

SETTING UP FOR THE SEASON



The varsity Lady Jags volleyball team huddles up after a tough game against McCallum, where LBJ lost 3 - 1. The new head coach Erica Cray has implemented changes in the training regime and team culture.

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LOUD AND PROUD, IN THE CROWD

Sophomore and LASA Pride Alliance (LPA) member Emma Rohloff waves a gay pride flag at the 2016 Austin Pride Parade. Although this year's Pride events were pushed back due to weather, LPA still plans to march at the annual event.



see page 9

FRIDAY NIGHT LIGHTS, BACK AGAIN

LBJ senior Deon Collins jogs off the field during the Bowie game on September 8. Although the Jags lost their first in-district game to the Bulldogs 24-10, they won the following game against the Anderson Trojans, and Liberator photojournalists covered it.

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# the liberator

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Hurricane Harvey wreaked destruction in Houston and coastal Texas, left and bottom right. photos courtesy of Steve Robinson. Top right, Austin Superintendent Paul Cruz, LBJ Principal Sheila Henry and Austin Mayor Steve Adler (r-l) spoke at a press conference in the LBJ gym, which housed hurricane evacuees. photo by Sarah Porter.

## HURRICANE HARVEY

### Austin and LASA respond to tragedy, 180 evacuees sheltered in campus gym

CLARA MORSE  
Editor-in-Chief

When Hurricane Harvey devastated the Texas coast in the last days of August, Austin took in thousands of evacuees. Dozens of schools in the state were damaged or destroyed by the storm, and so student evacuees and their families were greeted by the Austin Independent School District (AISD) with an expedited enrollment process, shelters in schools and district buildings, and extensive community outreach.

Austin now looks to help evacuees recover from the storm, said Superintendent Paul Cruz at a press conference on August 31.

"The big headline today is that in Austin ISD all are welcome," Cruz said. "We know that all students need a safe learning environment to learn and excel, and meet with individuals who will teach them every single day... Right now that has not been the situation for many of our guests here [who] are facing some potentially life changing situations."

While the enrollment process typically requires proof of residency,

the district would meet the needs of the students by integrating them into schools with additional counselors, provide family nights for the family to see where their kids are at school, and Friday night football games.

"We want them to know also that there is a school close by to enroll their children," Cruz said, of the evacuees. "We want kids in school to learn every single day... having physical activities, having educational activities as well, getting with [families] and processing the emotions they are feeling right now."

The press conference was held in the LBJ gym, where between 160 and 170 evacuees were sheltered during the second week of school. While the gym functioned as a shelter, students were not permitted in, and members of the school administration and extra police were on the location at all times.

LASA Principal Stacia Crescenzi said that the school community accommodated the evacuees and made them welcome.

"Both the LBJ and LASA communities were extremely helpful and understanding while the evacuees were our guests," Crescenzi said. "Students, parents and neighbors changed their schedules without complaint, brought donations in abundance and volunteered when necessary and allowed."

As a part of LASA's efforts to support evacuees, many brought in-kind donations of clothes, towels, food and even toys. LASA Robotics reached out to the youngest survivors of the hurricane by sending out LEGO kits for them to play with. Robotics instructor Tony Bertucci said that robotics wanted to give the children at the shelter something to do.

"One of the things we could do is we could address the 30 or so kids

who were ten and under who were sitting around, and... there was no place for them to go," Bertucci said. "So it wasn't a lot, but it was what we could do. And it meant a lot to the kids."

Junior Alyssa Eckerman, who helped assemble the Lego kits for the children, said that it was a rewarding experience for her.

"I personally love children... and



Austin Mayor Steve Adler

just doing anything education[al with them]," Eckerman said.

"So it's really cool getting to hang out with them. Robotics is not just building things... And that's really cool especially with little children, because they love hanging out with older kids and building things. It's really fun to see their creativity."

Austin Mayor Steve Adler, who spoke at the press conference, praised AISD for their open arms towards the evacuees and encouraged a continued atmosphere of generosity and welcoming.

"I have a message for the school kids here in our community," Adler said. "If you find yourself lucky enough to have one of our new guest showing up in your classroom, what a great opportunity to make new friends and I trust that you're going to make these new students feel at home... So many people in this community are pitching in right now, and doing work in many different ways. It just makes you, makes me really proud to be apart of this community."

Both the LBJ and LASA communities were extremely helpful and understanding while the evacuees were our guests.

-LASA Principal Stacia Crescenzi

vaccinations, birth certificates, and other identifying documents, many of those requirements were waived for the new enrollment process. Cruz said the goal was to give the hurricane's youngest survivors a safe place to go and learn, and that with the help of crowdsourcing on AustinEdFund,



photo by Sarah Porter

## Larger underclassmen numbers put strain on classroom space, increase traffic

NIA ORAKWUE  
Staff Writer

The increased size of LASA's sophomore and freshman classes, in addition to straining space limitations, has been one of the most prominent signs of the school's growth. Underclassmen are 200 students, and almost 14

percent, larger than the combined juniors and seniors.

According to LASA principal Stacia Crescenzi, the original increase was caused by a huge jump in applications two years ago. The number of applications went from about 500 to over 700 in 2016, the year that the current sophomores (class of 2020) applied. The cutoff score on the

rubric used to evaluate applicants also increased, although not enough to offset the application increase. Instead of further raising the cutoff score and turning away another 200 qualified students due to space constraints, Crescenzi decided to accept more applicants.

"There really was this incredibly significant number

of people that were completely appropriate for the school," Crescenzi said. "It didn't feel right to turn away that many students for no reason."

The current sophomore class is nearly 40 percent larger than the 250-person class before them, and the freshman class is around the same size. In the second year of expanded class sizes, diversity

was a prioritized issue. The freshman class of 2021 was the first class to experience this.

"I think the benefit is twofold," Crescenzi said. "I think the more students we're able to accept, the more inherent diversity you get in the pool."

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## The Lyrical Life of Mr. Ramirez

ERICA MOOMAW  
Staff Writer

Although students may not consider it, teachers also have lives outside of school. Outside of his day job teaching Spanish at LASA, Luis Ramirez balances another profession as the lead singer of a Latino band called Son de Rey.

Ramirez first joined Son de Rey in 2010, after graduating from college. He originally put an advertisement on Craigslist describing his musical talents, in the hopes of learning about and joining interesting bands. One group that stood out to him focused on Tejano and Cumbia style music, both of which he said were close to his heart. However, the band split up before he could become a part of it. Remaining members contacted him to reconstruct their sound as the band's lead singer.

Ramirez took the opportunity and has been with the band since. Son de Rey aims to make their music easily identifiable with people, telling stories that everyday people can relate to.

"The message is about uplifting the [Latino] culture that we know and reinterpreting that for the younger kids," Ramirez said. "Our music is all about stories that we know in life: falling in love, going to a party [and other] stories that people identify with."

As the lives of band members have shifted, so has the life of the band as a whole. While the band once performed up to 4 shows in one day, Ramirez's teaching career and other responsibilities have resulted in a reduction in live performances.

Ramirez said music enables his self-expression in ways that teaching does not. The majority of the songs that Son De Rey releases are written by him.

"For me, it is an outlet to show a certain side of my creativity," Ramirez said. "I get to write, I get to sing, I get to perform [and] share my culture."

Ramirez opened up about his music to his students when introducing himself. Freshman Zoe Walgren was one of many students to hear about it and listen to his music.

"I think a lot of students don't expect their teachers to have lives outside of school," Walgren said. "They know obviously that they do but they never actually imagine it, so finding out that a teacher is a singer outside of his actual work job is interesting."

According to Ramirez, he had a similar high school experience to many LASA students. He was involved in many activities outside of school and had a busy schedule. The skills that he learned from having a strong work ethic at a young age have carried to his adult life in balancing teaching and music.

"I've always had that work ethic of going above and beyond, and really it's about scheduling, planning, committing and deciding not to commit to certain things," Ramirez said. "There have been some times where we were having shows every single weekend and when I was getting certified as a teacher... I had to study either back stage or on the road or during the week, and it was hard. It was just about working hard and wanting to do it."



Spanish teacher Luis Ramirez is the lead singer and songwriter of local band Son De Rey. The band focuses on uplifting Chicanos and "reinventing that sound" of Tejano/Cumbia genres. photo courtesy of Luis Ramirez.

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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.

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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.



Have an opinion about a new school policy? Have a bone to pick with something the Liberator has published? Anything else on your mind? Anything exciting happen to you over the summer? We work year round! Write us a letter and drop it off in portable 5A or in the boxes in the school offices. It is the policy of the Liberator to not respond directly to letters to the editor.

# STAFF STANCE

## Pardon me? Trump's unconscionable presidential pardon of Joe Arpaio

President Trump recently announced his first official Presidential pardon: notorious former Maricopa County, Arizona Sheriff Joe Arpaio. His action spares Arpaio from serving jail time following his criminal contempt conviction for failing to suspend his unlawful and racist policing practices targeting undocumented immigrants. By taking this action, Trump has made evident and indisputable that his decisions regarding immigration give carte blanche to racists and xenophobes.

Questioned about the timing of the pardon, on the eve of Hurricane Harvey making its deadly landfall on the Texas Gulf Coast, Trump said, "I assumed the ratings would be far higher than they would be normally - the hurricane was just starting." That is, given that the country's focus was turned squarely to the unfolding horrors of the mammoth storm making its landfall, Trump seemed to view the moment as holding great potential for impressive ratings.

Arpaio, an early and vocal supporter of Trump's presidential ambitions, rose to fame for being a "tough on crime patriot" and "guardian" of the United States border with Mexico. His treatment of inmates, policing practices, inflammatory rhetoric and rejection of criticism of his discourse and strategies, resulted in multiple lawsuits and no shortage of political controversy, even if it got him re-elected as sheriff five times.

Under Arpaio, inmates in Maricopa County were housed in an outdoor jail he called "Tent City." Prisoners lived in Korean War-era tents exposed to the blazing Arizona temperatures. They worked in chain gangs and wore striped jumpsuits designed explicitly to shame and humiliate. While courts ruled viewed the conditions in Tent City as inhumane and cruel, not to mention unconstitutional and incompatible with any possibility of rehabilitation, they became Arpaio's "tough on crime" calling card. On April 5, 2017, Arpaio's replacement, Sheriff Paul Penzone, announced the closure of Tent City. He noted, "This facility is not a crime deterrent, it is not cost efficient, and it is not tough on criminals."

Arpaio's inmate housing practices, however, were not the actions for which he was convicted and pardoned by Trump. In 2013 U.S. District Judge G. Murray Snow found Arpaio and his deputies had been engaging in racial profiling and were violating the rights of Latinos.

This followed Judge Snow's December 2011 preliminary injunction, which ordered deputies to stop detaining people based solely on suspicions regarding their immigration status. Openly defiant, Arpaio continued to encourage systematic racial profiling and on July 31, 2017 was convicted of criminal contempt.

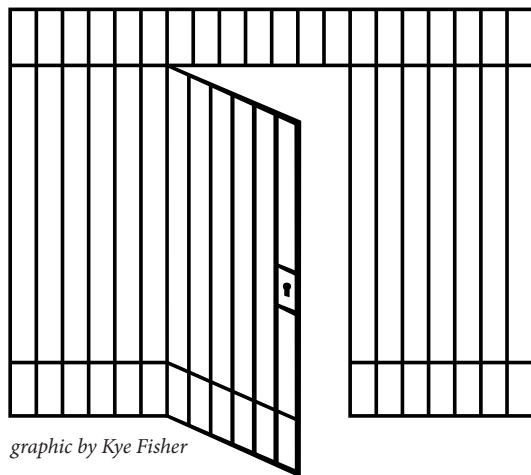
The Liberator finds Trump's pardon of Arpaio appalling on numerous levels, and we are not alone. Republican Speaker of the House Paul Ryan issued a statement in which he unambiguously called out the President for undermining the rule of law. He stated, "The Speaker does not agree with this decision. Law enforcement officials have a special responsibility to respect the rights of everyone in the United States. We should not allow anyone to believe that responsibility is diminished by this pardon."

Unfortunately, the Republican party as a whole doesn't seem terribly put off by Trump's pardon. Some supporters claim Arpaio is a patriot who has too long been maligned and treated unfairly by the courts. They see critics of the Arpaio pardon as hypocritical for failing to condemn President Obama's pardon of Chelsea Manning case, who was convicted of violating the Espionage when sharing classified documents with WikiLeaks. In point of fact, Obama did not pardon Manning. Rather, he cut short her sentence while still upholding her conviction.

Of greater concern to us is the larger implication of Trump's decision to pardon Arpaio. What you pardon you legitimize. The Arpaio pardon is a validation of institutional racism, xenophobia, and white nationalism. And while (some of) Trump's post-Charlottesville statements decried hatred and White Supremacy, as Reverend William Barber noted recently, "to denounce hate is not necessarily to denounce White Supremacy."

Pardoning Joe Arpaio, particularly in this moment of cavernous political divide, is a wholly unconcealed nod to Trump's increasingly increasingly nationalist constituency. It serves to further enfeeble Trump's efforts to parse the difference between racial profiling and White Supremacy.

Ironically, Arpaio, the guy who once declared, "I don't bow down to the federal government" is no doubt thanking his lucky stars that Donald Trump is in charge of it.



graphic by Kye Fisher



liberated  
minds  
speak

What is your  
opinion on the  
recent events  
regarding DACA?



### Sergio Flores

Junior

"I think that it's really unfair that he's taking protection away from people who have literally lived here their entire lives, especially since they have no control over whether they came to the U.S. or not."

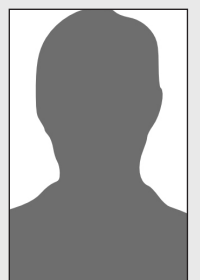


### Eva Kornerup

Sophomore

"[Trump] is taking away protection from people that should be citizens of the U.S. and have lived in the U.S. for their whole lives. They should be able to be protected and stay here."

### Anonymous



"I think that what Trump is doing is right. It doesn't matter if they've lived here their entire life, the reality is that they came here illegally and that should be on them."

### Will Vega

Senior

"I think that like many things under his administration it has no practical intent and instead is being used simply for ideological agendas that mean only to oppress and exploit"



## Dear Editor,

So often when discussing a controversial political issue, we fail to examine the context of the issue in a complete manner. This is one of the problems I have with the headline story published in *The Liberator* on August 21. The story on the separation of LASA from LBJ failed to include any views from the opposition and neglected to research the historical context in which this move is being proposed. This failure to include both viewpoints lessens the credibility of this story to a great degree, and I, as both a student and a reader, am disappointed.

In your story, you describe the odds of this move as "good," but fail to mention the one billion dollar price tag of the bond package. Also worth mentioning is the fact that this "solution" was thrown together two weeks before the bond vote conducted by the school board, a move which allowed very few meetings to hear community input - events the paper did not cover and presumably did not attend.

