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Some resident assistants say they felt exploited while working during the winter storm.



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## UNIVERSITY

## Statistics department kicks off first semester of online data science master's program

By Mae Hutchison  
@mae\_hutch

UT's Department of Statistics and Data Science started the first semester of a virtual master's program for data sciences this spring.

The Master of Science in Data Science provides foundational knowledge in statistics, computer science and modern data science tools, said Kate Calder, chair of the Department of Statistics and Data

Science. The degree program is taught entirely online with no on-campus components. Approximately 300 students are currently enrolled, Calder said.

The program offers 10 classes at \$1,000 per class, according to the program website. The degree is available to international students, who don't need to apply for a visa because the program is fully online, according to the website.

"Our goal was to offer affordable and accessible training in this high-demand field to students from across the state of

Texas and around the world," Calder said.

The statistics department developed the program with the Department of Computer Science to be entirely virtual even after UT resumes in-person classes, Calder said.

Applications for the fall semester are open until May 1 with a priority deadline of April 1, according to the website.

Program applicant Brianna Swan said she works as a contract negotiator and hopes to earn a degree through the program to help her take on a more technical

role. Swan said she appreciates that the program can be completed anywhere in the world.

"It just seemed really awesome that it's 10 courses, you do it online and you could do it full-time," Swan said.

Mathematics professor Peter Müller said the online teaching experience for the program works well. Müller said he does not have to accommodate social distancing requirements or hybrid instruction methods.

"It's almost easier now to teach online than in the classroom," said Müller, who co-teaches Probability and Inference, the first course developed specifically for the program.

Mary Parker, associate professor of instruction in statistics and the course's other co-teacher, said the class is designed to instruct up to 1,000 students.

Calder said the department is looking to develop more electives

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STUDENT LIFE

# How to file for loss of property following winter storm

By **Tori Duff**  
@torianneduff

Students who experienced flooding or power outages resulting in property damage or food loss during the winter storm may be eligible to be reimbursed or receive disaster assistance.

Legal Services for Students in the Office of the Dean of Students is offering consultations to students to help answer questions related to leases. These services are free to currently enrolled students. Students can request a consultation by filling out the intake form on the Office of the Dean of Students website or by calling 512-471-7796.

According to a tweet from the Office of the Dean of Students, there may be delays in scheduling appointments due to a high volume of students needing assistance.

## How to gather evidence of property damage

When filing a loss of property claim, which covers food, document all evidence of loss possible. This includes taking photos of lost property or food and saving any receipts for lost items, which will help to get an accurate reimbursement.

## Available resources if you have renters insurance

Some apartments will not assume risks of damage and require tenants to acquire

personal renters insurance to cover the costs of damages, including by storm, flooding or power outages. An apartment's renters insurance policy should be stated in the lease signed by tenants.

Some renters insurance policies will cover loss of food or property due to winter storms or weather. Coverage and amount reimbursed will often vary depending on the renters policy.

If only filing a claim for food damage, it might not always be worth it because of deductibles, according to Forbes. However, if food damage is part of a larger claim, it could be worthwhile if the monetary amount lost exceeds the deductible.

## Available resources if you don't have renters insurance

The Federal Emergency Management Agency is offering assistance to people who have experienced damages and are uninsured as a result of winter storms in Texas, according to a Feb. 20 press release.

The West Campus zip code, 78705, is currently eligible for severe weather storms assistance, as is the Riverside zip code, 78741, according to FEMA. These claims can be filed online at disasterassistance.gov or those impacted by winter storms can call 800-621-3362.

FEMA requires proof of identification, an insurance determination letter and proof of occupancy or ownership at property where the damage took place in order to file a claim.



JACK MYER / THE DAILY TEXAN STAFF

The shelves of the CVS on Guadalupe Street are empty on Feb. 19. Students who experienced flooding or power outages resulting in property damage or food loss during the winter storm may be eligible to be reimbursed or receive disaster assistance.

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## GUEST COLUMN

# To address challenges, I want to listen to you

*Editor-in-chief candidate Sanika Nayak discusses how the COVID-19 pandemic has impacted The Daily Texan.*

**By Sanika Nayak**  
Editor-in-chief candidate

*Editor's note: Sanika Nayak is currently running unopposed to become the next editor-in-chief of The Daily Texan. For this column, she was given the following prompt: The COVID-19 pandemic has fundamentally altered the way The Daily Texan operates and produces content. With almost a year of unprecedented change behind us and no clear timeline moving forward, how will you address the challenges the pandemic poses, for the Texan and beyond, as editor-in-chief?*

In the past year, much has changed at the Texan. We no longer print a daily paper. We no longer debate edits while clustered in an office with our Kin's Market snacks. We no longer have the occasional basement-wide pizza dinner to look forward to in the middle of our scramble to meet deadlines. I haven't

sat on that old, albeit very comfortable, opinion-department couch in almost a year.

