

DT

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*Prepare to cast
your vote*

**Voting for UT legislative bodies
begins Monday at midnight.**

News
PAGE 03 UT faculty members created a video series to explain how the COVID-19 vaccine works.

Opinion
PAGE 04 The editorial board endorses Kiara and Ethan for student body president and vice president.

Life&Arts
PAGE 05 Winter storm Uri left students struggling to pay for flooded apartments and spoiled food.

Sports
PAGE 13 The Texas volleyball team hasn't missed a beat since returning from a three-month hiatus.

CAMPUS

Students petition for UT to keep mask mandate

By **Skye Seipp**
 @seippetc

Student legislative bodies filed a joint resolution asking UT to keep its mask mandate and other COVID-19 protocols on campus after Gov. Greg Abbott announced Tuesday that he is lifting all mask orders and business capacity limits in Texas starting March 10.

In the resolution, Student Government, the Senate of College Councils and the Graduate Student Assembly also asked the University to hold all classes virtually for two weeks after spring break to avoid COVID-19 spread on campus. The legislative bodies launched a petition in support of the resolution that has received nearly 2,600 signatures as of Thursday.

The resolution points to multiple reasons for the University to keep the mask mandate in place, including Travis County still being under Stage 4 COVID-19 guidelines, the detection of the B.1.1.7 variant on campus and other public health concerns.

The University announced Wednesday that COVID-19 protocols are still in place for now, but the University is reviewing protocols to ensure they are in compliance with Abbott's orders. Kathleen Harrison, communications manager for the Office of the Executive Vice President and Provost, said more information about classes after spring break

will be available next week or later.

Student Government voted to pass the resolution Wednesday night, and the Senate passed the resolution with unanimous consent Thursday night. The Graduate Student Assembly will introduce the resolution March 10 "with the hope to fast-track it to a vote," assembly president Gregorio Ponti said.

Steven Ding, Senate policy director and a co-author of the resolution, said members of the different legislative groups decided to write the joint resolution because they worried the University would not be able to enforce COVID-19 protocols after Abbott's announcement.

"We wanted to ensure that we voiced the students' ... concerns about mandating masks and how important it is to be wearing masks," said Ding, a management information systems and urban studies junior.

Huy Le, the COVID-19 response co-chair for SG, said they are also asking the University to consider vaccine distribution and the prevalence of COVID-19 in the community before deciding whether to reopen in the summer and fall.

Physics doctoral candidate Ponti said the recommendation to have classes virtually for two weeks could result in pushback because it would create extra work for professors to alter class formats over spring break.

"Until the threat is over, I feel we should have a mask mandate," Ponti said. "Right now, it is clear that the threat isn't over."



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CAMPUS

UT student develops virtual COVID-19 tool

Moody doctoral candidate creates COVID-19 tool to combat vaccine misinformation.

By Kiernan McCormick
@KiernanMcCormi4

UT doctoral candidate Chelsea Brass is developing a Vaccine Curiosity Tool to help resolve uncertainty about the COVID-19 vaccine.

Brass, a communication studies doctoral student and former doctoral fellow for the Center for Health Communication in the Moody College of Communication, created the Vaccine Curiosity Project, which will feature a collection of eight short videos.

The videos use animations and voice-overs to explain the function of the COVID-19

vaccine in a digestible format. One video has been released so far, explaining how in some COVID-19 vaccines, mRNA is used to instruct cells to make a protein that recognizes and protects against the virus.

Brass said she is collaborating with Melanie Connolly, a medical illustrator, 3D animator and marketing director for the Austin Healthcare Council. Brass and Connolly have created a website for the project that will soon be made public.

Connolly said she and Brass identify concerns about the vaccine and work to find information about these concerns to help clarify misconceptions.

"People are getting a lot of anecdotal information from friends and relatives, and we're trying to gather all of those misunderstandings or pieces and then put it all together and address it," Connolly said.

According to a Kaiser Family Foundation poll published in February, 1 in 5 U.S. adults said they will wait to get the vaccine when they have seen it work for others.

Brass said one of her inspirations for the project came from her friends and family saying

they were overwhelmed by the abundance of information they were hearing about the vaccine.

"You see a lot of stuff about misconceptions, and I feel like it imbues a kind of stigma about being concerned," Brass said. "So this tool is devoted to being a friendly and empathetic way of helping people with their areas of uncertainty."

The project partners with Moody's Center for Health Communication and the Texas Nurses Association. One of the center's goals for the project is to find ways to get information about the vaccine to staff who do not always have access to a computer, center director Michael Mackert said.