I did attend one of those meetings - a community input event held at Eastside Memorial. All of the Eastside students in the student discussion group in which I participated were unanimous in their opposition to the move. They were especially concerned

about the harm it would cause to the culture and the community of Eastside Memorial. Many of the neighborhood kids would face difficulty in simply getting to the new campus. These concerns were echoed by the parents of students at Eastside and many other community members. In fact, the only student in the discussion group supporting the move was Quinn Simpson, a LASA alum.

Another concern I have with the story is the absence of the greater historical context of the proposed separation of LASA from LBJ. I will briefly provide some of that context now.

After the Supreme Court ordered the desegregation of the public school system in *Brown v. Board of Education of Topeka*, many states continued to delay implementation. This led to the decision in *Alexander v. Holmes County Board of Education* which called for the immediate desegregation of public schools. It was then that AISD finally implemented its own policy in which students in the Eastside neighborhoods, a majority minority community, would be bused to Westside schools and students residing in the Westside neighborhoods, a majority white community, would be bused to

Eastside schools. But this policy never fully came into effect due to the parents of many white students refusing to send their children to the Eastside schools. For this reason, Old Anderson High School was closed, leaving emotional scars in Eastside communities which remain to this day.

The paper commits another injustice by glossing over of the concerns of AISD District 1 Trustee Dr. Ted Gordon. An outspoken opponent to the move, Dr. Gordon would likely have been happy to provide a quote for this story. Perhaps he was unavailable. The only quote that the story includes from a current Trustee is one from Dr. Jaime Mathias representing Eastside, though based on the Eastside community's feelings expressed at the meeting, perhaps misrepresenting is a better way to describe his role.

All in all, I'd say that this was a bad day for *The Liberator*. My hope is that this paper will print a follow-up story that dives deep into the historical context surrounding AISD and the origins of this "solution" put forth by the district with the seriousness it requires. A story which only shares one viewpoint can hardly be called fair and balanced - unless you work at Fox News.

-Conor Heffernan  
Senior

# Reflection on Charlottesville



MEENA ANDERSON  
Editor-in-Chief

Society has a problem with organization. People frequently ask me, “What are you?” or “Why is your hair so curly?” or “Where are your parents from?” We like to work in a system of checkboxes, where we all have specific criteria that people have to fit into. When people ask me these questions, that’s their way of figuring out who I am: not through my personality traits or political beliefs, but through my physical appearance.

The correct answer to all of those is “none of your business,” but in order to not come across as hostile or rude, I answer “mixed,” “because my dad has curly hair,” and “America.”

Boxes checked:

Parents are different colors,

And if people are extra observant:

One parent is black.

The problem with this system is that once the boxes are marked, people are constrained to two-dimensional stereotypes. This information people try to obtain when they ask those questions lacks depth, and the intention behind it isn’t anything more than trying to figure me out like a puzzle. The fact that my parents are different colors is irrelevant to my character.

This information can be comforting — maybe it feels like a way to make a connection, to feel like you understand something about someone, but the danger is that it leads to stereotyping. And stereotyping, for some, is a short step away from hateful, harmful ideas and events, like in Charlottesville, Virginia, in mid-August. A violence-filled weekend with white men carrying torches, marching two-by-two, and chanting phrases like “Jews will not replace us!” By the end of the weekend three people were dead, 35 were injured, and white supremacy was worming its way out of the woodwork. Charlottesville served as the epicenter of an earthquake of tension and hate that rippled across the nation.

In the past couple of years leading up to this event, we’ve witnessed a global increase of hateful politics. A rise of overt white nationalism in America, anti-semitism and xenophobia making their way into the spotlight of European politics via Macron’s narrow victory in France, Erdogan’s consolidation of power in Turkey and Duterte’s war on drugs and the free press in the Philippines. Meanwhile, even mainstream politicians like France’s Marine Le Pen, the Netherlands’ Geert Wilders and the UK’s Theresa May all have an aggressive anti-immigration agenda. And our president, on the heels of Charlottesville, has begrudgingly condemned the acts of the white supremacists there, but no one took it seriously. Prominent white supremacists like David Duke and Richard Spencer didn’t take his statement seriously. These hateful politics have accumulated and spilled over into society: after the 2016 election, there was a significant rise in hate crimes according to data collected by the Southern Poverty Law Center (SPLC) and Shaun King, a writer, activist, entrepreneur and pastor. This hate has culminated in a violent explosion of racism and aggression during that weekend in Charlottesville as white supremacists proudly walked the streets chanting Nazi slogans.

The week before the rally, rumors buzzed on sites like twitter, Breitbart and various racist chat rooms about a protest, with no absolute confirmation from any white nationalists until the night of 11th when, according to the Washington Post, Richard Spencer (a prominent American white supremacist, and president of the National Policy Institute, a white nationalist think tank) texted a Washington Post reporter, telling them to be on the University of Virginia campus near “Nameless Field”.

As reporters began to congregate near the site, they were met with a long line of white people holding tiki torches high in the air as they burned against the night sky, moving two by two, steps in sync, some with neutral expressions, some shouting into the cameras of news outlets filming them. The group, some 250 white supremacists strong according to The Washington Post, marched in a two-by-two formation to a statue of the University of Virginia’s founder, Thomas Jefferson. There, they were met with around 30 U-Va student counter protesters. Apart from one university police officer, there were no police arrived on the scene until several minutes later. By then, protesters and counter-protesters were punching and kicking, both counter protesters and white supremacists had been maced and chants of “white lives matter” began as a taunt to the protesting students.

Although this protest wasn’t much more than a rumor until the text from Spencer came in, as soon as the march began, authorities should have been arriving as quickly as reporters were.

Why weren’t the police monitoring this protest from the beginning? What did they think this was? A “dress-up-as-a-racist” party? A BYOT (bring your own torch) picnic? Clearly not. The lack of early police intervention evidences a deep-rooted problem within both the police system and American society: black people are seen as inherently violent and white people are not.

If a couple of hundred black men armed to the teeth marched in the streets and held torches, the police and public’s reactions would’ve been significantly different.

When a Black Lives Matter march happens, police in riot gear monitor protestors’ every move, but when a literal crowd of Nazis chant racist slogans and carry weapons openly on a college campus, the police are late to the scene.

This idea of black people being the perpetrators of violence in society is reinforced in popular culture; Fox News’ commentator Geraldo Rivera’s criticisms of rapper Kendrick Lamar’s opening number at the 2015 BET awards blamed hip hop lyrics instead of racism and police brutality for violence in and around the black community.

Comedian Tina Fey said in a SNL skit: “Part of me hopes these Neo-Nazis try it in New York City, like I hope they try it and get the ham salad kicked out of them by a bunch of drag queens, because you know what a drag queen still is? A six foot four black man.” Because everyone should be afraid of a big black man, right? Raising the spectre of violence in this way, while well-intentioned, actually exacerbates the problem.

Even taking into account a year ago during the tumultuous Trump campaign, where it felt like racial tensions were constantly climbing and the left and right were getting farther apart, Charlottesville still felt like a slap in the face. A proud and threatening display of racism on such a large scale didn’t seem possible until it happened: much like the result of the 2016 election. It took the death of a white woman for a significant portion of America to be outraged at what’s going on in the political scene right now; yes, Charlottesville was atrocious, but plenty of other racist things have happened in recent years that have the caliber to also cause strong reactions, like the fatal shooting of nine black people by a white supremacist and Trump calling Mexicans “rapists” and criminalizing their existence through his “build a wall” rhetoric.

We shouldn’t have been able to travel this far down the racism rabbit hole without bothering to look or listen to the signs (the president not distancing himself from the white supremacists that endorsed him on the campaign trail, for example) that something is gravely wrong.

graphic by Kye Fisher



## Small Talk

### Why I won’t be tolerating drama my senior year: personal growth despite the challenges of growing up



ASHLEY THOMAS  
Staff Writer

I’m officially on my last leg of high school career, and I can say that one of the most important things I have taken away from the past three years in high school is the importance of surrounding myself with people who create a positive impact on my life. When trying to manage the stress of college applications, AP classes and my job, the last thing that I want to worry about is social drama.

One of the most mentally draining experiences of my life was being friends with a group of people who constantly antagonized and discreetly drained me emotionally. This was a growing experience for me, and one that I didn’t take lightly because up to this point I hadn’t learned that I could function on my own. One of these friends came to me during my sophomore year when status and self care fell on completely different spectrums of the scale of things I valued in my life, and my sense of self worth was measured by my sense of likeability.

Though LASA is an accepting community filled with different kinds of remarkably wonderful and weird people, no high school is immune to the existence of cliques and drama.

Leaving my friend group was a difficult decision for me, but I chose my mental health and personal well being over the fear of being seen doing things alone. The wonderful thing about the LASA community is that those who compose it offer much more than just gossip and small-minded opinions.

Learn to fill your time with things that make you happy and cut off the people who don’t. Being okay with the person you are, regardless of who you surround yourself with, is more important in life than winning over a group of people you probably won’t be seeing after graduation.

I’ve realized that high school life is about more than just being your own person in a secure environment. It’s about surrounding yourself with positive people who support you.

### Sexist tropes in young adult literature: why these patterns are misleading and portray women in a way they should not



JORDAN JEWELL  
Staff Writer

Subtle sexism is tangibly present in much of the young adult fiction (YA) published in the last decade. Series like Uglies, Divergent, Twilight and many others that span a large spectrum of themes and plotlines are guilty of this, though it may not register at first glance— and this sexism is particularly harmful because of the target audience. Pre-teens and teens are the primary readers of YA, who are still at an age where they’re forming

their opinions, and could be very negatively affected by the common occurrence of misleading messages about women in their primary genre.

Many of the most popular YA books follow a very concrete series of tropes. These common patterns can be fun and relaxing, but the blatant overuse of them in YA is boring, predictable and is often damaging. They’re potentially harmful because the frequency with which they depict women superficially leads to a normalization of idea that women lack the depth and complexity of their male counterparts.

The most famous of these is arguably the love triangle, which has become a staple in even the most obscure YA works. Often the protagonist is a beautiful and ‘different’ young woman tasked with saving the world, stuck between a mysterious bad boy and a sweet boy-next-door type. In reality, if the protagonist is as interesting as described, then she could have any boy she wanted. Or, if she’s as busy literally saving the world as the book implies, then she wouldn’t have much time for boys in the first place.

Another trope is the instilling of traditionally masculine traits into a female character in an attempt to make her “unique,” “edgy,” and “not like other girls”. The author will give the protagonist a few arbitrary ungendered traits, like awkwardness, imagination, or courage, and then write their story with no attention to how the protagonist is their own unique person. To show character growth without character, they imbue her over time with aggression, competitiveness, or any number of typically male traits. Melodrama is typically employed to distract from what amounts to poor writing.

Although these tropes perpetuate sexism in many different ways, one thing they have in common is their effect upon the reader: leading them towards an inaccurate and regressive view of women. YA is a genre historically dominated by male authors, but even female authors can include the kind of subconscious bias that worms its way into the minds of its readers. Even in books with strong and well-characterized female protagonists, little phrases like “screamed like a girl” can crop up, perpetuating the idea that having emotions and weakness are inherently feminine traits.

There are many more obnoxious tropes to be discussed, but as it is, take this article as a reminder for the next time you check out a YA novel. Remember to think critically about the messages it’s sending to kids, even if they’re subtle. Being subjected to many discriminatory, covert signals could add up to a disconcerting worldview.

## Student expresses opinion on Texas voter ID regulations



MAX IRBY  
Staff Writer

The Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals’ decision to uphold Texas’ Senate Bill 5 on September 5 marked an important point in the political struggle over Texas’ voter ID law. SB 5 would

require citizens to provide a valid form of photo ID in order to vote. This decision rightfully rejects US District Judge Nelva Gonzales Ramos’ August ruling that the bill was discriminatory against minority groups.

SB 5 makes changes to the previous Senate Bill 14 by allowing voters to provide an alternate form of identification, or in its place a reasonable explanation as to why they couldn’t provide one of the required forms. SB 14 was thrown out by Ramos in both 2011 and 2014, with the argument that it was discriminatory.

Controversy has surrounded Texas voter ID laws since 2011, when Ramos, backed by the Department of Justice (DOJ) under the Obama administration, chose to overrule Senate Bill 14. In February of this year, however, the new DOJ led by Attorney General Jeff Sessions dropped support of Ramos’ ruling, arguing that the law was not passed with discriminatory intent. This sharp turn in the department’s views under the Trump administration served to stir up more controversy, and the issue reemerged into the courts soon after.

The question of whether or not these bills are truly discriminatory against certain groups of people is really one of citizenship. Under SB

5, citizens would have to provide valid photo ID (SB 5 lists these as a state driver’s license or ID card, concealed handgun license, U.S. passport, military ID card, U.S. citizenship certificate, or election identification certificate) in order to vote, or provide an alternate form of ID (such as a utility bill) in addition to reasons for not having the proper form. Anyone who lied about having proper identification would have to lie about their possession of it in order to vote. SB 5 would charge them with felony perjury, a crime with a possible sentence of one

impediment in obtaining such documentation? The only other possibility for discrimination would be undocumented immigrants, who wouldn’t possess a legal and valid form of photo ID, therefore wouldn’t be able to vote in this system. This raises questions over whether people are truly being discriminated against, or if this bill simply enforces current immigration laws. However, the issue of undocumented immigration is a complex one, and so this question might best be explored in the context of this piece.

The Fifth Circuit Appeals Court stated in their overruling of Ramos’ decision that SB 5 wasn’t judged fairly by the district courts because it should have been judged separately from SB 14, as opposed to if it remedied SB 14’s problems or not. In other words, Ramos went beyond the scope of what should have been judged. Thus, the Fifth Circuit Court upheld SB 5 and the bill is currently set to take effect on Jan 1, 2018, in time for the 2018 midterm elections. In the meantime, the temporary voter ID laws set in place for the 2016 election will be put into action.

The main argument for having a voter ID law is that it serves to mitigate and prevent voter fraud, an issue whose potential has plagued democracy since its conception. The integrity of a democracy is hinged upon the ability of a population to elect fit representatives as a people, and this is done in its purest form in the absence of voter fraud. And, while some people might be left out of the voting pool due to stricter identification laws, I along with Texas legislators believe that the preservation of an accurate voting system is of utmost importance.

hundred and eighty days to two years in jail.

So who exactly does this bill discriminate against? Ramos argues that it is unfair for black and Hispanic citizens, saying that they would be less likely to have one of the necessary forms of identification, but I find this hard to believe, as any citizen would certainly have one of the forms required. And if they didn’t, would they not be able to prove that they faced reasonable



graphic courtesy of pixabay

# Looking for extracurriculars? Join the club

CAROLINA GOKINGCO & AARON BOOE  
News Editor & Staff Writer

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

## Vegan Club

LASA senior Laney Phillips began Vegan Club with her friends Amanda Phares and Leni Milliken, *Liberator* editor. She was inspired to create the club after becoming vegan in February and reading about the benefits associated with it.