These changes, though difficult, were necessary. We now operate completely remotely, and as editor-in-chief, I'll always be ready to make any sacrifice to make the Texan safe and accessible. The only thing I won't forgo is the quality of our content: an opinion page that highlights and advocates for students.

The COVID-19 pandemic has shown me that we don't have to be physically present to make a representative and respectful paper. But it has also shown me how immensely important it is that we listen to the UT community, now more than ever, to fully and inclusively address the challenges ahead.

By listening, I know students have had to face a multitude of pandemic problems. Reopening. No mandatory testing. No regulations of large off-campus gatherings. No tuition decrease.

The COVID-19 pandemic has exposed the structural inequities that persist at this University. It's shown the student body how much (or how little) UT actually cares. COVID-19 has undoubtedly brought about unprecedented change. But unprecedented issues? Not always.

By listening, I recognize that we can't let the pandemic become an excuse to forget the important work of student activists. The University has yet to take enough action to condemn its racist past. "The Eyes of Texas" is still our school fight song. T.S. Painter Hall and the Littlefield buildings have



DIANE SUN / THE DAILY TEXAN FILE

not been renamed. Black students have been talking about the hurt they have experienced on this campus for years, and they deserve to feel heard and valued. Why have these indisputable changes not been implemented?

Students also deserve to feel comfortable in their classrooms, whether it be in person or through a Zoom screen. Professors Sahotra Sarkar and Coleman Hutchison remain on the course schedule despite the student activists who tirelessly protested their employment. We have yet to see any comprehensive sexual misconduct policy changes. Where is the transparency we were promised?

These issues are only the tip of the iceberg. Just last week, the winter storm made it clear that student mutual aid was the most effective means of assistance. It's unfortunate that the burden of help fell on students, and the University should be held accountable for offering inadequate support for student communities, especially in the Riverside neighborhood.

To me, the opinion page should be

used as a mode of accountability and advocacy. It's a place to highlight the issues students face by focusing the narrative on those who are impacted. It's a place that can assist in the important process of fostering change.

I understand that I can't do this on my own. This pandemic has challenged everyone differently, and I may not know your perspective right now, but I intend to listen. Inclusion and representation are the backbone of good news coverage and constructive dialogue. Your voice is important to me, and I encourage you to apply to be a columnist, submit a forum piece or provide feedback so we can better represent you.

Pandemic or otherwise, there are challenges we need to address on this campus. I hope to make the opinion department a productive platform for you to hold conversations and advocate for the changes you want to see. I can't wait to listen to what you have to say.

*Nayak is a speech, language and hearing sciences junior from Austin, Texas.*



STUDENT LIFE

# Mutual aid projects continue to serve student communities, but can be taxed by the government

By Samantha Greyson  
@GreysonSamantha

In the past year, many students have started mutual aid projects to support their communities through recent events, such as the COVID-19 pandemic, the Black Lives Matter movement and last week's winter storms. Money from mutual aid funds can be subject to taxation.

Mutual aid is a means by which a community can serve one another without regulating who does or does not receive aid, said Michael Haber, clinical professor of law at Hofstra University. Unlike charity, which may have contingents on who receives aid based on income or immigration status, mutual aid works to incorporate everyone.

"The idea of mutual aid is we want to care for everyone in our community ... and we're going to be open to and listen to what people are saying they need," Haber said.

If money for a mutual aid fund

is being raised through Venmo or PayPal, the money can be subject to taxation, Haber said. The owner of a personal Venmo or PayPal account will receive a 1099-K form from the IRS, which will alert them that they have to pay taxes on the money if the account both accumulates \$20,000 or more and accumulates 200 transactions, Haber said.

Haber said one way to receive a tax break on a mutual aid fund is to convince the IRS that the money in the fund is a "gift." Haber said a gift is defined as "detached and disinterested generosity" and is excluded from taxable gross income.

Charlotte Tsui, staff attorney for the Sustainable Economies Law Center, said a mutual aid fund is the final recipient of the gift donation, but it can be characterized as a gift agent for tax purposes and act as a means to transfer gifts from donors to people in need.

Tsui said another way to

receive a tax break for mutual aid funds is finding a fiscal sponsor or a tax-exempt organization that agrees to sponsor and receive the funds for a budding charitable project, such as a mutual aid fund. A fiscal sponsor is typically a nonprofit charitable organization, Tsui said.

"If a mutual aid secures a fiscal sponsor, then there's more clarity and assurance that the mutual aid and its organizers don't have to pay taxes on the donations they receive," Tsui said.