Mackert said the center is also interested in using the series to inform students about the vaccine when the University begins offering the vaccine beyond the 1A and 1B groups.

"Part of (the center's) interest in it is if we plan ahead to some point when UT is doing COVID-19 vaccines for students the way they already do flu vaccines ... we can help make sure people really understand what the vaccine is all about," Mackert said.



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EDITORIAL

‘Y’all ready?’: Vote Kiara and Ethan

The Texan Editorial Board endorses executive alliance candidates Kiara Kabbara and Ethan Jones.

By The Daily Texan Editorial Board

Editor’s note: This endorsement reflects the opinion of The Daily Texan Editorial Board and not the opinions of The Daily Texan staff as a whole.

This Student Government election season has been different from all previous seasons, as candidates have seen their campaign period shortened due to last month’s winter storm and have taken to social media to garner support amid the pandemic.

As The Daily Texan Editorial Board, we are responsible for endorsing one executive alliance each year. Like the boards before us, we assessed candidates based on three main considerations.

First, we evaluated candidates’ performances in the candidate debate on Monday, March 1. Then, we looked at the platform chart, questionnaire and candidate column each alliance submitted to the board. Finally, we conducted a 20-minute interview with each executive alliance to further discuss their goals.

After considering all the candidates, we encourage you to vote for the only executive alliance that seems prepared to take on the responsibilities of student body president and vice president — Kiara Kabbara and Ethan Jones.

Four executive alliances applied to campaign this year: Dwight Peton and

Domanique Williams, Gautham Metta and Quenton Stokes, Javier Lopez and Danielle Buffa, and Kiara Kabbara and Ethan Jones.

Dwight and Domanique

Dwight and Domanique emphasized the importance of transparency and re-establishing trust in SG, but we found their platform points too vague to evaluate their feasibility.

For example, they want to lobby for more affordable housing in West Campus, despite the vast majority of West Campus properties being owned by private companies and not UT. This means the companies are less susceptible to pressure from SG.

We’re not sure this plan is any more feasible than Anagha and Winston’s a year ago, which hasn’t led to any substantial legislation or change since their election.

During the interview, Dwight and Domanique also informed us that their website and official platform points will be published in full this weekend, just days before voting occurs. While we understand the winter storm delayed the campaign period, students need more time to review candidates’ platforms to make an informed decision.

Gautham and Quenton

While we appreciate Gautham and Quenton’s plans to increase transparency within SG by hosting town halls and publishing monthly newsletters, their inexperience in campus advocacy work is apparent. There are several platform points, including one that would subsidize ticket costs for students to attend tours around Austin, that would be a poor use of SG’s time and budget.

Additionally, their sexual assault coalition platform point, which would involve “get(ting) (survivors’) stories in front of students,” demonstrates a lack of familiarity with how sexual assault prevention advocacy actually



JACK MYER / THE DAILY TEXAN STAFF

Executive alliance candidates Kiara Kabbara and Ethan Jones plan to partner with historically Black colleges and universities in addition to other goals.

works and the importance of avoiding retraumatizing survivors.

Javier and Danielle

While Javier and Danielle present admirable goals and importantly note in their campaign economic waste within SG, it takes more than just extensive research to implement SG policy.

When we asked them questions about logistics and funding, including their goals to create a nonbinary gender marker option for students and increase SG’s appropriations budget, they were unable to provide answers specific enough to convince us they knew how to get these initiatives accomplished if elected.

Kiara and Ethan

After meeting with each executive alliance individually, it became clear to us that one alliance had done more to prepare for their campaign than others. Kiara and Ethan didn’t just conduct research — they reached out to activists,

community leaders and students before building their platform to ensure they took the gathered input into account.

Kiara and Ethan’s platform details both new initiatives, such as partnering with historically Black colleges and universities and providing students transportation to H-E-B through SURE Walk, and plans to expand on current ones, such as interpersonal violence prevention efforts and working with disability advocacy organizations on campus.

It’s impossible to overlook Kiara and Ethan’s large number of platform points. Realistically, we know they won’t be able to accomplish every goal, but we admire their optimism and enthusiasm when the past year has contained little.

After evaluating all four executive alliances, we believe Kiara and Ethan are in the best position to get the most done next year. We hope you’ll join us in voting for them online from midnight Monday, March 8 until 5 p.m. on Tuesday, March 9 at utexasvote.org.