"Leni and I created this club to allow anyone from full-time vegans, to people who just want to have a healthy lunch one day of the week [and] to people who just love food, to come together," Phillips said. "Our goal is to bring as many people as we can to hang out and nourish our bodies with an energy-packed lunch to survive the long school day."

Vegan Club is not exclusive to only vegans, and every meeting will have a plant-based potluck.

"Everyone participating will ideally bring one ingredient to complete the meal," Phillips said. "While eating, we'll chat about the benefits of eating vegan and different ways of making the diet easier."

According to the Phillips, the transition from vegetarian to vegan for her hasn't been too challenging, especially since she has a vegan mom. Using the club to share her positive experiences as a vegan thus far, she believes the club is a good opportunity for students to try something new or even as the first steps of acclimating to a plant-based diet.

"People should join Vegan Club because food is medicine, and we need to take care of our bodies," Phillips said. "The first step to a healthy lifestyle is making sure what you're eating is beneficial to your body."

When: Lunch on Tuesdays  
Where: Mr. Journeay's room (230)



The founders of vegan club (left to right) seniors Leni Milliken, Amanda Phares, Laney Phillips. photo courtesy of Leni Milliken

## HOSA

Though HOSA had been a more casual club in prior years, this year it was revived by LASA junior Sarah Chieng and seniors Edward Lee and Prerna Kundalgurki.

"During meetings, we will be helping students prepare for their events, but a goal for us is to do some sort of community work project," Chieng said. "HOSA generally directs a service project that individual chapters can join in on."

She wants HOSA to become a bigger, more established organization at LASA, to the level of Science Olympiad and Robotics. HOSA is targeted towards those who want to pursue a health science-oriented career.

"People should join because it's a nice challenge and opportunity to apply an interest in Biology, and it gives students an opportunity to explore different career paths," Chieng said.

When: Tuesday during lunch  
Where: Dr. Chin's room (246)

## Visual Arts Club

LASA freshmen Nabeeha Ghani and Tiffany Nguyen founded the Visual Arts Club, aimed towards those who are artistically inclined and interested in commentary. The club focuses on exploring journalism, creative writing, art, and photography. The Visual Arts Club pursues the creation of an magazine that highlights various aspects of society and culture.

"The Visual Arts Club uses a magazine as a means of providing its members with a creative outlet to comment and share their opinions about culture with like-minded individuals to express themselves," Nguyen said.

According to Nguyen, the primary purpose of the club is to present students with an opportunity to positively channel social commentary. The club is aimed at any writers, artists and commentators interested in having their voices heard.

"When I was creating this club, my main focus was: how can I present others like myself with an way to seriously express themselves artistically and intellectually, something I don't find in many clubs offer," Nguyen said.

When: Thursdays  
Where: Ms. Giulietti's Room (Portable 9A)

## Jaguar Fencing Club

LASA junior Emma Moran, a fencer for 11 years, and sophomore Ali Parker, a fencer for seven, started the Jaguar Fencing Club after the sport had garnered more attention via the summer Olympics.

"Fencing is a very unknown and obscure sport, but a lot more attention has been drawn to it lately, and more social media has highlighted fencing," Moran said. "With the recent uptick, I've also noticed a lot of interest in it from people at school."

Jaguar Fencing Club will take place both on and off campus. Moran plans to teach the basics, including technique and strategy, during the informational meetings that will take place on campus. However, off campus, Moran and Parker will host hour-long lessons for club members at the Texas Fencing Academy.

"One of my personal goals for the club is to get at least one or two people seriously interested in fencing," Moran said. "I think it would be great if some of the members got to compete in small, local tournaments, or at least visit to see what it's like."

The fencing club is open to all students. Moran wants to garner interest for fencing as a sport, communicate her enjoyment for the sport and make it more inviting to a wider audience.

"My advice for potential members would be to just try it," Moran said. "I think the really important thing is to come to an after-school lesson and try fencing because that's how you know you like it. I remember the very first time I picked up a sword, I was hooked. I had tried other sports, but I immediately knew I loved [fencing]."

When: Thursdays during lunch  
Where: Ms. Aguayo's room (276)



The founders of Jaguar Fencing club (left to right) freshman Ali Parker and junior Emma Moran suited up for practice at the Texas Fencing Academy

## Newspaper Club

Newspaper Club, founded by web editor and LASA junior Mateen Kontoravdis, meets every other Tuesdays, starting on Sep. 5.

"I came up with this idea during the summer when I learned we would be short on staff this year," Kontoravdis said. "For a while now, we have been trying to get the community more involved with the paper, and I thought this would be the perfect way to do so."

The goal of Newspaper Club is to get the LASA community involved with the school paper, *The Liberator*. Activities include from writing stories that may be published on the newspaper or website to drawing comics and graphics or taking photos that may appear on the paper. The club is open to anyone interested in journalism, drawing, or photography.

"People should join because the newspaper is a great way for people to express their opinions," Kontoravdis said. "In addition, when we submit the newspaper and website to UIL, students can win awards for their work."

When: Lunch every other Tuesday  
Where: Portable 5A



Founder Web Editor Mateen Kontoravdis talks about *The Liberator* at the first meeting of Newspaper Club. photo courtesy of *The Liberator* Instagram.

## One Mind at a Time

LASA senior Jack Kappelman started "One Mind at a Time", a non-profit charity, with the help of seniors Piper Neulander, Ruth Mewhinney and alumni Jakob Dornhofer. The main goal of the organization is to develop a sustainable partnership with a school in rural western Ethiopia, in which they could provide the children and teachers there with resources the school may lack.

"When I visited Ethiopia with my father [and] seeing the learning conditions of the students and lack of support from the government, I was inspired to start this charity," Kappelman said.

Club activities will be geared towards preparing for the trip, which will take place during winter break. The travel team, consisting of Mewhinney, Dornhofer and Kappelman currently has room for one more.

"Our main goal is to raise \$8,000 for this trip, and we've already raised around \$4,100 through GoFundMe," Kappelman said. "We really want to expand this project, as we've only had a team of four people last year."

According to Kappelman, running the charity is no easy feat. They are looking for volunteers to help conduct social media and fundraising campaigns, work on local outreach, coordinate local events, run and design a website and direct the club's social media presence.

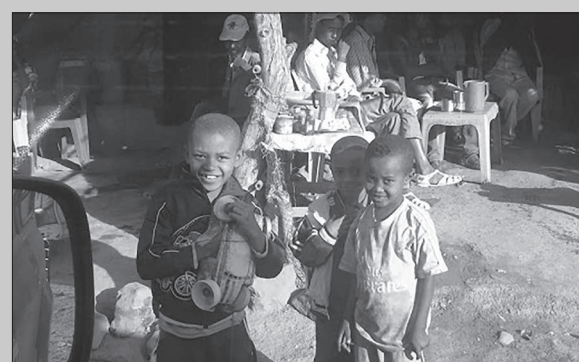
"We saw this as an opportunity to get more people involved with volunteering, and to share our work and passion with other similarly-driven people," Kappelman said. "If anyone is interested in humanitarian work, volunteering, service, or anything like that, they should get involved."

"One Mind at a Time" is for anyone interested in humanitarian work, volunteering, service [and helping] to run a charity. I would say to everyone that it's worth giving us a shot because volunteering at One Mind at a Time will give you experience that no other place likely would."

When: some Wednesdays  
Where: Ms. Moore's room (18B)



Founder of One Mind at a Time and LASA senior Jack Kappelman with some of the local kids from a tribe called the Gumuz.



Kids from Gundawoojha, a village the club will be working in. "The kid on the left is holding a toy car made of bottle caps nailed to a gas can, which they were pulling through the street by a string," Kappelman said.



The main street of Shin, a village nearby where the club plans to work. all photos courtesy of Jack Kappelman.

## GirlUp

LASA juniors Katherine Chacon and Sophie Wysocki created GirlUp, a club to fundraise for less fortunate girls in developing nations across the world.

"We believe it's very important to work towards equality for all and to donate money or resources when at all possible," Wysocki said.

During the meetings, Wysocki wants to organize committees to plan volunteer events and fundraisers. Additionally, members will work on advocacy by discussing specific issues relevant to girls, educating themselves on topics that impact girls across the world today.

"GirlUp advocates for better healthcare and education in developing nations and more rights for girls in those countries," Wysocki said.

The two are expanding the club to include local volunteering, believing it is important to help the local community as well as offer international aid.

"We are very lucky to attend LASA and to live in a place like Austin, and we believe that we should use our luck to try to help others who don't get the same opportunities," Wysocki said.

When: Some Wednesdays  
Where: Mr. Escandell's room (204)

## End Sexual Assault Club

LASA junior Dessie Tien and sophomore Cora Tien started the End Sexual Assault Club, which is a club dedicated to educating the student body about issues such as consent and rape. Some of the club's planned activities include reading the book *We Believe You* and discussing the sexual assault epidemic across the nation.

"We hope that through our club, high school students will take away the severity of the issue when they go to college, and that through the education we'll provide, more students know about consent versus non-consent," Cora Tien said.

The club is for everyone, as it takes an entire community to solve pressing and complicated issues like those of sexual assault. Tien also said she hopes that people will be able to understand the severity of the issue when they

go to college and that the club will enable more students to give and understand consent. The club educates its members about the importance of giving consent as well as the failure by colleges to recognize sexual assault and perform adequate investigations.

"Our club talks about not only the implications of college sexual assault but high school as well, and we cover lots of controversial and taboo topics like rape, consent, dating violence and failure from colleges to recognize and treat the issue," Dessie Tien said.

When: Every 3rd Tuesday  
Where: Mrs. Gritte's room (254)

# THE SKINNY

## 2018-2019 Admissions

SOPHIA BLAHA  
Staff Writer

The new admissions policy used to evaluate applicants for the current freshmen class took into account factors like ethnicity and income for the first time. The goal: to increase the LASA's diversity and allow a wider range of students to have access to a challenging high school experience.

In previous years, LASA administration accepted students based solely on their score on the holistic rubric and their application. In order to increase LASA's representative diversity, the admissions policy was updated to include ethnicity, as well as other factors, within the application process.

The new process begins to look at systemic disadvantages of some student groups, not simply their GPA. Administrators will accept 80 percent of the incoming class — 300 students — based on the holistic 25 point rubric. Starting with the student ranked next on the rubric, the final 20 percent of students will be admitted based on meeting at least three of five "special circumstances" criteria, in a procedure modeled off of college applications.

“ I think one of the goals of education should always be to broaden horizons.

LASA Principal  
Stacia Crescenzi

The circumstances include students of racial or ethnic groups underrepresented at LASA (as compared with Austin), those who will be first-generation college students, those zoned to middle schools with a student body over 70 percent economically disadvantaged, students who embraced academic rigor, and those who excelled academically despite "unusually difficult circumstances," according to LASA's official manual.

"The main reason for the new policy is diversity," academy director Andy Paulson said.

LASA principal Stacia Crescenzi said she wanted to make sure that the admissions policy doesn't turn a blind eye to people who lack resources outside of the classroom, but who would still be a good match for LASA. Accepting more students from a wider variety of backgrounds and middle schools will ideally work to diversify LASA and future classes.

"Just because a process is blind doesn't mean it's equitable," Crescenzi said. "I think one of the goals of education should always be to broaden horizons."

Although it's difficult to see demographic trends with only two years of data, Crescenzi thinks that continuing with this policy will enrich LASA's community. Thus far, there have been some promising increases in diversity, especially in Latino and multiracial populations.

"In just the freshman class, we had a big increase in Hispanic students of about 10 percent, African-American went up to two percent and Asian and White students went down," Paulson said. "So, comparing apples to apples, the freshman class did increase their diversity and we plan to continue to do that."

### Highways and hallways more crowded with combined schedules

ASHLEY THOMAS  
Staff Writer

LASA and LBJ have combined schedules this year in order to resolve scheduling conflicts between the schools. Several students and faculty members have reported increase in traffic after school, contributing toward longer commutes.

For senior Ben Wade, this increase in traffic has created a stressful after school environment when leaving the student parking lot.

"For me, it's just really inconvenient," Wade said. "It was already difficult finding a parking spot in the morning, and now on top of that leaving has become really hectic and crowded. People are racing out of the parking lot so they're not stuck at the light forever. I just hope as the year goes on it improves, especially with the construction that's happening."

Wade said that the large crowds have tacked on an extra 10 minutes to his daily commute home. To combat this issue, LASA principal Stacia Crescenzi has implemented security at both the south and north ends of the school to monitor after school traffic and ensure students and parents are safely able to make it out of the neighborhood within a decent amount of time. However, senior Talia Willcott said the jams have not subsided despite these added measures.

"Even though they're out there everyday it still takes a long time to leave the parking lot," Willcott said. "I appreciate the extra effort that is going into helping us get out of school at a decent time, but I don't think that it's really helped. There's really nothing they can do about just the amount of people that have to leave at one time, which is really the issue here."

Not only has the schedule affected students and faculty leaving the premise after school, but senior Laney Phillips has said that the amount of people crowding the hallways between classes has created the hassle of making it to class on time. In an email sent out to the LASA community, Crescenzi addressed the issue of after school traffic and overcrowding of the hallways between classes.

Traffic within the school has also posed a problems As well as a higher security detail monitoring outside traffic after school, administrators have suggested alternative pathways for students to take when going and leaving between classes within the building. Areas such as the dungeon stairs have become especially crowded between passing periods with the mass amount of students flowing between floors. Phillips said she had taken a different pathway to the dungeon since the beginning of the year to make it on time to her last class of the day.

"Rather than go down the main stairs near the fine arts hallway, I take the doors that lead to the student parking lot and walk around the side," Phillips said. "After showing up late the first day I learned that it's just easier to take the longer route than have to fight off the crowd that's going down the stairs. It's a lot of people that are having to use the stairs at a single time and I don't think there's really any solution to fix it outside of expanding the building and pathways that lead to classes."

# Rearranging LASA Robotics



LASA Robotics coach Tony Bertucci with FRC robotics team members juniors Zayan Vohra, Leah Rowan and sophomore Krishanu Ray from the 2016-2017 season at the UIL competition. photo courtesy of LASA Robotics.

MARLEN AVILA  
News Editor

Robotics season is kicking off with the FIRST Tech Challenge (FTC) Robotics competition in early November. This gives students roughly eight weeks to design and build a functioning robot. However, this year's shortage in coaches — from three to one — has posed some challenges.

LASA Robotics is divided into two teams, FTC and FIRST Robotics Competition (FRC). While both teams compete in competitions throughout the school year, they compete using differently-sized robots. In previous years, both FTC and FRC teams would meet after school to work on their respective robots with the assistance of the three coaches. Tony Bertucci is the only robotics coach this year and responsible for overseeing both teams. To ensure both teams have adequate work time, Bertucci designated FTC to work during class and FRC to work after school.

"[During] the FTC time, I can give them my undivided attention, and the FRC time, I can give them my undivided attention," he said. "That's the only way we can work it out, because I'm only one person. So some people didn't or weren't able to take the class and they made the transition

to FRC. Some people who didn't want to do the class went off to join another team, and some people stayed with FTC and joined the class."

