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The Daily Texan

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EMMA GEORGE / THE DAILY TEXAN STAFF



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# What you need to know about the Nov. 7 Texas election

By Olivia Dilley  
@oliviadilley

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TODAY  
Oct. 20



HI 97°  
LO 60°

TOMORROW  
Oct. 21



HI 96°  
LO 63°

how many managing editors does it  
take to write a slack message?

government at the LBJ School of Public Affairs.

Another amendment, Proposition 9, proposes a cost of living adjustment to increase retired teachers' pensions, Greenberg said.

Early voting runs from Oct. 23 to Nov. 3, said Scott Poole, president of TX Votes, a nonpartisan student organization working to ensure students know how to vote and what is on their ballot.

Students can vote early at the Flawn Academic Center on campus, Poole said, or on election day at the FAC or the LBJ School of Public Affairs. The Perry-Castañeda Library is no longer an eligible voting location. Voters will need one of seven acceptable forms of identification, such as a valid Texas driver's license, U.S. passport or Texas identification card.

Additionally, students should write down how they want to vote on each proposition before getting to the polls, as phone use is prohibited, Poole said.

For students seeking more information on the propositions, VOTE411, run by the nonpartisan advocacy group League of Women Voters Education Fund, breaks

down what certain proposals would do, Poole said.

"It's important that every student gets involved with voting," Poole said. "In the past, students have been underrepresented in the electorate, meaning that they vote at lower rates than other age groups."

Turnout among registered voters for constitutional amendment elections ranges from about 6% to 12% in Texas, which is already a low-turnout state, Blank said.

"Only the most committed voters turn out ... they tend to be habitual voters, older, whiter and not necessarily representative of the broader population by any stretch," Blank said.

Because of the lack of voters, those who do vote have an "outsized influence in that election," Poole said.

"Local elections like this tend to have a greater impact on people's day-to-day lives," Poole said. "Yet we still see that voter turnout is lower during this election, so our goal is to sort of reverse that trend and try to increase voter turnout as much, especially among students."

For detailed information on each proposition, visit the Texas Secretary of State's website.



CARLY RAMOS / THE DAILY TEXAN STAFF

## CONTACT US

MAIN TELEPHONE  
(512) 471-4591

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF  
Lucero Ponce  
(512) 232-2212  
editor@thedailytexan.com

MANAGING EDITOR  
Morgan Severson  
(512) 232-2217  
managingeditor@thedailytexan.com

NEWS OFFICE  
(512) 232-2207  
news@thedailytexan.com

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## RESEARCH

# UT researchers to host datathon to collect data on government fines, fees

By Sowmya Sridhar  
General News Reporter

Researchers from the Initiative for Law, Societies, and Justice will host a datathon on Saturday and Sunday to create a database on state government fines and fees, such as traffic violations, across the United States.

"The goal of this is to provide this comprehensive resource for policymakers, for students and researchers to understand the legal landscape of monetary sanctions," said Tauheeda Yasin, a sociology postdoctoral fellow and project lead.

Connor Johnson, the student lead on the project, said participants will gather a diverse set of information on monetary sanctions from a database.

"We're going to (collect data) from every single year that the statute has been amended, we're going to see the fine amounts for every year, and then we're also going to see where the funds go," said Johnson, sociology and Plan II junior.

Johnson said analyzing information like how the amount of a fine changes over time will help the researchers understand how much the state emphasizes

specific fees for earning money in their communities.

Yasin said in 2014 the Department of Justice found the city of Ferguson was excessively fining people in order to fund parts of their government, like workers' salaries.

"Many cities were using these fines and fees and monetary sanctions to fund sizable aspects of their government, because they don't have a tax base to do it," Yasin said.

Yasin said a vicious cycle is created where people get a fine or fee, are unable to pay, get additional fines and fees and may even get

jailed due to their lack of ability to pay.

"My goal as a researcher is to really understand the problem, but also to think about what are some innovative solutions ... instead of using this regressive form of taxation," Yasin said.

Shannon Aguirre, a psychology sophomore and data analyst for the project, said she hopes the database contributes to increased transparency on fines throughout the country.

"We're hoping this data kind of becomes a blueprint, the template that universities ... (and) even courts or any other system ... use

to make their process of transparency for fines and fees so much easier," Aguirre said.

Aguirre said she believes the project has the power to deeply impact the world.

