

ISSUE IV

THE ROAR

HOROSCOPE EDITION

letter from the

EDITOR

And we are back. I hope everyone enjoyed a nice month off from the business of academics, athletics, extracurriculars, etc. I'm not sure if it's just me, but recently I've been searching my brain for the motivation to dive back into schoolwork. However, so far I can't find it, not even a trace. I don't blame myself though, because my zodiac sign is a Taurus. Apparently Tauruses are known to be quite lazy.

In this edition of The Roar, we will be exploring horoscopes. Braxton Robsinson worked on the cover story which provides everyone with their given horoscope reputations. Some inside information, horoscopes are a prediction of one's personality and future based on the position of the stars, sun, and planets at a person's birth. Time to find out if your horoscope is a hard working, goal orientated character, or lazy like myself? Staff writer, Leah Goodman, pairs horoscopes together based on the compatibility of the sign's characteristics. Is it a chance to see if you and your special someone on Valentine's Day make a good couple? However, speaking of Valentine's. The holiday is obviously not for every-

one. Managing Editor, Kiana Tuckett, shares the experience of a single individual on Valentines Day. Is it a good excuse for a self-care day or just a depressing day as a whole?

While The Roar is diligently working to publish more editions. The staff is sad to announce that Dane Secor will no longer be the advisor of the paper. Dane made it one of his main priorities at Mars Hill University to help build and establish a student voice on campus. As a team we have overcome adversity, and it will be hard saying goodbye to such a strong leader and impeccable role model. As The Roar leaves the caretaking of Dane, it will be advised by a passionate committee of faculty while we search for a new full-time advisor. The Roar is definitely in good hands.

I hope that this edition gives you a bit more insight into your character and a chance to test the accuracy of your horoscope reading. However, keep in mind the Face Off articles: beware of the potential harmfulness and assistance of horoscope readings.

Hannah Rose Frazer

editor-in-chief

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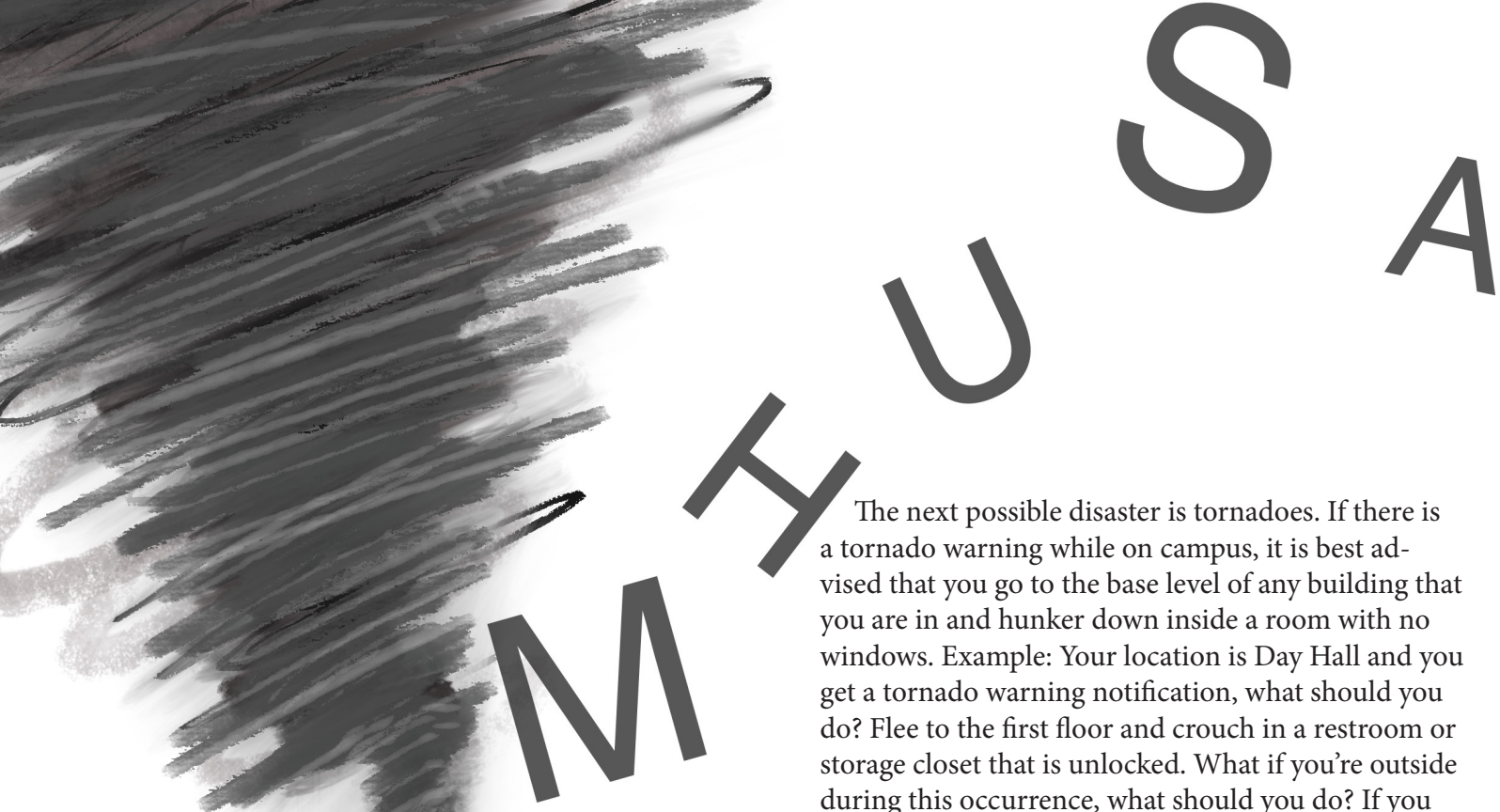
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KAYLA RICE, staff writer

Have you ever thought about what you're going to do if some kind of disaster happens to you while sitting in your Mars Hill University dorm room? A tornado could come sweeping through, flash floods, or snowstorms. In addition, what if someone broke out from Craggy Correctional Center which is a little over 10 miles from campus? Don't be frantic, I'm here to give you some tips on how to stay safe if any of these events were to happen. With multiple website searches, this is what I have found:

One important step to ensure safety is to always have your weather alerts turned on for this location. By having weather alerts come through your phone, you will be notified of any emergent situation that occurs and give you a little bit more time to prepare yourself.

