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Bowie's own Silver Star officers take on New York City for the Macy's Thanksgiving day parade. pg. 12

PHOTO COURTESY OF Peyton Nowell



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The right to free speech is being pushed further and further by social media. pg. 8-9

ART BY Isabella del Nido



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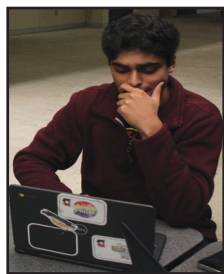
PHOTO BY Nick Wood



**PHOTO ESSAY**  
Starlight Theatre Company rehearses their upcoming production of Newsies. pg. 16

PHOTO BY Nic Ospina

## New changes to Chromebooks



Technology policies shift due to staffing issues on campus

Ziyad Rashid, 12

Within Austin Independent School District (AISD), every student is provided with their own chromebook that is returned after the student graduates, free of charge. Before this semester, Bowie students would be able to borrow a chromebook if the student left theirs at home. However, this policy has now shifted.

"Bowie is no longer able to provide loaner chromebooks for the day should the student leave theirs at home," Principal Mark Robinson said.

Staffing issues have been the root cause of this newly implemented policy.

"We are currently looking to hire a clerk who will manage Chromebooks among other responsibilities," Robinson said.

Assistance is available for broken chromebooks and replacement chargers rather than for replacing chargers.

"To ensure that [students] are ready for learning and to take digital assessments, students must bring their fully charged Chromebook or personal device to school," Robinson said.

For support, students can visit bowie.austinschools.org to find the Chromebook consent form to check out a computer and information on how to refresh their Chromebooks. The AISD Student Help Desk can be reached at 512-414-4357.

"Until a new clerk is hired and regular support hours are resumed, Chromebook help will be available Monday through Friday immediately before school, during flexible instructional time (FIT), and during the first 15 minutes of lunch in the A117 Book room," Robinson said. **STORY BY** Lucille Price

# Hidden heroes beautify Bowie



Lucille Price  
Editor-in-Chief

Removing food clogged inside toilets, wiping graffiti from smoke covered mirrors, and repairing soap dispensers broken by students.

For Bowie custodian Carmen Perez, this is her reality nearly every day, yet her name goes unrecognized for most students on campus.

After being struck by the pandemic, followed by an increase in student vandalism, specifically within bathrooms, Bowie has seen a surge in messes on campus. In turn, the custodial staff has experienced an increase in workload and severity of cleaning tasks.

Management assistant to the principal Samuel Cabrera manages and oversees the labor of Bowie's 16 custodians.



**TIDYING AFTER HOURS:** Custodian Maria Garcia sweeps room C201. There are 16 custodians on campus currently. **PHOTO BY** Charlotte Koellner

"The really job of a custodian is just to make sure all the areas are clean. The morning crew will come in and take out the trash and get the school ready for the day and then monitor lunches," Cabrera said. "The night crew comes in and the first thing they do is clean the cafeteria for both lunches and they make sure their areas of the school are clean."

Daily cleaning is divided up into multiple different sections of the school where each custodian takes care of their designated spot. However, the increase in student vandalism has prolonged the task of cleaning their areas.

"The student vandalism causes more work for us because instead of just cleaning our designated areas we have to clean up graffiti," Perez said. "[Students] break the soap machines and then we have to find the pieces to install [the dispensers]. Sometimes



**SMILING PATIENTLY:** Custodian Julio Tome begins his evening shift after fourth period. Bowie's housekeeping staff is split into evening and morning crews. **PHOTO BY** Charlotte Koellner

they fill the entire bathroom with graffiti and we have to clean it all before the next morning."

While the epidemic of student vandalism was at a peak last year, with popular social media app TikTok creating trends encouraging students to steal soap dispensers or commit other acts of vandalism, the problem still remains prevalent on campus according to Perez.

"Sometimes it feels like the kids control us and every time we leave the bathroom, more [students] come in and paint, or break the soaps, they clog the toilets with apples, and there's always smoke," Perez said.

Conditions in the academic building such as a lack of climate control make the job more difficult for the custodial staff according to English teacher Chelsea McCaffrey and she is able to sympathize with them in regards to the repercussions of student vandalism on Bowie's campus.

"The fact that there are students that are just kind of showing blatant disrespect for the spaces and

that's hard, I can't imagine that I would want to fish out food from the toilet," McCaffrey said.

Perez has been a custodian on campus for 21 years and her coworker, Adam Sandoval for seven years.

"There's been cases where

**READ MORE**

"Hidden heroes battle student vandalism on campus" pg. 2



ART BY Lucille Price

# French Honor Society makes a comeback

Savannah Linscomb  
Dispatch reporter

For the past few weeks an extra briefing has been added to the morning announcements, this one is a call to join Bowie's French Honor Society, a program at Bowie that after two years off, is back.

The French program itself is small and run by French teacher Rachel Preston, who has taken on the task of being the teacher sponsor for the program.

"It's a student organization, there really needs to be students who are interested in running it," Preston said. "So I have tried several since 2021."

With a lack of student interest and a year of online school, Preston has found it difficult to start the program up again, regardless, she believes the it could become a more permanent fixture at Bowie.

"At the moment, we're only 10 or 15 students, we're such a small program," Preston said. "I imagine there's some more out there that we just haven't had a chance to recruit yet."

The size of the program allows for more room to expand on the level of activities and projects they host. The students help plan activities such as community service projects and the sponsor helps facilitate their ideas.

"The French part is a limiting factor but once we figure out the connection we can give back however we see fit. So whatever people are passionate



**LEARNING DILIGENTLY:** French student explains to a classmate about the language. French Honor Society hosts their meetings in A213 on B-day Fridays during flexible Instructional Time (FIT). **PHOTO BY** Charlotte Koellner

about, we can probably do it if they're willing to help, plan or implement that project," Preston said.

Although student interest has been an issue in the past, this year more

than enough are interested and ready to go. There are presidents responsible for leading the 10-15 members.

French Honor Society president senior Brooke Pesses knows that the

program will aid her in her ability to grow her speaking skills.

"I wanted to join French Honor Society because I am not currently in a French class," Pesses said. "I wanted to keep up on my French knowledge."

The French Honor Society works closely with other organizations at Bowie such as the Spanish Honor Society. This fosters an environment for people interested in not only focusing on French but linguistic culture as well.

"I love how they work with the Spanish Honor Society," senior Avery Mulig said. "It completes community volunteering and service projects around Bowie."

Similar to Pesses, Mulig has found community within Bowie's French program. Mulig who took French throughout middle and high school is not currently enrolled in a French class.

"My favorite part about the French Honor Society is spending time with some of my classmates and friends," Pesses said. "French has made an impact on my time at Bowie because I

am able to be part of a smaller group."

The group explores French culture and this community allows a way for students to meet people within their same academic level.

"French has helped with my memorization," Mulig said. "With the extensive amount of vocabulary quizzes we took, I was able to adopt proper study habits and improve my memorization skills."

It is not required that students are currently enrolled in a French class to join the group, they just need certain grades and a desire to participate.

"You have to have at least an A minus, a 90 or above in the last three semesters in French," Preston said. "You don't have three semesters of French until you get to the end of French two."

Along with the other two honor societies hosted at Bowie, French Honor Society allows for students to have a chord at graduation if hour requirements are met.

"We can do more or less anything that students here in French are passionate about," Preston said. ■

We engage in acts of community service and connect with French and French speaking communities.

Rachel Preston  
French teacher



# AISD searches for new superintendent

As Dr. Anthony Mays steps down, board members seeks applicants to fill his position

Carey Wooley  
Editor-in-Chief

The past three years, the Austin Independent School district (AISD) has had a spotlight shining on their upper level staff. After three different superintendents and many changes to important board and staff members, many questions about what this means for the district's future.

Shortly after election day on Nov. 8, interim superintendent Dr. Anthony Mays announced he was leaving AISD for a permanent superintendent position at Alief ISD. Shortly after, the AISD board of trustees announced they would be accepting applications for a new interim superintendent, and announced that finalist on Dec. 15.

"I was really surprised because as an interim, you're kind of interviewing for the position that you're holding," principal Mark Robinson said. "While I know it was his first experience, as acting superintendent in Austin, I think everyone anticipated that he would be interviewing for the job in Austin."

In 2020 the superintendent of six years at the time, Paul Cruz, stepped down. To fill that position, Stephanie Elizalde was hired, and after less than two years she left the district. While the AISD board of trustees looked for a permanent replacement, Anthony Mays was hired in June of this year.

"I was a little surprised," senior Lucus Wilcox said. "We've gone through two in the past year now. He seemed to be much more well received by all of the teachers than our previous superintendent, so it was just a little shocking."

Having a superintendent step down and a new individual coming in can be a shock to a district because each new superintendent has their own vision for how they think the district they oversee should operate. Since AISD is such a large district that holds over 100 schools who all have their personal goals, the vision each different superintendent has varies greatly.

"I do hope that with new leadership on the board and new executive leadership, that there is a comprehensive vision for Austin because the schools are all so different," Robinson said. "I know with Dr. Cruz we operated more independently and Bowie was one of those independent operators in that system. However, when Dr. Elizalde came in; it was very much a shift to a school system instead of a system of schools, and she expected there to be a lot of standardization. In some cases that was beneficial, and in other cases it wasn't."

The 21-22 school year was incredibly difficult for AISD as coming back to in person learning after over a year of online classes took a strain on the district. On top of Elizalde leaving the district for a position in Dallas, over 2,000 AISD staffers left as well and several schools shut their doors.

"I think it's a mess," Wilcox said. "I mean, we've all noticed there's a lot less teachers and a lot more new teachers coming in, we need stability just so that we can have our set rules and not everything constantly changing things."

Before Mays announced his departure from the position three new board trustees were elected and another was reelected. All four of these board members are former teachers or have many years of classroom experience.

"Former teachers on the AISD board will be great because they will

## Superintendents

**AISD**

**2014-2022**

**Dr. Paul Cruz**  
2014-2020

Cruz received a doctorate from the University of Texas at Austin College Education.

He started as a teacher and went on to be a superintendent for several Texas districts.

Cruz left AISD to become the co-director of the Co-operative Superintendent Program. (CSP)

**Dr. Stephanie Elizalde**  
2020-2022

She received a doctorate in educational leadership and policy from the University of Texas at Austin.

She was previously a superintendent in Dallas, San Antonio, and Southwest ISD.

Elizalde left the AISD to return to Dallas where she would once again be the superintendent.

**Dr. Anthony Mays**  
2022

Mays received his doctorate in education from Tarleton State University.

This was his first experience as a superintendent but he has also been an educator and administrator around the state.

Mays is leaving AISD to become the superintendent of the Houston area district Aleif ISD.

**To Be Determined**  
2022-???

The lone finalist for the Interim position as AISD superintendent will be announced Dec. 15.

The person who will be permanently filling this position will be announced over the summer.

This will be AISD's fourth superintendent in four years.

PHOTOS BY Dispatch Archive ART BY Carey Wooley

provide a new or more detailed outlook on how certain policies are affecting our schools and how they affected their classes specifically," sophomore Jayden White said.

The way AISD is designed means that the board of trustees are the ones that go over applications and ultimately interview and choose the next superintendent. Since the majority of this board is new and they have this unique knowledge of what it's like to be a teacher in the classroom, their final decision is not easily predicted.

"The nature of the superintendency is unique in that you are kind of accountable to a board of directors being our Board of Trustees," Robinson said. "You have this team of individuals that while you don't directly work for and they're not necessarily your boss, they are the people who select you for the position and if they don't think that you're doing a good job they can release you from your position."

Each board member represents specific groups of schools throughout AISD. Newly elected board member David Kauffman, represents district seven which is the district Bowie resides in. He started his career as a teacher and has spent 17 years working for AISD as a principal and other executive positions.

"I think it has to help having that classroom experience as a Board of Trustees member and, that having that experience influences your priorities and expectations for the role and the person in that role," Robinson said. "I do think that since schools are predominantly organizations of teachers and educators, having someone from those ranks, kind of helping us select

that next executive leader is going to be a good thing."

At the newly elected board's first meeting, where they were seated into their positions, they discussed next steps in the superintendent search. The next several days they spent hearing advice from the community on what AISD truly needs for its next leader.

"I think we need somebody who's willing to talk to the students and figure out what really needs to happen within the schools, not from just the teachers but also the student body because we are a larger part of this district than they are," Wilcox said.

On top of a new board of trustees and the changes in superintendent leadership, many other AISD positions were recently filled. Several positions still need to be permanently filled or there is still a search to find someone for that role.

"I definitely think the district will be impacted by all this turnover in the sense that some of the policies all our schools have in place will be changed," White said. "Enforcing different things our schools might not be used to. The large number of superintendents the district had, has probably taken quite a toll on it, since it's had to adjust so much it might be struggling a bit."

The board of trustees has made it very clear that the applicants they want to look at for the interim superintendent position, need to be individuals that are not interested in filling the permanent position. The board wants someone who will focus on running the district for the rest of the year and not treat the job like an interview for the permanent position.

"It was always a possibility that Mays would permanently fill the position," Wilcox said. "In my elementary school, we had an interim vice principal, who we all thought was going to become principal and she didn't wind up so I was always aware of that possibility that he wouldn't be, but not necessarily in this way."

While the district has the interim superintendent fill this position for the next several months, the board will look at a new set of applicants to permanently fill this role, and that person will be announced later this year during the summer.

"I wouldn't say I was expecting our interim superintendent to step down, but I understand it being a stressful and exhausting position to be in," White said. "I think a perfect AISD superintendent would be flexible and easily adjustable to change, as well as understanding what certain schools want to have set as far as policies."

I Think we need somebody who's willing to talk to the students and figure out what really needs to happen within the schools.

**Lucus Wilcox**  
Senior

# Hidden heroes battle student vandalism on campus

CONTINUED from pg. 1

[students] defecate in the sinks, there's been cases where [students] defecate and throw it on the ceilings or the walls and we have to come in with a hose and clean it," Perez said.

Both Perez and Sandoval know that students are capable of helping make their work conditions at Bowie more manageable.

"As long as y'all clean up after yourself, we'll do everything else, but just don't trash everything," Sandoval said.

Organizations on campus such as Student Council have already made initiatives to provide help to the housekeeping staff.

"A lot of the time during our meeting we'll go pick up trash everywhere and walk with trash bags around the parking garage, because there's for some reason no trash cans there," Vice President Morgan Winter said.

The effects of student vandalism inside bathrooms on campus affects both students and custodial staff.

"Students should take care of the facilities because they are helping themselves. It's a service to themselves. If they break a door or a soap dispenser, it is them who are affected," Perez said. "The bathrooms are there for them. If [students] need them, use them but do it appropriately, and our job is to clean them, but don't abuse [the bathrooms]."

In similar thinking, McCaffrey provides ways that students can help the conditions of their facilities.

"Respect the spaces and just try and leave the space kind of like campground rooms, better than you found it," McCaffrey said.

"So, if you see trash, pick it up and then don't be gross. If you see someone being gross, tell someone so it can be cleaned."

The evening cleaning crew is responsible for cleaning teachers' rooms towards the end of the school day. For McCaffrey, however, their efforts do not go unnoticed.

"They're always super kind. For the majority, English isn't their first language, so as someone that's wanting to learn Spanish, they're so nice to talk to and they're so worried about trying to teach me and they're always really sweet," McCaffrey said.

Perez has been able to find the positives in her many years working at Bowie.

"I enjoy doing my job as well as I can, keeping the school clean, I dedicated myself to this and here I am," Perez said.

Winter's involvement with Student Council allows her to have an inside glimpse at the work put in by custodians to tidy Bowie's campus.

"Student vandalism kind of just adds to the work for custodians. They already have to do way more than they should and are probably underpaid for it," Winter said. "I think the most challenging part of a custodian's job is honestly just being seen as the 'pickup' person. If everyone cleaned up after themselves, it would make [custodians'] lives much easier. I feel like everyone just kind of assumes and relies on them."

Sandoval's role as a custodian has provided him with purpose and the students he helps give him inspiration daily at his workplace.

"It feels good to come into your work place and do your job and you guys can like that you guys don't like it sounds cliché, but you guys are the new school like leaders of the future," Sandoval

As long as y'all clean up after yourself, we'll do everything else, but just don't trash everything.

**Adam Sandoval**  
Evening Custodian



**CAFETERIA WIPE DOWN:** Custodian Emily Leal sanitizes a cafeteria table. A custodian at Bowie is responsible for tasks such as sanitizing in between lunches. PHOTO BY Arden Ray

said. "So it does feel good to come to work and do the job so that you guys can continue on." ■



# Election season presses forward

The race between Dems, Kirk Watson and Celia Israel goes to a runoff

Mazzy Warren  
Managing Editor

Early November, just before Election Day, Street Law teacher Ethan Owens heads to the Bee Caves City Hall. As he arrives at the ballot box, Owens thinks over all the races he's voting for today: Texas' governor and candidates for Congress; closer to home, he's also deciding on Mayor of Austin.

After the 2022 midterms, two notable races have gone to runoffs: Georgia's Senate race, which ended in Democratic victory, and the race for Mayor of Austin. Owens believes students should pay attention to these races because key issues, such as homelessness and cost of living, will be guided by the winner.

"It's fun to follow elections, learning how different people approach different problems," Owens said. "The interesting thing is seeing that, although people might be a part of the same party, they have different ways of accomplishing the same goals."

Runoffs are repeat elections that function to solve ties or

inconclusive results. The ballot is narrowed to the two most popular candidates, so those who voted for smaller campaigns can break the tie. Kirk Watson and Celia Israel are re-running for Mayor of Austin; both are Democrats, but both have different plans for Austin. Their runoff was December 13.

"I think there's a better process for elections than runoffs," Owens said. "I do see the merits of it, as it narrows choices, but I prefer rank-choice voting, where there aren't any runoffs."

Watson has a history with the position; he served as Mayor of Austin from 1997 to 2001. Watson believes his past position makes him qualified to address important issues. Israel, on the other hand, believes she's suited for mayor because she's "a chick with a record," as an LGBT Latina woman who believes Austin's strength is based in its diversity.

"I think we need to work on helping the homeless population in Austin, and both have said they'd address those things we need to work on as a city," senior Mark Sonnier said. "Because Watson has been

mayor before, he's experienced, but Israel would be a new voice, and it's definitely a good idea to see new ideas in office."

The election was called to a runoff because no candidate secured 50% of the vote; if nobody wins the majority, an automatic runoff is called. Israel received 39.99% (121,862 votes) and Watson received 34.95% (106,508 votes). The remainder went to four other candidates, who were cut from the ballot for the runoff. One of those cut was Jennifer Virden, who got about 56,000 votes.

"Virden's supporters will probably run to Watson, because they have similar views," Owens said. "Both wanted to follow an 'American Dream' path, with single family homes and government housing."

According to Axios, the results of the initial election show an interesting divide. Watson performed better to the west of I-35, where voters tend to be whiter and wealthier. Watson supporters in the west are mainly older citizens who remember his past as mayor. Israel gained more support from younger voters in growing

south and East Austin.

"I think the divide is interesting," junior Aden Bailey said. "I-35 usually shows a split in Austin, so it makes sense that it's visible with this election."

Austin currently faces divisive struggles which some believe city leaders should address. Unsustainable population growth, skyrocketing costs of living, and rising homelessness weighs heavy on voters' minds.

"Austin really struggles with homelessness," Sonnier said. "I think the Mayor needs to focus on solving those problems, because it's important for us."

Since beginning his campaign in July, Watson has raised nearly \$358,000, and spent over \$1 million. Israel raised about \$156,000, and spent just \$288,000. Although Watson was better funded, Israel earned more votes during the primary election.

"Even if you have a candidate that's pushing for good, having a message isn't enough," Owens said. "As we've seen, there's lots of good people that aren't in politics because they don't have the money; there's a lot of people that are in politics that shouldn't be, but they're able because they have money. Watson raised lots of money, whereas Israel hasn't, I think that's part of why she appeals to the east."

