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Awards

ACP Photo of the Year - Environmental Portrait - *Honorable mention awarded in October 2022 by Associated Collegiate Press*

TIPA Photojournalist of the Year for two-year colleges- *Awarded in March 2023 by Texas Intercollegiate Press Association*

Skills

Photojournalism, multimedia production, media writing, photography, videography, photo editing, video editing, broadcasting and in-studio production proficiency, camera handling, audio recording, technology management, logo design, visual storytelling, proficiency in Adobe Creative Suite, leadership capability, adaptable creativity and podcasting.

Work Experience

May 2022 - May 2023

Editor-in-Chief for The Collegian - *Media Writing and Production Administration*

- Assign stories to reporters and campus editors, and keep in touch for status updates.
- Edit and prepare submitted stories for print.
- Coordinating with the reporters, design team and advisers to complete the paper.

October 2021 - present

Writer for The Collegian - *Media Writing*

- Multiple articles featured in The Collegian, including breaking news reporting and feature writing

October 2021 - May 2022

Photo Editor for The Collegian - *Photojournalist and Production Administration*

- Issue photography assignments to a team of three people.
- Edit required number of photos weekly in Adobe Lightroom and Photoshop.
- Coordinating with the reporters, design team and management for photo needs.

Education

January 2021 - present

Tarrant County College, Arlington, Texas - *Associate of Applied Science - Radio, Television, Film and Associate of Arts, Associate of Arts - Graduation expected in 2024.*

References available upon request.

EDITORIAL

Is having children these days a smart idea?

For years, traditions have dictated that as we get older, our job is to at some point have children, but is doing so the right decision considering the current state of the world?

Many people these days don't see having children in their personal futures. A major reason can be that the world we are living in is not only not suited for children but is often actively against them.

Being a parent means constantly worrying about the health and safety of a child. How can you guarantee a child's security in a country where elementary schools are used as shooting ranges?

Depending on what state you live in, the prospect of being pregnant can be dangerous in its own right. Assuming you make it through that, the basics of trying to keep a child alive have grown even more complicated due to the rise of gun violence in the U.S..

For those on the fence, the safety reason alone can keep them on the no-go side. But for those who have grown up dreaming of becoming parents, the worries move past physical safety. For Generation Z and millennials, life has not been easy from an economic standpoint. These generations experienced two major recessions, while also dealing with traumas from political events and, of course, COVID-19.

Witnessing major political events can be traumatizing for anyone, but for a young adult, they can have a lasting mental impact.

These issues don't just reflect the present. They represent a picture of the future that prospective parents would throw their kids into.



Tj Favela/The Collegian

Previous generations made a point of sucking all the good from the world and leaving the youngsters with the scraps. So it's not hard to see why young people wouldn't want to put the same pressures on the next generation.

Seeing and living through these issues has meant many people are now "waiting for the right time" —

the right time being when inflation isn't making basic grocery shopping a game of "What do I need more?" Or when the stress of paying back hundreds of thousands in student loan debt isn't creeping up every waking moment.

Even veteran parents want to lock their kids in a box for fear of what lies ahead.

Unfortunately, that's not an option. Parents have to choose between scarring their kids for life by telling them the true reality of the world or risking the dangers if they continue to live in ignorance.

For previous generations, hiding the world's wicked ways was a lot simpler, mostly because the issues at hand didn't literally exist in

their hands.

Technology may be a necessity but it can also be dangerous if not handled properly. Most adults grew up with either none or very minimal amounts of technology and social media use. However, for younger generations, social media is something that many have before they can even read. It is so common to see children with their own phones, but how does free reign access to the internet and other people's opinions really affect them?

While knowing how to navigate technology is an important skill to have, it comes with the risks of cyberbullying, access to inappropriate websites and online predators.

Given the facts, it's not unreasonable to see why so many people are not having children of their own. Some people have found comfort in the idea of adoption, but with as many problems that people face perhaps, some of the worst can be found in the foster care or adoption system.

Seeing an overgrown and underfunded system such as foster care or adoption seems to be the one beacon of light for those who still want a family. The kids in the system are not only more susceptible to world issues due to their unstable environment, but many are navigating these issues completely alone.

The truth is, "traditional family values" are changing. The next generation of parents is more concerned about their circumstances and ethically raising children than they are about just continuing the family name.

VIEWPOINTS

COVID time warp taken major toll on my mental well-being



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Any concept of time for me has fled in the aftermath of the COVID lockdown and my entrance into the real adult world.

I keep almost being late to class. Now for most, this isn't an important issue because "almost" is in there, but I hate it. I've always prided myself to always be there when I'm needed, be it events or just randomly meeting people. But lately, it hasn't felt like that. It now feels like I'm constantly playing catch-up just to meet the present.

The era of lockdown took something from all of us. For me, it was my ability to perceive time. Now, I'm not talking about knowing the day on an analytical level, even though during the worst of the pandemic it felt like that. Instead sometimes it feels like I can't accurately keep track of what happens in a day when there's just so much both personally and on the news.

I lost the years when I was supposed to be starting to make it as an adult, and I'm sure this new inability to track time correctly is my brain trying to make up for those lost opportunities. When someone asks me how old I am, I have to hesitate now because I'll want to say what my age was during the pandemic.

When I look at a calendar, it's like it doesn't fully settle that we are in the latter half of 2022. It feels like just yesterday, it

was 2019 and I was hearing the echoes of a virus without truly comprehending what it meant. But it's not 2019. It's three years later.

For a full year, I was shut inside and had pretty much nothing to help me keep track of the days and months that had passed me by because I was too afraid to go out and risk infection.

So much happened in that COVID year with no way to connect it with the time that passed. It was like swimming in an ocean looking for any life raft or buoy to hang onto, but instead you get another wave that pulls you under.

When we were allowed to come out and start experiencing the world again, I was still counting the COVID cases on my phone rather than the hours I was spending in classes or at my new job. I measured the day by the graph provided by The New York Times each morning and didn't bother looking at the date.

Somehow, even though I work in a job I love, meet new people and have fun every day, I still can't quite keep track of how much has happened in such a short amount of time. I will discuss something that supposedly happened a year ago, then realize it was actually just the month before.

It feels like there's a world changing event every week, yet I still have to remember what someone said to me 10 minutes ago? It's impossible. My brain is overloaded every day, even after a year of being out and about.

What worries me is how I don't know if this will ever change. It's been a year, but I'm still almost late, and I keep feeling like every day is longer than it actually is. Will I constantly be checking my charts, clocks and calendars instead of living in the moment? Will I ever be able to see time not as an ever-present force but an opportunity?

Rise of "clean girl" aesthetic reveals hypocrisy within media



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Slicked-back hair, minimal makeup and dainty gold jewelry are the trademark of a 21st-century "it girl", at least they are now.

For years, women of color have faced public persecution for the fashion and beauty trends that have now entered mass media. But why is it that when Black girls wear big hoops and clear lip gloss it's seen as ghetto but when white models or influencers do the same it's chic?

The same can be said for South Asian beauty standards. For many Desi girls, the ritual of wearing gold jewelry and getting their hair oiled has been passed down for generations. But many have given up their traditions after being scarred by the ridicule they faced because they did not fitting the quintessential American beauty standards, and the ridicule they faced because of it.

These days, it's impossible to open your Instagram feed as a person of color without seeing some form of your culture being taken over and watered down with no credit to be given. And unfortunately, beauty standards and trends are only the beginning.

Many Hispanic people were outraged when TikTok trends emerged of people making "spa water" or "corn on a stick." News flash, agua frescas and elote have been around forever and they don't need to be redone.

The issue here is not with people wanting to partake in food or beauty standards from other cultures. It should be noted, that there is a difference between appreciating a part of someone's culture and appropriating it. Completely changing the name for something and passing it off as a new idea is not cultural appreciation.

What makes it worse is when a person of the ethnic people group whose traditions are being gentrified tries to point out their displeasure and is immediately met with a medley of "it's not a big deal, just get over it."

If it truly wasn't a big deal then the act wouldn't have been done in the first place. America is known as a melting pot for a reason, there are hundreds of different cultures and traditions practiced within the country., and n No one has said that learning or experiencing them is a bad thing.

For people of color, traditions such as the way they dress and the food they make represent more than just beauty and sustenance. They represent ancestral pain and tradition that generations of people have fought tooth and nail to keep protected in a foreign land.