The first scenario covered will be flash floods, because we do tend to get flooded often (RIP Brown). Flash floods can be scary, but you can decrease the chances of getting harmed. The first thing you should do when you hear about a flash flood is get yourself to higher ground, and if you happen to already be at high ground, stay put. I advise that you stay up to date with the weather officials and follow their instructions strictly, they are there to help you. If you happen to be told to evacuate, pack up your bare essentials and leave immediately.

The next possible disaster is tornadoes. If there is a tornado warning while on campus, it is best advised that you go to the base level of any building that you are in and hunker down inside a room with no windows. Example: Your location is Day Hall and you get a tornado warning notification, what should you do? Flee to the first floor and crouch in a restroom or storage closet that is unlocked. What if you're outside during this occurrence, what should you do? If you are walking around campus and we receive a tornado warning alert, follow the above procedures if you are nearby a building, but if not, find a ditch and lay flat while covering your head/neck with your backpack or hands and try to avoid any nearby trees.

Now we will talk about snowstorms and what to do if one were to happen. I advise that you always pay attention to the weather forecast and watch out for any snow that comes across the forecast. Although Mars Hill and Madison County as a whole isn't notorious for abundant amounts of snowfall, there have been a few times our power has gone down for up to a whole week due to snowstorms. What do you do? If you see a high percentage of snow on the forecast, stock up on the essentials such as water, food, flashlights, etc. After grabbing essentials, return back to your place of residence. It is important to avoid driving at all costs due to icy roads.

The last disaster I will be talking about is an intruder. Imagine this: there's an intruder on campus and is planning to rob/hurt people, what's the best course of action? In this type of situation you have decisions you need to make. You can either hide and try to get in contact with campus security or fight back. The best option is to avoid fighting back unless absolutely necessary. If you see an intruder or a dangerous person on campus, remove yourself from the site and call campus security ASAP. The number for security is: 828-689-1230. Report to them who you saw and give a description of the said person. If you

SAFETY

are forced to fight back, do whatever you can to deter the person physically. Use any objects within your reach. Even when you reach this point you should try to get to safety.

In an interview with campus security officer, Kevin West, he gave the universities' policy for an emergency situation.

What should a student do if there was an intruder on campus?

"MHU is rolling out a new process of emergency notification for students, faculty, and staff to use called SaferWatch. This is a powerful phone app that will enable individuals to make immediate notification in the case of a real emergency to local police in real time. [In the meantime] if something doesn't feel right please immediately call security so we can follow up and investigate. If it is an emergency of life threatening nature, skip right to calling 911 so the police, fire, or ambulance can get rolling. The 911 operator will notify security as well. If you're not sure, call security and let us help. If it's a real emergency, common sense says call 911 FIRST."

What should a student do if there was a tornado, snowstorm, power outage, etc on campus?

"Mars Hill administration will as needed send out alerts to the campus community as we are notified by local Emergency Management or see potential weather related threats. MHU will make such announcements on our emergency awareness app, Regroup. That is why it is so important for EVERY student, staff, and faculty to have updated their emergency information, because the Regroup Alert will be sent to a mobile phone, as well as by email and phone call." Although I hope you never have to experience any of these situations, there's always a chance of them happening. It's better to stay prepared and have a plan for each dilemma rather than be unprepared and sorry.





Fun Opportunity at the Brewery

JAMIE GARCIA, staff writer

As of right now, the semester is seeming to go by so very slowly. Mindspace is filled with every type of student staring at their computer screen as they cram their reading for the next morning. As students, we know that soon enough the steam will run out and a desperate plea for re-energizing will carry over to our weekends.

Fortunately, the community has heard our prayers. The Hickory Nut Gorge Brewery on main street has opened themselves to a bigger involvement with the student body. Alexandria, a new hired manager, says "sometimes if you're sitting and studying in one place long enough, you get too much in the habit...but if you change up your environment, sometimes you can retain more." And this environment is something to see; originally being an old Theatre, Gorge Brewery has kept the signature theatre-goer chairs and the one-tier stage. Don't worry, there is plenty room for mingling. Couches, vintage style chairs, and appropriate mood lighting makes up the two floors of this enormous space with a welcoming atmosphere. The picnic table being surprising and stunning.

Because of this new communal space, Hickory Nut Gorge Brewery has given us so many things to look forward to. A new student night, every Thursday, has invited the MHU student community to take a break from our brooding schedules. Offering events like trivia, karaoke, and even weekly movie nights on Sundays, students will always have a place to go. Sarah Wheeler, a junior at MHU says "I mean I suck at trivia, but we're definitely going next week". Another student, Hosanna Guess adds "I wish we went downstairs; the groups were helping each other.... they acted like they all knew each other." With obvious customary regulations, the Brewery is engaging a new relationship with the entire community of Mars Hill. A place where students can find some study time during the day and some enjoyment at night. "Also, make sure to come to the movies, I pass out free popcorn," Alexandria says. Make sure to keep up with the facebook page @MarsTheatreBrewing-Company for any updates or upcoming events.

ASHEVILLE DRUM CIRCLE

LYNN BLAKE, staff writer

Every Friday evening around six o'clock in Downtown Asheville, something incredible happens. The people of Asheville surrender to the sounds of drums. Hundreds of free spirits gather to form a rhythmic cluster of familiar strangers in the heart of Prichard Park. One can't help but be consumed by the booming music that consumes the amphitheater. The best part about this gathering is nobody needs to pay or have any experience whatsoever. The tradition dating back over a decade and now seeks to bring people together in harmony in adrenalizing fashion. The blend of multiple cultures and background making music signifies the specialty of the event. Asheville's Drum Circle beckons the call of any broke college student hoping to escape the routine of campus life and connect on a deeper level to the alluring city right up the road.

Being a college student, I understand that not everyone has an "on the go" drum lying around their dorm room. Despite that, there are no rules for participation in the circle. People come with soda cans and sticks or even bang on aluminum trash cans. The group has an interactive Facebook page to keep drummers and spectators updated on the Friday event. The account has grown to have 5.1K members interested in attending the immersive music. The Facebook page lists that the drum circle takes place throughout the year (weather permitting); however, according to the website: Smoky Mountains, it takes place April-October. Go to Asheville on a warm, nice Friday evening and I'm sure you will hear the drum circle calling.

So, if you are feeling adventurous, grab a djembe, take a drive, and drum your cares away. If you're lucky, you might even see me there.





