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UNIVERSITY

UT continues to administer COVID-19 vaccine

By Samantha Greyson
@GreysonSamantha

Over 100,000 people have requested a COVID-19 vaccination from UT, and the University is only receiving approximately 2,000 vaccine doses every week, according to an email from Dell Medical School to people who filled out UT's vaccination survey.

"Because demand is outpacing vaccine supply, it will take some time for

us to work through the priority 1B eligible patient list," the email, which was sent Wednesday, said. "At current levels of vaccine availability, we anticipate that it may take several weeks or months for us to schedule each priority category as designated by the state and medical need."

The University has administered 15,600 doses of the vaccine since December, said Jonathan Robb, director of Emergency Preparedness, in an email. The University began

vaccinations in December and is now prioritizing Phase 1B populations, which includes people 65 years of age and older as well as people over 16 years of age with an underlying health condition, according to previous reporting by The Daily Texan.

In January, the University was named a vaccine hub by the Texas Department of State Health Services, according to a campuswide email from Terrance Hines, executive director and chief medical officer of UHS, and Amy Young, chief clinical officer for UT Health Austin. To prepare for an anticipated rise in vaccine distribution, the University will move vaccine procedures to Gregory Gym on Feb. 8, according to the email.

"As a hub, the University will continue to receive allocations of the COVID-19 vaccine from the state, which will determine timing and quantities of all vaccine allotments," Robb said. "The hub status will allow us to, over time and depending on vaccine availability, continue to contribute on a greater scale to the overall vaccination capabilities of Austin."

Completing the COVID-19 vaccination form does not guarantee a vaccination appointment, but it allows the University to request vaccines from the state, Robb said.

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UNIVERSITY

Students face transfer difficulties, push for standardized application

By Hairuo Yi
@hairuoyeet

Some students hoping to transfer to another college or major struggle with unavailable advisers and differing application requirements.

According to the Undergraduate Studies website, 65% of UT students switch majors at least once. Every college has different internal transfer requirements and deadlines. To try and resolve these difficulties, the Senate of College Councils has been working to standardize an application across all majors and colleges.

Undeclared freshman Doeun Lee said while her UGS adviser has been very helpful, she still has concerns regarding the internal transfer requirements and process since she hasn't been able to meet with a computer science adviser. Computer science advisers only meet with current in-major students.

"I've been reading the (UT) Reddit about internal transfer to computer science, and I've heard things about getting a 4.0 GPA but still getting rejected," Lee said. "Engineering is my second option, but engineering is not an easy school to transfer (into) either."

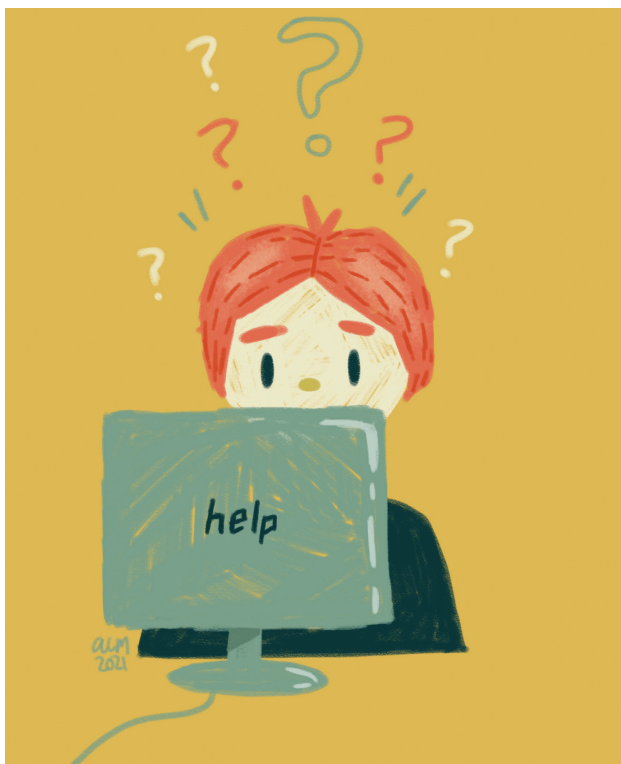
Senate Resolution 1912, passed unanimously in spring 2020, urges the University to homogenize internal transfer application and deadlines. The bill aims to provide centralized information to students who are applying to multiple colleges.