Direct giving from the donor to the recipient can help mutual aid funds avoid filing taxes because no money flows through the mutual aid organization itself, Tsui said. Nonmonetary mutual aid can also serve a community, such as running errands for a neighbor, Tsui said.

Tsui said founders of a mutual aid fund may consider starting a separate bank account for the fund to remove a certain aspect of personal liability.

## How to Manage Mutual Aid Funds

**Mutual aid funds** work to benefit a **group of people**.

**Mutual aid funds** have roots in **Black, Indigenous and immigrant** communities.

### Avoid taxation by...



Proving that the funds are a **gift**.

A gift is "a **detached and disinterested generosity**, out of affection, respect, admiration, charity or like impulses," according to the Supreme Court.



**Take records** of Venmo and PayPal transactions while maintaining a mutual aid fund.

### Avoid taxation by...



Finding a **fiscal sponsor**.

A fiscal sponsor is "**another entity to host the mutual aid activity**," according to the Sustainable Economies Law Center.

SOURCES: MERRIAM WEBSTER, SUSTAINABLE ECONOMIES LAW CENTER

MEGAN FLETCHER / THE DAILY TEXAN STAFF

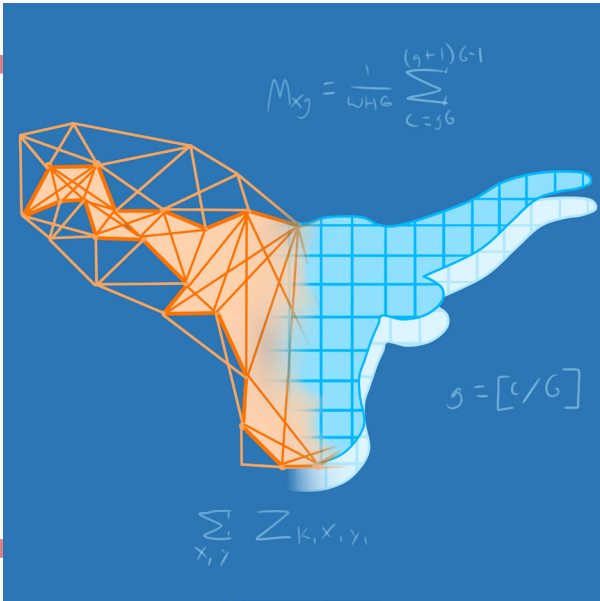
It is important for mutual aid projects to track their funds or even consider hiring an accountant, Haber said. He said paying a few hundred dollars for an accountant early on can save mutual aid founders the financial repercussions of being audited by the IRS.

"It's important for them to try to get records of the money that came in and how they spent it," Haber said. "For somebody who got a lot of money, the best approach may be to talk to an accountant, explain that these are gifts and ask them for help on how to present that."

## DATA SCIENCE CONTINUES FROM PAGE 2

for the program's future semesters to allow students to customize the degree to their interests. Calder said she looks to build an academic community alongside the online experience.

"We're developing opportunities for students to connect with each other and build their professional network through interactions with their peers," Calder said.



MEGAN CLARKE / THE DAILY TEXAN STAFF

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## UNIVERSITY

# Some students dissatisfied with University's emergency preparedness communication amid inclement weather

By Sheryl Lawrence  
@sheryl\_adelle

While UT officials and offices prepared for the recent winter storm, some students felt communication and emergency resources were lacking.

UT did not lose power last week because the main campus has its own power grid, but some buildings did lose water and many students living off campus lost power and water for days. Throughout the week of Feb. 14, UT provided students with resources, such as warming centers, emergency housing and emergency funds.

Jimmy Johnson, assistant vice president for campus safety, said before the storm reached Austin, the Office of Emergency Preparedness communicated with other UT departments to prepare buildings and areas such as warming stations.

Johnson said the office publishes information online and in a pocket guide that can apply to any emergency. When asked about UT's winter storm plans, Johnson said the Emergency Operations Plan provides instructions for all kinds of emergencies. The plan does not contain references to winter storms but does provide information on what the University does in case of natural disasters.

"(UT was) sending texts and emails constantly about (the) status of school," business honors sophomore Ashley Omehe said. "If (UT administration) would have been very adamant about sharing those resources through email and text as they were about updating us on the status of the campus ... the situation would have been a lot better for students."

The Office of Campus Safety sent an email to students, faculty and staff about the possibility of inclement winter weather on Feb. 11. There were no more Universitywide emails from the Office of Campus Safety after the email sent on Feb. 11 about the



JACK MYER / THE DAILY TEXAN FILE

A drainage pipe is frozen solid in an alley near 28th Street. UT did not lose power last week because the main campus has its own power grid, but some buildings did lose water and many students living off campus lost power and water for days.

winter storm and resources available. UT distributed information through Facebook and Twitter.