ZACK DOBSON, staff writer

On January 2nd, 2023, Buffalo Bills safety Damar Hamlin was sent into cardiac arrest in a game against the Cincinnati Bengals. This shed an even brighter light on health and safety than it has in previous years. It has brought a lot of discussions about if some sports are too dangerous or if some sports need new rules. Many people think college sports are too hazardous for student athletes. This has led to conversations about what is the most dangerous sport at Mars Hill University. The most dangerous sport at the school is easily football. Although football players are suited up in pads, the sport is second in the world with concussions and leading sport in torn ACLs. It is easy to see why football is the most dangerous sport at Mars Hill. "Football is dangerous because any hit can cause a traumatic injury. Just by being hit in the right spot at the right time can cause a serious problem," says Brody Whitson

The next most dangerous sport on campus is Men's Lacrosse. In this game the ball is shot around 80-95 mph with the only protection being a chest pad and a helmet. In addition, a lacrosse ball is made of solid, vulcanized rubber making it hard and dense. Due to the continuous passing of the game, the chance of getting nailed by a shot is very high. With such minimal covering, lacrosse can be considered one of the most dangerous and scariest sports to play. But if it isn't the

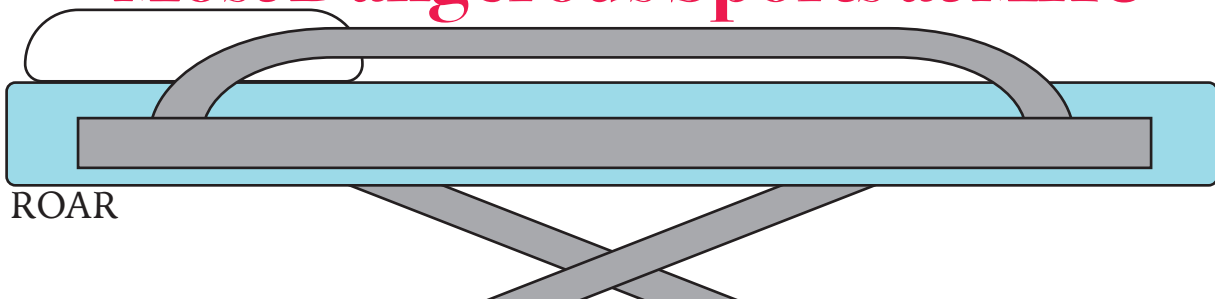
shot that makes the sport dangerous, it would be all the slashing and body checking with the metal sticks. Overall this sport is injury prone and very aggressive for athletes. "While playing you don't think about the chance of getting hurt you just go out there and try to win. You don't care about the chance of getting injured," states Ryan Sheehan

The next most dangerous sport is acrobatics and tumbling. In this sport, athletes display balance and body lifting routines. Flyers are thrust in the air relying on teammates to be able to stabilize them and safely lower them back to the floor. Performing a strength and agility routine at a competition in front of an audience is extremely nerve racking. These athletes have to overcome nervous jitters in order to ensure teammates' safety during dangerous stunts.

Overall the possibility of an injury is extremely high in acrobatics and tumbling due to the precision and timing of routines. "This sport is extremely dangerous based on the fact each turn is never 100 percent guaranteed. The team has to be vigilant every single time something goes in the air; if not, that's where the injuries happen. Everything happens very fast and without much warning," claims Alexis McPherson.



Most Dangerous Sports at MHU



Athletic Contract

EDGAR MIRANDA, staff writer

Nowadays people only care about the brand they put on their body. Instead of looking directly at a piece of clothing to judge the style, many students find themselves looking at the tag to see what brand the clothing article is. Brands start to not only represent just nice shoes or clothes, but rather a certain type of culture. Apple lives in the technology culture, while Adidas is a part of athletic wear. Therefore, the university's relationship and choice of brand is important to students. Mars Hill University's choice was Adidas.

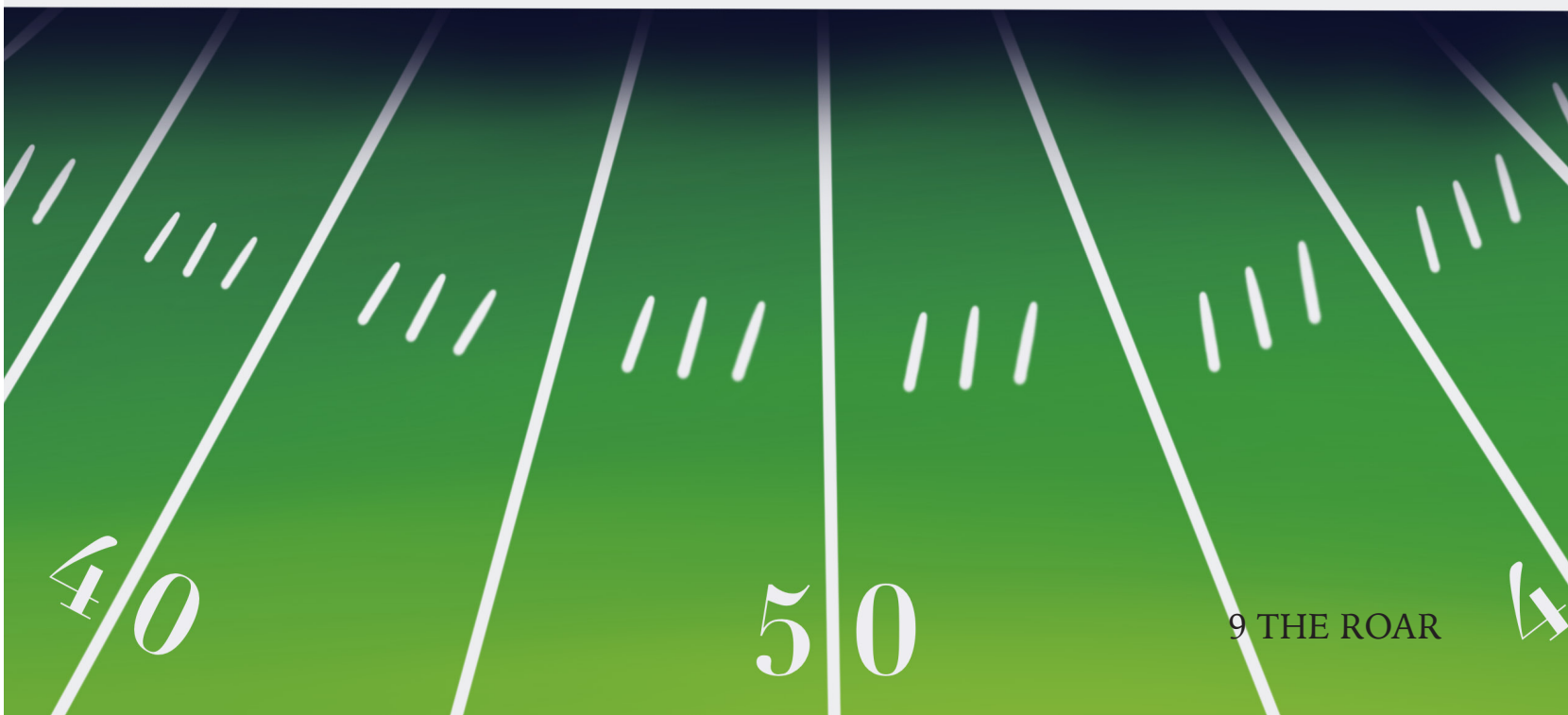
A partnership that was announced in the early summer of 2017. This agreement between the university and Adidas led to the brand being the sole outfitter of footwear, apparel, uniforms, etc. It began as a four-year contract agreement that would ensure all 22 athletic teams with -what can be argued to be- some of the best sportswear.