"We would be contributing to advocacy," Aguirre said. "If our data gives (a) voice to somebody, that is enough."

The datathon will be held in Patton Hall 2.606 on Saturday from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. and on Sunday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.



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## CAMPUS

# University celebrates Disability Access and Belonging Month

By Isabella Zeff  
@isabellazeff

University students, faculty and staff celebrate Disability Access and Belonging Month in October to advocate for accessibility and recognize the community of students with disabilities on campus.

The Disability Cultural Center is hosting events throughout the month that include neurodiversity-affirming training, disabled and neurodivergent study spaces and a meet and greet for the University's deaf community, along with free-flowing discussions on a variety of disability-related topics that are held throughout the semester but are promoted especially in October.

"The disabled community makes up such a big portion of UT students, and recognizing their presence on campus and the struggles that they face is important for the student body as a whole," said Kate Murphy, co-president of the Disability Inclusion Agency of Student Government.

Before this year, UT celebrated Disability Access and Belonging Month under the name "Disability Awareness and Inclusion Month." Emily Shryock, director of the Disability Culture Center, said the name change was an intentional effort to focus on fostering belonging and working towards greater disability access.

"Most months have moved away from awareness," Shryock said. "Awareness is a pretty low bar that doesn't really ask much of folks. ... Let's take a more active involvement and not just be aware, but do something about it."

Murphy said she attended the disability discussions centered around invisible disabilities and disability representation.

"It's a really great safe space," Murphy said. "It allows you to hear other students' perspectives and learn from them, and, in turn, learn things about yourself and more about the disabled community and perspectives on campus."

Postdoctoral research affiliate Sam Greene also attended some of the disability discussions and a culture conversation around digital accessibility. He said he found it reassuring to hear from people going through many of the same things as him.

"For a while in our society, the topic of disability has been off-limits in everyday conversations, and I think that has hindered progress toward getting people the help and



ABBY GREENLEAF / THE DAILY TEXAN STAFF

Emily Shryock, director of the Disability Cultural Center, during disability discussion on assistive technology and mobility aids on Oct. 18, 2023.

the acceptance they need to be successful in our society," Greene said. "(Having these discussions) will help a lot to normalize disability in our society."

Shryock said other events focus on the belonging side of the month, including the Adapted Sports Night on Oct. 24. The DCC will invite partners from the community to demonstrate sports, like wheelchair tennis and guided running, and provide opportunities for people to try the sports out for themselves.

"It's a cool opportunity, both for disabled students to be able to try out sports and use equipment that they may not have had access to before, but also for able-bodied students to be able to look for opportunities to volunteer, to get

engaged and just expand your understanding of what it means to be active," Shryock said.

Sigrid Martinez, Disability Inclusion Agency co-president, said the agency will continue to work toward greater accessibility on campus, from accommodations in the classroom to physical mobility around campus.

"It's important to recognize this month because it's aimed for holding administration and staff accountable to the kinds of accessibility that we want to promote on campus," Martinez said. "(We're) making sure that there is no disadvantage for the disabled community on campus and to ensure that they're able to have a safe and equal educational experience."



## CAMPUS

# Texas Union Film Festival opens the curtain for student creators

**By Athena Tseng**  
General News Reporter

*Content warning: mention of eating disorders.*

Showcasing student filmmakers on campus, UT Showtime, a committee under Campus Events and Entertainment, opened applications this month for the annual Texas Union Film Festival.

"We're coming up to our 15th year," TUFF co-director Evan Craig said. "It includes anybody who's non-film majors or people who just make either music, animation, poetry and just any type of media that they make and produce they can send it into our film competition."

TUFF offers a place for students starting in the Austin film scene and, for some, transitioning from high school film festivals to the collegiate level.

"I put myself into many film festivals in high school," said Gianna Galante, a radio-television-film freshman. "Coming to UT, I was a little nervous because I didn't know if I was gonna get as many opportunities. This is a good opportunity to put my work out there."

Galante said she is submitting a film she made earlier this year that is very close to her.

"It was something I made at home," Galante said. "The film I'm submitting is about struggling with an eating disorder, and how that affects younger girls. It's just a girl trying to figure out her life

through an eating disorder. In a sense, it's a film that is really dear to me because it's kind of a self-insert."

