

ANSWERS to today's puzzles

ACROSS
 1. FREE
 2. TSPS
 3. WASNT
 4. ROTOR
 5. UTSA
 6. FRASES
 7. NIT
 8. ROARING
 9. TWENTIES
 10. ACE
 11. ELM
 12. ANDS
 13. PARCELS
 14. IDS
 15. ABET
 16. PABLO
 17. BTU
 18. CUBS
 19. SCOUTLEADERS
 20. ETA
 21. BURMA
 22. ISEE
 23. PSI
 24. HOLSTER
 25. FEAR
 26. JIG
 27. RAG
 28. AFRICAN
 29. LANGUAGE
 30. SLOMO
 31. BONE
 32. IRON
 33. TAMES
 34. EVER
 35. SEED
 36. START
 37. DEWY
 38. EARS

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

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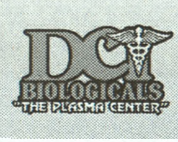
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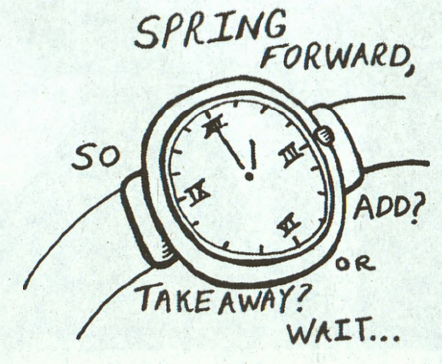
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OPINION

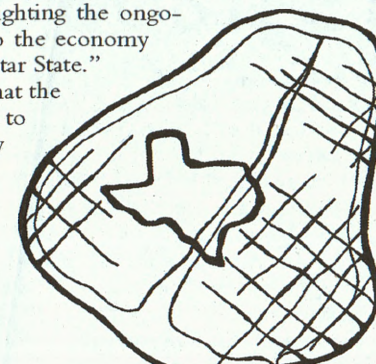
All bills are created equal, no matter how odd

Battalion assistant managing editor Jennifer Reiley dug through the filed bills in the Texas legislature to see which would-be laws are in the works.



HCR 39 ('Steak Capitol,' whatever that means):

This resolution, filed by J.D. Sheffield, proposes to name Hico, Texas, as the official Steak Capital of Texas. Right. In the text, Sheffield states that Hico held its 11th annual Texas State Cookoff in 2014. Because of the success of the cookoff over the last decade, the resolution states that "Hico brings together talented professional and amateur chefs in a spirited competition enjoyed by residents and tourists alike while highlighting the ongoing importance of beef to the economy and culture of the Lone Star State." I am interested to hear what the other representatives have to say about this. Probably something along the lines of, "Just because you have a cookoff doesn't mean you have the best steak." Shots fired.



HB 150 (Texas secedes, kind of):

In a page-long bill, Rep. Dan Flynn proposes to exempt the state of Texas from recognizing daylight saving time. In the Uniform Time Act of 1966, there is an exemption provision for states that choose not to recognize daylight saving time. Currently, Arizona and Hawaii do not have daylight saving time. Texas actually sits in two time zones, and the bill includes both. While Flynn gives no reason as to why he filed the bill, if it is voted on and passed, Texas will no longer observe daylight saving time beginning Sept. 1, 2015. With 2/3 of the vote in each house, the new exemption will go into effect immediately.

HB 584 (State-declared national day):

I'm surprised this isn't already a law. The bill, filed by Rep. Joe Pickett, would recognize the fourth Saturday in July as National Day of the Cowboy. Pickett states in the bill that the day would serve in "recognition of the historic, cultural and social contributions of the cowboy." There is no reason given as to why it must be the fourth Saturday. The bill sits in the Culture, Recreation and Tourism committee.



HCR 35, 42 (People of only one hat):

These two resolutions are expected to bring about controversy. Seriously. Two concurrent resolutions have been filed, one by Rep. Marsha Farney and the other by Rep. Dwayne Bohac. The details of the bills include brief histories of the cowboy hat. Fun fact: "Broad brimmed hats with high crowns can be seen being worn by nomadic warriors like the Mongolian Horsemen as far back as the 13th century." For Texas, the bills state the hat is a defining characteristic of Texas, whether it be "an essential piece of clothing for a cowboy on a cattle drive, a Texas Trooper on duty, or a fashion accessory that can be personalized by shape and material, the cowboy hat reflects the individualism that is so much a part of the Texan identity." I can't wait to see the debate over this. These concurrent resolutions are different than bills; they are not enforced the way a law is, but they do not need the signature of the governor to be approved.

COSGA CONTINUED

Senate passed in the fall advocating for concealed carry on campus.

