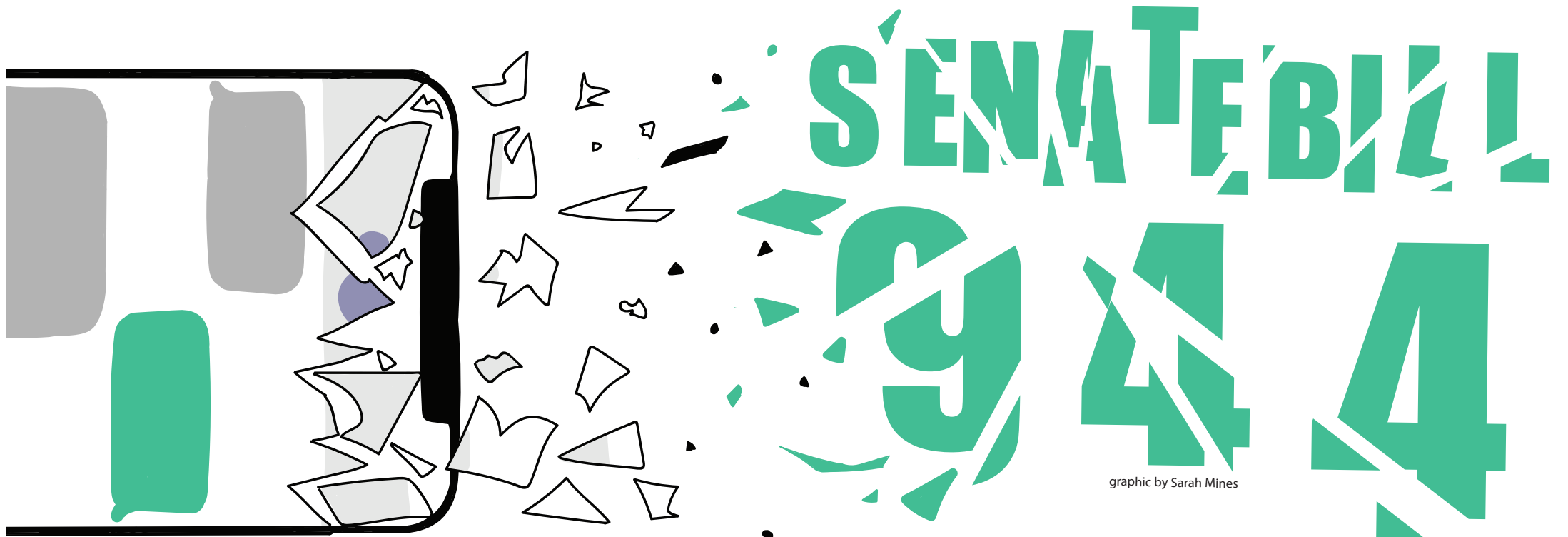


the liberator

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graphic by Sarah Mines

what's news



photo by Sarah Mines

Texas Tribune Tribute

The Texas Tribune Festival hosted panelists such as Nancy Pelosi, Ted Cruz and Pete Buttigieg this year. Austinites came out to listen to these speakers and more.

see **TRIBUNE** page 13

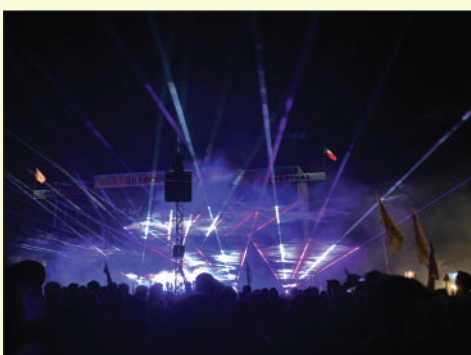


photo by Abigail Jackson

ACL's Rockin History

Austin City Limits has roots in Austin deeper than a music festival. The show originated as a broadcast to showcase musical talent around the city with others.

see **HISTORY** page 11



photo courtesy of Elizabeth McGuire

XC Crosses New Territory

The cross country girls team is increasing their training and preparing to face tough competition in hopes of qualifying for the state championship meet.

see **CROSS COUNTRY** page 15

New Legislation Regulates Usage of Digital Communication for Faculty and Staff, Affecting Daily Interactions with Students

SARAH MINES | editor-in-chief

Texas Senate Bill 944 is an amendment to the Private Information Act. Texas Senator Kirk Watson (D) drafted the bill which went into effect on September 1, 2019. SB944 primarily serves to clarify existing legislation set by court precedents by establishing a process for dealing with public information housed on private devices or digital accounts. This legislature not only affects how government officials must disclose information, but also how government bodies, such as school districts, and government employees, such as teachers, are allowed to communicate.

LASA parent and lawyer David Gonzales frequently presents to LASA faculty on legal matters concerning education policy. According to Gonzales, the purpose of the bill is to ensure that citizens are given proper access to public records. The bill explicitly defines that government employees are only "temporary custodians" of business-related content, even if it is housed on their personal devices.

"It tells you that if you choose to do government business on your personal cell phone or personal email account for state business, then your personal email or cell phone can be subject to an open records request so that people can see what you are talking about," Gonzales said. "In other words, we don't care about what device you use, we care about the content of the communication."

Gonzales usually suggests that educators refrain from using any personal device to communicate with students because it can blur the lines of authority. In government work, he said that it can be difficult to pinpoint exactly where state business might be housed. However, SB944 eliminates any loopholes that might prevent information from being opened to the public or used in court.

"Oftentimes, the best evidence is the evidence that happened immediately on a text message before someone takes the time to compose a well thought out email that might be self-serving," Gonzales said. "So sometimes you want what's called 'excited utterances' which is an immediate impression, and text messages give you a lot more

than that. So it has evidentiary value."

The implementation of this legislature is intended to encourage the use of government-issued devices and accounts. While this simplifies the process of collecting information for public records, Gonzales believes that it also helps maintain professionalism in the workplace.

"Whether you are in the highest layer of government or in the local government, there is a reason why we have formal methods of communication," Gonzales said. "One of the first things the bill does is create greater transparency. It increases the professionalism of teachers because they are working in such close contact with students. In my opinion, it's one more step that increases the professionalism of public servants such as teachers."

Despite the recent implementation of SB944, its content is not a radical shift from pre-existing policies. Previously, the legislation was set by court precedents and not enumerated into a statute.

see **SENATE BILL** page 6



FLICK OF THE DISC Junior Will DiCarlo throws a disc as part of Disc Golf Club. DiCarlo founded the club as a way to share his passion for the sport with others. photo by Charles Taylor

Getting into the Swing of Disc Golf

CHARLES TAYLOR | sports editor

Students gathered in room 220 for Disc Golf Club's first meeting hosted by junior and club leader Will DiCarlo. Disc golf is a sport similar to golf in which players attempt to get frisbees into an elevated basket using as few throws as possible. Freshman and Disc Golf Club member Andy Wang said the sport is unique in that it combines hiking and throwing frisbees.

"It incorporates many different things," Wang said. "It's like hiking while playing a different kind of frisbee at the same time. I feel like it's slightly frowned upon, but it's a really good time."

According to DiCarlo, disc golf allows one to explore in nature while simultaneously playing a sport. DiCarlo said the sport is enjoyable because it allows one to compete with friends.

"It's fun just because you're walking through nature and you're hucking plastic,

you're just having fun in the woods, throwing discs around and competing with each other," DiCarlo said. "I really like hiking, and so I just like walking around in nature, and disc golf just adds an extra layer on that of competition and proving to your friends that you're better."

Senior and disc golf player Carly Atwell said that disc golf can help players improve their ultimate frisbee game. Atwell said that disc golf helps people to improve at throwing discs greater distances, a skill required for pulls, which are similar to kick-offs in football.

"I think playing disc golf helps especially with pulls in ultimate," Atwell said. "How you start each point is you throw the disc from one end of the field to the other team, and so disc golf really helps with that because you're...trying to throw it really far and get it to go straight."

see **DISC GOLF** page 15

By the Numbers Austin City Limits

\$265M economic impact generated by ACL in 2018

99° the temperature on Oct. 6, the 2nd hottest ACL on record

31,165 people traveling by plane the Monday after weekend two

see **ACL** page 11

graphic by Andrew Luckinger

Expanding Horizons German Exchange Returns

EVE NGUYEN | staff writer

This summer, 28 LASA juniors and seniors entering the German four and five classes stayed in Berlin, Germany with German host families. During this time, students experienced German culture and were able to practice their German skills. This October, their exchange partners, from the Johann-Gottfried-Herder-Gymnasium school in Berlin, came to stay in Austin for three weeks as part of the second half of the exchange program.

LASA junior Sachin Allums is a part of the exchange program and spent three weeks this summer living with a host family in Germany. Allums said he had a great time in Germany. He, his host family and other LASA students went on daily excursions, visited popular attractions and spent time in local parks and shops.

"My time in Germany was amazing," Allums said. "I went with a group of small friends and we rented bikes and we biked along the rivers in Dresden. In general, it was just really fun to see a bunch of attractions in Germany, to experience the culture and to eat the delicious food that they had to offer."

LASA junior Liam Boone was also a part of the exchange program. He said he enjoyed being a part of the exchange because it allowed him to take part in things he isn't normally exposed to. One of the day-to-day differences that stuck out to Boone was the use of public transportation in Germany.

"They rely a lot more on public transportation than we do," Boone said. "They said they have taxes they have to pay on cars that are really expensive to have a car. Most of them either didn't have a car or had one car. In America, we act like we need cars, but there they were fine without having one."

Allums said he recognized that German and American societies are quite different. Despite those differences, he emphasized how his host family made him feel very at home.

"My host family was really nice," Allums said. "They were super accommodating, and they understood that the Americans had slightly different needs than the Germans had."

Allums and Boone also said that staying with host families was an experience that allowed them to get a more immersive experience of true German culture, as opposed to just being exposed to the more touristy parts of Germany. Boone said that being completely immersed in German culture helped a lot with his ability to understand and speak German more fluently.

"My German skills definitely improved a lot more than I thought they would just from having to talk in German," Boone said. "The need to talk in German in order to communicate made me think more about just fluently speaking instead of thinking of how I can say a sentence and then saying it."

German teacher Christopher Parks said that this three-week exchange greatly improved the students' abilities to

see **EXCHANGE** page 10

editorial Our Stance on the Impeachment Inquiry

Many Americans assume impeachment results in the removal of the President or another elected official from office. Recently, it has been muddled in the murky waters of political rhetoric that inhibit basic civic understanding for the average American. The topic of impeachment is a catalyst for passionate debate from all sides of the political spectrum and is bound to result in raised emotions and even greater division.

According to the U.S. Constitution, impeachment is the process through which the House of Representatives brings charges against a government official for alleged crimes. Once articles for impeachment are drawn, they go to the Senate for a proper trial. The Senate will then decide the fate of the elected official. It is only following a successful conviction through the impeachment process that the official in question would be removed from office. In the case of a failed conviction, the elected official is all but guaranteed the success of a base rejuvenated by their untouchable upright leader. Many Americans fail to realize that there is a difference between impeachment and removal from office.

On Sept. 24th, the Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi (D-CA) announced that the House will be preparing to undergo an inquiry into the impeachment of the current President of the United States, Donald J. Trump.

The charge comes down to the interpretation of the phrase "high crimes and misdemeanors." This phrase is the basis for which impeachment charges may be drawn. A White House whistleblower revealed a phone call authorizing criminal activity had been made between President Trump and the Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky on July 25th. According to the summary of a White House call log, Trump asked for Zelensky to investigate former Vice President and 2020 Democratic frontrunner Joe Biden and his son. Weeks before the call, Trump ordered the halt of hundreds of millions of dollars of military aid to Ukraine, prompting speculation Trump was using the money as leverage to aid his reelection.

While there may be some truth that there were questionable actions undertaken by Trump, there exist very real concerns about the validity of the claims on the left. Constitutionally, there is a great deal of leeway for House Democrats on account of the phrase "treason, bribery, high crimes and misdemeanors" being so ambiguous. Historically, Presidents have been impeached for a variety of charges ranging from obstruction of justice, as was the case with Clinton, and misappropriation of government resources for political gain, as was the case with Nixon. These charges would establish a precedent for house lawmakers to pursue charges against Trump, as it would be fairly easy to interpret his actions as a misuse of government resources. However, Presidents can be impeached on whatever charge a majority of the House will find to fit under the

phrase "high crimes and misdemeanors".

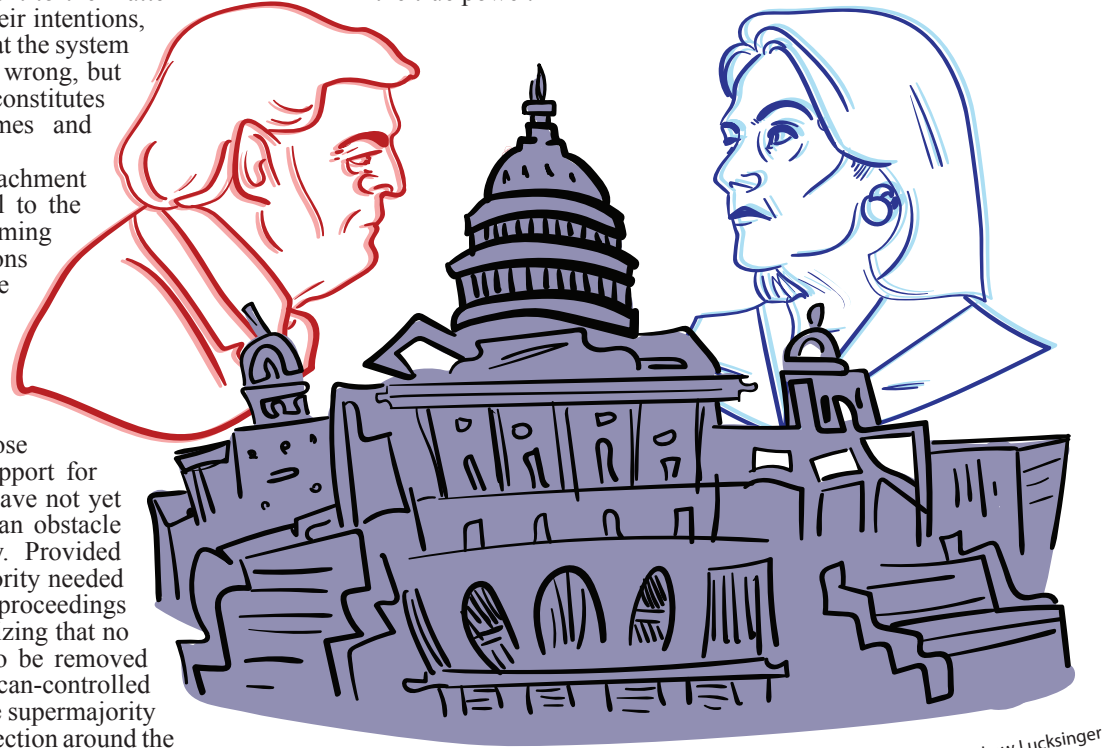
With the release of a transcription of the President's phone call with the Ukrainian president, vocalization for impeachment has steadily increased. According to a data poll released by FiveThirtyEight, the support varies across the political spectrum. A majority of Democrats are polled with 84.7 percent favoring impeachment. Republicans were polled at 12.6 percent and Independents at 45.9 percent supporting the impeachment. This survey concluded that average support for impeachment is roughly 48 percent, meaning that a significant number of Americans champion an impeachment.

Those who favor an impeachment claim that the President has exhibited abuse of power, which warrants immediate action from Congress. These supporters of impeachment argue that a crime was committed and that it is the responsibility of our elected officials to pursue action. These supporters more often than not fail to grasp the subjectivity that is inherent to the matter of impeachment. While noble in their intentions, these people may not understand that the system does not exist to debate right from wrong, but rather is concerned with what constitutes the subjective phrase 'high crimes and misdemeanors'.

Those who oppose impeachment claim that it would be detrimental to the Democratic Party in the upcoming election. They believe that the actions of Democrats could reinvigorate Trump's base. Statutes of both houses of Congress could allow us to predict future outcomes. As of the 2018 Midterm election, Democrats have 235 seats in the House. Only seven of those Democrats have yet to declare support for impeachment. The 200 seats that have not yet supported impeachment represent an obstacle for the 290 in the supermajority. Provided Democrats could get the supermajority needed to continue with impeachment, proceedings would move to the Senate. Recognizing that no sitting President has been voted to be removed from office, and that the Republican-controlled Senate will most likely not grant the supermajority of 67 votes needed with the 2020 Election around the corner, opponents of impeachment believe that this provides

reason as to why the Democrats must be cautious in their desire to impeach President Trump. Those opposed to impeachment suggest that a botched impeachment could secure Trump's spot in the White House for another four years.

We can not ignore, however, the concerning lack of evidence that has led many who do not understand impeachment to take radical stances while officials are currently in the preliminary investigation phase. If Democrats hope to vanquish Trump, they must explore avenues that match the desires of their constituents, and they must recognize their constituents may not be the people who share their values. If Republicans hope to maintain their growing control of the government, then they must recognize that support for impeachment may soon be a popular demand. Regardless of where you stand, one thing remains clear: if our elected officials hope to maintain power, it will be in their best interest to be more honest with American citizens, as it is the people who hold the true power.



graphic by Andrew Lucksinger

STAFF STANCE: Every six-weeks the Liberator staff present their opinion on an important current issue in the form of an editorial written by the Commentary editors. The opinions in the piece represent those of the staff.



Liberated Minds Speak Up

Do you believe that President Trump engaged in any activity that warrants impeachment?



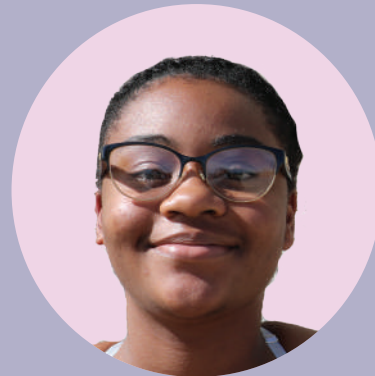
Catherine Masey, 9th

While I feel I do not know that much about this, I definitely think that there was something messed up about the whole Ukraine deal.



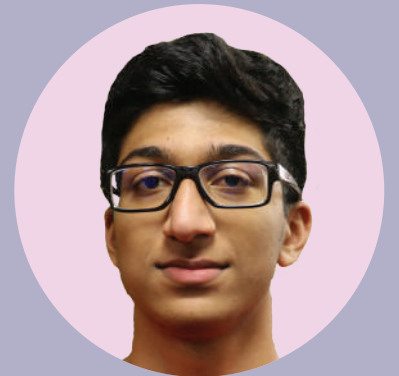
Sohail Saffari, 10th

No, I do not because the Mueller investigation and the FBI investigation failed to prove that Trump did anything that was illegal.



Terry Brown, 11th

I do believe that he has. He is not necessarily the best president, and he has not made the best of various things going on with America.



Zahir Shaikh, 12th

I think that he has a lot of allegations against him which prove that he needs to be impeached. He has bribed women to stay silent about his behavior.

