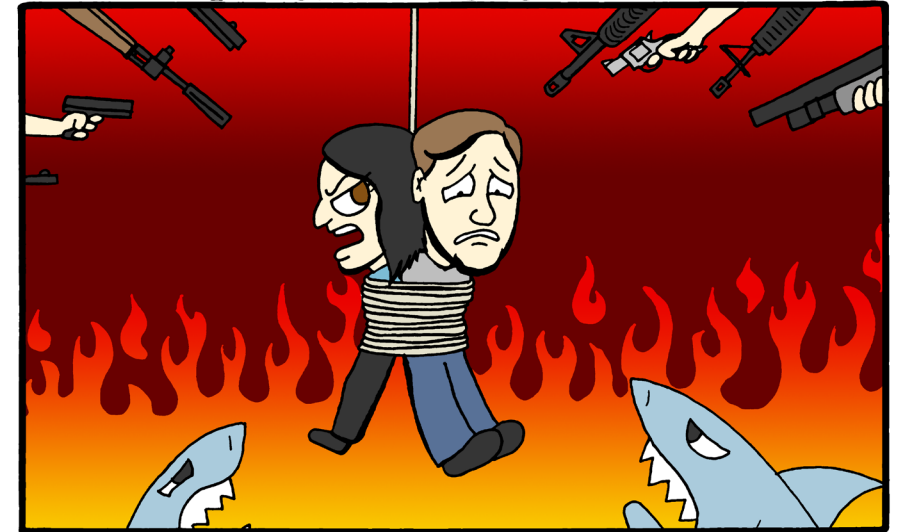
SCARY STORIES TO TELL @ LUNCH



BY JACKY TOVAR

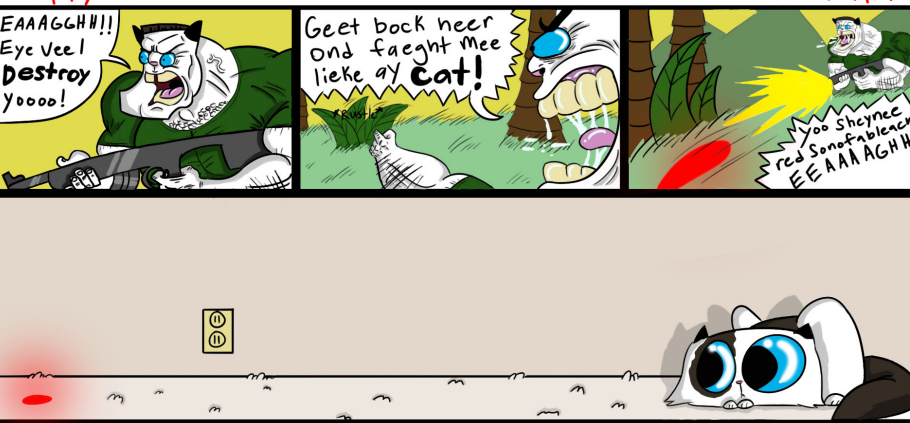
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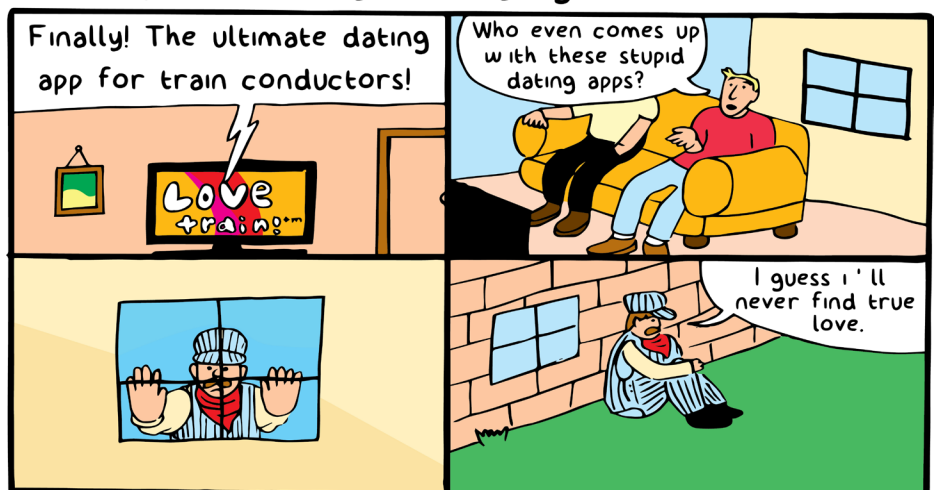
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Connor Murphy