According to Bertucci, many students who were interested in participating in robotics did not know that FTC would continue as a class rather than an afterschool activity, resulting in smaller teams for that division. Last year, approximately 35 students were in FTC, which is down to three this year.

"Right now, a lot of people, because we changed a little bit of the format for FTC robotics ... have the opinion that we're not doing robotics this year because they heard that from other sources outside the building," he said. "Now, they never came and asked us."

Although there are fewer students in FTC, team members said there are benefits to the setup. Sophomore Andrew Gunawan said that having FTC be a designated class period could make work more concentrated and efficient.

"It takes away an elective, but I think it's a good opportunity," Gunawan said. "It is kind of like a class choice... it gives a more set level required interest because otherwise, you're just showing up once every week and you're not as committed. This [requires] your full commitment

because it's in school."

According to sophomore Aditya Desai, fewer students in FTC also presents opportunities for other students to contribute more. Desai said he anticipated the increased participation from individual students would help in completing the challenges.

"The class gives you more time to work and more input per person because [there are] fewer people, and there's more commitment from team members than there would be otherwise," Desai said. "Last year the teams were 15 people at least. So not everyone got to do what they wanted, especially the freshmen. We always didn't get the roles that we wanted."

Despite the format change, the FTC team will continue to strive on designing and constructing their robot for competition. According to Bertucci, the number of students will not drastically affect the challenge.

"The reality is that's the game and now they have to figure out how to deal with it," Bertucci said. "They've got essentially eight weeks. The first competition is in eight weeks. So we're going to sit down this afternoon and start talking strategies [about] how to approach the competition and what to do and what not to do. We're going to figure it out like we always do."

## New district initiative gives Chromebooks to Austin area high school students

SARAH LUCAS  
News Editor

This fall, AISD launched an districtwide initiative that assigns Chromebooks to all high school students. However, LASA students did not start the year off with laptops in tow.

The initiative, called Everyone:1, is aimed at making curriculum more digital to adapt learning to the modern world. Deployment of the Chromebooks has been scheduled at different times throughout the year for different schools. LASA's release date is still forthcoming, but principal Stacia Crescenzi said the school is currently scheduled to deploy the new laptops around January.

After funding for the program was approved by voters in a 2013 bond, work on the initiative began in 2015. Within the past year, campus principals have become involved in the development of Everyone:1, helping to fit the program to their own school's personal needs. The final step prior to full-scale deployment was piloting the program at Garza Independence High School, which allowed administrators to gauge student receptiveness, assess Chromebook functionality and determine the feasibility of students taking the devices home.

"The district has been looking to improve the student-to-computer ratio for years, even prior to the 2013 bond," Kevin Schwartz, AISD

Technology Officer for learning and systems, said.

According to Schwartz, a primary goal of the program were promoting student engagement and empowerment. Schwartz said that by providing computer access, the district is aiming to encourage student agency and provide more personalized learning.

"When students are engaged in their learning, they move from compliance — just doing the minimum of what is asked — to voluntarily going deeper with learning," Schwartz

said. "With access on demand, a student can pursue topics that they are passionate about and relevant to them... [with] more of the choices in the hands of the students."

Another goal for the program's implementation was to promote equity among all students, thereby easing disparities caused by varying levels of technological access.

"We also sense an opportunity to eliminate a barrier to learning that we know exists for some students," Schwartz said. "Without the Chromebook provided by the district,

some students might not have access to digital materials and tools."

Students may also use a personally owned computer as an alternative to the computers issued out by the district. Some LASA students bring their own devices from home, including senior Kanoa Kelly.

"I typically bring my laptop whenever I need to for a class, so I don't think I'll be using the Chromebooks," Kelly said. "Still, I think it's a promising opportunity for students."

As for how successful the initiative has proven so far, Schwartz said that classrooms have become more collaborative and communicative. In particular, Schwartz said there has been increased usage of electronic tools like the online classroom platform of BLEND. Together, the two programs are part of a deliberate shift to make instruction

more modern and relevant to "digital citizen" students. Blended learning, flipped classrooms and increased student agency are all part of this model.

"The challenge, of course, is to sustain the success," Schwartz said. "We are looking for this to really increase power skills: communication, collaboration, connection, cultural proficiency, critical thinking and creativity. Simply making existing worksheets digital or making paper documents into PDFs will not be enough."

### CLASS SIZES continued from page 1

The school hopes to reach 1600 students with 400 students per class while maintaining representative diversity. Although a larger percentage of students admitted doesn't guarantee increased diversity, the amount of minority students has increased between the current sophomore and freshman classes. According to KXAN, the proportion of Hispanic, African-American, and mixed race students has increased (by 7.29, 2.34, and 1.85 percents, respectively).

Considering LASA's space on campus was originally intended to house less than 1000 students, the larger size of incoming classes has prompted concerns about increased traffic from teachers and students alike. Students have

been experiencing more traffic in the hallways, during morning and afternoon commutes, and at student drop-off. New teachers have been hired, but others have been displaced. With a limited space, some teachers do not have actual classrooms for the year, and are instead "floating" between vacant classrooms.

Even LASA's newest students have been affected by the traffic increase. Freshman Elena Baldrige said the increase of traffic getting to school has led some students to change their routines.

"I have had to wake up earlier and leave earlier to get to school on time," Baldrige said.

LASA's growing population and the newly synced passing periods with LBJ has also contributed to

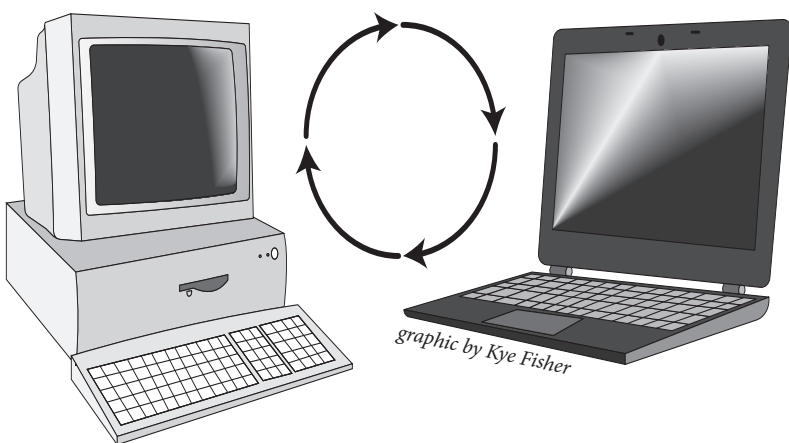
persisting traffic in the hallways. Major doorways are causing routine holdups during passing periods.

Despite these inconveniences, junior Lisa Moomaw said she thinks the focus on diversity would benefit LASA's public perception.

"I think people make it LASA's fault when it's not LASA's fault," Moomaw said. "But that doesn't mean LASA shouldn't be doing stuff to help."

To Crescenzi, preserving diversity of opinions is paramount.

"What makes an academic environment truly meaningful is when you have all those great minds together, each one of their life perspective is a little bit different and they're all engaged on the same topic," Crescenzi said.



graphic by Kye Fisher



## Seniors reflect on Homecoming history

EMMA JANE HOPPER  
Life & Feature Editor

The LASA Class of 2018 is fast approaching its last official high school homecoming dance. With a sense of finality in the air, the LASA seniors have been asked to reflect on their homecoming careers and their hopes for their last one.

The homecoming theme changes every year, and the upcoming one, *Back to the Future*, should live up to its predecessors, according to LASA senior Anisah Aguilar. Aguilar has been to two other homecomings in the past, as her parents were worried for her safety in freshman year. Once reassured the chaperones were capable, Aguilar was allowed to go.

"My favorite year of homecoming was last year's where the theme was glow and we had a bunch of cool glow sticks and UV lights," Aguilar said. "I had this really cool dress covered in lightning strikes that glowed super brightly under the UV's!"

Aguilar is confident in this year's theme will be an interesting one, considering all the ways the theme could be interpreted due to the diversity of the subject matter.

"The current theme is *Back to the Future* and I think that's really cool," Aguilar said. "I can't wait to see people's outfits this year!"

While some have only gone twice, like Aguilar, and others have gone every year, some students haven't gone once—and don't intend on breaking that record. LASA Senior Rameen Haroon may consider going to prom this year, but otherwise has only gone to a school dance once: Bowie's homecoming dance to visit friends. Sophomore year.

"I never really got hyped to go to school just to dance I guess," Haroon said. "I'd rather

hang with my friends outside of school." Just because Haroon never went to a school dance didn't mean she spent those nights home alone. She opted for hanging out with her friends, going to the movies, going out for dinner, sometimes shopping.

"We usually spend the whole night out of the house, so that we still have a fun night," Haroon said. While her record may still be safe on a technicality, as Haroon has never actually attended Bowie as a student and thus it wasn't really her school dance, Haroon may still attend a school dance yet, but it won't be this fall.

"I still want to have some of the high school experience," Haroon said. "I feel like it would be fun to go get ready and go to prom with all of my friends, especially because it's senior year."

LASA senior and Student Section Leader Sawyer Timco recommends prom over homecoming. While prom isn't for a while, homecoming is right around the corner, and Timco has fond memories.

"My favorite year was probably sophomore year because I crowd surfed," Timco said. "Other than that I have typically liked the music at homecoming more than the music at prom, but I had more fun at prom," Timco said.

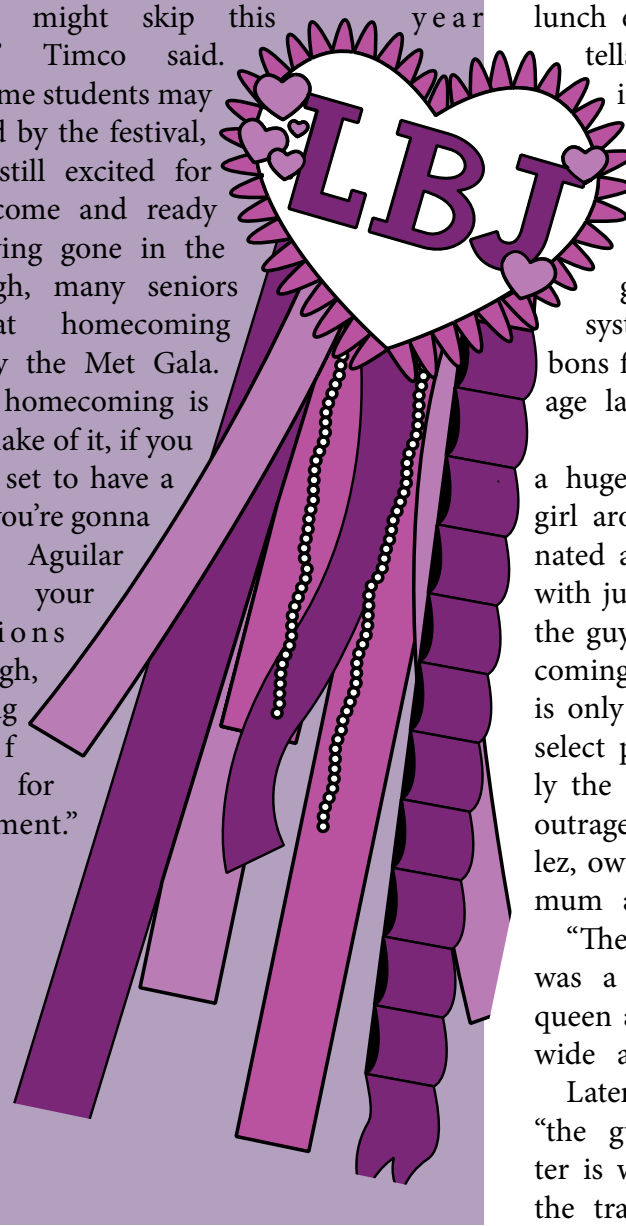
Timco, an ambassador of school spirit as Student Section Leader, actually may not be attending homecoming in his senior year. Homecoming this year is during the second weekend of the Austin City Limits music festival, which may cause conflict to people who bought tickets back when they were initially available. The original homecoming date was scheduled during Yom Kippur, one of the most important Jewish holidays, rivaled only by Passover (during which LASA Prom has been scheduled) and Hannukah.

Due to the religious conflict, the unwitting goys in charge rescheduled for a weekend with the worst traffic all year aside from SXSW.

"I have been to homecoming all three years, but might skip this year for ACL," Timco said.

While some students may be hindered by the festival, many are still excited for what's to come and ready to go. Having gone in the past, though, many seniors know that homecoming isn't exactly the Met Gala.

"I think homecoming is what you make of it, if you go out and set to have a good time you're gonna be fine," Aguilar said. "If your expectations are too high, you're setting yourself up for disappointment."



## IT'S BIGGER IN TEXAS, MUMS INCLUDED

ISABELLE AMANUEL  
Staff Writer

A mum means different things in different places. In England it might mean the lady who packs your lunch everyday and folds your laundry—or tells your dad to do it. To some burgeoning anthropologists it may be shorthand for mummy. The mum referenced here, however, is a Homecoming tradition that isn't evident anywhere outside of Texas. Texans that have gone through the public high school system are bound to have seen the ribbons flowing from the torso to feet of teenage ladies and same on their date's arm.

The simplest definition of a mum is a huge Homecoming corsage worn by the girl around her neck. The first mum originated at the University of Missouri in 1911 with just a real flower given to the girl from the guy as a sign of having a date to Homecoming at the football game. The mum today is only found significant in Texas and other select places. They can be small, but usually the mums are larger, some bordering on outrageous, according to Shannon Gonzalez, owner of Mums and Kisses, a handmade mum and garter shop in Crowley, Texas.

"The heaviest I have ever made a mum was a double mum for the homecoming queen and it was 22 lbs and almost two feet wide and four feet long," Gonzalez said.

Later on, the garter was invented as "the guy's version" of a mum. The garter is worn on the man's upper arm. While the tradition is equitably important, Gonzalez said that the history of the garter is harder to uncover compared to the mum.

Gonzalez gave a specific name to the giving and receiving of these decorated gifts: the "mum exchange". Usually each person purchases or makes the mum and garter for the opposite person. But, in special circumstances, one person—either the guy or the girl—will purchase or make both the mum and garter themselves and then present the opposite person with their accessory, according to Melissa Ansley, owner of Melz Mumz, another handmade mum and garter shop, in the greater Dallas-Fort Worth area.

"I have some [customers] that a mom will buy both. One for her daughter and one for her date," Ansley said.

Gonzalez started making mums 12 years ago, starting with an order from a pee-wee football team. From there, she continued making them and it turned into a full-blown business. Despite all of her involvement with them, she has never received a mum herself.

Ansley got started making mums when her daughter needed one when she was in high school. The next year, her daughter's friends asked for mums as well. This started Ansley's journey to mum making her profession. Ansley received a mum every year in high school.

When making mums, she admits that it can

take a while to fully complete one, depending on the size the customer ordered it in.