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If you are interested in writing for the paper and becoming a club contributor then be sure to stop by Portable 5A to find out more!

the liberator

Editorial Policy

Responsibilities of a Free Student Press: Serving the primary communication link within the Liberal Arts and Science Academy and between the school and the local community, this newspaper accepts the responsibilities inherent in being a free press. *The Liberator* staff strives to produce a professional-quality publication that follows the Code of Ethics of the Society of Professional Journalists. The objective is to print the news in a fair and objective way with the utmost regard for integrity.

Editorial Content:

1. The students on *The Liberator* staff will print articles which have been researched to the best of their ability to obtain most complete information.
2. The information will be presented in an objective, truthful and fair manner.
3. When personal commentary is given it will be in good taste on issues that have been researched, analyzed and where expert opinion has been sought, and then presented with the best ability of the writer. In addition, all opinion or commentary will be clearly labeled as so.
4. No material which is obscene, libelous or that will cause an immaterial and substantial disruption of the school day, according to accepted legal definitions, will be printed.

The Editorial Boards and its Functions:

The Liberator staff will be governed by an editorial board comprised of the following individuals: editors-in-chief and section editors.

The Editorial board will:

1. Determine the content of the publication (with input from other staff members).
2. Stress the editorial policy.
3. Ensure the accuracy of the publication.
4. Address disciplinary or other inappropriate behavior of staff.
5. Vote on removal of staff members.
6. Change or add policy as necessary with three of four board members voting favorably.

Viewpoints:

Printed material which is a view of a staff member or a contributing writer will be labeled as such. These views are not intended to reflect the view of the administration of Liberal Arts and Science Academy nor the School Board of the Austin Independent School District. Viewpoints will be given in two areas in the newspaper.

Editorials: These will be determined by the staff consensus. The editorial will be unsigned and will represent the viewpoint of the publication.

Letters to the Editor: Letters to the Editor are accepted for topics of general interest to the readership of the newspaper. Letters must be submitted typed or neatly printed in ink and must have the signature of the writer and the writer's grade level. Editors reserve the right to determine which issue the letter goes in, with every effort made to print the letter as soon as possible. The editors also reserve the right to edit the letter for grammar, length and repetition.

Non-Staff Contributors: Bylined contributions are welcome.

Correction of Errors: The staff makes every effort to print accurate information. In the case of errors, a written correction will be made in the following issue of the newspaper.

Sources:

In general, no anonymous sources will be used in reporting. Sources from within the school, as well as those not connected with the school, will be used. Under no circumstances will gifts, including coupons, etc., be accepted by the staff members from sources or advertisers.

Note: *The Liberator* is an open forum.

Thank you for reading and enjoying our Newspaper! We hope you found a story that kept you turning the page!



Have an opinion about a new school policy? Got an issue with this issue? Anything else on your mind? Email us at lasaliberator@gmail.com or DM us @lasaliberator.

The Pros and Cons of Wearing Student IDs at LASA

SKYLAR SIDENSOL-DENERO | staff writer

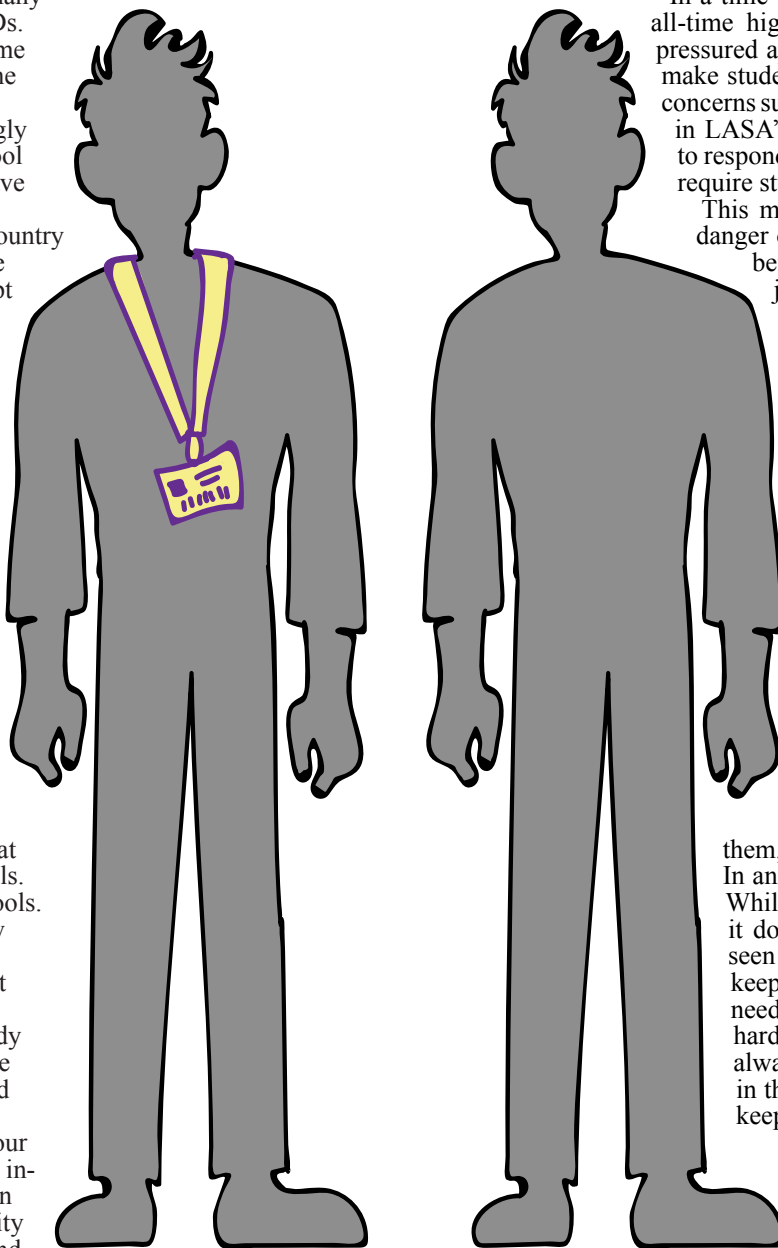
LUCI GARZA | staff writer



As you have most likely noticed, many students haven't been wearing their IDs. Even I am guilty of forgetting it at home or leaving it in my backpack. But in the past 10 years, threats and violence towards schools have become increasingly prevalent. In 2018, there were 24 school shootings, and so far in 2019, there have been 22. These tragedies have pushed countless administrations across the country to raise security in schools through the implementation of policies that attempt

to inhibit possible dangers to schools. This is where Student IDs come in. IDs are supposed to be an effective addition to campuses, as they create a more secure and comfortable environment for students. I can't lie and say that my ID always manages to complete my daily outfit, but this does not change the fact that they are still very reliable safety precautions. Within each ID there is data on the person which includes their name, grade, and student identification number. This helps to create clear and efficient identification that points out who belongs on campus, and who does not. Out of all the different forms of safety, like bomb-and-drug-sniffing dogs and proposed transparent backpacks, IDs seem to be an extremely easy solution. We should consider ourselves lucky that we do not have to deal with metal detectors or armed guards roaming our halls.

IDs are implemented into many schools around the United States because of how much security they are capable of offering. These little pieces of plastic are extremely useful for teachers and students because of how much it tells faculty and staff. If an intruder comes into the school and everyone is wearing their ID, teachers will be able to easily identify them. In that same vein, this helps keep intruders from even being able to enter the school during the day, because they are checked at the door. We've already seen what happened to the people who forgot their ID during the evacuation drills. By choosing to not wear our IDs, we are inviting danger into our schools. We make our schools less safe by not wearing them, and with the new school year and the incoming class of 2023, these IDs have become a considerably larger aspect of security at LASA. This is not to say that IDs are perfect. They have their problems. For one, they can't unlock the doors, but it's inevitable that if everyone had these cards, somebody would lose theirs. If a student ever managed to lose a key card capable of opening doors, then a person who does not belong on campus could come into our school. Further, if IDs do not have other applications it can be burdensome to students to carry them around. If we can't use our IDs for things like buying lunch or taking attendance, then there is no incentive for students to bring them to school. However, this could be an expensive expenditure that our schools do not yet possess the capability to undergo. I feel like a more responsible student for wearing an ID and having to keep track of it.



graphic by Andrew Lucksinger

In a time when school shootings are at an all-time high, there has been considerable pressure applied to school districts to help make students feel safe on campus. Due to concerns surrounding school safety, officials in LASA's administration announced that to respond to very real dangers they would require students to wear IDs.

This move comes at a time where the danger of school shootings are just now being recognized by the public. In just the past 10 years, U.S schools have been subjected to 180 shootings. This crisis has been talked about by everyone from state and federal politicians to your parents and friends. However, according to the National Center for Education Statistics (NCES), only 7% of schools in America use student IDs to make their campus more secure. While the majority of schools noticed these shootings as being legitimate dangers, they have opted for other, more effective methods. According to the NCES, schools have overwhelmingly preferred the use of security cameras to watch students in the halls, the use of police dogs to check for drugs or bombs and uniforms to identify who belongs on campus. The LASA administration has told students that they want to help build more secure communities, and they cite the implementation of IDs as proof of their commitment to this. Though when I walk through the halls, I see very few people even bothering to hide the fact they aren't wearing their IDs. Administrations fail to understand that being scolded into wearing them won't really stick and that as long as students do not perceive themselves to be in legitimate danger, they will not wear their IDs. Even if students wear them, it doesn't necessarily make the school any safer than before. In an act of shooting, all an ID can do is identify students and staff. While this may be useful should a dangerous person enter the school, it does not truly help keep anyone out of the premises, as I have seen multiple non-students on campus walking their pets. IDs cannot keep out anyone who wants to get on campus, and the administration needs to understand that walking onto campus is nowhere near as hard as it should be. We need to understand that not all kids will always have them on and that this could potentially raise danger in the event of an actual school shooting. A purple lanyard will not keep our entire school safe.

Gun laws have not changed significantly, and Texas is known for being lenient with regards to ownership of firearms. The school has no power to restrict these things, but the school does have control over how they are going to keep students safe, and they must pick a more efficient and genuinely useful strategy.



Review of the Hottest Place to Eat on Campus

BECK WILLIAMS | staff writer



For many teenagers, cafeteria food is a staple of the high school experience. A cheap and easy way to fill up, some students find it easier to get school-provided lunches than to bring their own from home. Being such a large part of high school culture, these lunches are often portrayed in movies and TV-shows in a rather nauseating light. Figuring it could not be that bad, I set out to try some of the most popular lunches from the L B J

cafeteria and find out for myself. To start, I tried the sides and drinks that can be purchased with any of the meals available in the cafeteria. To drink, there are a few options: 1%, skim milk and chocolate milk are available with all meals, and other beverages like tea and sparkling water can be added for extra charge of one dollar. Other sides, such as tater-tots and fruit, are available. All of these are fairly reliable options. If one is unhappy with these,

however, there are also chips available for an extra charge.

The first meal I tasted, and my personal favorite, was the pizza. There simply isn't very much opportunity to go wrong with this American staple. The pizza comes in pepperoni or cheese, and both are delicious options. In my experience, the pizza was usually cooked well, and there were no major concerns or issues. While not Michelin Star cuisine, the cafeteria pizza is a dependable choice that won't let you down.

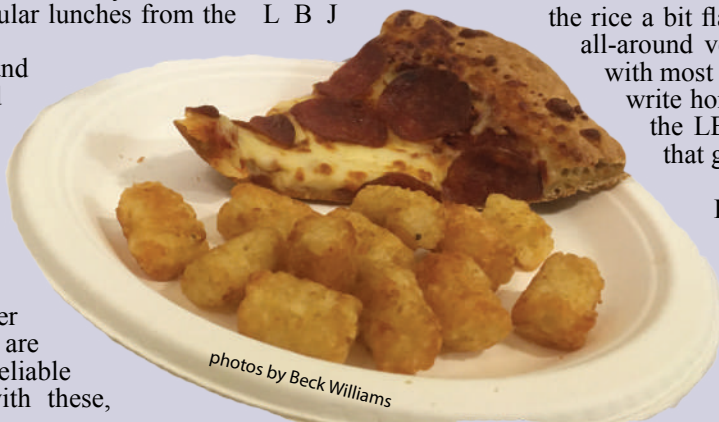
Another meal students have to choose from is Asian food. When I tried it, I got brown rice with orange chicken and a spring roll, topped off with soy sauce. While the chicken was somewhat dry and the rice a bit flavorless, the Asian cuisine was all-around very respectable. As is the case with most cafeteria food, it was nothing to write home about, but the Asian food at the LBJ cafeteria was a good choice that got the job done.

Another option for lunch at LBJ is the grill, from which I tried two entrees. The first I ate was the chicken sandwich, which was my least favorite thing I ate from the cafeteria. I even tried it twice to make sure I hadn't gotten one bad sandwich, but

it was the same the second time as well. The chicken had a funny taste that I can't quite describe, and it seemed undercooked to me. It was definitely low on my list of cafeteria foods, and I would not recommend getting it.

Another meal from the grill, the cheeseburger, had similar problems to the chicken sandwich. It too had a strange flavor and was undercooked, although not to the extent of the chicken sandwich. The cheese helped alleviate these problems, and with a healthy dose of ketchup, the issues were completely unnoticeable. The cheeseburger may not be my favorite lunch I tried, but is not a terrible choice either.

The meals I ate for this review were, of course, only a small sample of what is available at the LBJ cafeteria, but I believe I was able to get a good sense for the general quality of the food. I learned that there are certain entrees, such as the pizza and Asian food, that are pretty safe and tasty options. On the other hand, there are also dishes like the chicken sandwich and the burger that should be avoided if possible. The sides and drinks were also both solid choices. With all of this information, I would say that the LBJ cafeteria is a decent place to eat lunch. I will soon be returning to get seconds of their delicious pizza.



photos by Beck Williams

GEMINI

Although people might dislike your two-facedness, Gemini, use them to play to your advantage this month. Different relationships call for different communication tactics. Just make sure that you're not using them maliciously.

CANCER

This is a good time for you to work on bettering yourself, Cancer. You're mentally ready for a period of change, and you can use that to your advantage. Mend your relationships and try new things.

LEO

This month, Leo, your decision-making skills are better than ever. You're being faced with a new kind of clarity, and it'll help you smooth out all of the wrinkles you've been trying to iron out recently. Follow your gut-- it knows what it's talking about.

VIRGO

Virgo, make sure that you're making yourself as comfortable as possible. You're going to be feeling a little bit more anxious, and keeping track of your basic needs and feelings will be helpful. Don't be afraid to look to your loved ones for help.

LIBRA

Take time to explore how your actions make others react this month, Libra, and learn how to adjust your actions. It's important that you find a solid mix of who you want to be and who you are as a person-- it'll help you find security.

TAURUS

This is an important time for you to find your routines, Taurus. Keeping track of the simple things, like drinking water, eating meals at normal times, and getting enough sleep will be important for you. Keep an eye out for yourself.

HOROSCOPES

ZOE KLEIN | finance editor

SCORPIO

Make sure you're not getting lost in your head, Scorpio. This month will be a very stimulating one, and it's especially important that you're keeping your mind calm and trying to still the waves by seeking comfort in routine.

ARIES

This month is going to be a big one for you, Aries. Find ways of becoming closer to yourself. It'll help your relationships with everyone around you as well, and give you clarity concerning your romantic other.

PISCES

Your future looks bright this winter. So try not to overthink anything-- just do what feels right and let yourself be joyful.

AQUARIUS

This is a good month to start reaching out to new people, Aquarius. Your personality is admired by many, and it'll surprise you how easy making new friends is. Who knows, there might be some new people in your love life as well.

CAPRICORN

This month, Capricorn, make sure that you're letting the people around you know how much you love them. It's easy to take the people around you for granted, but if you pay attention, you'll notice how much you mean to everyone.

SAGITTARIUS

You'll feel extra creative this month, Sagittarius. Take these ideas and bring them to life-- it'll pay off in the form of the attention you've been seeking recently. Your skills, after all, are impressive.

I Got 99 Problems and Homework Ain't One

The Impact of No Homework Nights On Students and Teachers

LUCIA GARZA | staff writer

This school year, LASA administration instituted a new policy of No Homework Nights. Once every six weeks, typically at the end of the grading period, teachers are required to give students no homework. No Homework Nights were initiated to give students a mental break at the end of the six weeks and allow them to prepare for the grading period ahead.

No Homework Nights and No Homework Weekends are practiced in other school districts, like Eanes ISD, but LASA is one of the first schools in AISD to promote this policy. At LASA, a school with a reputation for a rigorous curriculum and heavy homework loads, many teachers like English teacher Jonathan Hines believe that a break from homework is a necessary and vital part of student's health. Hines is in full support of these homework breaks. He said he is still learning how to be a teacher, but he sees the impact No Homework Nights have on his students.

"It's interesting planning for the week around the No Homework Night," Hines said. "It was frustrating because we do have stuff that we have to get done and places we need to be in the unit, but we manage to work with the No Homework Night because we understand how important it is."

According to Hines, even though the No Homework Nights can interrupt planning of the curriculum, they are worth it. Hines believes these breaks from homework can even facilitate learning.

"The biggest complaint we get is the students have a massive amount of work and we want y'all to get something out of it," Hines said. "If you keep doing work and have no break, soon the work you're doing is going to frustrate you more than it's doing good."

Hines is a supporter of the No Homework Nights policy because he acknowledges how difficult English I can be. According to

Hines, the No Homework Nights give students a break from this work and make it so they are better able to do future assignments.

"English I seems to have less strenuous homework than the other classes, but we do ask a lot of students when it comes to formatting and making sure that the work they do is produced in the right way, and that they meet all the different steps that we have," Hines said. "So it can be a lot, but it's never mentally exhausting."

Freshman Marit Peterson has experienced No Homework Nights for the first time this year, as many middle schools do not offer them

"We manage to work with the No Homework Night because we understand how important it is"

-Student Teacher Jonathan Hines

to students.

"The idea of them really helps, and they give other students, including me, something to look forward to," Peterson said. "I didn't have a lot of homework in middle school, and now I have a lot of homework in all of my classes."

Peterson said he experienced a dramatic increase in the amount of homework assigned from middle school to high school. According

to Peterson, the No Homework Nights made the transition into freshman year easier to manage.

"The only No Homework Nights I had in middle school were because the homework load was already so light," Peterson said. "I feel like the homework load adjustment from 8th grade to this year is at a 7, with 10 being the worst."

The amount of homework a student receives revolves around the classes they take. Advanced Forensic Science and Pre-AP Chemistry teacher Shontel Willie recognizes that sophomore year chemistry can be a homework-intensive course.

"Chemistry does have some challenging and rigorous concepts," Willie said. "There are some students who get all of their practice problems done in class, and then there are some students who have to take it home with them."

Chemistry was recently redesigned so that it was less lecture-based, and allowed students to work in different ways and at their own pace. This was a relatively new idea to the chemistry department, but Willie said she has already seen a better outcome in students.

"We know that you are all different learners, so giving you the ability on how you want to acquire your information and the pace at which you want to do it," Willie said. "Whereas before I was rushing through a lecture or my lecture was too long, now it's at your own pace."

Despite teaching a class she said is known for large homework loads and challenging lessons, Willie is in favor of No Homework Nights. She believes that No Homework Nights are necessary for students.

"I am for No Homework Nights or No Homework Weekends," Willie said. "I believe everybody needs a break."

