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ARLINGTON

Arlington commemorates veterans



The Shorthorn: Ronaldo Bolanos

Arlington resident Ken Cox, 61, helps display flags during the Fourth Annual Arlington Field of Honor on Sept. 2 at Veterans Park. Countless volunteers aided in setting up 911 flags throughout the park the day before the event began to commemorate the victims of the 9/11 attack.

The Veterans Park is hosting the Fourth Annual Arlington Field of Honor from Sept. 3 through 12

BY MALLIKA CHAHAL
The Shorthorn staff

Carefully arranged stars and stripes wave across the fields of Veterans Park to honor Patriot Day this week.

The Arlington Veterans Park Foundation is hosting the fourth annual commemoration from Sept. 3 through 12 to remember the victims of 9/11, fallen service members, first responders, veterans and hometown heroes.

On Sept. 3, The Arlington Field of Honor held an opening ceremony with food trucks, live music and guest speakers. The ceremony concluded with a 500-piece drone show.

Saturday's free-to-attend event ranged from solemn to upbeat. These events allow people to inspire and share stories of their heroes, from veterans to front line workers, said David Curtis, 2022 Arlington Field of Honor co-chair.

James Kumm, UTA Military and Veteran Services executive director, said the event is a patriotic place where people can mourn, remember and celebrate.

Whether connected to the military or not, Kumm said Patriot Day is a way to get involved in the community, and students interested in learning more should attend and experience the lively and informative events.

"I went in the service just before 9/11 occurred, went to training after 9/11. It was a game changer," he said. "So seeing that we're still remembering this and that Patriot Day is a thing across our nation really shows that my service mattered."

The anniversary of 9/11 serves as a reminder that people can still be vulnerable at times and honors a time when the nation came together as a community, Kumm said.

"We're all in this together. We're all trying to work together," he said. "I would really hope that people would understand that our veterans are just as [much] a part of our community as anybody else."

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The Shorthorn: Ronaldo Bolanos

Attendees stand for the American and Texas flags during the Fourth Annual Arlington Field of Honor on Sept. 3 at Veterans Park. The event included an opening ceremony, live music, guest speakers and a drone show.

ENVIRONMENT

Professors, data explain record rain

The flooding in the Metroplex and around the globe show how systemic issues are affecting the planet.

BY JONATHAN PERRIELLO
The Shorthorn life and entertainment editor

The puddles around campus may be drying up, but echoes of August's historic rainfall linger in the struggles of people devastated by flooding across the globe.

Torrents ripped through Pakistan and other areas throughout the last two months. Homes were left submerged, water treatment facilities were destroyed and lives were lost.

This monsoon season, which started in mid-June, rainfall in Pakistan was nearly three times the national average of the past 30 years, killing at least 1,100 people in the flooding, according to *The New York Times*.

Over one-third of Pakistan is underwater. Sherry Rehman, the nation's climate change minister, told *CNN* on Aug. 25 that over 33 million people — roughly 15% of the country's population — were affected.

The number is larger than the total population of Texas, which was estimated at 29.5 million in 2021.

The frequency and extremity of unprecedented weather events call into question the factors surrounding such phenomena. Whether climate change or increasing urbanization, a connection can be drawn to systemic issues.

CLIMATE continues on page 3

SCHOLARSHIPS AND FINANCIAL AID

Program distributes funds to students

UTA is on track to support around 4,000 students qualified for the Blaze Forward program this semester.

BY WOLF ISALY
The Shorthorn staff

Over five months after UTA introduced its new tuition-assistance program, Blaze Forward, the aid is finally reaching the pockets of its first receiving students.

In March, the university announced the program will fully cover tuition and mandatory fees for full-time undergraduate students who have a family income of \$85,000 or less and are Texas residents, according to previous *Shorthorn* reporting.

This semester marks the first implementation of the program.

UTA anticipated around 4,000 students would qualify for the aid, and it's on track to meet this goal, said Karen Krause, executive director of Financial Aid, Scholarships and Veterans Benefits Processing.

Business management freshman Dahlia Shaw said she always wanted to go to UTA, but before the launch of the Blaze Forward program, she was having a difficult time finding financial aid.

"The thought of not being able to do that just because money was an issue kind of stumped me and made me feel like I shouldn't go anymore," Shaw said. "I didn't want that to be the case."

After a few grants and UTA's academic scholarship, Blaze Forward

BLAZE continues on page 4

ARLINGTON

Rolling Hills Country Club closed to make way for housing development



The Shorthorn: Christine Vo

Rolling Hills Country Club sits empty Aug. 18 in Arlington. The club will close its doors to make room for single-family homes in North Texas.

BY MANDY HUYNH
The Shorthorn managing editor

Rolling Hills Country Club was nestled in North Arlington for over 60 years. But now, the history club has closed amid a proposal to repurpose it into a housing and mixed-use development.

The majority of the land is proposed to be redeveloped into single-family homes with lots ranging from 6,000 to 8,400 square feet, said Chasidy Benson, the city’s planning and development services planning manager. The southern area of the land, near Interstate 30, is proposed to have mixed uses such as senior living or community commercial use.

“There’s a market demand for more housing just in DFW in general,” Benson said. “Every city is seeing an influx of residential projects just based on the housing needs and the demand in the Metroplex.”

The development would distinguish the land with an entry off North Cooper Street, provide a central gathering space and create walkable paths to local schools and recreational spaces.

Some nearby schools include Jones Academy of Fine Arts and Dual Language and Butler Elementary.

The development plans to incorporate natural features and topography, allowing a design that respects the land’s natural elevations.

The Rolling Hills Country Club previ-

ously hosted the Texas Women’s Open, a competitive women’s golf, for five consecutive years in 2014.

Local golfing families came together to create the country club in 1954, according to the club’s website. The green spaces and large clubhouse first started as a farmhouse and a small swimming pool.

Originally named Wohelo, the club’s first nine-hole golf course was built a year after its conception. The club took on Rolling Hills Country Club as its new name in 1962.

By the time the club adopted its current name, the property had expanded its golf course. More renovations came as a clubhouse were revealed in 2001. The new building included various facilities like an event hall, indoor virtual practice facility, men’s and women’s activity rooms and a new restaurant.

The project is unique in Arlington because the city has already used most of the available land, so large areas that are free for development are rare, Benson said. Despite not having much vacant land, the city has seen various requests for projects submitted.

The area near the country club has seen many developments in residential communities, such as The Roosevelt Arlington Commons and The Truman Arlington Commons. The communities are a part of one large project to improve

housing in that area.

The Roosevelt was completed in 2018, and The Truman finished in 2021.

Benson said the city has seen more requests for different types of residential projects.

“I think it presents a great opportunity for the city to be able to create a premier neighborhood in this sector of Arlington,” she said.

A town hall meeting was held in March for residents to discuss the project at length.

The project was submitted by Provident Realty Advisors to request a zoning change from residential single-family to planned development to allow for single-family residential, senior living and commercial development with modified standards, according to a written request submitted to the city.

The zoning held a public hearing during the Planning and Zoning Commission meeting Aug. 17. The case will be brought up during the next commission meeting Sept. 7.

Some letters of opposition protested against the project concerning that the natural green space would be stripped away.

The plans will be presented to the city council Sept. 6 and 27.