Although, the question does arise- why Adidas? Perhaps the most important reason would be the status and advantages it would

offer. It gives another identity to the school helping draw in more student athletes. Student-athletes being a major follower of trends and sportswear, it only makes sense that a partnership with a top brand would allow for easier marketing or recruitment. When you see a brand such as Adidas you see success, advancement, and competition since some of the major schools in the US have an adidas partnership and succeed. These points were a part of Dr. Dan Lunsford (past MHU President) on why he felt it was important for MHU to align itself with major goods suppliers. On the Mars Hill Lions website, he goes further in highlighting why the partnership with Adidas is obviously a plus for athletics and its effect on the University by stating "the general public see Mars Hill and the MHU logo, then they see the Adidas logo and they think this is what Big Time Programs do." Clearly, Mars Hill University's only partnership is Adidas; however, many students are curious why the bookstore carries other brands

such as Nike and athletics does not receive any uniforms from that company. Rick Baker, the school's Athletic Director states, "Athletics does not have anything to do with the bookstore. We have never had a contract with Nike. We have only had a contract with Adidas. When contracts are close to ending we accept RFP's from any company that would like to bid on a contract with us. We then choose the best proposal. All our coaches were involved in the decision to choose Adidas."

In sum, these agreements between MHU and Adidas don't just represent the financial gain from either side but rather represent a culture that is continuously built from the ground up. A school that lives in the mountains with core values on providing education to all students and the community fits the Adidas company value on community relationships. It could not be a better match to give Mars Hill University another reason to stake its claim on success.



Let's not all pretend like we haven't scrolled through Urban Dictionary looking for definitions of our first name. Sometimes it can surprisingly be spot on and other times it can be offensive. I thought it would be interesting to see what Urban Dictionary has to say about the sports around campus.

baseball

typically hot boy who plays baseball & could get any girl (lil d!zzy)

someone who thinks they are very talented, and/or attractive just because they are playing the sport of baseball. In reality only a few percent of them have actual game.
(vitsddncslsfnrwrfr)

basketball

the obvious hottest type of athlete, the hottest guys are basketball players (m/s/p/)

On December 3 it's kiss a basketball player day, find a basketball player and kiss em. (Lbj24)

cross country/track and field

A bunch of idiots who think it is fun to run far distances, in all kinds of weather and terrain, all in short shorts. (Walrus500)

A long-distance runner that competes in Cross country and usually track and field long / middle distance events. Almost always very handsome and tan and ripped.

esports

A word used by professional video game players in an attempt to justify and prove that playing video games is, in fact, sport. (Derek The Trojan)

They're like real professional, competitive sports, except a lot cooler and better.
(ArkhamOfficial)

football

guys who put on enough pads to usually keep themselves alive play on professional teams and get paid a lot of money, who still get injured (Tonio31)

Similar to the bodybuilding type build except not as big and defined as well as not having veins popping out everywhere.

a football player is usually envied by most people other than football players. (Rodney Harris)
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golf

to quote Oscar Wilde: "The best way to ruin a good walk"

A game that enrages people (Panchoman Jr.)

A sport, that despite the general stereotype that only the elderly play, is quite fun. It's more of a fitness sport as opposed to strength and speed. (OutlawStar)

lacrosse

A sport for the people who struck out in tee ball. (baseball123456999)

A back up sport for former baseball players. If someone sucks at baseball they go play lacrosse.

A sport in which grown men whack each other with their magic wands. (Ellsbury)

What real men do during Baseball season. (Eric)

soccer

a sport that Americans ignore, except for one month every 4 years, once the US team is eliminated from the world cup, they ignore soccer once again. (Eye In The Sky)

Another name for football. not a very good one... (manutdfan4life)

Guys with great, muscular legs! (soccer)

softball

Softball is the best female sport there is! It's where the prettiest girls play and the perfect girlfriends for baseball players. if you don't have a softball player as a girlfriend you're messing up right now. (ryan mendoza)

Softball is similar to baseball but way different, softball is where girls go to show people who's boss (HELP!!!!!!!!!!)

swim

swimmers are the most elite athletes that know how to win. They train multiple hours a day and eat lots of healthy food. They love cold water and don't mind waking up @ 5:15 am to train. Everyone who isn't a swimmer is just jealous. (Christeen)

The only sport where people pee without going to the restroom. (Adrian Skertchly)

tennis

The sport that takes the most athletic ability. Some matches can last for 4 hours, and the players don't get to sit out like little "athletes" in the NBA. (Henin-Houndini)

the world's hardest sport, famous for having the most attractive athletes. Tennis is one of the most entertaining things in the world, for a reason that no one can really figure out. It's just fun. (to5794)

volleyball

The only sport where it's acceptable to lose to the girls. (Bussss)

Basically a big game of don't let the balloon hit the floor. (06660)

Horoscope Edition



BRAXTON ROBINSON, staff writer

When the cosmos aligns and your future is forecasted before you, a horoscope is presented to you in many shapes and sizes. Whether you believe them to be true or not, they come in a daily, weekly, or most commonly, monthly format. But the basis of every horoscope is a Zodiac sign. Zodiac signs are 12 distinct constellation patterns that the sun passes through. These 12 signs are believed to explain specific qualities and characteristics of a person, based on their specific sign which correlates with their birthdate. These 12 signs are: Aries, Taurus, Gemini, Cancer, Leo, Virgo, Libra, Scorpio, Sagittarius, Capricorn, Aquarius, and Pisces.

