

Hannah Salz

NSPA DESIGNER OF THE
YEAR SUBMISSION

JAMES BOWIE HIGH SCHOOL, AUSTIN TX
LONE STAR YEARBOOK DESIGN EDITOR



I have a vivid memory of fifth grade me, sitting in Riverside Park in Manhattan, selecting my choice sheets for my new school. We were uprooting our lives in the city and moving to Austin, Texas. I remember seeing all of the options that city me never would have thought of. Things like woodshop, painting, and gardening, and I was overwhelmed by the choices. And yet somehow, among the blur of all these new classes, 11-year-old me was lucky enough to choose yearbook.

I could not tell you what made me pick it that day, but I can tell you that it has changed my life. Yearbook has been my constant in all my years in Texas. As I began to learn what it took to make a book, through workshops and theme days and videos, I dove further and further in, falling in love with everything about it.

I started on staff at Gorzycki Middle School, where I took the role of Photo Editor. I think that it was there that I initially fell in love with the intentionality and complexity of yearbook. How each thing that is done has a purpose. Each font and design choice has a story behind it, and I learned to look for those stories everywhere. I will forever be grateful for my time there, but middle school yearbook could only take me so far.

I remember my brother, a senior at the time, coming home my 8th grade year with Bowie's new yearbook, 'It's just us'. I took that book as soon as he set it down, and I read every, single, page. As I made my way through each soccer module and funny choir quote, each powerful story and dramatic photo, I became so excited for what my future held. Finally, I got to the last page, the colophon. I saw the little staff photos and names, and I immediately ran to show my mom. "Look! I might get to work with some of them next year!" pointing to the tiny, smiling faces on the page. I scanned the page, matching faces to names and dreaming about the next chapter of my life. Little did I know, those strangers I showed her that day became some of my closest friends.

Over the past two years on staff for Lone Star yearbook, I have learned that though I love the other parts too, my passion truly lies in design. At the beginning of freshman year, I was thrown into the program with no experience in InDesign or with the complicated, massive high school yearbooks. Despite this jump, the high expectations surrounding me pushed me further

than I could've ever thought. I ran with it, spending countless evenings struggling over the confusing InDesign software, creating partial cutouts in Photoshop, and discovering my love for designing.

All of that led me to this year, where I had the privilege of becoming Lone Star Yearbook's first design editor as a sophomore. Suddenly, I had a say on the book. I could mold it, make it my own, make my ideas and designs come to life. My opinion was valued and my work mattered. I took a jump, going from staffer to top of the staff, and it was well worth it.

As anyone that has worked in yearbook knows, it is not for the faint of heart. For about two months at the end of the year it felt like I spent more time in the yearbook room than I did at home, and I may have. But that classroom, truly, is my happy place. It is a place where I am accepted and wanted by my peers and advisor. It is a place where I am encouraged, pushed, and challenged in new ways every day. It is a place where I get to develop not only as a leader and designer, but as a person and friend.

I have had many classmates and friends ask me why I dedicate so much time and energy into my designs and yearbook in general. If something is good enough, why make it better? Why is it worth that much work? I try to explain, but they don't understand it. I find that when I know that something can be better, I do everything in my power to make it the best that it can be. However, design is a constantly shifting and changing thing that is hard to nail. I have designed, then re-designed, then re-re-designed spreads countless times, striving always for perfection.

However, design has taught me that perfection does not come on the first try, or often ever. Design takes work, it takes multiple tries. It has taught me to think creatively, outside of the box. If something doesn't work fifty different ways and you think you're stuck, try it fifty more ways. Across my four years in yearbook I have published hundreds of designs, and scrapped ten times as many. Being a designer means battling the constant push and pull, but all of that trial and error, the changes in schools and homes, the designs and re-designs, have all taught me something so important: if it doesn't work, don't stop. Just go a different way.

SUBMISSION EXPLANATIONS

HANNAH SALZ - NSPA DESIGNER OF THE YEAR SUBMISSION

1

This spread was initially inspired by the creation of a Banned Books Club at Bowie who sought to raise awareness about the steadily growing list of banned books in schools across the U.S.. I knew I wanted to cover it in a unique way, so I collected a stack of banned books from our school library and took a photo to use as the dominant portion of the spread. Originally I started with book covers of popular banned books, but after many variations I decided to use book spines instead to provide more unique shapes, visual

interest, and variety.

I placed the story so that it would interact with the books, drawing the reader in and linking the two together. The headline incorporated a design style I chose for the book that used a pull quote instead of a typical headline.

The "More to the Story" color block module on the right was a thematic element that we carried throughout the whole book to provide more context and tell even more stories of the year, fitting with our theme, "Have we got a story for you."

2

This is one of three spreads in the opening of our book. It is the middle portion of a narrative illustrating all the stories we've told this year, and what our story at Bowie is. Throughout the book I used a pop of yellow on many pages, to add variety to the monochromatic spreads and draw the reader's eye. This idea was inspired by modern tabloids and magazines that use yellow to grab their readers attention and tell their story. In this instance, it is used on the dominant headline to ensure that that is where your eye goes first. Because the headline is the dominant element, I made the photos around it equal sizes to ensure that the spread was well balanced and your eye followed it correctly.