We live in a world where the knowledge of anything and everything can be attained with just a few clicks. Cultural sensitivity and awareness should not be this much of an issue in the 21st century. As a society, it is our job to not only be well informed before blasting something on the internet, but also be willing to sit with the discomfort of making a mistake and rectifying it.

Beauty and food are two of the best ways to bring people together, especially on the internet. We just need to remain mindful about where our ideas are coming from and who should be receiving the credit for them.

Letter Policy



The Collegian is a weekly student publication serving the Tarrant County College District. Editorial statements and advertisements do not necessarily reflect the opinion of the TCC administration.

Letters to the paper should be 150 words or less, free from libel and poor taste and include the writer's Colleague ID or telephone number (the numbers will not be published). Letters may be brought to The Collegian of-

fice (NCAB 1124A, NE Campus), or mailed to:

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DISTRICT

Sole finalist for TCC's chancellor chosen

Elva LeBlanc confirmed by board during special meeting Saturday

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Elva LeBlanc was named the sole finalist for chancellor of TCC in a vote by the board of trustees on Nov. 5 with two board members dissenting.

In a special board meeting held on Saturday, the TCC board of trustees met for the finalization of the choice for the future chancellor, as well as an assessment of both the board and the chancellor. LeBlanc has been acting on an interim basis after being elected as acting chancellor in February of this year.

Board president Teresa Ayala said the board believes LeBlanc is the "right candidate for where we are." She said that LeBlanc is a prime example of education to occupation in the TCC community.

"She has what you call a cultural proficiency," Ayala said. "She's been there as a student, she's been there as faculty, she's been there in a leadership role. So who better to know what our students are feeling and what they're experiencing because she went through all of this, so we're fortunate."

During the ruling two board members, assistant secretary Leonard Hornsby and board member Shannon Wood, opposed the motion to make LeBlanc the sole fi-

nalist for the chancellor position. They declined to comment after the meeting.

General counsel Carol Bracken explained the next steps that will be taken now that LeBlanc was chosen.

"At this point, we will need to prepare a contract for her," Bracken said. "It will have to be negotiated first of all by the board internally to know the terms and conditions they want to offer and then after that, we'll have to have a conversation with Dr. LeBlanc. Standard contract negotiation. If that happens, then at some point in the future she will be named our chancellor."

Also during the special meeting was an internal assessment of the board's performance organized by a representative of the Association of Community College Trustees Mary Spilde. It included a packet of synthesized data of responses from the individual board members as well as a presentation to clarify the priorities of the board as a whole.

"That is exactly the role of the board," Spilde said. "To focus on the outcomes that you're looking for and then work with the chancellor on how are we going to know? What measurements are we going to use to know that we were successful in reaching a goal?"

Vice president of the board Kenneth Barr said he thought the



Ariel Desantiago/The Collegian

Elva LeBlanc listens during the special board meeting held on Nov. 5 at TR Campus. She was voted as the sole finalist by the board of trustees with two members dissenting.

assessment was an overall positive one.

"It appears to me that the majority of the board is pretty much

in the same place but we've got a couple of board members who have got a slightly different orientation," Barr said. "But all in all it

strikes me that this is a pretty positive report."

Barr said he was pleased with
See Chancellor, page 2

SOUTHEAST



Joel Solis/The Collegian

SE students Lily Clouse and DaShaun Ellis practice for the SE play "Que Sera, Giant Monster," opening on Nov. 16 at 7:30 p.m.

Exes and Monsters take the stage at SE

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Convenient is it that two exes ends up in the same craft brewery, even more so is the large monster terrorizing a city just outside of it.

For SE Campus' "Que Sera, Giant Monster" drama production, written and directed by Brad McEntire, that is exactly what happens to the main characters Katherine and Charles. Set to debut Nov. 16-18 at 7:30 p.m., the production is described as both serious and humorous, SE student and actor Lily Clouse said.

SE student DaShaun Ellis, who plays Charles, said the shows' mood is calm, apart from one exception.

"Most of the time it's a pretty chill type of vibe around it outside of like one character being frantic because of the giant monster," he said.

McEntire, an adjunct in the SE drama department teaching mainly cinema and theater classes, wanted the play to reflect certain theatrical aspects into his production.

"It's a little bit autobiographical in some places, and it's a little bit of things I like to see on stage," he said. "I like to see bro-

ken people try to figure stuff out, I like misunderstandings, I like people giving other people hard times, so that kind of stuff that I like to see in plays is what I try to put into this play."

The characters were people trying to get by, as McEntire says, figure out and navigate their lives trying to understand themselves and the people around them.

"A lot of trouble that we get into in life is we don't understand what we're trying to do and we don't understand what the people around us are trying to get from us and what they want as well," he said.

Because of that, the charac-

ters felt relatable to the cast, like Clouse, who acknowledged Katherine's character.

"At the start of the show, she had just worked a double," Clouse said. "She's tired, she's fed up, she doesn't have time for anybody's crap, and you know what? I feel that."

Stage manager and SE student Marc Aldridge noted the character's ability to be read in various ways, explaining they were structured but still interpretable. Assistant manager and SE student Mikayla Everheart had also attributed a relatability with Charles' character.

See Theater, page 2

DISTRICT

Affirmative action called into question

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Following the discussions of the affirmative action programs on Oct. 31, the Supreme Court seems to be in favor of overruling affirmative action clauses in school admissions.

Affirmative action considers several factors – most notably race – in regards to admissions or hiring and is used to diversify predominantly white spaces. According to the U.S. Department of Labor, "must be taken by covered employers to recruit and advance qualified minorities, women, persons with disabilities, and covered veterans."

If the Supreme Court overrules affirmative action, this means universities can no longer take race into account when deciding who to admit. SE Campus government professor Hamed Madani saw the end of affirmative action as a lack of diversity in the classroom.

"Without affirmative action, a typical law class will consist of predominantly white students," Madani said.

"It is due to affirmative action programs that we have more Black and female judges along with white judges who resolve disputes before their courts of law."

The concept of affirmative action has been controversial. The debate of whether it is discriminatory or overlooks qualifications to diversify spaces is constantly being questioned. TR student Mason Arredondo said that affirmative action may not always be effective.

"I can see [affirmative action] as a good and a bad thing because say policing – if you are trying to use affirmative action in that – who knows what can happen in that?" Arredondo said. "You can get bad apples, good apples, you don't know."
See Diversity, page 2

Arlington Library restrictions
LGBTQ book displays get restricted to certain sections
Page 2

Zombiefest
NE Campus holds Halloween event
Page 3

"Midnights" by Taylor Swift
Swift's new album delves deep into introspection
Page 4

Affirmative action
Supreme Court to make decision on diversity
Page 5

DISTRICT

Arlington library guidelines restrict representation

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Arlington public libraries will display LGBTQ+ pride month materials in the teen and adult sections, but not in the children's section.

On Oct. 28, Arlington's library advisory board discussed and held public debate about LGBTQ displays in teen and children sections.

Before the board discussed guidelines, Arlington Public library launched a survey asking the public to provide input on the proposed accommodations.

According to KERA, the weeklong survey resulted in more than 1,800 responses. 1,062 didn't support the restrictions on LGBTQ displays, 686 supported the proposal for displays to be kept to the adult section, 51 didn't want displays anywhere and 17 was opposed to displays that are "controversial, political, sexual or offensive."

With the new guidelines in place, SE library staff expressed concern for the fact that it was even up for debate.

"My opinion as a professional librarian, as a mother and as someone who works on the library board for my city, is that it's not the kind of decision that should be a vote," SE public services librarian Anna Hithersay said.

Similarly, SE library specialist Madison White doesn't think LGBTQ guidelines in libraries are necessary.

"I don't think there really should be guidelines," White said. "I think it should be like any other book – freely shown and displayed."

Due to the advisory board's compromise that LGBTQ displays will be permitted in teen and adult sections, some feel this was the right decision.



Joel Solis/The Collegian

TR library showcases a variety of books for TCC community to enjoy.

"I believe the guidelines make sense because it still gives the LGBTQ community the opportunity to feel included," SE student Eleanny Garcia said.

Though the displays will be in teen and adult sections, students and staff shared the ways in which this may be a disservice to children.

"I think the guidelines that the Arlington advisory board decided to make for the LGBTQ+ displays in the children section are disappointing," SE student Alexis Santibanez said.

