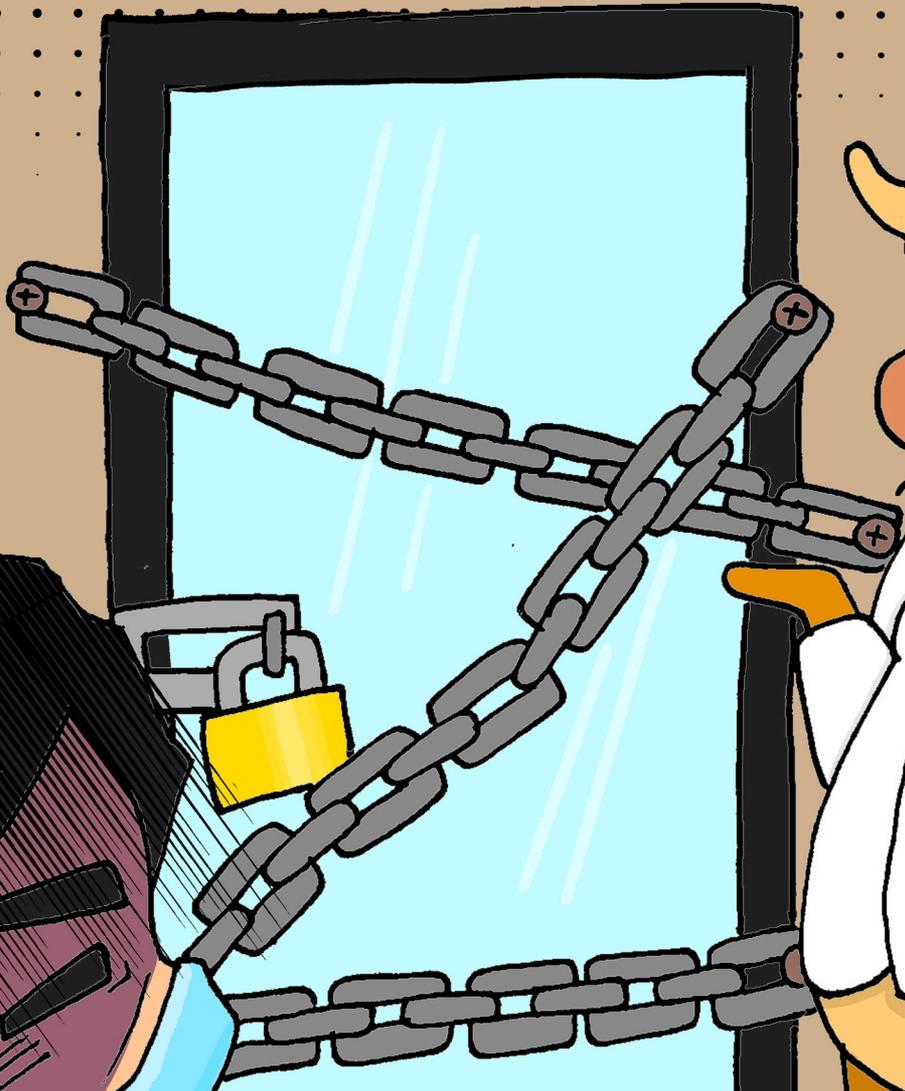
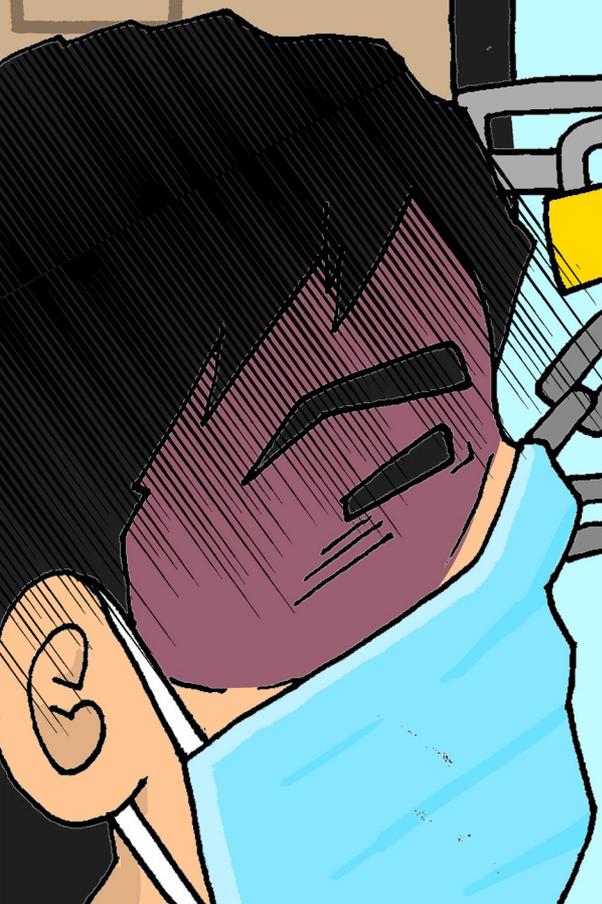


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VOLUME 121, ISSUE 29
TUESDAY, OCTOBER 27, 2020



'WE HAVE TO STRATEGICALLY PLAN IT'

OPINION: UT WON'T REACH ITS TESTING
GOAL WITHOUT A CONSISTENT SCHEDULE.