"We put a lot of consumable information out both internally and externally," Johnson said. "It's up to the consumer at the other end to read that information."

Sara Kennedy, director of strategic and executive communications for the Office of the Dean of Students, said in an email that 493 students emailed Student Emergency Services for support between Feb. 14 and Feb. 21. Kennedy said 128 students were referred by SES to receive temporary emergency housing.

Ryan Colvin, assistant director of occupancy management, conference and event services for University Housing and Dining, said 108

students received emergency housing. Colvin said 53 students were housed in residence halls and 55 students were housed in University apartments.

Arleth Amaya, government and Mexican American studies sophomore, said she stayed in emergency housing from Feb. 16 to Feb. 23. She returned to her West Campus apartment on Feb. 23 when power and water were restored. Amaya said she received a single occupancy room in Brackenridge Residence Hall, and her roommate received a single occupancy room in a University apartment.

"I feel like we would have been okay with double occupancy, which would have given other students the opportunity to also get emergency housing," Amaya said.

Colvin said SES and UHD worked to keep students together if they were married and requested living together. Amaya said she requested a room with her roommate, but SES didn't house them together since they are not married and of the opposite sex.

SES director Kelly Soucy said students who reached out to her office were provided with information about warming centers and disaster assistance.

Kennedy said as of Feb. 19, SES distributed \$16,250 in food support through the SES.

"When we started hearing that students were losing food because they were spoiled after X number of days without power, we started working with them to provide some emergency funds for food," Soucy said.



# ‘They didn’t really care about us as staff.’

**Resident assistants work extra shifts during historic storm.**

By Fiza Kuzhiyl  
@fizallk

*Editor’s Note: This story includes sources whose names have been changed to protect their employment.*

As the pipes burst at the Honors Quad on Feb. 19, a resident assistant grabbed a screwdriver from the front desk. He rushed to the second and third floor bathrooms where toilets were flooding to pop open the tops and fix the pipes.

“It was exhilarating and exhausting,” Andrew said. “That’s when the reality started to kick in that things are getting bad.”

As roads iced over and power went out across Austin, many University Housing and Dining staff were unable to safely travel to campus. With a higher demand for staff across the University, RAs were asked to work at the dining halls and open warming

stations, while still assisting their residents.

“We were all pitching in as much as possible,” Andrew said. “It was hectic ... We were just running on pure adrenaline.”

Andrew said he served students food at the dining hall, fixed two toilets and helped his residents find food near campus. He said emotionally processing the historic event was “taxing and draining.”

“The idea of having to be in that mentality of, ‘This is an emergency, and we always have to be ready for the next emergency,’ was a lot,” Andrew said.

Aaron Voyles, director for residence hall operations, said RAs are a part of UH’s crisis response. He said this role was communicated to them through their work agreement and training process.

Voyles said UH updated RAs as they received more information about the weather. On Monday night, after realizing the scope of RA duties, Voyles said UH decided to pay RAs an additional \$8.25 an hour for extra shifts on

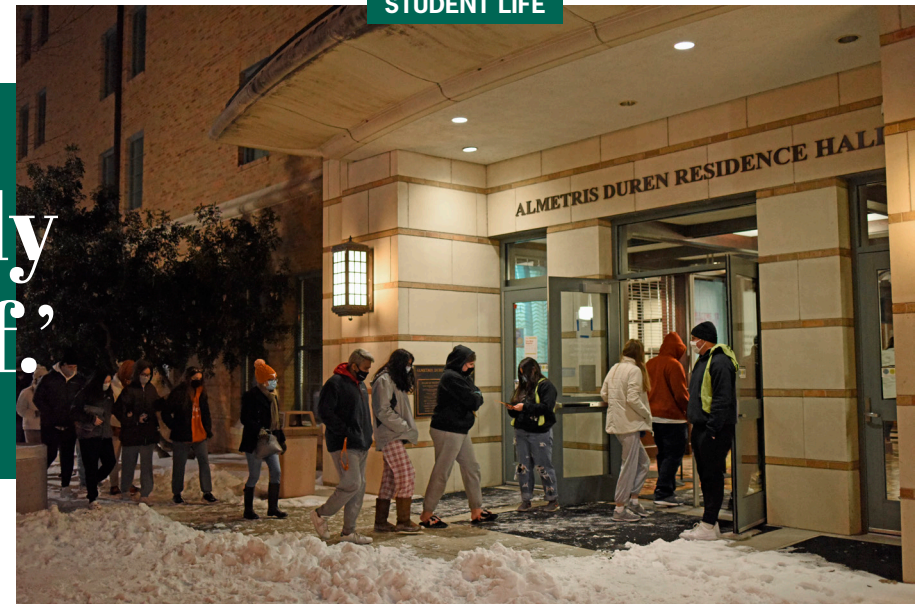
top of their monthly stipends.