FEATURE

Students face financial fallout after winter storm

Students are still experiencing financial hardships due to damage and lost paychecks during Winter Storm Uri.

By Fiza Kuzhiyil
@fiza11k

A pipe burst, and water soaked into the hardwood floor. The power went out, and food began to rot in the fridge. This was the reality for Maria

Henriquez and her Riverside apartment on Feb. 17.

Two weeks later, she sat on her friend's bedroom floor attending Zoom classes, unable to focus on anything but the state of her apartment, which was under repair.

"I think it's the most traumatic thing I've ever experienced in my life," said Henriquez, a chemistry and mathematics junior.

Weeks after Winter Storm Uri hit Texas from Feb. 13-17, some students still face the financial fallouts of damaged apartments, spoiled groceries and lost work hours.

Without renters insurance, Henriquez said she can't get money back for any of her lost items such as the \$240 worth of food in her fridge and her roommate's printer, which was damaged by water from the burst pipe. She estimated a total of \$500 of her own money was lost due to the storm.

After moving from West Campus to Riverside in hopes of saving money on rent and having more funds for necessities, Henriquez struggled with the lack of campus aid during the storm. She said she's moving back to West Campus where she can more easily access emergency campus resources.

"When I live in Riverside, I have disposable income," Henriquez said.



EMILY REED / THE DAILY TEXAN STAFF

"If there was an emergency, I could buy something. Whereas (in) West Campus, one thing could break me."

Architectural engineering sophomore Mariana Mercado said when four friends lost power and water, she invited them to stay at her apartment. She said she only stocked enough food and water for her and her roommate, and she had to ration food to feed four additional people.

"Cooking became very stressful as I tried to ration supplies while still being able to make meals that wouldn't require digging into our limited water reserves," Mercado said. "Making do without water was surprisingly arduous."

Mercado said another financial burden was being out of a job. She said she works on campus and was without pay for a week and a half when the University closed.

Maryan Ali Naseer, an international relations and global studies freshman,

said she estimates she lost \$600 through the loss of work hours during the storm.

"I still have to pay rent," Ali Naseer said. "I still have to pay those bills. I still have to pay for groceries ... but I lost the hours that I was supposed to work and therefore, I lost potential money I could have been making."

Ali Naseer said replacing spoiled food in her refrigerator was also financially difficult. She said when she went to the grocery store on Feb. 22, the shelves were empty except for the most expensive products. She said a gallon of milk cost her \$6.

"I had to buy the more expensive items because all the cheap ones were gone," Ali Naseer said. "Everybody was panic buying, so (I spent)

around \$100."

Ali Naseer said she went to stay with her mom in Dallas the week after the storm to recover from the stress of worrying about food, water and shelter.

"It was an entire week's worth of recovering from all of that stress," Ali Naseer said. "It's been tough, but it's OK. We're getting through it."

“ I still have to pay those bills... but I lost the hours that I was supposed to work and therefore, I lost potential money I could have been making.”

ALI NASEER
IRG FRESHMAN

STUDENT GOVERNMENT

FOUR EXECUTIVE ALLIANCES VIE FOR STUDENT VOTE

Candidates discuss SG transparency and other platform points.

KIARA & ETHAN

Presidential candidate Kiara Kabbara and vice presidential candidate Ethan Jones said they would be the best team to lead the student body because they have already been doing work through Student Government and other organizations.

“Not only do we have these ideas, but they’re not arbitrary,” said Jones, a business honors and public relations junior. “We’re giving you actual tangible ways and structural ways that we’re going to address the systemic issues.”

The candidates have five main campaign points: academic affairs, campus housing, equity outreach, services and sustainability, and executive projects. They want to create an endowment for the ethnic studies depart-

ment to focus on learning about different cultures. To emphasize learning about different perspectives, government junior Kabbara and Jones also want UT to partner with historically Black colleges and universities for students to take classes.

“Studying different aspects of different cultures and identities and backgrounds is so important to not only increase your education but more importantly, increase your empathy towards other people,” Jones said.

Kabbara and Jones said they did not include removing the “Eyes of Texas” in their initial campaign because they have already been working on the “Rewrite not Reclaim” campaign.



JACK MYER / THE DAILY TEXAN STAFF

Kiara Kabbara and Ethan Jones are running for student body president and vice president.



ASHLEY MIZNAZI / THE DAILY TEXAN STAFF

Daniella Buffa and Javier Lopez are running for student body vice president and president.