Legislation coauthor Ishi Tripathi, former president of the UGS Council, said a centralized internal transfer system would be beneficial to students who haven't been able to reach their prospective major advisers.

"The transfer process at UT is very, very fragmented," said Tripathi, a chemical engineering and finance junior. "Colleges have different starting points and ending points in their admissions, and

for a couple of colleges, you have to let a college know if you're accepting your admission to them before you even find out from several others."

Jeffrey Handy, director of the Vick Center for Strategic Learning, said a standardized application would make the process more transparent for students. He said colleges have been surveyed for a potential unified application.



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COLUMN

Address riot at US Capitol

UT administration must release a statement that addresses and condemns the violent insurrection at the United States Capitol on Jan. 6.

By **Hubert Ning**
Opinion Columnist

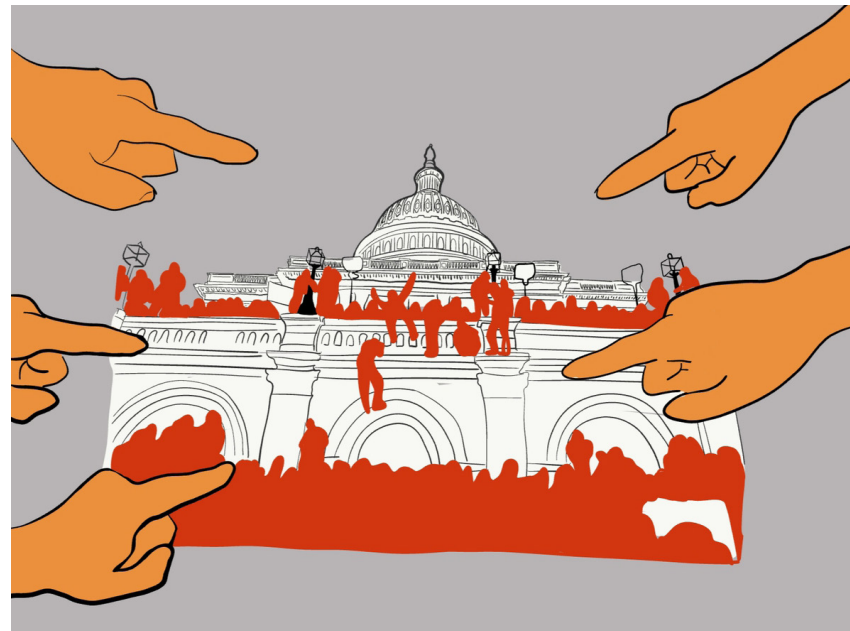
As students are settling in on campus and in their classes, it is an understatement to say that the student and faculty community are all looking for a semblance of normalcy. Yet with all that is going on, from the incessant march of COVID-19 to the lasting impact of the Black Lives Matter movement, things are not normal and are far from it.

Like most other schools, UT administration has addressed the issues of this past year and released statements regarding how the University will take action. All except for one issue: the Capitol rioters on Jan. 6.

Universities such as Vanderbilt, the University of Illinois system, Harvard and many others across the nation have risen to meet the expectations of their students to condemn and take a stand against the violent insurrection at our nation's Capitol. Yet noticeably missing from that list of universities is the University of Texas.

UT is home to over 50,000 students. It is a home to students who are innovators, leaders and entrepreneurs, to students who want to help save lives and change the world for the better, and to students who are scared.

Our administration needs to stand up and make it clear that we do not condone the actions of those who breached and



CLARA SANCHEZ / THE DAILY TEXAN STAFF

sieged our nation's seat of government. UT must announce that our community will not tolerate any threat to our democracy.

UT President Jay Hartzell has recently stated in a campuswide email that he believes "there is a difference between saying something and doing something." Yet he has done neither.

The University has yet to take a public stance on the issue. Even though UT News recently published an article titled, "Insurrection Was A Product of Racism," the outlet made it clear that the column itself

was representative of the author's view, not the University's.

"I feel like UT tries to avoid controversial issues," alumna Bibiana Toro said. "However, I am disappointed (that UT has not released a statement), because I believe this was a monumental event."

But while the administration may have stayed silent, students have not. In a recently released statement, the College of Liberal Arts Council condemned the attempted insurrection.