DAN MARTINEZ / THE DAILY TEXAN STAFF

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my grandma sends me male stripper videos every christmas

CAMPUS

UT student 'Zfluencers' work with brands to promote products on Instagram

By Samantha Greyson
@GreysonSamantha

Zfluence, a Generation Z-run company, employs over 400 UT students and allows members of Generation Z to promote brands on their social media in exchange for free products.

UT has more "Zfluencers" than any other university in the country, Zfluence spokesperson Bryan Gonzales said. Design senior Kelsey Jones has been a Zfluencer since late 2019. Jones saw an ad for Zfluence on her Instagram timeline and filled out a quick online application, which was linked on the Zfluence Instagram.

"At the beginning, Zfluence primarily consisted of Austin-based brands, so there was that incentive to join," Jones said. "But generally, I think it is a popular platform for UT students because it allows students who are generally short on money & time to get free products and promote them on their own terms."

Zfluence employs micro-influencers, and most Zfluencers have 2,000 to 25,000 followers on Instagram. Zfluencers, or "brand representatives," don't get paid, but they do get to keep the products sent to them, government sophomore Riya Kale said.

"Too often we see these huge influencers who are obviously getting paid for their opinion," Kale said. "By taking advantage of this little niche of micro-influencers, you can really take advantage of that personal connection most people have with their followers. If you have maybe three or four thousand, you probably know a majority of them, and they are most likely to trust what you say."

Kale heard about Zfluence from a TikTok, and after looking into it, discovered that a member of her sorority, Alpha Phi, was a Zfluencer. That's when she decided to apply.



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Government sophomore Riya Kale promotes Arctic Zero as a brand representative for Zfluence, a marketing company for Generation Z.

Zfluence promotes brands such as Arctic Zero, Benefit Cosmetics and Deep Bay Spirits. Ava McDonald, founder and CEO of Zfluence, said UT has more than 400 Zfluencers because of Austin's entrepreneurial community.

"I know from people who go to UT, and things I have seen in UT news, that there is a real interest in entrepreneurship," McDonald said. "It was really great that so many UT students wanted to get involved in Zfluence early on."

McDonald, who attends Georgetown University, said the Kendra Scott Institute is an example of entrepreneurship at UT and 33% of all Zfluencers in college are pursuing a degree in

business or marketing.

Over the summer, McDonald worked with Garrett Sonnier, associate professor of marketing at UT, to develop a case study over Zfluence for the McCombs School of Business. Sonnier said the case study is on "how influencer marketing is currently being utilized by businesses to engage with consumers" and is using Zfluence as an example of influencer marketing.

"What we're really trying to do at Zfluence is to get away from the connotation of an influencer as only being influential if they have hundreds of thousands of followers," McDonald said. "We're really looking for people who are influencers on their campuses and in their communities."

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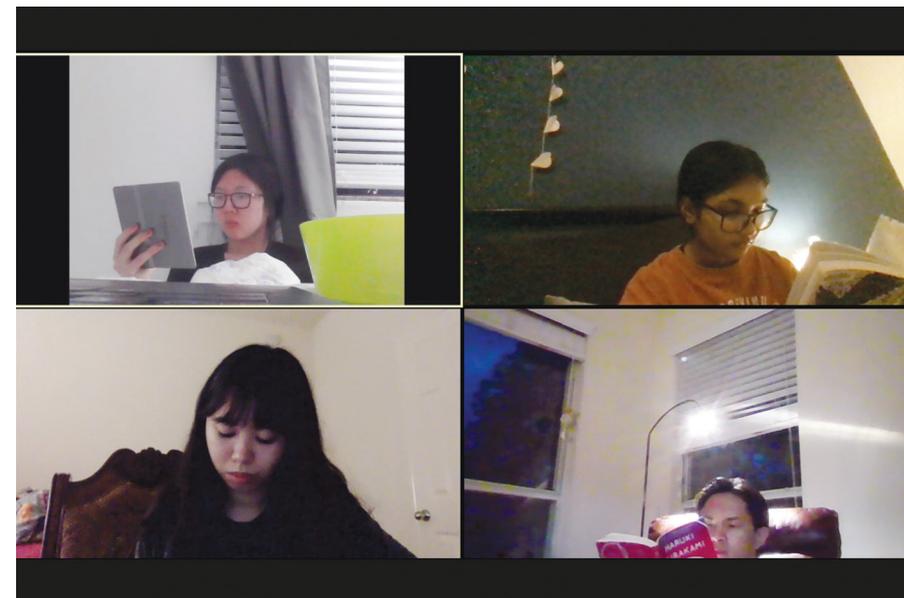
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CAMPUS

Students engage in virtual silent reading club



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Students created a weekly virtual reading club to connect during COVID-19. The group meets for two hours on Sunday nights through Zoom.