JAVIER & DANIELLE

Presidential candidate Javier Lopez and vice presidential candidate Danielle Buffa said they want to give students a voice instead of being the students’ voice.

The executive alliance candidates have six main campaign points: Your Voice, Your Health, Your Orgs, Your Identity, Your Name, and Your Government. For ‘Your Identity,’ they want to push the University administration to add a nonbinary gender identification option upon registration. For ‘Your Name,’ they are advocating for students to be able to place their preferred name on their diploma rather than their legal name.

“The bigger overlying goal is making sure the University has the tools for those students

that want to change their names, or they’re going through a transition phase, and they don’t identify with the name that they came into the University as,” said Lopez, an international relations and global studies junior.

For ‘Your Orgs,’ the candidates want to use more of the SG budget to allocate to student organizations. However, SG only has the capacity to allow student organizations to request funding through SG once per semester, according to previous reporting by The Daily Texan.

Lopez and Buffa said they did not include the removal of “The Eyes of Texas” in their campaign because through their open-floor meetings, they want students to express this concern directly to University administration.

By Sheryl Lawrence
@sheryl_adelle

UT students will have the opportunity to vote next week in student body elections and choose who will represent them and their views for the 2021-22 school year.

The four executive alliance candidates are Kiara Kabbara and Ethan Jones, Gautham Metta and Quenton Stokes, Javier Lopez and Danielle Buffa, and Dwight Peton and Domanique Williams. Students can vote at utexasvote.org from Monday, March 8 at midnight to Tuesday, March 9 at 5 p.m.

The student body executive alliance is one of the only direct contacts students have with University administration, along with the Graduate Student Assembly's executive alliance and the president and vice president of the Senate of College Councils.

Over the past year, the student body has been through a lot, between Winter Storm Uri, COVID-19 and the protests against systemic racism in summer 2020. Students are still calling for the University to remove "The Eyes of Texas" as the school song due to its racist history, but the University has received pressure from donors and alumni to keep the tradition in place. Only one of the executive alli-

ance campaigns discussed whether they plan to push the administration to remove the song.

Students have also expressed frustration with getting help from the Counseling and Mental Health Center, and all executive alliance candidates said they want to expand CMHC access. All campaigns except for the Kabbara and Jones campaign said they want to provide students with more free appointments. The Kabbara and Jones campaign said they want to provide funding to CMHC because they are underfunded and understaffed, which Jones said is the reason the CMHC cannot provide students with more support.

The student body executive alliance is one of the only direct contacts with University administration, along with the Graduate Student Assembly's executive alliance.



JULIUS SHIEH / THE DAILY TEXAN STAFF

Dwight Peton and Domanique Williams are running for student body president and vice president.

DWIGHT & DOMANIQUE

Presidential candidate Dwight Peton and vice presidential candidate Domanique Williams said they are consistent and have no problem with bothering people to follow through on their campaign promises.

In an interview Wednesday, the candidates said they did not have their platform fully finished or a place where students can find all of their platform points. They said they hope to have a website up by the weekend.

They said their three finalized campaign points are assisting students with their basic physical needs, addressing student mental health and open communication with the student body.

Philosophy junior Peton and architectural engineering senior Williams want to expand the CMHC's budget so it can hire more diverse counselors to address unique challenges students may face due to their ethnicity or race.

"There should be no reason why the counselor should not reflect the student body and the different people coming to CMHC and using their resources," Peton said.

Peton and Williams said they did not include removing the "Eyes of Texas" in their initial campaign because they believe it will eventually happen because the University has made changes in the past, such as removing statues.

GAUTHAM & QUENTON

Presidential candidate Guatham Metta and vice presidential candidate Quenton Stokes, a supply chain junior, said they will be able to offer a unique perspective to SG because they have not previously been a part of SG and emphasize the importance of transparency.

"People who are already a part of SG have been a part of SG, (and) whether or not they 100% align with the current administration is one thing, but they're more or less all trying to move in the same direction," finance junior Metta said. "We think that can create

groupthink, where somebody is afraid to speak out."

The executive alliance candidates want to push for the Texas A&M and Texas rivalry game's reinstatement, which ended in 2011, to bring students together and create memories.

"We can't bond over 'The Eyes of Texas' anymore, (and) I'm never going to sing it again," Metta said. "There's so many other things we can do to unite the student body, and I feel like the A&M game is another way to do that."



EVAN L'ROY / THE DAILY TEXAN STAFF

Quenton Stokes and Guatham Metta are running for student body vice president and president.