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Veterans

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Individuals seeking to remember loved ones can purchase flags with proceeds going to the Arlington Veterans Park Foundation, Curtis said. Seeing the range of the heroes the flags honor has an emotional impact on attendees.

“We have flags that are honoring World War II, World War I veterans. We have flags that are honoring law enforcement,” he said. “You’ll see flags that are purchased honoring or dedicated to the victims of the Sept. 11 attacks. So you see such a wide variety of heroes being honored as you walk through the field.”

The U.S. flag evokes emotion and symbolizes

unity for individuals and families, said Ariel Hutchins, who performed at Saturday’s ceremony.

Hutchins said it’s incredible to see people holding out their hands for others, and she hopes the event brings more understanding and awareness about what military families go through.

“I think it brings a lot of people together, just for memory,” she said. “To show that, no matter what happens, there’s people all over the world willing to come over and help and just love you.”

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The Shorthorn: Ronaldo Bolanos

Mayor Jim Ross speaks during the opening ceremony of the Fourth Annual Arlington Field of Honor on Sept. 3 at Veterans Park. The first Arlington Field of Honor was held in 2019.

CORRECTIONS/CLARIFICATIONS

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The Shorthorn: Dang Le

Townhomes under construction at Munger Avenue and Annex Avenue were knocked down Sept. 5 in Dallas due to severe thunderstorm Sunday. The thunderstorm flooded streets, caused power outages and downed trees across North Texas.

Climate

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Weather conditions for heavy precipitation typically involve deep convection within frontal systems or a collision of air masses, said Arne Winguth, professor and chair of Earth and Environmental Sciences department.

During weather pattern shifts, dense, cold, dry air collides with warmer, moist air and forces it upward in a process called convection. These collisions produce the heaviest rainfall and often tornados, Winguth said.

Ironically, droughts also influence the severity of rainfall and flooding. The extreme heat can parch the ground until it is hard as stone and nearly water repellent, he said.

A warmer atmosphere is also more conducive to pulling out and retaining water vapor, said Yu Zhang, civil engineering associate professor.

Many areas that endured excessive flooding were riddled with drought and intense heat waves just weeks prior.

In late July, St. Louis, Missouri, saw record-breaking rainfall three days after its governor raised concerns over the state's extreme drought, according to *The New York Times*.

Upward of 11 inches of rain drenched the areas from Hawk Point, Missouri, to St. Peters, Missouri, for roughly eight hours, according to the National Weather Service data.

But weather patterns and climate conditions are not the only factors.

As modern society continues to urbanize, vegetation, soil and land depressions are being removed, according to the United States Geological Survey. These permeable surfaces are then replaced with impermeable surfaces like roads, roofs, parking lots and sidewalks, which reduce groundwater infiltration and accelerate runoff.

Lawns and other thin soils quickly overflow even in suburban areas, requiring a network of culverts, drains, ditches and other paths for water to reach streams and rivers.

“The question is how much the building morphology controls the rainfall patterns by altering the boundary or the flow patterns,” Zhang said.

He said that urban development always

comes with these caveats, but the countermeasures like storm drains are not often designed to handle events that occur every 100 years, highlighting the importance of understanding the connection between extreme weather and climate change.

Roughly 150,000 Jackson, Mississippi, residents were under a boil water notice even before heavy rainfall and river flooding overwhelmed the system Aug. 27 through 28, according to *The Washington Post*. The crumbling water infrastructure in Jackson has seen decades of underinvestment and delayed maintenance, exacerbating the fallout during extreme weather events.

Additionally, if a frontal system moves slowly, like the one which stalled over the Metroplex two weeks ago, it can concentrate the rainfall over one area, Winguth said.

Texas normally gets around four inches of rain in August. There are times of extreme rainfall but not at that magnitude, he said.

“We had up to 15 inches in some locations for August, and that is quite anomalous,” he said.

As the atmosphere continues to warm, the propensity for substantial flooding will increase in tandem because the relationship between temperature and water condensation is exponential, he said. The hotter the climate gets, the higher the water vapor saturation will be, meaning the atmosphere will hold more water as time goes on.

Conversely, this increase in atmospheric temperature and water vapor retention leads to greater snowfall in the winter season. On top of that, shifts in large-scale Arctic circulation can lead to extreme cold fronts, but the effects are not fully understood, Winguth said.

Differences between land and ocean temperatures are also amplified by climate change, he said. The ocean typically operates at a higher heat capacity than land, but that is starting to change. As the land begins to warm faster than the ocean, coastal areas will become more flood-prone.

“The climate system is modulated by interactions between the atmosphere and ocean,” Zhang said.

But these relationships make it difficult to predict weather events beyond nine days out, he said.

Projections suggest that areas that

normally have around a month's worth of 100-degree days in summer will have closer to three months' worth by the year 2100, Winguth said. These days will also be longer and occur more frequently.

Increasingly severe droughts, floods and other catastrophes harbor economic implications alongside the more obvious dangers. Inflated costs in insurance, infrastructure and air conditioning are just some of the potential consequences, he said.

Zhang said external disturbances like carbon dioxide or methane heating up the atmosphere is a complex manifestation that carries multifaceted impacts.

“There is a good possibility that warming sort of trickles down into heat waves as well as episodic flood,” he said.

He pointed out that while some events are unprecedented, the technology capturing this data is still fairly new and constantly improving, which means that there is a chance such events were previously not picked up by inferior technology.

What is certain is that extreme natural disasters are wreaking havoc across the

globe.

Just weeks after historic rainfall between Aug. 21 and 22, thunderstorms tore through North Texas on Sunday, causing power outages, flooding streets and demolishing townhomes under construction, according to *The Dallas Morning News*. The storms sapped power from more than 120,000 Oncor customers across the Metroplex, but no rainfall records were broken.

Global problems require global solutions, and reaching the necessary carbon neutrality by 2030 seems unlikely given the current rate of climate initiatives, Winguth said.

The general problem is education, he said. There is a need for better climate policy and more strategic initiatives to combat its effects, and UTA can help educate students to address these issues.

The techniques are there, but they need people's willingness to act, he said.

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STUDENT LIFE

Organizations give international students a second home



Photo Illustration by Arturo Ramos

International student involvement on campus has improved since the pandemic

BY AYESHA HANA SHAJI
The Shorthorn staff

After COVID-19 sent students home, incoming international students and campus involvement had reached an all-time low. Now as UTA returns to in-person instruction, both are on the rise.

When the pandemic hit in March 2020, the university only welcomed 560 incoming international students that fall and 525 in spring 2021 due to travel policies, according to previous *Shorthorn* reporting.

This drastically changed in spring 2022 when UTA welcomed its largest class of international freshmen with 1,042 new students. This semester saw over 1,600 international students register for orientation.

Global engagement direc-

tor Adam Sichta said despite the surge of incoming international students, the switch to remote learning starved many organizations from hosting events, and they struggled to keep afloat.

“It was challenging in a lot of ways to keep that enthusiasm going,” Sichta said. “We did see a decline in the number of organizations, cultural and international, during this period as well.”

However, with the campus returning to in-person administration, organizations are gaining momentum again.

Cultural and international organizations can be empowering, helping students feel a sense of community and support, especially if they’re new, he said.