By Fiza Kuzhiyil
@fiza11k

About 80 members of the UT community are part of a weekly virtual reading club over Reddit and Discord to connect during COVID-19.

Jessica Shu, a finance and Plan II senior, said she suggested the club on Reddit and created a Discord in mid-October, inspired by silent reading days from elementary school. The group has met twice as of Monday.

“It was a spur-of-the-moment idea,” Shu said. “I just missed being around people and reading in libraries and things like that, and I thought it would be nice to start a reading club.”

Shu said she did not want to create a book club where everyone reads the same book because in her experience, they never seem to last long.

“Most book clubs don’t

really have longevity because people don’t like being told what to read and when to read it,” Shu said.

Shu said while many college students like to read, they often don’t have the time. She said the group meets for two hours on Sunday nights, which allows students to allot time in their schedules for casual reading.

Radio-television-film freshman Lauren Tourish said she found the group on Reddit and joined the Discord, where students discussed and recommended books in different channels.

“With school and everything else going on, it’s been hard for me to be disciplined enough and set time aside to read,” Tourish said. “But if others were doing it too, then it might be easier and more fun.”

Tourish said everyone had their mics muted at her first meeting, but she still

enjoyed having company while she read.

“The communities I’m a part of are always so friendly and welcoming which is nice, especially because it can be hard to meet new people in person these days, whether you’re on campus or not,” Tourish said.

Dannielle LaMonte, a development specialist in the Moody College of Communication, said she decided to take part in the silent reading club as a staff member because she wanted to take more time to read.

“Books used to be a fairly significant part of my life, and it seemed like a nice way to get back to them while minimizing some of my screen time in an engaging way,” LaMonte said. “To share that with others, even if we’re not talking or engaging with each other during the reading, is special.”

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EDITORIAL

Students need regular COVID-19 testing hours

Inconsistent PCT hours and locations inconvenience students trying to get tested regularly.

By The Daily Texan
Editorial Board

Ior Mia Hay, women's and gender studies freshman, making her first proactive

community testing appointment was a challenge. Hay's schedule is hectic during the week and she struggled to find a time that worked for her with the clinic's hours.

Proactive community testing is UT's effort to incentivize asymptomatic students and faculty to get tested for COVID-19 "as frequently as once every two weeks."

But University Health Services, the entity responsible for coordinating when, where and how students can schedule a proactive community test, has created an irregular and confusing testing system.

With varying weekly hours

and no testing on weekends, UT's proactive program is currently too inconsistent to efficiently meet students' testing needs.

UT's goal is to test up to 5,000 members of the UT community per week, but right now it's only testing around 3,000. UHS has a number of problems it must address before proactive testing can actually become a part of students' normal routines.

Through establishing regular times and locations and extending proactive testing to the weekend, UT can improve its current system and do more to keep students safe.

We've struggled to find consistency in both where and when PCT is regularly offered each week.

Last week, testing on Tuesday and Wednesday was only available at the Student Services Building from 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. by appointment only. However, this week, both Tuesday and Wednesday testing are available for walk-ins at the SSB from 8:30 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Andreas Matouschek, core facilities director of the Center for Biomedical Research Support, attributed these inconsistencies to the attempts of UHS to cater to a variety of student schedules.

However, psychology junior Meghana Rao, who tries to get tested weekly, said the inconsistent times make it hard for her to adapt her schedule accordingly.

"Whenever my friends and I want to get tested, we have to strategically plan it," Rao said.

UT intended for proactive testing to become part of students' weekly routines, but students can't build a routine around a schedule that changes week to week.

We also noticed that proactive testing hours used to be available to students on Fridays until mid-September. Since then, Fridays have not been on the proactive testing weekly schedule. Weekend testing has never been available to students.

Matouschek said the decision to remove Fridays from the proactive testing schedule was purely operational because the testing center needed to have at least one day for maintenance and repair.

But students' inability to get tested on Fridays and the weekend undermines UHS' attempts to cater to a wide array of student schedules. For students who spend their weeks in class, at work and attending to other responsibilities, weekends may be the only time they're available to schedule appointments.

"I think weekend hours would be really helpful because some people, like me, are really busy during the week," Hay said.

Matouschek noted there has currently not been a large enough demand from students to justify scheduling staff members for shifts over



SYLVIA ASUNCION-CRABB / THE DAILY TEXAN STAFF

the weekend.