The current mayor, Steve Adler, was not up for

re-election. He was first elected in 2014, then re-elected in 2018; having served two consecutive terms, he's

barred from running for mayor until 2026. As mayor, Adler focused on governance, traffic, education, affordability, and the environment.

"Adler seemed to focus on good things that we need to work on, as Austin grows,"

Sonnier said. "I haven't heard much about him, so I'm not confident in forming a strong opinion, but that also means I haven't heard about him doing anything terrible, so I'm sure he's done a fair job for us."

Owens believes students should be invested in elections like this, especially those around Austin, because, as the leaders of Austin aim to resolve the housing crisis, teens and their families will see changes to the housing market; Owens believes, no matter where you are in the city, your home will be affected; therefore, he believes students who can vote, should do so.

"Voter turnout has improved dramatically with this last voting season," Owens said. "We've had the best Gen-Z voter turnout in years, which is amazing. But we can still improve, as it's a very valuable process to all Americans. Student's shouldn't throw away

their shot to control the legislation of their futures."

"We've had the best Gen-Z voter turnout in years, which is amazing. Students shouldn't throw away their shot to control the laws of their future."

Ethan Owens  
Street Law teacher

## POLITICAL POINT OF VIEW

Freedom of religion, or discrimination?  
As Smith v. Colorado is fought in the courthouse, Americans wonder what the verdict could mean for LGBTQ+ Americans.



Amara Lopez  
Dispatch Reporter

Questions? Concerns? Email: bowie.journalism@gmail.com

When *Roe v Wade* was overturned this summer, justice Clarence Thomas called to revisit landmark cases like *Obergefell v Hodges*, which required states to recognize and license same sex marriage. Now, with the emergence of *Smith v Colorado*, the re-visitation has begun, making it possible for private companies to legally discriminate against same sex couples.

In my opinion, this decision is one of the biggest threats to LGBTQIA+ rights our country has seen in years, as it would legally grant business owners the right to deny service based on their religious views.

Four years ago, a baker from Colorado sued the state for denying service to a same sex couple. His lawyers claimed it went against his first amendment right to freely practice his religion. The case ruled 7-2 in favor of the baker. However because of the case's specificity, it thankfully did not set a major precedent for the nation.

Contrastingly, this new case specifically regards private businesses, meaning its precedent will create a bigger change. As the owner of a custom website design company, 303 Creative, plaintiff Lorie Smith believes she has rights to the content she creates for her customers, and claims that while she doesn't discriminate against anyone's sexual orientation, she refuses to create work that celebrates same sex marriage, a technicality Colorado's laws don't specify against. Because of this, it's highly likely that the Supreme Court will side with Smith, especially with the recent particularly conservative decisions that have been released in the past months.

While I agree that everyone should have the right to freely participate in whatever religion they choose, I disagree with the narrative that Smith is not discriminatory. I believe that denying service, specifically to same sex couples, is exactly discriminating against one for their sexual orientation.

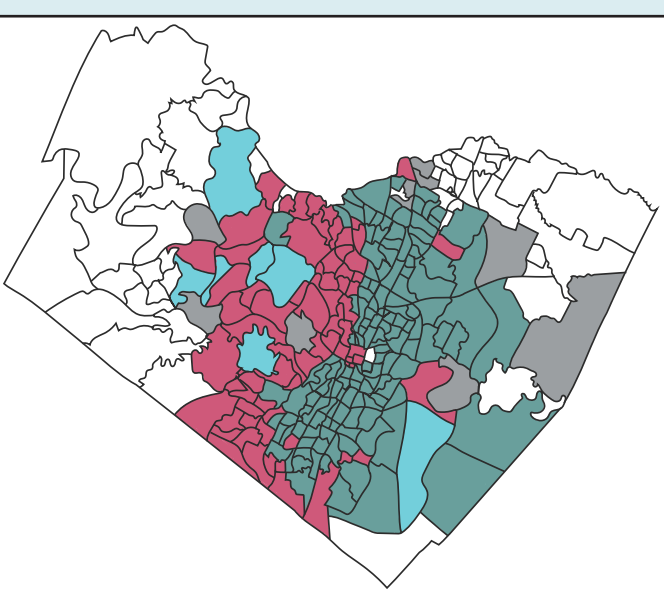
A favorable decision for Smith would open up the doors for challenging whether or not the same fate could be considered for inter-racial marriage, which was legalized in the case *Loving v Virginia*, or for a marriage between those with disabilities, or even an opening for the Supreme Court to revisit the constitutionality of *Obergefell v Hodges*. This case opens up a dangerous question: Where do we draw the line?

Despite recent setbacks for human rights issues resulting from the newly established far-right court, congress is working to approve legislation that would limit the repercussions of recent and future rulings. As of this month, the House of Representatives is expected to pass The Respect for Marriage Act, which would not legalize same sex marriage, a process we have already been through, but force states to recognize a married, same sex couple if they cross state lines.

In a city like Austin, a blue spec on a state map of red, a new precedent set by the Supreme Court allowing discrimination against same sex couples would mean that it would be legal for local, private businesses to decline service to those who identify as a part of the LGBTQIA+ community. This is a huge part of Austin's local culture and population. It begs the question of the effects on our own local and school community, which pride themselves on diversity and inclusivity, with many students, parents, alumni, faculty, families and more who are in, or have loved ones in, same sex partnerships.

### Voting majorities by precinct

- ISRAEL
- WATSON
- VIRDEN
- NO VOTES CAST
- DOES NOT VOTE



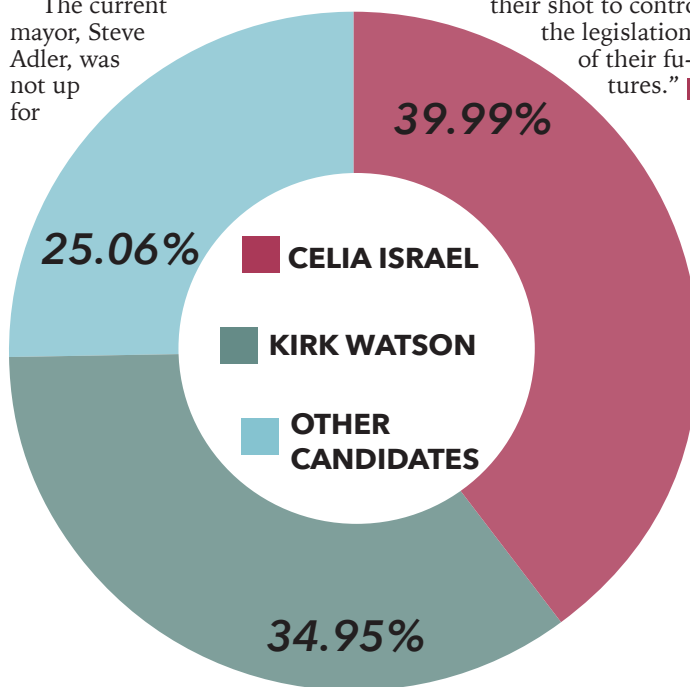
SOURCE KXAN, AXIOS

ART BY Asher Hagan

#### WEST OF I-35



#### EAST OF I-35



# Supreme Court rules against affirmative action

Noah Bihan  
Dispatch Reporter

After the grueling five years of elementary, three years of middle, and four years of high school, seniors spend countless hours every week applying for colleges, awaiting and stressing over their chances of getting admitted into the next chapter of their lives.

Applying to colleges can be a stressful and overwhelming process for many students, as searching for the right university, staying on top of grades and test scores, and applying for financial aid are all daunting tasks. The application process itself can be time-consuming, requiring students to fill out numerous forms and writing letters in a restricted time frame.

"The whole process is a little overwhelming at times," senior Sienna Szczesny said. "It's been helpful to get all of it done earlier rather than later."

When in the process of accepting a student, college administrators look at that student's education, through test scores, GPAs, transcripts, and specific academic or extracurricular achievements. These all impact admissions, but beneath them lie much deeper and more controversial factors. Characteristics such as race, age, and gender are often taken into account by administrators, though it isn't always clear how strongly they affect a student's admission.

"I think diversity is always beneficial, because if you have too many of the same people, you're not gonna get any new ideas," mathematics teacher Edward Day said.

Like Day, many college administrators believe that diversity creates a better learning environment by providing new perspectives. This belief has led to an upward trend in the enrollment of minorities, creating more diverse cam-

puses nationwide. Some people, however, argue it takes opportunity away from more deserving students.

"I do understand the perspective that affirmative action may give unfair advantages," Szczesny said. "There's definitely some consequences, though I feel the benefits outweigh them."

Coupled with these anti-affirmative sentiments are statistics showing that colleges, including the University of Texas, select students in the 52nd percentile of SAT scores due to racial preference, over other graduates that average in the 89th percentile of their test scores.

"College is an investment in your education," College Counselor Carli Valverde said. "Colleges cannot accommodate everyone, so they set a criteria for students who have the potential to be successful on their campus through a variety of factors."

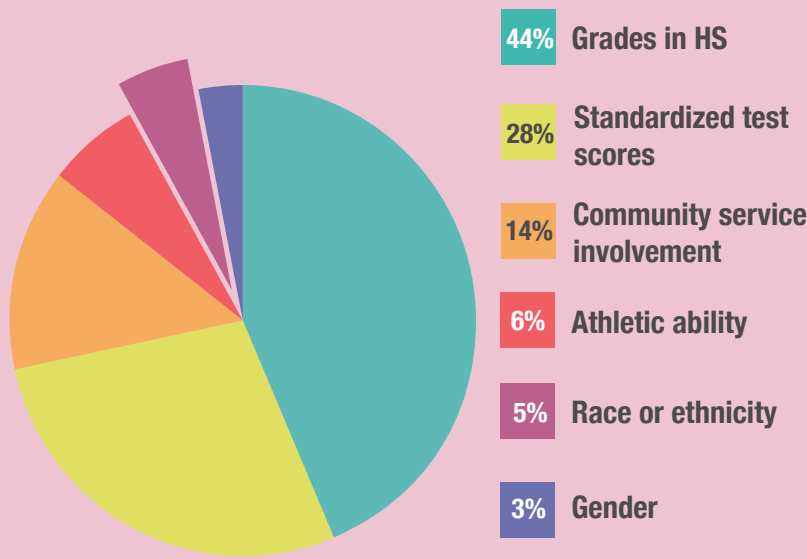
According to the Duke University of Economics, this prioritization creates gaps between students, in which academically mismatched STEM students are recorded twice as likely to change majors within their first year of university.

"I'm happy to help answer any questions students might have about the process," Valverde said. "I host university representatives on campus during FIT and lunch, which is a great opportunity for learning and asking questions."

Universities tend to consider financial backgrounds when making admissions decisions. However, the effect of income on admissions, in the context of minority groups, who are more likely to come from low-income households, strengthens the persistent barriers to higher education. In spite of this, many colleges favor students who have taken rigorous courses.

"University admissions vary from

### What factors play a role in college admissions?



SOURCE PEW Research Center

ART BY Mazzy Warren

school-to-school," Valverde said. "Each has their own process for reviewing students and criteria for which students will be successful on their campus."

The removal of affirmative action could limit opportunities for cross-cultural collaboration. This is a discussion that has been ongoing for decades, and may finally come to a final decision in the summer of next year, with a new, official supreme court ruling.

"Affirmative action is beneficial for college campuses, and provides opportunities for students who wouldn't always have them," Szczesny said.

The removal of affirmative action in colleges has many potential consequences. Though affirmative action can create an unfair advantage for certain groups, completely removing the system can decrease the overall diversity of college campuses, reinforcing existing demographic inequalities.

"Inequality is a rabbit hole," Day said. "We're trying to fix it, and improve ourselves to lessen its impact. Although I think it's getting better, we're not there yet, we need to keep working for change." Additional contributions by Zach Scariano and Noah Ellinger.



# Schwartz sculpts a future career in art

Junior experiments with multiple forms of art such as sculpting, painting, and sketching

Kate Davis  
Managing Editor

For junior Mia Schwartz, the creative eye has led them down numerous artistic projects, including commissioning their artwork and being a staff member of the Bowie yearbook, *The Lonestar*.

Having grown up in a household full of creativity, Schwartz's artistic identity has been developing from an early age.

"I've been working on art since I was really little, just constantly drawing and messing around," Schwartz said. "I think I learned how much I actually enjoyed it in middle school when I got to choose art as an actual class where I was to make projects on the daily."

As Schwartz has grown, they have expanded their creativity into numerous mediums, focusing on their versatility as an artist. An artistic medium refers to the style or form of art in any given piece, some notable examples being watercolors, charcoals, clay, and much more.

"My favorite medium to use is acrylic paint. I enjoy how easy it is to fill the page fully, and it gives things such a finished look," Schwartz said. "As for ceramics, my favorite technique to work on is throwing on the wheel, which is just creating usable pots, bowls, and plates."

Art is a career path that requires experimentation and Schwartz had the support from their parents to pursue any creative outlet they found interesting.

"We've always encouraged their exploration with all types of artistic mediums," Schwartz's mom, Jane Schwartz said. "They have watched their parents make art from non-traditional materials and work on and care for their belongings in creative ways, so working with materials creatively, and continuously, is normal to them."

The art program at Bowie has provided both a space for Mia to work and a set of artistic goals for them to achieve during their time in high school.

"The Bowie art program is very good. In the first years taking art one and two, as well as sculpture one and two, you have twoish projects every nine weeks that have to fit a cer-

tain criteria," Mia said. "For art and sculpture three and up, you work on creating a portfolio which can also be called a sustained investigation, which basically means you create a bunch of pieces that are wrapped around one theme or idea."

Sculpting is a style of art that requires an abundance of equipment, practice and repetition to perfect, and art teacher Ryan Logan has provided Mia some guidance in developing those skills.

"I've just helped Mia with small modifications on how to throw and stuff like that. But most of their growth is self-facilitated with repetition," Logan said. "Mia's very polite, respectful, and is a good kid. They come in to work all the time. They're in here multiple times a day, every day."

Not only does Mia want to develop their technique, telling a unique story is their main goal with their work.

"I hope people looking at my art feel something. I want to reach more of a message than just something fun to look at," Mia said. "My work should speak to the viewers and make them think and feel things that may be a little uncomfortable."

Mia's goal to elicit emotion through their work has not gone unachieved, and their work has provoked varied reactions from their audience.

"Mia's art is very loud in its accessibility; their messages are clear," Jane said. "Art is a language Mia is very good at speaking, and it is very important to them. I hope that students viewing Mia's art might feel more confident in expressing themselves through their favorite mediums; art, music, dance, writing, design, or any other expressive practice."

With the quantity of artwork Mia is creating, their peers have begun to take interest in their work.

"I absolutely love Mia's art. I think they are very talented and I like that you can see their style in all of it yet each piece is so different and unique," junior

Maggie Oliver said. "I love hearing what inspires each piece and seeing the progress that they've made as an artist these past few years. I do particularly love their pots and sculptures of foods. They also have some books that they fill with art and every page is just so incredible."

Alongside sharing their work to their friends, Mia has begun to commission their creations to anyone who



**TRIMMING THE BOWL:** Junior Mia Schwartz trims down and perfects the ceramic bowl they made in sculpture class. Schwartz has been interested in art since they were a child, but began to truly develop their skills in their middle school art classes, and is now hoping to make art a career. **PHOTO BY** Kate Davis

is interested in purchasing.

"I wanted to try selling my art because my friends and people around me told me they would be interested in buying it," Mia said. "I thought that could be cool and it's exciting that people are interested in my work and what I'm doing."

As a self-acclaimed perfectionist, Mia finds it difficult to love all of their projects. However, the creations they find fault with are often wonderful to many others.

"I probably have a dozen pots in my room that they've made and a handful of wonky sculptures that they thought I'd like, which I absolutely do," Oliver said. "Their creations are some of my most prized possessions and no matter what flaws Mia seems to find with them, no matter what reason they didn't want them anymore, I think they are perfect."

Mia's perfectionist mentality has proved to be a challenge when it comes to creating new pieces or experimenting with new styles.

"Something difficult is that I am very self-critical and very nit-picky about my work," Mia said. "I will immediately not enjoy or appreciate something I made as much if it's slightly off or not how I had previously imagined."



**WHERE IS MY MIND:** Junior Mia Schwartz paints an abstract portrayal of their mind using acrylic paint. Many of Schwartz's finished products began in simple sketchbooks they would work on at home. **PHOTO COURTESY OF** Mia Schwartz

Despite struggling with confidence in their work, Mia urges upcoming artists to experiment with various styles and methods to see what fits.

"The best advice I can give is to just go for it. If you're interested in art

or just staring art in general, I encourage you to mess around," Mia said. "Experimentation only leads to improvement so mess with what you think looks cool and pursue whatever ideas speak to you." ■

## Bowie Toons Club encourages creativity through animation

Donna Kim  
Dispatch Reporter

For senior Tyler Haynes, animation class is a hidden gem in the Bowie curriculum that many people are not aware of. The Bowie Toons Animation Club is a newly-formed community that Haynes helped create to put student made animations out in the world via social media, and show people their hidden talent of animating.

"For a couple years, our animation teacher, Mr. Nourse, has been trying to make [Bowie Toons] a reality, kind of like a platform for animation students to get their work out there. But because of COVID, it kind of hampered the progress and made it really difficult," Haynes said. "Earlier this year, when [Mr. Nourse] mentioned Bowie Toons, I started really thinking about it, and I saw the potential that this would be a great way to build a community at the animation program, and a great way of showcasing our work to other students, since I don't think a lot of people know that this class exists."

Bowie Toons mainly consists of animators from Animation three, as well as a few Animation two members that were interested in joining.

"I really saw the potential in this, so I thought it out and went around the classroom," Haynes said. "I talked to students to see if they were on board with this project, and to see who was willing to help. Then I went to Mr. Nourse and told him my plan, and that's how things just kind of started."

The Bowie Toons community has social media platforms, where they post their student animations and projects. When it comes to producing animations for these platforms, Haynes oversees many of the departments that work together to make producing and publishing content a reality.

"As of right now, we have an Instagram account and YouTube account, and this is where we primarily upload our content," Haynes said. "We have it where we split [Animation three] and formed two teams, where one's managing Instagram content related things, and on the other side, we have the people managing all the YouTube stuff."

Creating and uploading the content for the club's social media requires thought and planning in order to make sure the student's work is being adequately showcased. The students in Bowie Toons follow an intricate process to produce and post their content on their social media platforms.

"When it comes to creating content, there's a lot more content creation on the YouTube side of



**DECORATING THE BOARD:** Seniors Rowan Pacconne (left), Ty Jones (second from left), Tyler Haynes (second from right), and Enrique Ramirez (right) continue the tradition of decorating their classroom's whiteboard for the upcoming year. All four students are members of the Bowie Toons Animation club sponsored by CTE teacher Andrew Nourse. **PHOTO BY** Natalie Cullen

things. For longer form content, what we usually do is we'll have the Instagram team post an animation made by students, or kind of tease a new video on the YouTube channel that's going to be released," Haynes said. "We have them both working together so we can maximize our audience and our outreach. On the YouTube side of things, we usually group together, come up with video ideas, and we have roles assigned. We'll have people film the actual video with cameras if we're doing more in-live stuff, and then we'll have editors work on it and we'll do this simultaneously."

The club's main focus is to provide a platform for students to showcase their animations, and Nourse has facilitated the growth of Bowie Toons by providing resources for the members to expand their knowledge.

"I'm the sponsor, so I guide the students with ideas, techniques, and resources. I supply materials, software, and hardware that [the students]

use for their work. I suggest helpful tips of things to consider, but I'm not involved in the creation of content much because that's for the students," Nourse said. "I moderate everything and give feedback when students ask. I'm here to keep it positive and productive."

For the animation students of Bowie Toons, Nourse gives them the available resources to help produce and publish their content. Haynes is always making sure to communicate with his fellow peers, and especially Nourse, when working on animation projects.