Muhammed Shameem Kakkattuparambil, doctoral student and president of

Maverick Malayalees, said many students are starting to show interest and contacting them about joining the organization.

Maverick Malayalees is a cultural organization uniting students and staff who speak the Indian language, Malayalam. It is mainly spoken in the state of Kerala.

Kakkattuparambil said cultural organizations are important as they get to promote their celebrations and festivals that are distinct from American festivals. He said this gives people far from their home country a nostalgic feeling and keeps members in touch with their roots by creating a home away from home.

Muhammad Hissan Ullah, civil engineering graduate student and president of Pakistan Student Association, said one of the main advantages of

being in an organization is the networking opportunities.

The Pakistan Student Association is a cultural and educational organization for Pakistani students to build connections with students from other ethnic backgrounds and natural origins, he said.

They connect new students with upperclassmen, so newcomers can easily transition to a different environment, including finding housing and jobs, applying for social security and more.

“We provide opportunities to the new incoming students from Pakistan to interact with and to communicate with different students,” Hissan Ullah said.

Hissan Ullah said they host cultural events like Pakistan Independence Day

and sporting events like India vs. Pakistan cricket matches. They also collaborate with the Office of International Education and cohost Global Grounds.

Sichta encourages international students to also look for organizations that might not be specifically classified as international or cultural. He said they’re excellent opportunities to meet new people outside classrooms and develop professional skills.

“They may not think about that at first because it might not be labeled as international, but of course, they can join, and that’s going to give them so many opportunities to meet students from the U.S. and do great things on behalf of UTA that [are] going to help them feel connected to the institution,” he said.

Few organizations

outside of cultural and international he suggests international students join are the Student Government, UTA Ambassadors, EXCEL Campus Activities and Leadership Honors Program.

Sichta said MavOrgs is the first place to find organizations to join, as the website has the best representation of active organizations.

He also suggests students start their own organizations if they see something is missing.

“Once you’ve kind of seen what’s out there and what’s current, that will hopefully give some people some ideas about what they could do if they don’t feel they are represented,” Sichta said.

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File photo / Ward Sakeik

University and public leaders gather around a check presented after the announcement of the Blaze Forward program March 16 at the Science and Engineering Innovation and Research building.

Blaze

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covers the rest of Shaw’s tuition fees, and she now has a full ride for the fall 2022 semester.

“I applied to so many scholarships and didn’t get any of them,” she said. “So when I found out that this was a program that I was actually eligible for and I had done all the steps and everything, I was really thankful about it.”

As someone prone to worrying, Shaw said a program like this puts her at ease, and she thinks the tuition aid should remain an option for students in similar positions.

“[It] gives us a sense of comfort that we have something to lean on for a little bit until we figure things out,” she said.

Philosophy sophomore Kelly Phan said she automatically received \$500 of aid this semester from Blaze Forward, which covered her remaining tuition fees and left a bit for textbooks.

Before the aid, paying for college had been a huge concern, Phan said.

“This year, I thought I would have to scrape by, and then next year I would have to basically lose my scholarship and take

[fewer] credits to get a job because it wouldn’t be able to cover all my tuition,” she said.

The program was a little confusing and didn’t provide much detailed information, Phan said. She said she wishes there was more description of how the program works and how much aid one can expect to receive.

Blaze Forward is not the only aid option available for students, Krause said. They could consider federal and state grants, UTA-specific grants and scholarships.

Students should pay attention to their “to-do” list in MyMav to make sure they send any documents needed to receive aid packages, she said.

“Our university is committed to access and to serving as an engine of social mobility for the region,” said former interim President Teik Lim in a campuswide email in March. “That commitment extends to addressing financial concerns that prevent disadvantaged members of our community from considering college.”

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UTA should consider canceling classes on Election Day

The Shorthorn Editorial Board encourages the university to promote civic participation by canceling classes this upcoming midterms

This fall, Texas will host consequential midterm elections that will determine the state's trajectory for decades to come. In the last few years, Texans have dealt with energy crises, mass shootings, state policies hostile to the LGBTQ+ community and a rollback of abortion rights.

The Shorthorn Editorial Board believes that due to the significance of the upcoming elections, UTA should consider canceling classes on Election Day and commit to nonpartisan voter outreach to encourage civic participation.

About half of voters ages 18 to 29 voted in the 2020 elections, an 11% increase from 2016, according to the Center for Information & Research on Civic Learning and Engagement. In an analysis using data from *The Associated Press*, the center said young

voters were especially critical in key battleground states to the outcome of the 2020 presidential election.

The youth vote could be crucial in determining the outcome of upcoming elections in Texas, especially the statewide gubernatorial race, where former Democratic Rep. Beto O'Rourke is facing off against Gov. Greg Abbott.

Since presidential elections tend to attract more voters than midterms, it's even more important that young Texans are engaged this fall for the upcoming, highly-contested elections.

Unfortunately, young people often face barriers trying to cast their ballot. Caitlyn Bradfield and Paul Johnson wrote in a study for Brigham Young University in 2017 that poll-voting times can be inconvenient for working Americans, especially those who commute.

"Most polls are open between 7 a.m. and 7 p.m. A significant portion of Americans annually fail to vote due to time constraints," the study stated.

With UTA's large student commuter population, many students are either at school, working or driving during these hours and may be unable to find time to vote.

The university can combat this and promote civic engagement in the upcoming midterms by canceling classes Nov. 8, which will relieve students of academic and on-campus responsibilities and give them gaps in their day to make it to their polling location and cast their vote.

UTA could also encourage civic participation by committing to non-

partisan voter outreach and providing election information to students.

Tufts University, located in Medford, Massachusetts, promote voting among its student body by partnering with TurboVote, a platform working to increase voter accessibility. TurboVote provided Tufts students with tools to get them registered to vote, applications for absentee ballots and election information.

Tufts students more than doubled their midterm voter turnout rate between 2014 and 2018, according to JumboVote, a nonpartisan organization at Tufts dedicated to promoting civic engagement and voter turnout. This is clear evidence that when universities actively engage students in the political process, they often respond.

By modeling university measures after the civic engagement efforts Tufts took, UTA would be doing social good for its student populace by encouraging them to electorally participate in the communities where they live.

An added obligation UTA has to promote student voting is the demographic makeup of its student body. UTA is a designated Hispanic Serving Institution and an Asian American Native American Pacific Islander-Serving Institution. It awards more bachelor's and master's degrees to African Americans than any other four-year institution in Texas. These groups are likely to face voting barriers and often lack representation proportional to their makeup of the state population.

UTA hosted a voting location at the Maverick Activities Center ear-

lier this year, according to previous *Shorthorn* reporting. This fall, it can help promote student voting by hosting additional locations, which would increase students' voting accessibility and allow them to cast their ballots between classes.

If these measures are adopted, UTA should inform students about voting options available to them by sending out universitywide announcements detailing when, where and how they can vote.

exercise their right to vote.

The *Shorthorn Editorial Board* is made up of opinion editor Hannah Ezell; editor-in-chief Dang Le; news editor Steven Shaw; Jonathan Perriello, life and entertainment editor; copy desk chief Deekota Diaz; news reporter Juan Salinas II and life reporter McKenna Watson.