"It can take me anywhere between two hours and two weeks," Gonzalez said. When Ansley makes her various mums and garters, she takes a very different amount of time constructing her accessories, though it still depends on the size of the mum.

"I can make one as fast as two hours or as long as 14 hours," said Ansley. Along with taking up much of a person's time with making these accessories, there are supplies needed to make a great mum. Gonzalez said all someone needs is silk flowers, ribbons, glue guns, staples, braids, loops, bows, bells and other trinkets.

She also offered advice about how to obtain a mum or garter, saying one should either making it themselves or ordering one from a local mum maker.

"It depends on their skill, their budget and their willingness to get burned by hot glue guns," Gonzalez said. "Unlike most labor intensive designing, mums are actually cheaper if you have it made, then if you make it yourself."

Aside from Homecoming, Gonzalez also provides mums for baby showers, graduations, class reunions, and funerals.

Unlike other students who may buy their mums from professional makers, LASA senior Olivia Dudley makes her mums as she has for five consecutive years. She was initially introduced to mums for her 6th grade Homecoming dance.

"I was clueless about what they were for but once I found out, I was immediately hooked," Dudley said. "It's to show off school spirit and the things that you are involved in at school."

She loves wearing mums because she believes they are festive and lots of fun. She also believes she has gotten a lot better at making mums.

"Each year [mums are] a little different depending on how I'm feeling or what I'm involved in that year," Dudley said.

After all of this time, Texas has kept this huge mum and garter tradition alive within their high schools for current and future students to enjoy.

"No other state has this tradition," Gonzalez

## Inside Trojan Walls

A *Liberator* staffer goes undercover at Anderson Homecoming to scope out the details of the night

MEGAN RAMSEY  
a Staff Writer

Pulling up in front of the Belmont, 6th Street music venue, my friend Molly and I spotted security guards patting down the entering Anderson students. I walked up with shaky hands; Anderson Homecoming was new for me. Thankfully, I wasn't patted down or stopped as I entered with my wrist band. I scouted out the venue as my party crashing task began and the anxiety of being some of the first people there gnawed at me.

Initially, there were only few people, but once darkness settled in, so did the party. Their DJ was the main focus of the dance, playing an endless stream of antiquated songs from middle school. As people poured in, cliquish clusters emerged. The DJ remained lethargically isolated on his stage. He was more for show than anything. Finally, hours after the dance's start, he uttered his first words: "What's up Trojans!". His playlist differed from the usual LASA/LBJ Homecoming hits, containing "Gangnam Style", "Worth It", and "Jujube on that Beat". I was unenthused, but the students appeared energized, save for the group playing cards.

The only reminder of the theme "An Evening in Paris" was a 15 foot, Eiffel Tower cutout. The food was roughly the same as at LASA/LBJ Homecoming, except that they had platters of Krispy Kreme donut holes and other sweets, which impressed me more than the \$3 grocery store cookies at LASA/LBJ homecomings. People opted for a more elevated look than what I've seen at the LASA/LBJ Homecoming, with floor length dresses and high heels; slacks, white shirts and ties, and even full on suits.

I felt out of place as I stood peering over the Belmont's second floor railing. The light faded behind tall buildings, the sun left streaks of pink in the sky, while the DJ switched abruptly from song to song, failing to transition them. Even with the absence of good music, a student raced down the stairs to bust some intense dance moves when "Despacito" began. Soon the song cut off momentarily before re-starting with Justin Bieber's version. Later on, the same guy cartwheeled around.

Couples started dancing together. Initially girls were the ones dancing, with a flock of boys in slacks and pastel shirts bunched together on the sideline. The boys, however, would merge into the crowd and get reprimanded by the DJ for trying to crowd surf.

The DJ played a big part in monitoring, although with hit songs from 2009 like "Suaveamente" and "Party in The USA", couples were encouraged to get a bit raunchier. Guys unbuttoned their sweaty shirts and PDA began. After descending the stairs to dance, I was bumped and turned to see a grinding circle invading my personal bubble. Couples were intense and unapologetic in their face sucking. I caught sight of more grinding trains scattered throughout the night.

LASA/LBJ homecomings have more moshing and mingling and a bit less PDA. I was expecting to get some guys' back sweat on me as they jump past, but at The Belmont, that only occurred toward the end of the night with sweat and suffocating body heat radiating off my fellow dancers.

With an hour left, I was done with the music and out of dance moves. The DJ would have been booted off the stage at the LASA/LBJ Homecoming because of his music choices, playing "22", "Party Rock Anthem", and "#selfie" in 2017. Anderson Homecoming seemed like a homecoming for couples and people who are okay with bad music, compared to the diverse group that attends LASA/LBJ Homecoming. I did enjoy the venue and the freedom it gave, but even with the movie feel, jumping around with people I know is more fun.

## LOCO for HOCO

### How Homecoming stacks up to the hype

MEGAN RAMSEY  
Staff Writer

The gym is dark and twinkling with lights and music. It's not quite like the movies, but people are still clustered, smiling with groups of friends. Not everyone goes to homecoming, but the ones that do go for the excitement of it. From the big game day to cheesy homecoming proposals to the crowded dance in a gym, the event is made out to be a big celebration of high school. These traditions and views of it may end up being unexpected.

LASA junior Anushka Srivastava said that homecoming is glamorized, but most events in life are glamorized elaborated by the media as well. She said it's unrealistic to expect schools to make homecoming live up to the movies.

"Personally, I would appreciate it more if homecoming in movies was more like homecomings in real life," Srivastava said. "There are obviously a bunch of expectations."

Music is a large part of setting the homecoming scene. And because LBJ and AISD don't have a large budget for it, Srivastava said a wild homecoming dance can't be expected, but at least there's music to get people dancing. Dancing is what high schoolers see in the homecoming movies, and as LASA junior Bella Roberts observed, not as many students danced as she had hoped. Roberts said she didn't really know what she was expecting, though.

"The [homecomings] in movies are a lot more over the top and dramatic," Roberts said. Before actually experiencing high school and homecoming, students had grown up seeing high school dances in over-the-top scenes from Disney movies and tv shows. As a freshman, Anna Thomas has no experience of a real high school homecoming. This will be her first time going to a high school dance and she thinks it might be close to what she's seen in the movies.

"I'm not sure what to expect," Thomas said. "But I assume it will serve as an opportunity to have fun with friends... I hope it's as fun as it's made out to be."

Srivastava thinks that the movies affect expectations a lot, especially for preteens, because they think it will be exactly as they see it in the movies. According to Srivastava, these films make homecoming seem more like Prom.

Teachers see how unrealistic the movies are because the screenwriters and directors that make them have experienced their own homecomings. LASA Social Studies teacher Adam Escandell thinks the situation is forced and socially awkward with hovering teachers and uncomfortable interactions, but the odd circumstance is one that will stay the same forever. He said that while homecoming has silly traditions, the movies also have the power to influence our behaviors.

"How do you know how you're supposed to act or whatever. You pretty much just garner from a bunch of crummy movies," Escandell said. "Which means that those movies, as silly and unrealistic as they are, then start to influence you guys' behavior because you think, 'that's how I'm supposed to act.'"

While homecoming may not meet the picture that Hollywood painted, it is still a time for friends to get together and celebrate school spirit. Students look forward to football season and homecoming, which add to the high school experience.

"I think people know that [the movies are] pretty fantastical," Srivastava said, "but... I'm really excited for homecoming this year."

## Teacher Feature: Walker walks us through school dances and awkward experiences

Every six weeks the Life & Feature section shows off the interesting characters of the LASA staff by asking them to write about our focus for the issue. To get everyone ready to rave at homecoming this year, Organic Chemistry and Planet Earth teacher David Walker, tells us about his experiences at his own school dances and at LASA school dances as a chaperone. Interview is edited for clarity and length.

DAVID WALKER  
Science Teacher

### On his own school dance experiences

I actually don't have any experiences with high school dances as a student. I attended a fairly strict religious high school, and dancing of any kind was frowned upon (think Footloose here). Accordingly, my "prom" consisted of a sit down meal, a magician (not kidding), and a guest speaker. So I was first introduced to the dance scene quite late - in college, in fact.

### On dancing ability

There are definitely folks who can simultaneously look cool and express themselves via dance. I have been told that I am not one of these people. That being said, I have come to enjoy dances a great deal, especially when with good music and good friends.

### On LASA dances

I feel as though LASA student dances are not any more or less awkward than dances elsewhere. The main awkwardness stems from being placed in a new, unpracticed social situation. The traditional "LASA student dance" has indeed changed over the years, but most iterations involve jumping up and down in quite repetitive fashion. Pretty straightforward to learn. Of course, there are always the extremes, from the aggressive dance circles, to Mr. Deram doing his cool dance lights rave thing, to that one couple that is making things really uncomfortable for everyone nearby.

### On his chaperoning experience

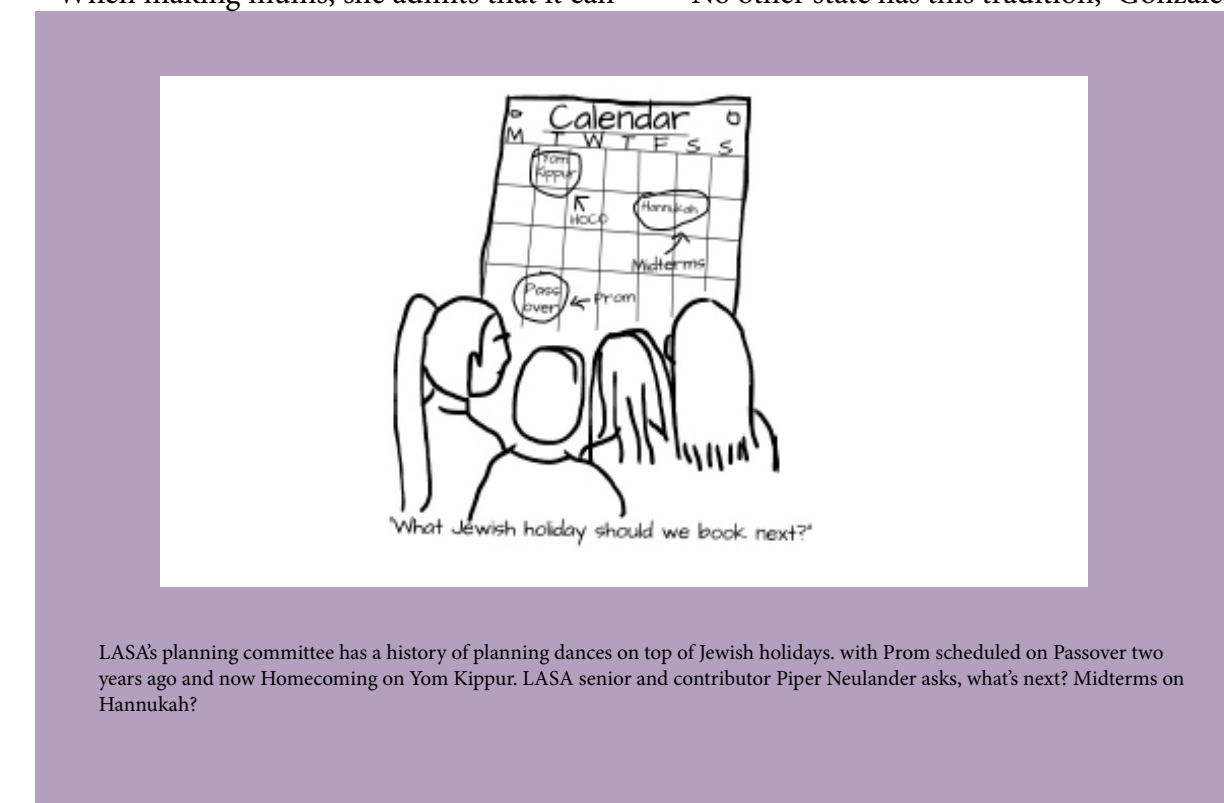
My first experience chaperoning a LASA dance was at homecoming during my first year here. I was instructed to stand in a spot right next to the dance floor and ensure students were dancing "appropriately." For three hours. Three. Long. Hours.

But I have since had better experiences as a chaperone. A couple years ago, I got to prom for the early shift with Mr. Croston and Mr. Moody, and we had free reign over the hors d'oeuvres for a good half hour. I then got a caricature done and realized I have abnormally small ears.

### A word of encouragement

But hey, homecoming is coming up, and I'd encourage folks to give the whole dance thing a try. If you need a reason, it's good practice for every awkward wedding reception you'll ever attend. Trust me.

page design by Emma Jane Hopper, Gabrielle Jabour, and Sarah Mines  
all graphics by Kye Fisher



LASA's planning committee has a history of planning dances on top of Jewish holidays, with Prom scheduled on Passover two years ago and now Homecoming on Yom Kippur. LASA senior and contributor Piper Neulander asks, what's next? Midterms on Hannukah?

# ASH MUSIC CORNER

Which is the superior '70s sound?

## ROCK

GRANT McCASLAND  
Web Editor

In the 1950s the winds of social change were starting to blow, with an unanticipated catalyst spearheading the counterculture movement. The Cold War began to heat up, America went through a craze of McCarthyism, and the country started to desegregate. As a result, artists began combining elements from country and western music with those of rhythm and blues to create something new, and it stuck with rebellious teenagers. This new genre was called rock and roll.

Early pioneers of the genre such as Elvis Presley, Buddy Holly and Chuck Berry became stars and helped unify the wide range of "rock" sounds found in the formative years of the genre. Their stardom followed a young movement against conservative parents and social norms of the decade. At the time, rock and roll was denounced by the parents as subversive, demonic and anti-Christian. Little did they know, this would be the first of many examples of rock music leading social change and defining the generational divides that remain with us today. Once the genre known as rock and roll became established within the zeitgeist of American society, grassroots movements in Europe paralleled the growing popularity across the pond.

Flash forward two decades later to the 1970s. Since the 1950s, rock had snowballed into a worldwide phenomenon that now included diverse sub-genres like prog rock, glam rock, soft rock and hard rock. Rock reached the height of its success, propelled by great, energetic hits, ranging from the existential ballad of "Bohemian Rhapsody" to the legendary anthem of "Stairway to Heaven." There's no other way to put it: rock was dominating the radio waves. Outdoor rock concerts were held across the world, such as the Glastonbury Festival, attempting to

recreate the magic that had been captured in 1969 when 500,000 teenagers united at the Woodstock festival to see stars like Jimi Hendrix and Janis Joplin perform over three days. With rock's recognition seeming to peak, it was only logical that the genre would continue to evolve.

More experimental offshoots like heavy metal gained steam, with bands like Black Sabbath and Iron Maiden breaking into the mainstream by the end of the decade despite meeting the same widespread criticism that rock and roll had met. For the generation that grew up watching the Vietnam War on TV, rock became their own way to release the uncertainty and frustration they experienced daily. Fast-paced punk rock branched off from classic rock in the mid-1970s, conveying defiant messages echoing those of early rock and roll. With the radical new wave of punk rock came a rise in anti-establishment sentiment and a tendency to split from the mainstream, choosing instead to focus on the independence and empowerment of the individual. Fragments of this same punk counterculture eventually resurfaced in the 1990s and early 2000s with Green Day at the forefront of the new wave of punk.