"Mr. Nourse plays a huge role because he provides all the resources and the tools to actually make this a reality. Because [animating] does take time, as long as we show that we have a good plan in mind, we'll be granted time to actually work on that project," Haynes said. "We also make sure that we communicate with [Mr. Nourse] to make sure that he's okay with what we're posting out

there, because if we post something that's considered inappropriate, the responsibility goes back to Mr. Nourse."

Under Nourse and Haynes' leadership, Bowie Toons has around 20 main members that help keep Bowie Toons Animation Club going. Senior Enrique Ramirez, a member and animator part of Bowie Toons, was inspired by Haynes to join.

"My role in this club is as an animator, so I create content. I'm beginning to edit videos, and my main goal is to create music for the videos," Ramirez said. "My goal in this club is to really be a part of the community, because in my past, I've never really experienced being a part of a team and never really worked with a team before. It's just cool to be a part of that, and to help further our goals."

As this is Haynes' last year attending Bowie, he is helping prepare the club to thrive after he leaves.

"What I have in mind for how to make this continue on without us is that we go through trial and error through this first iteration of this project, and we create a system," Haynes said. "Then we start getting Animation two kids, as well as just getting people more interested and involved. The key thing that is most important is to actually get them motivated, and actually interest them, because it would not be right to just leave and then just dump this on them without them prepping. I believe they can inherit this."

As Bowie Toons is still fairly new, Nourse has been guiding his students for the future of this community, and has faith for the direction it will go.

"It's been very exciting seeing students excel at something they are passionate about and seeing their interest in it becoming a part of the Bowie community for years to come," Nourse said. "Our good rapport, communication, and collaboration of students in various grade levels will help in making it a success next year and years to come I'm sure. I'm thrilled to see where it goes in the future and am confident it will continue to be a beacon for inspiration for many students and years to come." ■

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# Senior shows off art via social media

*Holden Griffith is recognized for his unique art style and commissions to other peers*

Sophia Sanchez  
Feature Editor

Paint brush in hand senior Holden Griffith puts the finishing touches on his new piece of art.

From a young age, Griffith has had an eye for the arts and discovered his favorite techniques through years of experimentation.

“Art’s been a part of my life for as long as I can remember,” Griffith said. “I was first introduced to painting by my Mom and my Nana as a kid, and developed an affinity for pencil and pen through doodling and sketching while at school over the years.”

According to Griffith, the beginning of junior year of high school was where he found comfort in his artistic abilities after returning to in-person school.

“Online school really made me loathe the idea of sitting at a desk all day on a computer for work,” Griffith said. “Combined with my already low GPA, I couldn’t really imagine myself pursuing anything academic related at all in my future after a whole year of zoom calls. I started doing art of media I was interested in and quickly found that people Online liked the things I could make, which provided a lot of external motivation for me.”

Griffith’s new found motivation in his art continued to grow as he progressed through the Bowie art program.

“Holden is a student who is open to feedback about the artwork,” art teacher Mindy Le Jeune said. “It shows an advanced level and critiques artwork at a high level. His strong suit is incorporating fluid ideas to create a composition of movement.”

According to Griffith, the Bowie art program has contributed a huge amount to his current projects and his overall progress as an artist.

“I’ve always been encouraged to do my best and try new things by teachers like Ms. Dubois and Le Jeune,” Griffith said. “The learning style is pretty free range, they tell you the assignments and guidelines but lets students explore their own styles and methods.”

Griffith’s talents have been acknowledged by many of his teachers but also among his friends and family.

“I love how detailed his art is,” senior Kamryn Delgado said. “I always love to zoom in on his art with pictures he sends me because there’s always something hidden. It’s super interest-



**FOCUSED ON HIS SKETCH:** Senior Holden Griffith works in a sketchbook during one of his art classes at Bowie. Griffith has been expanding his techniques in art from a young age, and recently has been doing commissions. He regularly posts his artwork on his Instagram @leoisaki. **PHOTO BY** Nick Wood

ing to see what his mind comes up with because he’s not afraid to do something different.”

Griffith did not put this talent to waste and has been shipping art commissions all over the world, the most recent one reaching Greece. Griffith feels that the moments before starting a new piece of art is his most favorite part of the experience.

“When approaching a new design or illustration, I like to think of the specific visual design language I’ll be communicating to the viewer,” Griffith said. “Say a client wants me to draw a character, I’ll start with the basic questions before I move on to the design process. What are his values? What has he been through, and how can I communicate this? These questions can be asked of anything, and answering them is both the most enjoyable and important part of art for me.”

Art is a form of self-expression for many, and Griffith has used it to navigate complex situations and emotions.

“I feel Holden’s relationship with his art is deeply personal,” Le Jeune said. “His artwork is complex and enriched with deeper meaning and backstory. It is integrated and complex while creating movement throughout each part of the work.”

Over the years many artists pick up different mediums such as clay and various types of paint. According to Griffith, recently he has been straying from his typical art styles to explore different mediums.

“I specialize in ink and watercolor-based art, but I’ve recently been expanding my mediums to include more graphite, acrylic, and colored pencils,” Griffith said. “Ink and watercolor feel very natural to me. The flow of the liquids feels set in stone, like

its natural law, which relieves a lot of the stress and pressure of my art process which in turn makes the whole process more enjoyable for me.”

Expanding mediums can be a difficult task for artists especially when transitioning from working with the same materials for years. Griffith’s time and effort put into his art does not go by unnoticed.

“I am just more and more amazed with each new piece he shows me,” Griffith’s mom Mary Griffith said. “He has just grown and grown over the years. I am so proud of him for having the confidence to put his art out into the world which has been received with an immense amount of fanfare.”

Holden feels that his growth has been prominent in recent years, but at times art can still be a difficult task to complete.

“For me, the most prob-

lematic part of being an artist is the art block,” Holden said. “It happens to everyone who creates things, and when it comes around it can be really demoralizing. You start to feel like you can’t do something that normally comes naturally right, it can get really disorienting and I can’t work to my full potential during these periods.”

Though frustrating, art blocks can provide goals for improvement and progress.

“There’s hundreds of things I want to improve on,” Holden said. “I want cleaner lines, my art to be more neat, to understand how colored pencils work, and lot’s of other nitpicks. I think improvement is one of those things I’ll never be satisfied with. There’s always more things to draw, better art to make, ways for me to improve upon my abilities.”

The art world provides many

career opportunities and Holden has received support through teachers and mentors over the years.

“My hope is that he always continues to stretch himself artistically,” Mary said. “That he finds a career or avenue in life that allows him to share his gift with the world.”

Holden has been offered multiple scholarships for college, but according to Holden, no goal can be set in stone for his art. He feels as long as his art stays true to himself he can never be unhappy with his creations.

“I hope to continue to create art for as long as I’m alive,” Griffith said. “I don’t really have a special talent or anything, I’ve just found something I like and practiced a lot, and I’d like to continue to do so. It means a lot to me, and I don’t really know what I’d be doing now or ever if not drawing.”

# Social studies teacher recalls years of service in U.S. Navy

Madeleine Travis  
Dispatch Reporter

Examining the battlefield, Social Studies teacher Charles Stampley wonders what this conflict has in store for the near future, with the violence surrounding him on the daily any moment could be his last.

Stampley was a part of the U.S. Navy for six years, and retired as a Major. After retiring as a veteran, Stampley began working at Bowie in 2014.

“When I was in high school, on my senior skip day I went and joined the Navy,” Stampley said. “All the kids in my class, and all my friends went to the lake to drink beer since the legal drinking age was 18 at the time, but instead I went and joined the Navy.”

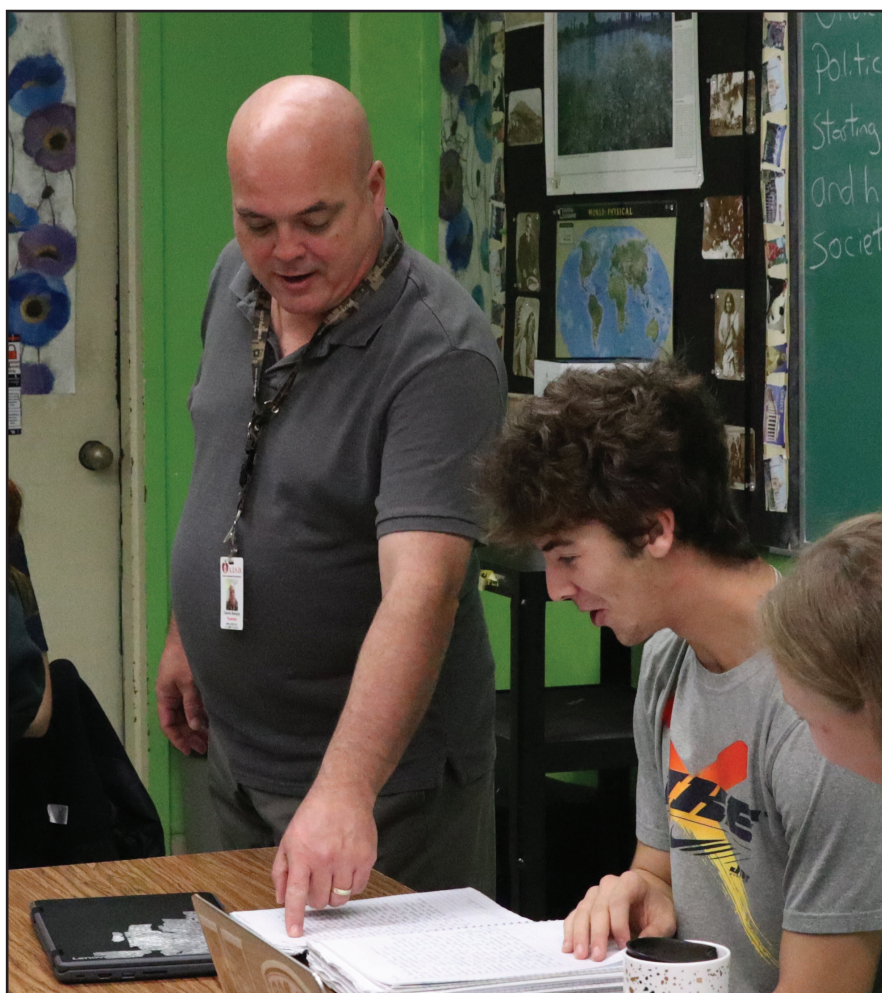
The Desert Storm was a war where Iraq invaded Kuwait with the backing of the United States from 1990-1991. Stampley explains how the process works for soldiers to earn higher ranks.

“In the military, you have enlisted soldiers or sailors,” Stampley said “These people go and sign up to join the military. An officer [which is a higher rank] is somebody who goes through ROTC in college, for which you actually need a bachelor’s degree.

After the war, Stampley became a history teacher, eventually finding himself at Bowie.

“Not knowing history is detrimental to our country,” Stampley said “I think students should know about their government’s history, and the history of other countries is very important as well. I’ve seen people killed because they don’t understand Arab culture. You have to understand a little bit about their culture. You can’t just show up and not know.”

War has had an impact on Stampley in different ways. The primary things



**ASSISTING A STUDENT:** Social studies teacher Charles Stampley enlisted himself into the U.S. Navy at the young age of 18 and retired as a major. The years spent in the military have given Stampley an awareness of other cultures, and he incorporates this knowledge into his everyday teaching. **PHOTO BY** Arden Ray

he recalls most are around his family and appreciating the small moments in life.

“The big thing that being around combat and seeing violence is I learned to appreciate little things, you know, little things that people take for granted,” Stampley said “Every day is a blessing, spending time with family,

friends, drinking coffee, talking to students and that stuff. When you’re around violent stuff, and you see people hurt, the fact that you’re here is just a bonus”

Stampley was in the Navy at a time when there wasn’t a very efficient way to communicate with a loved one. In the past, communication was limited

to sending letters and waiting on a response.

“A big problem that people in the military have is they’re separated from their families,” Stampley said. “Being separated from my wife and son, it was very hard, but you try to keep yourself busy. You can write home now with the Internet, it’s easier to get in touch with families.

When I was first in the Navy, I didn’t have the Internet, you’d sit there and wait for that letter that might even take two or three weeks.”

Assistant Principal Hector Munoz was a part of the war in Iraq and was stationed at a base right across the river from Stampley. He explains how the war affected him in his youth.

“As a young person, I always knew I wanted to go into the military,” Munoz said. “I went to war as [a 19 year old] Delta Corp, and ran around in a tank. I soon learned I didn’t want to die, and I think it’s weird when you say that because no one wants to die. When you’ve had experiences where I’ve said out loud, ‘Mom I love you, I’m sorry’, because the next second could have been easily my last second on this planet.”

Social Studies Department Chair, Wendy Uzzle explains what it was like to run the department with a veteran as a teacher. Many news articles have been written on the topic that the film industry makes war look patriotic and people take pride in their country by serving in the war. Stampley has seen first-hand how damaging that lack of

knowledge can be when it comes to real fighting.

“As a World History teacher, Mr. Stampley has a better understanding of the conflict in the middle east over the last few decades,” Uzzle said “It is easy as Westerners to distill the

conflict there to a few events, but he understands the nuances in cultures and is better equipped to teach content to students in a more meaningful way.”

Uzzle further explains why Stampley is more than fit for the classes he teaches here at Bowie and why that makes him such a valuable resource when it comes to educating young people about other countries.

“Mr. Stampley was a great fit to teach the AP Comparative Government a course that returned to our course offerings this year,” Uzzle said “His experience working as a contractor for the U.S. military gives him the wider knowledge of how different countries work, and he brings a great deal of knowledge to the classroom.”

Stampley’s time in the Navy came with many cultural experiences that shaped his identity as a teacher and his ability to pass on his historical knowledge.

“Americans assume people in other countries want to be American, but that’s not really true. They want to be kind of left alone, they have their own culture,” Stampley said “They may like Americans, or like help from us but they don’t want to be Americans. Being respectful of other cultures and other religions is very important in the classroom.”

Mr. Stampley understands the nuances in cultures and is better equipped to teach that content to students.  
Wendy Uzzle  
Social Studies Teacher



# Student Leadership hosts annual Fall Fest

*Activities held to raise morale with intention to create a fun, lively environment*

Emerson Traugott  
Photo Essay Editor

All in 45 minutes, students' spirits are uplifted as each grade is able to enjoy a stress-free festival on the last day before Thanksgiving break. During this time students were given the opportunity to leave the classroom atmosphere and indulge in activities, games, and hot cider within the perimeter of the courtyard.

"My favorite thing about Fall Fest is watching everyone come together during a stressful time with tests coming up at the end of the semester, even the teachers seemed to be enjoying it," junior student leadership member Leiton Nguyen said. "So seeing everyone having an excuse to take a break from their classes to have some fun was nice."

Small booths, each with their own activity, lined the edges of the courtyard, set up by Student Leadership, or club presidents. Each club took responsibility for participation in the festival altogether, the activity they choose to do, and any food they decide to hand out.

"Even though our planning was a little rushed this year," JV tennis captain Ava Sprott said. "I still think it was a good opportunity to get kids more aware of the different clubs and sports at Bowie. Our booth had Connect Four and a spike ball-type game. We just wanted a lot of participation at our booth and for it to be interactive, so we can also get more people to try out this year."

Highlighted in a bright color on the school calendar, Fall Festival takes nearly a month for Student Leadership to put together. Most time is dedicated to club outreach and organization of the donations from NHS and Student council who supplied the hot cider and cookies. The leadership class is separated into three separate committees to divide the work evenly.

"We set up committees, the first being outreach, which is reaching out to clubs. Then we



**TWIST AND FLIP:** Sophomore Cedric Walls takes a head dive toward the concrete wrapping his legs around his opponents as he tries anything to secure his victory and win the once-every-year competition. Filled with a competitive spirit the whole game Walls is playing to win. "I think it's important to have a Fall Festival because it allows us to really get out of class and have fun with our friends while also exploring that community aspect of Bowie High School," Walls said. "It was very fun and fulfilling [winning musical chairs]. I got some bragging rights which was the best part." **PHOTO BY** Arden Ray

had food, where people organized the food aspect of the festival, and finally, we had logistics which was basically the layout," Nguyen said. "My role was contacting clubs and making sure they were okay with being a part

of the fest as well as figuring out donations." Each year the festival hosts a different theme, with last year being a Winter Wonderland. This year, leadership decided to change the treats such as trading

the hot cocoa for apple cider, fall leaves, and turkeys creating a more fall-like feel. "As part of student leadership we helped organize the apple cider and it seemed like everyone really liked that so I was

really happy that our hard work paid off," student leadership member Nirmithi Kerkar said. "Besides that, I think Fall Fest really helps boost morale. People are burning out, they are just like 'school is school and I just

need to through finals and what not' and Fall Fest kind of helps people get excited for at least one day, so it's really helpful for students."

A chaotic staple to every festival's list of activities is musical chairs. Large crowds keeping their eyes glued to the circle of chairs in front of them. A slow walk around the chairs to the faint sounds of a popular song from 20 years ago ignites students' competitive spirit. Each round intensifies the urgency to win and clouds the festival's original purpose of a small escape to a stressful environment.

"No major overcrowding really took place, but we [student leadership] were told to keep an eye out for it and to yell at 'them' if it did happen, but we never needed to step in," Nguyen said. "Musical chairs are always crazy but the club does it every year because everyone always likes it."

Student leadership spent hours planning the event and Nguyen shares her thoughts on how she believes their planning paid off.

"This year went really well I feel like, there were no major problems that set us off schedule or our original plans we made for fall fest," Nguyen said. "I know there is always room for improvement but honestly, I see no key point where we would need to improve for next year."

Fall Festival brings a small in-school break, and even are able to teachers get out of their classrooms.

"I love seeing students just playing. We sometimes forget in high school that these teenagers are still kids and need time to play and it's really fun for me to see them acting like kids again," history teacher Wendy Uzzle said. "No masks this year has really played a role, taking away their security blanket in a way, kids are forced to be a little more social and I've seen kids being more social and interactive in class and especially through activities like the Fall Festival." ■



**SCANNING THE POSTER:** Sophomore Nyla Ike and her friend Macy Scott pick their favorite temporary tattoo. Each club participating in fall festival brought games and small prizes to hand out to students who pass their booths. "I really liked having a break from class," Ike said. **PHOTO BY** Arden Ray



**DISCONNECTING TO CONNECT:** Students take time away from their laptops to indulge in-person activities: Senior Nirmithi Kerkar plays a game of Connect Four with one of her friends. "I liked seeing everyone come together and taking time to relax," Kerkar said. **PHOTO BY** Emerson Traugott



**FINISHING TOUCH:** Sophomore William Kulczar makes a final paint stroke across his painter finger with the nail polish brush before closing the dark purple color he selected. In one of the more popular booths at Fall Fest, many students crowded the table to use the multitude of colors spread across the table. "My favorite part of Fall Fest was being able to get out of class, and going to all of the different booths was really fun," Kulczar said. **PHOTO BY** Emerson Traugott

**LUNGING TO THE BALL:** Sophomores Owen Langdon and Brandon Chu play a game of Spike Ball with their classmates to pass the time at the tennis team's booth, while the games continued throughout the day. The games get intense as a large crowd appears drawing in onlookers and other students waiting for their turn to compete. Students wandered around the courtyard, searching for an open carnival-style game, a prominent feature of the festival regardless of theme, so JV tennis captain Ava Sprott wanted this year to be no different. "I think the fest went well; many students feel more aware of the kinds of clubs Bowie has and all the sports teams," Sprott said. "I think it was an enjoyable day run relaxing and interactive." **PHOTO BY** Arden Ray



**TURN UP THE MUSIC:** Junior Adrian Feretiz and Sophomore Moses Ortiz plays the drums for a crowd of his peers alongside his other bandmates. The band played every period the Fall Festival took place, putting on an arrangement of different covers. "It was really fun [playing in front of all my peers]," Ortiz said. "I've done it a lot since a lot of my family members are musicians." **PHOTO BY** Emerson Traugott



# STUDENTS SUFFER AT THE HANDS OF TIME

## The root of procrastination in high school

Ava Wong  
In-Depth Editor

With sleepy eyes, senior Ben Yao glances at the clock above his desk. "11:00 pm."