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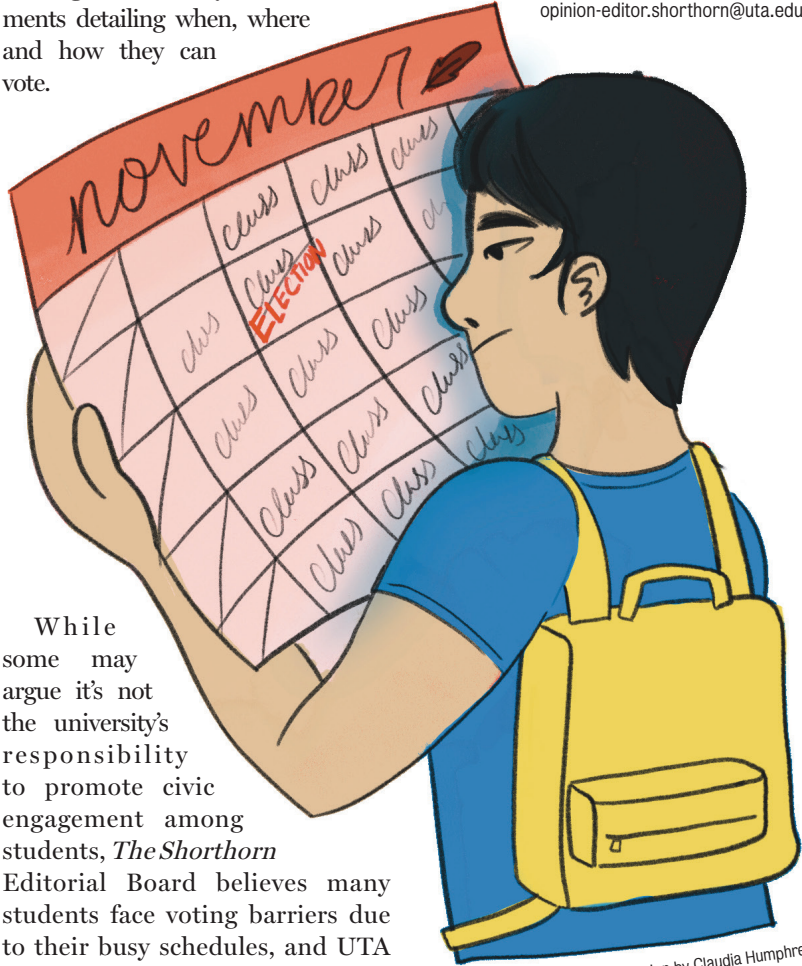


Illustration by Claudia Humphrey

While some may argue it's not the university's responsibility to promote civic engagement among students, *The Shorthorn* Editorial Board believes many students face voting barriers due to their busy schedules, and UTA can take steps to help students

COLUMN

Rate My Professors content moderation limits expression

The review site's numeric values are not enough to express student opinions. Rate My Professors should limit its restrictive policies on the written portion of reviews.

With the start of a new semester, students across the country will take a glance at Rate My Professors when registering for classes.

The website is a review platform that allows students to rate their experiences with professors. A professor can make or break a student's experience in a class, but how valuable is the feedback on Rate My Professors?

A study by Texas State University found female professors, especially those in STEM, received lower overall scores on the platform. Another study by a student at Georgia State University found that professors with "Asian-sounding" last names also received lower scores.

A separate Texas State study shows reviews also tend to represent extreme opinions and are more negative than traditional performance reviews, especially against professors teaching "hard" classes.

This evidence leads some to argue that students who leave these reviews are averse to learning, and their opinions should be discounted.

Rate My Professors has tried to make improvements, such as removing the "hotness rating" represented by red chili peppers in 2018 after a social media campaign and implementing new, stringent content guidelines, but some of the recent changes don't seem

as positive.

For example, reviews that address discrimination by a professor against a student are against said guidelines and therefore aren't allowed on the site.

Other guidelines are subjective, like one prohibiting reviews "fueled by anger," so it can be hard to know what is and isn't allowed.

Like all review sites, Rate My Professors is just representative of a preexisting phenomenon. Even if the site goes offline, students will still ask one another their thoughts on certain professors, and the site will always be as biased as its users, just like word of mouth. That said, the site might not be totally doomed.

Rate My Professors is fundamentally flawed. Its current form will not serve the needs of students effectively because the idea of assigning professors a numerical value is cruel and self-defeating.

The site currently uses three metrics: a one-to-five scale of difficulty, a "Would you take this professor again?" yes or no, and a one-to-five scale of overall quality.

Although those metrics can present problems, my main issue is with the last one.

The numbers distract from qualitative analysis. It doesn't allow students to figure out whether a math professor focuses on theory and examples or whether a class is more lecture- or reading-heavy.

These are useful metrics a student can use to improve their learning experience.

A professor might be a horrible fit for one student and an excellent fit for another, but if the rating is based on the experience of the former, the latter might never take the class.

Students should be able to express what aspects of a class didn't work for them without dissing the professor; not every interaction needs to result in a grade. A low score will always be a little insulting.

In my view, Rate My Professors should relax what it allows in the written portions of reviews. Students should have the right to warn one another about professors' alleged misdeeds, such as racist or sexist behavior, even if the professors may not want

public documentation of the allegations online.

The numeric values assigned to professors on Rate My Professors can turn reviews into an ego issue. In some ways, it feels like a revenge grade. This system misses the point of reflecting on a class comprehensively and leads to an unhappy cycle.

Hopefully, some out-of-the-box thinking can turn Rate My Professors into a functional resource.

As it currently exists, the site is bogged down by a

mess of emotional baggage, and wading through it is too much work.

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EMMA MARSHALL

Marshall is a communication technology senior and Community Voices columnist for *The Shorthorn*.

Join the discussion by commenting online at theshorthorn.com.