Looking for Extracurriculars? Join the Club

WRENNY COLLAMER | staff writer

Several students have created new clubs since last year. The Liberator has spotlighted several of them here. Clubs that aren't featured here and are interested in appearing in a future issue should contact the Liberator.

BLSU

When: Wednesdays at lunch
Where: Room 276 (Aguayo)

Black-Latinx Student Union, or BLSU, is a club that focuses on promoting a welcoming community for students who are black or Latinx. The club, which started in 2019, places a focus on making changes throughout the school and creating an open environment for black and Latinx students.

In BLSU's first year as a club, senior Citalli Soto-Ferate, one of the four BLSU officers, said that it's very important to her that BLSU starts off strong. BLSU plans bonding events for the club members and aims to increase inclusivity throughout the campus.

"Right now it's supposed to be an advocacy and support group," Soto-Ferate said. "We are interested in making hard, concrete changes through working with administration to make the school campus more inclusive to [black and Latinx students], and we are also doing fun things to bond and create a good environment for the people who join our club."

Samantha Porter is one of the club's senior officers. According to Porter, one of the club's main goals is focusing on creating an environment in which students of color feel comfortable.

"My whole family is pretty involved in the LASA community in

terms of trying to make more black and brown kids comfortable in their own skin and being able to get them together and hang out and just connect with each other," Porter said. "We create a safe place for black and Latinx students to come and just hang out."

Soto-Ferate is in Diversity Council in addition to BLSU. She believes that while the club builds off of some of Diversity Council's work, its focus on black and Latinx students makes it unique.

"I think that Diversity Council does a good thing in that it helps with all types of diversity," Soto-Ferate said. "But there's not a club that specifically focuses on the black and Latinx students at LASA. I think the best way to fix a problem is to have a good focus point, and that's what we are doing."

BLSU is also socially oriented. Soto-Ferate says that being in an environment in which most of the members share a common identity is refreshing.

"It's cool to see all the people who are interested in the same stuff as me or people that have a similar background," Soto-Ferate said.

Porter shares Soto-Ferate's outlook on the benefits of BLSU's community. Porter said that while it is something people may not think about, being a person of color can be exhausting at a majority white school like LASA.

"I find it really tiring to be around white people all the time," Porter said. "Ever since I was in Pre-K it's been a thing where I've been at a predominantly white school all of the time and I was always the only black girl in the class. To have a whole classroom full of these black and brown kids is refreshing for me."



FOOD FRENZY Members of BLSU discuss possible ideas for an upcoming social, photo by Wrenny Collamer

Reptile Club

When: Fridays at lunch
Where: Room 230 (Journey)

Reptile Club offers its members a chance to take care of reptiles, learn about the animals they are working with and join a community of other reptile-lovers.

Junior and club president Sage Phuepwin said the large variation of animals gives members an opportunity to learn about unique reptiles. Members can also care for the animals that interest them.

"We have snakes, a bearded dragon, 2 geckos, 2 salamanders and 2 turtles... and apparently we are getting 2 white tree frogs," Phuepwin said.

According to Phuepwin, the club's main focus is taking care of their existing animals, which can be a time consuming task. In the club's downtime, many members can be seen holding snakes or just generally getting to know the animals better, according to Phuepwin. "We have a lot of animals to take care of," Phuepwin said. "You

might not realize it, but most of these animals require almost 24/7 work. There's a lot of cleaning to do too. Basically, every single day we make sure the animals are well taken care of to the best of our ability."

Phuepwin said she enjoyed the social aspect of the club, especially sharing her interests with a group of students with similar interests.

"My favorite part about being in reptile club is probably the fact that it offers a nice atmosphere to sit at lunch," Phuepwin said. "Freshman year I just wanted a place to hang out during lunch and then the snakes were a bonus. I've stayed ever since."

While the club is laid-back, Phuepwin said it is also important to note that the animals' lives are on the line if the club stops doing what it is doing, adding a real weight to the club's work and making it important for new members to get involved.

"It's the animals that [would] suffer, and once the juniors that are currently running the club are gone, if nobody steps up, all of these animals are going to die," Phuepwin said. "Mr. Journey is just one person and there's multiple animals that need constant care."



REPTILE BONDING Phuepwin feeds fat-tailed gecko Jack-Jack, photo by Wrenny Collamer

Latin Club

When: Every first Tuesday of the month
Where: P5B (Pellowski)

Latin Club provides an opportunity for students to learn about Roman culture while also putting their Latin skills to the test in competition. According to junior and president Jasmine Gokingco, the club is focusing on preparing for competitions and developing team spirit.

"In the spring it's Latin season, which is when we have competitions," Gokingco said. "Right now, we are all just trying to become one united unit so that we can go to the competitions together. The competitions are really just for fun... you take a couple of tests and after that you get to hang out with friends."

Gokingco said that she wants the social spirit of these competitions to carry over to the rest of the club. Drawing inspiration from her experience with the Westlake Latin Club, Gokingco said she aims to develop a more community-based, casual and fun Latin Club.

"I didn't really like Latin until I went to Westlake my freshman

year and joined their Latin Club," Gokingco said. "I made some of my closest friends... so that's when I realized that I should implement this social aspect of Latin Club into LASA's Latin Club."

In addition to the competitions, Latin Club has multiple upcoming events. According to sophomore Eli Clark, Broomball and Brown Santa are important events which work to involve students that are not enrolled in the Latin class in the club.

"We do Broomball, which is open to anyone from any language, and that's where we go to around midnight to the ice rink and play broomball, which is similar to hockey," Clark said. "It is a really fun time and it's cool to get to bond with other people from other languages. We also have Brown Santa in November where we volunteer and help out."

Another major event is club initiation, which takes place at Zilker Park. While the exact activities planned for initiation are kept secret until the day of the event, Clark said it is a great chance for new members to meet the people in Latin Club and solidify themselves as part of the club.

"Initiation is coming up on October 26th," Clark said. "That's at Zilker Park for us to do these secret activities... it's a really great thing to be able to introduce new kids who are joining Latin Club for the first time."



LOOKING BEYOND Club members plan future events for the club to do, photo by Aaron Polowski

17 Year Olds in Texas Have the Vote

More Students Than May Realize Can Register for the 2020 Elections

BECK WILLIAMS | staff writer

In an effort to encourage LASA seniors who are of age to register to vote, LASA staff and administration invite voter registration organizations to campus and register students at school. Voter registration is one of the main ways students can be more involved in their community.

Social Studies teacher Ronny Risinger is a deputy voter registrar for Williamson County. He helps the county clerk, a local elections official, register people to vote.

"County Clerks allow you to become a deputy voter registrar if you attend a class," Risinger said. "You swear under penalty of law that you will register people face-to-face, give them a receipt to prove that they've been registered to vote, and then that within a few days you will personally deliver their voter registration to the county clerk's office. It's much more in person and hands-on than just mailing a postcard into the ether."

Since Risinger is a deputy voter registrar for Williamson County and not Travis County, he

cannot personally register LASA students to vote. However, he still helps them figure out how to become registered and when they can do so.

"In Texas, you can actually become registered to vote when you are 17 ½," Risinger said. "They allow you to register to vote a little bit early so that when you actually are 18 you will have your card and registration."

Students who are 17 and 10 months can register to vote in one of two ways. Texas does not allow for online registration, so students can contact a deputy voter registrar or mail in their card.

"It's just a matter of finding a deputy voter registrar or mailing in your card which is then redirected to the clerk who will process the application," Risinger said. "If people are looking for voter registration cards they are in my room, or if they want to get registered in person they should talk to Mr. Ganesan who is a Travis County voter registrar."

While Risinger may not be able to register students to vote, there is someone on campus who can. College counselor Vyasari Ganesan is a deputy voter registrar for Travis County. He is

able to register any student from Travis County.

"There's a lot of different resources out there. We have these cards that I can give to students where they can go to VOTE411 and that's got a lot of great election information," Ganesan said. "There's also little checklists on the back that say how to register to vote, it gives you a really concise and clear explanation of how to do it."

Despite these resources, Ganesan said the voting process can be confusing because Texas requires voter registration to happen in person. Students must fill out and send in their registration cards, and then bring their card when they go to vote.

"The registration card is basically a certificate that you are allowed to register to vote in about a month," Ganesan said. "On election day you will find a polling station. Usually, these are public spaces like libraries, government buildings. You present your voter card and ID, you go to a booth and you follow the instructions in the booth."

Principal Stacia Crescenzi can help students with all of the resources that the school offers for registering to vote. Crescenzi is a deputy voter registrar and works to bring voter registration

organizations to campus several times a year.

"This past semester we had them on campus twice with tables, sometimes at the bottom of the stairs sometimes at the top of the stairs," Crescenzi said. "That's probably when we get most students, but myself, Mr. Risinger, and Ms. Pinkston, the English teacher, are all deputy voter registrars. Generally, you can come by any of the three of us and be able to register to vote."

Although LASA does provide opportunities for students to register to vote, Crescenzi said that she thought more could be done. Crescenzi wants to streamline the process for students and encourage student registration.

"I would love to see us do more," Crescenzi said. "I think we go beyond meeting the minimum requirements, but I would love to hear from students, what would be the easiest, most convenient way to get them to register. I think some of it feels a little old school to them. Similarly, beyond just getting them to register to vote, which is essential, how do we then take that to the next step and ensure that they not only registered to vote, but actually voted."

Option A:

Deputy voter registrar

1. Meet with deputy voter registrar (Crescenzi, Ganeson, Pinkston, Risinger)
2. Take registration forms to county clerk's office
3. Get voter card
4. Vote

graphic by Andrew Lucksinger

Option B:

Fill out voter card

1. Fill out registration card
2. Send card in to county clerk's office
3. Bring voter card and ID to vote
4. Vote

The Sex-Ed Controversy

GRACE WOODRUFF | staff writer

The birds and the bees haven't changed, but the way AISD teaches them has. The AISD Board of Trustees has voted, and this year's elementary and middle school students will be the first to learn the new sex education curriculum. The new curriculum focuses on anatomy, consent, and notably, LGBTQ+ identities.

This summer, the AISD board of trustees voted on the new sex education curriculum for students in grades three through five. More attention will be focused on the body, healthy relationships and the scientific aspects of pregnancy and reproduction. When students reach middle school, they will encounter new subjects, such as sexual orientation, gender identity and the emotional aspects of sexual encounters.

Arati Singh is a member of the AISD board of trustees and was one of several people who voted on the new sex education curriculum.

Singh said the trustees were trying to foster a safe and understanding environment in Texas schools with the new curriculum. "The curriculum we had didn't cover key concepts necessary so students can be safe," Singh said. "Environments that are unsafe lead to depression, anxiety, and suicide."

Singh said there would be multiple changes to the program to help younger children as well as later on in life. She said one of the biggest changes would be a bigger focus on anatomy. "Part of the reason we are covering more anatomy is because studies show that students are more likely to be empowered in a sexual abuse situation if they have that information," Singh said.

Mary Barnett is a women's health care provider, and she believes that learning anatomy is an essential part of sex education. She said this also would help in cases of sexual abuse.

"I can't tell you the number of times I've seen grown women that don't know the difference between their vulva and their vagina," Barnett said. "With that vocabulary kids can better describe something that they feel or something that happened to them."

Sydney Harkrider is the youth minister at University United Methodist Church and

an active LGBTQ+ activist. She said she feels that education is at the center of safe sex.

"Kids need to know how to how to engage in safe sex, how to know their bodies and others," Harkrider said. "We want them to be mature and healthy, knowing that they are at the right maturity and that this is the right choice for themselves."

Singh said the district feels strongly about being inclusive of students of all sexualities. Singh believes that while many parents believe the changes come too soon in the curriculum, they were made with only the best interests of the students at heart.

"We want all students to feel safe, including members of the LGBTQ+ community," Singh said. "We made the call for a new curriculum based on what is best for kids. We always

err on the side of protecting the students."

Harkrider said education on the LGBTQ+ community can help students feel accepted and give them the ability to express themselves. She said learning this information earlier allows students

to avoid stress later in life. "It's important to be able to teach different forms of sexuality to normalize it, which is really important to not be afraid or ashamed while growing up," Harkrider said. "But it also gives young people the ability to figure that out for themselves earlier in their life instead of being ashamed of who they are."

According to Barnett, it is important for people to have proper information regarding sex because it has such lasting consequences. She said her own ignorance had made gaining independence more difficult.

"Knowledge is power, you know, the way that knowledge becomes power is that it enables us to make decisions for ourselves," Barnett said. "I didn't realize until I was in my 20s that I could make decisions for myself."

Arati said she was looking forward to her own daughter going through the new curriculum and having the opportunity to learn and grow. She believes the new curriculum will encourage students to be their best possible selves.

"I think that this will be really empowering for kids," Singh said. "I'm excited that my daughter, who's in middle school, will be receiving a curriculum that empowers her to make healthy choices, which every kid deserves."

"The way that knowledge becomes power is that it enables us to make decisions for ourselves"

-Mary Barnett

SENATE BILL

from page 1

"Sometimes what our public officials do is they go through the court cases and they say, 'Well, the judges already said that this is the law, but to clarify it for everyone else, we are going to write this law that makes it really, really, really clear,'" Gonzales said. "For those of us that are lawyers, it's not a huge surprise. It's not some massive big change. It clarifies and codifies existing case law."

At the lowest level, this means that all business done on a teacher's phone, personal computer and personal accounts must be stored in case it is subject to a public records request. English teacher Corey Snyder believes that the implementation of this bill will raise concerns about teachers' right to privacy.

"I agree with the spirit of the law in that I do think it's important that the school has a right to see school-related matters," Snyder said. "I am afraid that in an overly cautious position, in practice, a well-intentioned law is going to have a chilling effect on our communications."

According to Snyder, the burden of proof will fall on the teacher's shoulders if someone requests access to business conducted on their personal devices and accounts. Snyder said that he feels as if the precautions may unfairly complicate tasks for teachers.

"The higher authorities, in their drive to protect themselves from every possible permutation of this, will go overly cautious," Snyder said. "What I'm afraid of is some poorly-intentioned person can just say, 'I think the teachers are saying

bad things about my kid, and I want proof that they're not, so impound all their phones. I have a right to see it.' So if I say, 'I don't have anything on my phone about the kid,' is the burden on me to prove that I don't? Because if so, that means that I'm going to have to turn it over, and they're going to look through my phone or my data to prove that I don't meet this accusation."

Snyder worries that if he does have to turn over his personal devices, his information could be mismanaged. And since information on a teacher's device could be subject to public disclosure, larger issues of what the public has a right to access come into question. "This is another law where it's going to take

one or two clever, badly-intentioned parents or students to realize they can play the system and just say, 'I want all the computers,'" Snyder said. "And who's to say that an officer's not going to show up and say, 'Give me your devices. All of them. All of your hard drives and your USBs and your laptop and your phone and your everything. If you've ever said the words 'Austin ISD' on it, hand it over.' If somebody showed up and said, 'Hand me all your devices, I'm from the district' and I was to say, 'No, you don't have that right,' I'm not sure I would be on fair legal ground."

During professional development training, LASA teachers were cautioned against using platforms such as Slack to communicate with classes and instead encouraged to use software such as Microsoft Teams and Microsoft Outlook.

Coincidentally, in a recent update approved by AISD, BLEND is now fully compatible with Slack.

Sophomore Rehan Malhotra frequently uses apps such as Remind and Slack to communicate for Debate Club. Since the implementation of SB944, all Debate Club-related communication on those apps must be logged.

"There's a lot of student-teacher interaction in school," Malhotra said. "I just used Remind to organize a quiz retake. I don't feel comfortable with the logging of my conversation."

Social Studies teacher Adam Escandell said that the issue of what is deemed school-related is more ambiguous because he communicates frequently with his brother, Jason Escandell, who is an English teacher at LASA. For him, the legislature may technically apply to conversations about their daily activities at school.

"That creates a very tricky legal scenario," Escandell said. "Because the thing is, I just texted him a personal thing between the two of us as brothers. But if I mentioned something that happened in school, that's part of our jobs and our jobs are part of the government, our government to democracy. And so in a democracy, the people have the right to see stuff that the government is doing. I don't feel great about the possibility of my phone being searched, but I also understand the intent behind the law."



graphic by Sophia Blaha

A Year Out From Nov. Elections

Rundown on the 11 Highest Endorsed Candidates

ABIGAIL JACKSON | staff writer

JOE BIDEN (DEM)

Joe Biden has run for president twice before and served in the White House as Barack Obama's vice president from 2009-2017. At age 76, Biden is the second oldest presidential candidate. Biden's main policies include raising the minimum wage to \$15 and increasing health care benefits. He also wants to increase income for educators and add more advanced technology to classrooms. Another one of Biden's major policies is his climate change policy which he calls a "Clean Energy Revolution," which aims to eliminate emissions and increase the use of clean energy.

CORY BOOKER (DEM)

Cory Booker is the former mayor of Newark, New York and a senator from New Jersey. The majority of Booker's funding has come not from individual supporters, but from large corporations. According to Politico, \$1.2 million of his \$4.5 million raised from April 2019 to June 2019 came from small dollar donors. Booker's policies are centered around criminal justice reforms, specifically decriminalizing marijuana, decreasing the amount of jail time given to those arrested for illegal possession of drugs and allowing former criminals to vote. Booker is also focused on making housing more accessible and improving healthcare in jobs around the nation.

PETE BUTTIGIEG (DEM)

Although Pete Buttigieg got 74% of the vote when he was elected as the mayor of South Bend, Indiana, his election to the presidency has been called "a long but not impossible shot" by The Atlantic. Buttigieg is an openly gay former Naval Officer and has many policies concerning climate change and economic development. In addition, Buttigieg is part of the millennial generation and aims to help solve the challenges that millennials face every day, such as rising housing prices and the lack of available jobs. He has mentioned his generational identity to differentiate himself from other candidates.

JULIÁN CASTRO (DEM)

Julián Castro is the former mayor of San Antonio and he worked in the Obama Administration as the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development. He was considering running for Texas Senator

in the 2018 midterm elections, but opted out of the race after being determined to have violated the Hatch Act, which prevents high level government officials from engaging in certain forms of political activity, in 2016. One of Castro's major policies proposes decriminalizing border crossing and early education preparation.

KAMALA HARRIS (DEM)

Kamala Harris has served as one of the first African American and South Asian American Senators of California since 2017. While she was serving as San Francisco District Attorney, she created Hate Crime Units to help support and protect LGBTQ+ teenagers. Harris also advocates for middle class tax cuts and supports reparations and immigration programs such as

BERNIE SANDERS (DEM)

Bernie Sanders has served as a U.S. Senator from Vermont since 2007 and was the runner-up for the Democratic presidential nomination in 2016, which he lost to Hilary Clinton. Sanders is the oldest presidential candidate at age 78. He is vocal about his opinions regarding topics like healthcare. Sanders plans to make Medicare easily accessible to every United States citizen. He also has plans to make all college tuition free in an effort to redistribute the wealth and alter the U.S. economy.

ELIZABETH WARREN (DEM)

Elizabeth Warren openly supports making large structural changes to the United States government, and plans to reshape the economy by raising taxes for those who are worth over 50 million. Warren predicts that this increased tax on the upper class will help close the wage gap. Warren also plans to decrease college tuition and help students pay off their debt from higher education. Similarly to other candidates, Warren supports accessible Medicare for all U.S. citizens and wants to raise the minimum wage to \$15.