Unlike the spontaneous and confined popularity of disco, rock has been popular and evolving for over half a century. As interesting as it was, disco was simply an experimental product of the time, which can be seen in how quickly it came and went. Rock and roll first molded itself from the ashes of now-ancient genres and produced communities that stretched across race, social status, and even continent as the genre withstood the test of time to become something greater. Elements of rock are still alive in contemporary rebellious culture. The influence and impact of rock is cemented in history, music and art, a defining mark of the late 20th century in the West.

## DISCO

GEORGE GUCKENBERGER  
Staff Writer

A crowd of 50,000 people flooded out onto Chicago's Comiskey stadium field in between baseball games, as disco records were set ablaze next to second base. "The Disco Demolition Night" an event in 1979 where raged rock and rollers publicly worked to destroy a new genre, is a representative of the extreme hatred and opposition disco music received from rock and roll fans both before and after becoming mainstream.

Disco music was born in the '70s, and represented a new form of rebellion against social norms. It is hard to comprehend the amount of angst that was coming at disco from both the rock and roll and the mainstream community at the time. Many people were against the unruly nature of the music, and were also afraid of the social change that was coming hand and hand with the disco revolution. Despite the loudly voiced opposition to disco, it became the true genre of the '70s, and nothing could rival it - not even rock.

In 2017, disco is often overlooked with regards to its contributions to the modern style of music. Sadly, it mainly tends to be confined to '70s themed dance parties. But do not be mistaken. All types of music have been influenced by disco. It was truly the greatest genre of the '70s. Forty years ago, disco represented a new form of rebellion against the status quo, similarly to rock and roll in the '50s. Disco music had roots in the genres of R&B and Funk, and it's irresistible beats had the whole nation dancing all night long. Disco originated away from the mainstream, with African-American, Italian and Latino R&B groups in Philadelphia combining styles from psychedelic and hippie subcultures. It started to become increasingly popular in underground gay dance clubs in New York, such as The Loft, 12 West, and Tenth Floor.

After gaining more traction, disco helped bring awareness to the public about these cultures, and also aided in paving a way for women to the top of charts. The number of women present in the top twenty songs for the decade increased sevenfold from the 60's. Singers such as Donna Summer, Gloria Gaynor, Anita Ward and Thelma Houston became increasingly present on the Billboard Top 100, which had previously been dominated by male rock and rollers. Disco ended up accounting for at least half of the most played songs of the decade. The new style quickly evolved from discotheques in New York City, to being played all over the nation, with records being produced nonstop.

It's hard to talk about disco without mentioning the impressive fashion that was created by the disco club culture. The spandex, sequins, and jumpsuits became synonymous with '70s dancing, and almost as iconic is the spinning disco ball, which was a must-have at any disco party.

As disco transitioned from nightclubs to more mainstream audiences via radio

and movies, it began to have profound effects on equality movements across the nation. The '70s were a time of political and social change, as the LGBTQ rights movement began to gain traction following the Stonewall Riots. Disco music's theme of love and freedom perfectly represented the development of the era, and acted as a perfect catalyst for these movements by providing a platform to sing songs that were true to MFSB's lyrics: "Love is the Message."

Although the '70s was a great decade for the development of rock with artists such as Pink Floyd, Led Zeppelin, and The Who becoming increasingly popular, rock music failed to capture the same amount of energy present in Disco. It's impossible to listen to songs such as "Boogie Wonderland," "I Feel Love," "Funky Town," and "Stayin' Alive" without wanting to stand up and dance. The fast tempo, reverb vocals, and steady rhythm created an irresistible sound that perfectly captured the pent up emotions felt by the rebellious club goers, and became immensely popular amongst teens and young adults. The songs also had unmistakable messages of unity and perseverance, as can be seen by the titles of the hit songs "We Are Family" and "I Will Survive". The misery index ranks the '70s as being a low point for national happiness, and everybody simply wanted to let go and forget their worries. Disco perfectly functioned as a release from stress of the everyday world, and was a liberating experience.

Rock, a genre whose foundation was about rebelling against conservative social norms, had become so mainstream that it now rejected the new genre of rebellious music. During the "Disco Demolition," non-disco records by African-American artists were burned as well. The animosity coming from the rock community was hypocritical, and tainted the image of their genre.

There has always been misconceptions about disco's immense contributions to the music that exists today. Many people say that disco died on the night of the "Disco Demolition", with the organizer of the event Steve Dahl even writing a book claiming he killed disco, but that is completely false. Even in 2017 there are still disco influenced songs from popular singers like Bruno Mars, such as his popular hit "Treasure." The dance music that originated from discotheques paved the way for other minority driven genres such as hip hop and rap, as well as danceable genres such as house music and electronic dance music.

Disco changed the process of creating music by incorporating an increasing amount electronic elements, and started to push out remixes and extended cuts of the most popular tunes. This altered the relationship between studios, producers, and artists. Disco brought music from people off the mainstream who previously had little voice to the public, and helped spread a message of unity, love, and positivity.

graphic by Kye Fisher

## Diversifying the Marvel Cinematic Universe

ISABELLE AMANUEL  
Staff Writer

Marvel Comics has been a huge player in American pop culture right beside emojis, Instagram and Youtube. The names Captain America, Iron-Man and Thor are recognizable to anyone within a one-mile radius of a comic book store or movie theater. The first release in 2018 from the Marvel Cinematic Universe (MCU) will be Black Panther, and some are predicting that its box office sales will even rival Wonder Woman (2017), which grossed over 700 million dollars in the box office. This is surprising considering that it is new ground from what most people are used to seeing the MCU accomplish.

Marvel officially introduced its first black superhero, Black Panther, in 1966 in The Fantastic Four Issue 52. The upcoming film follows Black Panther (T'Challa), first introduced in the MCU in Captain America: Civil War, who comes back to the fictional African nation, Wakanda, as the country's new king. New villains arise within the country and this forces King T'Challa to use the Black Panther suit once again and team up with Wakandan special forces to defeat their foes.

Isaiah Broussard, local comic book writer and general fan of heroes, started off as a kid watching cartoons such as the X-Men and did his research at his local comic book store.

"From there I started to discover characters like Black Panther," Broussard said at the Staple! Expo, an indie comic book show for independent comic writers and artists.

When Broussard started reading comics in the '90s, Luke Cage wasn't one of his favorite superheroes but he acknowledged him as one of the first well-known black Marvel heroes.

Luke Cage is a superhuman with immense strength and impenetrable skin. He first appeared in Luke Cage: Hero For Hire Issue 1, which was the first comic to

center around a black superhero as the main character. Luke Cage has not appeared in any MCU films but has a Netflix Original show called Marvel's Luke Cage and is a part of another Netflix Original show called Marvel's The Defenders. Luke Cage, along with War Machine and Black Panther, were the first superheroes to delineate from the predominately white Marvel roster.

"War Machine was out [and] was a really big character at that time," Broussard said. "I remember being really happy [about his first appearance]."

One of Broussard's favorites is War Machine, Tony Stark's "sidekick" throughout his appearances in the comics. War Machine is a superhero of color who sports a black metal suit with multiple weapon accessories, all assembled by Tony Stark. War Machine's appearances in the MCU include all of the Iron-Man films, Avengers: Age of Ultron, and Captain America: Civil War.

Corey Jackson, a regular at the Dragon's Lair Comics and Fantasy store, believes that War Machine should get more recognition in the MCU.

Jackson has always loved superheroes since he was a kid, like Broussard. However instead of X-Men, Jackson loved watching Spawn, the marine sent to Hell and back to fight evil.

"During my time there was just Spawn all the time, every time," Jackson said. "The show would come on, and it's just like 'Spawn!'"

Jackson also enjoyed the DC character known as Static Shock and noticed how he was portrayed as a character of color.

Broussard commemorated the MCU about how they portrayed the future king of Wakanda in Captain America: Civil War, the last movie in the Captain America trilogy and the film that rediscovered Black Panther.

"I think that [the screenwriters] did a really good job setting up Wakanda [and T'Challa] in Civil War but I think everyone's really excited about it ..." Broussard

said.

"Static Shock was that guy in the ghetto who had this rough upbringing but then he got superpowers due to being in that upbringing," Jackson said. "Static Shock was like Spawn's assistant in terms of his upbringing. He was born in New York and everything but he was on a better path."

For so long, the MCU has been dominated by white male and female superheroes. Now the characters of color are making their comeback starting with Marvel's new Black Panther.

"I really do think that we look towards what the comics are doing right now, the movies just may follow," Jackson said.

Marvel's Black Panther film comes out in theaters on Feb 16, 2018 in the US.



Marvel's Black Panther will arrive in theaters on Feb. 17, 2018. The film focuses on the Marvel superhero King T'Challa, and his return to the fictional African nation of Wakanda. Image courtesy of Marvel Studios.

## After the storm comes a rainbow

MAX RANDALL AND LENI MILLIKEN  
Entertainment Editors

Flashing lights, rainbow colored confetti and beads, dancing drag queens, and underwear clad models: these are the things that bring Pride to life. On Oct. 21, the Austin Pride Festival will return to Fiesta Gardens, bringing its ten hour celebration of LGBTQ culture to the prime location, that includes both indoor and outdoor facilities.

Organized and led by the Austin Gay and Lesbian Pride Foundation (AGLPF), the Austin Pride Festival is the largest LGBTQ event in central Texas, raising and donating over \$125,000 to LGBTQ advocacy groups in Austin since its origin in 2011. The LASA Pride Alliance (LPA), a LASA club dedicated to celebrating LGBTQ culture, often sends a coalition to march in the Austin Pride Parade, which is set to take place on Sept. 30, as well as the festival. According to LPA member Mia Crockett, the festival and parade offer places of support for the LGBTQ community.

"I like going to the Austin Pride festival because I love being surrounded by such a loving community that will support you no matter what," Crockett said. "Being in the parade is really nice because a lot of people stand on the sidelines and will hold signs that say, 'You rock! You're so brave! You're so great!'"

The pride festival has over 140 vendor booths providing everything from food and drinks to face painting, photo booths and health services. It also features two stages that are filled with different musicians, performers and a fashion show throughout the day. The day the festival takes place is also central Austin's single largest HIV testing day of the year because the festival allows several local HIV-related service organizations, including Planned Parenthood, to reach a large population.

Senior and LPA officer Andrew Strauss organizes the club's involvement in the pride parade. This will be Strauss' third year at the parade, where the club marches alongside businesses, church groups, and other schools.

"[Everyone] marches downtown and there are a lot of people on the sidelines cheering and having a lot of fun," Strauss said, adding that this year he wants to, "hang out with my friends and have this moment to appreciate who I am and who my friends are."

This year, the parade and the festival

were pushed back from a date in early September due to extreme weather caused by Hurricane Harvey. Crockett said she was relieved about the changed date, as the original date fell closely after the white nationalist rally in Charlottesville, Va. on Aug. 12 that left one dead.

"I was worried about the political climate with the parade and festival being so close to what happened in Charlottesville," Crockett said, adding that she was worried about counter protesters as well. "That's never really been a problem in the past."

At this year's pride festival, dozens of local and international artists will be performing, including acts such as CupcakKe, Betty Who, and Lisa Lisa. For senior and LPA officer Sam Bergeron, the festival offers a safe place to celebrate LGBTQ culture and enjoy the live performances.

"Performances from queer artists are gonna be really awesome and I'm excited about walking around and meeting people and talking to them," Bergeron said. "I'm excited to just be [at the festival] and be proud of myself. I'm excited about being able to have a day where I can be proud and shout to the world how queer I am."

According to Bergeron, the parade and festival is very welcoming to those who have never experienced LGBTQ celebrations before.

"[With] freshmen who have never gone to events and places like that before, it's really fun for me to be around that and see the looks on their faces when they see a huge crowd of people who are like them," Bergeron said. "That's really important because I feel like a lot of people haven't experienced that before."

For Bergeron, the festival is a place to celebrate identities that have in the past and often still face persecution and scrutiny.

"I feel like in daily life you can be proud of who you are, but there might always be people who might not agree with you and might say things about it or confront you about your identity," Bergeron said. "I think for the [LGBTQ] community [the festival] means a lot and it gets people excited about who they are again."



LASA Pride Alliance (LPA) gathers close in a selfie during the Austin Pride parade in 2016. (From left to right; top row: senior Andrew Strauss, senior Bridget Lewis, senior Mateo Saralegui, junior Clara Morse; bottom row: senior Mia Crockett, junior Perry Estes and junior Fritzie Schwenker) photo courtesy of Mateo Saralegui



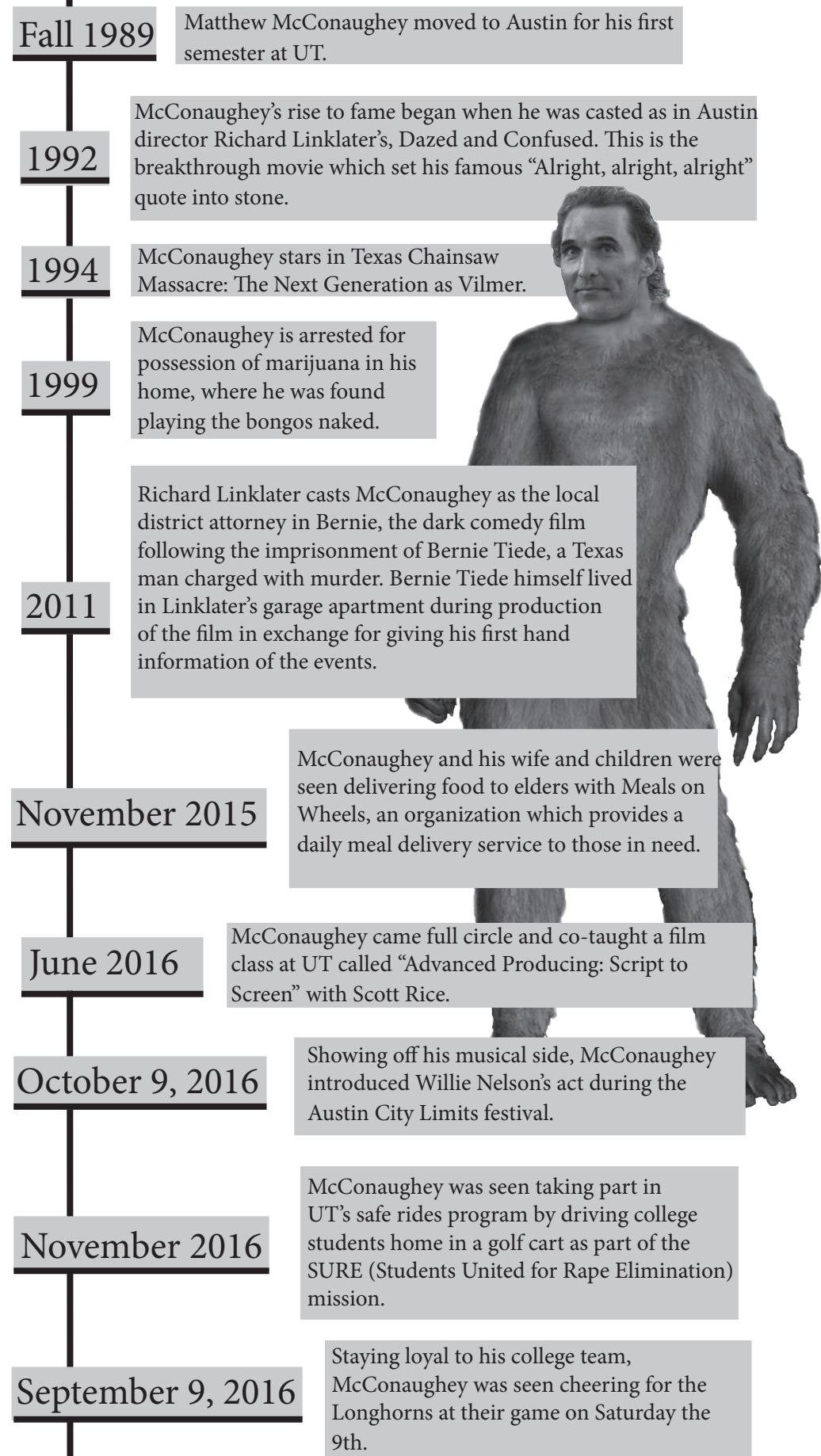
The LBJ First Ladies dance team accompanies LPA at the 2016 Austin pride parade. photo courtesy of Clara Morse