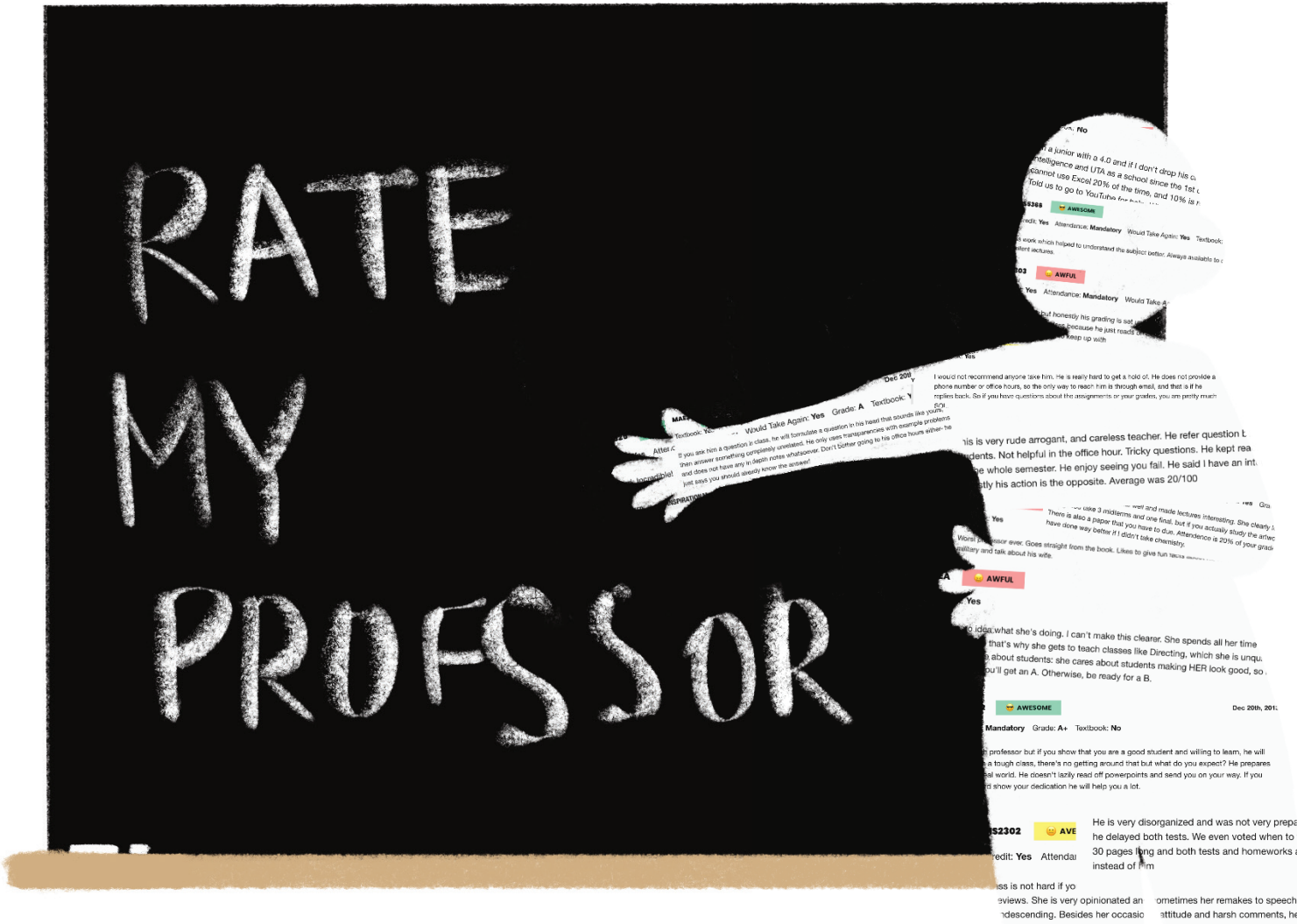


Illustration by Kirby Teegarden

MUSIC

The birth, evolution and resurgence of disco

The 40-year-old genre transformed and reemerged in modern music as America remembers the bright lights of disco, a product of Black culture

BY DANG LE
The Shorthorn editor-in-chief

The year was 1979. The weather was sticky and hot. The roller rink was filled with skaters grooving back and forth in bedazzled bell-bottoms. The radio blasted funky bass lines and soulful vocals of Earth, Wind & Fire, Chic, Donna Summer and Rick James.

That was disco at its peak. With synthesizers, horns, syncopated bass lines and electric rhythm guitars, disco was smoother and more polished than funk yet more complex than straight soul.

It was loud, proud and signified freedom. It brought people together.

Although disco died in the '70s, it never stopped influencing the music scene. In the '80s, the sound evolved to Chicago house, Detroit techno and New York rooftop dance pop. Then it paved the way for old-school hip-hop, post-punk and nu-disco.

Over 40 years later, amid the pandemic, disco saw a mainstream resurgence from Lady Gaga's "Stupid Love" and Doja Cat's "Say So" to Dua Lipa's record-breaking *Future Nostalgia*. This summer, Black superstars Drake and Beyoncé dropped two house records, returning the conversation to the history of disco as a product of Black culture.

The history

In the late 1930s and 1940s, DJs in Germany and France started playing jazz records — originating from African American communities in the late 19th century — in public nightclubs using a single turntable. Around 1950, the term "discothèque," meaning "library of phonograph records," became popular in France, but eventually, the abbreviation "disco" became recognized.

Two decades later, Americans gradually gravitated toward discothèque dancing, and by the early '70s, marginalized communities were gaining voice and visibility. The women's liberation movement swelled after its birth in the early '60s. The Civil Rights Act of 1964 was signed. The Stonewall riots — a string of spontaneous protests by the LGBTQ+ community in response to police raids — were making noise in 1969.

Disco shifted the traditional narrative of a white picket fence and two and a half kids from the '50s, said Frederick Gooding, associate professor of African American studies at Texas Christian University. It became a free space for people to express who they were and how they felt.

"With disco culture, there's this promotion of the individual, this idea that you are unique, that you have value," Gooding said.

The underground dance venues in the U.S. that were frequented by African Americans, Latinos and gays, such as loft parties and bathhouses, shifted to DJs playing soul, funk and Latin American music, according to the Carnegie Hall. The DJs then rose to stardom, controlling the sound and curating the atmosphere of the clubs.

While people can isolate disco and say it was different from jazz music of the '20s, Gooding said he sees the genre as a way for artists to develop and further push the envelope in terms of chord progressions, harmonies and distinguishing themselves in performance styles.

Many artists in the '70s grew up listening to music from previous decades, and they were able to put their spin on the sound, he said.

By the mid-70s, Black artists controlled the disco music scene under record labels led by Motown and Philadelphia International Records, credited for creating Philly Soul — music with funk influences featuring strings and horns.

Growing up in Philadelphia, Jamar Jones, adjunct professor of music industry studies, said his interactions with disco came from Philly Soul with songs by Sister Sledge and Lou Rawls. "Disco was the reigning thing. So,

of course, it impacted and touched everything," Jones said.

Similar to Philly Soul, disco has a bit more kick in the percussion and more layered instrumentation. And there's a little uptick on the rhythm — that "four on the floor," 120 beats-per-minute infectious and irresistible tempo — and a bit more bass.

You just have to move.

"That's why the highly-syncopated beat is so important," said Kenton Ramsby, associate professor of African American literature. "You cannot divorce dancing. You cannot divorce the syncopation, this rhythm, this spirit, soulful music. You cannot divorce that, so that's a huge

LGBTQ+ community latched onto disco, the genre was made for everyone. Gooding said any musical artist would want to be successful and have their art appreciated.

"Why would you, on the front end, restrict your audience and say, 'It's only for a small group of people?'" he said.

In 1977, *Saturday Night Fever*, a dramatic film starring John Travolta with music by the Bee Gees, drove people to the theater. The film was credited for popularizing disco music, grossing an all-time of over \$220 million. Travolta and the Bee Gees became the face of disco, and the genre was seen as safe to crossover with white, straight, male, young and middle-class Americans.

In the beginning, disco was interesting and cool to everybody, Gooding said, but as more people of color and people in the LGBTQ+ community adopted it as a form of expression, it transformed into "the scourge of society."

"All of a sudden, this [becomes a] cheap sound that's distracting, and now we have to get rid of it," he said.

All music genres are subject to criticism, whether it's about the sound or political impacts, Jones said. Disco was not an exception. A 1979 *Time* magazine article referred to it as a "diabolical thump-and-shriek" sound.