“In some cases, something like dining might have been something they didn’t have any experience with, but (they) took it on with a good attitude and really helped us support all the students who were going through such a trying time,” Voyles said.

Resident assistant Sally said she was trained for emergency situations such as fires but not for taking on additional roles such as handling food or working cash registers. On Feb. 17, Sally said she didn’t take down student information at the dining hall cash register, which caused tension between the staff.

“I was charging people, (which) made me even more anxious because I could sense people being upset with me,” Sally said. “I felt like I was letting my fellow students down.”

Sally said RAs were asked to work in close quarters with one another in the dining halls, and the risk for



JACK MYER / THE DAILY TEXAN STAFF

Residents leave Kinsolving Residence Hall on the evening of Feb. 17. As demand for staff rose across the University, RAs were asked to work at the dining halls and open warming stations, while still assisting their residents.

contracting COVID-19 was significantly higher. She said RAs should have been paid more for this commitment.

“

We were all pitching in as much as possible. It was hectic ... We were running on pure adrenaline.”

ANDREW  
RESIDENT ASSISTANT

Working in the J2 dining hall for hours at a time, RA Jane said there weren’t any accommodations in place for her chronic nerve pain. When serving students, she said she had to take bottled drinks from vats of ice water, and this drop in temperature made her nerve pain worse.

“I was literally crying by

the end of the night. They had me plunging my hands into ice water,” Jane said. “I (was also) carrying heavy things, (and) both were not good for me.”

Jane said she found out she had to work at the dining hall 10 minutes before her shift. She said she received minimal communication from UH throughout the week.

“They needed to fulfill this need, and they were going to do it by whatever means possible,” Jane said. “They didn’t really care about us as staff.”

Despite feeling exploited as an employee, Sally said she can’t afford to quit her job as an RA.

“I was very tired (and) very stressed,” Sally said. “On top of doing RA stuff, I also helped with some mutual aid things, and that was very draining because we made a lot of deliveries. By the end of the weekend, I was in shock that that was even a thing that we had to experience here.”

## STUDENT LIFE

# Students left without therapists amid winter storm



SYLVIA ASUNCION-CRABB / THE DAILY TEXAN STAFF

By Carolyn Parmer  
@\_carolynparmer

With a stack of candles beside her, Jenny Tran sat in bed, bundled up in jackets and sweatpants. For over 55 hours, Tran lived without power, heat, water and — most importantly — her therapist.

“I felt really isolated,” psychology freshman Tran said. “It was such a mess. I had a hard time sleeping, and with the cold and everything, it made it worse.”

Tran had an appointment with UT’s Counseling and Mental Health Center scheduled for Feb. 17. But when she checked her MyUHS portal the night before, she discovered a message saying her appointment had been canceled due to the winter storm.

During Tran’s first counseling session the week before, she told her therapist about some of her life experiences and struggles. Tran said she had hoped to elaborate on those feelings and receive an official diagnosis from her therapist during her second appointment.

“When I found out the appointment was canceled, it was like, ‘Oh man, that’s my last hope to make me feel not crazy,’” Tran said. “I felt like I had to deal with (everything) by myself.”

Other students also endured a stressful week without any mental health counseling.

Biochemistry junior Natalie Jimenez was supposed to meet with her therapist on Feb. 17. She said she expected the University closure meant her appointment would be canceled, but she was still upset when she found out.

“Therapy has been my guiding point to understand and accept the feelings that I have and understand why I’m feeling certain things,” Jimenez said. “It’s my rock. I’m pretty dependent on it.”

Marla Craig, the senior associate director for clinical services at CMHC, said appointments were canceled because of the University’s closure and many staff members’ lack of water and power. Although the University remained closed

until Feb. 24, the CMHC resumed services on Feb. 22.

“We didn’t say, ‘Oh, we’re closed, (and) we’re not going to reach out,’” Dr. Craig said. “We spent a lot of time trying to make sure the students at least knew the circumstance. We also included a lot of information on our website.”

After two days without power and water, Jimenez experienced an emotional trigger on the day she was supposed to meet with her therapist. She said she felt forced to compartmentalize her emotions so she could focus on surviving.

“

Therapy has been my guiding point to understand and accept the feelings that I have and understand why I’m feeling certain things.”

NATALIE JIMENEZ  
BIOCHEMISTRY JUNIOR

“I thought I was going to be fine, but once I got the boil-water notice I was like, OK, this is the time to come (together) with my roommates to figure out what are we going to do? Where are we going to sleep? How are we going to get water?” Jimenez said.