It has been six hours since he got home from school, but he hasn't done anything. With an AP Lit essay due the next day and a Calculus test to study for, he knows he has to get started soon.

The motivation to start never comes, though.

"I procrastinate on my school work because I am

genuinely unmotivated to start or finish it," Yao said.

"Procrastinating increases my stress levels but it's hard to avoid. In the end I always end up completing my school work, so I continue to do it."

Procrastination is the act of delaying or putting off tasks, or a set of tasks till a later date. What makes procrastination

a problem to those who do it is the self-awareness of their intentions. Being aware that they are avoiding the task in question, but also that doing so is detrimental to their future selves. Disregarding this cognizance and doing it anyways is the problem.

"Knowing that procrastinating is not the best way to finish my work makes me feel not that great about myself," Yao said. "And even though I don't love feeling like that, I somehow keep on doing it."

Teenagers are susceptible to procrastination on school work. A study conducted by educational company Magoosh found that 86% of high school students said they procrastinated on assignments. With sports, after-school clubs, work and numerous responsibilities, distractions largely contribute to procrastination of school work. In the same study, researchers found that 56% of high school students said that they get distracted by other things they need to, or rather be doing.

"I think that procrastination is a pretty big problem among students

in high school mainly because a lot of kids are assigned lots of homework on top of outside of school activities," freshman Gabby Bochey said. "So when you have five assignments, after school practice, plus studying for tests and projects they all build up on top of each other and you end up with a lot of work to do."

Though procrastination has always been a problem, it has increased immensely after the COVID-19 pandemic for many students.

"I think that around seventh grade is when I started to heavily procrastinate because, for me, that was my zoom year," Bochey said. "A lot of teachers were really chill about late assignments and sometimes didn't even grade them when we turned them in."

The restrictions caused by the pandemic brought on negative effects to the way people went about their daily activities such as working and

studying, one of which being procrastination. UT OnRamps Statistics teacher Dana Stiles has witnessed this shift.

"I have been teaching for 18 years, procrastination has always been a common characteristic amongst my students," Stiles said. "I'm finding students don't know how to study or ask for help, now more than before the pandemic."

A journal submitted to the National Library of Medicine found that the habit of procrastination brought on by distance learning had a long-term effect, continuing post-lock down.

"During COVID-19, teenagers had more flexibility in their schedule and were able to complete assignments throughout the day without necessarily needing to be 'on' in class," Stiles said. "Now that we are no longer asynchronous, students are being held to stricter deadlines and expectations than they were during the pandemic and are struggling to meet them."

Though time management and scheduling may be part of the reason why people procrastinate, it is not the only one. Mental health tremendously contributes to procrastination as well. In an

article from

The New York Times, Dr. Tim Pynchl claims challenging emotions and negative moods induced by certain tasks such as boredom, anxiety, frustration, confusion and more, are dealt with by putting the task off all together.

"Procrastination is an emotion regulation problem, not a time management problem," Pynchl told The New York Times.

In a 2013 study done by Pynchl along with Dr. Fuschia Sirois, they found procrastination to be "the primacy of short-term mood repair...over the long term pursuit of intended actions." Procrastination is a result of wanting a negative mood to disappear, and a greater amount of negative emotions as a result of putting off those tasks.

"Students might feel overwhelmed and not know where to start on an assignment, so it's easier to put off the task...despite the consequences," Stiles said.

The immediate "reward" of avoiding a task is the feeling of relief or ease, and without full consideration of the negative effects of avoiding the task, procrastination is repeated.

"Since I already am in the habit of procrastinating my work till the final moment, it is hard to stop," Yao said. "It's a cycle, a continuous loop that doesn't ever really stop. Once you start one thing late, the next thing is started late."

The continuous process of procrastination ultimately leads to low self-esteem and self-blame. So, how can procrastination be avoided?

"Different students need to find a system that works best for them, to organize their thoughts and to-do lists," Stiles said. "Several of my students use notion or bullet journaling, others create a check-list in a Google Doc or simply have a post-it note stuck to their computer with reminders."

In an article from Verywell Mind, psychologist Kendra Cherry claims the physical process of stopping procrastination can not be done without the correct mentality or motivation.

"The reality is that if you wait until you're in the right frame of mind to do certain tasks (especially undesirable ones), you will probably find that the right time simply never comes along and the task never gets completed," Cherry said.

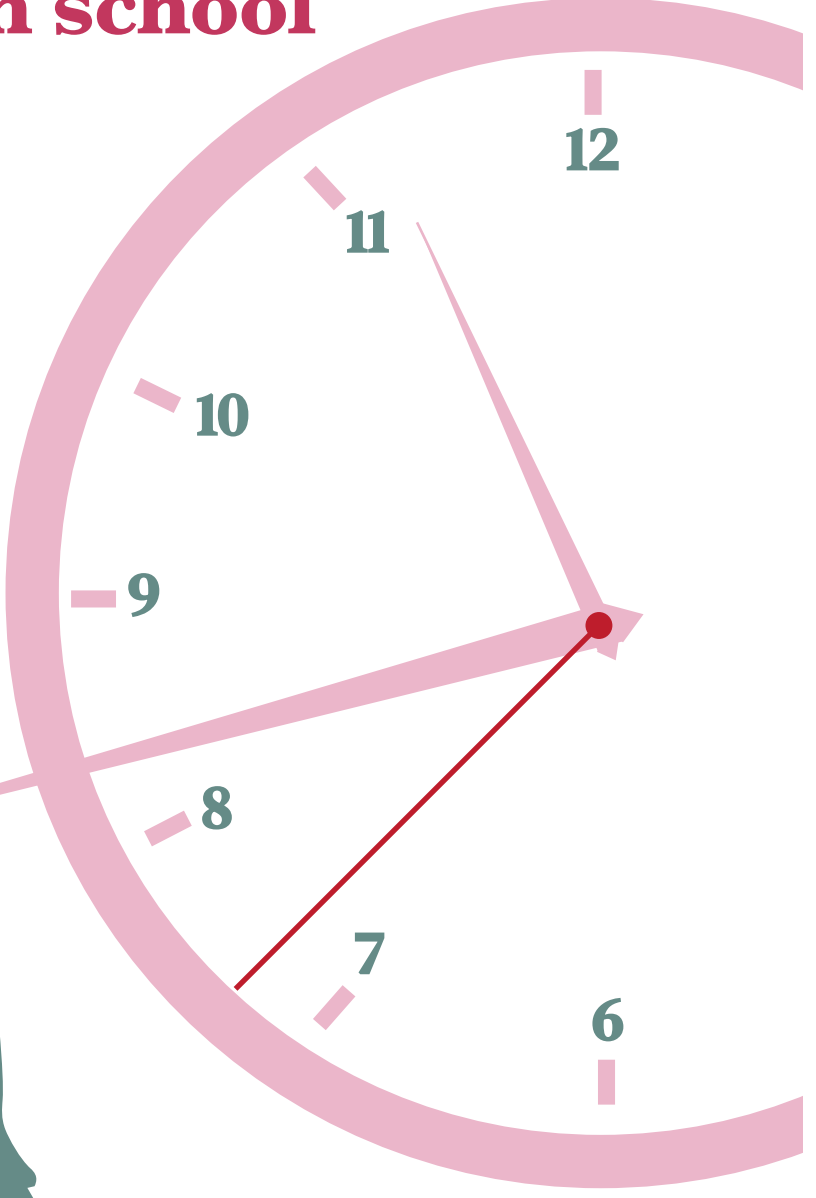
Getting over procrastination and getting back on track with school-work ultimately leads to a better academic life, according to Yao.

"There is no better feeling than completing an assignment," Yao said.

"I want to work toward that feeling. I want to be able to do other activities without an underlying feeling of self-hate."

I procrastinate on my school work because I am genuinely unmotivated to finish it.

Ben Yao  
Senior



Procrastination effects everyone...

94% of college students procrastinate at some level  
SOURCE American Psychological Association

88% of the workforce procrastinates at least one hour a day  
SOURCE Darius Forfour

86% of high school students procrastinate on assignments  
SOURCE Magoosh

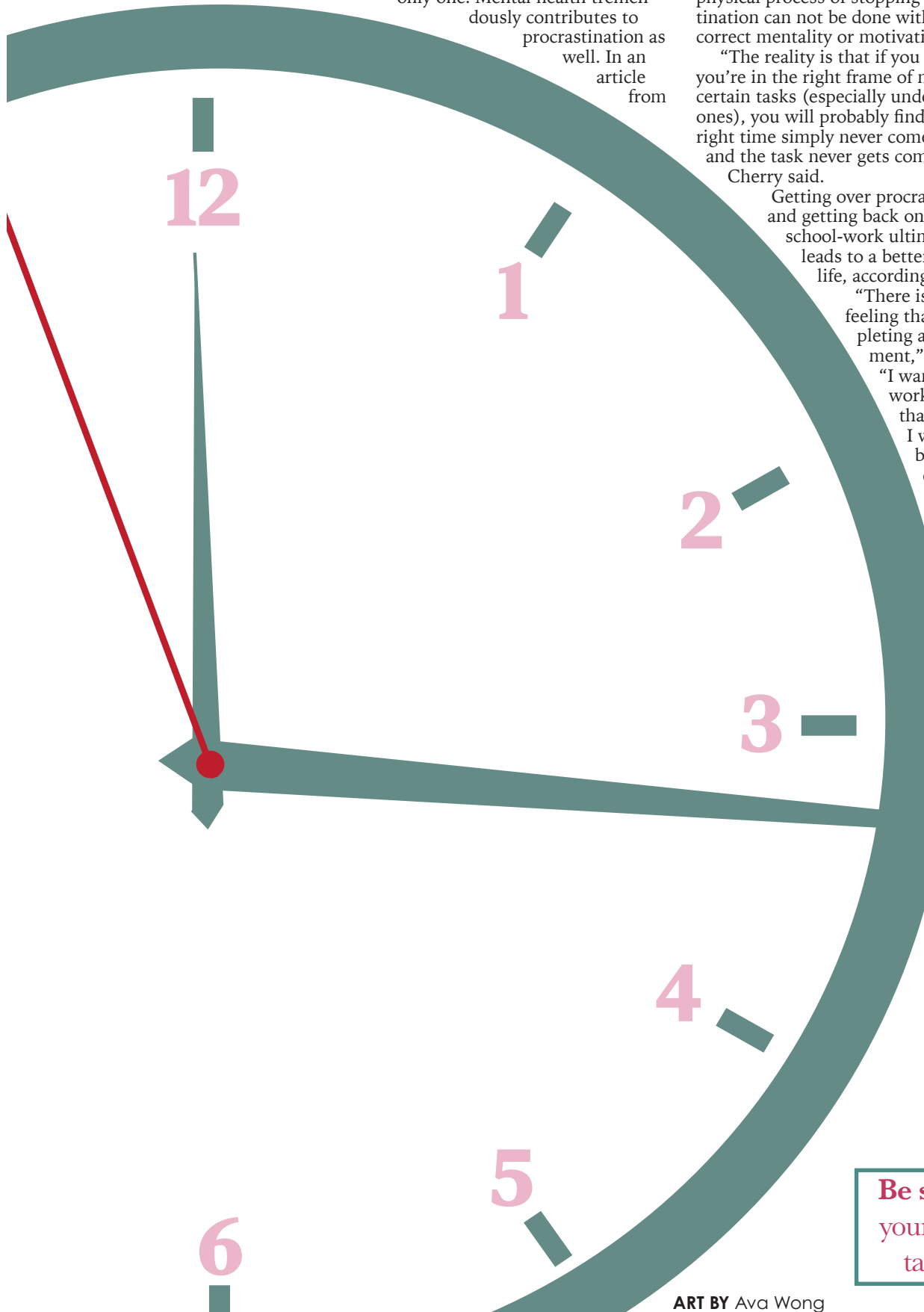
20% of adults regularly procrastinate  
SOURCE American Psychological Association

...it's time to stop, here's how:

Make a to-do list, place a due date next to each item to stay on track.

Take baby steps, break down the items on your list into smaller, more manageable tasks to avoid feeling overwhelmed.

Be self-aware, pay attention to any urge to procrastinate, and do your best to resist that urge. Ask yourself why you are avoiding the task, and how completing that task might be beneficial to you.



ART BY Ava Wong

SOURCE VeryWellMind



# FREE TO SPEAK



A constitutional right is tested when rap music star Kanye West makes racist remarks, questioning the validity of speech on the Internet

Isabella del Nido  
Editor-in-Chief

A student just got home from school, they finally throw their backpack off after a long day and decide to open their favorite app, Twitter and the first thing they see is a tweet from Kanye "Ye" West. The student wonders to themselves: "What will he say this time?"

Recent activity from celebrities across all platforms on the web are sparking a new debate on what people can and can't say to millions through a screen.

## THE FIRST AMENDMENT

In today's world, communication is not limited to the words spoken to one another or the papers stamped in ink, it's digital. A place where talking to someone without even knowing who they are, or where they are in the world is common. AP World History teacher Carrie Hoffman-Howell reflects on what the First Amendment means in her classroom.

"The First Amendment grants everyone in the United States the basic human rights, such as speech, religion, press, etc. that should be basic rights for all humans on the Earth," Hoffman-Howell said. "We are fortunate to live in a country that recognizes basic human rights."

Freedom of speech has been held as a pillar to fostering a fair and equal Democracy. English teacher Jacob Morgan shares how this right has changed since its creation.

"Especially today, freedom of speech has grown to be a hot issue because of the online climate and the way people are utilizing their rights," Morgan said. "The amount of information we are spreading plays a part in what qualifies as speech, too."

According to Morgan, teachers listen to what words students say to one another and analyze them to create new ideas based on them. To Morgan, The freedom of speech is the ability to be free from those words being taken away.

"The way people's biases can build up hysteria is kind of a scary thing as someone who studies the power of language everyday," Morgan said. "It's really upsetting and unsettling the way antisemitism and antisemitic language is being shared. We need to right the words that are being used."

When a person attends a protest or writes to their representatives about any issue, that is an example of them exercising their First Amendment rights. Similarly, sharing a post on social media made by your favorite news outlet is the same exercise.

"I think that in the media it is definitely easier to speak out online because it is less scary," sophomore Audrey Nixon said. "In real life people aren't really as confrontational. When you are speaking out online it's easy to hide behind a screen and say what you want to without any repercussions."

In such an instantaneous environment, like the Internet with over 198.4 million active websites and over 5.47 billion users according to First Site Guide, it can be an intimidating and lawless place.

"The media has the power to reach everyone quickly and if not careful, they could start a global panic," Hoffman-Howell said. "For safety reasons, I believe the media needs to report the facts, but not start a widespread panic that could lead

to more violence."

Freedom of speech has been tested by the seemingly limitless social media apps like Facebook and Twitter. Both apps are used for quick exchanges of messages, which may contain photos, videos, links, and to no surprise, instant messaging. This can lead to interesting conversations that may or may not be accepted by the masses. Sagebiel walks through one of the most recent societal rejections with a popular music star, West who has been under fire for antisemitic comments on Twitter.

"The posts he has made are insane," Sagebiel said. "He's gone off the rails, and it's sad because he wasn't always like this. During Hurricane Katrina, he did say the 'Bush doesn't care about Black people' statements, which was a very left leaning ideal at the time. Yes, I think he has been polarized to the right but I also think that he's doing all these statements for attention."

On December 2, West was suspended, for the second time. The first being back on October 9. He was then reinstated by new CEO Elon Musk. Most recently, after posting a design of a swastika inside the Star of David, Musk resuspended West and the post was removed, stating the post violated the app's rule against inciting violence.

"Right now, I think the media has caught that if your headline mentions Kanye at all, you're going to get clicks," Morgan said. "He's been given a whole lot of attention. As someone who listened to Kanye 10 years ago, I can say that I'm sad to see the way he's deteriorated and the views that he's started to adopt."

## ACCOUNTABILITY

In the past month, West's anti-black and antisemitic comments on multiple television shows, podcasts, and social media platforms have cost him his partnerships with Adidas, Gap, and Balenciaga. The responses from these corporations beg the question: Is this holding him accountable? Where is the line drawn?

"If it gets excessive, rude, derogatory, and it's anything that could seriously offend someone I think you shouldn't say that online," Nixon said. "With social media platforms, I think they can do what they want with what they say because it's freedom of speech. Everyone has the right to say what they want but it's difficult to find a line when it's derogatory."

Since West's crusade on Twitter began, he has gained 180,925 new followers since Saturday, December 3, according to Newsweek. Content on his account has ranged from racist comments to music promotion, and with a target audience of 18-24 year-olds, this exposure is questioned.

"I think social media should be monitored to a certain extent because minors have access to these, and many young people/minors might misinterpret things being said on social media," Hoffman-Howell said.

"If something is harmful to anyone, then it shouldn't be published on social media. Or, if you want full freedom of speech, keep your social media private to not harm anyone."

As CEO of Twitter, Musk has gotten the final say by suspending West from posting, effectively ending the antisemitic comments on his platform while also removing his right to speak out on Twitter.

"Right now, there's this

mob mentality of when someone does something that the majority disagrees with then everyone should attack that one person," Sagebiel said. "I think that's wrong but there's definitely a way of going around this. So, if someone like Kanye says something outlandish like what he's been saying about the Jewish community, then you should have those people speak out against it and educate him on how those things are wrong."

Apps like Pinterest and Etsy are publicly owned domains, which means that they are owned by the government. According to Hoffman-Howell, private social media apps get a say as to what goes on their app because they own it.

"I think that companies which are, like, private businesses have the right to refuse service to anyone," Sagebiel said. "So, if they think that this person is someone that they don't want on their platform, they should be allowed to censor it. But in public spaces, I think they shouldn't be allowed to do that."

According to Sagebiel, if someone is in a private space, and the owner doesn't want them there, the owner should be able to exercise that right. On the other hand, if they are in the crowded square and they are shouting something they should be able to say what they want regardless of the content. On apps like Twitter, Facebook, and Instagram, society has taken it upon themselves to "cancel" those who say inappropriate things outcasting them without the aid of suspension.

"Cancel culture mainly lives in social media and I don't think it really helps anything," Nixon said. "It's like saying 'Oh this person is bad because of this on the Internet' It doesn't help and I don't think it can really change how a person behaves in the real world if it's just Online."

Merriam Webster's dictionary defines cancel culture as the practice or tendency of engaging in a mass canceling as a way of expressing disapproval and exerting societal pressure. Some forms of cancel culture are conveyed by not purchasing products that the person may be selling, or not streaming their music.

"Honestly, I think it's pretty stupid because when we cancel things were are just bringing more attention by highlighting and echoing how bad that person is or what they did or said," Nixon said.

One example of this was on January 6, 2021, when former President Donald Trump was taken off of Twitter and Facebook following the insurrection at the U.S. Capitol building. This event inspired Trump to create True Social, a Facebook alternative where his Republican following trailed behind him.

"It just keeps those people who have these ideals find different, more extreme platforms and more extreme leaning areas to spread their thoughts," Sagebiel said. "So, if anything, I think if they stayed on Twitter and were exposed to more mixed opinions, Twitter would be better off. Canceling people with these opinions only makes those people who agree with these opinions disagree with those who continue to cancel others."

With free speech being such a huge part of social media antics, it asks society to analyze the actions of others. With the possibility that Trump or West could join Twitter again and violate guidelines again, it could put Musk in a tight position.

"I think it's perfectly fair that he's getting canceled because I think everyone has freedom to speak out against others' actions," Nixon said. "And I think with that, you don't want to say anything too bad about anyone especially when that thing you said is inherently discriminatory. The things that he's been saying

have reflected very, very badly on him and he deserves to be called out and punished for what he's been saying."

## PUSHING FOR CLARITY

In the words of Sagebiel, West's antisemitic and sexist comments are crazy, but canceling someone for stating their opinion is wrong. Sagebiel believes West should be educated. With a celebrity as big as he is, he still maintains a following.

"I don't think it's fair for someone to automatically assume that someone else is a bad person because they like Kanye's music," Sagebiel said. "I think there's definitely a way to separate art from the artist."