"Children should be given the opportunity to find books in which they connect with and see themselves in."

Hithersay discussed the importance of representation for children.

"It's concerning to me that we take away

people's access when we unilaterally remove books like that from a children's area," Hithersay said. "What about the children who live with an LGBTQ family?" When they don't get representation in their library it really affects them."

She also expressed the way that representation has an impact on those in need of it.

"We know representation matters," Hithersay said. "We know representation doesn't mean you have to change your beliefs, but we know it really matters to the people it matters to."

Santibanez expressed that representation allows for children who don't personally resonate to potentially develop a more compassionate viewpoint for people who do exist within the LGBTQ+ community.

"It's important for children who aren't in

the LGBTQ+ community to be able to gain knowledge, and an understanding that in life there are people with different values and lifestyles," he said. "This can help them comprehend that 'different' isn't bad."

White considers that while regular library visitors may be impacted, there also may be a change in regards to funders.

"I think that the public libraries that are changing the way they display books they consider controversial is really going to affect the people that show up, but also their donors," she said.

"I mean every public library is funded by donor money on top of tax dollars, and so I think we are going to start seeing a shift there with what we have available to us."

Despite some of the disappointment from students and staff, the acknowledgement that parents should have the ultimate say in what their kids read was still present when discussing the new guidelines.

"I believe in every household there are different sets of beliefs and that is acceptable," Santibanez said. "I believe the limit to what a child should be able to read is up to their parents."

Staff expressed that regardless it shouldn't be a decision for the public to make.

"The foundational goal of libraries is to provide resources to everybody," Hithersay said.

"It doesn't matter who they are or why they're there, they deserve access to resources that they need."

Hithersay shared that children deserve access.

"I think if a child lives in a situation, they should have access to books and resources that talk about the situation they live in," Hithersay said. "It's not a judgment. It's simply that they deserve access."

Theater *(continued from page 1)*

"I feel that Charles' character is very relatable in the wanting to be very 'Stay in your comfort zone!,' 'Don't change anything!' 'Everything must stay the same!' Because I am an older sister, everything must be controlled," she said.

SE student Toni Colbert, acting as the Uber driver in a Toyota Corolla, had hinted at her character's involvement.

"My character, she's very interesting. She's very dedicated to her job," said Colbert, refusing to give away too much of the plot.

The process had the cast focused on learning, especially new skills. Clouse was given the task of learning guitar for Katherine's role, something she noted as a challenge.

"I wasn't surprised, but I did not know how quickly time would fly and how difficult

guitar is," she said.

Isara Al-Hilo, a SE student who acts as Beth, also included her newly founded skill.

"I learned how to box, like boxing techniques," she said. "Put me in a ring, I'll be fine."

The characters will change progressively through the show, and an ironic twist will cause the characters to change in certain ways, Clouse explains.

"Katherine starts out a certain way, ends up the complete opposite. Charles ends up a certain way, turns into the complete opposite," she said. "That's kind of one of the most interesting things about watching the show, Charles and Katherine are like polar opposites the entire time, but they kind of switch."



Joel Solis/The Collegian

DaShaun Ellis and Lily Clouse practice their lines for the upcoming play "Que Sera, Giant Monster" at SE Campus in the Roberson Theater in ESEC.

Chancellor *(continued from page 1)*

the board voting to designate LeBlanc as the new chancellor. According to him, she has done a very good job as acting and then interim chancellor in what he described as a "rather difficult year."

"The tenor and tone of the whole organization has changed and seems to have improved in my opinion, so I think we're moving in the right direction," Barr said.

LeBlanc said she is excited about the position and that she is delighted to be a part of the work changing people's lives for the better. She said she is focused on

the strategic plan in place regarding the construction of NW and SE Campus, technology across the district and the retention of students.

"I think the future is pretty awesome, these are exciting times," LeBlanc said. "The pandemic created a lot of disruption, from that a lot of good things evolved and we're going to focus on students, focus on the things that we know work well and the strengths of our talent. And I think we have a tremendous future."

Diversity *(continued from page 1)*

I think in policing— it's best to hire on merit and moral – despite affirmative action."

Madani acknowledged the impact affirmative action has had on his family.

"Today, my daughter is a physician assistant because of affirmative action," Madani said. "The fact that she is a minority and fluent in Spanish helped her to qualify as an applicant for admission to UT Health Science Center."

For some, affirmative action is well intentioned but not adequate to completely address the issue of the lack of representation within universities.

"I don't know if they should get rid of it," Arredondo said. "I think it should be revised, maybe they can add an economic level into there."

Adequate representation in predominantly white spaces has been a more prevalent issue in recent years. For instance, Hollywood has attempted to alleviate these issues through recasting roles originally played by white actors to people of color.

TR student Samantha Coronado said the importance of affirmative action was to understand one another.

"With affirmative action, I think it can help many people to make those differences and changes," Coronado said. "I feel like we need more diversity because you don't really know what people go through unless you're a regular Joe."

Coronado saw affirmative action as a solution to the lack of diversity and opportunities afforded to her.

"I never really had opportunities until I started applying myself to those resources and then I was like, 'Hey you know what this is my calling,' and started realizing there is more need for me in communities," Coronado said.

Though the decision is not set, Madani fears what precedents will be set through the overturning of affirmative action.

"I am afraid it means increased discrimination both on race and gender in education and employment sectors," Madani said.

SOUTHEAST

'You Belong Here,' a nice sentiment or a mocking declaration?

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TCC's slogan may be "You belong here," but some students can't help but feel the stigma of attending community college.

While some students said that TCC allows for them to grow at their own pace, this slogan, which is boasted on pretty much every poster across the district, has left some feeling like it may encourage the existing stigma.

"As someone who came from very little, this can be encouraging, as it helps boost the idea that you belong in a learning, advancing environment," SE student Alice Compean said. "However, for anyone who holds any stigma or shame in their heads or hearts, the slogan can come across as a jeer, mocking them for

taking this step."

For many, TCC can act as a stepping stone for those who are interested in furthering their education. However, connecting with those who immediately attended four year universities after high school can be difficult.

"When speaking to someone who attends or attended university, there can be a barrier," Compean said. "If either party has little to no knowledge on the other's school life, it can be an awkward interaction. Especially with established prejudices regarding who frequently attends community college."

While the idea of going straight into a university may sound alluring, the cost of community college can be a major incentive.

"I think anyone who wants to pursue higher education does, at one point or another, think about going to a four year university – live that 'college experience,'" Compean said.

"Unfortunately, for people like the ones from my neighborhood, that isn't exactly an attainable goal."

SE student Eder Rodriguez shared that TCC's low cost and flexibility is an incentive for him as well.

"What brings me to TCC is the low cost of classes and my undecided major," Rodriguez said.

Although the university experience may sound enjoyable to some, students expressed being happy that they don't have to deal with some of the possible stressors at four year schools.

"It isn't just parties and having a good time," Rodriguez said. "It's stressful. Especially when they have doubts about their majors."

SE student Mathew Jewell also expressed going to a university being a major decision. "So many students struggle with going

to four year universities, and don't understand that there is a major stepping stone from high school to university," Jewell said.

Community college may act as a way to bridge the gap for those who feel they aren't ready for a university.

"There is a sense of comfortability for students that are scared for the next step in their educational journey," he said.

Rodriguez said that community college makes him feel like he has more wiggle room for mistakes.

"TCC makes it feel as if, even if you mess up, it wouldn't affect you so much," he said.

Compean said what they would say to a student feeling ashamed about attending community college.

"Just because this is where we start doesn't make us any less. Run your race in your own time," she said.

THE COLLEGIAN

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DISTRICT

TCC board approves tax rate after hearing

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A tax rate increase was approved by the TCC board of trustees despite calls against it from concerned Tarrant County residents.

Before the Sept. 15 board meeting, a public hearing was held regarding the rate that was approved during the Aug. 18 meeting for a final vote. This vote was held after the hearing closed and was passed unanimously among the trustees in attendance. Trustee Shannon Wood was absent from the meeting, but she opposed the rate during the previous meeting.

Eighteen people, including Colleyville councilman George Dodson and previous councilwoman Tammy Nakamura, spoke during the hearing all against the approval of the tax rate. Denise Linn, a Tarrant County resident, spoke to the board regarding the rate.