For many students, such as Ruby Walker, a radio-television-film freshman,

not only is making the film one of the benefits of the festival, but connecting with peers is as well.

"I hope that, honestly, I can just meet people from it," Walker said. "Just friends that I can make after, like other people who are submitting and (telling them), 'Oh my gosh. Your film was so cool. Do you wanna work on my set?'"

Craig, an African and African Diaspora studies sophomore said he hopes to provide more than a connection to other student filmmakers but also networking opportunities with professionals from the industry and enabling access to other film festivals.

"We're gonna have judges (such as) professors," Craig said. "In previous years, we had the founders of the Alamo Drafthouse (Cinema), founders of our local film festivals and movie theaters around Austin. The winners would oftentimes get a pass or a badge to the film festivals."

Craig said TUFF was created to connect filmmakers and be an outlet for those to express themselves through the medium.

"It's just an opportunity for students to show their art," Craig said. "To show their style and their personality through media, and to actually get an opportunity to be connected to people in the film industry."



ELIZABETH AGUILAR-GARCIA / THE DAILY TEXAN STAFF

## FEATURE

# Backstage at New York Fashion Week, from volunteer to model

By **Angelica Ruzanova**  
@angelicaruzanova

At 13 years old, Samara Bartoluchi traveled to sneaker conventions with her parents in Mexico where she ran her own sneaker media brand. Now a textiles and apparel sophomore with a minor in analytics and business of sports, Bartoluchi traveled with the University Fashion Group to New York Fashion Week volunteering with Nolo, a Mexican street-wear brand.

Students from UFG travel to NYFW twice a year in the fall and spring

semesters where they volunteer as dressers, technical support, backstage staff and more, said the group's president Faith McNabney. This year, TXA junior McNabney said the group traveled to work with the Global Fashion Collective in September.

"Fashion week is all about creating something new," McNabney said. "It seems like such a far away goal, but once you're (in New York), it feels attainable if you put in the work and effort. Everybody is there: the make-up artists, the production team, the designer themselves and the models are right in front of your face."

McNabney said all UFG members can apply to volunteer for NYFW during the spring semester and only officers can apply in the fall. The students fund the trip on their own, and networking in the city empowers the group to build relationships with brands, said Bartoluchi, UFG's PR vice president.

"People are appreciative of your work," Bartoluchi said. "Last (spring), I got to sit in the front row and have (the brand's) Instagram streaming the show for them, but I was also dressing backstage. There is a different variety of roles you get to do, and it's a fast-paced thing of whatever comes up at the moment."

Bigger brands typically hire a full staff of dressers and stylists, so student volunteers lend an extra hand with more on-demand tasks like running errands or matching models to their looks, Bartoluchi said.

"A lot of people think that fashion can only fit a certain type of profile," Bartoluchi said. "You really get to see how a lot of people find their space."

Seth Brogdon, UFG member and a textiles and apparel senior, said he filled a model spot left vacant at the last minute in the Nolo show last spring.

"The time period between them asking me to do it and me doing it was a really intense mixture of fear and excitement," Brogdon said. "I was nervous because I had never been focused on by that many people in that way before. ... (But) I pull(ed) back my desire to not be seen because it's not really about me, it's about the designers."

Brogdon said he sees himself primarily as a designer, and in New York City, people come from all over the world to channel their creativity to unique projects.

"New York is a city that makes things happen," Brogdon said.

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COLUMN

# AI provides equity for students with learning differences

*Columnist Charlotte Eades argues that AI programs could enhance the educational experience for students with dyslexia.*

By Charlotte Eades  
Columnist

According to 20th-century popular culture, conspiracists believed that computers would eventually plague society by watching our every move and monitoring our conversations. But in 2023, we've all remained relatively unscathed from the internet's perceived evil.

A similar rhetoric has developed around Artificial Intelligence, with people once again predicting societal downfall. With the use of AI increasing in daily life, 52% of U.S. adults in 2023 were "more concerned than excited" about this change, according to Pew Research Center.

But, just like educators incorporated internet usage for learning and grading, professors should consider how AI can fill the gaps in our education system to better serve students with dyslexia.

"Things keep changing, and we keep adding new tools and ways to take advantage of the new tech," said journalism professor Robert Quigley who teaches about AI usage in his lectures. "We don't want to ignore (AI) like we did with the internet because I think (AI) is as big a change as that was."