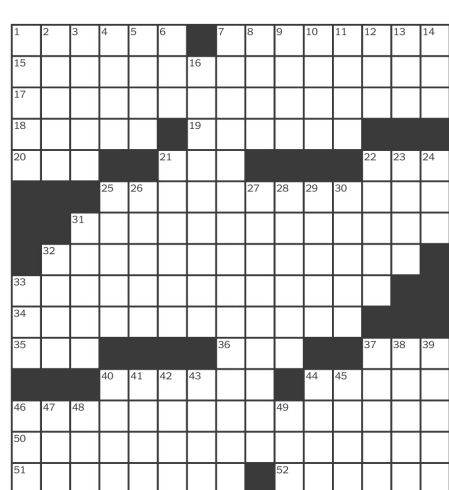


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The New York Times Crossword

Edited by Will Shortz No. 0311

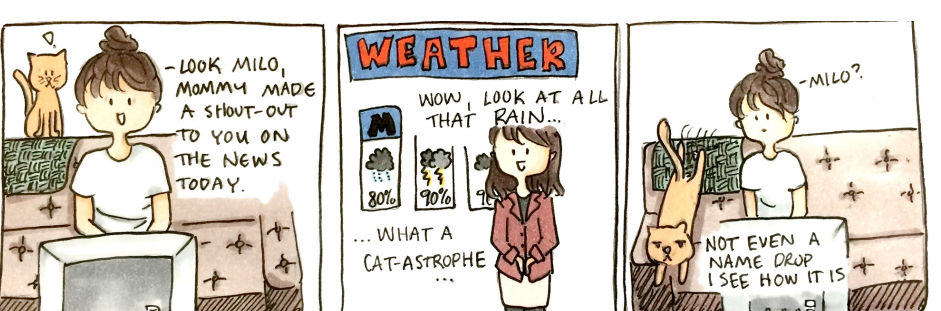
- ACROSS**
- 1 Phylcia of stage and screen
 - 7 Reduce to tears?
 - 15 Some highway conveniences
 - 17 Unwelcome war report
 - 18 French force
 - 19 Back tracks?
 - 20 ___-relief
 - 21 Blood letters
 - 22 Green org.?
 - 25 Deem to be dumb
 - 31 Quaint means of manipulation
 - 32 Common instruments in jazz combos
 - 33 Cyclist in peak condition?
- DOWN**
- 1 Aid for clean living
 - 2 Hyundai luxury sedan
 - 3 Blasts inboxes
 - 4 Billionaire, for one
 - 5 "___ sow ..."
 - 6 Award since W.W. I
 - 7 Outcome in Eden
 - 8 His: Fr.
 - 9 Dressed
 - 10 Glamour rival
 - 11 Bad singers?
 - 12 "Star Wars" saga nickname
 - 13 Driver's aid
 - 14 What makes a top stop?
 - 16 Grammy-nominated blues guitarist in the Louisiana Music Hall of Fame
 - 18 Fussy cousins
 - 19 Punt propeller, e.g.
 - 20 Says, informally
 - 21 ___ Toy Barn ("Toy Story 2" locale)
 - 22 Alloy of tin and lead
 - 23 Just slightly
 - 24 Order to a sommelier, maybe
 - 25 Bow out