Target audiences on social media have shifted, and with that liability may have shifted with it. According to Nixon, decisions made when people are young shouldn't be held against them later in life, because people have different mindsets in their youth.

"I think people under 18 have less developed minds," Nixon said. "I don't think you can have something held against you if it happened a long time ago. You don't know what situation they are in. If they were super young, maybe his parents were making them do it and you don't know if they still have that mindset today unless they tell you."

Age and censorship go hand-in-hand within apps' terms of service. The terms of service is what people agree to when they first join privately owned apps. According to Facebook's terms of service, a user must be at least 13 years old before joining the app. Censorship on private apps is based on the terms of service set in place by the owner, but is their judgment valid?

"I don't think that we should censor people because we disagree with them," Sagebiel said. "If we do that, it becomes more of an echo chamber of us just saying the same things over and over again. That's how people become more polarized. I think that the solution is talking more, not less."

Hoffman-Howell provides another way students can avoid over-dramatizing celebrity statements and actions in the future.

"Many people treat celebrities as experts to the world, when they are not," Hoffman-Howell said. "I think it is great when celebrities try to do good things to help people by using their celebrity influence, but we do not need to believe everything that is said."

According to Sagebiel, cancel culture is creating a space where no one wants to talk about what is really happening or what people are saying. But with censorship, people aren't allowed to talk about the things they want. With that in mind, Sagebiel reflects on open communication over media platforms.

"In the worst case scenario, they just disagree with them. Best case scenario, our country becomes less polarized than it is now," Sagebiel said. "Censorship in the media has become a double-edged sword. One side of this sword is that people aren't discriminatory and racist and on the other, people can freely express their beliefs. It's up to the person reading that tweet or post to determine how they want to react. After all, it's a First Amendment right."

Navigating a digital world where discrimination and expression can share the same tweet, it's up to the reader or the writer to use their best judgment.

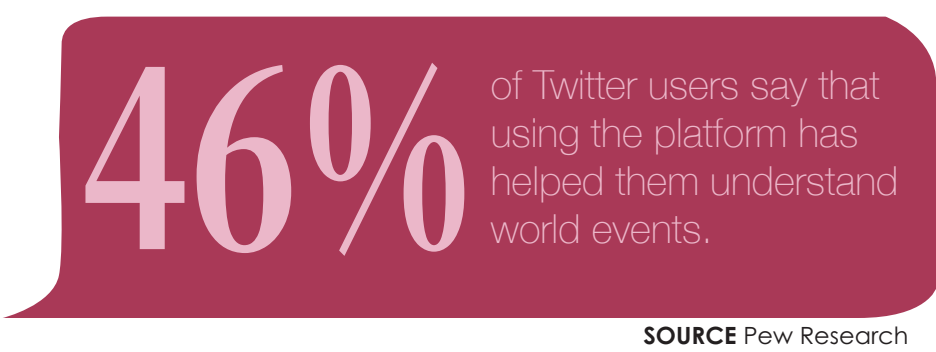
"Maybe people would learn things if they just had an open and honest conversation," Sagebiel said. "I think censorship in the media is only going to help these people with their opinions find a new place to talk about their beliefs and find a group of people who will listen to them." ■

Freedom of speech is being free from government interference, and most people mistake that for freedom from repercussions.

Jacob Morgan  
English Department

If you can't say something to someone's face personally, then you shouldn't say it Online or on social media.

Carrie Hoffman-Howell  
AP World History

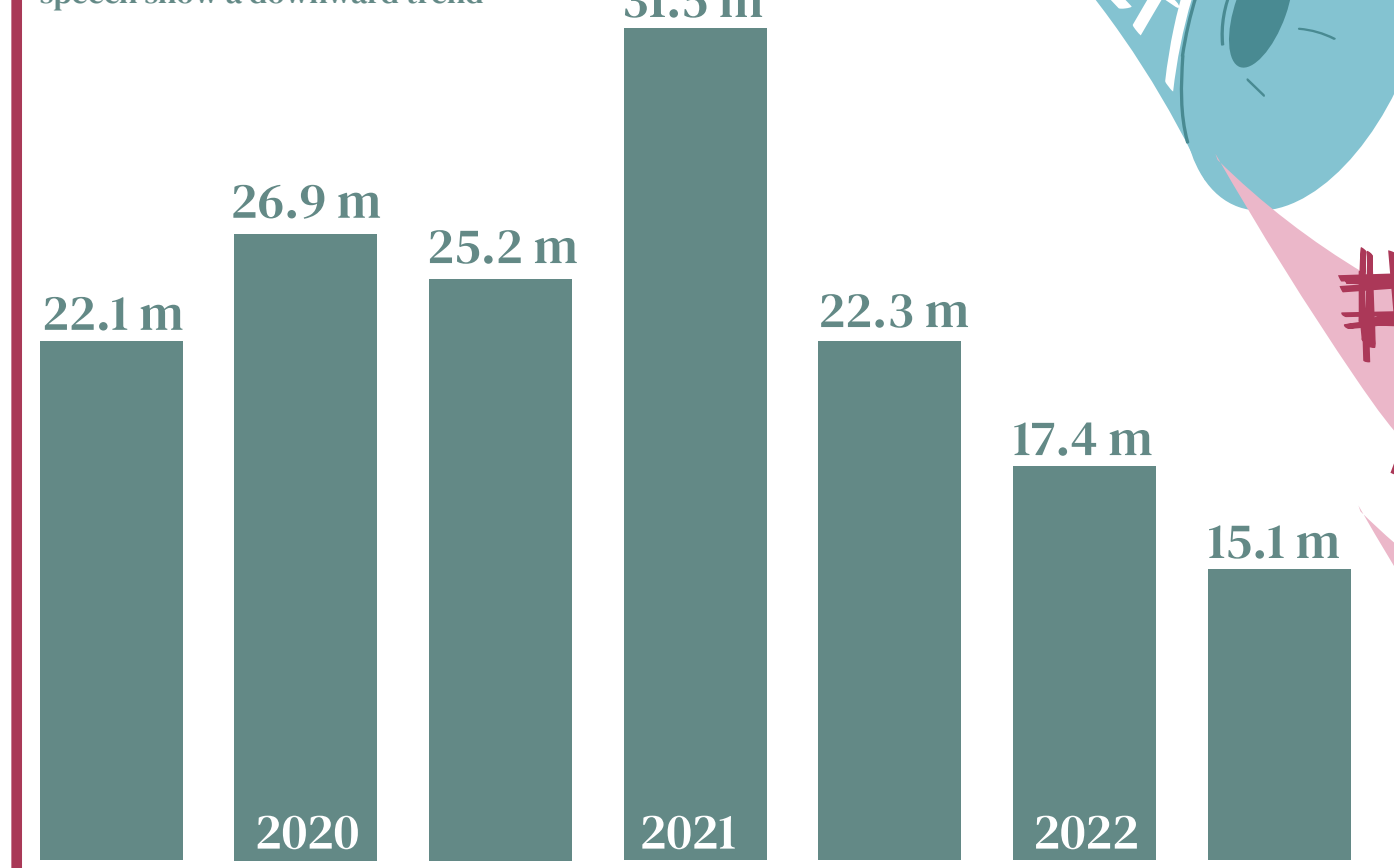


ART BY Isabella del Nido

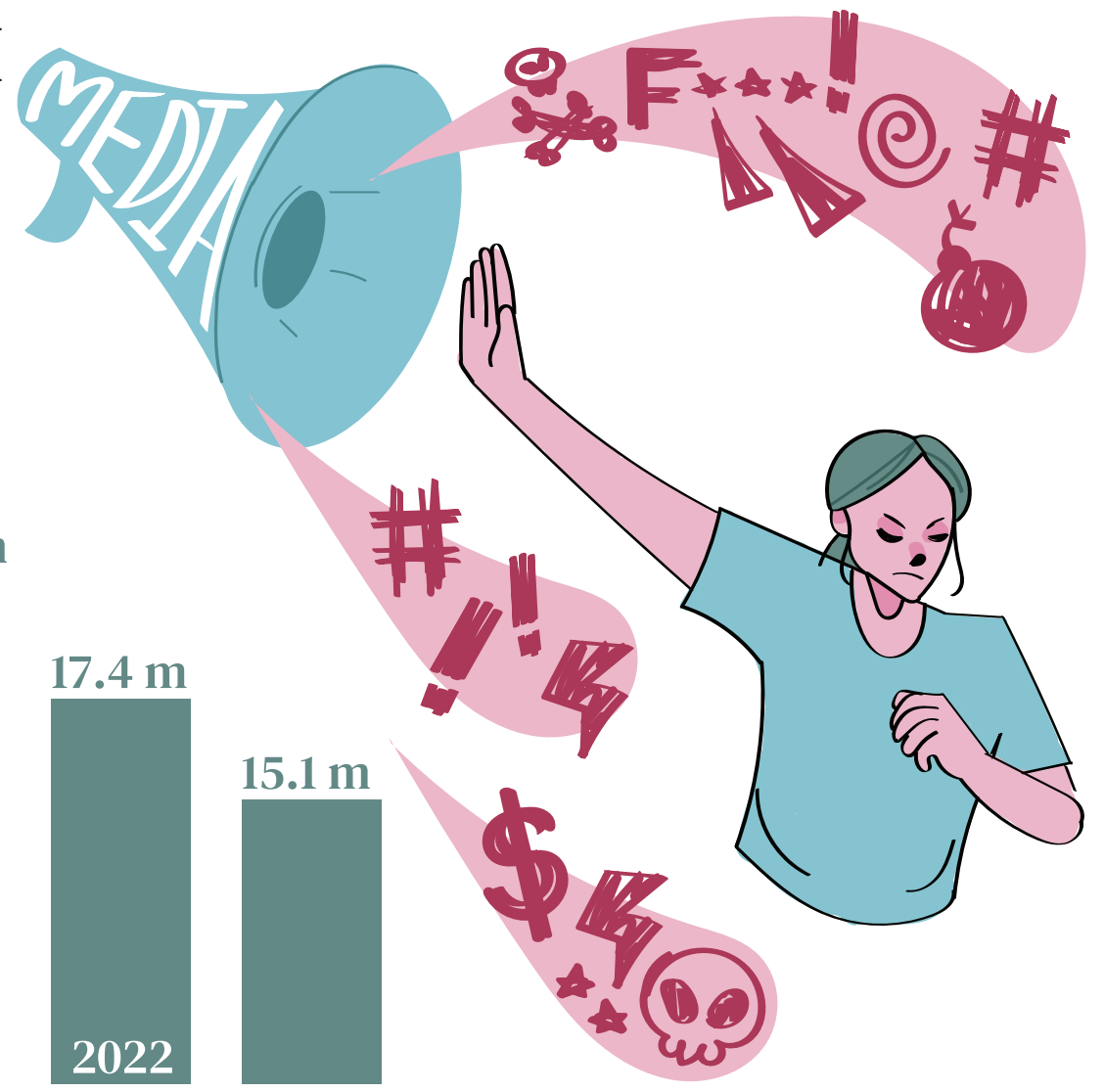
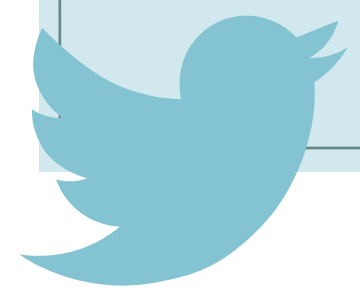
SOURCE Pew Research

## FACEBOOK'S HATE SPEECH CENSORSHIP

Content reported and flagged by Meta containing hate speech show a downward trend



SOURCE Statista



ART BY Isabella del Nido



ATHLETES  
ASSET

2022 FIFA World Cup kicks off in Qatar after much



Cooper Cenicerros-Fike  
Sports Columnist  
Questions? Concerns? Email:  
bowiejournalism@gmail.com

Elected to host the World Cup in 2010, Qatar has been filled with controversy ranging from bribing International Federation of Association Football (FIFA) officials to human rights.

Allegedly having bribed FIFA officials millions of dollars to receive their bid for the hosting of the World Cup, the selection of the small Middle Eastern country frustrated players, coaches and supporters alike.

For starters, when selected, the country lacked the infrastructure to host such a large-scale event. As a result, the country has been forced to construct eight different stadiums over the past 12 years, which resulted in the death of over a reported 6500 workers.

Plus, the climate of Qatar is not ideal and the tournament was pushed back into the fall, interrupting the club seasons for many players, despite typically being played in the summer.

The United States qualified for its 11th World Cup appearance in March of this year, having finished second in world cup qualifying matches for North America. Missing the last tournament, the United States fields a very young team, with the average being 25 years and 214 days, the second youngest in the entire tournament.

Led by star player Christian "Captain America" Pulisic, the American national team landed in a group with Iran, England, and Wales. Starting the tournament with a 1-1 tie, forward Timothy Weah scored the first World Cup goal for the United States since 2014 with a goal in the 36th minute. America would hang on to the lead for 46 minutes before defender Walker Zimmerman fouled Gareth Bale in the box, which resulted in the former Real Madrid winger equalizing the game.

Having received a point for their tie against Wales, the United States matched up with soccer powerhouse England in a very anticipated match for their second game. Unfortunately, after many missed chances by both teams, the match ended in a 0-0 tie.

The third and final group game was against Iran, a politically induced match. Needing a win to qualify for the knockout stages, the United States found themselves in the most important game of the tournament so far.

Evenly matched in possession and shots on goal, Pulisic put the Americans in front with a physically sacrificial goal in the 38th minute. Playing very defensively in the second half, the United States managed to escape a late equalizer in the final minutes of the game.

Matched up against the Netherlands in the Round of 16, the United States was unable to overcome the top-level country. Finding themselves down early, the Americans conceded in the 9th and 45th minutes, putting them 2-0 down at halftime.

With a goal from Haji Wright in the 75th minute, the USMNT clawed to gain momentum which was quickly neutralized by a Denzel Dumfries goal for Netherlands just five minutes later. Unfortunately, the USMNT exited the tournament in the Round of 16 with a 3-1 loss.

Despite this exit, the 2022 World Cup was huge improvement for the USMNT. With a young team, I believe that the USMNT will have a chance at winning it all as joint-hosts in the 2026 tournament. ■

# MMA black belt dominates ring



Discipline AND DEFENSE: Junior Eowyn Madden practices sparring with her sensei. Madden is preparing for her senior black belt tests in April. PHOTO BY Nicolas Ospina

## Junior Eowyn Madden balances school, marching band & fighting career

Ben Tillisch  
Sports Editor

Having spent countless hours refining her skills and fitness in the dojo for this moment, junior Eowyn Madden bows to her opponent in preparation for the ensuing fight.

A seasoned junior black belt, Madden breathes deep, visualizing movements and techniques her sensei has drilled into her mind since first grade.

The shrill note of the ref's whistle cuts through Madden's thoughts and echoes in her ears. As the fight begins, she hones her attention on her opponent that nervously dances around the ring.

Allowing muscle-memory and adrenaline to take control, Madden strikes like a snake, dragging her opponent to the mat. Triumphant, Madden respectfully helps her opponent regain her feet, once again

bowing to her.

The feelings of victory are not unfamiliar to the championed junior black belt. Having been a part of many intense and competitions, Madden describes the differentiating emotions and responses that are triggered by winning and losing.

"When you lose, it's kind of like you worked so hard for and you didn't get what you wanted but that's okay," Madden said. "I usually use that feeling of losing for motivation the next time I come into the dojo and use it to work harder. And then when I win it's a good feeling. It's like 'yes, I did it'. But you also have to remember to be kind and courteous to the other opponents."

However, Madden believes that the fighting goes beyond the simplicity of winning, as respect is a major facet of Mixed Martial Arts. Because of this, Madden attributes the sport to

her improved humility.

"I've definitely become more humble because of fighting," Madden said. "Like I always want to win and get that point but I've learned that it's okay to lose because you are learning a lot. There's a huge respect between one another. I mean, yes, we get competitive but there's always respect, especially with the judges and the opponent."

A student-athlete, Madden is required to balance her fighting schedule with school and other activities. As a trumpet player in the marching band, Madden details the conflicting schedules of her involvement in multiple extra-curriculars.

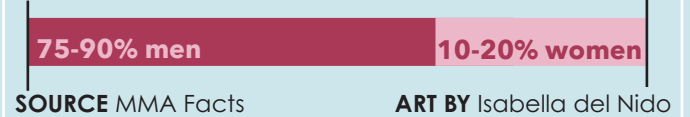
"I try to go to the dojo four times a week," Madden said. "I'm also in marching band though, so I have to balance those two. During marching season, I couldn't go to my martial art practice, except for on Wednesdays, because we didn't have anything for band. But I know that if I had a test the next day, I would prioritize studying for that test. I definitely put school before anything else."

Madden's skill and dominance has stemmed from her immense dedication to perfecting her abilities. Guided by her sensei, John Roberson, over the years, Roberson details Madden's will to get better.

"Eowyn has an amazing work ethic," Roberson said. "She has consistently attended for years and is among the hardest working students at the dojo."

A junior black belt, Madden is currently preparing for her senior black belt test next April. Sensei Roberson describes the rigorous process Madden is being put through to get ready for her initiation as a senior

### PERCENT OF MMA VIEWERS BY GENDER



SOURCE MMA Facts

ART BY Isabella del Nido

black belt.

"Preparing for a black belt test is far more intense than regular training," Roberson said. "She must focus heavily on conditioning, striking, and ground sparring with partners. She will be responsible for everything she has learned over the past eight years. She must prove herself worthy of being a senior black belt, in front of a panel of high ranking black belts from a variety of dojos."

Despite being put through rigorous preparation by Sensei Roberson for her senior black belt trials, the mutual respect shared between Madden and her sensei motivates her. The relationship between Madden and Sensei Roberson goes beyond MMA though, as the sensei has helped in shaping a positive lifestyle for Madden.

"He's like family to me," Madden said. "We like to have 'fight nights' we call them. Basically, we go hang out at someone's house, and we watch UFC fights with other families from the dojo, and it's really good bonding and fun. I think we've known each other for more than five years, and all he wants to do is help me grow, not just as a black belt but as a person."

Similarly, Luke Roberson, an MMA fighter at the same dojo as Madden depicts its friendly environment. Luke suggests that Madden is a major contrib-

utor in making sure everyone is involved, which makes the dojo feel more like a family.

"The fighters in the dojo feel like family because it's a very comfortable environment and everyone is respected," Luke said. "Eowyn is really nice to everyone and is very respectful, so she definitely contributes to that feeling."

An underclassmen, Luke looks up to Madden. Given that Madden is a black belt, Luke describes the way Madden exemplifies the needed characteristics to receive such a title and honor.

"She always tries her best and is very skilled," Luke said. "She is a role model for all students because she practices very hard and really has the black belt attitude. She puts in a lot of work and it shows in competition."

Along with Madden's respectful nature and leadership characteristics, the junior black belt believes that MMA has not only improved her physical and athletic attributes, but her overall personality as well.

"It's helped me grow as a person and become more patient with myself, and it's just fun," Madden said. "It's a good stress reliever, and it definitely keeps my exercise up. And, it kind of helps me stay in shape for marching band, so it really just helps me overall in being a healthy person." ■



CATCHING HER BREATH: Madden takes a break during a practice. She's competed in MMA for eight years. PHOTO BY Nicolas Ospina

# Girls' wrestling success assisted by junior star

Michael Vienneau  
Dispatch Reporter

Tightening her muscles in anticipation, junior wrestler Elayna McKinney stares deep into her opponent's eyes.

The referee whistles the match into play, and McKinney takes immediate action. In a matter of seconds, McKinney has bested her opponent, tallying yet another point for the reputable girls wrestling program.

As a freshman, McKinney struggled with the mindset and mentality required to be a wrestler, but second-year head coach Tyson Dobinsky details how the growing wrestler overcame this roadblock.

"There was a lot she struggled with but helping her overcome it and seeing her step up as a player has been exciting to see," Dobinsky said. "Her responsibility is something we struggled with at the start, but she has worked through it impressively."