DONALD TRUMP (REP)

President Donald Trump is the incumbent president who has been the center of many controversial policies since being elected in 2016. Trump has reversed many policies set by his predecessor such as Obamacare. Trump's main goals for a possible second term would be to put an end to illegal immigration and to cancel current foreign trade policies. President Trump is currently facing an impeachment investigation regarding Russia's interference with the 2016 election in which Trump took the office.

JOE WALSH (REP)

Joe Walsh is a former supporter of Trump, but after he was officially elected as president, Walsh publicly dissociated with him. One of Walsh's main policies is decreasing the national debt and reducing the amount of power that the executive branch of the government has. Securing the Mexican-American border is also an important topic for Walsh, as is defeating the incumbent president who he formerly supported.

2040 Zero Waste Goal on Horizon

DIYA D'SOUZA | staff writer

The City of Austin has started fully implementing a Universal Recycling Ordinance (URO) as part of the city's Zero Waste by 2040 goal. The URO is part of the city's plan that applies to commercial properties and food-selling businesses. The ordinance is one part of the Zero Waste by 2040 goal set forth by the City Council, which aims to keep at least 90 percent of discarded materials out of the city's landfills. The city has created a master plan to ensure that the goal is met by 2040 or sooner.

Jason McCombs, a planner principle with Austin Resource Recovery, is part of the team that developed the organics amendments to the ordinance. The organics amendment requires restaurants and food-selling businesses to cut back on their food waste. Currently, McCombs manages policy development and implementation of the city's zero waste efforts.

"All multifamily and commercial properties are required to provide recycling access to their residents," McCombs said. "Additionally, all food permit holders are required to provide a food donation or composting services to their employees, called organics diversion."

Susanne Harm, another city employee who works with Austin Resource Recovery, is part of the effort to implement the URO and ensure the zero waste goal is met on time. This amendment was added to the 2010 ordinance after a study was published that found that businesses generate a much larger percentage of waste than households.

"There is an extra limitation for businesses because businesses generate around 85 percent of all the waste that is generated in the landfills," Harm said. "The resource recovery department only picks up about 15 percent which is usually single-family households, not the businesses, not the apartments. That's where the URO comes in."

Initially, the URO was passed and adopted by the City Council in 2010. In 2013, the ordinance

was amended to include organic diversion. "It was implemented in a phase timeline through 2018 based on square footage of the property with the largest properties being affected first," said McCombs. "The ordinance was fully implemented as of October 2018. Properties were phased in each year from 2013 to 2018 based on the size of the property." Bob Gerdot is a retired recycling expert who has worked for more than 40 years

The last master plan was developed by city staff, industry experts and public input gathered in meetings," said Gerdot. "The Zero Waste Advisory Commission plays a role in the development of this master plan that was eventually adopted by City Council. Austin Resource Recovery reached 90 percent of the goals in the 2011 master plan and is currently drafting a new master plan that will lay out the next steps to reach zero waste."

Although the URO doesn't require the city's residents to change any of their recycling habits, since it primarily targets businesses and food-service restaurants, it does benefit and affect residents indirectly.

"The URO has an effect on Austin residents everywhere you shop or eat," said McCombs. "Employees at all these places have convenient methods to divert materials from the landfill, such as composting or donation. This convenient access was not given prior to 2010. Additionally, Austin has a large population of multifamily residents and they should directly benefit from access to recycling."

In 2015, the city hired a third-party engineering firm to conduct a study on the city's community diversion. The study was meant to see if the city's efforts up to 2015 had been effective in working towards the zero waste goal.

"The 2015 study found that Austin was diverting 42 percent of the waste stream from the landfill," McCombs said. "A follow-up study is anticipated to be completed in 2020 that will measure the diversion rate at that time."

As of October, the city has begun fully implementing the ordinance. They are hopeful that they will be able to see results soon.

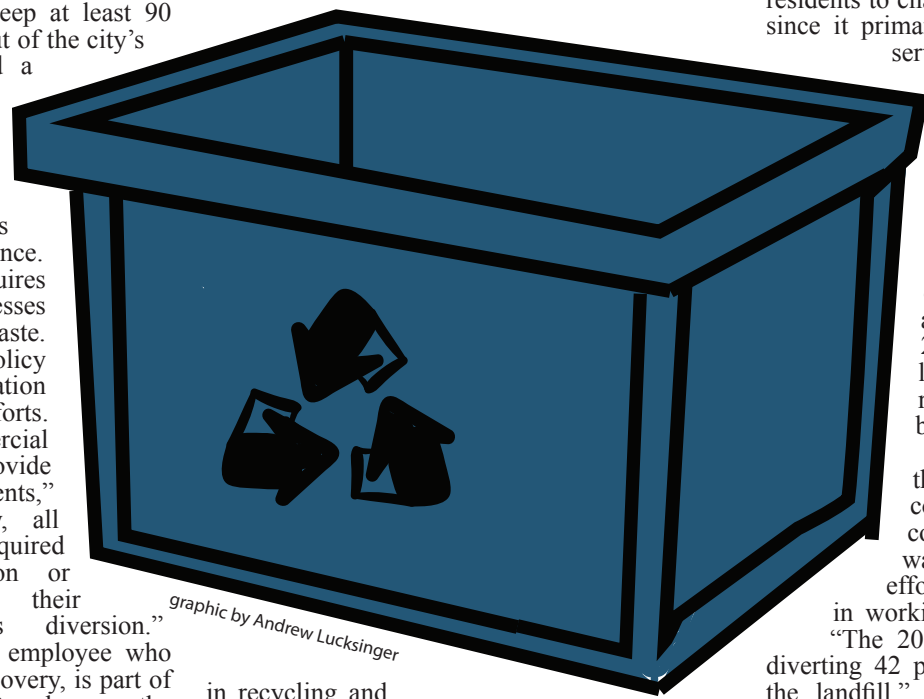
"The 2015 study found that 80 percent of what is currently in Austin's trash could have been reused, recycled, or composted," McCombs said. "So while 90 percent diversion is lofty, it is achievable if we can get 80 percent of material of the trash and recycling technology advancement."

in recycling and environmental policy and has led various programs focused on recycling and zero waste since 1975. Gerdot was previously the director of Austin Resource Recovery from 2010 to 2017 when the zero waste plan was adopted and the URO began being implemented. Gerdot's department led the city's efforts toward Zero Waste. He oversaw residential trash, recycling, yard trimmings collection, street sweeping, household hazardous waste collection, bulky item pickups, litter abatement and storm debris cleanup.

"Austin Resource Recovery has a master plan that outlines the strategy to reach zero waste.



graphic by Sophia Blaha



graphic by Andrew Lucksinger

News Briefs

Global News

Oct. 22

Since Oct. 1, Iraqis have been protesting against government corruption, high unemployment, and a lack of basic necessities. A government inquiry found that 149 had died and over 3,000 had been wounded as a result of the protest. The Iraqi military has acknowledged that they used excessive force, but blamed the deaths on poor leadership in military forces quelling the protests and not on government policy.

Oct. 21

Despite a series of scandals surrounding Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau, the incumbent won reelection and will be Prime Minister for another term. Despite this result, Trudeau's liberal party lost the absolute majority. The Liberal Party lost 20 seats and Trudeau will have to govern from a minority government, seeking support from the Conservatives, New Democrats, or the Bloc Quebecois.

Oct. 21

Protests in Lebanon began on October 21 in response to the government's new tax policy. Since then, they've grown to be the largest demonstration in the country since 2005. Because of the protests, the government has agreed to reduce government officials' salaries, privatize the telecom industry, provide licenses quickly, and refrain from implementing new taxes. The protesters remain on the street, demanding a complete overhaul of the government.

National News

Oct. 23

As Californian wildfires continue to spread because of high winds and low humidity, utility company Pacific Gas & Electric (PG&E) plans to shut off power to over 200,000 customers in Northern California. PG&E will provide restrooms, bottled water, and chargers for electronic devices. This is the second time PG&E will intentionally cause outages to mitigate the effects of the wildfires. Last outage, PG&E was under scrutiny for the length of the outages, inaccurate data about where outages would occur, and call centers not being operable.

Oct. 22

New York Attorney General brought against Exxon Mobil for defrauding shareholders and the public about the effects of climate change. This is the second lawsuit brought against Exxon Mobil, alleging that the oil giant obscured their internal research on the environmental effects of oil production and use and cast doubt on the science behind climate change in order to maintain their profits.

State News

Oct. 22

Conservative activist Michael Sullivan published a conversation between House Republicans and Texas House Speaker Dennis Bonnen, where Bonnen declared his goal for the next legislative session to make it the worst "in the history of the legislature for cities and counties." By Oct. 21, 5 House Republicans declared that they couldn't support him, and by Oct. 22 30 representatives had pulled support or called for Bonnen's resignation. Bonnen announced that he would not seek re-election, leaving his seat vacant for the first time in two decades.

Oct. 22

The Department of Justice ruled that Academy Sports and Outdoors illegally sold firearms and ammunition to Sutherland Springs shooter Devin Kelley. Kelley presented a Colorado driver's license, and so should not have been able to purchase a firearm that is illegal in Colorado. Kelley used his illegally-purchased firearm to kill more than two dozen worshippers at a Texas church in 2017.

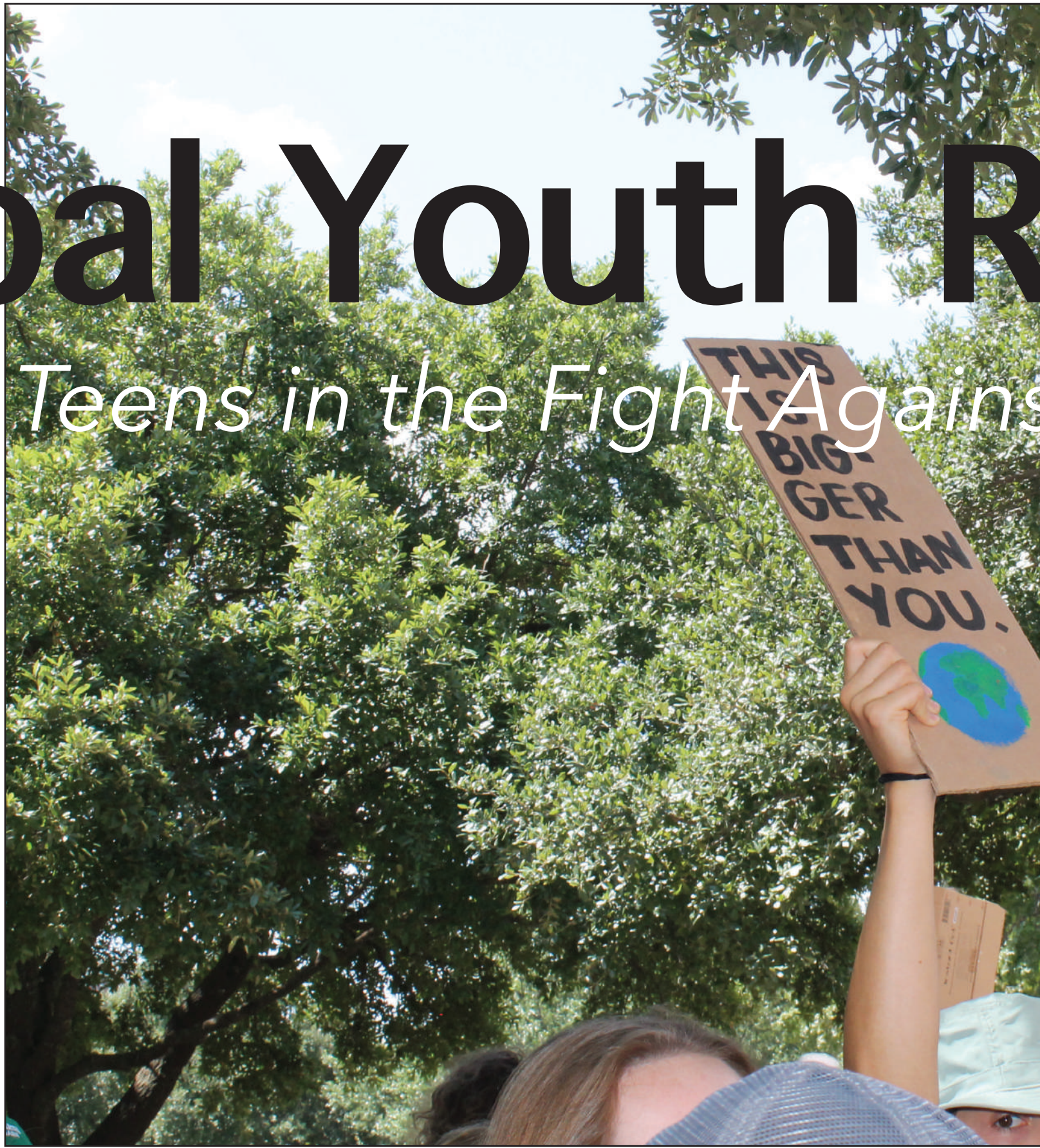
Local News

Oct. 21

A new political action committee, Our Town Austin, declared its intention to recall Mayor Steve Adler and 5 city council members. The PAC has not publicized its founders or members, other than pac treasurer Sharon Blythe. The PAC is attempting to reseal every city council member not up on the ballot in the Nov. 2020 elections in an effort to transparency and constituent's voice in city council dealings.

Global Youth R

Teens in the Fight Against



MAKING A CHANGE Participant of the Austin faction of the global climate strike holds sign to advocate for environmental policy reform. The global climate strike took place on September 20, 2019. photo by Jordan Jewell

The WHY:

The Liberator wants to bring attention to the current climate crisis and the role that young people play in the effort to combat climate change, as it will have implications in all of our lives. We feel that it's important to highlight the work young people are doing as well as the challenges we face in today's world.

MALENA HEINEMAN | student life editor

Before the popularization of the word "climate change," the scientific phenomenon was largely ignored, even as advancing technology powered by fossil fuels increasingly contributed to it with greenhouse gas emissions. As research and controversy has emerged around rising levels of carbon emissions in the recent decade, younger generations have become more active in the fight against climate change, as they will be the ones left to live on the planet. Youth across the U.S. and worldwide have taken to media activism and organized walkouts in order to call attention to this crisis.

For hundreds of years, the global carbon dioxide had never surpassed above 300 million parts per million (PPM), according to NASA. After 1950, this number began to exponentially increase, and its current level is just higher than 400 PPM and rising. Much of these carbon emissions are attributed to the burning of fossil fuels. The introduction of coal as the primary source of energy began worldwide in the mid-1700s, replacing the previously common biomass, a renewable source of energy comprised of plant and animal matter. The birth of the Industrial Revolution used coal to provide heat for buildings, make electricity a commonly accessible commodity, provide power, and create transportation innovation such as the steam engine.

According to NASA, predictions that scientists had made in accordance to global warming are already becoming a reality. Glacial ice is melting at the poles, sea levels have risen at an accelerated rate and there are longer, more severe heat waves internationally. These effects are also prevalent in the environment; the location of habitats of flora and fauna are changing, plants are beginning to flower sooner and glaciers or ice on rivers and lakes is melting and splitting apart. In a recent study by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), the research found that in order to keep global temperature rise below 1.5°C, countries must reduce their own carbon dioxide emissions by 45% by 2030. These

results suggest that eleven years is the last deadline before the Earth is beyond saving.

Throughout Earth's history, there have been great spikes and drops in global climate and levels of carbon dioxide. But according to science teacher David Walker, what is so worrisome about current climate change is its relative speed.

"The rate of change in the climate is extremely quick," Walker said.

"In the cretaceous period the climate changed this much. Carbon dioxide levels got this dense in the atmosphere. That's happened many, many times in the past, but these things have all been rather gradual, and when they happen really quickly like they are now, the results are mass extinctions. We've had five major mass extinctions in our geologic past, and this could be the sixth one for sure. We can see that in the biological record and in the geological record."

Walker suspects that a majority of people are unaware that such drastic effects of global warming occur daily. According to him, the ambiguity of the umbrella term "climate change" makes it difficult for people to conceptualize the time scale of the Earth's change.

"In your day to day life you don't notice when it's getting warmer or colder really, even if you go from year to year to year, so it doesn't seem to be a very relevant problem for humans in that regard," Walker said. "We tend to pay attention to things that are a little bit more immediate, like 'I'm hungry' or 'I have a homework assignment due', so it's very difficult to get humans to pay attention to the things that are happening more gradually when in terms of the biological and geological time scales that are happening very, very quickly."

However, the threat posed by climate change does not stop young people from trying to make a difference. On the global scale, a worldwide climate strike took place on Sept. 20 of this year. Junior Louisa McDaniel gave a speech on behalf of the Austin Climate Coalition at the Austin faction of the protest.

"I was actually asked to emcee the day before," McDaniel said. "I was super nervous, but it was amazing to talk to all the speakers. Large strikes like this send a strong message to the legislature, especially since so many of us will be eligible to vote in the next election. They're also a great way to build a community around the issue."

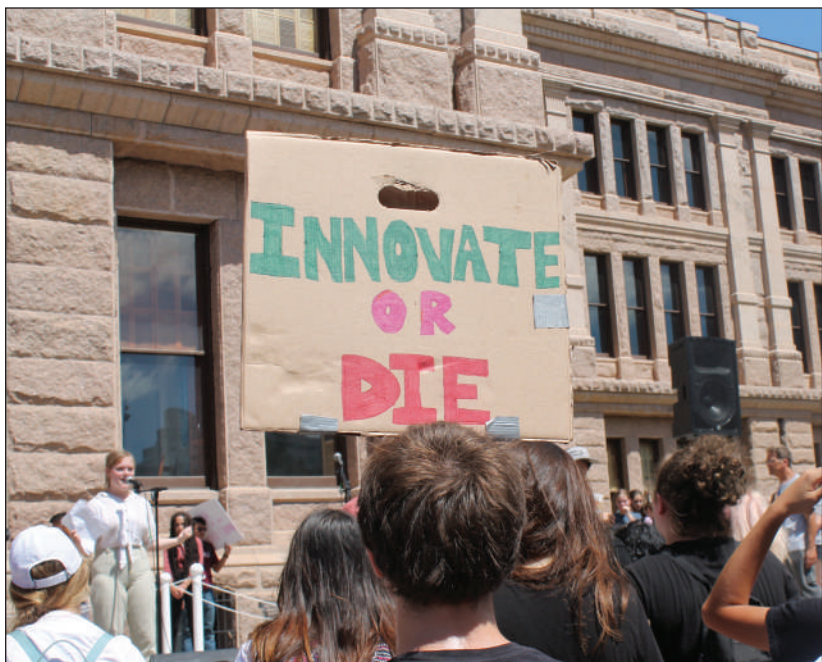
Freshman Sophie Russell is one of the LASA students who attended the climate strike. According to her, these strikes are the most effective form of activism that students can be a part of, which is worth the effort

even though students have to miss a majority of classes. "One person's voice isn't very loud," Russell said. "But when people come together, even if no one is really speaking, it's still heard. If it's a big enough crowd of people, the message is taken seriously."

McDaniel agrees that strikes are effective in raising awareness, but she is still concerned that the government isn't taking enough action.