Senior Jake Mauer poses with a LGBTQ pride flag while repping AISD with a #AISDpride tshirt at the Austin Pride parade in 2016. photo courtesy of Clara Morse

## Catching Matthew McConaughey Sightings of McConaughey in the past twenty eight years

ERICA MOOMAW  
Staff Writer  
graphic by Kye Fisher



## Austin city has no limits

ANDY DEGRASSE  
Staff Writer

When the Austin City Limits music festival (ACL) first began in 2002, it was nothing more than a two day event put on by some local music enthusiasts. Headliners included local acts like Cowgirl Sue and Doug McDermott. No one could've predicted how much it would grow over the following years, and the effect it would have on the city of Austin. Since 2002, festival attendance has grown exponentially: from 42,000 the first year to 450,000 in 2016. ACL has grown from a two day festival to a two weekend event. In the same time period, Austin's population has also grown by nearly 300,000 people. These two statistics are far from a coincidence. As we all know, Austin is the live music capital of the world, and the rise of ACL has done nothing but improve that reputation and increase Austin's growth.

Attending the ACL music festival the past two years reveals just how far both the city and the festival have come over the last decade. Zilker Park, where ACL is hosted, is packed to the brim with music fans, making ACL feel more like a national festival than a local one. In a way, it has become one. People from all around the country come to ACL to see nationally famous artists like Jay-Z and the Red Hot Chili Peppers. In addition to exhibiting today's hottest music, ACL serves to show off everything Austin has to offer. Local food vendors and musicians all compete to gain publicity through ACL. The festival may no longer be as small and local as it once was, but the vendors are still mainly local businesses, like P Terry's and Maine Root. Some of the acts have also stayed the same over the years. This year's ACL will be the 16th consecutive year at the festival for local band Asleep at the Wheel, a streak which began in the first year of the festival, and is unlikely to end anytime soon. The event may have reached a national scale, but it still has not forgotten its roots.

ACL has not only helped Austin's music scene, it has also helped bring more people into the city, both as tourists and as permanent residents. People may come to Austin for the music, but they stay because of the incredible city. The festival also reportedly brought in 277 million dollars in revenue in 2016 according to AngelouEconomics, but the economic benefits go beyond just revenue itself. As ACL has achieved national notoriety, so has Austin. Our city has experienced a technology boom, welcoming both major companies like Dell and start up companies such as HomeAway that have expanded rapidly. In 2016 Austin was named the top place for startups in America by CNBC. Unsurprisingly, ACL has mirrored this trend, implementing impressive new technology in its past few festivals. The innovations have included ways to find and communicate with your friends and interactive maps to show where your favorite artists will be playing.

The relationship between Austin and ACL is a symbiotic one. ACL may be one of Austin's most well known attractions, but it's far from the only one. Over the past 15 years Austin has seen not only a boom its music industry, but in its tech sector as well. However, just like ACL, Austin has grown a lot, but in some ways it still feels like a local town. They may be crowded 24/7 nowadays, but restaurants like Franklin's Barbecue and Home Slice started as just local businesses in Austin, and are still an important part of the Austin culture.

While many people celebrate the growth ACL and appreciate the business it has brought to Austin, other worry that the original culture of Austin has been diluted by the influx of new people. The "Keep Austin Weird" motto seems much more hollow than it did back in the day. With the new jobs and opportunities have come more people from all around the country, making Austin feel less like a quirky small town and more like bustling metropolitan center. ACL also is no longer just a place for fans of folk and country music to watch their favorite act. Nowadays, the festival is teeming with frat bros in tank tops, a staple at any popular music festival.

There are positives and negatives to the growth of Austin and ACL. While Austin has experienced growth in commerce and industry, the original culture of Austin has been noticeably changed. Either way, it seems that the trend of Austin and ACL's growth has no end in sight, for better or for worse. No matter how big it may become, our city, just like our festival, will still have the same homegrown feel to it.

# Football fantasies turned to reality

## A group of 16 LASA teachers and students form club to play fantasy football yearly

MAX IRBY  
Staff Writer

Sixteen different people are competing for the same goal each week: to form a roster of NFL players who will outscore all others. The LASA Fantasy Football Club, which has existed on and off for the past five years and is back this year, facilitates this

NFL games, pick up or trade players between teams, and talk trash. With a large number of club members, the battle for the league's top spots is fierce, and every happening in the

normally, according to club member and LASA wellness counselor Marissa Rivera.

"My team is the Houston Texans, so fantasy football has given me a great excuse to watch non-Texan games and cheer for former-Texans without feeling like I'm cheating on my home team," Rivera said. "I think

Sunday ticket to watch all the out of market NFL games. Fantasy has increased my knowledge of lesser known players that still contribute to teams."

Since the NFL has a new season every year, fantasy football can easily form traditions over time, and many people have played in leagues for multiple years, explained club sponsor Jon Croston.

"I really enjoy fantasy football," Croston said. "I've been doing it for probably fifteen years. Me and my son are a part of a league that's mostly extended family, it's a big thing for us every year. I'm usually in two or three different leagues."

Fantasy football can also be a good way to keep in touch with friends, according to Rivera.

"I started playing in a league formed by some college friends soon after we graduated from Rice," Rivera said. "Although we've lost some players and added new ones, it's been a fun way to stay connected to each other over the years. Beyond that, I've also played in a few leagues with my family, as well as with friends from grad school."

The dynamic and overall feel for the game of fantasy football

can be different in a club versus with family or close friends.

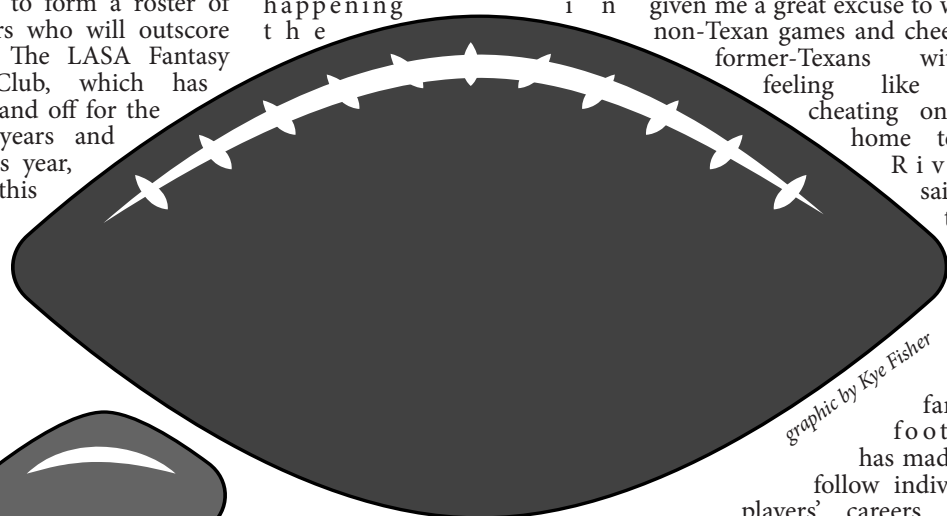
"Playing fantasy in a club adds a sense of camaraderie among the members and adds to the experience," Arora said. "The club dynamic is also kind of different from just playing with friends because you are playing with some people you don't know, but that's also part of the fun. Making new friends and meeting new people is great, especially in an environment where it's easy to relate about the game of football."

The competitive aspect of the game however, doesn't overshadow the important other side of having fun, explained Rivera.

"I'm naturally a competitive person, so fantasy football is a fun outlet for that," Rivera said. "I love football and thought it would be a fun way to meet more LASA students."

While it may seem daunting at first, fantasy football is, at the end of the day, a fun competition that anyone can participate in, according to Croston.

"For students who know nothing about fantasy football, it's really easy to learn and a lot of fun," Croston said.



graphic by Kyle Fisher

fantasy football has made me follow individual players' careers more closely rather than just following the Texans."

Being a fan of and following the NFL also transitions well into learning and playing fantasy football, explained LASA junior TJ Arora, another club member.

"I'm an avid football fan," Arora said. "I watch tons of football documentaries in my free time as well as having NFL

NFL has a ripple effect. Fantasy football, while similar to the professional game of the NFL, is different in that points are based on individual player performances rather than those of their team.

Watching NFL games with fantasy in mind can be much different than just watching

competition.

Every Tuesday of the fall semester, the club meets to discuss the previous week's

# LASA community voices opinions on UT Football

JEFFREY KOVAR  
Sports Editor

The cheers of 100,000 fans echoed around Darrell Royal-Memorial Stadium as the University of Texas football team charged onto the field for the start of a home game. The start of the fall school semester triggered the beginning of a new football season for colleges. The UT football team entered this season with a new coach, replacing ex-coach Charlie Strong with new head coach Tom Herman — and behind Herman followed new expectations.

UT dismissed Strong and his staff after three losing seasons, with an overall win record of 16 wins and 21 losses. LASA teacher Adam Escandell thought the firing was justified. However, he said he believed Strong still had a chance to succeed if he was given more time with the team.

"It was inevitably going to happen after last year fell apart," Escandell said. "It was not surprising. The question is, would UT be better if Charlie Strong was still with the team? To be honest, I do not know. There is definitely a chance that he would have been able to eventually put together a good team."

LASA junior Christian Salinas was a fan of UT's former head coach, but felt he was not in a position to be successful.

"Charlie Strong was never in a place to succeed and win games," Salinas said. "He built the program from the tattered ruins that Mack Brown left this team in. He is succeeding at [The University of Southern Florida], and I'm glad because he deserves to be successful."

Herman brought with him a new staff of assistant coaches, many of whom came from the University of Houston with him. Herman immediately brought in other new changes besides the coaching staff, such as putting up a urine color chart to help players identify their level of dehydration levels to improve offseason workouts, and purchasing new lockers at a cost of \$10,000 each. Salinas said time will tell if these changes will translate to wins.

"Herman needs time," Salinas said. "Time will tell how the team does. The

team will get better with recruiting and with more wins, but the young talent and the system needs time to develop."

The football team was ranked number 23 in preseason polls; however, their ranking quickly dropped once the season started. The team was projected to beat their first opponent, Maryland, by 18 points. Instead, they lost 51-41. Salinas blamed the loss on their attitude.

"That was a disappointing loss to Maryland," Salinas said. "They really lacked toughness, and they didn't have the swagger needed for UT football. They have the talent to win those games, just not the attitude."

After UT's poor start against Maryland, they won their next game against San Jose State 56-0, though they were expected to win by at least 26 points. LASA junior Thomas Wilson said the win was expected.

"The second game was fine, but granted the quality of program we were going up against, the result was not exactly unexpected," Wilson said.

The expectations for Herman varied between fans. Salinas said he was looking for more success in the future from the team.

"The team is getting to that National Championship level," Salinas said. "Next season they will breakout and do very well. This season is for learning and working out the strategy."

Escandell was not as hopeful, and predicted more losing seasons for the UT football team under the direction of Herman.

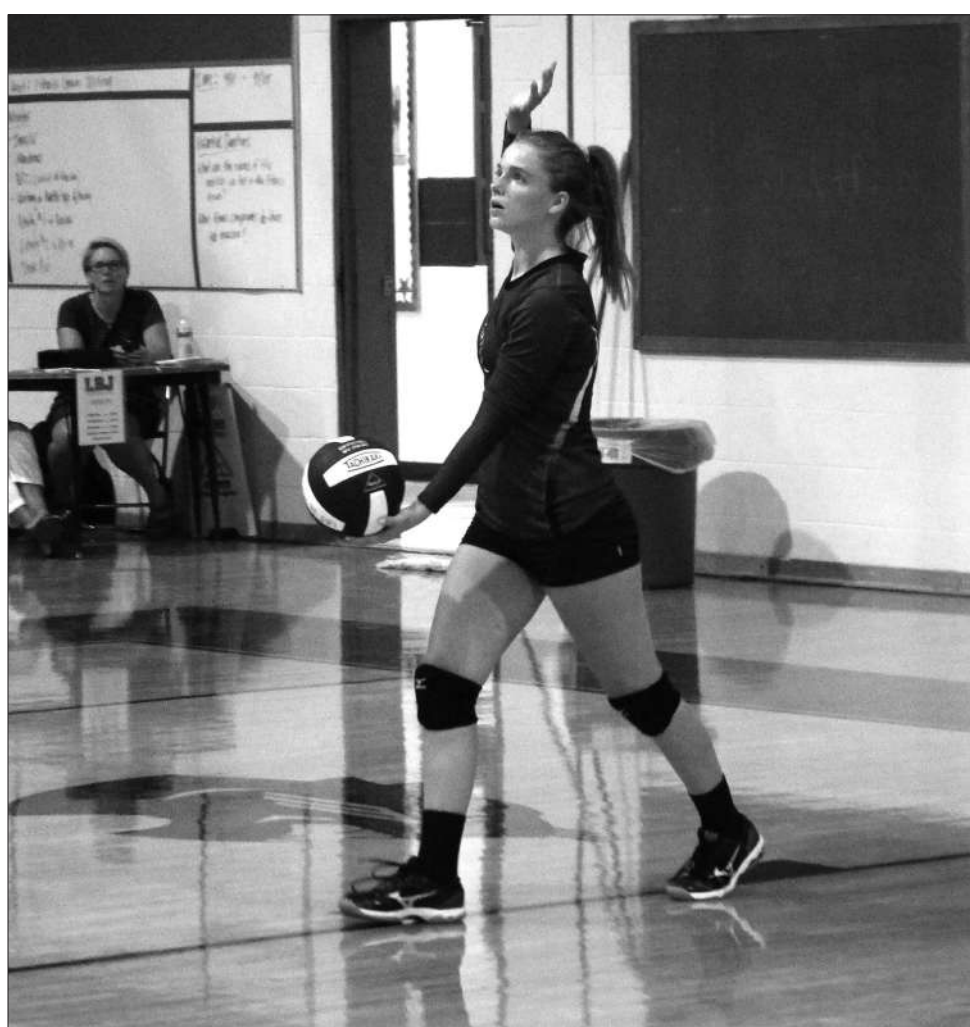
"I do not know why Texas does not win but I just know that they do not and they should not," Escandell said. "We are all better off if there is this sissaphisiant attempt at spending more money building a bigger stadium and have a football team that is worse and worse."