Building on Dobinsky's comments, McKinney mentions setbacks that she has faced over her three year wrestling career that she has been forced to overcome.

"At times, it's been pretty difficult to pick myself back up but I've done it," McKinney said. "It just takes some time to work through it. Everybody has had



ATTENTION GRABBER: Senior Olivia Moreno and junior Elayna McKinney spar during a Wrestling practice. McKinney started wrestling her freshman year of high school and has been an important piece of girls' wrestling at Bowie. PHOTO BY Nick Wood

mental and physical setbacks, so they can support you through that. It's definitely a tough mental sport."

Inspired by her father, a professional Mixed Martial Arts fighter, stepping into the wrestling circle was natural for

McKinney. With the help of her father that preaches a pro-mentality, McKinney often has an advantage on her opponents.

"It's pretty difficult having all that pressure," McKinney said. "I'm always

tired and I don't want to practice but I just want to tell myself that I have to do it. My dad pushes me to get out of bed in the morning and I wouldn't be where I am without him."

Training for match days takes a toll on the body. McKinney mentions the work it takes to maintain and improve on the strength and fitness she hopes to achieve for her wrestling career. Additionally, McKinney discussed the importance of rest.

"I lift a lot at the gym to gain muscle," McKinney said. "Resting is easy for some but improving at wrestling is a lot more complicated than just training daily. After this season I want to keep lifting even more than I am now so I can make my last season the best I can."

Even though each match is individual, each time McKinney battles in the wrestling cycle she hopes to gain points for her squad to lift them to team victory. Because of this, McKinney values and reciprocates the support offered by her teammates. State-champion senior Olivia Moreno applauds McKinney for the impact and influence she has on the rest of the team.

"Elayna is the glue of the team," Moreno said. "She's very friendly and communicates all the time."

Additional contributions done by Cooper Cenicerros-Fike and Dimitri Silva ■

COMING UP IN SPORTS:

DECEMBER 21 Varsity girls basketball vs. Johnson @Bowie

JANUARY 10 Varsity boys soccer vs. Del Valle @ Del Valle

JANUARY 20 Varsity girls soccer vs. Austin High @Burger stadium

JANUARY 23 Varsity boys golf vs. Westwood @ Balcones Country Club



# Jason Oh begins his senior campaign

*Bowie lacrosse starts their 2023 season hoping to make noise and compete for state*

Sam Vane  
Sports Editor

Senior Jason Oh gets the ball in the defensive half of the field, he looks up and sees green grass ahead, he keeps moving closer to the goal waiting for the perfect opportunity to score. Finally, the opportunity arises and he shoots and scores, Oh has just put the Bulldogs up against the opponent and is rewarded with praise from all his teammates after the stellar shot.

Oh has been playing lacrosse, nearly as long as he could walk, making him one of the few veteran players on the team.

"I started playing in kindergarten," Oh said. "I joined a lacrosse clinic with Bowie when I was younger and never stopped playing after that."

Despite the growing popularity of lacrosse, many middle schools don't offer a team. Oh has had to find alternative ways to play it growing up.

"Bowie has a youth program," Oh said. "So there's Junior Bulldog teams from first through eighth grade. So, I did that and then I also did a couple years of a travel club team."

Oh's experience has helped him in more ways than he could imagine making a crucial difference in his lacrosse ability.

"I've been playing the longest on my team," Oh said. "You can definitely tell when someone's been playing a while because they have really good fundamentals passing, catching up consistently, and understanding the game because newer players will be confused about the rules."

As a senior, Oh has a lot of responsibility. He mentors the new player, as well as making sure that the team stays on the same page and moving forward.

"Among the other veterans, sometimes they smack talk to each other or don't pay attention to the coach," Oh said. "So I also have to hold them accountable. Then with the newer players, I try to be constructive and offer them advice on the side instead of just yelling at them in front of everyone."

One of the players being mentored by Oh, freshman Ethan Kimball has been playing since elementary school and has learned a lot from Oh.

"I started playing when I was in 3rd grade and haven't stopped ever since," Kimball said.

Being the new kid on the block, Kimball has to fight for a spot on the team. This can lead to some nervous thinking from Kimball as he doesn't

know how good the rest of the team is.

"For the first few weeks lacrosse, was a little overwhelming but now it feels normal and getting to know my teammates makes it feel like a brotherhood," Kimball said.

Kimball also has many mentors on the lacrosse team who have helped him become the lacrosse player he is today.

"Having Jason on the team has helped so much," Kimball said. "Having an experienced player to help and give you tips as a freshman has made me a way better player."

Being a freshman lacrosse player brings room for growth. One of Kimball's fellow freshmen, Cole Wong, is ready to become a star by the end of his career as a Bulldog.

"I think I'm going to improve a lot by the end of the season," Wong said. "We're also going to grow as a team and as a brotherhood."

Having a mentor has helped Wong tremendously as Wong believes that he is getting better by the day.

"Having a mentor for the team has helped me become better because I've learned to keep my head up and reflect on what I did wrong to fix it on the next rep," Wong said.

According to Oh, being on the team for a long time has given him the opportunity to see many talented players come and go. Due to a history of lackluster coaches, the team has struggled to harness these talented players on the team.

"I think compared to my earlier years, we had a coach that wasn't that good," Oh said. "So we had some really skilled players but not much of a team. But our new coach came in when I was a sophomore and he's really changed the culture."

Lacrosse isn't the only sport Oh plays, he also currently plays golf and used to play basketball. Both of these have helped him in lacrosse

"Golf has a pretty similar movement," Oh said. "Shooting versus a golf club. Especially if you shoot underhand that helps you focus on things like lower body rotation. And then basketball. I'd say it's pretty similar because a lot of the plays involve picking and spacing and just moves like that."

With the start of the season on the horizon, Oh has big aspirations after a good preseason showing.

"I think we can definitely hang with every team in the district and that's



**OH SNAP!** Senior Jason Oh was all over the field in Bowie's preseason game against Boerne High School. Bowie ended up losing to the Greyhounds 4-0 ending their last preseason game with a disappointing finish. **PHOTO BY** Nick Wood

the goal," Oh said. "I think we did lose a lot of skill last year, but we're really gelling as a unit this year.

Being his last season on the team, Oh has made it his mission to help coach and positively impact the young-

er players.

"I think we're really trying to pass down a strong attitude and commitment to lacrosse to those freshmen," Oh said.

As a first year player on Bowie,

Kimball has pretty hefty goals for himself in his first year.

"My goal is to definitely be an all-district attack-man and for the team I think we are gonna make the state playoffs," Kimball said. ■

## Micha Walton begins her journey on varsity basketball



**COAST TO COAST:** Junior Micah Walton dribbles the ball down the court against Anderson High School. The Bulldogs ended up defeating the Lady Trojans 74-16 **PHOTO BY** Nick Wood

Dimitri Silva  
Chief-of-Staff

13 seconds left, one play, and one mission, to score. Micah Walton never thought she'd be in this moment. With only one defender standing in her way, Walton dribbles the ball past, weaving her way through the defenders and finding an open space to score.

Walton closed her eyes hoping for the impossible. After what felt like an eternity, Walton opened her eyes to an uproar of screams from the crowd and to her teammates stampeding towards her to congratulate her.

According to Walton, this was a crucial memory she has made playing for the girls varsity basketball team at Bowie. After picking up a basketball for the first time, Walton immediately fell in love with the sport.

"I started playing when I was eight, and started taking it seriously in the eighth grade," Walton said. "My cousin played a lot and we'd always play in the front yard. I just like how fast paced it is, it's never boring, everybody's always moving."

After making the varsity team as a sophomore, Walton competed for the starting lineup

as the point guard, practicing every day with her coaches and teammates.

"What my best friend on the team Berit and I do is we come early to get a shooting workout in before practice," Walton said. "It's just nice to get some extra shots up before practice and game days."

Head basketball coach Iesha Collins has been with Walton since her first appearance on varsity. According to Walton, Collins always expects the best from her and constantly pushes her to be a leader on the court for her teammates.

"Micah has a lot of confidence on the offensive end, and it takes the pressure off of her teammates," Collins said. "Micah went from playing minimal minutes to substantial playing time this year and I'm really proud of her for putting in the hard work to get that point."

During her sophomore season, Walton was the only 10th grader on varsity. This jump challenged Walton, however with the help of her coaches and teammates she continued to keep improving.

"In my sophomore season I started off strong and then fell into a slump," Walton said. "I got into my head mentally

because I had some big shoes to fill. I went from playing on the freshman team, to varsity, which is a huge jump.

Junior Berit Rusing has been with Walton since the beginning of her basketball journey. Being on the varsity team, Rusing and Walton not only practice together, but they are constantly pushing and cheering one another on.

"Playing with Micah is very motivating," Rusing said. "She has an insane work ethic and playing with that inspires me and others to work harder to play better. We spend so much time together and the only reason we are so close is because of basketball."

At the start of her junior year, Walton immediately shined on the court, averaging 17 points per game with many assists. On the defensive side of the ball, Walton locks up defenders averaging three steals in her last five games.

"Coach Collins expects a lot from me and she actually instills the confidence in me that I can't find myself which is great," Walton said. "She's a big reason I'm where I am today and I love her for that."

*Additional Interviews done by Michael Vienneau* ■

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# Winter Guard season kicks off strong

Junior Maggie Oliver leads the season with choreography and competition preparations

Amilia Velez  
Entertainment Editor

Tossing the flag in the air, junior Maggie Oliver prepares for an intense season of winter guard ahead of her.

As football season ends, the Bowie color guard is making the transition to their winter guard season which consists of long practices and rewarding competitions. According to junior Safiron Hartreeve, winter guard often gets overshadowed by color guard and it can be frustrating that not a lot of people know about winter guard.

"I think a lot of people think that performing with the band is all we do when in reality guard is much more than that," Hartreeve said. "During the winter season, we have our own performances and are separate from the marching band. Not a lot of people know how much we do and the amount of practice that we have to put in to have performances."

According to Oliver, the transition from color guard season to winter guard season is pretty drastic. There are a lot of differences that require the group to refocus and shift their mindset to the winter season. Because they don't perform with the band for the winter season, there is more room to utilize their space and have unique choreography.

"Color guard is more like adding something to an already really great performance," Oliver said. "We provide the visual aspect to the music. Some of the major differences are that [winter guard] is more dance-based and involves interacting with props, we also perform indoors in a gym rather than on a football field."

The winter guard organization had to brainstorm ways to raise money for

their upcoming season. This year, they held a 'Boss for the Toss' cornhole tournament and also had vendors sell their products in the awning. This event was organized for anyone to participate and support the winter guard.

"I heard that the event went really well," Oliver said. "We had barbecue sandwiches donated to us that we could sell, we sold over 400 for \$10 so that's about \$4,000 that we can use."

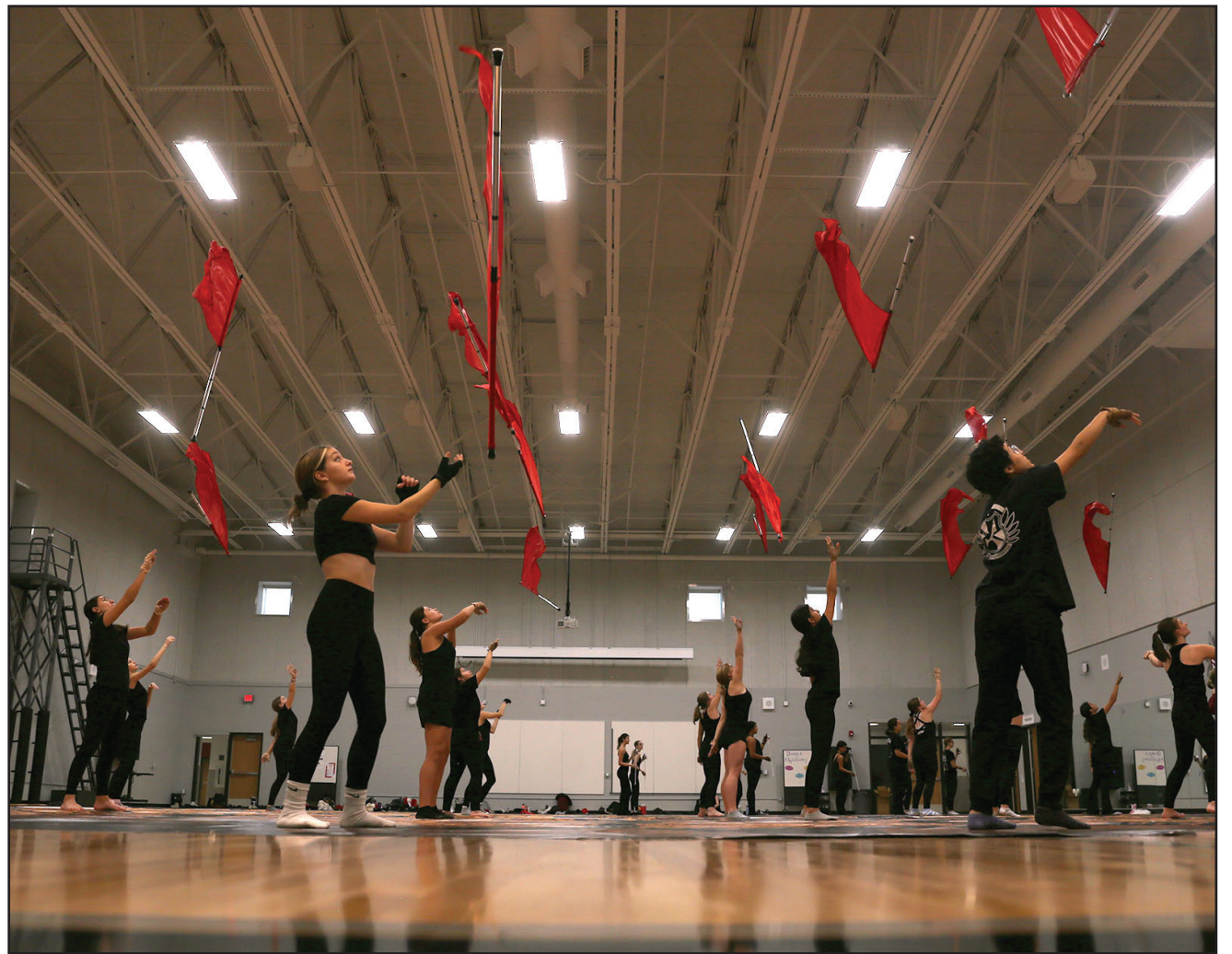
The money that the winter guard raised from this fundraiser was essential because they get limited funding for their season. During the color guard season, they share money with the band but for winter guard it's up to them to raise funds. Oliver describes why it's especially important for them to raise money this year.

"We are planning on going to Ohio in the spring because that's where the WGI (Winter Guard International) competition is," Oliver said. "It's a lot of money to get there so we've been doing a lot of fundraisers especially since we couldn't go last year."

The winter guard has around four months to perfect their show in time to compete with high schools around the nation. Leading up to nationals, the winter guard will go to competitions almost every week in cities like Dallas and College Station. According to Oliver, the team already has high goals for their season.

"I hope that we at least make it to semi-finals in Ohio and have good scores overall," Oliver said. "Our show is already so much better than last year and I know it's going to look really cool."

According to Hartreeve, an experienced and determined coach is important for winter guard so they can be led to success in their competitions.



**THE TOSS IS UP:** Winter guard members practice their new choreography during sixth period. The group had a guest choreographer come in and teach them the piece that they will be performing all season. PHOTO BY Nick Wood

"We've had three directors over the past two years so getting our current director was nice because he really pushes us to be the best that we can," Hartreeve said.

Daniel Riley is the current guard director who led the organization through the marching season and will now lead them through the winter guard season. Riley has a plan of action to bring the winter guard to the next caliber.

"My main goal for the Bowie winter guard this season is to keep working on developing a wider range of technique and skills," Riley said. "The plan to make this happen is to spend more time on fundamentals through dance and equipment technique classes."

The winter guard practices during and outside of school and have to juggle working on skills and learning new choreography. Hartreeve describes how they get things done efficiently and in time for their competitions.

"We usually have technique blocks which is when we set aside a certain amount of time to practice the basics and really get the fundamentals down.

Once we do that we can move on to doing harder tosses and difficult choreography."

Like any other sport, guard does not come without challenges. According to Oliver, with the amount that they practice, there are bound to be bruises and injuries.

"This season has been a bit difficult because we have been in a rebuilding year for the past two years," Oliver said. "This year is especially hard because we had a lot of members who were supposed to be veterans this year but they either left or moved so the majority of the team is new."

According to Oliver, even though rebuilding the organization comes with some struggles, the new fine arts facility has been making the season run much smoother with less stress. The group now practices in the new dance gym.

"The new practice space is great because we have mirrors to see what our moves look like," Oliver said. "Last year we had to practice in the athletic building and we had to roll out the

cheer mats so we wouldn't dent the floors."

According to Hartreeve, guard is a team sport that requires everyone to participate and be connected. Many members like Hartreeve have been in guard since their freshman year and have spent countless hours preparing for different shows, competitions, and game days.

"We have a lot of team bonding experiences so we all know each other really well," Hartreeve said. "When we are working in smaller groups we have the opportunity to create a sense of family and continuity. Everyone has a connection with everyone in guard so we are all really close."

According to Oliver, the Winter Guard program is a robust organization that looks for people with determination, strong work ethic, and discipline to join. He also believes the program is welcoming to all its members and great for making life long friends.

"Winter guard is really fun and open to everyone so if they want to join they should," Oliver said. ■



**THE RACE TO RAISE MONEY:** Winter guard members work a booth on the day of their "Boss of the Toss" fundraiser. Vendors sold food, jewelry, crafts and more. PHOTO BY Amilia Velez

# Silver Star Officers perform in Macy's Thanksgiving Parade

Audrey Cullinane  
Staff Writer

Standing in foil blankets in the subway, waiting with anticipation for the two-and-a-half-mile walk ahead of them, the Bowie Silver Stars officers prepare to join the Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade as the act opening for Mariah Carey.

The Silver Star Lieutenants were featured in the Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade over Thanksgiving Break. Shay Gist, Liliana Demediros, Peyton Nowell, Sydney Cabello, and Olivia Cassidy were given the opportunity by Spirit of America, and



**HUDDLED UP:** The officers pose in front of the Macy's store in NYC during rehearsal. The officers had long rehearsals with hundreds of other girls before the day of the parade. PHOTO COURTESY OF Peyton Nowell

spent almost a week in New York City.

"At officer camp we got invited to the parade by Spirit of America through a letter and then from there you pay and you get to go," senior Lieutenant Demediros said. "There were a lot of fundraisers, camps over the summer, selling pointsettias, and senior girls shirts to pay for the trip."

Dancing in the parade, the Silver Stars were just a small fraction of the huge ensemble of dancers performing with Spirit of America as Santa's reindeer.

"Being in a group of 770 people, there were people from all over America," junior Lieutenant Nowell said. "Which was really cool to be a part of. It was nice to meet those people from other states and learn about what they do differently than what we do here in Texas."

To be a part of such a huge group, the dancers had lots of rehearsals and practices during the week of the big day.

"There were almost 800 girls in the dance, so rehearsals were really crazy," senior Lieutenant Gist said. "We had to break up the dance into a bunch of small parts so we could only use the big room once, so the other times we had to do it in a really small space."

According to Gist, rehearsing in such a big group of people was difficult, but performing in the parade went smoothly, for the most part.

"The parade didn't go as expected, but it was still very fun," Gist said. "The people cut off the music, so we couldn't do the full dance, but I liked walking in the parade regardless."

Technical mishaps aside, the Silver Star officers still enjoyed the once in a lifetime experience through seeing the reactions of their loved one's in the crowd.

"My favorite part was walking in the parade," Demediros said. "Getting to wave at everyone and smiling, and just having the opportunity to do it. Not a lot of people get that opportunity ever, and it was really cool to be one of the chosen ones. I got to see my parents who camped outside at four in the morning. Watching them being excited was so happy for me to see."

According to Gist, the audience's joyful reactions made the experience impactful for her.