Of the 12 Zodiac signs, they are split among four different elements, fire, water, earth, and air. The fire signs being Leo, Aries, and Sagittarius. The water signs being Cancer, Scorpio, Pisces. The Earth signs being Taurus, Virgo, Capricorn. Lastly, the air signs being Gemini, Libra, Aquarius. Simply put, most people follow their sun sign, which neglects the rest of their birth chart. While there are many more components and layers to this, the focus for this will be Sun signs, which determine your basic nature. With all that said, here are The Roar's 2023 Horoscopes.

Capricorn (Dec 22- Jan 19)

In 2023 money will not be an issue, and will flow to you regularly. The direction of

your career and profession will have some uncertainty, but you will remain focused. In your current position in your field, you will stand secure and strong. Do not get complacent. Complacency will be the root of your educational and professional downfall.

Current stable relationships will flourish, where the unstable relationships will crumble. Unstable relationships will crumble, and a new one will not be built. Take this time for yourself and learn to love you. For the current relationships, continue to show your love and support for your significant other.

Aquarius (Jan 20- Feb 18)

For 2023, be prepared for financial setbacks. These financial difficulties will be rough, but bring about great opportunities to learn. Handle your finances with care. Take the time to appreciate learning, and use it towards your advantage this year. The things you learn this year will propel you into the years to come, and bring you out of your financial difficulties. Do not rush anything, instead let the information come to you naturally.

This year let your actions of love speak louder than your words. Show your significant other that you care outside of your words. And for those who are single this time around, this might be the year that you should pursue a relationship. Your avoidance of love starts now, so do not fear.



Pisces (Feb 19- Mar 20)

2023 will be a year of challenge. You will be faced with challenges frequently and with that comes stress.. Accept these challenges and be ready to overcome them. Overcoming these challenges will present you with opportunities greater than you can imagine. Take your time and suppress your stress. Along with your stress, your financial situation will gradually improve to a point of bliss.

Romantically, your concepts of dream and reality will collide. Your dream relationship is in reach. Do not rush to find it, but instead it will find you. It will not be crystal clear to you, so do not push anyone out. Stay open to possibility and the potential relationship you aspire for.

Aries (Mar 21- Apr 19)

For 2023 be slow to aggression, and keep your thoughts under control. Do not let your thoughts wander as they will damage your potential for opportunity. This year your thoughts and your mindset will dictate your personal and professional success. Balance your emotions and any unwarranted stress or discom-

fort. Do not let negative thoughts dwell for too long in your mind as it will be hard to let them go.

This year your personal relationships will flourish. You will thrive off of social connections. You will form newer and stronger platonic relationships. Do not let fear overcome your pursuit for friendships. These friendships will be long-lasting and true. Do not be overwhelmed, instead embrace it.

Taurus (Apr 20- May 20)

In 2023, focus on your health and your habits. Try that new workout plan you want. Or practice meditation. Expect changes in your daily routine and be ready to readjust your habits. This year will be a test of determination. You will have ups and downs, but stay consistent in your ways. That's the key.

This year, be careful trying to pursue relationships. For all you singles out there, 2023 might not be the year for you. This is a year to let go of the past. Be cautious of those you feel are close as they will steer you in the wrong direction this year.





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Gemini (May 21- Jun 20)

This year you will put your career first. Although you have had setbacks in the past and things have not gone your way, this is your year to flourish. Your bosses and higher ups will acknowledge your work, and provide positive feedback towards it. You will receive a raise and/or promotion this year in recognition of your hard work. Continue to work hard and push through setbacks.

You have already met your lover, and in 2023 this relationship will blossom to new levels. You have had thoughts about them romantically, but this year those thoughts ring true. Do not be surprised or caught off guard when that person pursues you in new fashion.

Cancer (Jun 21- Jul 22)

Do not be afraid to tackle new things. 2023 will be a year where you jump around between passions and hobbies. You will pick up a new skill. You will use it daily and use it as a part of your career. It will change your mindset and potentially forge a new path for you. It will not come easy, so take your time. You will not perfect it this year, but you will get

very close to perfection.

This year do not let arguments and disagreements get between you and your significant other. Resolve any discontent as this will keep your relationship alive this year. Listen and understand what they have to say before hitting back at them.

Leo (July 23- Aug 22)

In 2023, avoid dwelling on the past and what could have been. These negative thoughts can damage your health and harm your mindset. This year stay patient. Setbacks and delays in your career and education are imminent. Do not expect support or approval from those in high authority over you, continue to work towards your strengths in this field. You will thrive in new passions and find joy in the goals you set for yourself.

This year will bring prosperity in both personal relationships and romantic relationships. For this prosperity, do not let outside variables interfere with your relationships. Your love for your significant other will triumph over any other. Whatever you do, do not get into a relationship with a Virgo.



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Virgo (Aug 23- Sep 22)

This year will be a year for spending time with your family and those close to you. Your family will need you more than ever in 2023, so be sure to be there when they call. This time with family will bring new experiences for you and create a refined sense of unity between you and your family. You will see an increase in happiness and find joy in the things you have previously overlooked.

You are not getting married this year. But you will find the one that you love. Whether it is at first glance, or it takes some warming up to, you will find that special someone. Relax. Take it all in, and don't think too hard about it.

Libra (Sep 23- Oct 22)

2023 will be a monumental year for you. You will find success in the many opportunities you are given. Take each opportunity and put your best to it. Be ready for travel and movement because these opportunities will be a

journey. Stress and anxiety are guaranteed, so focus your mind on the positives. The journey will be difficult, but with the right mindset you will find success and fortune.

All of your relationships will be emotionally driven. Romantically, let your emotions pave the way for your relationship. Express how you feel and what you're thinking. Platonically let your friends know what you're going through. They are here for this exact reason.

Scorpio (Oct 23- Nov 21)

You will thrive in school this year. 2023 will be the year you show off the years of school and the hours of studying you have done. Continue to take school seriously and do not let up. Make your family proud. Make your professors proud. Prove the doubters wrong. This year school will be your escape and your outlet from the world. Take the time to appreciate the educational opportunities you have been given.

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This year be cautious looking for love. You might be thinking you have found the one, but look very closely before determining that. Love does not come easy nor is it simple. Understand the person and their intentions before jumping into anything serious.