"The fact (is) that the administration

has not yet addressed the tension," said Preethi Kannan, public health senior and former diversity and inclusion chair for the Natural Sciences Council. "At a time when members of this community feel unsafe given the political climate, UT has a commitment to its students to foster an inviting and united community."

The student body is angry, upset and frustrated, but above all they are disappointed. While we understand it is difficult for the administration to take a stance on political issues, we are not asking UT to pick a side. We are not asking UT to be political. We are asking for a voice.

Because at the end of the day, being indifferent — being silent — makes it look like we do have a stance.

It makes it look like we are complicit.

Ning is an electrical engineering and history senior from Katy, Texas.

GALLERY



CHARLIE HYMAN / THE DAILY TEXAN STAFF

UNIVERSITY

Students can petition to study abroad, must follow international COVID-19 restrictions

By Sheryl Lawrence
& Kaushiki Roy

@sheryl_adelle @kaushikiroy3

UT is allowing students to study abroad during the spring semester, despite continued national and international travel advisories because of the COVID-19 pandemic.

All countries are currently considered a restricted region, according to the Texas Global website. This means students who plan to travel abroad must submit a petition that asks students where they will be traveling, the reason they are traveling and an acknowledgment of COVID-19 restrictions.

Students can also apply to Maymester and summer programs, but UT will not announce a decision on these programs until March 12, according to the Texas Global website.

Some students slated to study abroad this spring chose to defer their study

abroad programs because of COVID-19 concerns, while other students are continuing with their travel plans.

Randy Penson, the director of global risk and safety for Texas Global, said Texas Global still encourages students to study abroad if they feel comfortable.

"We're constantly reviewing what's going on in other countries, (and) we'll cancel a program if we need to," Penson said. "If there's somebody who wants to study abroad, then we want to stand beside them and help them find a way to do that in a very safe way."

While decisions about University-sponsored Maymester and summer study abroad programs will be made March 12, according to the Texas Global website, programs could still be canceled after this date.

Katarina Tyll, a government and international relations and global studies senior, said she plans to study abroad in Vienna, Austria, on a Maymester, but

thinks UT should decide whether programs will go forward earlier.

"I am applying to jobs and internships, and a lot of the applications are going to be due before we find out if we can go or not," Tyll said. "It's frustrating, because it is impacting my application because companies might not want to hire me."

Penson said if students are in a Maymester study abroad program, plane tickets, housing and other plans have already been determined, so students should not worry about planning what they are doing on the trip.

Caroline Onwuzu, a human development and family sciences junior, said she had her study abroad program canceled last year and is currently planning on studying abroad in Tokyo, Japan, on a Maymester.

Onwuzu said she was excited about the living arrangements the program has set up for them, but she is still worried about the risk of COVID-19 infection in Japan.

"We were going to stay with families that live in Tokyo and it was going to be spread out, maybe two to three students per family," Onwuzu said. "Our program director wanted us to get a real authentic feel of how it is living in Tokyo and how it is to be immersed in that culture."

Srija Reddy, a management information systems and radio-television-film junior, said she was slated to spend the spring in Budapest, Hungary, but ultimately decided against attending because of health and travel restrictions abroad.

"When you study abroad, you want to meet people, you want to go out and that's the whole point is to experience a different culture," Reddy said. "But if you have to quarantine all the time, it's really hard to do that."

According to the Texas Global website, decisions about the University travel policy after Aug. 31 will be announced on or before May 15.

Travel Restrictions & Process to Petition for Travel



Current Restrictions

- All countries are now considered a **Restricted Region**.
- Approved travelers will need to follow **all quarantine requirements** in the destination country and upon return to the U.S., Austin and the UT campus.
- Effective Jan. 26, 2021 by the Biden administration, all air passengers entering the U.S. are required to provide **proof of a negative COVID-19 test result** taken no more than three days before boarding their flight.

Process to Petition for Travel for Students

- **(1)** Fill out the Restricted Regions Travel Request - Student Form
- **(2)** Sign the Release and Indemnification Agreement
- **(3)** Sign the COVID-19 Liability and Risk Waiver
- **(4)** Send the request, with all required signatures, to grs@austin.utexas.edu
- All travel requests must be submitted **a month** before departure.