But from our own experiences and conversations with students, it seems like the demand is there. Even if UT doesn't have enough data to draw conclusions about when students most commonly come in for testing, students would benefit from having the option to get tested on Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays.

UHS needs to be deliberate about its analysis of foot traffic at proactive testing sites during the week to determine which days students frequent testing sites the least. UHS should then schedule maintenance and repair on this day, so the staff responsible for these hours could be shifted to Fridays, Saturdays or Sundays.

Of course, this kind of

analysis would only be possible if UHS had a consistent testing schedule that didn't change every week.

It would benefit both UT and its students for UHS to maintain a uniform, unvarying proactive testing schedule. Without these changes, UT won't reach its 5,000 goal, and students will lose the opportunity to protect themselves and others.

WEST CAMPUS

Waterloo apartments opening in 2022

By Skye Seipp
@seippetc



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Waterloo, one of the tallest buildings in the area at 320 feet, is set to open in West Campus in August 2022.

West Campus will have a towering new addition to its skyline with a 30-story apartment complex set to open August 2022.

Waterloo will be one of the tallest buildings in the area at 320 feet, making it taller than both the UT Tower and the Texas State Capitol. The apartment is the first to take advantage of new amendments to the University Neighborhood Overlay density bonus program that the Austin City Council passed last year, which allows for taller buildings in West Campus.

The area of West Campus where Waterloo will be built originally could only have buildings as high as 225 feet, but the amendments allow for buildings with an additional height of 125 feet.

The program requires that a certain percentage of the Waterloo apartments must be designated as affordable housing. Waterloo, developed by Lincoln Ventures, will designate 10% of its units for people making 60% of the average income in Austin and another 10% of units for those making 50% of the average income, Lincoln Ventures founder David Kanne said.

“It’s just bringing those extra levels of affordability into kind of a unique project, which is really exciting for West Campus,” Kanne said. “It’s always great to see change in neighborhoods, and it’s cool to be able to use these new changes that the city council passed to bring a project forward.”

Kanne said planning for Waterloo, which will have 241 units and 797 beds, began in the spring, and construction began in July. The Waterloo apartment

building will be located across the street from Cain & Abel’s at 2400 Seton Ave.

Kathie Tovo, a District 9 council member whose district includes West Campus, said the University Neighborhood Overlay has been important to additional developments in West Campus since it was established in 2004.

“It really facilitates academic success and campus involvement to be so close to campus, and that opportunity should really be available to students of all economic backgrounds,” Tovo said.

Allie Runas, chair of the West Campus Neighborhood Association, said Waterloo sounds like a perfect fit for what the University Neighborhood Overlay was intended for. She said what excited her the most was the amount of affordable housing that would be available.

“The best thing about the affordability built into

UNO is that the income levels are set by (the city of Austin’s Housing and Urban Development),” UT alumna Runas said. “It’s not just saying, ‘Oh, well, these are just cheap apartments.’ They are intended for people who are lower income.”

Jake Wegmann, assistant professor in the School of Architecture, said density bonus programs are not the fix-all solution for affordable housing, but the program in West Campus is the best place for it.

“It is undoubtedly helping a lot of students from lower-income backgrounds to have the opportunity to live right next to the UT campus, which is not only enjoyable and fun and exciting, but it could be the difference between some of them having to buy a car or not buy a car and going into debt to attend UT,” Wegmann said.

CARVE OUT TIME WITH SOME CREATURES OF THE NIGHT.

Pumpkin spice season is upon us, so there’s no better month to discover all the spooky specters skulking around your favorite haunts. Jump on a bus (and out of your skin), as you explore the creepiest locales Austin has to offer – FREE with your valid UT ID!



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Explainer: Local Travis County general election races

As Election Day approaches, here's a look at the local races on the general election ballot.

By Lauren Goodman
@laurgoodman

The Daily Texan put together a list to help inform the UT community on races of interest on the Travis County 2020 general election ballot. A complete list of races will be available on the Texan's website. Early voting runs through Friday, and Election Day is Nov. 3.

Travis County District Attorney

The Travis County District Attorney serves four-year terms. The district attorney decides whether to bring criminal charges in court and prosecute those charged.

José Garza, Democrat

<https://www.joseforda.com/>

Garza is the executive director of the Workers Defense Project. Garza previously served as a senior policy official to Secretary Tom Perez in the U.S. Department of Labor and Deputy General Counsel for the House Committee on Education Labor.

Major Platform Points:

- Support ending cash bail in Travis County, avoid prosecuting those who sell or possess a gram or less of narcotics and protecting

immigrant communities.

- Prioritize survivors of sexual assault with services and create community task forces to hold the office accountable.

- Adopt an open file discovery policy to not withhold information to people accused of crimes.

Martin Harry, Republican

<http://martinharryforjustice.com/>

Harry is a Texas attorney and previously served as an attorney for the Social Security Administration and a judge advocate for the U.S. Navy.