Dyslexia, a condition that creates a discrepancy between one's intelligence and ability to speak, read and spell, affects 20% of students. Although dyslexic students are capable individuals, most of them take

approximately double the time to fully read and understand content to accurately demonstrate their intelligence.

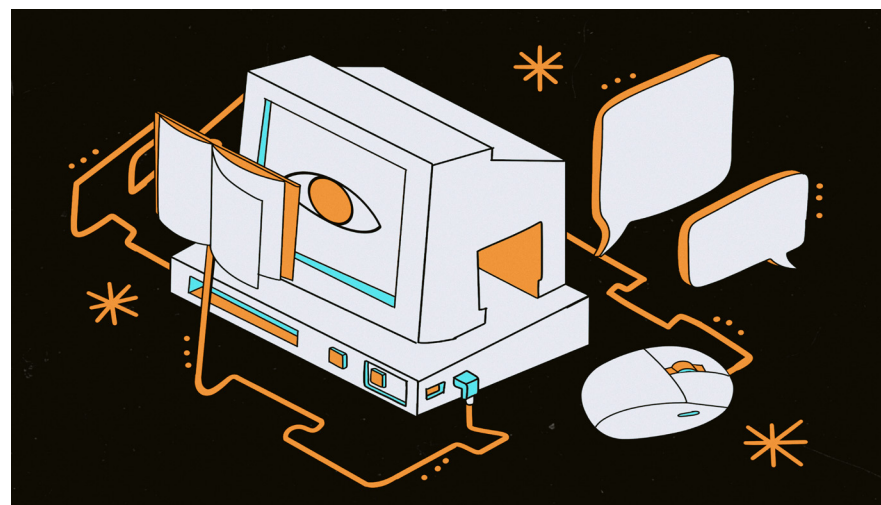
With textbook readings remaining an integral component of university learning, dyslexic students must overcome the hurdles of their disability by independently developing learning strategies.

"I'm a very slow reader because it takes me so long to comprehend information," said Ryland Marshall, a human dimensions of organization sophomore who has dyslexia. "I did tutoring for so long that I was able to pick up strategies and get a lot faster, but now reading complex articles, I can definitely see my slowness come back up."

Currently, UT Disability and Access accommodates students through the Kurzweil 3000 program, which is an audio narration software that can cost thousands of dollars per year. In addition to the Kurzweil subscription, out-of-pocket expenditures on audiobooks, tutors and psychological testing can make learning with dyslexia expensive for both students and administration.

"If I read something the first time, I will not get the meaning out of it," Marshall said. "(My psychologist) told me to truly digest information, I need to read, see and hear it."

By generating an audio transcript or narrating an article, AI programs represent a free, multimodal approach to presenting information that can directly



SHARON CHANG / THE DAILY TEXAN STAFF

cater to dyslexic students. For example, Narrativ, an AI text-to-speech program, partners with publications like The Harvard Crimson and The Daily Pennsylvanian to offer free narration services for news articles. Similarly, OpenAI shares ChatGPT's engine with its free text-to-speech program, Whisper, raising the quality expected from other text-to-speech programs.

Popularizing the AI narration of online articles could further normalize multimedia teaching and allow professors to incorporate the learning style of dyslexic students into our university system.

If used responsibly, AI can better facilitate the integration of dyslexic students' needs into mainstream teaching methods. While AI's uncertain role in society may concern some individuals, it can also foster a culture of accessibility. Instead of fearing the possibilities the next time a revolutionary new AI program is released, professors should identify and implement it as a tool for communities with disabilities.

"Every technology has good and bad," Quigley said. "We should be teaching good and bad, and we should be preparing people for the good and bad."

Eades is a Plan II and journalism sophomore from Dallas, Texas.

## STUDENT LIFE

# Esports Arena opens at Texas Union to support gaming community

*University Unions open the Alienware Longhorn Esports Arena.*

By Atahan Koksoy  
General Life&Arts Reporter

The newly opened Alienware Longhorn Esports Arena, situated next to the Union Underground, bustled with activity. Students filled the space, playing video games like Valorant and Super Smash Bros. on the Arena's monitors and desktops.

The Arena officially opened on Wednesday, Oct. 11, after over two years of planning and construction, and builds on the success of the Alienware Longhorn Esports Lounge on the Union's ground floor.