SOURCE: UT GLOBAL

JULEANNA CULILAP/ THE DAILY TEXAN STAFF

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CITY

Austin City Council votes to purchase new hotel to house people experiencing homelessness

By **Tori Duff**
@torianneduff

On Thursday, Austin City Council voted to purchase Candlewood Suites to house people experiencing homelessness a week after approving the purchase of another hotel.

Candlewood Suites will be purchased for \$9.5 million and is in Northwest Austin. Texas Bungalows Hotel & Suites was approved for purchase for \$6.5 million on Jan. 27. Combined, the two hotels will hold 148 housing units.

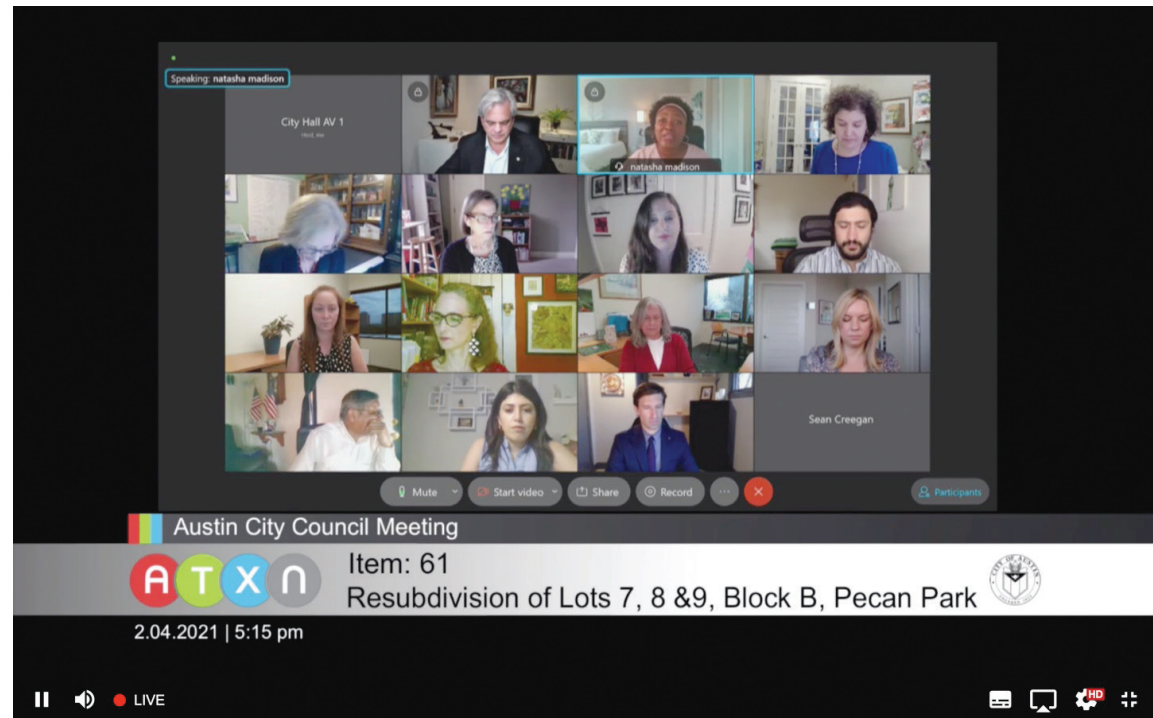
The funding for the purchase of the hotels is part of the Housing & Planning Department's 2018 General Obligation Bonds. The funding for operations of the hotels, including resident support, will come from funds diverted from the police department budget as part of the city's Reimagining Public Safety effort.

These hotels will not be homeless shelters but permanent supportive housing much like apartment complexes, with individualized assistance for residents, District 4 Council Member Greg Casar said.

"There will be medical care, mental health support, counseling for any folks that need job placement, support and case management for every single person," Casar said.

Candlewood Suites is located in District 6, Council Member Mackenzie Kelly's district, in Northwest Austin. Kelly originally requested the vote on Candlewood Suites be postponed so she could consult her constituents. Since last week, Kelly said she visited a protest by residents against the hotel purchase on Sunday and hosted a virtual town hall on Jan. 27.