"Personally I'm offended that you would even consider raising taxes right now," she said. "I feel like this is another example of government totally losing touch with the constituents. I'm a constituent and I'm here to say now is not a time for tax increases and I don't care what kind of building or planning you have in place, you're making a very, very bad decision."

The property tax rate approved is the same as last year's rate at \$0.13017 per \$100 of assessed property value. However, due to Tarrant County property values going up, property tax bills have increased.

Trustee Kenneth Barr also spoke about the tax rate and what he believes it will mean for the fu-



Alex Hoben/The Collegian

Trustee Kenneth Barr makes comments about the tax rate at the board meeting on Thursday Sept. 15, 2022.

ture of the TCC community.

"We've heard a lot of people expressing concern tonight and I think the board has listened and the board hears what's being said," Barr said. "But I also just ran some numbers sitting here. The no-new-revenue [figure] that we are proposing, keeping the tax rate at the same level, does result in more revenue on a piece of residential prop-

erty, worth \$200,000. It's \$18.98 a year. That's 5.2 pennies a day. On a \$250,000 house is \$23.72 a year, or six and a half cents a day. A million-dollar house, it's less than \$95 a year or about a quarter, \$.25 a day. Given the stories we've heard here tonight, about how lives are being impacted by what we're doing at TCC, I think that's a pretty good buy."

He said how he joined the board on behalf of the employment in the community, and TCC has done much to help in the building of a skilled workforce in Tarrant County. He also said how the language that the Texas Legislature has adopted to describe tax rates is unfortunate because it says that the tax rate is being increased when it isn't.

Barr went on to say how they

are trying to pull in more young people into enrollment so they can get a better education and build a successful future for themselves and their families for years to come.

"We're making careers for people," Barr said. "And the thought that a nickel or a dime a day is more important, that cutting the tax rate is more important, than educating See Meeting, page 2

NORTHEAST

20 years of counseling TCC

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Decades after most retire, NE counselor Wilton "Bill" Fowler gets up, puts his work clothes on and drives into TCC every morning because of how dedicated he is to the students.

Born in Nacogdoches, TX in 1927, Fowler has lived in the state for his whole life and has worked in education for most of it. Starting as a high school English teacher at Big Sandy high school in 1949, he has spent the past seven decades teaching and working with students across the state. Finally ending up at TCC for the past 20 years in the advising and counseling center talking with students.

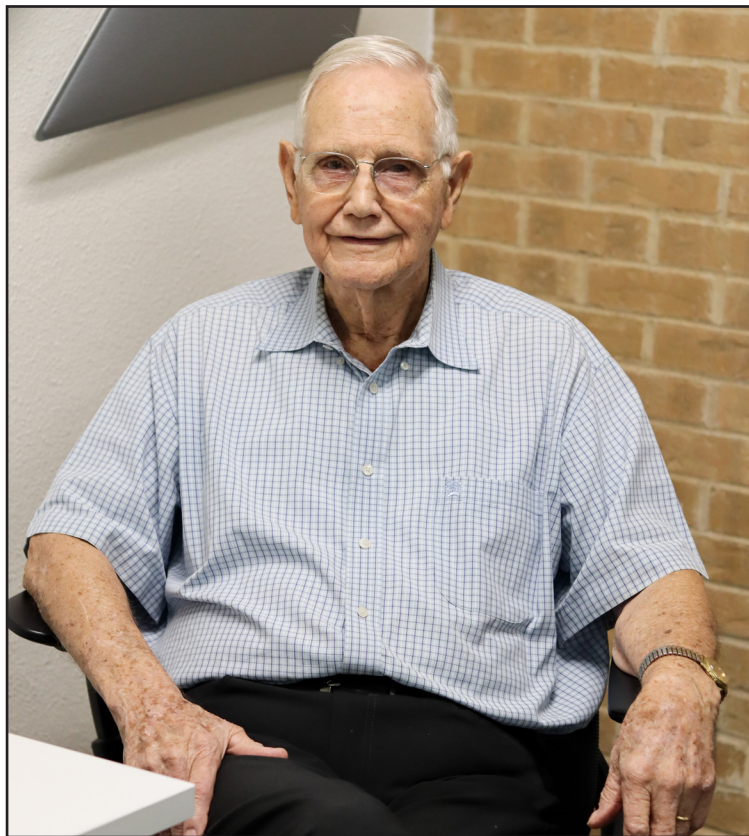
Despite being a decade into his retirement, when the job was mentioned to him Fowler, then 75, jumped at the opportunity to be working again.

"Well I was retired for 10 years - I got about all that I wanted," he said. "I had not thought about it while I was retired, going back to work, until they contacted me."

Fowler says the main motivation for his job is the students and he hopes that the work he does through his meetings helps them and their success at the schools.

"The students are the joy of my life," Fowler said. "I enjoy being with them and helping them, doing what I can to assist them, whatever their needs are. They're fine young people, and to think that I've had the opportunity to be with them and, see them and enjoy the conversations that we've had and all this it helps me probably more than it does them."

Fowler is known by some of his fellow staff members as a kind and understanding man, with an unwavering dedication to not only his job but also the students he works with.



Alex Hoben/The Collegian

Having served at TCC for 20 years, Wilton Fowler enjoys coming in to work each day to give his all.

NE director of counseling Condoa Parrent, Fowler's supervisor, has worked with him for close to 12 years and describes Fowler as a man of honor committed to his word.

"I have never met anyone who is more committed and dedicated to his position," Parrent says. "He never misses work and even comes in for any staff meetings or training that is scheduled on his days off - his work ethic is comparable to none."

NE assistant director of counseling and advising Ronda Isaacs says an important aspect of Fowler is his care to those around him.

"He is so kind and understanding. I hear him as he is talking with students and love how he encourages students," Isaacs said. "His kind-

ness and knowledge affect change in those he talks with - think of the Ripple Effect of how his words help and change this life, who goes on to help and change the life of another, who helps another etc. I would guess there is no way to adequately measure how Dr. Fowler has helped the community."

Fowler celebrated his 95th birthday on Sept. 18 and says he will continue to work with TCC as long as he's able to and will continue to serve students and the community.

"I just enjoy being with the students," he said. "If I can help them, it's a joy to me and hopefully it's something for them as well. So it is good to be able to know that you're helping somebody."

SOUTHEAST

Wonder Woman's suffrage film on display

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TCC students and staff gathered to watch Wonder Woman unfold under layers of women's suffrage through the years in the documentary "Wonder Woman! The Untold Story of American Superheroes".

As one of 25 libraries to receive the Women's Suffrage Grant from the American Library Association and the National Endowment for the Humanities, SE Campus assistant director of library services Tracy Robinson and public services librarian Anna Hithersay showcased "Wonder Woman! The Untold Story of American Superheroes" on Sept. 14.

"We put this program together to get a little bit of a broader picture of empowerment, so not just focusing on politics but also focusing how women are portrayed in media as well," Robinson said.

Both women who organized the event placed a special emphasis on students learning and thinking about consequences of media

depicting women in certain lights.

Wonder Woman's face was the documentary's main focus. An ode towards her legacy, it centered on how years of women's suffrage circled around the heroine and how her character changed throughout history in accordance to how the media wanted her to be depicted.

"As soon as I saw the topic I said 'well, we have to come,'" SE Spanish teacher Oksana Menirovski said. "Well I'm very excited, and I was always interested in how our role as women has changed, what we are now and how it used to be, what we should do, actually, to move ahead as well, because we still have lots to do."

Hithersay wanted the attendees to really connect with what's being portrayed in the documentary, then to have a comprehensive discussion about what they saw and what their experiences have been with empowerment and the portrayal of women in the media. She highlighted this when she introduced the documentary.

To get the audience thinking, Robinson asked the audience questions about how the media views female politicians, how women are See Wonder Woman, page 2



Joel Solis/The Collegian

SE students Sydney Shelley and Michael Castillo watch the Wonder Woman suffrage documentary in the ESED building.

MUSIC REVIEW

Yungblud's new album strikes emotional chord

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Yungblud's new album is a heart-wrenching, moving and all-around emotional roller-coaster that somehow has some of the most upbeat melodies that I've heard.

YUNGBLUD was released on Sept. 2 and is a great musical experience the whole way through. The variety that he provided with these tracks while still being able to tie them together through his voice shows he's willing to experiment while keeping consistency.