PUZZLE BY MARTIN ASHWOOD-SMITH

- 29 Not out, but not necessarily up
- 30 Doctors
- 31 Debussy contemporary
- 32 1922 Physics Nobel
- 33 1959 Kingston Trio hit
- 34 Explorer alternative
- 35 Star seeker?
- 36 Canvas primer
- 37 City northeast of Kiev
- 38 Head Stone
- 39 Biol. branch
- 40 The New Yorker film critic Anthony
- 41 +/-
- 42 Biol. and others
- 43 Concert piece
- 44 Kid's cry
- 45 College final?
- 46 It's sometimes shown in the corner of a TV screen, for short

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STAN RIPS

WHY SO LITERAL

LITERAL THINGS.TUMBLR

Today's solution will appear here next issue

2	9	8		7		3		
6	1					8		
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			6	9	7	2		1
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3			2	1				

SUDOKUFORYOU

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

FOOTBALL

Spring game set to highlight new offense

By Samuel Williams
@smwilliams27

In just the last six seasons, Texas has started five different quarterbacks. This season could promise yet another change.

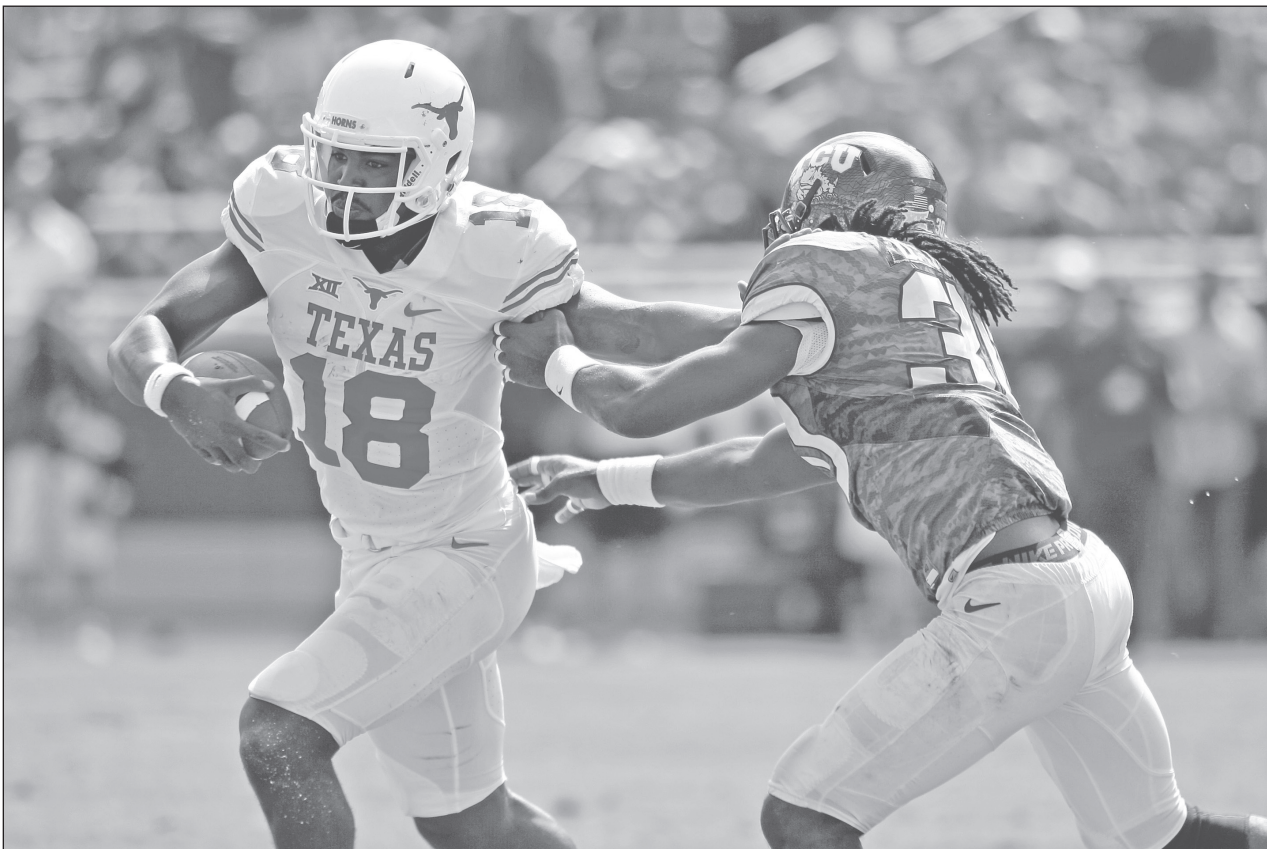
With Saturday's orange-white spring game quickly approaching, redshirt sophomore Jerrod Heard has already sat out the majority of spring practice with a throwing-shoulder injury. He started 10 games for the Longhorns last season.