The typography on this spread was particularly difficult to design, because of the spacing and balance of the spread. I used bolder, sans-serif fonts and darker tints of green to emphasize certain words and draw your eye, and lighter, serif fonts to add visual variety and contrast. I also chose to have text overlapping with multiple photos in order to bring the reader's eye into the images and connect them to their phrases.

Overall, this spread was all about finding the right balance and creating a design that was interesting and told our story well, but also was not visually overwhelming.

This is my faculty & staff divider that comes right before the staff photos in our people section. The blocky, monochromatic layout of this spread was inspired by brick walls and how the different pieces interlink to create a strong, unified design. Similar to a brick wall, each unique interview is fitted into the others, reflecting how everyone at our school has their own story but together they create something strong and connected. I included a photo next to each staff member's interview that connects to their story, adding visual interest and variety and breaking up the monochromatic blue of the spread.

Something that was difficult with creating this layout was making sure that the reader wasn't overwhelmed by the color and text. In order to keep this from happening, I kept the white margins on the sides of the page and made sure there was enough space between each box. This made the design much cleaner and helped the reader immediately know where to look.

Between linking together the boxes and collecting interesting stories from my teachers, this spread was very interesting and fun to create.

4

In congruency with the other dividers I had already created, I knew that we needed a strong dominant photo. I selected this one because of its visual appeal, between the vibrant colors, focused subject, and the interesting story it told. When choosing the color of the spread, I purposefully picked green because it is the contrasting color of red, making the photo really pop and pulling the reader in.

A main design choice that I made on this spread and through the book in general was to have lots of interaction between photos, text, and color. This meant creating lots of layers, including the caption layering over the photo, and text tucked behind it. On the bottom left you can see an example of this, the dominant captions in the book. All of them have a tint to make them pop out of the page more, help the text be legible, and incorporate the curved corner into the spread. Another example of this is how I made partial cutouts of the players and layered the text underneath them, helping the reader interact more with the photo and making the design more interesting.

5

Creating this spread was truly a roller coaster, but I love the end result. We initially started with Chappel Roan as the dominant module and story, and made almost the whole spread like that before we decided to switch gears and tell a more unique student experience. One of the main challenges with this was how to include a photo of the student the story was about. I took inspiration from many classic newspapers and chose to put her photo at the end of the story, which ended up fitting perfectly.

I designed the top right module with the intent of taking the viewer into the story, working with my partner Henry to track down photos of the student's experiences at the concert to bring their story into the spread visually.

Because of the large photo and text, finding visual balance on this spread was difficult. However, I used the color block on the right and colorful quotes above that to balance the heavy left page.

3

"PEOPLE SHOULD have access to ALL knowledge"

Club Tackles Book Bans One Page At A Time Spread by Hannah Salz

Imagine a world where to Kill a Mockingbird, and The Kite Runner aren't part of your first two years in high school, this could be a possibility.

Book banning in America dates back to the 17th century, when businessman Thomas Morton published a book voicing his opinions on his government. His book was the first book to ever be banned in the United States. Since this first book, tens of thousands more have been banned. This number continues to go up, with over 10,000 new book bans in the United States during 2024 alone.

The goal of Banned Books Club is to spread awareness and understanding of these banned books and why it's so important to read them.

"One of the most important things that we can do is talk about it more. It's not a very discussed topic, even though it's constantly happening," Banned Books Club member Jack Lowe¹¹ said. Discussing banned books is important in order to create a community of understanding and respect.

"It made a lot of people feel more safe knowing we're seeing a pattern of problems and we have the ability to stop it," Banned Books Club President Sasha Zimmerman¹¹ said.

Reading these books also allows people to understand topics they might have a harder time discussing or

learning about.

"A lot of the books being banned have very important conversations about race, sexuality, police brutality, and I think those are very important topics, especially with how political the world is right now," Riley Soffera¹¹ said.

Bowie's English department also encourages the reading of banned books, often including them in their curriculum such as The Kite Runner and To Kill A Mockingbird.

"We read banned books during school because when we're young we are open to more ideas and we have a lot to learn," Advanced English two teacher Lillie Crawford said.

"Students really benefit from that because they don't always have to go out and experience those terrible things. We can still learn about

them, but we can do it in a safe way with friends and healthy, good conversation to process them."

While people may argue that there are some topics in banned books that should be banned, many club members propose a different perspective.

"There's banned and then there's censored. I don't think any books should be banned, but I do think there are things that should be censored," Zimmerman said.

Banning and censoring are two very different things, and how we approach both of them can make a big impact on young minds. "Kids see everything, and

you can't hide it, but you can help guide them through it. I don't think books should be banned, I think that there should be more awareness and guidance surrounding them," Zimmerman said.

Banned Books Club Secretary CJ Pelt¹¹ also agrees with the idea of giving young readers more guidance instead of outright banning books.

"I don't think anyone should be able to dictate what you're able to read, especially when you're at a young age and forming your own opinions," Pelt said. "If you want to read the book, you want to read the book, and where there's a will there's a way."