At Thursday's meeting, Kelly made a motion to postpone for 180



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On Thursday, Austin City Council voted to purchase Candlewood Suites to house people experiencing homelessness. These hotels will not be homeless shelters but permanent supportive housing with individualized assistance for residents like medical care, mental health support, counseling for any folks that need job placement, support and case management.

days at the request of the Williamson County Commissioners Court, but no other council member supported the motion. Kelly said she is not against permanent supportive housing.

The average age of the residents who will live in the facility is expected to be 54, according to the meeting. The city is prioritizing unhoused residents who are most at-risk for COVID-19, Casar said.

The Candlewood Suites purchase, located in a mostly residential area, sparked concern from some in the area.

Some speakers said they favored the option of alternative housing solutions, such as purchasing land

to build housing or park RVs, and some expressed concern for the cost of the hotel.

"This strategy of converting hotels can get us the speed that the community expects, and no matter how much folks talk about the fact that this costs us money up front, we've seen study after study (show) that getting people into permanent supportive housing saves us tens of thousands of dollars per person," Casar said.

According to a 2015 study by the City of Austin and the nonprofit Ending Community Homelessness Coalition, Austin public systems will save an estimated \$901,695

per year by adding permanent supportive housing.

University Democrats President Brandon Bradley said he is glad the city council is willing to take bold steps on the issue.

"When you will provide an assurance (to people experiencing homelessness) that the city has your back and is going to make sure that you're able to have access to these services, which is what happens when they have stable permanent housing, then both common sense and empirical literature (are) clear that we can actually long-term reduce chronic homelessness," government senior Bradley said.

STUDENT LIFE

'Please don't call an ambulance'

Uninsured UT students discuss health care barriers and how they cope with them.

By Fiza Kuzhiyl
@fiza11k

Michelle Nwaeri has a lingering fear. If she was ever in an accident, she's afraid that someone would call an ambulance she couldn't afford.

"Don't call an ambulance," Nwaeri said. "Please don't call an ambulance. Put me in the back of an Uber. Just take me to the hospital. Let's just remove a couple \$1,000 (from) my bill, please."

Across America, 1 out of 5 college students don't have health insurance. Many of these students struggle to navigate the health care system and access affordable and effective care.

Nwaeri, a nutrition senior, said her parents live in Nigeria and their health insurance doesn't cover her in America. She said she usually goes to the doctor for her annual check-up in Nigeria because it's more affordable, but she hasn't been back in over a year.

"It is scary to think of the fact that there could be some lingering illness that I'm unaware of and some health professionals are able to detect easily," Nwaeri said.

Kathy Mosteller, associate director for nursing and clinical operations at University Health Services, said uninsured students should call their medical providers to ask how much necessary procedures cost. If the information is still unclear, she said students should ask to speak to billing offices that can explain costs further.

"We want students to feel comfortable calling (UHS)," Mosteller said. "That's why

we have the nurse advice line. That's why we have our receptionist that can answer most questions."

Psychology senior Jolee Cave said she hasn't had health insurance for over a decade. Her hometown, Leakey, Texas, offers a program providing uninsured people with free birth control, but when she arrived at UT, she said she had to pay \$50 out-of-pocket every three months. She said costs like this keep her from seeking care.

"My back's been in very intense pain for four days, but my first instinct is never to go to the doctor," Cave said. "That's the last resort (and) only if I absolutely had to."

Cave said she uses financial aid and scholarships to pay for her tuition, and has always felt left out among some of her wealthy peers.

"Insurance is another thing that I don't have and that a lot of the people around me probably take for granted," Cave said.

When Rocío De Carolis arrived at Texas Law to begin her semester as an exchange student from Argentina, she said she had to pay over \$1,400 for student insurance to enroll.

"For me, it is a burden," De Carolis said. "It's basically a little bit more than one month's rent. It was painful and frustrating. I have to pay for this, and I don't even know if I'm gonna use it."

De Carolis said the insurance covers visits to the UHS clinic, but it doesn't cover visits to the Counseling and Mental Health Center. She said she has heightened anxiety due to the pandemic, but the weekly out-of-pocket cost keeps her from seeking care at the CMHC.

Katy Redd, director for prevention, development and media relations at CMHC,



SYLVIA ASUNCION-CRABB / THE DAILY TEXAN STAFF

said individual appointments with psychiatrists have a \$10 fee with a flexible payment plan.

"This is a hard time for all of us, especially for students," Redd said. "The vast majority of our services are available at no charge to certain students, so insurance status isn't something we look at."