"I was blown away with how many people showed up (to the grand opening)," said Austin Espinoza, esports student program coordinator for University Unions. "It was an overwhelming amount of support from the University and local areas."

The project began in 2020 when Espinoza, then senior and president of Longhorn Gaming, envisioned a permanent space for esports on campus. He contacted the University Unions and the Division of Student Affairs to propose the project.

"All this time, we'd been working, from the planning, the design, the conceptual drawings, to construction drawings, to the actual construction of the arena," said James Buckley, director of facilities and operations for University Unions.

Buckley said the project faced some challenges during the planning and construction processes.

"Some of the challenges we faced once we identified the space was getting some of the HVAC heating and cooling correct because we've got a great number of gaming systems," Buckley said.

During the Arena's development, the team realized construction would take longer than initially expected, so they first built a smaller space that eventually became the Esports Lounge.

"The lounge went in last summer," Buckley said. "It started (construction) right after commencement and was ready by the time school started."

Buckley said the Union currently plans to operate the Lounge and the Arena simultaneously, and Espinoza said he imagines the spaces could become hubs for students and local community members interested in gaming and the video game industry.



MACKENZIE COLEMAN / THE DAILY TEXAN STAFF

Students use the new Esports Arena at the Union to play Super Smash Bros. on Oct. 18, 2023.

"There's a real opportunity here for students to get hands-on experience with state-of-the-art equipment and be able to present themselves well to the private sector for future jobs," Buckley said.

Billy Malamon, assistant director for communications and marketing for the University Unions, said the lounge also serves as a relaxing space for students.

"If you want to have some recreation (because) you're really stressed out, it's a great place to come (and) decompress and get your mind off school and some things that are stressing you out," Malamon said.

Any student can reserve a desktop at the Arena for \$3.50 an hour.

"You can come to the lounge with a UT EID that you need to log into computers and hang out with friends or bring guests to the console area," Espinoza said.

Espinoza said the space will also serve as a home for Longhorn Gaming and other campus gaming organizations.

"Having the space now come alive has given (on-campus gaming organizations) this newfound sense of belonging where they're able to really connect with each other after COVID," Espinoza said. "Now having this space that's always prepared for them is a world of difference."



# Best Study Spots Around Campus

By Tyler Pullum  
@tylerapullum

As students settle into midterm season, many find themselves needing new study spaces to keep focused and out of their dorm or apartment. The recent addition of new buildings and renovations to old ones means campus offers some fresh locations to crack open a computer and study. The Daily Texan compiled a list of some of the best study spots across campus.

## The Perry-Castañeda Library - Best at night

The classic, flagship library of UT serves as a staple for students looking to lock in on homework. The PCL is best known for its quiet floors, something students can get almost nowhere else on campus. The PCL proves most effective in the wee hours of the

night, when barely any students are nearby. The emptiness makes for a more productive place to study, as there are very few distractions at that time.

## William C. Powers Student Activity Center (Upstairs) - Best on Speedway

Everyone knows the WCP for the Multicultural Engagement Center and perhaps even more famously, Chick-fil-A, but the upstairs sections of the WCP boast some of the best views of campus and a much quieter space for studying. The space better suits students studying alone or with just their computer as this part of the building lacks much desk space.

## Medici Roasting - Best off campus

Perhaps more so than any other spot on campus, Medici Roasting persists as a fantastic

place to sit and catch up with a friend. The communal vibe encourages conversation and gathering with others; in addition, its location on Guadalupe Street makes it a fantastic place to study for West Campus residents.

## The Union - Best during lunch

Known mostly for its restaurants, the building also maintains so many individual study spots that ranking them individually would be nearly impossible. Students can choose from any one of the designated culture-specific study rooms, or opt to do their work near restaurants, like Chick-fil-A and Panda Express. As one of the most beautiful buildings on campus, students can get a view of the incredible history of UT just by taking a moment to look at some of the architecture.

## Life Sciences Library - Best during the week

Opting for a more dark academia aesthetic and boasting some of the University's most impressive architecture, the Life Sciences Library can be found in the Tower and is available to the public during the week from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. The Library is the perfect place to work for those looking for an atmosphere ripe for getting one in the mood to study.

## Scholars Lounge - Best collaborative

The newly opened Scholars Lounge on the second floor of the PCL established itself as the go-to place for studying with friends. Its vibrant color palette mixed with intuitive seating and work spaces make it one of the best places to study with friends. Additionally, its location makes it convenient for students living on campus.