However, Gooding said Disco Demolition Night was only one narrative that led to the end of disco, as a crowd of 50,000 people wouldn't be able to entirely stop a genre loved by the whole nation. For him, people started to move on and develop different sounds, which also played a part in the disco hype dying down in the '80s.

"Disco Demolition wasn't about just disco," he said.

the genre, sounded like a disco song. When Sylvia Robinson produced the song, she wanted to introduce hip-hop as a fun, dance culture, Ramsby said.

"The resiliency that people of color had is that, 'OK, well, that's interesting, but here we go again.' And so in just a matter of literally a couple of years, to literally salvage and reproduce many of the same sounds or at least innovate them further so they could be palatable and commercially viable, I think that's the genius of Black music," Gooding said.

When people walked into a disco, they wanted to be the "flyest" and the "baddest," and people are seeing the same thing in hip-hop culture, Ramsby said.

Over time, hip-hop started incorporating dancers and rappers spitting flows, but rap started with DJs making people dance rather than the rappers, he said.

Even with the growth of hip-hop, Jones said disco and house never really went away, as R&B artists in the '90s would release a house remix to accompany their singles.

"Why? Because that's what they played in clubs. And not just clubs here, but particularly clubs overseas in Europe, Asia, Africa," he said.

The resurgence

While Drake and Beyoncé tore the "house" down with their 2022 releases, disco and house have made a resurgence since the early 2020s. At the beginning of the pandemic, Dua Lipa dropped *Future Nostalgia*, a record full of lush strings ("Love Again"), house-influenced piano chords ("Hallucinate") and rubbery, sick bass lines ("Don't Start Now"). The album went on to win the 2021 Grammy for Best Pop Vocal Album.

In August 2020, Cardi B and Megan Thee Stallion teamed up to release "WAP," a raunchy, hip-hop track driven by heavy bass and drum beats. The track also sampled Frank Ski's 1993 track "***** In This House" as the signature opening line ("There's some ***** in this house"), which served as an homage to the Chicago house sound.

Although Drake's *Honestly, Nevermind* album did not get as much recognition as Beyoncé's *Renaissance*, the Canadian had dabbled into the house scene for years. "Passionfruit," which he released in 2017, was an example of garage, low-fi house music inspired by the New York scene of the '80s.

"Massive," "Calling My Name" and "A Keeper" from his new album are, once again, examples of the repetitive rhythm and melody trademarked by Chicago house style.

But in *Renaissance*, Beyoncé's joyous project paid full tribute to inspiration from across the dance floors in the U.S. From the Chicago house signatures in "Cozy," the slick bass lines in "Move" and "America Has A Problem," the New York dance-pop of "Cuff It" and then the signature New Jersey-bounce of "Break My Soul," Beyoncé's new album touches on the biggest milestones of Black music.

At first, Ramsby thought *Renaissance* was not overly political and that it was just fun dance music, but he then changed his mind after listening to the album, the samples and people's talking points. Like a student citing sources to show their work, Beyoncé consciously listed all the samples to give credit to the house legends, he said.

Gooding said these projects from Drake and Beyoncé help generate conversations so people can make up their minds about disco.

"The idea that contemporary artists who are paying homage or looking for ways to incorporate these new sounds from another age. It just goes to show the relationship, the interconnectedness that they appreciate it and wish to still evoke it," he said.

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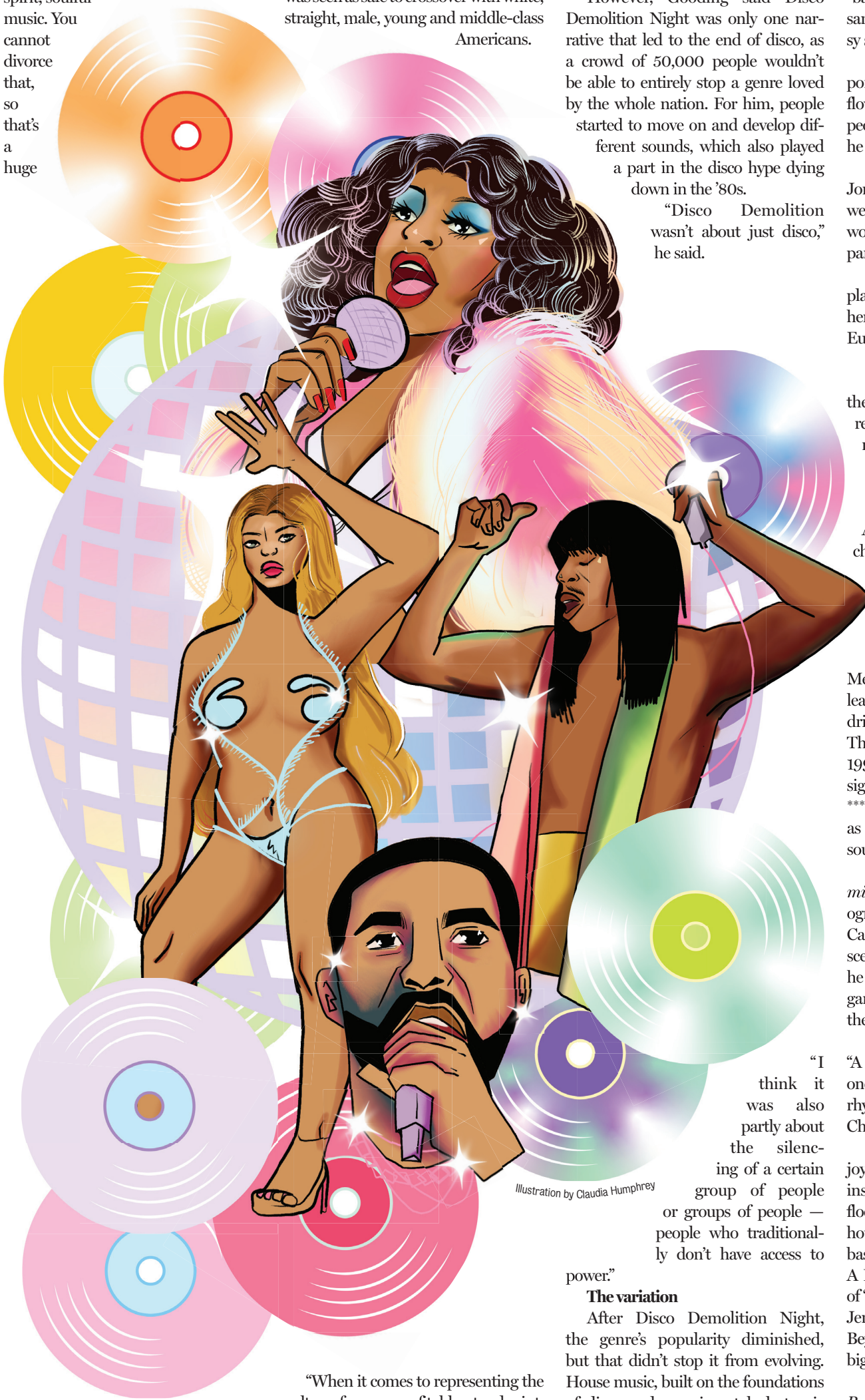


Illustration by Claudia Humphrey

"When it comes to representing the culture from a profitable standpoint, you have a white male because that was who the movie producers were thinking they needed to appeal to," Gooding said. "They needed to appeal to the majority white aesthetic."