**RUN RUN RUDOLPH:** The Silver Star officers smile in their reindeer costumes on the day of the performance. The officers had to get up at three in the morning to do their makeup and get ready. PHOTO COURTESY OF Peyton Nowell

"Walking through the tall buildings, you could see people waving out of the windows," Gist said. "Just seeing how many people were watching us in the parade was an out of body experience."

The trip, though mainly centered around rehearsals and the parade, also featured free time for the girls to enjoy New York and each other's company.

"Spending time with the rest of the officers was probably one of my favorite things," Nowell said. "Getting to practice with them and also, stepping outside of Silver Stars and doing something that wasn't for the whole team, but taking a trip as just

the five of us and spending time with our directors outside of practice."

Although being in the most populated city in the United States, the bond of the performers was apparent as the dancers explored New York.

"Near the time of the parade, Times Square was just filled with the blue coats that everybody was required to wear. It was cool to just think, 'Yeah, I know you' in such a big city," Demediros said. "Getting to be next to my community and my officers while also around people from all over America was crazy. It was so cool to be around such diverse people." ■

COMING UP IN ENTERTAINMENT:

DECEMBER 17- 31 *Pep-permint Parkway light show @ COTA*

DECEMBER 18 *World Cup final @ 9:00 am stream-ing on Fox Sports*

DECEMBER 23 *Glass On-ion Movie releasing in theatres*

DECEMBER 22- JAN 9 *Winter Break for AISD students*



# Seasons greetings at Summer Moon

*Just released flavorsome festive coffees that will ensure you get into the holiday spirit*

Claire Scott  
Reviews Editor

The holidays are just around the corner, and this season Summer Moon has stepped up their spirit with a variety of festive coffees. Started in Texas by Amanda Terry, the business has spread to other states including Tennessee, Arkansas and Wisconsin.

This coffee shop makes its mark as it continues to give its customers their signature wood-fired coffee beans and friendly hospitality. According to Google Reviews, Summer Moon is one of the most liked local coffee shops in Central Texas. Customers like Summer Moon so much that the coffee shop even offers merch,

coffee pods, and blends on their website and in-store.

On Friday, November 4, the shop launched their long-awaited new holiday drinks across all locations. The recent limited editions added to the menu consist of the Gingerbread Cold Brew, Christmas Cookie Latte, Roasted Chestnut Latte, and Peppermint Mocha Moon Latte.

All roasted coffees with the exception of the Gingerbread Cold Brew come with the option of being served iced or warmed. I recommend trying all drinks hot, as it strengthens the overall flavor and helps you fight against unforgiving winter weather.

Summer Moon also has their own Christmas Blend, offered with ground or whole coffee beans at a medium roast. The blend

is complemented with dark cherry and sugar cane. This is the best at-home holiday coffee mix on the market. It does a perfect job of combining two unique and well loved flavors, and you can find the package in-store through Online order.

After trying out all the holiday coffees that their wide selection had to offer, I loved how each drink was special with its own unique flavor profile.

Every drink also comes with the option of being topped with their Moon Milk cold foam or whipped cream with sprinkles, which is a nice way to spice up the look and taste of each drink.

Be sure to order a delicious holiday coffee soon, because they're only on the menu for a limited time in December. ■

## Christmas Cookie Latte



The Christmas Cookie Latte is my favorite out of all the drinks I tried. This is Summer Moon's creative twist on the Starbucks Sugar Cookie Almond Milk Latte.

The latte comes warmed or iced depending on preference and includes oak-roasted espresso, Moon Milk, Christmas cookie flavoring, whipped cream, and topped with festive sprinkles. I loved how the whipped cream only added more to the cookie taste, which emphasized the Moon Milk note.

The drink is so sweet that it could be mistaken for an actual Christmas cookie, anyone with a sweet tooth will definitely find this drink delicious.

However, if you are not a fan of overly sugary coffees, then this drink is not for you, considering how much Christmas cookie you can taste from just one sip.

I would rate this sweet and cozy latte four out of five stars because it perfectly encapsulated the taste of warm frosted cookies during the holidays.



## Peppermint Mocha Moon Latte



The Peppermint Mocha Moon Latte was my least favorite out of all the coffees tried. I wish the latte had represented what it was described on their menu and brought out more of the holiday vibes.

The drink is made with oak-roasted espresso, sweet cream Moon Milk, dark chocolate, and peppermint. However, after tasting this I picked up no traces of peppermint or dark chocolate notes.

The drink that I received was very similar to their Winter Moon, which is made with velvet blaze espresso and Moon Milk. I had high expectations for this one since I enjoy peppermint coffees, but it was a let down.

After thinking that my order was mistaken for another, I ordered the warmed version of this latte. Although it was delicious, I still got no dark chocolate and peppermint flavoring.

I rate this latte one star out of five stars because although the orders I received tasted good, it did not reflect any of the flavor profiles listed on their menu.



## Gingerbread Cold Brew



The Gingerbread Cold Brew is by far one of the most distinctive drinks off of the holiday menu. Although I do not care for putting gingerbread into my coffee, Summer Moon has yet again pulled off an interesting coffee choice. The drink comes on ice and deep steeped with their signature Moon Milk made cold foam.

This is like nothing I've ever tasted in a cold brew. The drink has a gingery spice to it which directly complements the sweetness from the cold foam.

I would have loved if they turned the drink into a warm latte styled coffee. Gingerbread is usually warmed, so it was off-putting when it was topped with ice.

I rate this drink three out of five stars because although I am not a fan of gingerbread the flavor combinations worked out in the end product.

The Gingerbread Cold Brew is the best option if you're looking for a unique holiday drink.



## Roasted Chestnut Latte



The Roasted Chestnut Latte is the best warmed latte out of the holiday drink selection. Chestnut is such a classic flavor, yet I have never come across this in a coffee shop until now. Summer Moon was able to create the perfect ratio of coffee to chestnut flavor.

The latte comes warmed or iced and is made with oak-roasted espresso, chestnut flavor, and Moon Milk. I loved how rich the drink tastes when warmed, I definitely recommend it over the iced version.

Not only is the coffee rich, but it is also very sweet with no bitterness to the taste, the nuttiness of the chestnut goes perfectly with the flavor from the Moon Milk.

I ordered the coffee to be topped with Moon Milk foam. This was a really good decision because the sweetness from the foam went well with the warming chestnut note.

I rate this latte a four out of five stars when it is warm and a three when it's iced. It's just not the same when it's iced, and can be more appreciated when hot.



PHOTOS BY Claire Scott

# The Trail of Lights begins to spark up the holiday spirit

Fiona Padalino  
Dispatch Reporter

The Austin Trail of Lights is an annual festive holiday event that will brighten any family's spirits. It is held at Zilker Park downtown off of Lady Bird Lake. This city-wide tradition is one that is kept near and dear to residents' hearts, as this is the 58th year that the Trail of Lights is open.

The Trail of Lights is open from December 8-23, 2022. The lights are powered by HEB as their official sponsor. The trail now features more than two million lights illuminating the park, 90 lighted holiday trees, and more than 70 other holiday displays and lighted tunnels.

The Trail of Lights is a perfect and romantic way to spend a night in the brisk air of Texas winters. In my experience I always loved preparing to spend a good and thoughtful night with my family. You can walk through the trails and see magnificent displays of lights and the smell of hot chocolate and various foods through your nose.

Food vendor's sign up so they can display and sell their products to the public. There are various food vendors for 2022, such as Bohemian Barbecue, Burro Cheese Kitchen, Coco's Eats and Sweets, Amy's Ice Creams, T-LOC'S, Tiff's Treats, etc. Not only are there food opportunities, but there are many chances to get familiar with local vendors. They sell a variety of things from jewelry to dog treats.

Many small businesses can make their name as well as big corporations as they have the chance to present their new hot item for a sampler. Water bottles are allowed for visitors to bring, but they are only allowed one factory sealed bottle, such as Dasani, otherwise all food, drinks, etc. are sold within the grounds.

Getting to the venue, in my experience, is something that is well-planned but as always there can be traffic. Close-in parking at Trail of Lights is available only with a pre-paid parking pass. There are a limited number available each night and all parking must be purchased in advance Online.

Parking will not be sold on-site. If Trail of Lights Parking is sold out, other nearby parking options are available. Although, parking is prohibited in surrounding neighborhoods. Visitors are asked to respect the residents of the Zilker Park area and Rollingwood. Public safety personnel will enforce parking regulations against those



**GLEAMING BRIGHTLY:** Hundreds of people wait in line to ride the famous 90-foot Ferris wheel that arrives in Austin every Christmas, to accompany the Trail of Lights. The trail also has two stages with performers, food trucks, and multiple displays of lights for viewers to enjoy. PHOTO BY Quinn Wilkinson

who are disruptive.

Rain or shine the Trail of Lights is active unless there is extreme weather. Getting prepared for a night's adventure is one of the most important parts of having a good time. There is a list of items that are okay to wear and bring to the trail, so make sure to check in advance so you can fully experience the winterland joy.

Dogs aren't allowed unless they are service animals, and no motorized personal vehicles are allowed. Electric bikes are allowed, but must be parked at the bike racks outside of the grounds, so be sure to bring a lock.

Not only is the aroma of peppermint and gingerbread present, but there is the loving warmth of your family or significant other.

Tickets are free, and general admission is available Dec. 13-15 and 18 from 7:00-10:00 pm. No advance tickets are required for general admission, just show up, enter and enjoy.

On the other hand, if you are wanting to beat the general crowd or get more free perks, buying ZIP Passes are a favorite of families and small groups, especially on busier nights at the trail. The ZIP passes range from \$20-\$25 although children five and under receive free ZIP access with a ticketed ZIP adult. ZIP guests also receive access to the ZIP Lounge Area with a new location in Candy Cane Lane near the beginning of the trail. At the Lounge you will find complimentary holiday cookies, cocoa, comfortable seating, heated washrooms, a bar, and ideal prox-

imity to the first group of food trucks.

Not only is there a sense of community with the food, the music is a huge part of Austin, as the Trail of Lights organizers make an effort to include this signature event with live music. There is a musical lineup for just about every night that the Trail of Lights is open. Through December 9-23 there is a local music artist that brings in the taste of community. The Motts, The Waynebillies, Heroes night, Calder Allen, The BrosFresh, Tomar and the FC's, Ley line, Band Aid School of Music, Mellisa Carper, Los Coast, and the Peterson Brothers. There is one night where a Christmas movie will be shown.

The feeling of live music brings people together especially when everyone is listening to the same beat and melody. I get a sense of joy, which is a perfect festival feeling.

While on the topic of a specific night for the Christmas movie, there are nights which are specialty nights. This includes Zilker Tree lighting, Night lights preview party, Grand Opening, UT night, Heroes night, Movie night, and Pride night. Each night is something that can illuminate any grouches spirit as the first Sunday, November 27, after Thanksgiving was the annual Zilker Tree lighting. Seeing the glowing bulbs come to life is truly an exciting experience that is unique to Austin.

UT night is something that is truly special as they light the bulbs bright burnt orange to enlighten any sports fans hopes for the local school pride. Pride night includes the honoring of the diversity that we have in our special town.

Not only do they honor our diversity but they honor our hardworking veterans, military, first responders etc. I love that the Trail of Lights is so inclusive because they make the environment truly feel open and safe towards the public.

In my personal opinion the Trail of Lights is a fun and festive way to celebrate Christmas spirit. I love the overall feeling of joy when you arrive in the main center with a huge lit up tree greeting you.

Having the classic items of the holidays such as peppermints, candy canes, hot chocolate, and even writing a letter to Santa is a joyful experience that the family and friends can enjoy. I love how it is not only a place for kids but it is a place for everyone in Austin to collectively enjoy a holiday to give us a sense of community to take our minds away from everything negative that is happening for a split moment in time. ■



# Not voting leads to a country of chaos

Recent midterm results prove the importance of youth vote in the democratic process

**EDITORIAL**

Alarms blaring into her ears, she shoots up out of bed. Today is the day for her to vote in the midterms. She hasn't done any research or paid any attention to who's running. She slowly rolls back into bed, already given up.

Her voice won't be heard and she doesn't think it matters. This is a similar scenario young voters around the nation are experiencing.

In spite of this shared experience, the midterms revealed an astounding fact to every current and future voter. The voices of the youth completely and utterly matter. They can change the future and allow us to mold our world into what we wish/need it to be. All we need to do is keep voting and get those around us to join and help us create a better future.

We at the Dispatch demand that those who can vote, do. The second students turn 18 and become eligible to vote it is essential that they do. It is essential that the historically silent-young begin to exercise their rights and use their voices.

Every American under 25 who are eligible must vote and play their extremely important role in democracy and vote every opportunity they are given.

What our government does and chooses to do is based around the representatives that we put into office, and it is the voters who make the choices who those people are.

Almost immediately after high school, the world is thrown into the hands of the young. When we leave and

become independent citizens the world affects us more than it ever has with the changes and implementations the government makes impact our daily lives.

When looking at individual states, such as Georgia there was over a million voters in 2022, according to the Georgia Secretary of State. Alongside this outstanding number, the Civic Learning Research Center found that Georgia had the second-highest young voter turnout in the last three decades, 4% less than the highest turnout in 2018.

This incredible voter turnout and the results that youth provides is an extremely significant example of how young voices matter. When eligible, potential voters make the effort to vote, not only does it change our policies, it shares a truer representation of what the American people want in their government.

Many eligible voters share extremely similar ideals. According to a Harvard poll conducted in 2022, 42% of 18-29-year-olds share that they believe their vote won't make any difference. The poll release by the Institute of Politics at Harvard Kennedy School also found that 38% of young voters are less likely to vote at all. They believe their vote doesn't matter and choose to stay silent.

While this way of thinking

is technically accurate, when a large majority of young voters share this ideal, elections vary extremely as to what they could have resulted in. The midterm results are a prime example of this.

While everyone was expecting a red wave, some fearing it and others praying for it, an incredible turnout of young voters changed that. The expected red wave was ultimately voided because the youth of America chose to share their voices.

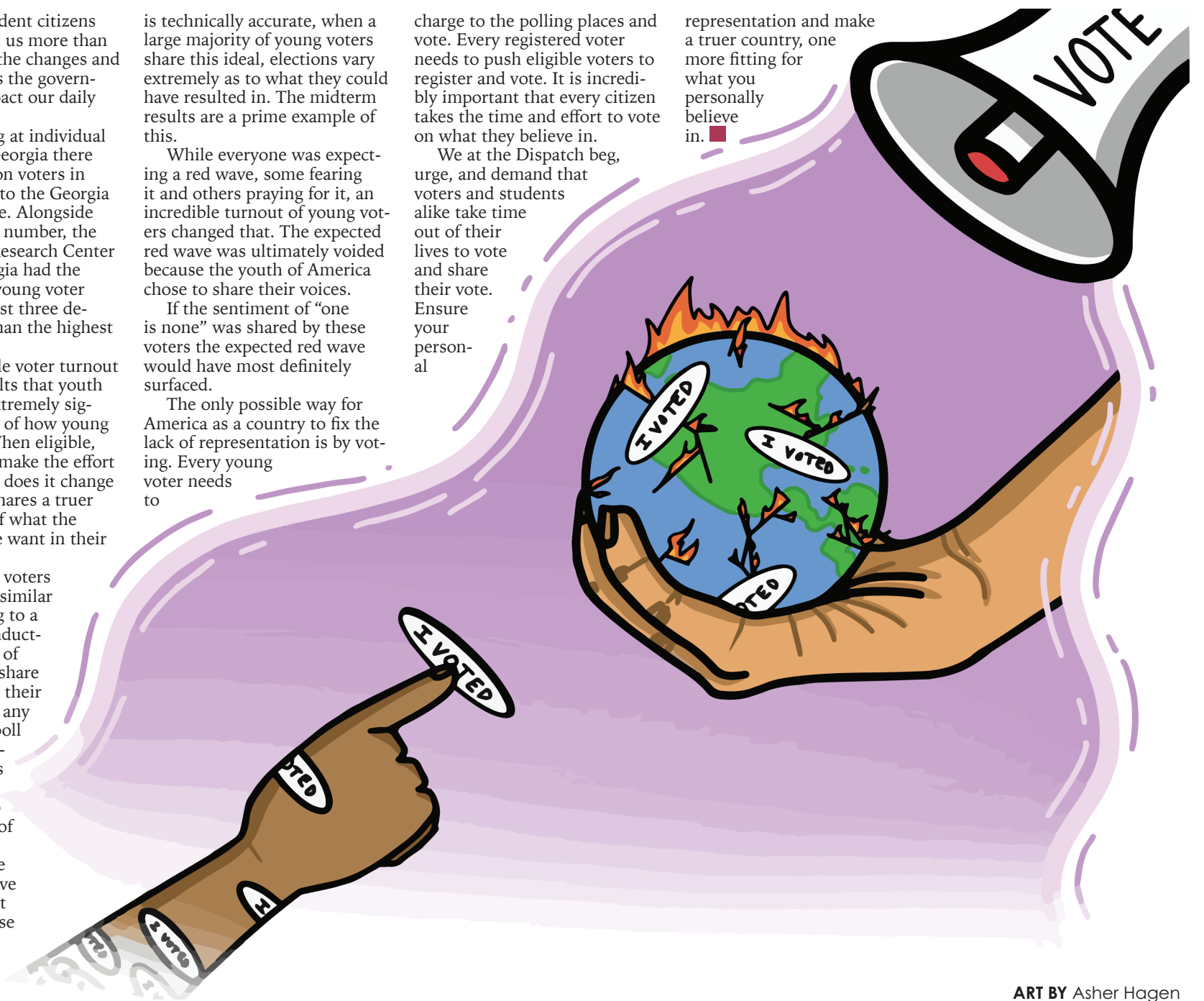
If the sentiment of "one is none" was shared by these voters the expected red wave would have most definitely surfaced.

The only possible way for America as a country to fix the lack of representation is by voting. Every young voter needs to

charge to the polling places and vote. Every registered voter needs to push eligible voters to register and vote. It is incredibly important that every citizen takes the time and effort to vote on what they believe in.

We at the Dispatch beg, urge, and demand that voters and students alike take time out of their lives to vote and share their vote. Ensure your personal

representation and make a truer country, one more fitting for what you personally believe in.



ART BY Asher Hagen

# Freedom of Speech abused & Twitter is a prime abuser



Nathan Pasley  
Dispatch Reporter

Questions? Concerns? Email:  
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There has been a huge spike of hate speech on Twitter since Elon Musk took control on October 28, for \$44 billion.

One of Musk's first actions was to un-ban accounts like Kanye West, who was originally banned for writing antisemitic remarks, and



ART BY Colin Barnes & Nathan Pasley

former president Donald Trump, banned for the January 6 riots at the U.S. Capitol.

Coming into his new position, Musk developed a new system to get a blue verification check mark by paying for Twitter Blue. When an account has a blue check mark it means the person who runs that account is really who they are. Accounts that have this are companies, politicians, and celebrities. Once Twitter Blue was put in place, people began to impersonate companies, politicians, and celebrities leading to chaos until the service was suspended and delayed.

Unbanning accounts is a bad idea because the accounts were banned for a reason and shouldn't be reinstated because it will cause more harm to the Twitter community than good. Before the Twitter Blue service was added, a blue check mark is only given if the account used is authentic, notable, and active with no signs of spam or deception. People will absolutely abuse the service to mess with others.

An example of users abusing the Twitter Blue feature is when someone pretended to be the pharmaceutical giant Eli Lilly & Co. They used the logo, the name of the company, and a verified blue check mark and stated that insulin and other products were free. Eli Lilly contacted Twitter to ban the account that was spreading false information, which took hours. After the incident, Eli Lilly's stock share price fell by 4.37%.

When Elon Musk unbanned users like Jordan Peterson, a host of a right-wing media outlet called the Daily Wire, Andrew Tate a former kick-boxer and entrepreneur, and West, rapper and fashion designer. Musk clearly forgot to take into account that they haven't learned their lesson. When West was unbanned, he immediately posted more antisemitic things and his account



PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY Nick Wood & Dylan Zellner

was banned yet again. He did this just hours after praising Hitler in an Alex Jones interview.