GUEST COLUMN

Dwight and Domanique focus on accessibility, inclusion, transparency

By Dwight Peton &
Domanique Williams
Candidates for Executive Alliance

When we began this journey to run for president and vice president, we had no idea what to expect. For some time now, Student Government seemed like this inaccessible resource that was only available for a very particular set of students. Ever since we stepped foot on this campus, it has felt that way to us and many other students on the Forty Acres. The culture that surrounds Student Government is one that appears to have its doors closed to outsiders, instead of one that promotes a culture of inclusion and transparency.

That is a huge issue. A huge issue that feeds into the larger issue that surrounds the UT community: lack of representation and communication with students. Oftentimes you hear that Student Government is just a place where the same tight-knit group of government majors go to pretend like they care about issues that many students are facing on campus. You hear that instead of being the organizer of students, Student Government has been distilled into being just another student organization.

There is no reason why students on this campus should feel like they don't have a say in what policies are being implemented that directly affect them. There is no reason why students on this campus should feel like the students who were elected to be an extension of their voices are instead drowning out their cries with the sound of their own



JULIUS SHIEH / THE DAILY TEXAN STAFF

selfish ambitions. There is no reason why students on this campus see such a powerful organization, created to foster change, as just another fraternity or sorority.

Our goal is simple. We want to earn back the trust of the students who believed that this organization could be a vehicle for substantive, tangible and lasting change. To do that, we have made it our mission to prove to you that, through every step of the way, we will have the students' best

interest in mind by focusing our platform on accessibility, inclusion and making sure that your voice is heard.

This is a campus that has become a home for many of us. You should be able to feel heard, seen and felt through every piece of legislation that goes through the assembly. Every bill, every idea, every action, should be a reflection of the change that you want to see directly.

We may be outsiders with limited knowledge of the bureaucracy that is

UT Student Government, but that's what makes us all the more effective. We aren't ingrained in the system that we want to see changed. We have a fresh perspective, and we are hungry for change. That hunger won't be satiated until we create the change we want to see. The change that you want to see. And frankly, the change that we need to see. This isn't about us. This is about you and the change that we are determined to deliver to you. Hook 'em!

GUEST COLUMN

GQ Executive Alliance wants to redefine UT Student Government

By **Gautham Metta & Quenton Stokes**

Candidates for Executive Alliance

The purpose of the GQ Executive Alliance is to give power back to the students. What do we mean by this? After asking dozens of students both on and off campus, we discovered that almost 80% of polled students had no idea what Student Government does or how it operates. Many didn't even know the names of our current executive alliance or that there was an election race going on. How can our University enact change when our student body doesn't even know who's fighting for them?

As outsiders to Student Government, we have a unique opportunity to bring new perspectives into the fold. We aren't afraid to change the system because if we're being honest, we don't even fully understand it. The GQ Alliance plans on tackling this transparency issue head on by hosting town halls designed to actively engage with the student population. One of our main goals next year is to host town halls where we meet with student leaders and organizations on campus to facilitate active discussion on prominent campus issues and ideate potential solutions. Along with these

discussions, we will be publishing monthly newsletters detailing legislative updates and policy proposals. Lastly, our alliance will have individual office hours and "coffee chats" to speak directly with our student body. These three initiatives will bridge the gap between our general student population and student leadership. Together, we will be able to tackle the modern and complex issues that affect our students.

We want to create a campus climate of safety: This year alone, we've had 22 instances of violent crime and 66 property crimes, which can certainly be attributed to dim lighting and unsafe sidewalks. To help improve safety off campus, our executive alliance will lobby the city of Austin for increased lighting and repaved sidewalks in the area. When walking down 22nd, 25th, 28th and 31st streets, just to name a few, you'll find broken sidewalks, potholes, ditches and little to no lighting. To remedy this issue, our alliance plans on working with the University administration, Horns for Safety, Austin City Council and the Urban Transportation Commission to advocate using money redistributed from the Austin Police Department budget to reinvest in our campus and the surrounding neighborhoods. These improvements



EVAN L'ROY / THE DAILY TEXAN STAFF

will help protect the Longhorn community for years to come.

Advocating for diversity and inclusion is also necessary, especially given recent events. Students have witnessed tragedy after tragedy: the killing of George Floyd, Capitol riots and unprecedented political division in Texas and around the country. To combat this, our alliance will revamp orientation by organizing events to teach our incoming students about the complicated history of our University. We will educate these students on prominent issues such as the racist

connotations of "The Eyes of Texas" while also providing history on prominent University graduates such as Heman Sweatt, the first black UT Law student. Our alliance also plans to use our relationship with Ryan Sparkman, deputy director of the Texas House LBGTQ Caucus, to educate students about hate crimes and promote an inclusive and safe campus environment.