In Texas' 5-7 2015 campaign, quarterback performance stood out once again as needing improvement. Beyond the position, the Longhorns' team offense has struggled as well, finishing No. 8 in the Big 12 in yards per game and points per game.

During Heard's injury, senior Tyrone Swoopes and early-enrolled freshman Shane Buechele have continued to battle for the starting spot come September.

"We have the numbers there," head coach Charlie Strong said. "It's about who's going to really step up and be that guy... If we feel like he can take us where we need to get to, we could play a true freshman at quarterback."

Though Strong was initially optimistic about making a quick decision at the quarterback position, Heard's injury has been a setback. Luckily



Daulton Venglar | Daily Texan Staff

Senior quarterback Tyrone Swoopes breaks away from a TCU defender on Oct. 3. Swoopes will get a chance to make strides in Texas' quarterback race during Texas' spring game on Saturday at Darrell K. Royal Memorial Stadium.

for the Longhorns, new offensive coordinator Sterlin Gilbert's up-tempo scheme promises to place less stress on the quarterback position.

"The offense is way more simple, because it's so fast," offensive lineman Kent Perkins said. "You can't have something too complicated."

Though Swoopes boasts more experience than Buechele, the latter has

greater long-term potential as a freshman. Longhorn fans will get a good look at both quarterbacks in the spring game.

Perhaps even more important than the question of who will start at quarterback is how both the offense and defense will handle the new offense.

"I think [fans] are going to see an improved team,"

offensive lineman Connor Williams said. "We look a lot better and a lot faster. We're really moving the ball against a very good defense."

Gilbert's new up-tempo offense has been the talk of spring practice. For Texas, the players know that this change may be the best way to compete in a deep Big 12 conference. While Baylor,

Texas Tech and TCU finished as the top three in yards per game last season, Texas finished No. 92 nationally.

"I was excited [about the up-tempo]," Perkins said. "I know how much success Baylor has had with it. Last year we didn't get to go to a bowl game and that hit us hard. We just want to win. However we get there, we get there."

BASEBALL



Rachel Zein | Daily Texan Staff

Senior pitcher Ty Culbreth throws the ball during Texas' 2-0 win over TCU on March 25. Culbreth is coached by Skip Johnson, the associate head coach and pitching coach.

Pitching coach providing calm demeanor for Longhorn staff

By Michael Shapiro
@mshap2

Skip Johnson wasn't in any hurry.

As the Texas associate head coach trotted out of the dugout to the pitcher's mound on Tuesday night, he didn't want to impart any magical words of wisdom. He simply wanted to calm his pitcher down.

"You come into a stadium with 5,000 people, the expectation level is very high and the pressure is very high," Johnson said. "So you try to work where [the pitcher] can understand the situation and go back to being consistent."

Johnson has taken countless trips to the mound in his time as Texas' pitching coach, beginning in 2007. The situations may vary, but the message in Johnson's thick Texas accent stays the same: Focus on the pitch at hand and throw strikes.

The messaging began when Johnson was at Navarro College in Corsicana. Johnson won 450 games with the Bulldogs, making the Junior College Athletic Association Regional Tournament 13 times. But while the victories were important, Johnson noted a distinct difference between

the mindset in Corsicana versus Austin.

"That's the hardest thing at the University of Texas, you have to win every game," Johnson said. "You can't just throw a guy out there and have him develop on the fly like you can at a smaller school like Navarro."