The CMHC crisis line, which students can call at any time and for any concern, remained open during the week-long winter storm. But Craig said fewer students called during the storm than during an average week.

Jimenez said she might have called the crisis line if she knew it was available but said it wouldn’t have been as effective as talking with her therapist.

“Everything was closed down, and I didn’t know what to do,” Jimenez said. “I didn’t know who to call.”

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## FILM

# The Texan's predictions for the 78th Golden Globe Awards

By Dex Parra  
@dexparra

As the beloved "Schitt's Creek" resident Moira Rose would say, our favorite season is upon us. The Golden Globes ceremony airs this Sunday, marking the start of a tumultuous film and TV awards season.

Amy Poehler and Tina Fey will return for a fourth time as hosts for the 78th annual Golden Globe Awards at 7 p.m. CST. The Hollywood Foreign Press Association, a group of about 90 international journalists, selects the award recipients.

The Daily Texan compiled a list of the film nominees that we believe deserve the trophies and the ones that we predict will actually come out on top. If marked with an asterisk, the reporter has not seen the film.

"And the winners are..."

## Best Picture — Drama

"The Father" \*  
"Mank"  
"Nomadland" - **The Texan's Favorite**  
"Promising Young Woman"  
"The Trial of the Chicago 7" - **The Texan's Predicted Winner**

The ball is in Netflix's court for Aaron Sorkin's fast-paced courtroom drama. With a star-studded cast, Hollywood Foreign Press members will likely prop up "Chicago 7" as an Oscars frontrunner.

## Best Picture — Musical/Comedy

"Borat Subsequent Moviefilm" - **The Texan's Predicted Winner**  
"Hamilton"  
"Music" \*  
"Palm Springs" - **The Texan's Favorite**  
"The Prom"

There wasn't much to laugh or sing about in a year like 2020, and the nominees for this category reflect that.

## Best Actress — Motion Picture Drama

Viola Davis, "Ma Rainey's Black Bottom" - **The Texan's Favorite**  
Andra Day, "The United States vs. Billie Holiday" \*  
Carey Mulligan, "Promising Young Woman" - **The Texan's Predicted Winner**  
Vanessa Kirby, "Pieces of a Woman"  
Frances McDormand, "Nomadland"

While Davis' Ma Rainey was electrifying, Mulligan's vengeance in "Promising Young Woman" is sure to please the HFPA.

## Best Actor — Motion Picture Drama

Riz Ahmed, "Sound of Metal"  
Chadwick Boseman, "Ma Rainey's Black Bottom" - **The Texan's Favorite, The Texan's Predicted Winner**  
Anthony Hopkins, "The Father" \*  
Gary Oldman, "Mank"  
Tahar Rahim, "The Mauritanian" \*

The late Boseman may finally earn his well-deserved Golden Globe as Ma Rainey's ambitious trumpet player.

## Best Actress — Motion Picture Musical/Comedy

Maria Bakalova, "Borat Subsequent Moviefilm" - **The Texan's Favorite, The Texan's Predicted Winner**  
Kate Hudson, "Music" \*  
Michelle Pfeiffer, "French Exit" \*  
Rosamund Pike, "I Care a Lot"  
Anya Taylor-Joy, "Emma."

Even the critics who abhorred Borat will likely admit Bakalova deserves the award for the infamous Rudy Giuliani scene alone.

## Best Actor — Motion Picture Musical/Comedy

Sacha Baron Cohen, "Borat Subsequent Moviefilm" - **The Texan's Favorite, The Texan's Predicted Winner**  
James Corden, "The Prom"  
Lin-Manuel Miranda, "Hamilton"  
Dev Patel, "The Personal History of David Copperfield" \*  
Andy Samberg, "Palm Springs"

*Disclaimer: The reporter decided to exclude "Best Actress in a Motion Picture" because he hasn't seen three of the five films nominated. Other publications are calling it a tossup between Amanda Seyfried in "Mank" and Olivia Colman in "The Father."*

## Best Supporting Actor — Motion Picture

Sacha Baron Cohen, "The Trial of the Chicago 7" - **The Texan's Predicted Winner**  
Daniel Kaluuya, "Judas and the Black Messiah" - **The Texan's Favorite**  
Jared Leto, "The Little Things"  
Bill Murray, "On the Rocks" \*  
Leslie Odom Jr., "One Night in Miami..."

## Best Director — Motion Picture

Emerald Fennell, "Promising Young Woman"  
David Fincher, "Mank"  
Regina King, "One Night in Miami..."  
Aaron Sorkin, "The Trial of the Chicago 7"  
Chloé Zhao, "Nomadland" - **The Texan's Favorite, The Texan's Predicted Winner**

In an historic year for women filmmakers, director Zhao stands out for her impeccable still shots and wide landscape sequences of a weathered woman in a weathered land.