ALEXA ZIMMERMANN / THE DAILY TEXAN STAFF

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# The New York Times Crossword

Edited by Will Shortz

No. 0714

## ACROSS

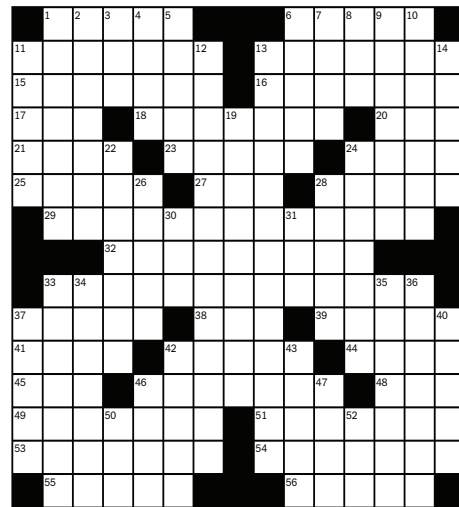
- 1 Praises loudly
- 6 Drops
- 11 "\_\_\_ down!"
- 13 Summaries
- 15 Becomes uncomfortable, in a way, as underwear
- 16 Drank discreetly
- 17 Part of un giorno
- 18 Buying opportunity for die-hard fans
- 20 Sports stat that's best when it's below 2
- 21 Producer of some wedding rings
- 23 They might restrict arms
- 24 Bygone autocrat
- 25 Poet Hemphill of the 1980s Black gay cultural renaissance
- 27 Japanese garden denizen
- 28 Complains loudly
- 29 They're full of pop
- 32 "It's not clear to me"
- 33 Benny Goodman jazz standard with the opening line "April skies are in your eyes"
- 37 Japanese lunch option
- 38 "Like I said!"
- 39 Jewelry chain
- 41 Host city for the annual Øya festivalen
- 42 City where Gerald Ford and Malcolm X were born
- 44 "Well, I'll be darned!"
- 45 One who may bug you
- 46 Introductory books
- 48 \_\_\_ plancha (cooking style)
- 49 Give over to another's care
- 51 High fortress
- 53 Retailer's promo
- 54 Kind of address
- 55 Like testimony at trial
- 56 Winners of 13 Stanley Cups, familiarly

## DOWN

- 1 Siobhan Roy of "Succession," e.g.
- 2 "Not to mention ..."
- 3 Put away for good
- 4 Challenge for a speech pathologist
- 5 Show appreciation at a ramen bar, contrary to Western etiquette
- 6 Defense mechanisms?
- 7 Have it \_\_\_
- 8 One might be hazy, for short
- 9 Catches some waves, say
- 10 Dazzling air show displays
- 11 Get personal, say
- 12 Say how you really feel

## ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE

ELSA NAE PSST  
GUAVA FIND OPIE  
GANGSTAS DIE DIE SINS  
OUTSHONE BOTNET  
NSA LOGICAL BOODOO  
TENS AUG TOP  
MONTY ATEALONE  
OBEY FEWER ORCA  
BOWLGAME BUSES  
YES RNA IBET  
BULLBULL OF JESUS ARS  
PLEDGE MONTAGUE  
AUTO SHIFTING DIMEDIME  
TRIG TURF RAINN  
HENS STS LETT



PUZZLE BY JONATHAN KAUFMAN

- 13 "Surely that can't be possible?"
- 14 Engages in some repartee
- 19 N.F.L. practice squad
- 22 Acted as a segue for
- 24 Dog's show of excitement
- 26 Brand of cutting-edge equipment
- 28 Breeze (through)
- 30 Awesome, informally
- 31 Green \_\_\_
- 33 Ones unlikely to rule in your favor
- 34 Just this second
- 35 Countless
- 36 "Why, I'd love to!"
- 37 Pears originally from Europe
- 40 Fracking target
- 42 Instrument heard in the iconic intro to the Who's "Baba O'Riley"
- 43 "The Tempest" spirit
- 46 Walk on water?
- 47 What might make one less likely to flip one's lid?
- 50 Cheap ticket specification
- 52 Get \_\_\_ (score highly)

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## SOCCER

# Lexi Missimo hopes that historic season leads to postseason success

By Elijah Garcia  
@elijah\_garcia

**A**s the regular season comes to an end, the year has been nothing short of historic for junior star midfielder Lexi Missimo.