Despite the intense atmosphere, development is the driving force behind Johnson's philosophy. Johnson plays the long game with the Longhorns pitching staff, sacrificing short-term struggles for long-term success.

Take Texas senior Ty Culbreth. Culbreth came to Austin in 2013 as a wiry pitcher, unsuited to throw significant innings at the collegiate level. After appearing in just six games as a freshman, Culbreth embraced a greater role in the bullpen for the entirety of his sophomore season as well as most of his junior year.

Culbreth was comfortable receiving the ball in late-inning situations, but was needed in the starting role near the end of the 2015 season. And after nearly three years of development, Culbreth delivered. The former-specialty

reliever transformed into a reliable piece of Texas' staff, winning four games with a 3.95 ERA. His finest moment came on May 21, throwing nine innings in Texas' 4-3 victory over Baylor in the Big 12 tournament. Head coach Augie Garrido noted Culbreth's development after the victory.

"Our pitchers stayed within the framework of the process itself and didn't worry about the result," Garrido said. "It takes maturity to be able to get to that point."

Just as he did with Culbreth, Johnson is taking an expansive view on the Longhorns current crop of pitchers. Despite a 14-19 record heading into this weekend's series with Kansas — beginning with a doubleheader on Friday at 4 p.m. — Johnson is optimistic in his staff's ability to finish the year strong.

"There's a lot of film in this group," Johnson said. "They just need to focus on doing the right things, learn how to compete and deal with adversity."

And when that adversity does arise, Johnson will take his customary trip to the mound. But don't expect him to be in a hurry.

SOFTBALL

Texas ready for Big 12 leaders in Norman

By Steve Helwick
@naqwerty3

The Longhorns are distant from rival Oklahoma in the standings, but have a chance to close the gap this weekend.

The Longhorns, winners of seven of their last eight games, will enter a three-game series this weekend with the Sooners this weekend. Oklahoma sits atop the Big 12 with a 31-7 overall record and 6-1 Big 12 mark.

"I think that they've played with a little more poise down the stretch," head coach Connie Clark said.

The Longhorns claimed two of three games in the series against Texas Tech after beginning conference play by dropping two games to Baylor. Clark is relying on the team's experience in Norman.

"We have a lot of film on [Oklahoma]," said Clark. "Paige Parker: Our returners have seen her and what she's bringing to the table. But you need to stay in your own Texas bubble. Their fans will try to get you riled up a little bit."

Texas lost all three matchups against the Sooners last season by a combined score of 15-1. The Longhorns haven't been susceptible to allowing as many runs this year, currently leading the Big 12 in ERA with a

1.96 average.

"My mindset on the mound is when I get up there, I know the hitters can't hit me," junior pitcher Tiarra Davis said. "It's more about a confidence thing and being mentally prepared."

Davis' pitching will be combated by the powerful offense of Oklahoma. The Sooners lead the conference in batting average, currently hitting with a .359 average. Oklahoma also averages 7.1 runs per game, while Texas has only allowed more than seven runs twice this season.

"We're really trying to focus on us, not so much on our opponent," sophomore first baseman Holly Kern said. "I think a win would be fantastic, I think a couple of wins would be awesome. It would really push us toward postseason."

The road environment has not been a cakewalk for the Longhorns this season, as the team has gone 4-4 on the road. But taking one or two games in this series would be meaningful to Texas, who will return from Norman to an eight-game homestand.

"I think most importantly, it would mean a lot for our RPI, that we could get a win against a top 25 team," said Davis. "If we beat OU for the Big 12, that's a chance to be a top contender for a championship."



Joshua Guerra | Daily Texan Staff

Senior outfielder Holly Kern prepares to hit the ball in Texas' 2-0 win over Texas Tech on April 9. The Longhorns travel to Norman to play the Oklahoma Sooners this weekend.

SIDELINE

MLB

	YANKEES	2
	BLUE JAYS	4
	RANGERS	6
	ORIOLES	3

NHL

	FLYERS	0
	CAPITALS	2

TODAY IN HISTORY

2013

Three people are killed and 183 injured in Boston Marathon bombings.