"The fact that we live in a time where we are seeing the effects of what past generations have done has made us need to be more conscious about it and more knowledgeable... It's come to a point where change has to be made."

-Junior Finn Skuldt



SPEAK OUT LASA junior Louisa McDaniel emcees at the Texas State Capital during the global climate strike. McDaniel advocates for more attention to the climate crisis from the states leaders. photo by Jordan Jewell

conventions and agreements. According to Walker, action is made to further action against climate change, but there is no consensus on whether or not it's worth the effort.

"The political realm right now is definitely not as the scientific realm is, in terms of how much we know. Unfortunately, people in the political realm are the people that make the changes that we need to make those changes. Scientists deliver data and the overwhelming suggest humans are causing a climate change, but the science suggests it is not being reflected by the political realm to affect change on a national and global scale."

LASA's Environmental Club was formed in 2018 to address the extent of climate change. According to junior Louisa McDaniel, the club aims to promote environmental awareness on the LASA campus.

"Last year, Gaelila McKaughan and I started the club because we thought that the school lacked a community that we would encounter like climate change, composting at the school and really just over the years," McDaniel said.

Rise Up Against Climate Change



Jordan Jewell

of the school day. Skuld said. "So when lots of people are listening, everyone will be listening, that's when movements spread, that's when movements are spreading awareness, but it's not doing enough to combat climate change. Although she said the effect of her speech was empowering and fulfilling in being able to spread her message on a larger platform, she still had many demands she felt weren't being fully addressed by municipal and state governments. "I want hard targets for emissions reduction to be set and met, possibly through the introduction of a carbon tax, and for the US to rejoin the Paris agreement," McDaniel said. "Mainly, I want our government to recognize the issue."

Last year, the club was able to bring recycling to the portables, which they did not previously due to the shortage of custodians at the school. Senior Emma Zuckerman, a member of the club, said that the club is currently focusing on composting in order to keep addressing LASA's waste management problem. "The club has mostly been working on reducing waste on campus, and one way we've been trying is through composting," Zuckerman said. "Last year, we had composting in two of the bathrooms for paper towels. We want to extend that to all the bathrooms, and we also are arranging after-school pick ups The next one is planned for November 1. Basically, you come after school and you get a trash bag to go around the campus and pick up trash." Students still find ways to be environmentally conscious as individuals, outside of clubs and local organizations. Junior Finn Skuld said. "We divert all our food waste to chickens that we keep in the back of our yard, we don't buy new clothes and we don't eat food that's not, in some respects, environmentally friendly, like farmed fish or a lot of GMO products. I definitely contribute to climate change just by living, eating and moving around the world, but I would say that I'm more conscientious of how my actions affect the environment than many people are." Skuld believes the children of the youngest generation will be left to decide what action to take against climate change in order to save themselves, their future children and the Earth itself. "I think that the fact that we live in a time where we are seeing the effects of what past generations have done has made us need to be more conscientious about it and more knowledgeable," Skuld said. "But it's also just the necessity of it so that the planet doesn't die before we do. It's come to a point where change has to be made."



SAVE THE PLANET LASA senior Tara Lassiter holds up sign at the Austin climate strike to advocate for more awareness of the climate crisis. photo by Jordan Jewell



graphic by Malena Heinen

7 Young Climate Activists You Should Know

Jerome Foster II

Jerome Foster II is a 16 year old climate justice activist and author from Washington, DC. He is the founder and executive director of One Million of Us, an organization focused on encouraging young people to register to vote in the 2020 election.

Xiuhtextatl Martinez

19 year old Xiuhtextatl Martinez is a climate activist as well as musician. He is also the co-founder of mobile app NOW, which allows people to donate to planting trees every month. At the age of 15 he spoke out at the U.N. General Assembly on Climate Change.

Greta Thunberg

Greta Thunberg is a 16 year old climate activist from Sweden. She is arguably the originator of the global youth climate change movement. She spoke out about the climate crisis at the U.N. Climate Action Summit in September 2019.

Quannah Chasinghorse

Quannah Chasinghorse is a 17 year old climate activist from Alaska. She spoke out to protect the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge from oil drilling practices.

Juwaria Jama

15 year old Juwaria Jama is a climate activist from Minneapolis. She has spoken out about climate change alongside U.S. Rep. Ilhan Omar about the affects of climate change on her community in Minneapolis as well as in Somalia.

Feliquan Charlemagne

Feliquan Charlemagne is a 17 year old advocate for climate awareness from Ocala, Florida. He is now the national creative director of the U.S. Youth Climate Strike where his role is to make sure all voices are heard.

Helena Gualinga

17 year old Helena Gualinga, is a climate activist from Sarayaku, Ecuador. She advocates for indigneous rights and works to spread awareness of the destruction of indigenious land as a result of climate change.

EXCHANGE

from page 1



WALKING OUT LASA students pose with their exchange students at the top of the Austin Public Library. Each LASA student taking a higher level German class had one exchange student that stayed with them for three weeks. photo courtesy of Elyse Hall



SMILE FOR SNOW CONES Junior Josef Stone and his German exchange student, Claudio Zamora, pose in front of Austin local business, Jim Jim's Water Ice. While staying here, LASA students took their exchange partners all over Austin to explore the city. photo courtesy of Josef Stone

understand and speak German more fluently. "My German skills definitely improved a lot more than I thought they would just from having to talk in German," Boone said. "The need to talk in German in order to communicate made me think more about just fluently speaking instead of thinking of how I can say a sentence and then saying it."

German teacher Christopher Parks said that this three-week exchange greatly improved the students' abilities to speak and understand the German language. Even though Parks has only been teaching at LASA for a few weeks, he said that he notices a difference in the students' ability levels.

"Everybody who actually went to Berlin has a much higher confidence level," Parks said. "Even though it's only three weeks in Berlin, especially because they live with Germans, they get that sense of confidence to not worry as much about making mistakes and to just speak freely. I was pleasantly surprised and impressed, especially with German four and German five students here, because in a lot of ways, they have the confidence level that most students have at university in their junior or senior year at university."

Parks is focusing on planning and organizing local excursions for the German students who are visiting Austin and staying with exchange partners. One of the German students staying with junior Olivia Gilbert is Varvara Peredkova. With her group of foreign exchange students, Peredkova has gone

swimming at Barton Springs, visited UT and shopped at the Trader Joe's grocery store.

"I think that the city, in general, is really pretty," Peredkova said. "It's just cool, all of the things you have. ... We've been to the capitol and the University of [Texas]. That was really cool. The campus is huge. I'm really surprised. It's really big."

"Even though it's only three weeks in Berlin... they get that sense of confidence to not worry as much about making mistakes and to just speak freely."

-Teacher Christopher Parks

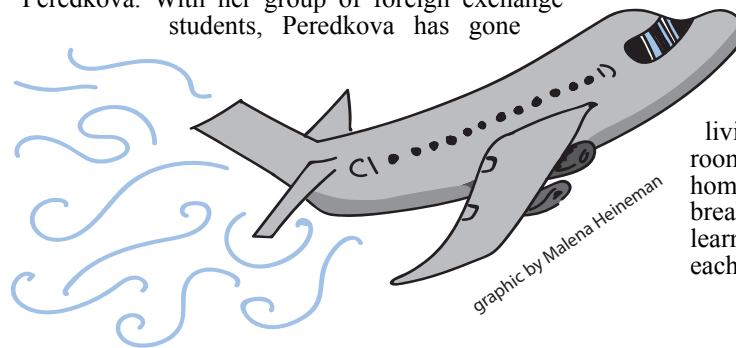
Peredkova said that she was excited to spend a day at the Austin City Limits Music Festival. The festival was one of the planned outings for her and the other German students. Aside from visiting local Austin attractions, the group of exchange students spent their second week in the United States by camping at Big Bend National Park and stayed in New York for a few days before going back to Berlin.

In addition to these outings, the foreign exchange students have also been able to dine out at local restaurants and spend time around Austin. Allums said that he took his exchange partner and several others to Billy's on Burnet so they could try classic American burgers. Although Allums said that it was a lot of fun for both LASA students and their exchange partners, he felt that entertaining his partner can sometimes be challenging.

"It's been slightly stressful trying to make sure that they're having a good time," Allums said. "But so far, when we're with them in the moment, it's extremely fun."

Allums said that the program has been both a fun and insightful experience. Parks said he feels content with the exchange program because of its benefits for the students from Austin and Berlin.

"[What is] most important I think [is] to have the daily experience, on both sides of the exchange, of living with native people so they're not staying at hotel rooms," Park said. "They're staying with their partner at home and seeing so many things from daily life, whether it's breakfast or homework or what you do after school [and] learning how different it is so we can hopefully understand each other better as cultures."



Study Buddies

LASA implements afterschool study halls

SOPHIA CHAU | staff writer

A flurry of activity signals the end of another day as students rush out the doors to get home and get on with their lives at home. Some students, however, go to study halls to get extra assistance in classes or get work done quietly. In order to provide more resources for students, LASA has recently rolled out various programs to give students that opportunity, including the new after school study program.

The after school study program runs from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m. every day after school. English study halls are in room 260 on Monday and Thursday, math study halls are on Tuesday and Wednesday in room 210, science study halls are on Tuesday and Wednesday in room 234 and social studies study halls are on Monday and Thursday in room 276. AP World History teacher Adam Escandell helps out with the social studies study halls. He feels like the study groups are good opportunities for students to take advantage of.

"First off, there's a teacher who's available to you, and that can be somebody who's here to help with any homework that you have, so people can benefit with getting help on homework," Escandell said. "Also, people might benefit because it's a dedicated time when you can make up any work that you've missed."

The study halls are an option for students who don't have time to go to office hours or other opportunities to talk with their teachers. Math teacher James Laughead is one of the teachers who helps run the math study halls. According to Laughead, the study hall serves as a way to normalize seeking out help for students who might otherwise not ask for help. If there's a standardized program in place, he thinks it can be seen as more of a casual thing to attend for students.

"It's really hard to convince LASA students that

it's okay to ask for help, so that's a big initiative of ours, and it sort of always has been," Laughead said. "It's really tricky to break through that barrier."

According to Laughead, many students are still reluctant to attend these study halls. Another problem is that he feels as if not many students know about this program. Additionally, the administration worries that students also might not feel comfortable talking to someone who isn't their teacher. To boost attendance, the administration has tried various things to get the word out about this program, which have been met with varying degrees of acceptance, according to 9th grade assistant principal Alexandra Salinas. She is behind efforts to promote the project to students and make sure parents are aware that students have options for help.

"We've emailed parents, put signs in the halls and bathrooms, and counselors and administrators are promoting the study halls to students," Salinas said. "We're also encouraging teachers to promote the study halls to students."

Sophomore Adryanna Sanchez-Briseno went to the math study hall because her teacher wasn't available to talk after school. Briseno met with Laughead to get help.

"He helped a lot trying to make me understand the new possibility to answers," Sanchez-Briseno said.

Sophomore Sally Edwards has attended chemistry and social studies study hall sessions. While there, she was able to get help on chemistry and find support from peers. Edwards believes that study halls are a promising opportunity, and she hopes that many students will take advantage of the program as she did. She thinks that the study halls will become a valued part of LASA once more people start attending.

"We all kind of bonded over our... mutual dislike of the chemistry problems," Edwards said. "That was kind of neat, and that was fun."



PRESENT MEETS FUTURE LASA Ambassadors Alex Barrera-Waters, Ben Fern and Gabrielle Jabour recruit alongside college counselor Vyasar Ganesan at a high school fair at Paragon Middle School. Roadshows take place in middle schools across the city and give LASA the chance to spread interest in applying for Austin's eighth graders. photo by Malena Heineman

LASA Roadshow Takes Off

AHNSA CAMPBELL | staff writer

In recent years, LASA administration has made a commitment to improve diversity in the student body. Administrators, student ambassadors and teachers travel to middle schools around Austin for roadshows in an effort to recruit applicants from a wide variety of zip codes and spread information about a LASA education.

Roadshows help provide information to students who are thinking about or planning on applying. Ambassadors and teachers speak with students and their parents about LASA. Staff and students provide information about what LASA is, tips for application and field questions from prospective applicants and parents.

Academy Director Andy Paulson is one of the many people involved in the roadshows. He and other administrators are in charge of the roadshow from start to finish.

"We do recruiting events for LASA, we go to a lot of middle schools, we go to a lot of private schools, parochial schools, just to share information about LASA," Paulson said. "My involvement in the roadshow is to start it, to introduce everybody, to welcome them, explain a little bit of an overview of what LASA's about and how we're an advanced academic institute."

Paulson says that although many students attend LASA roadshows, the event caters to parents. Teachers and administrators go over the more statistical aspects of the application process with them.

"It's really more for parents," Paulson said. "It gives them a chance to see an administrator and to hear about the application process. The best part is for them to hear from students."

Student ambassadors speak during the second part of the presentations. They play a large role in giving the parents and students an idea of the student experience. Senior Vaughn McNerny enjoys being able to share his experience with others as an ambassador.

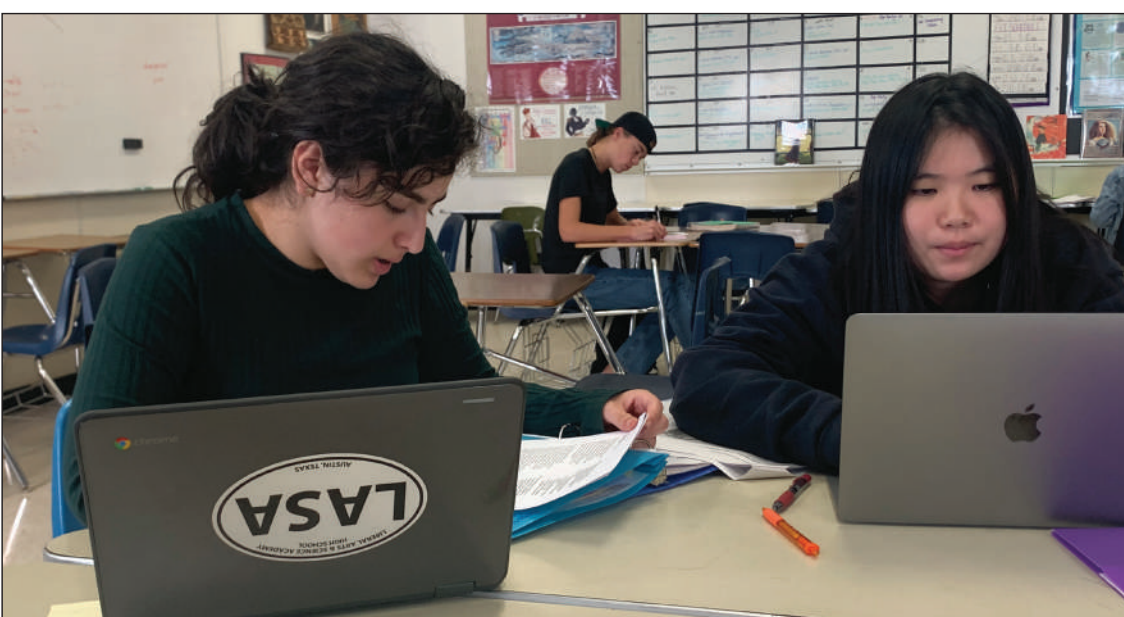
"My favorite part about the roadshow is the fact that I get to talk about my own experiences and my classes and reassure people that the homework is not as bad as it sounds, and that there's a place here for everyone," McNerny said.

According to Paulson, roadshows are designed to present a realistic perspective on the school. He is careful, though, to emphasize that LASA isn't the place for everyone and that the school focuses more on learning and growing as a student than strictly grades.

"We're a school of 'nerds', we're a school where kids love academics, and if you have a kid who may be smart but they don't love school, don't come to LASA," Paulson said. "If you want your kid to get into Texas, and you want them to be top six percent in their class, don't come to LASA because it's so competitive and that's not what we're about. We're not about the grades, we're not about the ranking, we're about challenges and making it appropriate, and making sure kids learn from it."

LASA Ambassadors senior officer Anaya Mehta believes middle school recruiting is beneficial because it allows students to get an early glimpse into the culture of LASA. She encourages people to attend if they are interested in the school.

"The interaction that potential students have with LASA Ambassadors gives them the chance to get to know what their first couple years at LASA would look like and the type of people that attend LASA," Mehta said. "Potential students are able to get information about the application process. If they do become LASA students, then they have the opportunity to give back by joining LASA Ambassadors and attending recruiting events, and continue to inspire kids like them."



ON THAT GRIND Sophomores Naiya Vasquez-Castaneda and Jane Fulton are hard at work during after school office hours with Ms. Vanover. Social studies office hours take place every Monday and Thursday from 4:00-6:00 in Ms. Aguayo's room 276. photo by Nia Orakwue

ACL's Breakthrough Backstory

The Rich History of Austin's Largest Music Festival

JAKE MATZ | staff writer

When Willie Nelson performed in Austin in Oct. 1974, his concert was taped on video. The next year it would become the first Austin City Limits (ACL) broadcast, which turned into a larger radio broadcast and massive music festival, making Austin the "music capital of the world". Thousands of people attend the festival each year, yet few know the history behind the experiences they have.

There have been 45 seasons of the broadcast since the first taping. They are shown on KLRU, the Austin branch of PBS. Program director Bill Arhos, producer Paul Bosner and director Bruce Scafe were the creators of the show and took inspiration from "The Improbable Rise of Redneck Rock", a book written by native Austinite Jan Reid in 1974. In recent years, artist involvement and community interaction have also grown with the production. The ACL show received the National Medal of the Arts in 2003 and is part of the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame and Museum as an honorary landmark. Time Magazine named it as a top-10 "most influential music show of all time".

In 2002, an event-planning company called C3 Presents collaborated with Austin City Limits to create the first music festival, which was only two days instead of two weekends. The festival has grown from an attendance of 42,000 in its first year to 450,000 in 2019.

Currently, the festival is organized by ACL Radio, which also puts together Blues on the Green (BOTG) in the summer. BOTG is an admissions-free concert that features Austin artists on the rise. ACL Radio was formerly known as KGSR, but was renamed in fall 2018 to

focus more on music-related news tied to ACL events.

Emily Parker is the program director at ACL Radio, and joined KGSR back in 2015 after having worked for eight years in the radio business. According to Parker, not only does the station have ACL-related news, but it also does in-depth profiles of both local Austin artists and out-of-state artists that are rising to fame nationwide.

"Austin City Limits" technically refers to the weekly PBS program with taped concerts in Austin similar to Willie Nelson's. The festival that Austinites and foreigners love so much is actually called "ACL Fest." Paul Bosner came up with the name of the broadcast when he first started working on the show. Because he drove in from Dallas, he often saw the 'Austin City Limits' border sign on the outskirts of Austin.

The Moody Theater, where ACL Live is played and filmed, is on a street named after their first episode guest, Willie Nelson. Now it is home to dozens of artists from a variety of genres, and even where the 2019 ACL Hall of Fame inductions took place in late October.

Community outreach has kept people more involved in the music, and proceeds from ACL and all other concerts are returned to Austin charity organizations. ACL has not only created a tourism influx and a thriving music industry but has also left a lasting impact on the Austin community through work with the Make a Wish Foundation, Austin Pets Alive and the Health Alliance for Austin's Musicians.