Escandell said he did not see Herman lasting very long as the coach of the UT Football program.

"After Tom Herman fails miserably, we will see," Escandell said. "He is going to get two years of blaming Charlie Strong for everything that goes wrong, then he will have one more year of looking really pathetic."



UT's offense lines up against the San Diego State defense in a 56-0 win. photo courtesy of Christian Salinas



LASA senior captain Ella Carlander prepares to serve in a loss against McCallum. photo by Oliver Powers

# New year, new coach

## LBJ volleyball team welcomes fourth new head coach in four years

OLIVER POWERS  
Sports Editor

The Lady Jags volleyball team beat the Reagan Raiders three to zero on Sep. 19. This marks the team's first district win under new head coach Erica Cray and fifth win overall.

Cray moved up from Martin Middle School to coach at LBJ. This hasn't stopped her from setting high goals for herself as a high school coach.

"I want to make coach of the year for the district," Cray said. "That's my goal."

According to LBJ junior and varsity team member Jada Harris, Cray's experience coaching other sports at the middle school level led to the success she has seen making the transition to high school.

"She's been a really all around coach because she's had experience in so many other sports," Harris said. "She's been coaching for quite a while."

In years past, coaches have often stayed for one season before leaving, but Harris said Cray has shown more dedication to the team in her brief stint at LBJ thus far.

"I think this coach is going to stay," Harris said. "We've had coaches come and go but this time feels different. She actually makes us work and she puts more effort into practices in general."

The team has struggled to pull together a winning season in prior years, finishing at or below .500, for the past several seasons. LASA senior Ella Carlander attributes this, at least in part, to the fact that the team has had four head coaches over the past four years.

"I think it makes it harder for the team to go back into each year as strong as it ended the previous season because we have to start over," said Carlander, varsity captain.

Cray comes in to volleyball with new eyes, not having any experience in the sport. As a result, practices look different than they have in the past according to Carlander.

"We're focusing more on conditioning," Carlander said. "That's something she knows how to do because she's been a basketball player and coach as well, so that's something she could transfer over to volleyball, and like you asked about the responsibilities of captains, we are helping in that we know the techniques and how the sport works so we are kind of helping communicate with the coach to make sure she like really understands and we can be a more functional team."

The team spends an hour of each two hour practice on conditioning. According to Harris, Cray's emphasis on conditioning has been paying off.

"Slowly but surely we've been seeing results," Harris said. "She's focused a lot on conditioning, so we've been getting to balls faster and moving more quickly in general."

The team has started off slow this season, winning only one of their first four games. This may be because of a lack of coaching staff. According to the Carlander, practices started off slow and jumbled due to combined practices.

"For a while we only had a varsity and JV coach," Carlander said. "We didn't have a freshman coach, so all the teams would practice together, which kind of slowed down practice because the varsity girls would have to deal with practicing with people that were below their level, like the freshmen and stuff. That kind of slowed us down at first, but now we have three coaches so it's gotten a little smoother. Hopefully we'll be doing more drills and stuff in our individual teams."

In spite of their slow start Cray has said that she wants big things for the team in her debut season, aiming to make a play in run.

"[We] definitely [want] to make playoffs this season and then after playoffs, state," Cray said. "We have a lot of great talent on this team. I think once we get the girls in rhythm and working together better, we'll be able to make that state run."



LASA junior Christian Salinas runs a lap during a cross country morning work out. photo by Oliver Powers

## What's this story? Morning Glory! LASA students examine the pros and cons of practicing in the morning versus the afternoon

ANDY DEGRASSE  
Staff Writer

Although often unnoticed, they are all around. They are unable to stay awake in class or always seem to be at school 30 minutes early. Student athletes who attend morning practice face a unique set of troubles and successes at LASA.

For football players, this is a new development, a result of the new schedule, but cross country athletes have had morning practices for years. For LASA junior and junior varsity runner Christian Salinas, morning practices have become part of life.

"Over the years we've just gotten used to practicing in the morning," Salinas said. "I wouldn't want to have it any other way at this point."

According to Salinas, cross country athletes prefer to practice morning, because the alternative would be running in the burning afternoon heat. To runners, the lack of sleep is a fair trade off.

"While for some sports it might be better to practice in the afternoon, I actually prefer morning practice for cross country," Salinas said. "We had an afternoon practice once, and afterwards everyone was pretty much dead."

Due to the schedule changes for both LBJ and

LASA, which pushed LASA start time forward by 20 minutes and LBJ start time back by 30, Jaguar football practice has been shifted to 7 a.m.

According to LASA junior Ian McIntosh, kicker on the Varsity football team, practicing in the heat is preferable to losing sleep.

"I would still rather practice in the afternoon, because then I wouldn't have to wake up at such a crazy hour," McIntosh said. "Even though afternoon practices are more intense I'd still rather go to them than have to deal with less sleep."

While the two athletes disagree about which practice time is better, both McIntosh and Salinas said practices have taken a toll on their mental health and energy levels. For Salinas this problem is compounded by his over 30 minute commute to and from school everyday.

"While my grades haven't really suffered so far, I do feel tired most of the time," Salinas said. "I stay up late every night even if I have cross country because I have all of my homework from LASA, as well as a long drive back home."

Despite McIntosh's problems with the early practices, he believes early practices will have a positive effect on the team in the long term.

"I think the early practices will teach us discipline more than

anything," Macintosh said. "We're all going through it together so hopefully [the practices] will help us work together more."

Considering the more individualistic nature of cross country as compared to football, the impetus for Salinas' continued effort differs from McIntosh in that he is more focused on personal development rather than building camaraderie.

"My main motivation is beating my other teammates," Salinas said. "Especially one runner on the team who is very similar to me in speed, so one of the main reason I want get faster is to beat him."

For LASA junior and first time cross country runner Nick Venn the practices have been a struggle getting used to. According to Venn the early mornings are not paying off as expected.

"Cross country is a really difficult sport," Venn said, "I originally joined because I wanted to get in better shape, but it has not been worth it so far."

According to Venn this work has yet to pay off, instead resulting in a less desirable change.

"I have been putting in a lot of hard work so far this year, but the only change I've noticed is I'm a lot more tired," Venn said.

For the time being, both cross country and football players can expect to continue waking up early.

# Run, run, run under the sun

ELAN McMINN  
Sports Editor

Sports teams at LASA High School practice everyday under the sun, but often they are unaware of the sun's effects. Exhaustion, cramps, and rash are common heat related illnesses that are caused by dehydration. Athletes themselves are often unaware of the symptoms until they are already dehydrated and feeling the effects.

The Jaguar's football, cross country, and ultimate frisbee seasons have just started and the weather is as hot as ever. With temperatures averaging between 88-93 degrees Fahrenheit this time of year, hydration is necessary at least once every fifteen minutes to avoid heat related injuries according to Mayo Clinic Foundation.

Each team has to deal with dehydration, but it is key to the athlete's health that they are educated about the issue to protect themselves.

LASA senior Zoe Czarnecki deals with this issue almost every day on both the cross country and ultimate frisbee teams. She doesn't have to deal with the sun while running cross country as much as athletes in other sports because for the most part the team practices in the morning, before the sun is shining.

"For cross country, heat doesn't change the workout, but it changes my performance," Czarnecki said.

Though the sun may not be shining, dehydration is still an issue. While going on miles long runs, runners may not always have access to water. According to Czarnecki, this is sometimes an issue, but during practices athletes can just take a more manageable pace.

Football practices in the morning and afternoon, so they do have to deal with the heat more often. But LASA sophomore Nathan Reed said the football team is generally prepared to deal with heat even though it comes

with some discomfort.

"You can get water anytime if you aren't in," he said. "If you are in a drill, you might have to wait or just call over a trainer. Additionally, the practices with pads magnify the heat for us, but none of us are ever pushed past what each individual can do."

Dehydration is a topic that athletes need stay informed on because of how much it directly affects them, Reed confessed he only has basic knowledge.

"I know some symptoms of dehydration, and I've seen how light headed some people have gotten before, but I don't know in depth what happens," Reed said.

Czarnecki also acknowledged she is not as informed as she the topic, but she has idea of what happens, probably don't know enough as I should," she said. "I know like dizziness and headaches and I think when it's more severe it's dry mouth and not sweating as much."

When not running for cross country, Czarnecki is one of the captains of the ultimate frisbee team where practice does happen in the middle of the afternoon. With

the sun beating down on the team, she explains the policy the team has to help prevent heat related illness.

"We'll increase water breaks a little bit and maybe won't plan on doing the most crazy, punishing drills, but as long as people are taking care of themselves by drinking and 'listening to their bodies,' training in the heat is important for conditioning," Czarnecki said.

Not only does Czarnecki play for the school frisbee team, but over the summer she played for Texas Tango, a club frisbee team. While playing for Tango, the heat even proved an unexpected bonus for her team.

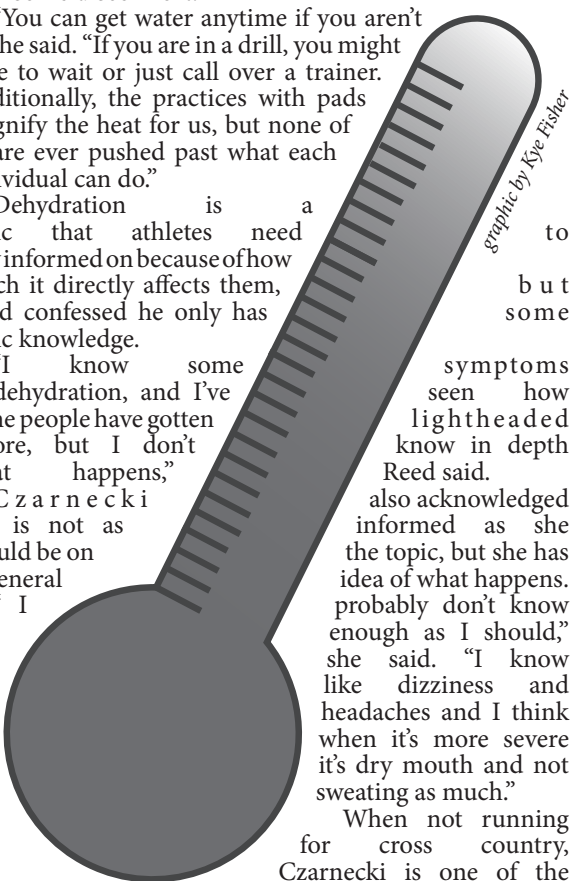
"I think it gives us an edge when the girls team I play on goes up to Minnesota for the national tournament," Czarnecki said. "We're really used to having to play in 100 degrees and it puts us in a good position when we get to play in like 75 degrees."

Many athletes at LBJ and LASA rely on their trainer to help them through any injuries including those related to heat, so the LBJ and LASA trainer, Sue Torres, has to know all the ins and outs of dehydration. She said there are many ways to combat heat related illnesses, but it all comes down to almost constantly drinking water.

"For sports, we constantly pound [the athletes] with water because usually that is the what will prevent the most," Torres said. "We also measure weight before and after practices so we can measure water weight lost and replenished."

Torres insists on not just the necessity of constantly consuming fluids, but having the athletes keep track of their hydration. She suggests this by keeping track of urine color as an indicator. By doing this, athletes are able keep their hydration where they need it to be.

The best thing that athletes can do is keep themselves informed on their health," Torres said. "Keeping their urine at the darkest, a 'lemonade' color will usually ensure they are in good condition."



### CROSS COUNTRY

Cedar Park Invitational 9/17

Varsity Girls 5,000 M  
9th place overall  
Suzanna Metcalf-  
7th place, 20:49.0  
Kathryn Christian-  
36th place, 22:24.9

Varsity Boys 5,000 M  
1st place overall  
Dylan Cox-  
1st place, 16:07.4  
Cameron Kleiman-  
2nd place, 16:09.7

## BY THE NUMBERS

Top LBJ sports statistics from the past 6 weeks

9/8 10-LBJ VS Bowie-24  
9/15 48-LBJ VS Anderson-20  
9/21 33-LBJ VS Manor-13

## VOLLEYBALL

Regular Season

9/15 1-LBJ VS Anne Richards-3  
9/19 3-LBJ VS Reagan-0

Overall Record 5-8  
District Record 1-3

# Tackling the season head on

On Friday, September 8, The LBJ Jaguar football team faced the Bowie Bulldogs for the second time at Burger Stadium. Because the Jaguars usually dominate their district, the football team plays more challenging schools before they head into the district season in order to prepare themselves for playoffs. Although the game ended in loss of 24-10, the Jags and the Bulldogs were tied through halftime at 10 points. The student section and cheerleaders showed their support for the Jags throughout the game.



LASA junior Ian McIntosh has been on the LBJ football team for two years now and says that he loves the tension football brings. "In the game against Bowie High School, I think we learned a lot about ourselves as a team. It was a pretty difficult game, but I think it was the perfect challenge to help us realize what our strengths and weakness are," McIntosh said.



LBJ junior Shelby Medrano enjoys football because it allows him to meet new people and create relationships with people who also find happiness playing football. "I think we played a very good game, the whole team played well and executed properly," Medrano said.



LBJ senior and varsity quarterback Deon Collins has been on the football team since his freshman year "It was good seeing everyone come together as a team, even though we didn't get the result that we wanted." Collins said. I try not to think about losing or winning. I even try not to look at the scoreboard because if you focus on the scoreboard too much then you get caught up in losing instead of helping your team win the game."



The student section is an important tradition at LASA because it's a great way for students to bond, have fun, and support their team. "There was a moment when I took a sip of Dr. Pepper and looked down the field and was so glad to be from Texas." LASA senior Kyle O'Rourke said The Bowie game was fun because I knew people who were playing. I wish we won the game though."



LBJ junior Jada Pickens and other cheerleaders run back to the sidelines after halftime with their "Baby Jags". "They cheer for the football team and they are like our good luck charm," Pickens said. "They might be future varsity jaguars too! My favorite part about cheerleading is the hype from our parents, student section, and my teammates. Standing on the field is like a dream come true."

*all photos by Sarah Porter*

*page design by Meena Anderson, Sarah Porter and Jorge Villa*