TOP TWEET

Marcus Johnson
@MisterJohnson06
"Speak it into existence."

SPORTS BRIEFLY

Men's tennis set for final match

No. 17 Texas contests its final home match of the season on Saturday when it hosts TCU at the Polo Tennis Club.

The Longhorns split a doubleheader in their last action on Sunday. In the first match, Texas took a 0-4 defeat against Oklahoma State. However, the Longhorn's redeemed themselves later that afternoon when they shut out Prairie View A&M, 4-0. Texas is now 17-8 for the season and 2-1 in conference play.

As the season comes to a close, the Texas freshman have all had impressive debut seasons. Rodrigo Banzer is 6-4 for the season in singles play. Johnny Goodwin is 3-1 for singles dual match play. Colin Markes is 5-1 for overall singles match play. Harrison Scott has made a name for himself in this Big 12 Conference and has a 21-9 record in singles play. Scott and his doubles partner sophomore John Mee are also 8-4 this season. Finally, redshirt-freshman Julian Zlobinsky is 10-4 in dual play and with junior doubles partner George Goldoff, the tandem has gone 11-7 this season.

Senior Michael Riechmann will be honored on Saturday during Senior Day festivities prior to the match and this will be his final home match as a Longhorn.

Following this match, Texas will have one remaining regular season match, before the Big 12 Men's Tennis Championship and NCAA Men's Tennis Championship begin.

Match play begins at 1 p.m. on Saturday.

—Alana Kaufman

CAMERAS CAPTURE LATINAS' ANGLE

Photos capture East Side from outside

By Elena Mejia
@elenamejialutz



Amalia Diaz



When you're in a foreign country, you want to express yourself to show the ways you see your new environment.

—Amalia Diaz

When graduate student Amalia Diaz moved from Columbia to Austin, she used her outsider's perspective to capture the changing landscape of the East Side through her camera lens.

"When you're in a foreign country, you want to express yourself to show the ways you see your new environment," Diaz said.

Diaz met her photography mentor Eli Reed, a UT professor, in his photography workshop in 2015. One of her class projects, "Portraits of a Changing Economy," was featured in The Room Gallery exhibition called Latinas Artwork Expression. "Portraits" documented the gentrification of the black and Latino people who have lived on the East Side for generations are forced to move to north Austin because of rising costs.

Diaz said she drove aimlessly around the East Side and found emblematic places in the area to photograph, like Cisco's Restaurant and dive bar La Perla. According to the owner, La Perla is the oldest cantina that still stands in Austin.

"Austin is obviously changing so much, and she went out there, and the pictures she took were more human," Reed said. "She connected with people, they weren't just subjects on the East Side. She captured these people in their places and their reality."

Aside from old-school cantinas and restaurants, Diaz also visited new businesses, like Cycleast and Blue Cat Cafe, to show the pros of a changing economy. She photographed Cycleast's mural called "Lotería," designed in the 1980s to represent the Chicano culture on East Cesar Chavez Street.

"Last year, during South By Southwest, [the wall] was covered with another mural, and people were really pissed about that," Diaz said. "At the end of 2015, they repainted it. You can see the mixture of an important symbol of the old inhabitants of the area that is now mixing with the new ones."

Reed said Diaz' ability to mix her scientific background with art is what makes her photographs unique. She does not photograph the surface of her subjects, but rather documents the past, present and future of a person in one single image.

"The most interesting breakthroughs in science come from people who have imagination and think beyond just the surface of things and that's what makes the most interesting pictures," Reed said. "Pictures have life to them. She's not just taking what you expect. She goes beyond and brings it into focus. That's when you know someone did something really good."

Luis Herrera, founder of The Room Gallery where Diaz's photos were featured, met Diaz when she worked as a volunteer photographer at the Austin Animal Center. Herrera moved from Mexico to east Austin seven years ago and promotes Latino culture and art in his gallery. He said he immediately became interested in exhibiting "Portraits" because of the fleeting nature of the businesses on the East Side.