Due to a growing fanbase and increases in financial strength, ACL has been able to bring their live magic to other parts of the world. In 2015, another "ACL", Auckland City Limits, was created in Australia. However, the lineup was far smaller and had fewer bands than its sister-festival in Austin. Sydney also received similar treatment last year.

ACL has come a long way from its roots as a small radio station. Today, ACL boasts a popular music festival with performances from all kinds of artists and fans from all over the world.



PINK OUT Hands were in the air for Tame Impala's Friday night performance, which took place at the start weekend one. photo by Sarah Mines

ON THE GROUNDS ACL attendees gather for the start of a concert by FINNEAS, an alt-pop singer and producer. FINNEAS is also acclaimed artist Billie Eilish's brother, producer, and co-songwriter. photo by Abigail Jackson



graphic by Andrew Lucksinger

A Day at Austin City Limits

ABIGAIL JACKSON | staff writer

Concerts are absolutely one of the coolest experiences ever—it's amazing how many people can come together to see one artist perform for an hour or two. The atmosphere is always so exciting, and there is nothing like the adrenaline rush you get when the lights dim and the music begins.

At Austin City Limits (ACL), Austin's largest music festival, you encounter this feeling multiple times a day as you hop from artist to artist, seeing some of the biggest names in the music industry in the same place. You can go from Billie Eilish to 21 Savage without skipping a beat, and top your experience off with Childish Gambino all in the span of three hours.

I attended ACL on its first weekend, on Oct. 2 to 4. On Sunday night, Lizzo and Cardi B played back to back. I love Lizzo, and Cardi B is iconic, so seeing both of them was incredible. The only problem was that there was a massive crowd to see Lizzo—over 60,000 people squeezed in around one of the smallest stages at the festival to see her perform, and I was at the front of it. My friends and I had waited for about two hours in the crowd to keep our spots, and it was totally worth it.

However, when the concert ended at 8 p.m., all 60,000 people flocked to the left of the park to catch Mumford and Sons, or to the right to see Cardi B. We knew we wouldn't be as close to Cardi B as we were to Lizzo, but we also knew that the crowd would be much more energetic for Cardi B.

As we moved from the Miller Lite stage to the Honda stage, we found a spot on the side of the crowd waiting for Cardi B, where there was space for us to dance and enjoy ourselves without being shoulder to shoulder with thousands of strangers. When Cardi B finally came out onto the stage, we had lots of space to really go crazy and have fun.

I think the contrast between the crowds really highlights the biggest challenge in planning a day at ACL. Festival attendees had to choose between waiting for hours in a crowded line to be close to the

performers, or having room to dance and have fun further away from the stage.

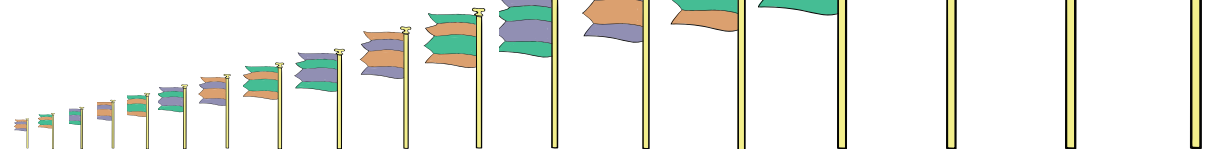
Personally, I had much more fun with free space to move around in. 95 degree heat combined with a tightly packed crowd made it hard to enjoy the concert, but in all fairness, it's hard not to enjoy Lizzo and Cardi B. Even though we were further away from Cardi B and I could barely see her over the crowd, my friends and I were able to enjoy ourselves more by having space to breathe freely.

ACL definitely delivers on the fun, music filled weekend it advertises. The overall atmosphere that comes with the concerts, whether you're close or far, the food options, the merchandise and the backdrop of the city of Austin create an unforgettable experience.

The big crowds, loud music and high prices don't bother me as much as they might other festival-goers. I'm also not bothered by little things like being far away from the stage or waiting in the Texas heat for two hours for an artist to come out, because the music is always worth the wait.

I know that some of my friends don't enjoy it as much as I do because of common problems, like overcrowding and unfair price increases. Cramping tens of thousands of people into the park creates some tight squeezes near the stages or the ACL Eats areas, and the prices are a little ridiculous. A usual "Trailer Park" taco from Torchy's Tacos is \$3.75 when you order at the restaurant, but at the Torchy's Tacos booth at ACL, the same taco costs \$8.00. But a price increase on food is a small price to pay for great music and fun times with friends.

Regardless of the minor inconveniences, I think that ACL creates an amazing festival experience that not enough people get to be a part of. Austin is the live music capital of the world, and ACL definitely lives up to the hype and creates an unforgettable experience for everyone.



Out-Of-Towners' Opposing Opinions

Austin's Role in Setting the Stage for ACL

HANIF AMANULLAH | entertainment editor

Austin City Limits (ACL), Austin's largest music festival in terms of both venue size and attendees, remains one of the city's most profitable and popular attractions. In the 17 years the festival has been in existence, it has drawn fans from all over the world.

Attendees from out of town have differing ideas about the festival's placement in Austin. Austin is not the largest city in Texas, and some, such as ACL attendee Casey Thibodeaux, question whether the Live Music Capital Of The World is worthy enough to handle a festival of ACL's stature. Thibodeaux, who lives in a small town a few hours from Austin, has been coming to the festival for the past few years. However, her reasons for attending are less musical, and more work-based.

"I bartend here at Bar 5, and it's about the same [pay]," Thibodeaux said. "I am from a small town, so ... I drive back every day."

Other attendees, like Rhyia Reyes, said they appreciate the city as much as the music. ACL's artists perform on stages scattered around Zilker Park, with Austin's steadily growing skyline as the backdrop.

Reyes originally lived in Austin before moving to neighboring San Antonio a few years ago. Reyes said the city is a big part of her reason for coming back every year for the past six years.

"I love Austin," Reyes said. "I love how it's up and coming, and people are very nice. And, it's very environmentally conscious."

Though Reyes now lives in San Antonio, she finds Austin more appealing. The city itself, combined with the big music festival, makes for what she considers a great

experience.

"I believe there is a difference [between Austin and San Antonio]," Reyes said. "Austin is the Live Music Capital of the World, and I am geared towards music. So I prefer Austin over San Antonio. Austin will always be better, and ACL is my home."

For Reyes, ACL is its own incentive to come to Austin. When she first attended, she had only been to one concert and wanted to experience more.

"It's a tradition to go every year," Reyes said. "I am just impressed by the lineup each year. I want to see more artists and cross all of them off on my bucket list."

Briana Cortez is from Laredo, TX, and this was her first time at the festival. Though she enjoys ACL, her primary reason for coming is the city.

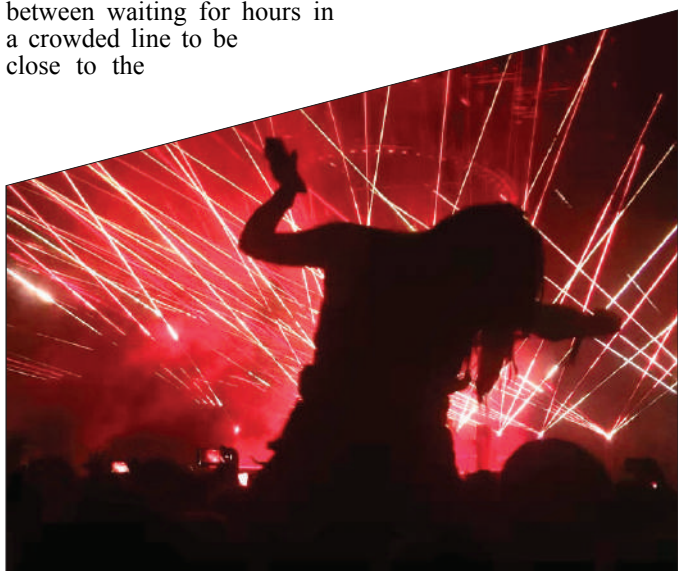
"I have been to Austin before—this is maybe my fourth time coming," Cortez said. "I've been around. I go out to like West 6th ... it's all we've been doing since we've been at the festival. We went to the District, we went to the capital. It's nice. I really like it."

People with different backgrounds who come to ACL have differing opinions on Austin itself. While some, like Reyes and Cortez, have an affinity for the festival's hometown, others see it as more of an opportunity to see entertaining concerts. There is also a part of the population that still believes both the festival and the city are overrated.

"I don't really like Austin," Thibodeaux said. "I'm here, I'm tired, it's day 6, and I want to go home."

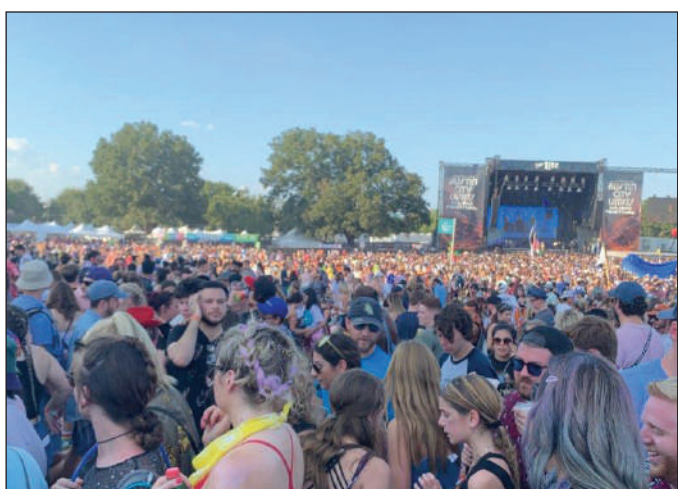
Cortez has only visited a few times, but like Reyes, she said she prefers aspects of Austin over her hometown.

"I love Austin. It's very different from where I live," Cortez said. "Here everybody is so nice and so open. Back home people aren't like that. I really like the environment, the people and the city itself. I would still come if I [lived farther away]."



SWAYING TO THE BEAT A festival-goer dances on the shoulders of a friend during Tame Impala's hit song "Cage the Elephant" photo by Alec Lippman

QUEUING UP Festival attendees wait near the Miller Lite stage as the sun sets. 2019's Weekend One was one of the hottest on record. photo by Luci Garza



review Phillips' "Joker" Shows Dark Backstory of Society's Wild Card

MAX DOMEL | entertainment editor

Set in the chaotic, crime-filled Gotham City of 1981, "Joker" follows a professional clown and hopeful comedian named Arthur Fleck. He has a potentially made-up disorder which makes him laugh overwhelmingly at inappropriate times. In 1981, Arthur is caught in a period of transition between being a poor outcast with dark thoughts and a murderous villain with grand plans for the dysfunctional society he lives in.

Director Todd Phillips was first inspired to film a standalone Joker backstory in 2016, influenced by Martin Scorsese and his 1976 film "Taxi Driver." Scorsese collaborated with Phillips at various points during the earlier development stages. Arthur is played by Joaquin Phoenix, whose past weird behavior in real life and well-respected acting ability made him the perfect fit for the part in the eyes of many fans.

Robert De Niro plays Murray Franklin, the host of a talk show in Gotham that Arthur strives to be on one day. The other major characters are Arthur's neighbor Sophie, played by Zazie Beetz from the TV show "Atlanta," and his mother Penny Fleck,



graphic by Andrew Luckinger

played by Frances Conroy. Besides them and a few other characters who make shorter appearances, there isn't really anybody else involved in the plot, reflecting Phillips' desire to mainly focus on the story of Arthur and his little world around him.

The opening scene shows Arthur at a therapist appointment where he says he is getting worse and that all he has inside are negative thoughts. The film shifts to Arthur putting on clown makeup at his desk, giving him the appearance of smiling. Afterward, he goes out onto the street and dances with an advertising sign, which is taken by a group of mischievous boys. Arthur sprints behind them through traffic and slides into an alley, where he is beaten up and kicked on the ground. The angle turns to Arthur sobbing on the concrete behind the movie title in grey-yellow letters that fill up the screen. The combination of calmer colors and the sounds of a violin present the viewer with what kind of tone the movie will have.

Every night, Arthur watches Murray Franklin's talk show. He imagines himself being selected from the audience after laughing and sharing his story. In his fantasy, Murray says Arthur is the son he never had. This is relevant because a major element of the film is Arthur trying to figure out who his father is. Arthur's mom is adamant about receiving a letter from Thomas Wayne, which Arthur figures out could relate to a possible cover-up of an affair between them.

At one point, it seems like this version of Joker's story suggests he and Batman could be half-brothers. However, after confronting Thomas and stealing files from Arkham Asylum, he learns he was truly adopted and his mother was most likely insane and made everything up. The matter is never truly solved and presented to the audience, though, making the possibilities interesting. Arthur also discovers that he was beaten by his mother's abusive boyfriend when he was a child. This could have been his first step down a dark road in life.

Another important event in the evolution from Arthur to Joker is when he murders three Wall Street businessmen, who are also alluded to being sexual predators, on the subway in his full clown get-up. Thomas Wayne makes a remark on TV that low-lives are all stupid clowns. Believing in Arthur's actions as a heroic, this causes lower class citizens to dress as clowns and riot against the upper-class.

The last straw for Arthur is when the Gotham City Council disbands social services, stopping Arthur's flow of medication and adding a new homicidal dimension to his mental illness. Because his laughter is even more wild than before, he bombs his first comedy show and is invited onto Murray's show so he can be made fun of. On the

way to the show, Arthur walks down a famous set of stairs in the Bronx, a recurring location in the film, with his full Joker attire on, dancing with a smile on his face. There are many scenes of just Arthur dancing to cello or old jazz music, which was a strategic move to further establish his creepy vibe.

On live air, Arthur proudly takes responsibility for the subway murders and claims that if he had been killed, they would just step over his body. This brings together an argument of the film that a torn, inhumane society transformed a victim into a villain they couldn't handle. To conclude, Arthur says Murray is just like every other mean person out there, stating something along the lines of "what do you get when you mix a cruel society with a broken down, mentally ill person? You get what you deserve!". He then shoots Murray, which is arguably the moment society is truly introduced to Joker.

Although many scenes in the movie portray Arthur as a cruel, psychopathic monster, one scene where two of his co-workers visit him shows a merciful side of his character. Randall, who lent Arthur a gun and got him fired, and Gary, a dwarf, come over to his apartment one day, but Randall's visit is cut short when he is gruesomely stabbed by Arthur as revenge for throwing him under the bus. This obviously terrifies Gary, who tries to escape but can't reach the doorknob. Arthur helps him open the door and lets him go because, as he says, Gary was the only person who treated him as another human being, showing if society had acted better towards Arthur, maybe his Joker persona and evolution never would have existed.

"Joker" has been extremely well-received by audiences worldwide, with a 68% score on Rotten Tomatoes reflecting the voice of critics. It topped the box office in the first two weekends of its release and grossed \$563 million, the tenth-highest movie grossing of 2019. It also broke the October record previously held by "Venom." Many fans think Phoenix's performance will be nominated for an Oscar, and "Joker" itself already won an award at this summer's Venice Film Festival, followed by an eight-minute standing ovation. The release of the movie has also led to some controversy, though. The U.S. Army suspected some men who feel represented by the character of the Joker would attack theaters on opening weekend, yet luckily nothing happened.

While "Joker" may be an important cultural movie to watch in this day and age, it is still very dark and unsettling to watch (which also wraps the reader into the story and never bores). It's not supposed to be a witty, action-packed superhero movie, so fans of "The Dark Knight" are more likely to enjoy it than "Guardians of the Galaxy" fans. "Joker" is not about how the good are saved by superheroes, but how evil is ironically punished by villains they shaped and deserve.

AVA DE LEON | staff writer

The Disney corporation has produced some of the most profitable movies ever. Having recently acquired the rights to Star Wars and Marvel, Disney now holds the rights to the highest grossing movie of all time, "Avengers: Endgame". However, in recent years, Disney's movies have been met with mixed reviews, as many of these new films are just live-action versions of cartoons from the late 20th century.

Since 2015, new versions of classic Disney fairytales and fantasies have been revamped and released again to younger generations. Movies like "Cinderella", "The Jungle Book", "Beauty and the Beast" and others have been made with Computer Generated Images (CGI), which gives them a more realistic look.

As a way to promote these reboots, Disney chose to cast famous actors to play the roles of some of their most iconic characters. For example, Will Smith was the new Genie in the "Aladdin" remake and Beyonce played

The entire reboot of "The Lion King" relied on CGI, which may have been the reason why the movie did not receive as much praise from critics as its predecessor. Despite lower critical acclaim, it was still the second-highest grossing film of 2019.

Freshman Bo Bednar had positive things to say about the remakes, despite low approval from critics. Bednar said she liked the new, realistic feel that she feels the remakes provide.

RISE OF THE REBOOTS

"In general, I don't think they were as good as the original animated ones because I think [cartoons] is what Disney is better at."

According to Bednar, many people see poor reviews at the box office and decide not to see the movie, which leads to lower profits and a box office failure. However, amateur movie critic Jenifer Dowel believes people are willing to look past the reviews to make their own assessments of the remakes.

evolving and growing with the times, they have to be willing to take new risks in their productions, even if that means resorting to recreating older stories. Dowel also thinks that the movies are a way to introduce the newest generation to classic animations.

"When I was younger, we had the cartoon versions and now that I'm a little bit older, I still like the cartoons, but I think [Disney] is gearing more towards [older] generations," Dowel said. "But it's still a classic. I kinda like it a little bit better than the cartoons."

Evans suggested that the remakes are primarily created for profit. She said that having already created storylines makes it simple for Disney to put the stories into a more realistic setting as a way to show people something different. That plan may not have gone as expected, though, as most of the remakes did not entertain audiences as the cartoon versions did.

"I think they disrespect animation as a medium," Evans said. "I think they are unnecessary and they're just money grabs." One of

- GODZILLA
- HELLBOY
- THE KARATE KID
- KING KONG

ROBOCOP

WHAT MEN WANT

JACOB'S LADDER

ALADDIN

THE LION KING

MASTERS OF THE UNIVERSE

REBOOTS

MIB

CASINO ROYALE

SPIDERMAN

graphic by Hanif Amanullah

THE ADDAMS FAMILY

PET SEMATARY

GRUDGE

SHAFT

TOMB RAIDER

Nala in the remake of "The Lion King". These changes to casting have prompted some people, like freshman Avery Evans, to question Disney's decision to remake older movies.

Evans thinks Disney made a bad decision in rebooting the movies, saying that they lacked a certain spirit that the cartoons had.

"With animation, you can really create that fantastical world," Evans said. "With live action, you have to CGI it all, and sometimes that doesn't look very great. It's just harder to get that fantasy-magical feel with live action."

"I thought the way they were able to animate things that don't exist in our world and make them look like they were real was cool," Bednar said.

whom were born between 1961 and 1981). On such person is Audio-Visual Production teacher Vanessa Mokry, who still enjoys the older, classic films.

"It's a Wonderful Life used to run on every single channel, all the time, non stop," Mokry said. "It was on every day, multiple times a day. Then they changed it so that it would only air once. So now you see it more selectively and it makes it more special."

Freshman Benjamin Zavadsky said movies that come out during the holidays try to match the season, which makes them easy conversation topics for all age groups. They can also provide an enjoyable outlet for celebrating families to spend and share time with each other. Zavadsky finds that most of his friends watch these holiday films. He also feels that the shared common interest allows connections to be formed.