Growing up without insurance, Nwaeri said she realized the negative impacts that lack of access to health care has on uninsured Americans. She chose a career path in health care to address these disparities.

"The bureaucracy and agenda of the health care system always gets a little demotivating at times, but then I'm reminded of institutions and businesses that actually help people without insurance," Nwaeri said. "There's still ways to make a difference."

FEATURE

Night security coordinator oversees, bonds with UT students

By Zoe Tzanis
@ztzanis

In the middle of the night, Leo Filyk walks laps around the common spaces in Andrews dormitory. Hunched over a book, pacing back and forth, he reads for hours.

“Late at night, time feels so expansive,” philosophy freshman Filyk said. “I just default to a kind of a nocturnal schedule. I always find myself up at 3 or 5 a.m.”

Filyk is one of the many students that residence hall security coordinator Daniel Thompson sees on the Honors Quad security cameras night after night.

As an undergraduate at UT, Thompson said he was similar to Filyk. He stayed up late and eventually got to know the night staff at his dorm in Prather Hall.

Thompson said working late hours seemed like a good opportunity to make money and do schoolwork at the same time. He started as a part-time student security coordinator with University Housing and Dining in 2010.

“It forced me to reorganize and kept me out of trouble,” Thompson said.

Years later in 2018, he returned to UT to pursue a new degree and reapplied for the position. Now, he works there full-time while he finishes up his B.S. in chemical engineering.

“This is one of the only jobs that I can work and have full-time hours, be a ... student and still be available for my kids,” Thompson said.

“

There’s a lot of people on the night staff team that really do care about that interaction with students”

DANIEL THOMPSON
RESIDENCE HALL
SECURITY COORDINATOR

Thompson is responsible for maintaining the safety of the residents and facility during the late hours of the night. He carefully monitors the security cameras, keeping tabs on the common spaces and any late-night homework doers.



EMMA GEORGE / THE DAILY TEXAN STAFF

“I get really used to the students, their study habits and their schedules,” Thompson said. “I’m quickly able to recognize if something is out of their routine.”

While not a requirement of the position, as a consistent friendly face, Thompson tries to build a rapport with the residents.

If students’ habits change, he’ll ask them, “Were you studying somewhere else last week? I didn’t see you yesterday. Was there an exam?”

“I’ll notice if someone didn’t swipe in that night who would normally swipe in after exercising or if someone is totally missing,” Thompson said.

Business and Plan II freshman Gabrielle Jabour is one of these resident night owls.

She often spends late nights studying in the Carothers Hall lobby long after her roommate has gone to sleep. While she hasn’t had too many interactions with the night staff, Jabour said she feels more

comfortable being up so late because someone like Thompson is there.

“It’s helpful to have the common spaces, so I can still stay up and get stuff done without having to worry about ... walking anywhere late at night,” Jabour said. “I’ve never really thought about the fact that the security officer can see me during those times. It’s a little weird to think about, but it’s better to have a security officer watching.”

Filyk, the pacing bookworm, became quite familiar with Thompson and was inspired to follow in his footsteps. He recently applied to work as a student night security coordinator just as Thompson did in 2010.

“There’s a lot of people on the night staff team that really do care about that interaction with students,” Thompson said. “When I was a student, there (were) some times I didn’t want to talk to anybody, but it was very comforting to know that I had that person there.”

STUDENT LIFE

Students grapple with mental health effects of COVID-19 pandemic after months of isolation



BARBRA DALY / THE DAILY TEXAN STAFF

By Morgan-Taylor Thomas
@mthomas_

TW: This story contains mentions of mental health. If you or someone you know is experiencing a crisis, call the Counseling and Mental Health Center student crisis line at 512-471-2255.

In June 2020, Madeline Diamont's life went completely online.

Now, whether it's shopping for clothes, buying groceries or chatting with friends and family, the sociology senior does it all from her four-walled Austin apartment.

"I feel like I'm in quicksand," Diamont said. "I stay still and I'm trying not to sink, but everyone around me is still moving and trying to get out, so we just keep sinking further. It's exhausting."

After being an asymptomatic COVID-19 carrier and unknowingly spreading it to her family, Diamont decided she would stay inside as much as possible.