She broke Texas' program record for most single-season goals, assists and points, along with leading the country in assists and coming in second in goals, but this is not what Missimo has her focus on this time of year as the Longhorns near their postseason run.

Starting her career at Texas, Missimo had already drawn the attention of multiple professional clubs, like Manchester City and Arsenal WFC, leading to her time as a Longhorn being uncertain. Missimo described it as a "year-by-year" decision to continue her time in Austin, but after suffering a high ankle sprain last season that sidelined her for six matches, she knew she had to return to the Forty Acres.

"It just put more motivation into the season. You never know how much you love it until it's taken away from you," Missimo said. "I just realized how much I love being on the field, and it just made me love the game all over again."

Missimo used her passion and rekindled love of the game to work toward the season. Her pursuit of improvement saw Missimo tackle the daunting work over the offseason and led her to the outstanding season.

"I would say, this summer, coming into the season, I don't think I've ever trained harder," Missimo said. "It was me and my dad every morning at 8 a.m. We went out and put in the work, and it's obviously showing up."

One of the biggest changes to her play this year has been her willingness to put more shots on goal. Last season, Missimo played in 17 games and totaled 23 shots on goal. This season, she has more than doubled her shots on goal with 57 in the same amount of games played.

Along with Missimo's physical training, she reviewed her play over her first two seasons. Missimo looked over the tape and analyzed her game, finding ways to take it to the next level with help, once more, from her father.

"It's my dad; he just told me to take more shots," Missimo chuckled. "He's a great coach."

Missimo's trail of broken program records is sufficient evidence to say that her work has paid off, but her accolades couldn't be further than what she focuses on. She leans heavily into her role as the creator of the offense, but, ultimately, her team's performance takes the top priority.

"If I can make a goal or assist, that is my job on the team, and, obviously, it's great if I can put any

number on the board, but ... whatever the team needs from me, I'll do," Missimo said.

The Longhorns only have one more game to go in the regular season before the postseason begins, first with the Big 12 Championship and then the NCAA Tournament. Missimo knows that the Longhorns have their work cut out for them, and she hopes to use her performances to put the team first and contribute to their hopeful postseason run.

"I think we have a chip on our shoulder, and we need to prove that this season wasn't the best of what we could show," Missimo said. "I think that going into this tournament, everyone's ready, and we're going to put our best foot forward."



SKYLER SHARP / THE DAILY TEXAN STAFF

Midfielder Lexi Missimo plays against West Virginia University on Sept. 28, 2023.



## WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

# From middle school to college, Madison Booker never left Vic Schaefer's radar

By Isa Almeida  
@atx\_isa

Texas women's basketball head coach Vic Schaefer started recruiting freshman forward Madison Booker long before her decision to come to Texas — as early as eighth grade.

"I'm thinking, 'I hope I'm around when she's ready to come out,'" Schaefer said about her early recruitment. "It's always fun looking back at those times and then just following her career."

Booker was impressed with the way Schaefer showed confidence and interest in her and his programs, and that led her to want to play for him.

Schaefer followed Booker's career and kept a connection throughout high school, which ended with her being ranked No. 12 in her class by ESPN and earning All State honors three times. The coach was even present when Booker won a state championship with her school.

Booker won her third USA Basketball gold medal this summer in Madrid for the Under-19 FIBA Women's Basketball World Cup, an experience she said helped her find her game and what she does best while growing her physicality. However, Booker had to miss part of Texas' summer training sessions.

"It really wasn't (hard to adjust)," Booker said about joining the team later than her teammates. "The only hard thing about it was figuring out the system, how they play and how they want to play. But people helped me out, so that was a big part and I got to move right in."

Booker credited senior forward DeYona Gaston and junior forward Aaliyah Moore as two teammates who have taken her under their wing and helped her settle down as a student and an athlete.

"They just treated me like a little sister," Booker said. "They're always there putting their two cents in helping me out and growing my game."

Since arriving at Texas, Booker has received high praise from her teammates and coaches.

"Madison's special," senior guard Shay Holle said. "I don't know if I've ever played with a player like that before. As a freshman, she's so calm, cool and collected, and she is obviously very talented and very skilled."