"When you finally see [the movie], you can bring it up in random conversations and be like 'yeah I love that movie' and then you start talking about it and now you have a conversation started," Zavadsky said. "Since everybody

knows about it, everybody watches it and it's just a bunch of people who've watched the same movie and it creates a bond."

According to movie critic William Poneck, holiday movies tend to have a common theme shared among them. He said that what really draws people in is the endearing story of family and love, and that, unlike non-holiday movies or films meant for other holidays, Christmas movies are meant to be heartwarming and contain an important lesson at the center of the plot.

However, some may find that the plotlines and scripts may seem cheesy or over-hyped and over-used. Afterall, many of the holiday movies that come out today are either reboots or films with reused character tropes.

"A lot of them are about just being with family and just being good people," Poneck said. "When they start showing, it just means it's the start of Christmas and that's the time of the year we enjoy a lot—not just because of the gifts, but because of being with family."

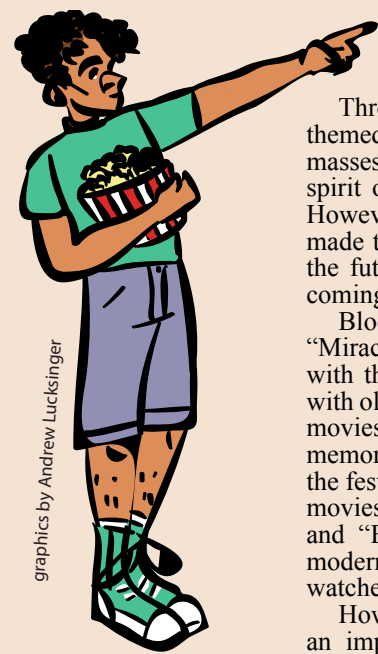
The Wintertime Magic of Holiday Blockbusters

AVA DE LEON | staff writer

Throughout many generations, Christmas-themed movies have been consumed by the masses over the holiday season and represent the spirit of the holidays with heartfelt storylines. However, some questions remain. What has made these movies so popular? And what does the future of holiday movies look like for the coming years?

Blockbusters like "It's a Wonderful Life" and "Miracle on 34th Street" may not be as popular with the younger generation today as they are with older generations, but nevertheless, holiday movies can still resurface certain winter-time memories for any person who has indulged in the festive films before. More recently, rebooted movies like "How the Grinch Stole Christmas" and "Elf" have hit theaters in an attempt to modernize the film quality. These reboots are watched every year by younger generations.

However, these movies have yet to make an impact on some Gen X-ers (members of



graphics by Andrew Luckinger



Politicians, Panelists Shine at Texas Tribune

AHNSA CAMPBELL
SOPHIA CHAU
LUCI GARZA | staff writers

In nearly 100 degree weather, with the sun beating down, lanyard-sporting Texas Tribune Festival attendees wait patiently outside panel doors, hoping for a glimpse of their favorite 2020 presidential candidates or an award-winning journalist. The Texas Tribune Festival, run by the nonprofit media organization the Texas Tribune, focuses on politics and policy and invites a variety of speakers who work at the state and national level. This year, the festival attracted large crowds and attention because of the high-profile speakers invited.

The festival was held on Sept. 26 to 28, with Nancy Pelosi, Ted Cruz and Pete Buttigieg attending as panelists. Other politicians, commentators and analysts came from all over the country, while regular fans from Austin and states around the US made the trip to see speakers and attend panels at the festival.

Kelly Crook is a festival attendee and Austin native. She attends every year, and she said she views the Texas Tribune Festival as a way to listen to major journalists in person. She believes it is a very different experience than seeing the speakers on television.

"I have been attending every year since it started," Crook said. "This is the one chance I get to hear all the people that I read in the newspaper and see on TV and see them up close and personal. It's very educational."

The festival was established nine years ago. Each year, panelists give their opinions on and analysis of a variety of topics, but they all relate in some way to current events around the globe. The

festival also focuses on controversial issues taking place at the same time as the festival. Many of the panelists are urged to talk about these issues during the presentations.

Ricardo Quinto, a festival attendee who waited to see Pete Buttigieg, described how the issues covered differ from year to year. He has attended multiple years and enjoys seeing how issues change.

"Last year, during the festival, was the Brett Kavanaugh hearing," Quinto said. "This year, it's impeachment."

The festival also helps attendees see politicians in the flesh, as opposed to on television. Quinto believes participants being in the same room as many high profile politicians can help them create a more authentic view of their elected officials, while also giving them the chance to develop new opinions on officials running for office.

"I'm a Democrat, but it was really good to see some of these members outside of their scripted element and to see them in a little bit more of a...human lens," Quinto said. "I still disagree with them, but it's good to see them as people versus standing behind a podium and giving speeches."

As the Texas Tribune Festival gets larger, organizers said they hope to be able to bring bigger politicians to the podiums. One high profile speaker this year was Pete Buttigieg. During many of the panels, people, like festival attendee Jennifer Owens, are given the opportunity to submit and ask questions about the subjects they're interested to speakers like Buttigieg.

Owens drove up from Dallas to attend the festival. She waited in long lines with her friend, who came in from Kentucky to go to the festival as well. She said that overcrowding was an issue this year, as many high profile speakers were chosen

to speak.

"I really like Mayor Buttigieg, but this year the festival is just very crowded, and if there's something you really want to see, you have to get in line early," Jennifer Owens said. "We went...and barely made it in."

Owens said that despite the crowding, there was never a shortage of things to do. In just one day, there were around 90 events to choose from. These events include book signings, one-on-one talks and panels with members from all sides of the political spectrum.

"[People] come to this festival from all over the country, and we're in the position to talk about actual issues that don't need to be focused on talking points," Quinto said. "And I think that's really important."

Sophomore Sally Edwards was also at the festival this year. She said she decided to attend so she could see the lineup, which she called amazing, and engage with current political issues.

"I think especially with our current political climate and everything that's happening, it's such an important time for us to educate ourselves," Edwards said.

Edwards says that it is important for young people to go to events like the Texas Tribune Festival because the issues brought to the table will affect the younger generations in the future. She said that young people are often the most vocal when it comes to voicing their political opinions, and she feels that the festival is a great opportunity for people to listen and have their voices heard. Quinto said that as tensions in the political culture of America rise, the Texas Tribune Festival provides relief from the constant struggles for regular citizens to connect with politicians and see new perspectives of them and their policies.

Out On The Town! Austin's Comedy Clubs in the Spotlight

MAX DOMEL | entertainment editor

The Hideout Theatre

The Hideout Theatre is a local improv hub in Downtown Austin near the intersection of Congress Ave. and West 7th Street, and was first opened in 1999. While the back is where laughs fill the atmosphere, the front of the theatre is actually a coffee shop. Its features include old hardwood flooring, festive lighting, charming brick walls decorated with improv posters and a bar counter made out of layers of multi-shaded wood. Austinites can catch shows from either newly-established groups or the famous regulars on Thursdays and weekends. In addition to performances, the Hideout Theatre also hosts improv classes for adults and summer camps for kids to develop their improv skills. If you are wondering what a live improv show looks like, or want to watch some of Austin's best groups, going to a performance at the Hideout Theatre would be a great activity to do!

Capitol City Comedy Club

Founded by a couple from Houston in 1986, Capitol City Comedy Club was originally named "Laff Stop" and mainly hosted comedians from Texas. Currently it welcomes performers from across the country, including talk show host and nationwide sensation Ellen DeGeneres who made a tour stop once in Austin. The main performance hall is filled with circular dining tables, while the small square stage is at the back. In one hallway there is a wall with photos of previous performers labeled "Funniest Person in Austin Hall of Fame", which has winners of their annual open mic contests. Sunday nights are designated for regular open mic sessions. The club's most famous event is their Tuesday night "Punch! Comedy" show, which is curated by the staff and doesn't have single performers. For unique and exciting local entertainment, make sure to catch a show at one of Austin's most popular homes for live comedy!

Fallout Theater

Also located in the center of downtown Austin, Fallout Theater provides another option for fans of stand-up comedy and improv to go out and watch some incredible shows. Although the theater has only been open for one year of business, its loyal fanbase and emphasis on diversity, experimentation and community have helped it become an increasingly popular spot in the Austin live comedy scene. "The Floor is Lava" is one of its most popular series, where a lineup of "Austin's molten hot comics" showcase their comedy skills bi-monthly at 9:30 p.m. Open mic nights are also frequently held as part of a session called "Playpen". Inside the theater itself, there is a small stage below decorative lights, surrounded by up-close seating, which makes the setting more intimate for performers and the audience. One interesting detail about the building is that the position of and lettering on its sign resemble the sign from the 1980s comedy TV show "Cheers."

ColdTowne Theater

If you are interested in watching live shows but do not want to go downtown to see one, ColdTowne Theater also offers a memorable comedy experience in a more secluded location on the outside of central Austin near Airport Boulevard. Consequently, the theater also has more parking availability closer to the main building. ColdTowne was originally a theater in New Orleans but moved here in 2005 after Hurricane Katrina, and became the first Chicago-style improv theater in Austin. It has a handful of signature events, including "Loverboy: Kiss and Tell" about dates gone wrong and "Can We Kick It?" featuring satirical political commentary from local group Sugar, Water, Purple. Additionally, Sunday evenings are primetime for youth performers, so for aspiring comedians or fans of live comedy in the LASA student body, visit ColdTowne Theater!

Esther's Follies

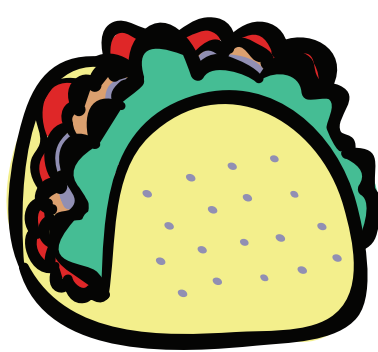
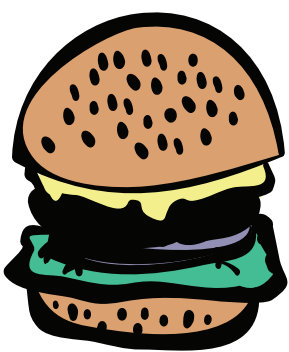
Esther's Follies, both the troupe and theater, has already reached legendary status after 40 successful years on 6th Street. Just from looking at the building's popping colors and the bubbly rainbow 3D-letter sign, one can already anticipate the kind of magic they will experience inside. Besides standard improv and stand-up routines, the theater has magic shows with everything from fireworks to extreme juggling tricks. Furthermore, there are both sketches reflecting national politics and daily life in the capital of Texas. In October, the crew also added a murder mystery dinner event to the lineup. If you are looking for a live show with more action and amazement, seeing Esther's Follies is a must!



LINING UP Texas Tribune Festival attendees wait in line for a panel in downtown Austin, TX. Each attendee can sport a different lanyard, designating VIP status. photo by Luci Garza



A MEET WITH PETE Mayor of South-Bend, IA, and democratic presidential candidate, Pete Buttigieg talks does a Q&A session at the Texas Tribune Festival. photo by Luci Garza



graphics by Andrew Lucksinger

The Secret Lives Of Fast Food Menus

DIEGO PROZZI | staff writer

Fast food restaurants in Austin offer more than just what is written on the menu. Home Slice Pizza and Torchy's Tacos are two restaurants that offer items on secret menus, which are menus with unique items that are normally not available to customers.

Torchy's is a very popular chain of taco restaurants in Austin. Torchy's menu includes tacos with unique names and ingredients, but they also have classic taco options available. Their "damn good" tacos have prompted the chain's expansion all across Austin.

Torchy's secret menu is on the restaurant's website. Though the menu is not hidden, the seven tacos on the secret menu are seldom ordered, according to employees.

Freshman and self-described taco lover Eric Haney went to Torchy's and ordered two items off of the secret menu. He ordered "The Matador," which contains chopped brisket, grilled jalapenos, pickled onions, grated jack cheese, and avocado, sour

cream and cilantro. Something Haney feels is unique about the Matador is that it is on a corn tortilla inside of a flour tortilla. Haney said he enjoyed the taco and recommends it to anyone who can handle some spice and wants to try something new.

"The brisket was really good, and it was nice and spicy," Haney said. "There was a little bit of extra sauce, and there was a little bit of extra sour cream, but that didn't make it taste worse. It was still really good."

Haney said he was originally curious as to why Torchy's has a secret menu, since he believes the tacos are good enough to be put on the real menu.

"[The menu] deserves more publicity," Haney said. "It is a good menu, and so I feel like more people should know about it, but it's nice to know about something that not many other people don't know about."

Home Slice Pizza also offers items off of a secret menu. One item is a \$22 sandwich called "The Vatican" and is packed with ham, salami, capicola and provolone cheese baked inside a cheese calzone. Jen Strickland, an owner at Home Slice, said the sandwich is basically a sub inside a calzone, which is why it is named after the Vatican City, a city-state inside Italy.

Strickland was responsible for creating "The Vatican", and kitchen manager Phil Korshak was responsible for promoting it.

"The idea came about in a meeting," Haney said. "It was talking about what could be a secret menu item at Home Slice," Strickland said. Strickland said she was influenced by TV shows when coming up with secret menu items like "The Vatican". She said she was particularly inspired by the show "Man vs Food", which features eating challenges at a variety of restaurants where the portions are particularly large.

"I had been watching a lot of Man vs. Food shows and the dishes were so over the top...the idea to try putting an Italian sub inside a calzone just came to me in that meeting, the name right along with it because the Vatican is a country inside a country," Strickland said.

Strickland believes menu items are a unique part of a restaurant, and she hopes more restaurants will incorporate secret menus, too. She said the menus are a delicious way for owners and employees to put some personality into the food and the menu itself.

Coach Jon Croston

Spotlight

Philip Metcalf

CHARLES TAYLOR | sports editor

Q:What do you like most about coaching cross country?

A:I started coaching cross country because the time is very good for me because I don't miss being with my family. But the reason I'm still coaching cross country is mostly because of the people in cross country.

Q:When and why did you decide to start coaching golf?

A:I started coaching about 10 to 15 years ago when I was in Arizona. I enjoy it an awful lot because it's a more relaxed, fun sport. It's a good time, hang out sport. So I do enjoy golf.

Q:How are you able to manage coaching two sports at once on top of teaching Calculus and Physics?

A:I don't sleep. It's really hard actually through November because it's cross country every morning pretty much and golf most afternoons. So they're really, really long days. I typically get here about 5:40 a.m. and only don't get home till like 7 p.m. or whatever. So cross country is really intense for a few months.

Q:How would you evaluate the performance of the golf team?

A:It should be about the best guys' team we have in a while. There are a few teams in the Austin area that are just amazing at golf. Students who have played since birth, swing coaching and stuff like that. And then there's a ton of schools who don't have anyone that golfs. So we're kind of right in that middle. We'll never be great, but we're going to beat most schools.

Q:How would you assess the cross country meets so far?

A:The girls are very strong this year, but they're going to be even stronger. Next year will be their year. The girls will hopefully qualify for State, which would be amazing because in the history of the school, we've only ever qualified one team for State. It was the boys last year. But the boys went on and won second in State, which is absolutely, ridiculously amazing.

Q:What is an example of a principle of either Calculus or Physics you have been able to apply when coaching one of your sports?

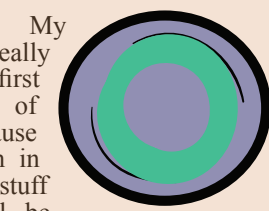
A:All of life is physics. Every move you make, it's all about energy, forces. But honestly, most of cross country is really about determination and hard work over time. To tell you the truth, many of them have pretty bad running styles. But they work really hard.

Q:Is there something other than material involved in coaching sports that has helped you in teaching your classes?

A:Coaching and teaching really are pretty much the same, just different materials. But you're trying to introduce people to material and get them to take ownership of it and develop a level of understanding and application. So it's really no different, just a different setting.

Q:Does waking up early to coach cross country present issues when it comes to grading or planning for your classes?

A:Yeah, it sucks. My Physics students really suffer during the first about eight weeks of the school year because I'm not in my room in the morning getting stuff done. So they'll all be happy when this is over.



$$x = 1/2at^2 + vt$$

$$F = ma \quad W = F/d \quad P = W/t$$

**Q:What is your favorite sport to coach, and why?**

A: Personally, I think runners are all slightly crazy, and I don't understand them. Soccer is probably the funnest sport.

Q:Describe your experience with the sports you coach.

A:I only did cross country for one year in high school and it was to get in shape for soccer and pretty much hated it. But I really did get in good shape. I played soccer throughout high school and some in college. That's the sport that I just enjoy. I have coached it at every school I've been to until LASA. I won my last State tournament in Arizona. It's a fun sport and a challenge to coach.

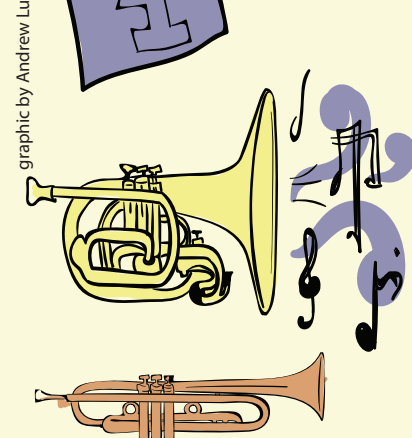
HELENA LARA | sports editor

Q:What level of commitment do you have for Band and for Cross Country?

A:I'm the vice president of the marching band which means I kind of organize all the social aspects of the band and it's also a leadership position. I am one of the captains of the cross country team. This is my first year being captain but I really like it so far.

Q:How do you balance both band and varsity cross-country?

A: Days are long, they start at 6 a.m. for cross country and I get home at 7 p.m. from band but it's not that bad since once you get into it it's just kind of a rhythm.

Q:Do you have any advice for athletes that play more than one sport?

A: It feels hard when you're doing it but it's way more fun honestly. If you're not in that kind of stuff then school gets really boring and sports are the kind of things that keep you actually interested in what you're doing.

Q:What is your favorite part of cross country?

A: I think that we've made a really good community in cross country. Everyone is kind of cheering everybody on and everybody is friends with everybody else. It's a really big team but everybody knows other people and are able to show up to school with one hundred other friends.

Q:Why did you choose to be in band?

A:I've been in band since sixth grade and my brother and my sister both did marching band

and I saw them really love it and I came in and I really loved it as well. It's also an amazing community like cross country.

Q:Do you see yourself continuing your cross-country career?

A: Yes, I would really love to run in college if that's an option. I know that's two years away but if I'm able to do that then that's my dream.

Q:How are you working towards that?

A: Well, I'm trying to get to state this year. The team is not going to qualify, the boys' team is not going to qualify for state, but I'm really trying to get there individually with Adam Switek.

Q:If you had to pick one of the two, which one would you pick to stick with and why?

A: Oh no, people are going to get mad. Definitely cross country just because I'm better at it than I am at band. It's something that I think I could continue and I could see myself continuing and getting better at. I love both of them but cross country is where I can be really competitive.

Q:How do you feel when you run versus when you play in band?