A solution to the Twitter Blue problem is to let people who already have it keep it only if they pay for it. This would work more efficiently instead of letting anyone have a blue check mark and become verified. This way Twitter gets to make money while also keeping companies and people safe from impersonators.

I think Elon should make it harder for permanently banned accounts to become reinstated. I

would implement an option to make the violator write an essay on how they can better exercise their freedom of speech. If they continue to be a problem then they become permanently banned and cannot make new accounts.

Twitter will be heading for a rough patch if they cannot improve their situation. They need to focus more on their active users than banned accounts. Twitter Blue needs to be changed to make sure that it cannot be super accessible so that people can't abuse it.

## EDITORIAL POLICY

- The Dispatch is the official student newspaper of James Bowie High School. 3500 copies are published and distributed for free six times a year, generally once per six weeks for the school's students, staff and community.
- The Dispatch is an open forum for student expression. The Dispatch is not reviewed by school administration prior to distribution, and the advisor will not act as a censor. Content represents the views of the student staff and not school officials.
- The Dispatch works to avoid bias and/or favoritism. We strive to make our coverage and content meaningful, timely, and interesting to our readers. Our articles reflect our genuine objective of reporting news and will be held to a high standard of quality.
- We make every effort to avoid printing libel, obscenities, innuendo and material that threatens to disrupt the learning process or is an invasion of privacy. We avoid electronic manipulation that alters the truth of a photograph without indicating that the photograph is an illustration.
- Staff editorials represent the opinion of the editorial board arrived at by discussion and will not be bylined. Bylined articles are the opinion of the individual writer and do not necessarily reflect the views of The Dispatch staff or administration as a whole.
- The Dispatch welcomes reader input. Please send any letters, articles, comments or corrections to bowie.journalism@gmail.com, call (512) 841-4184, mail them to 4103 W. Slaughter Lane, Austin, TX 78749 or drop them off in room F-214 with advisor Michael Reeves or any editor. Letters must be signed, and emailed letters will require verification before publication. We will not necessarily publish all letters received and reserve the right to edit for length and clarity.

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- NSPA Print Pacemaker, 2021-22
- NSPA Print All-American, 4 Marks of Distinction, 2021-22
- NSPA Online Pacemaker Finalist, 2018-19
- CSPA Hybrid Silver Crown, 3/3 All-Columbian, 2021-22
- SNO Distinguished Website 2022-23
- SIPA Print All-Southern, 2021-22
- SIPA Online All-Southern, 2021-22
- UIL/ILPC Online Gold Star, 2021-22
- UIL/ILPC Print Silver Star, 2021-22
- TAJE Fall Fiesta First Place Best in Show, 2022-23

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# Out with the old and in with the new

Austin's runoff results have finally been announced and this could be the change we need



**Lillian Hoover**  
Commentary Editor

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You have an important choice. Given two people with similar objectives and performance but different backgrounds, you must decide which candidate you want to hire.

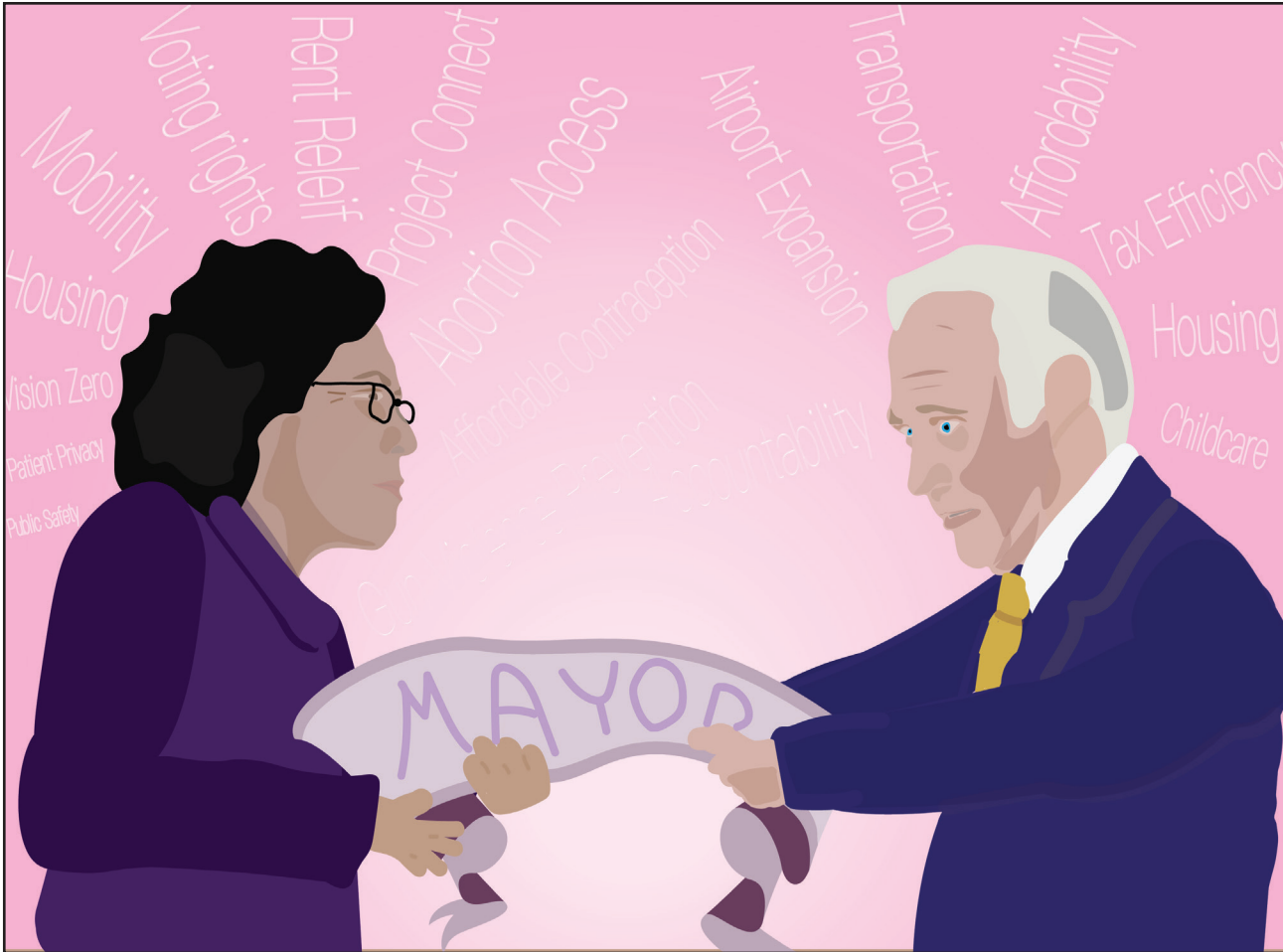
The first candidate actually worked for you several years ago and did a good job, but might not be the right person for the job two decades later. The second candidate doesn't have experience in the exact position you are looking to fill, but has proven to be reliable and could bring new and improved ideas to the table.

So, who do you choose? In this case, the job we are looking to fill is the Mayor of Austin, and their actions will affect all of us in some way. Celia Israel has time and time again show to be fit for a role such as Mayor. Compared to former Austin Mayor, Kirk Watson, Israel will bring so much more to the table.

Both candidates, Watson and Israel have similar focuses of their respective campaigns: housing and affordability in Austin. However, both have strikingly different backgrounds and experience. Watson largely represents the status quo; Israel as an openly gay Latina would bring added diversity to our city council.

Watson has a long history of public service. Watson attended Baylor Law school where he graduated first in his class and was also Editor-in-Chief of the Baylor Law Review. In 1991, Governor Ann Richards appointed Watson to serve as chairman of the Texas Air Control Board. He was also the Mayor of Austin from 1997 to 2001 and later served as a member of the Texas Senate from 2007 to 2020.

However, Israel has also spent many years in politics. She graduated from UT Austin with a degree in Government. After graduation, she served



ART BY Lillian Hoover

in Governor Ann Richards' administration. She was elected in 2014 to represent the 50th district in the Texas House of Representatives and served four terms. While serving in the Texas House, she was a founding member of the Texas House LGBTQ Caucus, and "Freshman of the Year" in her first term.

What have we learned about these candidates during their time in public office?

Watson served as Austin Mayor over 20 years ago, arguably when Austin was a much different city. There are

visible signs in Austin of Watson's tenure during that time. Watson has been credited with the "Smart Growth Initiative" in Austin that advocated for a walk-able, bicycle friendly downtown, with mixed-use development.

He has also been credited with turning downtown Austin into a "24-hour downtown," turning unused warehouses and parking lots into mixed-use housing and retail developments, largely through the use of tax incentives. His popularity at the time is evident in his re-election results, 84% of the vote, the highest ever received by

an Austin candidate for mayor.

During his time in the Texas Senate, Watson advocated for clean energy, higher education, and health care coverage. In 2009, he successfully fought against a budget rider that would have banned stem cell research at Texas universities. In 2013, abortion rights were threatened by SB5, which Wendy Davis famously filibustered. Watson assisted her by moving to overturn a ruling that would have ended Davis' filibuster. It's no surprise that Davis has endorsed Watson's 2022 mayoral run.

Israel has also spent several years in

politics at the Texas House of Representatives. However, her tenure there has received far less coverage than that of Watson's years in politics.

As a Democrat in the House, her party was in the minority. Her own legislative priorities and even committee assignments would have been dictated by the Republican leadership. She did however rise to a leadership position within the Democratic Caucus, serving as Vice Chair of the Texas House Democratic Caucus and led the Steering and Policy Committee.

Israel has been a proponent of voting rights, introducing a bill that would allow for online voter registration with electronic signature. In 2021, she was part of a group of Democrats in the house who decided to break quorum and leave the state in an effort to prevent the passage of a restrictive voting rights law.

On the transportation front, Israel was the author of HB 594 which required the Department of Transportation and Texas Transportation division to develop a discount program for truckers to incentivize their use of SH-130, and avoid the crowded I-35.

What are the candidates' priorities for mayor? Housing is clearly a large part of both candidates' platforms. In addition, both candidates are looking to solve the pressing issues of affordability, as well as transportation in a metropolitan area which has grown by nearly a million people since the year 2000 when Watson was previously in office.

Clearly, both candidates have the experience and will to do the job of Austin mayor well. The main difference between these candidates presents itself through their identities. We have Watson, the status quo, who has already had the job, or Israel, a well-rounded leader who could bring diversity and new ideas to the table. Because of this difference, the best candidate for Austin Mayor is undoubtedly Israel. ■

# The district has lost sight of what is truly important



**Dylan Zellner**  
Commentary Editor

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James Doe marches through the windowless doors leading towards his favorite extracurricular, computer science. He's always dreamed of becoming a computer engineer due to his love of working with his peers to solve any problem they face.

As he walks in he notices something. The classroom is full, but he's alone. While he's taking AP Computer Science A, everyone else is taking Web Design. Alone everyday, Doe gives up on his dream after thinking that his experience is proof that he'll always work in solitude in this career.

While James Doe is fictional, students around campus are being forced to see the lack of support our extracurricular activities have received and the inequality of funding that programs at Bowie are receiving, both from Bowie and Austin Independent School District (AISD).

How can it be possible that our school has a surplus of funding for facilities, yet our curriculum and teachers' salaries are lacking. I find it incredibly confusing and absurd that AISD is consistently asking for billions of dollars for new facilities yet we are seemingly at a loss for what really matters at a school; learning, exploring creativity, and those who support and provide those aspects of school.

Two billion dollars for facilities while programs and classes are being shrunk and destroyed. School funding is being attained for new facilities, sports, and luxuries that have been unknown to Bowie until only four years ago. However, our curriculum and teachers are being grossly neglected to acquire an appearance of high-class, excellence, and an overachieving private/prep school.

This apparent desire for appearance creates a deficit for a high-class, excellent, overachieving level of learning. Schools are made to expand students' minds and encourage them to explore their own interests and strengths, but with an unavailability for students to explore oneself, the

purpose of adolescence, the most important years of their life. Without access for individual exploration students lose the opportunity to find and pursue what they love.

However, what Bowie has done with the current funding to expand student comfort and the facilities needed to teach is amazing. The parking garage, theatre and fine arts area and athletics building instantly showed their value to both students and teachers; helping students access the school safely and with ease as well as providing facilities that create an amazing learning environment.

While the pros of these new facilities are outstanding, do they warrant what feels like a complete abandonment of the most important parts of school? I would say no. It's possible to have both, but teachers and their programs continue to be neglected. Facilities are incredibly important, but school and education is built around the people.

Teachers are continuing to leave due to the lack of support provided to them. They're underpaid and the programs they wrestle into continued existence are underfunded with their value and efforts unrecognized. These programs are put into place for the benefit of the students and their growth.

A specific example of this can be seen in our computer science program, which is provided to students to nurture their abilities in an incredibly fast growing and worthwhile industry. In spite of their importance, computer science classes have been forced to merge with one another, forcing teachers to teach two or more classes in one period. With this increase of stress and work, there also hasn't been any increase or change with pay. This is utterly absurd.

The increase of stress and chaos with this program is a prime example of the lack of support Bowie and AISD have for students' interests and growth as well as teachers' competency, experience, and time.

Part of the underfunding of programs can also be seen with the access to supplies students and teachers are granted to use for students to pursue their passions and educational prowess.



ART BY Colin Barnes

The issue of supplies can easily be seen through the access Bowie's art program receives. When looking directly at art, the supplies given are few; mainly given to students straight from teachers' wallets. In spite of the lack of recognition and lack of pay, teachers are still going out of their way spending their own money to support students.

The way our education system is neglecting the people is painful, but do students even notice how much they're being robbed? The main issues students have are complaints revolving around A/C, heating, and bathrooms. Very few of us focus on the programs being merged or underfunded and what that means for the education and experiences we should be gaining in this cru-

cial time in every young individual's life.

Bowie and AISD need to shift their focus onto what really matters: the students, their ambitions, and the teachers supporting them. AISD should be requesting money for students' interests and supporting teachers to help students expand on them.

The only way to solve these problems is for everyone to focus on what needs to be fixed. Instead of fixating on Bowie's facilities, focus on captivating students to learn more as well as pushing them to learn more about who they want to be and what they want to do.

While improving facilities is important, AISD's fixation on it is harming students and teachers with how they learn and how they teach. ■

INTERVIEWS BY Lillian Hoover

## BULLDAWGS SPEAK OUT!

PHOTOS BY Lillian Hoover

What are you looking forward to during the holidays?



I am ready for school to be over so that I can celebrate Christmas with my family and go on a camping trip.

**Katelyn Cox**  
Freshman



I'm looking forward to getting out of school so I can spend time with my friends and try some crazy drinks.

**Bennett Burke**  
Sophomore



I can't wait to have a long break from school and spend time with my family and friends over the holidays.

**Selena Magallanez**  
Junior



I'm so excited to travel, hang out with my friends and celebrate Christmas with my family and relatives.

**Kyndall Taylor**  
Senior



# Pulling back the curtain on **NEWSIES**



**REACHING FOR THE STARS:** Junior Bella Barkume leads the Starlight Theater Company's rehearsal stretch. The long hours spent nearly everyday performing takes a toll on the body, so staying warmed up and active helps prevent fatigue. "Sometimes we'll be doing scene work in rehearsal, sometimes we'll be choreographing dance numbers, other times we'll be working on vocalization and songs. It's really about whatever the focus is," theater director Matthew Humphrey said. **PHOTO BY** Nicolas Ospina

*A new perspective surrounds Starlight Theatre Company's anticipated production with behind the scenes insight*

Becca Catlow  
Photo Essay Editor

For theater director Matthew Humphrey, *Newsies* has been the conspicuous musical choice since day one.

"One thing that's really great about *Newsies* is that the material is very accessible," Humphrey said. "It's a crowd pleaser, right? It's not some obscure musical that nobody's ever heard of, and I actually think it's one of the stronger shows that we put on. The fact that we have really strong choreographers and dancers and that our students are very talented is a really helpful aspect of doing *Newsies*."

*Newsies*, which is set in 20th-century New York City, is a Disney musical that details the story of Jack Kelly, a homeless newsboy who has to fight back against new restrictions that limit his sales.

"It really works that the play takes place at the turn of the 20th century," Humphrey said. "There's a lot of things we can do costume-wise so it was just kind of conducive to our mix of kids and our mix of technical abilities. It just seemed like a really good fit."

Students have rehearsed almost every day after school since November in preparation for the musical, which will premiere between January 19-22 and 26-29, 2023 at the Bowie Performing Arts Center. One of the actors participating in the musical is junior Will Louis, who is in the *Newsies*

ensemble and has an ensemble character, Bill. Louis walks through the typical rehearsal schedule.

"Rehearsals usually go where we first warm up our voices and then warm up our bodies by stretching," Louis said. "After that, we usually review and practice blocking, or a song that we learned from the last rehearsal. Then we get into something new, like blocking a dance or learning a new song."

Blocking is a term used to describe a director's instructions on how a scene is supposed to look. This includes giving directions on how to say a line or what movements and gestures to make. Blocking is one of the many essential practices when working in ensemble and theater in general.

"Ensemble requires a lot of character analysis on your own instead of the script giving it to you," Louis said. "You kind of come up with a name and a backstory. My backstory as a character would be that my parents are very poor since *Newsies* is set in the 1900s in New York."

Sophomore Milo McKinney is another one of the actors participating in the musical. He plays the supporting role of Davey.

"Working on *Newsies* is really exciting because of how much dance there is and how that ties into the story," McKinney said. "The whole story is about being a team and getting together and that aspect really helps bond the cast together. We're

like a family. Everyone works together, whether you're in the ensemble or in a lead role, every character is important and adds to the story."

Behind the stage, theater technicians have worked tirelessly to create costumes, props, sets, lights, and sound designs. Assistant Light Designer sophomore Jay Denman, is in charge of designing light patterns and works closely with the other tech departments to ensure the colors and designs don't clash.

"I wish more people understood that technicians are actually super important to the show building process," Denman said. "It's often looked over most of the time, but technicians are the reason audiences can hear and see everything. The build crew is how the scenes make any sense, prop and costume crew make the characters and scenes come to life, they make the actors look like their characters."

With so many individual elements, running a musical is a hectic process for the theater department. Still, Humphrey believes that the result is a sweet, satisfying show.

"From the technical aspect to the dancing, singing, and acting, all of these things have to move really, really smoothly to have a good show," Humphrey said. "So it's not that it's difficult, it's just challenging. It's the coordination of all these aspects that takes a lot of communication and dedication." ■



**DISCUSSING IDEAS:** Senior Lucas Wilcox and junior Finn Alexander take note of the other actors' technique. The cast often spends rehearsal time learning signals and when to precisely enter a scene. "I'm excited to do *Newsies*, because it's very well known around the world," junior Will Louis said. "There's real a community in theater and you make a lot of friends, because everyone is kind of combined at this point, it's really fun." **PHOTO BY** Nicolas Ospina



**LEARNING THE LINES:** Senior Jason Forst recites his lines, practicing the emotion and tone of his voice that he believes will best convey the emotion his character feels. Forst has been rehearsing day in and day out to provide the best performance he can during the limited time he has on stage. "I'm super excited about *Newsies* because of the fact that I really liked the music in it," senior Jackson Flemming said. "It's very Broadway and it's just super cool. I also love how it's mostly guys in the Broadway production. So it shows a lot of depth in male voices." **PHOTO BY** Nicolas Ospina



**PRACTICING EMOTION:** Junior Finn Alexander attempts to cultivate an accurate retelling of the script the cast spends tirelessly to memorize, nailing different facial expressions and body movement are essential to enjoyable performance. Alexander practices his behavior alongside his scene partner. "All of the characters in this show are very young and very boyish and they're forced to live a life independent from a very young age," theater president Nadia Petru said. "So, it's really a lot about having a lot of fun, but also having to be ready to work." **PHOTO BY** Nicolas Ospina