## Best Screenplay — Motion Picture

Emerald Fennell, "Promising Young Woman" - **The Texan's Favorite**  
Jack Fincher, "Mank"  
Aaron Sorkin, "The Trial of the Chicago 7" - **The Texan's Predicted Winner**  
Christopher Hampton, Florian Zeller, "The Father" \*  
Chloé Zhao, "Nomadland"



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Tina Fey and Amy Poehler host the 72nd Golden Globes in 2015. They will return as hosts for the 78th awards ceremony.

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## FEATURE

## Charli Collier 'shows the best of Austin'

*The star junior center prepaid for pizzas at Roppolo's Pizzeria for students amid last week's winter freeze.*

By Carter Yates  
@Carter\_Yates16

Austin's citizens are usually prepared for record-high heat waves, but for one week, the city was overtaken by a chilling winter storm that desolated the area.

With temperatures plunging into the twenties and roads iced over for miles, some students at the University of Texas were forced to live without running water or electricity. The Drag, which separates the inner portion of UT and its residential West Campus, was lined with college kids looking for food from the one of the few restaurants that was open: Roppolo's Pizzeria.

Marc Roppolo, who has owned the store since November 1989, said he had never seen his shop swarmed like it was during the storm on Feb. 18.

"We couldn't answer the phone at all," Roppolo said. "We had a line past the Moxy Hotel, and kids were waiting in 25-degree weather."

Charli Collier, a junior center for the Texas women's basketball team and the projected No. 1 pick in the 2021 WNBA Draft, walked past her fellow students to pick up food for her teammates. When Collier got into the store to get the pizza she had ordered, she flagged down Roppolo.

"She just arbitrarily decided out of nowhere to donate 50 personal pizzas to students," Roppolo said. "She thanked me, and then she texted me about an hour later, once again thanking me, and I just thanked her. I said, 'What you're doing is fantastic.'"

After being stuck in Waco overnight following a Feb. 14 game against

Baylor, Collier was holed up in her dorm room with her roommates as Wednesday night's game against TCU was postponed.

Instead of deciding to ignore the line of students, Collier chose to help them out in a time of need.

"I saw everybody in line, and I was like, 'I want to do something good. Maybe they are going to be closed after we come in and not everybody is going to get a pizza. I just want to buy 50 pizzas,'" Collier said.

Collier was one of a number of students, alumni and professors to help out the Austin community during the winter freeze.

"Blessings come to you when you do nice to people," Collier said. "I just want to spread that. Just be nice, especially in these times."

Michael Huff, a former Texas defensive back and 2005 All-American, prepaid for 1,000 tacos at Austin staple Juan in a Million on the same day as Collier's generous act at Roppolo's.

After playing in the NFL for eight years, Huff acquired the means to continue prepaying for food at restaurants in the surrounding Austin area and his hometown of Irving, Texas throughout the week.

“

I saw everybody in line, and I was like, 'I want to do something good.'"

CHARLI COLLIER  
JUNIOR CENTER

However, Collier's position as a student-athlete makes her contribution all the more remarkable, Huff said.

"I feel like that has more of an impact than what I'm doing now," Huff said. "Obviously she's in college trying to get her degree, trying to play ball and be successful and figure out where



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Junior center Charli Collier poses with Marc Roppolo for a photo after Collier prepaid for 50 pizzas at Roppolo's Pizzeria to students.

her path is going to be in life. At this point my path has kind of been written ... So for her to be that young and doing all of this while still going through everything I went through, my hat's off to her."