A:Running is something that I've been doing for such a long time that I feel really good if it's a good run. Playing is a whole different experience, if I'm marching the show there's a whole other part, I'm more a part of a group when I'm there because I'm part of the band. Whereas running is more of an individual kind of thing.

Q:What do you think you like better: individual or group sports?

A:I like training with people and working with people because it makes it much more enjoyable than it is to just do something on your own. I like to be there with people that care about it. In cross country there's a lot of individual improvement but you're still working with other runners.

Q:What does team mean for you in each sport?

A:For band, it's as if we are one team. If we're one group of people then if one person makes a mistake, then everybody's making that mistake. We have to really work together a lot more in band which is what makes it a really good community. There's a lot of collaboration in cross country as well but in the end you're running for yourself more than anything else.



OWLS Senior Elizabeth Myers has committed to Rice University. Myers will join the swim team in the fall. photo courtesy of Elizabeth Myers.



WASH U Senior Paris Nix has committed to play volleyball in college, joining in the fall. Nix received many offers before committing to Washington University. photo courtesy of Paris Nix

Committing to Sports in College

DIYA D'SOUZA | staff writer

While the rest of the senior class is busy determining what their next steps might be, three female athletes already know where they are headed for the next four years. Senior Ava Longi was the first athlete in the class of 2020 to commit to college for athletics. Longi committed to swim for the University of Texas at Austin in June after swimming for four years for the LBJ varsity team and years of competitive swimming.

Longi is one of three seniors who have committed to play sports in college, all three of them girls. Senior Elizabeth Myers committed to swim at Rice University after swimming club competitively and on the varsity swimming team. In the end, she chose between Rice, Penn State, University of Richmond and Boston University.

"I received offers from a few other schools," Myers said. "I had been talking to more at the beginning, and I narrowed it down as I went."

Senior Paris Nix committed to play volleyball at Washington University in Saint Louis after four years of LBJ volleyball and many years of club volleyball and training on the side. Nix received offers from Johns Hopkins and MIT before choosing Washington University.

"I was mostly looking at Ivy's in terms of D1 and high academic schools and high volleyball D3s," Nix said. "I picked [Washington University in Saint Louis] because it was the best balance of academic life, volleyball life, and social life. It also has a really good pre-med program, which I want to go into."

According to Nix, Myers and Longi, they were not ready to stop playing their sports in high school and looked to college to continue their careers. The three athletes said that playing sports in college was inevitable. After playing sports competitively for years, Longi said swimming in college was the next step.

"I just can't imagine stopping swimming at this point," Longi said. "I have been swimming for 15 years, and competitively for 10, and I've worked too hard to just stop now. Also, I just love racing, and I wanted to have an automatic family when I got to college."

One unique aspect about the college commits this year is that the first three commits are senior girls. Nix said she is proud to be a part of such an impressive group.

"I think that's really cool, also the girls that have committed are super hard working, super dedicated and people I assumed would go to college for their sport," Nix said. "I think that's super awesome. Also all three insanely good schools. I am super proud of them and it's cool to be in the same group as them."

Nix said committing to play sports in college has been a long term goal for her. She has been working towards playing volleyball in college for the past six years.

"It's been something that I've wanted to do ever since I've realized it's a thing you could do in middle school," Nix said. "It's something that I love to do, a way to make friends and it's something that I'm passionate about and something I have wanted to continue doing in college for a long time."

All three athletes said that preparing to compete at the college level has been a long process. According to Nix, it has involved playing school and club athletics and personal training.

"I play both school and club volleyball, so basically year-round I am playing volleyball multiple times a week," Nix said.

"Beyond school and club volleyball, I do conditioning, I do private lessons with my personal strength coach for two to three years and he has helped me insanely, especially because I got injured freshman year."

All three commits felt that the commitment process was rigorous and long. Myers said for her, it started with phone calls and emails with the schools she was interested in.

"I first talked to the coach a year ago, and I really liked what he had to say about the team, and that was when I first visited campus," Myers said. "He took the time out of his day to talk to me and my family, which I thought was very cool. Recruiting started around December, and I had a few phone calls, and I really like what he had to say additionally. I met the team at a junior day in the spring. The team was awesome; they were like a family."

In addition to a seamless transition, Nix said that her goal is to maintain a balance between school, volleyball and a social life. She also looks forward to making new friends on her team.

"I'm hoping for a smooth transition," Nix said. "I think all the support from the girls, the coach, the campus in general will make it okay. I want to be able to hangout with them, while working towards a D3 championship, but I also want to be focused on my studies and go pre-med."

Longi said she is excited to continue her academic and athletic career in college. She looks forward to what the future holds for her.

"I am looking forward to joining the team and finally getting to be on campus with them, and training with them, and swimming for the University of Texas at Austin," Longi said. "I feel like I am already part of the family. I love Austin, and I am super excited."



HOOK EM' HORNS Senior Ava Longi makes a hook em' shape with her hand as she commits to the University of Texas at Austin. She will be swimming there in the fall. photo courtesy of Ava Longi

DISC GOLF

from page 1

And so that helps a lot with pulling in ultimate because you're trying to throw the disc as far as you can and have it get a really long hang time. But it's kind of weird in that disc golf [discs] act a little bit differently in the air than ultimate frisbees do."

DiCarlo said that there are several differences in the behavior of disc golf discs compared to regular ultimate discs. According to DiCarlo, disc golf discs curve in the air differently than ultimate frisbee discs.

"If you throw a backhand in ultimate, it'll curve to the right oftentimes, and if you throw a flick, it'll curve to the left if you throw it hard enough," DiCarlo said. "But in disc golf, when you throw a backhand it nearly always goes to the left. And when you throw a flick, it nearly always goes to the right; you have to throw it a lot harder to make it go the opposite way of how it usually goes."

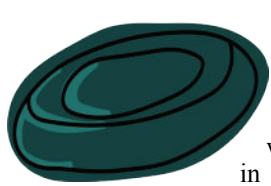
In addition to disc golf discs behaving differently in the air, Wang said they also come in different sizes than ultimate frisbees. Disc golf discs are smaller and vary based on the distance they are meant to be thrown.

"There are three basic ones: There's a long-range one, a medium-range one and a close-range one," Wang said. "And they're all shaped differently than ultimate frisbee discs, and the disc itself is smaller than a regular ultimate frisbee disc."

Along with the sizes and behaviors of the discs, Atwell said the courses disc golf is played on make it unique. According to Atwell, the variations in each individual course allow players to have different experiences each time they play.

"If you played soccer, basketball or volleyball or whatever, you could go anywhere and find like a volleyball court or basketball court or a field to play a field sport on," Atwell said. "You could probably do the same for disc golf except wherever you are playing disc golf, it's going to be like a different experience where whatever course you're going to, just because of the nature of that whatever is in your path makes it a different challenge each time."

According to DiCarlo, many make the mistake of only



factoring in power when throwing in disc golf.

DiCarlo said that he has learned to ensure his throws are smooth and straight.

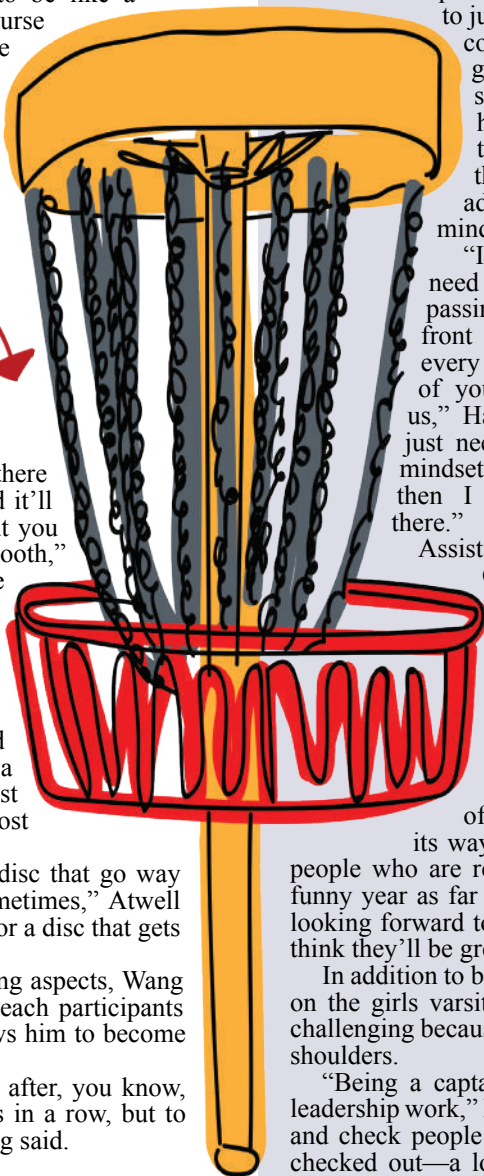
"A lot of people, they'll just step up there and they'll try to huck it really hard and it'll go all over the place and all wobbly, but you really gotta stay focused and throw it smooth," DiCarlo said. "The main thing I've learned about getting better in disc golf is that you got to always keep the disc smooth and not coming wobbly out of your hands."

While achieving the perfect throw is a difficult part of disc golf, Atwell said the trees along the courses also present a challenge. According to Atwell, the hardest part of the sport is finding discs that get lost in the trees.

"Honestly, probably just finding the disc that go way off into the trees, that's the hardest sometimes," Atwell said. "I've spent like hours just looking for a disc that gets lost in the woods."

While disc golf might have challenging aspects, Wang said that the sport has the potential to teach participants a life lesson. He said that disc golf allows him to become more patient.

"Patience, I think, like not giving up after, you know, you throw into the woods like six times in a row, but to keep going, trying to get the angle," Wang said.



graphic by Zoe Klein



PACE YOURSELF Junior Emily Thompson, junior Elyse Hall, freshman Sophie Dale, and sophomore McKenzi Popper run in the UIL 5A-District 25 Meet in Lockhart, Texas on Oct. 18, 2019. Among varsity girls teams, LBJ's placed second with a score of 40 points. photo by Helena Lara

Girls XC Looks to Run Away with State

EVE NGUYEN | staff writer

Last year, LBJ Cross Country sent its first team ever to the UIL Cross Country State Meet Championships. In the past, LBJ Cross Country had only sent individual runners to race at this meet. However, when the boys cross country team qualified for state in 2018, history was made. This season, LBJ Cross Country is preparing to send the girls team to state as well, and come home with two state titles.

Before qualifying for the state championship, the LBJ Cross Country team must make it past the district cross country meet and then place in the top four at the regional meet. According to junior Elyse Hall, a team captain, these upcoming competitions have started to put pressure on the girls team, as the team is hoping to qualify for state for the first time in LBJ Cross Country history. The team that Hall believes the team must adjust its collective mindset.

"I think we really need to focus on passing every girl in front of you because every girl in front of you is a point for us," Hall said. "So we just need to switch our mindset a little bit and then I think we'll be there."

Assistant coach Jon Croston has been coaching the cross country team for over four years. Croston observed that similarly to past years, the four team captains are very competitive athletically. However, he noted that this season is different because all the captains are first-time captains.

"Last year, we had a pretty exceptional group of captains, and none of that experience has found its way down," Croston said. "The captains are great people who are really learning, but it's been an interesting and funny year as far as them learning how to be leaders. I'm really looking forward to next year when they will mostly be seniors. I think they'll be great leaders."

In addition to being a captain, Hall is one of the top five runners on the girls varsity team. Hall said that being a captain can be challenging because of how much responsibility is on the captain's shoulders.

"Being a captain is a lot of organizational work as well as leadership work," Hall said. "We have to organize and run practices and check people in, check people out, make sure uniforms get checked out—a lot of small semantic stuff. Then there's also a

large leadership factor. We like to help motivate people and just keep a really positive atmosphere at practices."

With the district and regional meets coming up, the captains are organizing practices on a daily basis to help prepare for the big meets ahead. Hall said that runners need to work more on mental strength while running in order to be victorious in the meets.

"I think it's a lot of a mental thing right now," Hall said. "You just have to be really willing to put yourself in a really uncomfortable physical space. You have to be really willing to hurt and be uncomfortable for a long period of time."

Hall said that qualifying for the state meet is dependent on the team's ability to develop a strong mentality and bond. Though the girls team might be on track to qualify for the state championship, Croston believes that the boys team will only be able to send individual athletes as opposed to the whole team.

"The boys are definitely on a bit of a decline and struggling with a lot of injuries right now, so they probably will not do as well as they wanted to," Croston said. "The girls team is honestly going to make it to state this year which is incredible, and I was not expecting them to reach that level until next year, so they are really doing well."

Freshman Sophie Dale and sophomore McKenzi Popper are the two fastest varsity girls runners, despite being underclassmen. Like Hall, Dale has felt the pressure of the increasing expectations for the girls varsity team.

"I feel like I'm prepared physically because I've been working out everyday and have just been training for these meets," Dale said. "But mentally, I'm still really nervous."

Croston understands that the team is under a lot of pressure due to the upcoming meets. However, he believes this season will benefit the girls team in the future and that there is more success to come, regardless of this year's results.

"This experience of going to state and running, even if they're not going to be one of the top ten teams, is going to be huge because next year, [the girls team] could do as well as the guys did last year," Croston said. "Next year is their glory year."

Although Hall is intent on getting the team to qualify for the championship, she said that good things will still come out of the season regardless of how the teams perform. Hall also mentioned that she expects the team to come out strong.

"Whether we go to state, whether we don't, whatever we do, I want the team to come out feeling like they've accomplished something and feeling like they're proud of how they ran and feeling like even if we didn't get it this year, we are motivated to come back next year stronger," Hall said. "And no matter what the outcome is, I want everyone to feel proud of their season and feel motivated to do even better next year."

"No matter what the outcome is, I want everyone to feel proud of their season and feel motivated to do even better next year."

-Junior Elyse Hall

Spike in Spikeball Club Attendance as Sport Becomes New Tradition

DIEGO PROZZI | staff writer

Moving around in rhythmic circles, the players bounce the ball back and forth off the net with ease. A group of senior boys have been playing spikeball at lunch since their freshman year. Recently, the increasing popularity of the sport has resulted in more students joining Spikeball Club.

Spikeball is a sport that involves spiking a small yellow ball down into a net. It is usually played in teams of two people, one team against the other, but there are a few individual games of one person against the other. The goal of the game is to score points by making the ball hit the ground after bouncing off the net and onto the opponent's side. It is usually played to either 11 or 21 points, but players must win by two points. Many LASA students said they play spikeball for its versatility. The sport can be played anywhere there is a flat surface: on grass, sand, and even indoors.

Senior Marcus Tita, founder of Spikeball Club, started playing the sport at lunch freshman year. He and a small group of friends spent their lunches competing against one another.

"I was the original founder of the Spikeball Club," Tita said. "It was just me, Frank, Mikey and Cormac. We were just four friends that started playing spikeball every day during lunch. We played it for like three weeks just the four of us and then we decided, 'You know what? Let's make it a club,' because other people wanted to play."

Junior Sam Whitlow believes the popularity of the sport at LASA has increased greatly in the past year. He said that during his freshman year it was mainly an activity for the students who are now seniors.

"When I was a freshman it was mostly just these senior fellas," Whitlow said. "They've just been playing for ever you know, they used

to have one net. It was nothing compared to what it is right now. My freshman year they were out in front of the school. They were out there sweating every day."

Tita credited spikeball as one of his biggest hobbies. He has practiced and competed along with his friends at a high level since their freshman year.

"So it's basically been a huge part of my life and then I learned that spikeball can be competitive," Tita said. "And then I spent a lot of time practicing and trying to be competitive, and it's probably my biggest hobby outside of school."

Tita said he has seen Spikeball Club grow quickly. Tita and his friends made sure the club they were creating and the trend they were spreading was both inclusive and responsible. The group wanted to ensure that everyone felt invited to try it out.

"At first it was like four people, then eight and then twelve," Tita said. "And over time we just had a lot of people come and they would stay and keep playing. This senior year we got a whole bunch of freshman and sophomores really interested in spikeball. So the club just exponentially exploded to like 60 people now."

Tita said that recently more players have been joining the club. He believes that this is because they see the others at lunch and want to join in.

"The reason everybody wants to play spikeball is cause we play every day during lunch in the courtyard, so everyone would just look at it and be like, 'Damn, that's cool,'" Tita said. "And everyone would want to come and try it out and they liked it, so now everyone is playing."

Freshman Hays Turner said the sport has grown not only throughout LASA, but also around Austin. According to Turner, this means that more tournaments have been held and are planned for the near future. This gives Spikeball Club more opportunities to

compete against other teams from around Austin.

"It's becoming a bigger sport, and a lot more people are playing," Turner said. "We play teams from other schools and you can go play and have fun."

Not only do club members play during school hours at lunch, they also play over the summer. Whitlow started playing with the club before school began in August.

"I started playing over the summer actually," Whitlow said. "Some of these boys, Marcus and Cormack, were texting me, 'Hey man, come play at Zilker.' They made a big tournament, so that's really when I started playing. Now I just play weekly, probably a few times a week, with my friends."

According to Whitlow, the senior boys are the reason for the sport's popularity at LASA. He credits their contribution to the popularity of the sport to their games at lunch.

"Definitely all credit to Cormac, all credit to Asa, Marcus and Frank," Whitlow said. "They have just been playing, every single day since I can remember. And they just absolutely love it, and now it's just a big trend. They've been doing it for years and so now everybody has just gone off their hype train, for the most part. They're just hitching onto the bandwagon. So now it's just huge."

According to Tita, Spikeball Club has brought a lot of people together who wouldn't normally interact. Tita feels that the club is a good place to meet a diverse group of players with similar athletic interests.

"When we play competitive we really enjoy competition with each other," Tita said. "So that's really fun. It also is a way to kind of meet up during school and take a break, relax and play some physical games. It's a way for all of us to bond."



LINING UP HIS SHOT Junior Sam Whitlow prepares to hit the ball while playing spikeball with juniors Gilbert Trevino, Isaiah Hernandez-Gold and Luke Yium. Spikeball Club meets every day at lunch on the softball field. photo by Charles Taylor



KEEPING IT ALIVE Junior Isaiah Hernandez-Gold squats to return the ball while playing spikeball with junior Luke Yium. Founded in 2016, Spikeball Club has gained many new members this year. photo by Charles Taylor

PLAYING WITH FIRE

graphic by Alex Watson

LBJ Fire Academy Participates in a Training Session Involving 20 Foot Live Fire



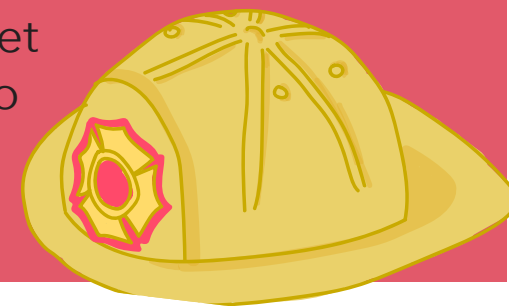
photo by Emma McBride



photo by Emma McBride

EMMA MCBRIDE | photo editors
ALEX WATSON

On Saturday, Oct. 12, senior Fire Academy cadets participated in live fire training while junior cadets practiced ladder rescues. The seniors worked in teams and used a hose to quench the propane flames. The fire burned about 20 feet high, and it took two hoses to extinguish the barrel.



graphic by Emma McBride



photo courtesy of LBJ Fire Academy