Over a year after the first cases of COVID-19 were detected in the United States, Diamont and other students say they are still struggling to keep their mental health in check.

Ginny Maril, a licensed psychologist and assistant director of clinical services at the CMHC, said without in-person contact, there has been an increase in students with anxiety, depression, grief and substance abuse.

"Our bodies are physiologically wired to connect with other people," Maril said. "A lot of people have lost access to their traditional coping strategies, which often includes time with other people."

Last year, Diamont said being part of the Liberal Arts Council and the spirit organization Texas Lonestars allowed her to see her friends on a weekly basis. Now she only sees them through a screen.

"I'm a social butterfly, and I miss my friends so much," Diamont said. "Being with my friends and meeting new people used to be a huge part of my life

that I valued highly."

Ariya Chotiawat, an arts and entertainment technologies junior, said a quick trip to the grocery store, walking on campus and going to work used to be ways for her to get out of the house and spend time with friends.

After being laid off from Dunkin' in January 2020 with no severance pay, Chotiawat was living off of financial aid. She canceled her subscription to Hello Fresh, a meal kit provider, and tried to spend as little as possible on food.

She spends most of her time inside, only leaving to go to work at Pointe on Rio as a real estate agent. She said the isolation has affected her self-image and confidence.

"I'm struggling with my weight, and it's hard because I'm eating pretty well, but I'm not moving, so those calories aren't going anywhere," Chotiawat said. "But I don't go to the gym either because of COVID-19."

Chotiawat said she has also noticed the declining mental health of some of her friends, especially those that live in

West Campus apartments that don't get enough sunlight.

"If you have a room that has no windows, or you don't have enough sunlight in your unit and it's dark all the time, you're definitely going to be (more depressed)," Chotiawat said. "That's definitely affected some of my friends."

Maril said counselors aren't usually going through the same experiences as their patients, but this past year has shown parallels.

"(Counselors) are experiencing a lot of the same things, but maybe with an additional pressure to be more okay," Maril said. "None of us are exempt."

Maril said no one should expect to be 100% OK during a pandemic.

"We still expect ourselves to be really good at (coping with virtual life)," Maril said. "Sometimes I think people can get caught in a feeling like they're not doing enough ... so I like to remind people ... to have some compassion for yourself."

MEN'S BASKETBALL

Texas tries to bounce back

After three tough losses and several COVID-19 issues, Texas is trying to get back on track.

By Matthew Boncosky
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The past couple of weeks have been a struggle for the No. 6 Texas men's basketball team.

The Longhorns lost three of their last four games and endured numerous COVID-19 issues that sidelined head coach Shaka Smart and multiple players over a two-week stretch.

"With what's happened these past few weeks, this is the biggest time to improve," senior guard Matt Coleman said at a teleconference Thursday.

Coleman and junior guard Courtney Ramey stressed that although it's been hard to maintain a rhythm in practice due to absences, they don't think the team has lost its flow.

Sunday's practice was the first time in 19 days Texas practiced with its entire team.

"I do think it's different," Coleman said. "When you're hit with adversity like guys with COVID (and) missing your head coach, that does matter."

Coleman said the importance of maintaining a winning mentality during these turbulent times is crucial, and that starts with taking practice more seriously and focusing on the details.

Ramey was sidelined due to COVID-19 protocols and missed the Oklahoma game as a result. He was in line to miss the game at Kentucky as well before it was canceled due to COVID-19 protocols within Kentucky's program. Ramey said he tried to stay positive and provide leadership to his team from afar.

"It's kind of hard to lead when you're not there, because you don't know everything that's going on," Ramey said. "The biggest thing I can do is just continue to be a leader and continue to help my teammates the best I can."

Ramey said the team's experience and maturity will allow

Texas to handle this season's unusual circumstances.

"We're an older team," Ramey said. "The majority of our guys are players who've been around for a while. We just have to go into Oklahoma State with the mindset of doing whatever it takes to win."

The Cowboys, led by freshman guard Cade Cunningham, boast an 11-5 record with wins over then-No. 13 Texas Tech and then-No. 6 Kansas.

"We have to come ready to compete," Coleman said. "Both teams are coming off losses, so both teams are going to want to win."

Ramey said the past few weeks

have been frustrating because of the COVID-19 disruptions, but he acknowledged that was expected heading into this season.