Major Platform Points:

- Prosecute individuals based on facts and evidence and communicate with victims from the beginning of each case.

- Avoid stacking charges as a strategy to compel a guilty plea from defendants.

- Respect the right to reasonable bail and use an objective pretrial assessment to measure risk of flight of defendant if released.

Travis County Sheriff

The Travis County Sheriff serves four-year terms. The sheriff's duties include serving warrants and papers, managing the county's jail and enforcing traffic and criminal laws.

Sally Hernandez, Democrat — Incumbent

<https://vote4sally.com/>

Hernandez was first elected in 2016. She had previously served as Travis County Constable of Precinct 3 and as chief of investigations in the Travis County District Attorney's Office.

Major Platform Points:

- Trained correctional officers and deputies to de-escalate mental health crises.



ROCKY HIGINE / THE DAILY TEXAN STAFF

- Fought immigration policies to detain immigrants in jail and end arrests related to minor possession of marijuana charges.

- Created a Sexual Assault Unit and led a trained victims services staff.

Raul Vargas, Republican

<https://vargas2020.com/>

Vargas is a special ranger in the Peace Officer Commission in the Texas Department of Public Safety and executive director of the Texas Police Association. He previously served in the Texas Department of Public Safety from 1986 to 2016.

Major Platform Points:

- Enforce federal immigration laws and support U.S.

Immigration and Customs Enforcement detention.

- Supports the Second Amendment and educating and providing training to armed citizens in the event of a threat.

- Stop violent crime within and outside the homeless community and enforce violations of the law.

Austin City Council

Austin City Council members serve four-year terms and are limited to a maximum of two terms. Their duties include managing the city's budget and proposing and ratifying city laws and ordinances.

District 2:

- Vanessa Fuentes

- David Chincanchan
- Casey Ramos

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- Greg Casar - Incumbent
- Louis Herrin III
- Ramesses II Setepenre

District 6:

- Jimmy Flannigan - Incumbent
- Mackenzie Kelly
- Dee Harrison
- Jennifer Mushtaler

District 7:

- Leslie Pool - Incumbent
- Morgan Witt

District 10:

- Alison Alter - Incumbent
- Jennifer Virden
- Belinda Greene
- Noel Tristan
- Robert Thomas
- Ben Easton
- Pooja Sethi

CAMPUS

'Right now, free speech has never been more important'

Virtual Free Speech Week fosters discussions about on-line discourse amid the pandemic.

By Zoe Tzanis
@ZTzanis

Every year, during the third week of October, institutions across the country celebrate Free Speech Week to raise awareness about the power of free speech and its role in American democracy.

With online classes and the majority of public discourse taking place online, free speech at UT and college campuses across the nation is under new scrutiny. In this year's virtual Free Speech Week, students heard lectures and participated in discussions from the comfort of their homes, cars and dorms.

Undeclared sophomore Eva Kahn said Free Speech Week prompted her to engage in conversation about freedom of expression with peers.

"This may be the most pressing issue we're facing right now," Khan said. "With the advent of technology and its necessary use during this time, it puts pressure on what actually constitutes speech."

Journalism assistant professor Sam Woolley spoke as a panelist for a discussion on "Free Speech in Contemporary Society," hosted by the Moody College of Communication Oct. 21. He said UT students should care about free speech.

"In the era of (COVID-19), because we are already sequestered and have to stay inside, our speech is more limited than ever," Woolley said. "Right now, free speech has never been more important."

Woolley said the controversy around speech in the U.S. is complex but separates into two different perspectives — some believe all speech should be protected without question, while others believe there are forms of speech, namely hate speech, that threaten democracy and must be regulated.

UT's policy surrounding speech, expression and assembly states that "students, faculty members, staff members, and members of the public have the right to assemble, to speak and to attempt to attract the attention of others."

"Peaceful protest and free speech are central to American democracy,"



MEGAN CLARKE / THE DAILY TEXAN STAFF

Woolley said. "For students to understand what's going on in the world, we need to have free speech."

Woolley said speech should not endanger those with less power.

"It's important that students can exercise their rights, but it's also really important that students have the right to be safe from any external groups that will try to harm them," Woolley said.

As a part of Free Speech Week, government professor Lorraine Pangle held a lecture titled "Free Speech and its Skeptics."

Pangle said the Foundation for Individual Rights in Education ranks UT as No. 54 — second to last — in terms

of commitment to free speech among colleges. The foundation polled students to understand the state of free speech on campuses.

University spokesperson J.B. Bird said UT values and protects free speech for all students, faculty and staff.

"(UT's low free speech ranking by its students) is an area where we are committed to seek improvements, starting this month with a set of activities around national Free Speech Week," Bird said.

While Pangle said she doesn't think online communication has changed the tone of her everyday conversations, she said civility can get lost when trying to engage in discourse over social media.