The crossover contributed to disco's downfall, also known as Disco Demolition Night, in the summer of 1979. As the genre grew in popularity, more white artists became involved in making disco records. Thus, more radio stations went from rock to all-disco. Chicago DJ Steve Dahl was fired in the Christmas of 1978 from his rock station due to this new direction.

Dahl then encouraged people to go to Comiskey Park during a Chicago White Sox doubleheader to burn down disco records, throw them like Frisbees and blow up the crate, scattering records into the air. Roughly 50,000 people joined.

contribution when we think about Black music in America."

People went gaga over disco. Donna Summer, a '60s folk-pop artist, shook the industry with "Love to Love You Baby" and eventually reigned as the "Queen of Disco." Chic's debut single "Dance, Dance, Dance (Yowsah, Yowsah, Yowsah)" became a hit and launched the band's series of commercially successful smashes, such as "Le Freak" and "Good Times."

People of color and the LGBTQ+ community sought safety through music and gained solace through disco with songs like Gloria Gaynor's "I Will Survive," where they looked at the then-state of society to ask critical questions and to look for ways to express themselves, Gooding said.

However, while women and the

STUDENT LIFE

Four Reasons for Switching Majors

Students give insights on how passion redirection, finding better programs, social media and transferring from other countries influence their change in career paths

BY HEIDI HERNANDEZ
The Shorthorn staff

A lot of thought goes into choosing a major when beginning a college journey. Whether it stems from watching inspiring videos on social media, transferring to universities, or discovering a true passion, settling on a field of study can be life-changing.

UTA's community narrows down the top four reasons why students switch majors.

Discovering their true passion

Some students, like English junior Cheyenne Hennesay, found that when studying their original major, they discover their true passion lies in another field.

Hennesay said she became interested in social work as a kid when she met someone at day care who had been adopted.

"I was probably within the ages of six to eight, and I just thought it was so cool that someone could choose somebody to be part of their family," she said.

But as her college career continued, she said she realized that what really interested her were stories.

Sociology offered a field that dove into culture, language and individual stories, Hennesay said. She then drew a direct line to English.

"It all comes down to stories, either real or not real interactions, everything," she said. "And it's all one story, individual stories and cultures and all that and languages. Everything just intrigues me."

After arriving at UTA, Hennesay said she felt English had more to offer her, and her choice to switch was solidified.

Better programs for better careers

Often when a student begins their major, they find that their original interest is limited, and they decide to pivot to open doors to more career options.

"Once I started kind of seeing, you know, how much people make whenever you do journalism, it's more of a side hustle rather than a main job," English senior Jason Lejazar said.

Lejazar said that studying English with a history minor and pursuing a teaching career will allow him to teach multiple subjects

while keeping the journalism option open.

After talking with one of his friends, he decided to transfer to UTA.

"We were both really tired of doing customer service, and one day, we were just talking, and I was like, 'Man, I should have just done some sort of teaching or something like that,'" Lejazar said. "And then he and I both switched to UTA."

Once this change was made, Lejazar said it was fun to see his peer accomplish the same things he hoped to achieve for himself. His friend graduated in the spring and has already started teaching.

Transferring internationally

In some cases, a university's curriculum does not always align with others, especially for international students.

When sophomore Dima Abboud came to UTA after studying architectural engineering in her home country of Lebanon, she was told her coursework aligned with traditional architecture and did not fit the criteria for architectural engineering at UTA.

Architectural engineering in the U.S. is part of civil engineering, and architecture is more about building aesthetics, she said.

Despite none of her credits transferring over from Lebanon, Abboud said she decided to study UTA's version of architectural engineering because it will provide more career opportunities and will allow her to see how the American educational system works.

"For [architectural] engineering, I think there's gonna be more opportunities," she said.

Influenced by social media

In today's day and age, the prevalence of social media in student life can influence how people make decisions.

Medical technology sophomore Taija Epperson said that her first choice in majors came from watching videos on the popular social media app TikTok.

"I saw so many people on TikTok having all the cute nursing stuff, and their notes are just so divine," Epperson said. "But then I also want to help people, somehow, and I've always wanted to be in a hospital setting."

While this was a pretty picture at first, she said it wasn't long before the illusion was dispelled.



Illustration by Yvonne Collier

"I was looking at videos to see everything that came with nursing," Epperson said. "And some people that I saw, they really explained deeply about the advantages and disadvantages of the major, and that's when I realized that I did not want to do that."

Epperson said she decided on medical technology, so she could still work in a hospital setting and help patients without one-on-one patient time.

Had she stuck with her first choice, Epperson said she would have spent a lot of time and money and ended up miserable.

"So many people are stuck in their jobs because they have nowhere else to go, and I don't want to be one of those people," she said.

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DR. RUTH

Q: Can a guy tell, while you are having sex, if you are a virgin or not? I know this is a stupid question, but I want to hear a straight answer from you. Thanks.

A: No question is stupid. Not asking a question you don't know the answer to is stupid, but asking is quite the intelligent thing to do. If a girl is a virgin and her hymen has not been broken, then a man could possibly tell, because he would have some difficulty penetrating the vagina, or because the act of penetration would cause her some pain that he would notice, or because there'd be some blood afterward. But there are many young girls who are virgins but whose hymens were broken some other way, such as when exercising or riding a bike, etc. In that case, the first young man would be taking away her virginity but wouldn't know it by any physical sign. Conversely, a young man might assume that a young lady was not a virgin because her hymen was already broken, but that might not be true at all if it had been broken in some nonsexual way.



Dr. Ruth
Send your questions to Dr. Ruth Westheimer c/o King Features Syndicate
235 E. 45th St., New York, NY 10017

Q: How does someone deal with this: It's not so much premature ejaculation as much as it is just a very short period of time before

orgasm? I want to satisfy my partner, but if I cannot stay erect long enough, that seems to be somewhat of a problem.

A: You remind me of the people who constantly go around squinting but say they don't need glasses. You are suffering from premature ejaculation, whether you think you are or not. By definition, a man is a premature ejaculator anytime he cannot keep himself from ejaculating, whether he has been having intercourse for 30 seconds or 30 minutes. I write about this subject quite a lot, so I won't go into a long explanation once again. What I would suggest is that you admit your problem, read some materials on premature ejaculation, and then follow the instructions on what to do about it. If that doesn't work, go to see a sex therapist.