"It's been very frustrating," Ramey said. "But we're big boys, so we (have to) do it. We knew some games were going to get canceled throughout the year ... The team (that) handles it the best is going to be the team that wins the national championship at the end of the day."

Tuesday's loss to Baylor was a tough pill to swallow for the Longhorns, who did not live up to their lofty defensive standards. The Bears shot 11-of-21 from three-point range and scored 20 points

off Texas turnovers.

"Let's accept it," Coleman said. "Let's get better, (and) let's move forward. Now, as we're whole again or whatever you want to say, it's just time to take advantage of everyone that we have in this locker room."

To correct the mistakes that have plagued the Longhorns in recent games, Ramey said they have to practice with more purpose.

"It starts today," Ramey said. "We all were there. We all saw what happened, and we just have to move on from it. Today's a whole new day to get better, and we will get better."



JACK MYER / THE DAILY TEXAN FILE

Junior Courtney Ramey crosses up a TCU defender in a Feb. 19, 2020 game. The guard missed Texas' Jan. 26 loss against Oklahoma and said he almost broke his television while watching, but Ramey, along with the rest of the Texas roster, is back.

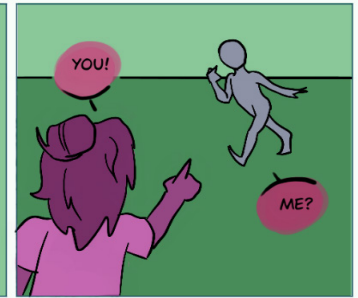
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MEN'S BASKETBALL

The sky's the limit: High-flying freshman forward Greg Brown has potential to meet lofty goals

By Matthew Boncosky
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Freshman forward Greg Brown is no stranger to the spotlight.

The five-star recruit out of Vandegrift High School in Austin, Texas, said he received his first offer to play basketball for the Longhorns when he was still in middle school. Five years after he first developed a relationship with head coach Shaka Smart, Brown has been announced as a finalist for the 2021 Karl Malone Power Forward of the Year Award.

The freshman credits his electric first season to diligent goal setting.

"I have a little journal in my dorm," Brown said at a Jan. 15 teleconference. "I just write every day what I want to do and what I want to get accomplished, and then I write my long-term goals."

Cliff Ellis, Vandegrift's head coach, watched Brown grow exponentially as a player during his four-year varsity career. He would consistently return in the fall twice as good as he was the previous year, Ellis said.

"I've never had a player like that," Ellis said. "But to his testament, he put in the work."

Brown's rapid development was inevitable given the amount of work he did between practice and personal training sessions, Ellis said.

"Greg didn't want to be the best player at Vandegrift High School, he wanted to be the best player in the state of Texas," Ellis said. "He doesn't want to be the best player at the University of Texas — he wants to be the best



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Freshman forward Greg Brown defends Texas Tech Terrence Shannon's finishing attempt at the basket. The freshman, known for his high-flying, highlight reel dunks, has also become a prolific rebounder and rim protector.

player in the country, and that's going to translate to being the best player he possibly can be."

At times, Brown's exuberant personality on the court can land him in hot water. In the second half of Tuesday's game against No. 2 Baylor, Brown soared over a defender for a thunderous dunk to cut Baylor's lead to four points. However, his subsequent staredown drew a technical foul and halted Texas' momentum.

"That was nothing different than what he was doing in high school," Ellis said. "While that adrenaline is going, it was always so hard to reel him in. But at the same time, I'd rather have a player like Greg (Brown) that has that passion."

Smart said the technical foul hurt the team and changed the trajectory of the game after the Longhorns had clawed their way back into the contest.

"It's a huge teaching moment. It just can't happen," Smart said. "It was a phenomenal dunk, it was a great play but we can't give the other team two points."

As Tuesday's emotional display showed, there's still a lot for the freshman to learn. Brown recognizes the aspects of his game that need development in order to achieve his NBA dreams.

"I'm trying to raise my IQ (and) trying to figure out where's

the next pass," Brown said. "People don't notice, but I actually love passing the ball."

There's no denying the star player's talent and drive to be the most successful version of himself he can possibly be.

"It's going to be so much fun to watch him grow and develop into an NBA All-Star one day," Ellis said. "If he can continue to control the things he can control, I think the sky's the limit for him."