Woolley said it is important to recognize the dangers of online platforms as places where polarization swells and misinformation spreads like wildfire.

"With the internet and its anonymity, there are a lot of people who make use of digital tools to manipulate people," Woolley said. "It's not fair."

Grace Baldwin, an international relations and affairs freshman, attended professor Pangle's lecture with the hopes of engaging with the complexity of the topic.

"It was insightful," Baldwin said. "College is not a place to be comfortable. College is a place to learn, to be challenged and to feel uncomfortable."

STUDENT LIFE

Student models struggle with uncertainty in industry amid pandemic

By Lauren Castro
@laurrcastro

A model scout told Jane Liu she needed more professional photographs on her Instagram. A few days later, she enlisted her 12-year-old brother to take pictures of her in their hometown of Lubbock, Texas.

Then, Liu began her modeling journey in May by signing with New York Model Management.

"During quarantine, I'd always go on photoshoots with my brother," undeclared freshman Liu said. "My parents have to literally pay him money and force him to do it ... or my dad will be like, 'You can get something new off Fortnite if you do this.'"

Liu said her online college courses are easier than the ones she took in high school. This gives her the freedom to travel for shoot opportunities and take her friend of 14 years along with her.

"I'm actually flying to New York Nov. 7 to meet with my agent and some casting people," Liu said. "I'm just going to build my portfolio there, too. We'll just turn this into a work/fun trip."

Public relations sophomore Lily Jaques said the modeling industry is

fluctuating because of COVID-19. She transferred to UT-Austin from UT-Tyler this fall and said the pandemic and her change in location have left her struggling to find jobs.

"(There's) definitely no big castings like they used to have," Jaques said. "They hire models who are already kind of well-known in the industry, so that makes it tough because there's so many girls out there (for whom) this is their job, and they're not getting paid."

For most models, Jaques said maintaining industry standards for your body and skin is a full-time job. She said this has become increasingly difficult because of the stressors brought on by the pandemic.

"I didn't have (the) motivation to keep my body in check," Jaques said. "It's almost like there's no end goal in sight, like is this ever gonna end? Am I ever gonna be able to model again?"

Some students pursue modeling as a hobby or a future career path. Marketing junior Sarah Krueger said for her, modeling is an additional source of income. She said she spends most of her time juggling executive positions in three organizations and working for a marketing firm.

Modeling agencies she's worked for in the past continue to offer her job opportunities, but Krueger said she turns them down to stay on top of schoolwork.

"For me, it's just like another form of income," Krueger said. "So like, of course my grades are above that."

While Krueger enjoys modeling, she said her goal is to use the connections she builds to become a marketing manager or creative director. She said she hopes to increase Black representation in the industry.

"I want to change that narrative in the (modeling) game," Krueger said. "As a model, I'm the one that gets to see how these companies think and operate and how they use me as a marketing tool. (As) a marketing manager or creative director, I'll be the one in charge of that."

Although Liu's parents are in support of her modeling career, she will continue to work through her college classes to have a degree to fall back on.

"If I'm lucky enough to be able to do it as a full-time job, then I definitely think I would," Liu said. "If I was given that opportunity, I think I would because I love traveling and just how spontaneous the job is."



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Undeclared freshman Jane Liu builds her modeling portfolio by uploading professional photographs on her Instagram.

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CAMPUS

How UT students secured second on-campus polling location

By Jennifer Errico
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During the 2016 general election, alumnus Zach Price said he waited three hours outside the Flawn Academic Center to vote.

“There were crazy long lines, which is an awesome show of enthusiasm, but students in particular have schedules that are less flexible,” Price said. “So making sure the lines move quickly is important.”

Price said based on the voter population of campus and West Campus, there should be seven to 11 polling locations in the area. For years, the FAC was the only one on campus.

In January 2018, Price was president of TX Votes, a student organization dedicated to increasing electoral participation. At the time, he and other members consulted with the Travis County clerk to request a second polling location on campus.

Price formed a coalition of 100 student leaders, including the state representative for the area representing UT, the then-student body president and vice president to show student support for a second polling location.

“In multiple elections, the FAC had lines out the door, wrapping around the building,” said Maya Patel, UT alumna and then-TX Votes vice president. “It wasn’t just a one-off problem. It was a consistent problem.”

Travis County clerk spokesperson Victoria Hinojosa said the Elections Division at the county clerk’s office wanted to ensure a second voting location on campus would benefit students. Patel and Price then compiled voter engagement data to show UT’s early voter



SYLVIA ASUNCION-CRABB / THE DAILY TEXAN STAFF

turnout was one of the highest in the nation and cited UT’s national award for most improved voter turnout in 2016.

Price said the final establishment of the polling location happened in September 2018 after approval from county clerk Dana DeBeauvoir, the UT administration and the Travis County Commissioners Court.