We want to redefine what Student Government means, remind students who it serves and remind everyone where the power should lie — with the students.

GUEST COLUMN

Lopez and Buffa are putting the U in UT

By Javier Lopez & Danielle Buffa

Candidates for Executive Alliance

We are Javier Lopez and Danielle Buffa, and we want to make UT your university.

We are not former members of Student Government. We are members of the student body. We understand what it is like to want change and have no discernable pathway to achieve it, and we are running so that no student must experience this sense of frustration and helplessness again. If what starts here changes the world, then why shouldn't students be able to change their world?

We recognize that no amount of research can teach us about every problem our students face. However, by providing every student the opportunity to speak with us directly, we can help create the change our students want for our university.

If elected, we will hold open-floor meetings in which any member of the student body may voice their concerns to us, our executive agencies and the dean of students. These meetings will allow students to speak their minds about the problems they face on a daily basis. Our goal is to empower students to create the change they want to see. It's time to give our students the transparent and accountable Student Government and University administration that they deserve.

This past year has been a strenuous one, to say the least. Between the COVID-19 pandemic and the recent winter storm, our students are

struggling like never before. But with these challenges comes opportunity to look at the flaws within our system and make a change.

After researching the executive alliance budget, we found many agencies from past years were inactive and unresponsive to the community. In fact, this past fall alone, there was a budget surplus of over \$18,000 that was unspent and unused by our Student Government. We believe in using our resources to give back to our students. Our alliance will channel our funds into projects and organizations

that help students, and we will donate any excess funds to the Student Emergency Fund and to UT Outpost, an organization focused on feeding at-risk students.

We believe UT is for everyone, and as your executive alliance, we will strive to make UT more inclusive. We will listen to our students' needs and make the necessary changes, such as adding a nonbinary gender marker in UT's registration system. We will also work with the Office of the Registrar to provide students the option to place their preferred name on their diploma

rather than their legal name so every student can take pride in being a Longhorn.

Our campaign is focused on what matters most: you. Our Student Government needs to represent all of our students, not just leaders of organizations and other members of Student Government. It's time to make a change. It's time to create a Student Government that values transparency and accountability. It's time to represent the needs and identities of all of our diverse students. It's time to put the U in UT.



ASHLEY MIZNAZI / THE DAILY TEXAN STAFF

DAILY TEXAN COMICS CELEBRATES



SUCCESS

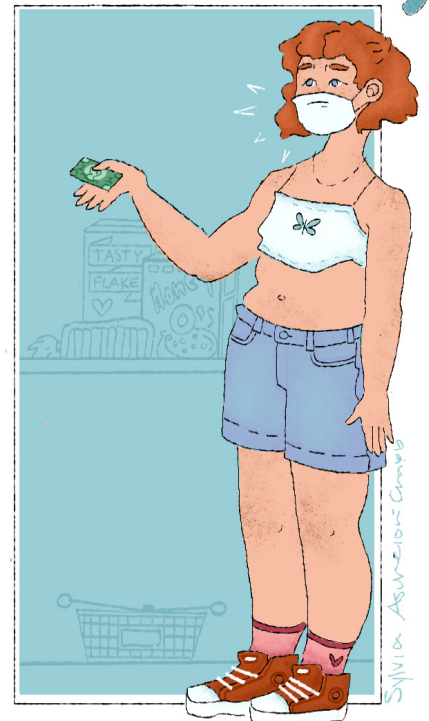
BY CATE LOWRY



@CATE_SKETCHES

Today

Next Wednesday



ASSASSIN

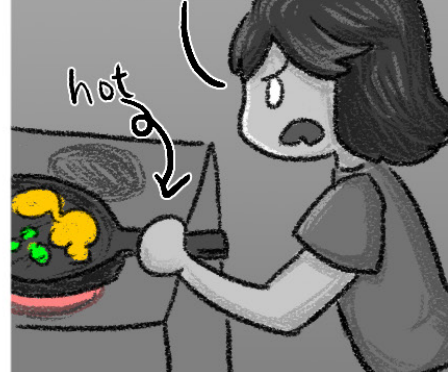
I think someone is trying to kill me...



Cough! hack!



yowch!



ahhhh!