THE Daily Crossword Edited by Wayne Robert Williams

ACROSS

1 Port of Iraq
6 Black shade
9 Severe
14 Disney's Little Mermaid
15 Lyric poem
16 Forearm bones
17 Baseball teams
18 Lady lobster
19 Wanders
20 Halloween light
23 Sawbuck tenth
24 Darling or Guidry
25 One reindeer
29 Halloween venue
32 Spring harbingers
35 Early auto
36 Hrs. in Salt Lake
37 Fencing weapons
38 Halloween hoot
39 Lower in spirits
41 Med. printout
42 Up to now
43 City in the San Joaquin Valley
44 Monstrous Halloween costume
48 Rode the bench
49 Is no longer?
50 You bet!
53 Halloween threat
57 Diving acronym
60 In what way?
61 In a slow tempo
62 Of hearing
63 I've got it!
64 Greeter's greeting
65 George of "Cheers"
66 Layer
67 Austere

DOWN

1 Plucker's instrument
2 One born in early April
3 Inasmuch as
4 Noisome smell
5 Losers
6 Composer Strauss
7 First garden
8 Circus structure
9 Victory cheer
10 "The Tempest" king
11 Cellular letters
12 Snead or Peckinpah
13 Men
21 Groza and Gehrig
22 Caribbean taro
26 Soil component
27 City near Gelsenkirchen
28 Rocket type
29 Giddyap!
30 Lopes along
31 Want ad abbr.
32 Coral colonies
33 La Scala production
34 Fathered
38 Goller Hogan
39 Stiff hairs
40 Writer Deighton
42 Abominable snowman
43 Carolina cape
45 So-so
46 TV journalist Charles
47 Bilateral
50 Busybody
51 Food consumer
52 Baby bird?
54 Gent
55 First chancellor of reunified Germany
56 Tear
57 Logger's tool
58 Theater signal
59 Coffee vessel

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Instructions:
Fill in the grid so that every row, every column and every 3x3 grid contains the digits 1 through 9 with no repeats. That means that no number is repeated in any row, column or box.

1	8	9	2	7	9	6	8
9	6	7	8	5	1	2	3
2	8	2	6	9	6	7	5
3	2	6	9	7	8	1	2
2	1	9	6	2	9	3	8
9	7	8	1	3	2	6	9
8	2	3	9	1	9	2	7
6	9	1	7	8	2	5	3
7	5	2	2	6	3	8	1

Solution

Solutions, tips and computer program at www.sudoku.com

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BASKETBALL

Coaches assess WAC's new basketball resume seeding system



The Shorthorn: Ronaldo Bolanos

The newly designed court awaits action Sept. 1 in the College Park Center. The UTA Athletics 2022-2023 season will be under the Western Athletic Conference.

The system awards teams based on strength of schedule, wins, losses and the opponent's NET ranking

BY MANDY HUYNH
The Shorthorn managing editor

The collegiate basketball world has followed the same seeding system for postseason tournaments for years.

More conference wins equals a better seed or rank for the tournament. With this system, more victories would increase a team's chance to win a conference championship and help secure a ticket to the National Collegiate Athletic Association Tournament — basketball's biggest stage.

However, institutions in the Western Athletic Conference may want to re-strategize their path to the championship and a potential automatic bid to the NCAA Tournament.

UTA's realignment to the WAC isn't the only new aspect it'll be experiencing this year, as the conference introduces a new resume seeding system for its basketball season.

Just weeks after UTA joined the WAC in July, the conference announced it would break from the traditional win-loss system and adopt a data-driven algorithm for its postseason tournament seeding. The new formula, called the resume seeding system, considers the quality of opponents played using the NCAA Evaluation Tool — also known as NET ranking.

The system pulls various data points like strength of

schedule, wins, losses and the opponent's NET ranking.

But coaches are cautious of the unfamiliar formatting.

"I'm still trying to figure this out, and I don't really know, per se, what this is going to look like for us," said Shereka Wright, UTA women's basketball head coach.

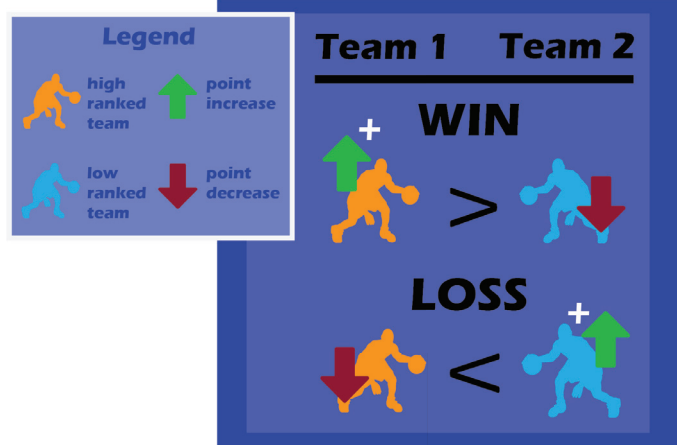


Illustration by Cristina Del Coro Trio

In action, a team with the second-best record in the league may be seeded lower in the postseason because of a weak game resume. But a team with the seventh-best record may be seeded higher if it has more impressive wins over difficult teams.

The new system accounts for both conference and nonconference achievements, so the WAC will reward season-long play and incentivize tougher nonconference

schedules, according to a conference press release. WAC commissioner Brian Thornton and basketball associate commissioner Drew Speraw worked with Ken Pomeroy of kenpom.com to make the formula.

The conference is trying to create a system that adds

format is in play.

Speraw said the goal for all conferences is success at the NCAA Tournament, and to achieve that, one needs to examine how teams are earning high seeds.

"We're really trying to promote our team, and we can go about it the way that it's always been done, or we can look at it from a different lens," he said.

It was important to use data for the formula to figure out how its teams can advance and become successful in the NCAA Tournament, which creates value for the conference and its institutions, Speraw said.

The winner of the WAC tournament solely enters the NCAA Tournament in March as the conference's representative. However, teams who didn't win the conference championship can nab a spot in March Madness through at-large bids. These teams are picked by the NCAA selection committee.

As a mid-major conference, the WAC rarely sends at-large bids to March Madness. The last time the conference sent an at-large team to the NCAA was with Utah State University, currently a Mountain West Conference member, in 2010.

UTA women's basketball team advanced to the NCAA Tournament last season as the No. 14 seed by winning the Sun Belt Conference final, but

they fell to No. 3 seed Iowa State University in the first round.

The men's basketball team lost the first round of the Sun Belt Conference tournament last season, but the WAC's seeding system might increase UTA's chances of achieving a higher seed.

Young said the system will benefit the university long-term because it has a relatively high NET ranking every year due to its nonconference schedule.

Last season, the men's basketball team played in its nonconference schedule against schools with NET rankings in the top 40 out of 358 in Division I, such as the University of Oklahoma and San Diego State University.

The Lady Mavericks also played against high-ranking schools in their nonconference schedule last season like Baylor University, which placed eighth out of 356 in women's basketball Division I.

"So if you're playing those games, you're playing higher NET-ranked teams, [and] you're [going to] have a higher NET ranking," Young said.

This season's nonconference schedule is still in the air for the men's basketball team. Its 2022-2023 nonconference schedule is incomplete as of publication.

The Lady Mavericks announced Aug. 22 their

2022-2023 nonconference schedule, which includes five teams that made it to the NCAA Tournament last season and three teams that played in the Women's National Invitation Tournament.

Wright said she believes the new system will benefit UTA. There are different ways to utilize the system, and recruiting is one of them.

The WAC's resume seeding system is a factor in recruiting in Texas because it's different and unique, Wright said. There might be players who don't care for it and others who do, but the system is something that sets the conference apart.

Basketball is ever-changing, she said. It's about trial and error, and the new system is just WAC trying something new to see if it will be best for the conference.

Young said the current consensus among coaches he's talked to is they're going to do what's best for their programs.

The uncertainty in the system shake-up is stressful for Wright and her staff, but they'll make it work, she said.

"The biggest piece of it is to focus on your team, and how did your team grow in each of those games and focus on that one game at a time," Wright said.

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