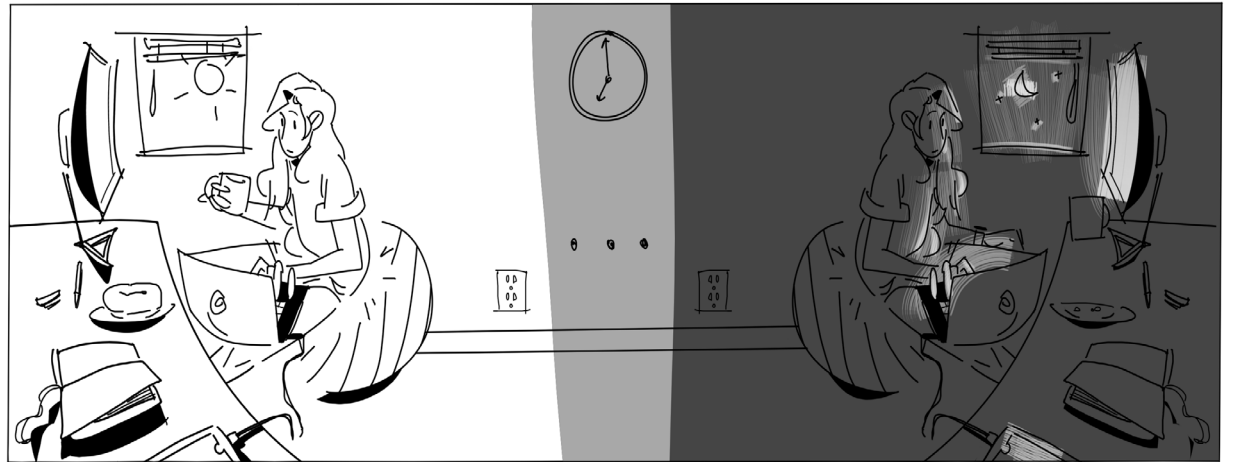
Collier's act of kindness was a symbol of light in an otherwise tumultuous week.

"Someone like Charli (Collier) shows the best of Austin," Roppolo said. "When she walked into Roppolo's... and saw all these students waiting in line, immediately, the best of who she is came out. She said, 'Let me buy for these kids. Let me do what I can to help.'"





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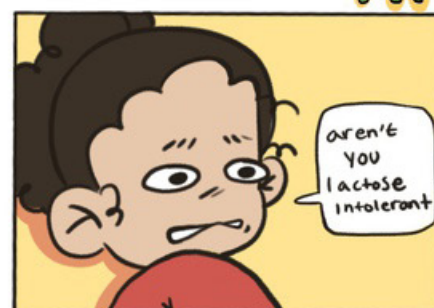
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## MY ROOMMATE REG



## WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

# 'Relentless' in Reserve: Freshmen embrace role

By Taylor Hawthorne  
@aylorhawth

Coming into the 2020-21 season, Vic Schaefer said he knew the lack of depth in the Texas women's basketball team was going to force younger players to grow up fast.

"Our bench is going to be three freshmen all year long," head coach Schaefer said in a Jan. 23 teleconference.

The classification doesn't stop the newbies from mak-

ing a difference on the court when their number is called. New to the college game amid the COVID-19 pandemic, the freshmen had to adapt quickly and take on new roles to fit Texas, which has meant being the next player off the bench.

"Relentless," junior forward Charli Collier said in a Jan. 23 teleconference. "These freshmen — they're just not afraid. You can't come out here and be scared. Even in practice, they take ownership, they talk (and) they're leading."

Three Texas freshmen have made an impact coming off the bench all season. Forward DeYona Gaston earned Big 12 Freshman of the Week on Jan. 4. Guards Shay Holle and Ashley Chevalier made names for themselves as consistent role players and defensive specialists.

"You never know when it's going to be your time," Holle said in a Feb. 10 teleconference. "You never know who's going to wake up with a cough that day and can't practice

(or) can't play. We've definitely had some injury issues on our team. You just never know what's going to happen, so it would be a shame if you weren't ready the day that your name was called."

Before Gaston's season-ending shin injury, she played in 11 games and led the team with 21 blocks on the year. Gaston was a pivotal piece to the offense with junior forwards Audrey Warren and Lauren Ebo missing extended time to injuries and ineligibility, respectively.

In times of foul and injury trouble, junior guard Joanne Allen-Taylor said the freshmen control what they can, notably in the win against Iowa State on Jan. 23.

"I knew they were prepared for this moment, and they came and did their job," Allen-Taylor said in a Jan. 23 teleconference. "They didn't do what was outside of their game. They kept it simple, and it helped us big time."

The impact these freshmen bring doesn't end at the finish of a game. Points, rebounds and assists are a plus, but the role the freshmen play in the development of the team starts in practice.

"It sets a different tone when you have freshmen who are trying to stay in the drill, not just get that one rep in and get out as quickly as they can," Chevalier said in a Feb. 10 teleconference. "So I think when you have freshmen setting that tone, it just builds from that because you have other people seeing, 'OK, even my freshmen are doing this.'"

For the young players to continuously improve, Schaefer tells them to remain in the picture in every aspect of the sport — practice drills, meetings and games. Staying focused on that big picture is something Chevalier tries to emphasize.

"It's really about staying engaged," Chevalier said in a Wednesday teleconference. "It's really easy to look at your situation and try to feel bad for yourself or hoping you had more minutes, hoping you had more opportunities. But it's really important to stay locked into the moment and stay locked into your team."



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Freshman guard Ashley Chevalier dishes to a teammate in a Jan. 20 game against TCU. Chevalier is one of three freshmen in key bench roles for the Texas women's basketball squad.