During the 2018 election and 2020 primaries, the Perry Castañeda Library was the second polling location. In response to COVID-19, Hinojosa said the Elections Division at the county clerk’s office worked with the president’s office at UT to move the

second polling location to Gregory Gymnasium for the 2020 general election. The gym is larger, which allows for greater social distancing, and the line to wait is outside.

“We initially proposed a list of buildings we thought would be geographically accessible to all, like near parking garages, bus stops and in highly populated areas around campus,” Patel said. “Changing to (Gregory Gym) actually worked out perfectly because it’s not too far from the original location, but it allows for greater safety protocols.”

Price said different polling locations are more beneficial now because of the pandemic.

“Having more polling locations and shorter lines is risk management, so individual voters and poll workers are spending less time in an enclosed space together,” Price said.

Patel said according to a study by Bipartisan Policy Center, the ideal waiting time for a polling location line is 30 minutes or less to ensure everyone has an equal opportunity to vote.

Mechanical engineering sophomore Val Dang said it took him 15 minutes to vote at Gregory Gym Thursday evening.

“It was really quick and easy,” Dang said. “I was

expecting the line to be out the door because of early voting, but because they had two queues entering (Gregory Gym), it made the lines go by even faster.”

Price and Patel said they want to have a long term impact on voter participation and hope to see more polling locations on campus in the future.

“We need to break down the barriers that prevent citizens from participating to create a more equitable society, and that starts with voting,” Patel said. “Democracy only functions when everyone participates.”

MEN'S GOLF

From Dane to honorary Texan

After moving from Denmark, Christoffer Bring found a home and identity in Texas golf.

By Kaitlyn Harmon
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Christoffer Bring traded bundles of layers on a typical day of golf in

Denmark for pure sweat in the blistering Texas heat. His attire changed when he came to UT, and so did his life.

At 15, Bring dreamed of playing collegiate golf in the U.S. When American scouts wandered around European golf tournaments, he conversed with American universities about playing for their teams, but it wasn't until right before he visited schools that Texas entered the picture.

"It's a funny story of how I got to Texas," Bring said. "I talked last minute with UT before visits. The first school I visited was Texas and it felt like home when I got here."

Apart from the Southern hospitality, what makes Texas feel like home is the brotherhood, which helped ease Bring's homesickness. The senior's growing pains were immense when he first came to Texas, as his family remained in Denmark.

A majority of the men's team grew up playing together in junior tournaments around Texas, making the program one already filled with friendships.



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Senior golfer Christoffer Bring completes his follow through after soaring a drive down the fairway. Bring, who was born in Denmark, has made it his mission to make new golfers feel welcome on the team after he struggled with homesickness as a freshman.

When Bring arrived four years ago, he joined a close-knit group of brothers.

Even 5,000 miles away, he never forgot about his older brother, Frederik. Frederik, who resides in Copenhagen, Denmark, sees Christoffer two times during the year and has traveled to Austin twice over the course of four years.

When Christoffer is home for the summer and winter holidays, he golfs on the Denmark greens with Frederik caddying right beside him. The familial

aspect on the UT golf team means a lot to the Bring family.

"It was really nice for us as a family to see how well the coaches and his teammates were taking him under their wing," Frederik said. "The juniors and seniors when he joined had a special impact. He still looks up to them."

Now that Christoffer has become an honorary Texan, he tries to get freshmen involved with the team from the moment their feet hit the Forty Acres. When the 14 players

on the roster are not on the greens, they are in the clubhouse spending time together or watching football and other American sports once foreign to Bring. Time in the clubhouse helps Christoffer feel not so far from home.

"I don't have my family here obviously, and it means a lot that I can talk to the guys," Christoffer said.

Christoffer's stateside father figures are coaches John Fields, Jean-Paul Hebert and Richie Coughlan. The three coaches

act not just as authoritative figures with golf directive, but as mentors, leaders and fountains of wisdom.

"The coaches are a big part of why we're so close," Christoffer said. "We're pretty much a family, especially for me when I don't have my parents here, I can always go talk to them."

A young Christoffer never envisioned becoming a golfer in the U.S. Now, he not only has a new identity as an American collegiate golfer, but he's also a member of the Texas family.

As the senior wraps up his collegiate career in the spring and says goodbye to Texas, his aspirations lay in the European and PGA Tours, where he looks to the coaches for direction on going pro.