MARISSA XIONG
@superanonymouscarrots

GUEST COLUMN

‘Are y’all ready?’ Kiara and Ethan present ‘bold’ platform



JACK MYER / THE DAILY TEXAN STAFF

**By Kiara Kabbara &
Ethan Jones**
Candidates for Executive Alliance

We have been incredibly blessed to serve in numerous leadership positions at UT where we have been charged with advocating and amplifying the voice of UT students. We recognize that UT’s current structure doesn’t “work” for all of its community. If UT is supposed to be a school for all of its students, no matter background, race, ethnicity, gender, religious affiliation or sexual orientation, shouldn’t its staff, faculty, structure and services effectively and equitably serve all Longhorns?

Our campaign hopes to aggressively tackle these systemic and structural issues at UT by creating space for marginalized, underrepresented and silenced communities to proactively ensure their voices are not only a part of University decision-making but drive these conversations as a whole. We plan to serve through an intentional, servant-hearted approach that will cement impactful policies and

resources that equitably serve and support every student and foster a spirit on the Forty Acres that promotes a peacemaker mindset and a bridge-building perspective among all Longhorns.

As a result of collaborating with student organizations, current and former UT student organizers and our personal leadership projects we plan to further develop, we present a platform that showcases the initiatives we are ready to implement on the Forty Acres.

Our platform is categorized in five main pillars of posture:

1. Academic affairs: Our academic affairs section provides leadership and support for academic programs, educational initiatives, academic policy, student affairs, special initiatives and provides guidance in the areas of collaboration and other outreach activities.

2. Campus life/housing: Our campus life and housing sections aim to support the learning experience of every Longhorn by creating a safe space by supporting the learning environment for academics as expressed in the UT

motto “what starts here changes the world.” This will be accomplished through the efforts of professional staff and student leaders by providing a safe, clean, well-maintained UT community and through various educational and social programming opportunities for students’ growth and development.

3. Equity and outreach: Our equity and outreach section’s goal is to lead the effort of putting the Kiara Ethan campaign values into practice. We lead through a servant-leadership framework that seeks to amplify the ideas and experiences of all students, faculty and staff. We also plan to partner with other departments and units across campus to create inclusive and equitable opportunities for all. Our goal is to continuously transform the climate and culture of the UT community by fostering educational and personal success for all.

4. Services and sustainability: Our service and sustainability pillar develops, coordinates and supports the aggressive sustainability actions we want to initiate on campus. We will collaborate with our fellow

students, faculty, staff, regional and national affairs offices, as well as with our local Austin community to serve and provide sustainable efforts and practices for current and future generations of Longhorns.

5. Executive projects/social culture: Our executive projects and social culture pillar works to ensure we are serving through a framework that amplifies the voices of all members of the student body. Specifically, we will highlight student organizations, organizers, campus projects and activities that offer students to broaden their Forty Acres experience in and outside the classroom. Additionally, this pillar outlines our plans to further expand transparency between Student Government and the broader student body.

Holistically, our platform is bold, comprehensive, solution-oriented and most importantly, has been created by you and for you. Our campaign is about amplifying the voices, values and needs of students at UT.

So Longhorns, are y’all ready? Let’s go get ‘em!

Vote #KiaraEthan2021 on March 8 and 9.

VOLLEYBALL

All gas, no brakes: Volleyball edition

Texas volleyball returns to the court with two series sweeps after a three month hiatus.

By Maya Martinez
@mayamartinezatx

Despite having three months away from the court due to COVID-19 concerns and an unmitigated disaster in last month's winter storm, the Texas volleyball team came back last weekend with two decisive victories against familiar foes.

The effortless sweeps against conference rival Oklahoma and Wednesday's hard-fought victory against No. 6 Baylor showed the Longhorns haven't missed a beat from their undefeated fall 2020 schedule.

The Longhorns were 14-0 after what would be their final game of 2020, a decisive 3-0 victory against West Virginia on Nov. 13. Their remaining games were postponed to the spring season, with no decision on when they would next step foot on the court. The uncertainty surrounding the remainder of their season resulted in many players leaving campus to be with their families, head

coach Jerritt Elliott said.

"As soon as we were done in the fall, most of our players just went home," Elliott said.

In January, the players and staff came back to Austin for formal practices, and by early February, they had a set date to get back to the Frank Erwin Center for a matchup against UT-San Antonio on Feb. 25. The preseason practices in January were crucial to ensuring the players were back in physical shape before resuming the season, Elliott said.