As the naming convention suggests, this album is a deep dive into Yungblud's life and internal struggles. It feels like this is him trying to show the scars that he's earned with the beautiful decoration of the songs to try and make up for the trauma that lingers from these experiences.

He has a particular singing style that, while it does edge into the typical 'indie-trilling' now and again, is raw and makes it seem like you're listening in to a live session. It's mainly in the rasp of his vocals in melody changes and the moments where he is able to scream melodically.

This rougher way of singing was perfect for this album considering the incredibly depressing and emotional messages behind each song. This album tries to explain the slippery slope that comes with growing up and figuring out your identity and how easy it is to slip and find yourself in a pit of self-pity and rage.

He talks about his sexuality, masculinity, gender identity and even suicide in this album. This is obviously a way to show his true self

through his craft and the quality of the music provided will pull you in, especially if you enjoy alternative pop punk-type beats.

Despite the dark themes covered, some of the songs actually have an upbeat tempo and harmonies that help the harsh messages go down easier. "The Funeral" and "Tissues" are the best examples of this and start the album off strong.

"Memories" is probably the best song on this album. It features Willow Smith and this is a collaboration that was a match made in heaven. The way Yungblud's voice mixed with Willow's in both melodies and tone was amazing.

Where Yungblud is emotional and melodic, Willow is powerful and angry and it makes you want to listen to it over and over to hear the change. Also, the grungy filters that were put onto the vocals of this song made a great contrast to the heavy acoustic guitars in the forefront of the chorus.

The way the songs flow from one to the next is interesting because it starts strong and hard-hitting in terms of tempos and intensity with "The Funeral", singing about dancing at your own funeral. But then it feels like with every song that passes there's more emphasis being put on his voice and its importance to the songs.

Ending with "Die For A Night" and "The Boy In The Black Dress" which are mixed so the lyrics and their message are the most important thing in the songs.

"Die For A Night" has barely any instrumentals and instead is an up close and personal look into his experience with suicidal thoughts. He uses mainly acoustics and guitars as well as background noise to pull you in and try to understand the haze that his mind fights with



Photo courtesy of Interscope Records

YUNGBLUD is Yungblud's latest album diving into his identity and conflicts. The album released Sept. 2 and includes 12 songs.

when having these terrible thoughts.

"The Boy In The Black Dress" deals with his own identity issues and how much he struggled internally to understand himself and the world around him. The lyrics describe snippets from a young boy's life where his views on the world are challenged and how it weighed on him. Listening to it, it's easy to remember just how poisonous masculinity can be.

This album shows you the deepest part of

Yungblud's struggles with himself. The way these songs are able to not only paint pictures of the pain he's gone through but in a way that you can still sing along while driving is pretty great. If you have some pain you want to get out of, I highly recommend putting this on, there's something for everyone to relate to.



Wonder Woman (continued from page 1)

viewed in their passions and how strong women depicted in media are almost never alone themselves with strength, sometimes put in a sexual light, which is something she encouraged the audience to be thinking about as the documentary played.

The documentary included both modern-day and historical figures who were women.

"I saw a lot of young generation in the movie," enrollment associate Vivian Lu said.

"Which gives us a little hope, because you know, young people always represent the future. And I realize the young generation can carry this on, continue this thing that women should be a part of it."

SE student LaYana Maxie-Funck said "It gave a thorough point of view of the women's suffrage, from the point of view of back in the day up until the time frame—so to speak—hopefully there's a part two, since it only went to a certain era."

Maxie-Funck also added that she wished there were other women who she thought should have been added. She named Maya Angela, Aretha Franklin and Barbra Jordan, as well as other women of ethnic and cultural groups.

"Nobody ever sees what a woman actually does until you take her out of the home." She also added thoughtfully.

"I think that the characters that we get out of books can be more well rounded and

indicative of complex femininity and not just the male gaze," Hithersay said, and added that she thought it would be interesting to have a similar film that looked more into the topic.

"I'm hoping the students learn more about how women are portrayed in media, and kind of learn how to decipher some of those images and I hope find heroes of their own in women who inspire them." Robinson said.

Meeting (continued from page 1)

these people I find very offensive. I think we're doing the right thing."

After the approval, Linn expressed her frustration with the board, specifically with Barr's final comments.

"I'm just really disgusted with the way this all went down," she said. "And the last board member who was speaking about, saying that there was no tax increase when it appears to me that that's exactly what happened."

She said how she was offended by the principal and believes that the board should be spending more carefully.

"I don't care if it's a nickel a day. It's not his nickel," Linn said.

Leota Ritchie, a landowner in Tarrant County, said because she's never raised the rent of her tenant of 19 years, she and her husband have had to cut into their own retirement savings to pay for rising taxes.

"Usually \$2,000-2,500 every year to pay taxes and that affects our future," Ritchie said.

Burleson resident Al Ebert said he has had to delay his retirement because of the current economy and hopes that Texas will one day adopt a consumption tax.

"We end up paying rent to taxing authorities for a property that we own," Ebert said.

During the meeting, board president Teresa Ayala shared a few comments before the vote was held.

"We are being fiscally prudent to ensure

that we are balancing our ability to take care of our built environment, and to attract and retain a quality workforce and most importantly to meet the needs of the community and the economy," Ayala said.

Another item approved was a facility lease agreement with Fort Worth ISD for the new early college high school on NW Campus. This agreement will bring in a total revenue of \$11.2 million over a 30-year period starting in June 2026. Chief operating officer Susan Alanis spoke on how the relationship with the high school began.

"This particular partnership with Fort Worth ISD began more than four years ago when the college began planning for the redevelopment of the NW Campus," Alanis said. "You may recall last week we talked about that our first early college high school was actually on that campus and is named, I believe, one of the best high schools in Tarrant County at this point and it's been a successful partnership."

Also, after a correction, the employee pay increase and the salary schedule was approved. Barr made a comment regarding the specifics of the agenda item.

"I don't think I heard you say but I think it's very important," he said. "This ratifies the rate of \$15 an hour for student employees and I think that's significant."



Alex Hoben/The Collegian

Acting chancellor Elva LeBlanc speaks at the Sept. board meeting.

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DISTRICT

TCC student leaders take Austin



Alex Hoben/The Collegian

NE SGA senate chair Olivia Reed does her makeup by the light of the bus in the early morning on the way to Austin.



Alex Hoben/The Collegian

South SGA president Karina Calderon, SE SGA secretary Xander Todd and SE SGA president Matthew Jewell clap during the student-led debrief after their sessions on Community College Day.

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On a crisp Thursday morning at 4:30 a.m., TCC student leaders gathered together to embark on a trip to Austin to question the representatives of their county, or at least the teams of those representatives, at the Texas State Capitol.

Community College Day is a chance for community college students across the state to take a trip to Austin to meet with Texas House and Senate members and ask about problems they see in their community and discuss possible solutions through legislation.

It's also an opportunity for the students to get an up-close look at what the legislative process is and learn what issues are the most important for the people serving them in their state government.

The journey started with a three-hour-long drive to Austin from TR Campus at 5 a.m.. On the way there, the students, most of which were SGA officers from across

See *College*, page 3

DISTRICT

Texas bans TikTok on campuses due to risk

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Due to a federally-mandated ban, students who use TikTok weigh in on the possible effects.

UT Austin, Texas A&M, UTA and others have already implemented this restriction at the beginning of their spring semester.

The restriction targets TikTok access on school provided WiFi and devices, an action pushed forward by the State Agencies letter sent on Dec. 7, 2022, by Gov. Greg Abbott explaining security risks regarding TikTok's data collection and requiring every state agency to implement the restriction on any state-issued device before Feb. 23, 2023.

The question then becomes what TCC will do in regards to this requirement, but until it is confirmed, NE student Colbie Ratcliff has expressed that she understands the reasoning behind it.

"I do know that they [TikTok] collect a lot of your data," Ratcliff said.

Along with Greg Abbott's letter to State Agencies, Congress had banned TikTok on federally-owned devices.

Many of the concerns prompting the restriction on TikTok include the collection of information and possible security risks. NE instructional associate Johnathan Adamson theorized that if TCC were to implement the restriction, one option would be a security software to block the TikTok URL.

“

I feel like colleges have good incentive to block said sites—since they take up so much bandwidth and network traffic.

Amber
NE student

”

"You can configure your network to block your URL such that devices on the network can not detect it," said Adamson.