Sagittarius (Nov 22- Dec 21)

2023 will be a year of gradual growth. The start of the year may have been rocky, but it is only up from here. Remain open to change and be prepared for a memorable year. You will grow in all aspects of your life. Let this growth be a reward for the difficult times in the past. This year will bring out a new side of you than seen before. Let go of past mistakes and past struggles, as this year is different.

In 2023 be bold and take risks romantically. Do not fear rejection or abandonment. Take the risk of pursuing them. Ask them on that date. Be outgoing and open-minded. This year is for

you to be confident and bold in relationships.

It doesn't take much to fall into the rabbit hole of astrology. There are horoscopes specific to your emotions, work, school life, compatibility, and many more. Outside of this there are many more layers to it than expressed above, so feel free to dive deeper into your birth chart and your moon signs. Now once again, you can take these with a grain of salt, or use them as a foundation for your year. Whichever option you choose, may it fill you with joy and let's make 2023 a year to remember.

Slow Dance Songs

ETTA JAMES

AT
LAST

ELVIS PRESLEY

CAN'T HELP
FALLING IN
LOVE

JOHN LEGEND

ALL OF ME

LORD HURON

THE NIGHT
WE MET

PAUL ANKA

PUT YOUR
HEAD ON MY
SHOULDER

DAN + SHAY

SPEECHLESS

THE RIGHTEOUS BROTHERS

UNCHAINED
MELODY

TAYLOR SWIFT

LOVER

ALICIA KEYS

IF I AIN'T GOT
YOU

ADELE

TO MAKE YOU
FEEL MY LOVE

ED SHEERAN

PERFECT

FRANKIE VALLI

CAN'T TAKE MY
EYES OFF YOU

loveisland VS **TOO HOT TO HANDLE**

ELIDA TAYLOR, staff writer

Many of you are surely familiar with “Love Island” and “Too Hot to Handle”, the two sizzling summer series that have taken the world by storm which I’d have to blame the constant wearing of swimsuits for. Both binge-worthy series follow a core cast of single men and women attempting to form deeper connections. However, as similar as these shows may seem, there are various differences that raise the question: which show is better?

“Love Island” is most simply described as a British dating show. The version that we all have come to know and love started in 2015. The goal of the show is for the contestants, called islanders, to couple up with another single person in an attempt to find love and win a cash prize at the end of the series. Coupling up is the only way to retain a placement in the show and failure to do so results in being sent home. Sounds easy enough right? Couples are monitored closely in an Instagram-worthy villa where sharing is caring as they are isolated together for eight weeks. To make things even more entertaining, themed challenges were played to encourage close intimacy between those coupled up as well as giving “Love Island” viewers the fun entertainment of seeing these singles go through various obstacle courses. “Love Island” has even allowed the viewers to interact and decide the islanders’ fate through the “Love Island” app. Viewers throughout the series are sometimes able to vote who gets dumped, the new arrivals, and ultimately who wins the cash prize. Although I’d never join a show like “Love Island” the constant drama between couples and friends, as well as the anticipation of each new episode definitely keeps me entertained.

“Too Hot to Handle” was a top trending show on Netflix upon the first season’s arrival. The show started in 2020 as a Netflix original that was described as a dating game. Although the show is similar to the style “Love Island” portrays, it actually tricks its contestants into thinking they are going on a dream vacation filled with parties and sunbathing. However, hours after the contestants are introduced a huge twist is dropped on the group. The cast must refrain from all physical intimacy for the duration of the show. If they are successful they walk away with a large cash prize split between each of them, however, if any physical contact occurs between two singles, they are given a punishment. Every time a rule is broken money is deducted from the prize. Easy enough, right? Well not for these singles – viewers are kept intrigued by the anticipation of revealing rule breaks and affairs. I also forgot to mention that the host is a virtual assistant named Lana who doesn’t allow even the sneakiest contestants to get away with a rule break, these rule breaks can be something as simple as a kiss. Contestants are forced to form deeper connections not based on lust but on meaning. “Too Hot to Handle” has caused an uproar on social media because of the contestants’ constant rule breaks. How hard could it be to refrain from physical intimacy when money is on the line? Everytime I watch a new season of “Too Hot to Handle” I’m on the edge of my seat for this very reason. Junior student and avid watcher of both series, Janet Zazueta comments, “I’d have to pick ‘Love Island’ over ‘Too Hot to Handle’. I believe “Love Island” allows relationships to blossom without punishment. Contestants are able to make genuine connections without rule breaks and the cash prize being dangled over their heads. It doesn’t feel fabricated and that’s what makes it enjoyable to watch.” Whether you’re into the classics or want something new and innovative these two dating shows will have you rushing with anticipation as you watch. You may not love them both but that’s the fun of being able to experience two completely different kinds of dating shows.



Guide To Fame

Well, I have no idea what to tell you here. You would think asking someone who is TikTok famous would be a better fit for this article. Is there anybody at Mars Hill University who went viral? Alright, I'll give this topic a go.

If you were to Google how to be TikTok famous, you'd find pieces of advice like, "make content you care about, post as much as you can, bring out your skills and stories, bring something new to the table." But there are also things that you can do, like, put a famous song on the video to increase viewer audience. Something like that.

TikTok is a video-sharing app that allows users to create and share short-form videos on any topic. The feed of videos is customized to what you like and interact with the most. To explain this more, (if you know how that works just skip) if you hit that like button for a video of cats playing, the feed is going to refresh with things similar to that video.

The app has become somewhat addicting. I often find myself stuck on the app, my eyes glued to the screen, and somehow becoming oblivious that four hours have passed. It's kind of sad how consuming technology has become. And another thing about TikTok. There are so many creators and so many videos out there. You could literally go viral from doing anything. I've seen videos viral for art, clothing, sports, or the thirst traps. I don't know what it is that specifically captures people's eyes. In order for me to hit that like button, I have to either relate to the content or find a bit of

humor out of it. Right now, I am stuck on Harry Potter TikTok or Impractical Jokers. Both of them interest me, so the algorithm sticks me into those categories.

There are so many people that walk the red carpet now because of TikTok. There's the famous Charlie D'Amelio who now has 141.1 million followers. Isn't that insane? I'd imagine if I were to ask her how she quickly rose to fame it would go like:

"Hey Charlie, how did you get TikTok famous?"

Then I'd expect an answer like... "uh.. I just posted a video dancing."