Junior guard Rori Harmon said having Booker on her team is a boost of confidence.

"You watch her games and wherever she goes that team could be good," Harmon said. "I feel very confident this year because Madison Booker is on our team."

Being a highly rated freshman and having big expectations on her back, Booker prefers to maintain a neutral attitude and doesn't feel pressure, as she'd rather support whatever her team needs to win and leave it all on the court.

"It's definitely a big blessing," Booker said. "It just puts something in the back of my mind that people expect me to do something. And I'm just going to do it."

Schaefer named the Preseason Big 12 Freshman of the Year the second best passer on the team, only behind Harmon, and acknowledged the immediate impact she has on the team and future potential as a Texas player.

"She just keeps getting better and better," Schaefer said. "She's gonna be special sooner than later, she's gonna be really good. She's gonna help us win a lot of games here at Texas."

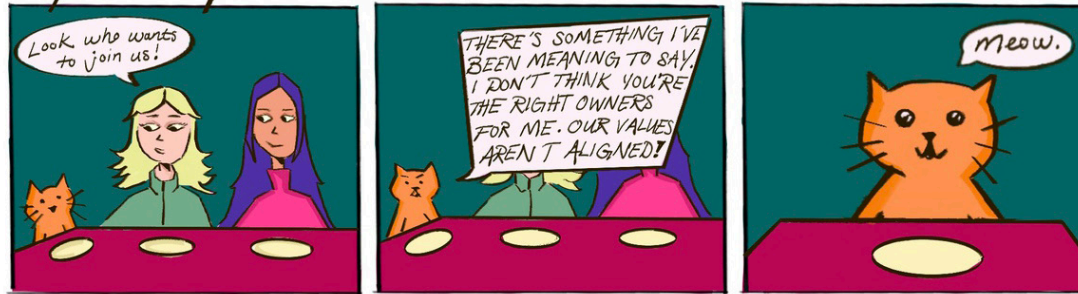


COURTESY OF TEXAS ATHLETICS AND REPRODUCED WITH PERMISSION



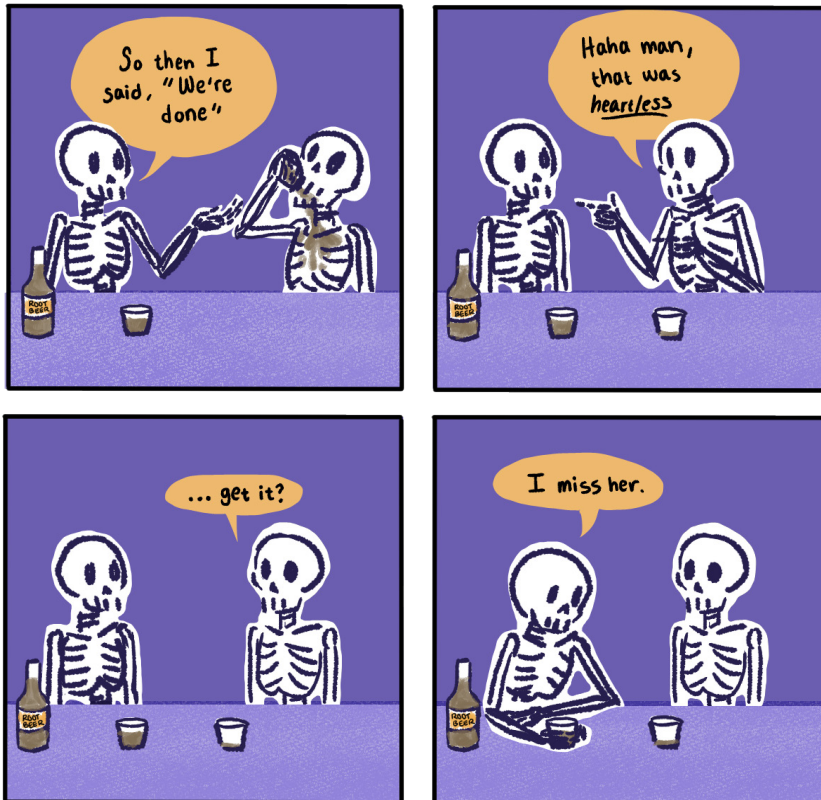
# DAILY TEXAN COMICS

Speak Up!  #?%



By: Alexa Zimmerman

GET IT?



Amara Lopez

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