"She has a good eye," Herrera said. "Photographs take less than a second, and she knows exactly how to do it. There are nostalgic photographs from some of the east Austin businesses that could disappear in the next years."



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A collection of thirty years of photos, professor Donna De Cesare's book "Unsettled/Desasosiego" documents Central American youth.

Professor documents Latino youth

By Cat Cardenas
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At 15, Tomas had run away from his family, become a child soldier and was living in a home for former combatants in Columbia. His life would've been almost unbelievable to anyone who heard his story if no one had been there to document it.

"I saw [the soldiers] kill people, a lot of people," Tomas said in an interview with journalism professor Donna De Cesare. "They told me they had to. I didn't like it. Sometimes I felt so angry I wanted to kill someone, but then I would feel afraid. They told me not to worry I didn't have to do any of that. I would close my eyes."

De Cesare photographed and interviewed Tomas as part of her project "Sharing Secrets." The series was one of De Cesare's many efforts to document the complex lives of Latino communities wrought with gang violence and civil war. She compiled some of these photos into a bilingual book, "Unsettled/Desasosiego," with photos

captured during her thirty-plus years in Central America. Since publishing the book, De Cesare has started her next project, which focuses on environmental issues in Argentina, and was named one of Time Magazine's women trailblazers in photography in March.

"It's never the winning [that matters,] De Cesare said. "What's important is that the award puts the work in the spotlight again. It elevates that issue to a conversation that has the potential of getting people interested. For the people who are in the photographs, it's also a way for them to get recognized."

In 1978, De Cesare left the University of Essex to document the civil war in El Salvador. As she traveled across Central America throughout her career, the younger generations became the focus of her photographs.

By often integrating herself in their communities over months or years, De Cesare intimately captures the lives of the marginalized and misunderstood.

"Asmuchas[gangviolence]

is a problem of individual choice to a certain degree, it's also a problem of the lack of options and the social environment they're in," De Cesare said. "People have limited life choices, limited life possibilities."

One of her previous photo projects, "Destiny's Children," followed five young people navigating gang life. For four years, De Cesare got to know Carlos, Jessica, Edgar and troubled couple Carlos and Ivonne, all 15 to 21 years old. While she couldn't help but get attached to them, she said she always knew some of them might end up dead.

"From the beginning, I knew that it would be inevitable that some of them weren't going to make it," De Cesare said. "I wanted to show people that we were responsible as a society — we really do have a role to play here. This is not just something that we should allow to continue."

After leaving Los Angeles, De Cesare lost touch with several of the gang members who made it out. A few years later, she heard that Carlos had finally cut off ties with the



Donna De Cesare

Eighteenth Street Gang, and she helped him get to Boston to live with his brother. But when he heard Ivonne might have been doing drugs, he went back to rescue his child. Soon afterward, he fell back into gang life, was deported and brutally murdered.

"His murder was never investigated," De Cesare said. "He had as much right to justice as anyone else, but he wasn't seen as an innocent victim. Even though his death was really upsetting, it can stand as a symbol to others. [Ivonne] contacted me afterward, and she thanked me and said 'If what we've been through makes someone think twice, then I feel like it's all worth it.'"

Alumna's films tell cross-border stories

By Elena Mejia
@elenamejialutz

It wasn't until she returned to her childhood home that filmmaker and UT alumna Marcela Morán found the focus of her first six films.

Growing up, Morán and her sisters crossed the border every day to go to school. She was familiar with the dualities that came with life on the border and accepted them. But after 10 years spent away from Nuevo Laredo, her return allowed her to notice things she had never questioned before.

She saw migrants being deported on the bridge, and she watched as her neighbor collected clothes to take to the local immigrant shelter.

"I think being away for a decade allowed me to come back with fresh eyes," Morán said. "Growing up, I didn't realize there were so many stories to tell. I saw how my hometown had changed and how it was full of these stories that weren't being told by mainstream media."

Her first documentary, a 10-minute short titled "Casa Del Migrante," focused on a migrant shelter in her hometown. Shot on her personal camcorder, Morán interviewed several migrants to learn about their journeys across the border.