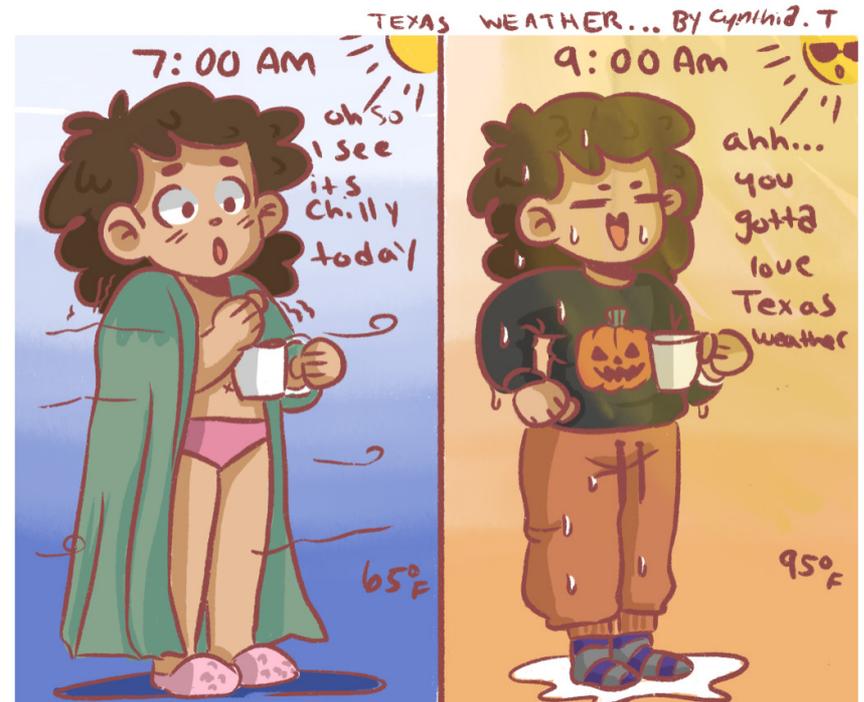
"Right now, I'm not really sure how it's going to be," Christoffer said. "I miss Denmark and Europe a little bit and want to go back and see what happens. I've always wanted to be in the top-10 of the world, so hopefully that's the ultimate goal, to take it step by step."



A Surprise Encounter



Justice Tey



TEXAS WEATHER... BY Cynthia T

ABOVE AVERAGE

"CRINGE"



Steph S.

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VOLLEYBALL

10-0 Texas volleyball fueled by tight family dynamic

By Matthew Boncosky
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The Texas volleyball team spends a lot of time together at practices, workouts and matches, but the bonding doesn't end there for the players. Between throwing Texas football watch parties, hosting team dinners or playing cards on game night, they have also forged a tight, family-like relationship off the court.

The connection is clear to anyone who watches Texas play on the court. The Longhorns are 10-0 and have looked unbeatable all season.

In between points, players on the bench can be seen doing various TikTok dances or clicking their heels after service aces, a celebration they inherited from sophomore opposite hitter Skylar Fields.

"I think that's really rare because a lot of other teams, when you think about girls' sports, don't really bond off the court," Fields said in a teleconference Oct. 20. "They're really just friends on the court, and I think it's good that we have that relationship off the court because it helps us trust each other."

Junior setter Jhenna Gabriel said she really enjoys the Texas football watch parties with her teammates because they allow themselves to let loose, cheer on their school and have fun with one another. She said the team's chemistry isn't exclusive to match day.

"It's kind of rare, I feel like, to be on a team where everybody loves everybody like you're an actual family," Gabriel said. "We're there

for each other constantly and that's not just something you see on the court."

This bond extends to the new members of the team as well. Libero Morgan O'Brien played most of her collegiate career as a defensive specialist at the University of Illinois, but she came to Texas as a graduate transfer this offseason. Fields said O'Brien introduced the team to a new card game they like

to play on their game nights that relies on teamwork in order to win, which she said helps with their bonding and ability to work together as a unit.

Texas was upset last season by Louisville in the third round of the NCAA Tournament. Head coach Jerritt Elliott said the loss, which marked the first time since 2005 that Texas didn't reach the fourth round,

really hit home with the players and sparked discussions that helped bring the team together.

"We talked about communication and respect," Elliott said. "But we have a lot of personalities that don't rub people the wrong way, and they're able to have honest communication."

Over the summer, Elliott said the players watched "The Last Dance," a documentary

series about Michael Jordan and his championship-winning Bulls teams, and they discussed how they could apply those dynamics of communication and respect to their program.

The early returns have been good as the Longhorns have responded well to the little adversity they've faced so far this season. Texas fell behind 2-1 to Kansas State Oct. 16, but the team rallied

and came back to win the match in five sets. The Longhorns swept the Wildcats the next night.

Nalani Iosia, a freshman libero from California, said joining a team with such great chemistry has been surreal.

"It's such an awesome experience to have these teammates," Iosia said. "They're awesome girls on and off the court. It doesn't feel real to me still."



The Texas volleyball team comes together for a pregame huddle before a match against the Kansas Jayhawks on Nov. 23, 2019. This season, the team is off to a scorching 10-0 start, success they credit to their strong bond as friends and their effort in getting to know each other off the court.

JACK MYER / THE DAILY TEXAN FILE