"They have a big hunting interest over there and so they're allowed to have their weapons or guns on campus but it is stored in their police-secured facility," Song said. "So they have their own lockers they can put their guns in and leave it there and they have 24-hour access and they can just come take it."

While not every moment went smoothly, Craig said the conference was a success. "The snags that we've hit include the shutdown of the airport in Dallas, so we had to have a couple schools cancel, so we're short about six or seven schools," Craig said. "But it's hard to see the challenges when everything has gone so well — we are so lucky. I don't think staff knows we've had as many hiccups as we've had, and none of the hiccups are something we can control, but it's just something we've dealt with and I've been happy that we can figure it out."

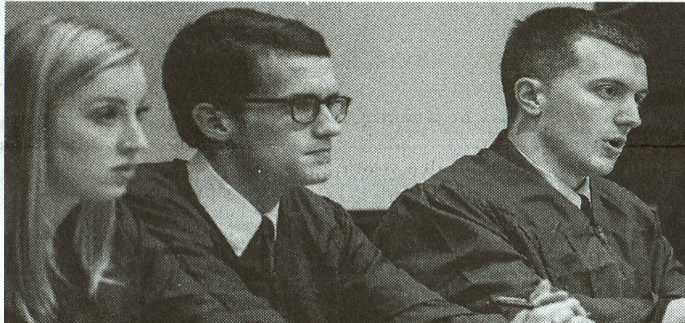
The second keynote speaker, Jason Connell, a well-known speaker on visionary leadership for young adults, told Craig it was one of the best-run conferences he had seen, which Craig said was her most memorable moment.

Mason Flannery, assistant director of COSGA and industrial distribution senior, said the event's success can be seen in the manner its funds were raised, as this was the first year COSGA staff didn't have to ask the SGA for an allotment and instead raised funds solely from donations of previous years and the \$300-per-delegate sign-up fee.

"We decided that we would rather let other committees in the SGA that really rely on those funds use them when we know we can operate on our own budget," Flannery said.

Since coming to COSGA, Craig said many of the schools have created their own versions of A&M organizations like The Big Event and CARPOOL.

To keep up with the growth of the conference, Craig said she and Flannery created an advancement committee for the first time this year, which they hope will continue the improvement of COSGA in future years.



Vanessa Peña — THE BATTALION

J-Court justices, including chief justice **Brenton Cooper** (center) hear arguments in *Murtha v. Benigno & Douglas* Monday.

SBP CONTINUED

campus, she said she was justified in giving the fine.

Mark Womack, counsel for Benigno and Class of 2011, said the power to levy fines for campaign infractions rests solely with the election commissioner, not J-Court.

"To assess appropriate penalties for campaign infractions, the election commissioner should be the one to assess quantity and amount of any penalties," Womack said.

Another topic of debate was what constitutes "campaign material," relating to a "Go with Joe" banner used off campus in Benigno's campaign video.

Counsel for Murtha argued the intent of the flag was to solicit votes, making it an integral piece of the promotional video.

Cromer said election regulations state campaign material includes anything distributed or displayed with the purpose of soliciting votes for a candidate.

"This would create a loophole if you can just avoid election rules to create a video," Cromer said.

Womack argued that holding the flag off campus was not campaigning because its purpose was to be used in the video.

"The flag is not campaign material," Womack said. "It is a prop in a promotional video. The statutes specifically say the intent is what matters in defining a campaign material."

Election commission regulations notwithstanding, Cromer said the six state law violations in Benigno's video require action from J-Court because state penal code is implicitly included in SGA guidelines.

"Rolling in of the Texas Penal Code as regulations is exactly what we are contending," Cromer said. "Any break of those rules is a major violation as defined by election regulations."

Benigno's counsel argued that since there was no conviction for the alleged violations of state law, J-Court could not make a ruling on them.

"[Benigno] did not violate state law, federal law, university law or election regulations," Womack said. "The election is being taken out of the realm of the voters and into the realm of the courts."

Following oral arguments and closing statements from each party, Chief Justice Brenton Cooper said the court would enter into deliberation with a verdict expected within 72 hours.

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THE BATTALION is published daily, Monday through Friday during the fall and spring semesters and Tuesday and Thursday during the summer session (except University holidays and exam periods) at Texas A&M University, College Station, TX 77843. Offices are in Suite L400 of the Memorial Student Center.

News: The Battalion news department is managed by students at Texas A&M University in Student Media, a unit of the Division of Student Affairs. Newsroom phone: 979-845-3315; E-mail: editor@thebatt.com; website: http://www.thebatt.com.

Advertising: Publication of advertising does not imply sponsorship or endorsement by The Battalion. For campus, local, and national display advertising, call 979-845-2687. For classified advertising, call 979-845-0569. Office hours are 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday. Email: battads@thebatt.com.

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