He explained that configuring would happen if they knew what IP address to block. In this case, he said the security software would block the IP, stopping it from being recognized by the browser and therefore inaccessible under the instructions of the security software.

Though a security software could block TikTok's URL, Adamson brought up the use of VPNs.

Through VPNs, he said URLs would become disguised to access the network and in turn would pass through to access. The way around that, he said, may be that a software would recognize heavy traffic through an unrecognized address, leading to the blocking of that VPN.

NE student Amber, who did not want to disclose her last name, explained that colleges would have reason to push for a restriction, but acknowledged that there were also other things that could've had the same attention.

"I feel like colleges have good incentive to block said sites—since they take up so much bandwidth and network traffic—but I would then feel like blocking far more sites is necessary," she said.

Amber said increasing security against possible safety issues with TikTok was more than likely due to legality and less about security.

"I'm not convinced that banning Tiktok is anything more than the university trying to protect itself from legal liability at the helm of Greg Abbott," she said. "It is then progressive, since the objective is to keep the college from being sued. There are a number of good reasons that they should have banned this and several other platforms a long time ago. Instead, they waited until they were under intense heat to do so."

DISTRICT

New food service scheduled for mid-spring

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TCC campuses will receive new food options by mid-semester from the vendor ECI Management Group.

Since the sudden closure of the food service options across the district during the winter break, students have been wondering when a stable option will be available. According to chief operating officer Susan Alanis, the previous food vendor Genuine Foods left due to not submitting new terms to their contract that the company initially wanted to renegotiate. Genuine Foods did not return calls seeking comment on the situation.

"They came to us just before winter break and expressed a need to renegotiate their contract because they were having difficulty meeting the financial terms," Alanis said. "So they didn't have specific terms to propose, and part of the pressure on the situation was that they were supposed to take over for ECI at the TR Campus."

Alanis said the district had to make a decision quickly to preserve the relationship with ECI and to consider what they could offer to the other campuses.

"They [Genuine Foods] basically didn't negotiate any further revised contracts when we told him we were gonna continue with

ECI at Trinity River to protect our trust," Alanis said.

In the initial bidding process where Genuine Foods was selected, ECI had also put in an offer that the school is now in negotiations with taking over the other campuses' food services.

"Sort of coffee shop grab and go," she said. "They're going to provide that at the other campuses. So we've reached an agreement with them. It won't happen until probably spring break."

Alanis said she believes that ECI will be a capable food vendor that she is excited about bringing across the district. In the meantime, though, students looking for on-campus food should look into the bookstores as well as the fresh vending available across the campus, she said.

"The Barnes and Noble bookstores all have a selection of grab-and-go stuff that we've asked them to ramp up quantities," Alanis said.

Regarding the food services on campus, Alanis said the plan is to transition the campuses over spring break to the grab-and-go menu that ECI would provide.

NE student Samuel Peters said he isn't too concerned about the food options but instead on how they will affect the gaming area in the cafeteria adjacent to the food service stand.

"I'm worried if a lesser-quality food place comes in, it'll stink up the place, and I wouldn't be able to use it anymore," he said.

NE student Margarette Meyers said while she got the email that the food services were closing down, it didn't settle in until she saw the gates in the NSTU building locked down outside the cafeteria.

"Even though I read the email, I guess it just didn't hit me as quickly, and I was like 'Oh, the gates are closed. Oh, goodness,'" Meyers said.

While she didn't use the food services frequently, Meyers said she cares more about the convenience it brings to students who can't leave campus for food. She also thinks the new food services would be a great way to give students jobs.

"I think it would be a great thing to have students work in the food service so that there can be more jobs," she said. "You never know who has talent here, who can actually cook and things like that."

Meyers said she would've preferred more sympathetic communication from administration about the closing of Genuine Foods' stands instead of an email with a series of links that were hard to follow. But she is interested to see what options the new service will provide in the future.

"Maybe desserts," she said. "That would be nice."

Pickleball

Students and staff gather to play the fun sport

Page 2

Club Rush

Clubs and organizations gather to try and recruit new members

Page 2

'Five Easy Hot Dogs'

Mac DeMarco's new album is an existential journey

Page 4

TikTok ban on Texas colleges

The new ban on the short-form media app may be pointless

Page 5

'Cowtown' culture

A presentation on the history of vaqueros and their impact

Page 6

College *(continued from page 1)*



Alex Hoben/The Collegian

SE SGA senate chair Jamea Johnson, SE SGA treasurer John McGee and Connect SGA vice president Anthony Guevara relax in the back of the bus as the sun rises.

the district, discussed the questions they would address later that day and what they thought the day would bring. TR peer leader Sunny Whiddon said she was excited to take part in the trip but also anxious.

“I’m scared I’m going to mess up or say the wrong words in front of them,” she said. “I’m scared I’m going to say something silly and they’re going to be upset at me. But also this guy actually represents me, and I want him to know and see who is in his district.”

Whiddon said that as a young queer individual, she has a unique perspective that deserves to be heard. She planned to ask questions regarding public transportation, city infrastructure and queer topics. NE SGA parliamentarian Abiskar Thapaliya shared Whiddon’s sentiment.

“

I had five questions. I got the answers to maybe two of them.

Grace Kadia-Riccardi
TR SGA vice president

”

“I’m just excited to be here,” he said. “It’s 6:04 in the morning, January 26 and everything’s dark. We’re on the highway, excited to be in Austin, meet new people, ready to have fun.”

The event itself included meetings throughout the day with representatives or their teams, as well as a rally in front of the Capitol to kick things off. There, students from community colleges around the state all stood together.

NE student development services director Cara Walker, who was one of the advisers for the event, said it was vice chancellor emeritus Bill Lace who coordinated across the campuses to bring this trip to fruition.

“It happens every other year during the Texas legislative session,” she said. “So I’ve been a couple times before this. It’s always

great to see students to be able to interact with our government officials. So we all coordinate together all the student activities offices and the directors of student development services to gather student leaders to be a part of this.”

Walker said she loved seeing the interaction between all the campuses and that seeing the students at the rally with the other community colleges was a proud moment for her.

But many students on the trip didn’t actually meet with the person they were scheduled to meet with but rather varying members of their staff.

TR SGA vice president Grace Kadia-Riccardi also couldn’t meet with her representative, Sen. Kelly Hancock. She said she was incredibly prepared for this meeting but was instead met with a wall.

“I was really excited to meet with the representative, Mr. Hancock himself,” Kadia-Riccardi said. “I was really thinking that I was going to press him with all these questions that I had about specific inconsistencies with his bills. So when I went to his office, I heard him behind the little wall and I was like ‘OK, cool. We’re actually gonna meet him.’ A lot of people hadn’t been meeting him.”

Instead, she said she met with his policy adviser, who would not answer the questions posed to him because he didn’t want to speak on Hancock’s behalf.

“I had five questions. I got the answers to maybe two of them,” she said.

She said what discouraged her the most was the feeling of disrespect she got from the staff and the experience as a whole.

“These are the people that are sitting in our government right now, and they’re not supporting community college students,” Kadia-Riccardi said. “So it just doesn’t make sense to me.”

Some students did get to meet their representatives, though. Whiddon said while his representative was a genuinely funny guy, the conversation focused more on specific bills rather than change. However, the overall experience was incredibly fun.

“I was expecting to be more bored, to be honest,” she said. “I was expecting that it would be boring on the way in and out. But I got to meet cool people today as well as seeing the Capitol and meeting the representative. It’s really awesome.”



Alex Hoben/The Collegian

SE SGA president Matthew Jewell, treasurer Xander Todd and parliamentarian Anita Aiguokhian take a selfie before the bus departs TR Campus at 5 a.m..



Joel Solis/The Collegian

NE SGA historian Angel Vargas and TR peer leader Sunny Whiddon look through the folder given to members of the trip which included maps and assignments.



Joel Solis/The Collegian

Rep. Salman Bhojani meets with TCC SGA members in a Q&A meeting to discuss the students thoughts on current presing topics and how to get more involved.



Joel Solis/The Collegian

Chancellor Elva LeBlanc and NE SGA president Ethan Thomas stand outside waiting to begin the student rally. A complementary breakfast was provided.

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DISTRICT

TCC board of trustees election upcoming

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Tarrant County voters will be selecting two members of the TCC board of trustees in its election that ends May 6.

The board is composed of seven elected officials who represent districts throughout the county. Early voting started April 24 and ends May 2, and Election Day is May 6.