It's hit or miss. Just post what you want. Or don't. TikTok is all about posting at the right time, consistency, and TikTok's algorithm. Do what you would like in this life. Not my place to tell you what to do or how to do it.

LEANN CROTTS, staff writer



Single Valentines POV

KIANA TUCKETT, managing editor

The clichés of single people hating love are out the door this Valentine's Day. Why? As if you were to need a reason, I'll offer a few:

1. Miley Cyrus's song "Flowers" (you know, the one where she says she can buy herself flowers and write her name in the sand) just broke Spotify's all-time record for streams in a week, and if more than 100 million other people are listening to her, you should, too.

2. You won't have to buy anyone flowers (except maybe yourself or your mom; yea, you should buy your mom some flowers).

3. You won't have to worry about whether or not your significant other is going to buy you flowers because you don't have one.

What will I be doing this Valentine's Day? Certainly not writing a mopey, self-pitying POV about the despairs of single living. I'm not—and I know you aren't either—single out of some inability to get into a relationship, but instead the unwillingness to accept a bare minimum standard of mediocrity. Don't get me wrong, I love seeing the love my friends in relationships share, but I certainly do not miss the Valentine's Days I spent being in a relationship. Every American Man's celebrity crush, Ryan Reynolds, did say expectations are set up for disappointment: even low ones. And I think I have been single on some of my best Valentine's Days as a result of not spending them dreading disappointment.

So, this valentine's day, I can buy myself flowers (I probably won't but the point is that I CAN). In reality, my mom will probably buy me flowers like the angel she is, and I'll have a "Galentine's Day" eating heart shaped donuts and cheeses and drinking pink and red wine. The best part about it? My friends in relationships were the ones who suggested the idea.

Horoscope Pairs



Dating in the Signs

The start of February means its love season again, and what could be more romantic than judging past (failed) relationships off of zodiac signs. If you hadn't heard from the last article, I am single, so rather than trying to decipher which sign I would be most compatible with, I decided to ask my friends, family, and people what zodiac sign they would never date again and compare how compatible they really are.

"I would never go back to a Pisces. They hate me." -Capricorn

Zodiacsign.com gives Pisces and Capricorn a compatibility score of 78%. While Capricorn will bring stability to Pisces, Pisces will inspire Capricorn. While Pisces can be emotional, Capricorn can be practical. And while a Capricorn can learn to be more exciting, a Pisces can be brought down to earth. But, as Pisces and Capricorn represent very different characteristics, a Pisces can become too emotional and end up overwhelming a Capricorn while a Capricorn, with their practicality, can lack adequate affection for a Pisces.

"The dunce was a Gemini." -Scorpio

Scorpio and Gemini receive a whopping score of 15%. Essentially, they will likely annoy each other incessantly. However, a commonality of both signs is their openness to change. They must both understand each other deeply to thrive, otherwise Gemini's want for freedom will clash with Scorpio's possessive tendencies. Geminis often represent superficiality while Scorpios often represent deepness. If these two are not doomed to clash, they must both grow and change to meet in the middle of their differences.

"That Sagittarius was an emotionless, manipulative liar." - Gemini

Gemini and Sagittarius are said to be 92% compatible. Together they are said to have an innocent, almost childlike, relationship based on intellect where emotions are further deepened over time. While they are often highly compatible in almost every sense, they may find themselves in the wrong place, wrong time situation. Though together they can become a pairing that exudes

happiness, they can also become scared of their own emotions and let their fear get the best of them in this match.

"I would never date an Aquarius again." -Aries

Aries and Aquarius are 68% compatible, according to Zodiacsign.com. This pairing can either lead to an extremely exciting or an extremely stressful relationship for the two signs. Both having strong wills, they must learn to adapt to each other for their connection to deepen. Aries are often serious compared to Aquarius's light-hearted demeanor. Aquarius must learn to become more open to their emotions and Aries must learn to be more patient and flexible.

Overall, any of these matches can flourish or flop based on each sign's willingness to put effort into the relationship. No matter how compatible or incompatible the first website I found when I searched "Zodiac Pairings" tells you you may be with your partner or a certain sign, it very likely won't matter until you've broken up and are looking for more reasons to scorn their name. So, if a certain sign has put a bad taste in your mouth, maybe choose to take it out on the person, and not a whole birth month; you may find yourself in a very different position with someone of the same sign. And if the second go-around doesn't work either, well, third times a charm.



FACE OFF:

Are Horoscopes Healthy?



PROFESSOR

If MHU was a European University during the Middle Ages, astrology would have been a fundamental mathematical discipline. Astrology sought to measure what was happening above (stars, planets, comets, etc.) and link it to what was going on below (agriculture, weather, medical conditions/treatments, people's dispositions, fortune and failure). In fact, you would have been taught to construct and read a basic horoscope as part of the judicial branch of astrology, which considers how the ever-expanding elements of the cosmos impact us and our endeavors. However, religious orders took exception to astrology's violation of free will (i.e., Mercury was in retrograde and created chaos) and the practice, when applied to humans, was determined to be blasphemous. Scientific societies founded in the 17th and 18th century were critical of astrological predictions due to their lack of scientific rigor. Thus, the University moved away from astrology but kept

STUDENT

There are thousands of personality quizzes and spirit animal tests online to give a person a relative understanding of their personality type. Horoscopes, however, are based on the foundation that one's character can be traced through the astrological and solar events within a certain time frame. However, according to Scientific American, there is no scientific evidence to support horoscope theories. Even with this groundless and wild theory, people still choose to base life decisions off horoscopes. When taken too far, horoscopes prove to be harmful to a person's life.

For instance, the dating field has recently become heavily based on astrology signs. Whereas people used to evaluate experience to determine compatibility, now people are using what their partner's horoscope sign says about him/her to determine the strength of the relationship. In an

PROFESSOR ANN PEIFER

teaching the mathematics of the cosmos in astronomy. Astrology became more of a parlor-trick, novelty as the focus of "knowing" moved further from being located "above" or outside of the human body to being centered within the body and mind. Most individuals engage with horoscopes for three major reasons: information about our own personality and tendencies (e.g., Taurus = stubborn), relationship compatibility (Hey baby, what's your sign?), and finally to frame our outlook for the day or year based on what the "stars" say. Taking these in turn, the field of psychology has empirically assessed personality traits (e.g., the Big 5) and archetypes (see the work of Jung). These associations are based on a person's internal understanding of themselves and can be connected to categories of "typical" behavior, thought processes, and feelings regarding self. Psychology models out-perform or are better predictors than celestial bodies, since they move

HANNAH ROSE FRAZER, editor-in-chief

article published in Medium, writer Caitlin Anders states that astrology can be used to justify or force unhealthy relationships. "If someone is in a relationship that everyone is telling them to get out of, but they look up their sign and their significant other's sign and it says that they're compatible and they use that as a reason to stay, that's unhealthy," Anders claims. She continues to list other examples such as, "if someone keeps having the same kinds of relationship problems over and over again but says, 'Well, it's just 'cause I'm a Libra,' and uses that as a reason not to address them, that's unhealthy." By using horoscopes to give reason for unhealthy relationship behavior, it can possibly lead a person to be stuck in a mentally unstable relationship.