"The NCAA only allowed us to have eight weeks to ramp back up," Elliott said. "With that time off, our legs need time to get back to that peaking position,"

Those eight weeks, meant to provide the Longhorns with a period of set practice times and ramp-up periods, turned quickly into a day-to-day waiting game as their UTSA game was canceled and a winter storm wracked Austin.

"We had a 20-hour week, then we had an eight hour week, then we had the snow storm, then we

had about a fifteen hour week, a short week, before Oklahoma," Elliot said. "Then we only had one and a half practices before (Baylor). We haven't had a whole lot of time to gel and try to figure out some different lineups."

However, the Longhorns have picked up right where they left off in November. Defensively, junior middle blocker Brionne Butler has maintained her status as a leader at the net in the resumption of the season. Her 86 total blocks are the third-highest in the country, 12 of which have come in

the past three games. Butler gives credit to her teammates and their dedication for her strong return.

"Going into the (Baylor) game, we were really focused on playing together as a team and working on everything we did in the fall to just pick right back up," Butler said.

Junior outside hitter Logan Eggleston has entrenched herself as the offensive star of the team, leading the Longhorns in each of the last three games in kills and notching a double-double on Wednesday

night against Baylor.

"I think this year, we really recognize what we can do, and we're really focused on our side of the court rather than the other side," Eggleston said.

The adversity has evolved the character of the team, and more so than ever, they've learned to rely upon each other and take advantage of every moment.

"We take some joy and pride in just being able to play right now," Elliott said. "They're gonna continue to grow and develop to put themselves in a position to advance, one night at a time."



JACK MYER / THE DAILY TEXAN STAFF

After three months off the court, the Texas volleyball team and head coach Jerritt Elliott continue their momentum from last semester. Ending in November with a 14-0 winning streak, their future games were rescheduled for the spring season.

FEATURE

After long recovery from knee surgery, senior guard Jase Febres finally finds his way back on the court

By Nathan Han
@NathanHan13

Jase Febres looked like his old self for the first time in more than a year on Tuesday night.

It's been a long time coming for the senior guard, who injured his left knee on Feb. 8, 2020 and underwent arthroscopic knee surgery in March 2020.

"It's been a complete year now since I got hurt," Febres said. "My knee is starting to finally feel back. I'm kind of getting back to myself, like 95% now."

In the win over Iowa State on Tuesday, Febres came off the bench and drained three 3-pointers in his 21 minutes of play, reminding Texas fans the potential he had shown in his first three years in Austin.

Febres started 62 games, including the first 23 games in his junior season, before the knee injury, largely based on his best skill: taking and draining threes at a high clip. He averages a season 36% mark from behind the arc.

When Febres first had surgery in March, head coach Shaka Smart thought he'd be ready to go when the sea-

son kicked off in November. But his recovery took longer than expected, and time kept ticking until just before 2021, when Febres was finally cleared to participate in five-on-five workouts.

"The journey's been tough," Smart said. "The surgery he had was pretty extensive, and I think all of us thought that he was going to be able to come back sooner than he did. For whatever reason, it took longer. That's been really frustrating for him at times."

During his time off the court, Febres worked with Smart on mindfulness.

"If it wasn't for that, I probably would have gone crazy," Febres said. "This has been the hardest thing, hands down, that I've gone through. So just being able to stay present has been the biggest thing."

When he finally stepped back onto the court in a Jan. 16 game against Kansas State, Febres wasn't 100%. The rust showed early on, including in a 1-for-5 shooting night in Texas's 80-79 loss against Oklahoma. Since Febres has had

to battle for his minutes off the bench, an experience he hasn't had since his freshman year. But all the work and the challenging recovery paid off in Tuesday's game against Iowa State.

"From having to relearn how to walk, to run, to move on defense, it's been a long journey," Febres said. "Finally coming back and being able to go out there and make shots and run and actually feel athletic again, that's what the journey is all about." Smart said Febres needs to continue to work

on his defense to provide more consistency and impact off the bench in the postseason.

No matter what happens, though, Febres is glad to be working on his defense rather than his mindfulness with Smart.

"What is eating me up the whole year is not being able to be out there with the guys," Febres said. "Now we get to celebrate the ending, which is finally being able to play. This journey has been a good one. It's built a lot of character for me more than anything."



Senior guard Jase Febres shoots over a TCU defender PJ Fuller during the Feb. 13 game. Febres has slowly worked his way back into form after a long recovery from knee surgery.

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