District 4 has three candidates running: incumbent Bill Greenhill, Larry Dale Carpenter Jr. and Laura Forkner Pritchett. Greenhill was initially elected to the board in May 2010, and he's seeking his fourth term as trustee. District 5 has two candidates: incumbent Leonard Hornsby and challenger Jabranica "Nikki" Stroba.

Jack Reynolds' name will also appear on the ballot for District 4,

but he has since suspended his campaign and given his endorsement to Carpenter Jr.

"Larry committed to me personally that he would be a voice for the staff and faculty at TCC," Reynolds said. "Their issues and concerns have gone unaddressed for far too long, and they have languished too long in a toxic work environment that elevates sycophantic obedience over effective educational instruction and leadership."

Carpenter Jr., a former TCC student, has run previously for county commissioner and is the son of former Tarrant County sheriff Don Carpenter. His campaign is mainly focused on the taxpayers and representing them within the board because he feels the trustees are not doing a good enough job, he said.

"The board is obviously not representing the taxpayer, and that's actually completely proven in the



Photo (left) by Joel Solis/*The Collegian* | Photos (center, right) courtesy of campaign websites
 Bill Greenhill, Larry Dale Carpenter Jr. and Laura Forkner Pritchett are running for the District 4 seat on the board of trustees. Early voting started on April 24 and ends May 2, Election Day is May 6.

way that they've acted recently with raising of the taxes," he said.

The main point of contention between the candidates in District 4 is the property tax rate levy ap-

proved in September 2022. While the tax rate itself did not change, property taxes still raised for Tarrant County residents due to rising property appraisals.

Carpenter Jr. said another main point in his campaign, if he's elected, is to take a deep look into the bond program at TCC and
See Election, page 2

DISTRICT



Photo by Alex Hoben/*The Collegian* | Illustration by Markus Meneses/*The Collegian*

NE Pride Club president Jane Mahoney and her TCC student ID with a piece of tape over her deadname and instead her chosen name drawn over it along with a cartoon drawing of a cat.

The Power of Names

LGBTQ+ students open up about deadnames

ALEX HOBEN
editor-in-chief

A name is a fundamental part of a person's personality. Yet, for some trans and nonbinary students at TCC, the right to be referred to by their chosen name is taken away.

Deadnaming is the practice of referring to trans and nonbinary individuals by their birth names rather than the name that best represents their identity. For many in the LGBTQ+ community, being deadnamed invalidates their identity, leading to stress and even trauma.

At TCC, many students in the queer community have noticed a disparity between the message of inclusivity that drives the college and

what is actually offered to students.

"It feels like TCC does not care about preferred names at all, even if the individual students overwhelmingly," Amber, a NE student said.

Amber, who declined to give her last name due to a fear of retaliation from those around her, said that while her social experience with students has been fine as a trans woman, the same could not be said for official institutions such as Canvas, especially when there are class rosters that still present deadnames.

"I couldn't find anybody in Canvas who had a preferred name," she said. "Even though I did find multiple people using their dead names, even people that are

publicly out, which should tell you something about the way the TCC handles naming."

NE student Jane Mahoney said she has had an overall positive experience regarding teachers and students respecting her name and pronouns, but there are still disparities in the system with attendance.

"I have always put Jane as my name for classwork and have yet to have an issue with it," she said. "However, on attendance sheets, when passed around or on the first day of class, some teachers initially called me by my deadname. This is incredibly embarrassing. It feels like everyone in the class now knows that I am transgender. That is an uncomfortable

See Names, page 3

DISTRICT

Abortion pill access temporarily approved

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The U.S. Supreme Court decided April 21 that a widely used abortion pill, mifepristone, would be available temporarily through the mail.

U.S. Northern District of Texas Judge Matthew Kacsmaryk ordered April 7 that the drug be banned through mail nationwide, saying the FDA was wrong in its ruling in 2000 to approve the drug.

Based on the evidence presented by the FDA and the Biden administration, the Supreme Court allowed mifepristone to be used, preventing Kacsmaryk's order from going into effect.

NE student Alexa Rangel said the ruling prohibits women's choices to plan according to their personal accessibility preferences like mailing. She believed Kacsmaryk filed the order for the wrong reason.

"I think the people in the court [Kacsmaryk] are more concerned about a life that's not been brought

in yet, rather than the one that's going to have to worry about those decisions later," she said.

Like Ragel, NE student Myles Troung said anyone should be able to make decisions regarding their bodies and that mifepristone should not be banned.

"If someone decides to go through with that path then so be it, if not then that's their choice," he said.

The choice of the Supreme Court and decisions on abortions is pushing NE student Victoria Bradley to think about leaving Texas and the U.S. Trying to change the world as a person of color has become too difficult.

"The idea of me having to make a change is scary because when people don't agree with certain people that look like me, it gets very violent," Bradley said. "I'm fearful of the outcome if I did try to change it or put a bigger target on my back for just existing."

Bradley believed that abortions will continue to happen but
See Abortion, page 3

DISTRICT

WebAdvisor shutdown has left an impact on students

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Following WebAdvisor's shutdown, TCC has shed light on the campuses' relation to the now defunct interface, as well as provided some further context behind its shutdown.

The beginning of April marked the end of TCC's support of WebAdvisor, a student portal used to provide students with a reliable way to access important TCC information. The system was provided to TCC thanks to Ellucian Colleague, a cloud-based software system designed to help various institutions manage their information and informational systems.

According to SoftwareAdvice, a database for information on various software applications, Ellucian seeks to "helps higher education institutions with professional solutions to create a connected campus," and is a platform that intends to provide "solutions for departments such as finance, IT, student services, human resources, recruiting and admissions."

TCC utilized Ellucian Col-

league and its software system for upwards of 20 years according to TR director of application development Kenneth Smith.

"WebAdvisor was a component of the Ellucian Colleague Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) system and was first implemented at TCC when we migrated over to Colleague, circa 2001-2003," Smith said. "TCC used it because it was part of the ERP they had selected and supported by the same ERP vendor. It was the part of the system that provided the student portal which allowed students to register for classes and pay tuition."

The plan to move away from WebAdvisor had been discussed for quite a while. This can be attributed to TCC wanting to provide more advanced systems for the campuses and Ellucian itself moving away from that component of the system as well, according to Smith.

"Ellucian created a new and improved version of their student portal called self-service, which we call MyTCCTrack," Smith said. "This effectively made the old student portal obsolete. The vendor provided functionality for students that is now being provided by their
See WebAdvisor, page 3

NW dance pop-up
 Mosaic Dance Project performs at Fort Worth
Page 2

Position of transition
 Students speak about transitioning into adulthood
Page 3

Texas needs help
 Latest legislation in Texas threatens minorities
Page 5

NORTHEAST

Students navigate transitioning into adulthood

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Many students are experiencing a phase of transition – becoming more independent as they step into adulthood.

“Adulthood”, a popular term used to describe new adults subscribing to a new lifestyle and leaving experiences associated with childhood behind, can be difficult. Especially when trying to balance multiple facets of one’s life, such as school, work, hobbies, friends and family.

“Some tasks I consider to be ‘adulthood’ are getting your oil changed, paying your taxes on time, or being early to a meeting at work,” NE student Anna Jones said.

She thinks “adulthood” is problem solving, being punctual and accountable.

Jones is a part-time student and full-time hairstylist. She said that managing time is a hard skill to master, but she’s learned that doing small tasks throughout the week works better for her than doing the bulk of her tasks in one day.

“Taking an hour to clean my house every night instead of taking one day of the week to clean, or studying for smaller amounts of time after work instead of skimming over the day before the test,” Jones said. “Getting myself on a strict routine was the best way for me to understand how to balance my life.”

Finding the time to do school work while



KJ Means/The Collegian

NE student Jason Holly presents the Timeline Sports segment of the TCC Newsfeed. Students can work on the Newsfeed to get on-the-job experience.

working can be stressful.

“I do my homework during breaks or after school,” SE student Pauline Pham said. “I always feel like I’m in a time crunch, so that kind of sucks but I just kind of have to deal with it.”

Pham takes classes Tuesdays and Thursdays while working two jobs. She said that while balancing school and work is manageable, her high school experience didn’t prepare

her well for life after graduation.

“I don’t think high school prepared me because I graduated COVID year, so I was just at home and then I got sent straight into college,” she said. “It was an adjustment.”