Through their accounts, Morán said she was able to tackle a different angle than traditional news outlets by including their hopes for a life in America and also the violations committed against

them by Mexican authorities throughout their travels.

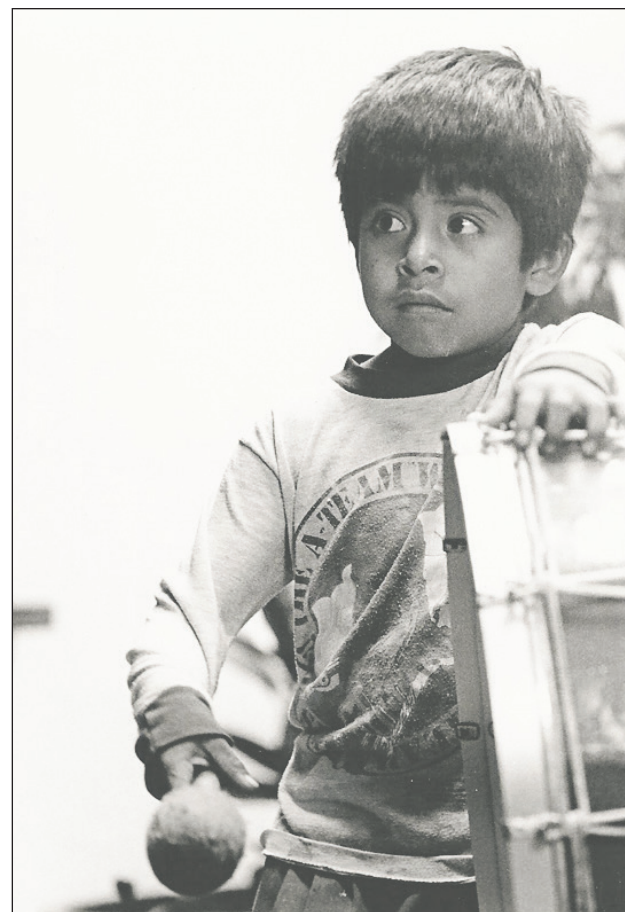
"We have journalists who come here and do their story and leave," Morán said. "I just felt compelled to stay and continue telling stories."

Since "Casa," Morán has worked on several other films, from "Audiencia," which covered the growing popularity of Lucha Libre in the U.S., to her latest project, "Jornaleras," which follows three immigrant women working in New York. While working on each project, Morán said she sometimes felt out of place as a female filmmaker.

"A female with a camera is sort of suspicious because, in Latin America, women are supposed to be at home with their children," Morán said. Morán said she was always encouraged by her family members to follow an unconventional path. Her mother continually encouraged her to go out and pursue her dreams.

"I owe [my career] to the women in my family," Morán said. "They've struggled with the structures of oppression in the culture. I was so fortunate to have [my mother's] constant support and having her tell me that I had to do what I wanted to do."

In "Jornaleras," Morán wanted to delve into the personal lives of immigrant women. One of the women, whom Morán had known for 10 years, shared her story for the first time about being raped. Throughout her interview, she explained how she was sold by a Coyote who her mother paid



Courtesy of Marcela Moran

In each of her films, UT alumna Marcela Morán follows stories of people on the border.

to help her cross the border. "Jornaleras" producer Maritza Bautista said focusing on women allowed them to tell stories that typically go untold in Latino communities.

"I think the most important aspect about the film is we're giving a voice to women who don't always get to share their experience," Bautista said. "These women know what it means to come to the U.S."

Going forward, Morán

said she wants to continue telling the stories of women unified by their experiences as Latinas.

"It's almost like border women are invisible, and it's because of the culture," Morán said. "Up until ['Jornaleras,'] I had never focused on women. Before, I wasn't even thinking about gender, but when I started listening to these women, I knew that I had something new to tell."



Courtesy of Amalia Diaz

In her photo series, "Portraits of a Changing Economy," Amalia Diaz, captures stories of the East Austin Community.