In addition, obsessing over horoscopes can lead to poor decision making. Whereas people believe that their zodiac sign is just a "bad decision

the predicting framework into the person. In regards to relationships, when we believe we know someone else we believe we can predict their behavior and create expectations for what will happen. Unconsciously (or consciously) we then create a self-fulfilling prophecy - recording behavior that matches, rejecting observations that refute our belief, and manifesting our "reality". Applied in China at a society level, stereotypes created by negative attributes in horoscopes have been shown to limit and harm individuals born under an unfavorable sign. Finally, since we all have some level of every possible human characteristic in us that can be present in the right context, we are susceptible to the "Barnum Effect". Horoscopes are written so vaguely that because we believe we should be described by a label "Scorpio" we find a relationship to the predictions we read there, especially when they are positive.

maker," in actuality people respond based on their sign's character traits. Heather Saul, journalist for Independent, exposes the research found in Journal of Consumer Research. "People who checked their horoscope daily were more likely to behave impulsively or exhibit indulgent behaviour if their zodiac was negative," Saul expresses. Thus proving that people respond based on their horoscope's personality rather than their own intuition.

This is not to say that believing in horoscopes means the world is ending, but there is a difference between consuming the role of one's astrological sign and being interested and/or curious about it. A reminder that many are reinforcing: it is not scientifically proven.

New Taylor Fitness Center Rules

THOMAS BERTELSEN, staff writer

New year, new semester, and many new initiatives are born, resumed, or considered. And with the start of a new year comes the perfect opportunity to launch new habits. And while some of them may not stick, trying does no harm! According to a survey by Statista.com, the most popular New Year's resolution in America is exercising more - 52% of participants said they wanted to hit the gym more this year. So, if this is also the case for you, there are plenty of opportunities to make it happen. On campus, we have the Taylor Fitness Center, which is happily open to current students, faculty, and staff. With various workout stations and machines, there's plenty of opportunity to work out precisely what you want, whether it's weightlifting, strength, cardio, running, cycling, or rowing.

But just as we individuals dare to take new initiatives, so does the board of Taylor Fitness Center, which takes your workout to new heights. Coach Carter's new vision of the MHU Taylor Fitness Center is to be the model facility for all colleges and universities of similar vision, budget, and size. They aim to provide great service and great experience to all members. Their mission is to provide members the means by which they can train consistently, sensibly, and systematically in a safe, clean, and professional environment to help reduce the risk of injury and improve quality of life performance. Furthermore, to provide members with a knowledgeable resource by which they can educate themselves on the importance of daily activity, good

nutrition and its role in health and performance, and the abuse and effects of performance-enhancing substances. All this applies to the weight room, as well as the academic process, career development, and life skills.

With these new objectives and actions, the operating hours had originally been Monday through Friday, from 6:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m., including a "Women Only Session" every Thursday at 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. Furthermore, the gym was on Saturday and Sunday from 10:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m. But towards the end of last semester, the hours were changed. The new hours of operation are Monday through Friday, from 8:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. and Sunday from 12:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m., but closed on Saturday. This may require some students to reschedule their routine and work around the many other tasks on their daily to-do lists in order to fit into the new opening hours. These limited opening hours concern students who value a workout session earlier in the morning, before class, or later in the evening after school and work. By having more flexible hours, it prevents overcrowding in the weight room. The new hours affects a student-athlete from the Tennis team, Carli Stiles: "In order for me to go to the gym with my internship, I would need the gym open at 6 a.m. This change of hours has forced me to purchase a gym membership to accommodate my schedule." Furthermore, there are concerns from student-athletes who are out of season and want to take advantage of the free weekends to develop strength and fitness.

The Women Only session, which occurred every Thursday from 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm, has also been eliminated which concerns senior student, and now former leader of these sessions, Mikayla Ledford: "Personally, I am disappointed that the work we put in last semester is being dismantled. I've had many women say that two hours of an entire week isn't hard to plan around, and I personally agree. There is frustration and confusion in the mix, as it was becoming commonplace last semester and the advertisement is still on university announcement screen rotations. Mostly there are a lot of devastated and disappointed women on campus." By all means, there is no doubt that these sessions were important to women across campus. Ledford experienced a special kind of community at Taylor Fitness Center, and she personally cherished and valued the safe space: "I saw women supporting others by helping each other learn and grow, and I got to take part in teaching and providing resources for girls who wanted to take their first steps into the gym. It provided a safe space for victims of assault and DV on campus to come, free from worrying about if their attacker was going to come in during their workout, which provided some equity, rather than equality, in the fitness center environment." Along with the reinstatement of women-only hours, she also suggests that the Taylor Fitness Center offer weekly men's-only hours, for the same reason, as it is not just women who face assault on campus, and that is not something that should be looked over. We reached out to Coach Carter nu-

merous times for an interview, but did not receive a response for the questions of how the decisions of the new hours were established, the deciding factor of removing the Women's only hours, and regarding new rules such as dress code implemented in the new gym. With reference to new rules, The Roar was able to get access to the packet instructions that all gym workers are expected to enforce in the gym. Thus, it points out that only appropriate closed shoes are allowed, i.e. no flip-flops and sandals are allowed. In addition, appropriate athletic clothing must be worn at all times. Including shirts must cover the entire upper body, gym shorts or sweats are required. Cut-off shirts, jeans, belts, or any other attire that may cause skin contact with or damage the benches are not allowed. There remain a number of other rules to adhere to and if you are interested in learning more about these, please reach out to Taylor Fitness Center Staff during the opening hours.

Although these new developments can be challenging to adjust to for some students, it is essential to be open and optimistic about new changes. Change brings new opportunities – including the chance to learn something new. But learning new skills, new routines, and new ways of thinking is no easy task. It takes energy and shakes our basic need for balance and security.

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