Having a strong support system can be imperative during times of change and growth. NE assistant professor Mary Buck said having a strong social support system helps reduce

stress, increases life satisfaction and well being.

“In times of transition having good social support is key,” Buck said. “So, use your resources and seek advice from family and friends.”

When it comes to managing money, Jones said what advice she’d give to those who are new to budgeting.

“The best advice I can give to someone who is learning to manage their money for the first time is ‘it’s not what you make, it’s what you spend,’” she said. “Not saying you can’t treat yourself, or buy nice things, but genuinely be conscious about the money you are spending and always pay your bills first.”

Knowing that asking questions is okay is something Pham said is important for students to be aware of.

“Always ask questions,” she said. “Don’t be afraid to ask people that are older than you questions because they’ve been where you’re at and can help you.”

For those who feel unsure or anxious about where they are in life Jones said what she’d want students to know about success, and appreciating what you do have.

“If I could give some advice to students who are nervous about becoming independent I would tell them that it’s okay to make mistakes and ask questions,” she said. “That’s how you learn. Success looks different for everyone, so take the time to learn what yours looks like and be grateful for everything because it can always be worse.”

Abortion (continued from page 1)

procedures will occur in a more dangerous and uncomfortable way and preparing the youth for this possibility is the best way to move forward.

“We need to really look into the people that we vote for and want to have our vote,” they said. “I want the public to be more knowledgeable in who they vote for, what they stand for. Because it feels as if we are trapped watching these people that are supposed to advocate for us, not advocate for us. But at the same time, it is kind of

our fault for getting them there in the first place.”

They said they would like the Supreme Court justices to consider the youth, the elderly and those who should not bear children as it affects more than just pregnancy.

“Now you’re having a child that you don’t even want. That resentment, that hate is going to be harbored in your body,” they said. “You’re going to eventually grow up to hate this child that didn’t even ask to be born.”

Abortions will still happen but in a more dangerous fashion with an increasing death rate, they said.

Since this is a controversial and emotional kind of conversation, they said they would feel more comfortable discussing this issue even if they had a differing stance. They felt that the conversation surrounding abortion is nuanced, affecting race, sex, sexuality, gender and more as it is a broad topic to them.

Names (continued from page 1)



Photo by Alex Hoben/The Collegian | Illustration by Markus Meneses/The Collegian

TR SGA president Milo Norris smiles as he holds up his student ID with a piece of tape covering his deadname.

thought for classmates to know something so personal.”

Mahoney utilized the service provided by the TCC registrar’s office to have her “preferred name” used on documents such as attendance sheets. But she said that it’s not enough and instead can be potentially dangerous, considering the way the name shows on the records is having their deadname and then their preferred name in parentheses after it.

“Meaning that everyone is still able to see your deadname,” she said. “Having your deadname on an attendance sheet when you have expressed your preferred name is unnecessary and possibly hurtful. Not only are you outing this person to the entire class, but if a transphobic person decides to take action, you are now putting this person in potential danger.”

Amber said that she didn’t know there was a system in place to add preferred names, even in parentheses, because it’s hard to find any information about it. She couldn’t find any page on the TCC website for how to start the process.

Chloe October, a nonbinary NE student, said they wish there was more choice about what name was used in private and public spaces, especially in the email system.

“I feel violated when I am deadnamed – like someone used the name of a late relative too soon. It makes the environment feel more hostile,” October said. “The TCC naming system never changing, even after a legal name change, makes me feel like a nagging annoyance. I sort of gaslight my-

self into thinking it’s somehow my fault for finding my identity too late.”

Amber said it doesn’t make sense that TCC’s naming system doesn’t have much flexibility considering that it’s the IDs that are how the student is designated in the system.

“We can change our name 50 times in a semester and as far as the TCC database is concerned, nothing’s going to change,” she said. “So I don’t understand why exactly they’re so hellbent on keeping the deadname. You should just be able to change the name whenever you need to because they’ve got the ID, and the ID is constant.”

District registrar John Spencer said any students looking to change their chosen first names may do so by completing the Records Maintenance Form and submitting it by email to academic.records@tccd.edu or they can do so by submitting a name change request form to the admissions and registrar’s office.

“Using a chosen name in the classroom and on our campus frontlines is a proven best practice,” Spencer said. “It not only empowers students but also fosters an environment of inclusion, respect and dignity. This practice helps in promoting safe and welcoming spaces at each of our campuses.”

Spencer said students can advocate for changes by talking with their student government association.

TR SGA president Milo Norris said that while he hasn’t been deadnamed a lot at TCC he has been misgendered quite a few times and explained how being dead-

named and misgendered is not only harmful for the trans community but for society as a whole.

“Whether on purpose or by accident, these actions are divisive,” he said. “What we need is to recognize that trans people are just other people. My transness does give me a different perspective on life, but everyone has a different perspective on life.”

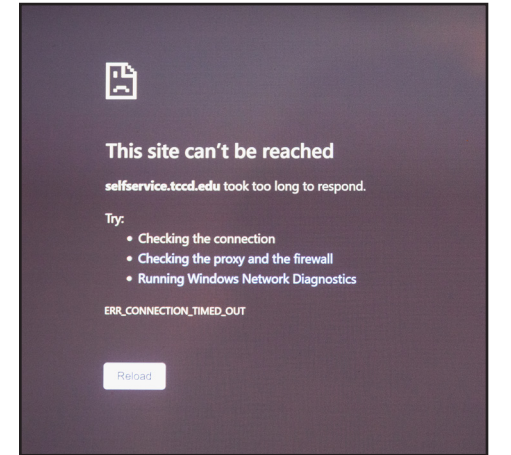
Referring to someone by their preferred name is a basic form of respect, Mahoney and October said, and that many don’t realize how such a simple act can mean so much for the person they’re referring to.

“I just want to point out how low the bar is, that referring to someone as the correct gender or with the right name could be enough to make their day,” October said. “That speaks a lot to the trans experience.”

Amber said she doesn’t mind as much as some others in the LGBTQ+ community when she is deadnamed, but that doesn’t mean it’s an OK thing to do. She has realized that what is most important to her is that the people close to her know her identity as she has realized it.

“I think a while ago I kind of came to terms with the fact that the first thing that everyone’s gonna see when they think about me is the fact that I’m trans,” she said. “And then it just kind of became, how can I make the best of that? And then I made the best of that.”

WebAdvisor (continued from page 1)



Joel Solis/The Collegian

Error screen shown when trying to access the student self-service website page for TCC students.

new student portal

TCC had been chipping away at developing this system, and the remaining information available on WebAdvisor moved to Hello!TCC to give students the best possible experience when interacting with TCC resources.

“The site has been purposely designed to help them find exactly what they are looking for very quickly,” Smith said. “It has a built-in filtering system, so they don’t have to scour the site to find the link they need. It also provides them with the ability to bookmark frequently used links for quick access.”

After nearly a month, some of the changes and new systems that have emerged in WebAdvisor’s wake have been a source of frustration for students.

“I actually don’t use WebAdvisor much for work, and I haven’t used any of the new Hello!TCC applications yet,” NE student worker Jordin Bryan said. “I did find the new TimeClock a little on the frustrating side – mostly because I wasn’t used to using it, but also I go into work straight from class, so having to wait to start my computer and start the applications to be able to clock in was annoying.”

The absence of WebAdvisor and the new systems in its place have been unreliable and inconvenient for some students as well, like NE student worker Anastasia Anderson.

“The issues with the new system have been, and are continuing to be rather inconvenient,” she said. “In addition to having problems clocking in, I was just trying to add a newly-added class to my fall schedule and the system is down.”

With these systems, Anderson has become worried for the upcoming semester, believing that they won’t be able to register for classes because of technical inconsistencies.

“I will not have time at work to keep checking the system to see if TCC track is back up,” she said. “I worry that I will not be able to take Cal 2 in the fall due to these outages, which will undoubtedly put me behind on my degree plan.”

Despite student concerns and frustrations, Smith assured campus-goers the shift will be worth it in the long run.

“We also greatly extended [WebAdvisor]’s functionality by incorporating many custom applications into it, and those applications were safely migrated to another system called Hello!TCC,” Smith said. “The shutdown of WebAdvisor is a good thing because MyTCCTrack is a new, modern student portal and will be fully supported by the ERP vendor for years to come.”