Not only students, but also teachers are encouraging the Banned Books Club and other students to take initiative and speak up for themselves.

"This is the time for young people to take their power and to realize that they may be young, but they can have a say in things and they should have a say in things," Crawford said.

One of the main reasons book banning is so controversial is because of the many reasons for

books being banned. "In Texas we have things like Gender Queer banned from schools, but not things like Mein Kampf, the book Hitler wrote. If we're going to ban books, why are we targeting these books specifically," Pelt said.

The club's format is similar to a regular book club, except that it discusses topics that are often avoided or hard to talk through.

"Often people kind of get awkward when you talk about certain things, but in the club we want to talk about them," Zimmerman said. "We want to talk about why things might be frowned upon or taboo, and how society views those different topics."

Understanding these books gives readers a unique insight and perspective into different topics.

"A lot of the books that have been banned discuss race, gender identity, sexuality, and I think it's important to read and learn about that to grow your understanding of those topics," Lowe said.

Banned Books Club is showing Bowie firsthand how we can help fight these book bans.

"We can try and read those books that have been banned and decide for ourselves if they should have been banned or not," Lowe said.

Reading the books and understanding their messages is the first step in the long process

"IF WE DON'T TALK ABOUT THEM OR READ about them, WON'T EVEN notice the problem"

Sasha Zimmerman¹¹

of working to stop book banning in the United States.

"It's important to understand the topics that they don't want you to know," Pelt said.

This discussion and connection has created a unique community here at Bowie.

"It brings a community together, and by bringing these different groups together I can get different stories," Zimmerman said. "Our main goal is to spread awareness and to experience the different views of society and different types of struggles."

Despite many complaints and fights, book banning continues to spread through our nation's schools and libraries.

"I think book banning is horrific, and it's deplorable behavior," Crawford said. I think that people should be able to have access to all knowledge and not having that knowledge available is very dangerous."

MORE to the STORY

The books shown are all either challenged or banned in states or school systems around the country.



stick it to the BAN

Why We Read Banned Books In Classrooms



"We read banned books in school to give us more PERSPECTIVE on different parts of the world and history in general so that we can PREVENT past mistakes in the future and learn more about what's going on around us. Reading banned books has changed my perspective on different hardships since I was able to SEE, READ, and UNDERSTAND a little bit more of what happened in the world through a different PERSPECTIVE and from a more firsthand source."

AVA Gilliam¹⁰

"To Kill A Mockingbird talks about the 1960s era, with the civil rights movement and everything going on in that time period. It discusses about a lot of HARSH TOPICS like racism and segregation and stuff like that. It's important to learn about the IMPORTANCE of what builds some parts of our country, and if we didn't GO OVER those topics we wouldn't know as much of the importance of that."

CHAMBER rankin⁹



GET READY

FOR THE INS and the outs

LIKE WHEN WE HAD TO GO TO CHARACTER STRONG FOR FIT AGAIN

Smiling at their phones, Sydney Farris⁹ and Eliza Williams⁹ watch dog Reels in FIT. FIT is built-in time during the school day to allow students to either have study hall or socialize with friends. "FIT is a good addition to our day because it gives us a chance to relax or get extra work done if needed," Farris said. "It gives me a mental break and lets me see friends that I don't have classes with." *Photo by Eliana Jones*



THE UPS AND THE DOWNS

LIKE WHEN WE GOT PIED IN THE FACE WHILE HELPING AT BULLDOG ROUNDUP

Covered in shaving cream, Jaiden Ruiz¹² gets pied in the face by Alexa Sanders¹¹ at Bulldog Roundup. Ready-Set-Teach hosted hobby horse races up and down the hall, and the winner got to pie a friend in the face. "All of the kids really enjoyed it. I participated once and won the race, so I got to pie one of my friends, Jaiden," Sanders said. *Photo by Samantha Norton*

victory? YEAH, WE'VE GOT THAT.

LIKE HOW OUR VARSITY BOYS SOCCER TEAM WAS AREA CHAMPIONS AND WENT TO REGIONALS

Eyes up for an open player, Xander Pratt¹² gets ready to throw the ball in during the varsity game against Akins on Jan. 8. Pratt is a team captain, alongside Garrett Herb¹² and Carter Drouin¹². "It means a lot [to be captain]," Pratt said. "On the field, I talk a lot and let the [team] know where they need to be, off the field, I try to help develop them as both players and people as well." *Photo by Mika Shaw*



heartbreak?



we've been there.

LIKE WHEN VARSITY FOOTBALL LOST BY TWO POINTS TO AUSTIN HIGH IN THE FINAL MINUTE AND DIDN'T MAKE THE PLAYOFFS

Intently focused on the field, Easton Lewis¹¹, Travis Herrington¹², and Aden Hewgley¹² show support at the red-out varsity football game. Cheer chooses themes for each game to raise school spirit. "I attended all the home and away games to show support to my friends and former teammates," Lewis said. "I enjoyed cheering on the team and it was fun being a part of the student section." *Photo by Ryan Cruz*

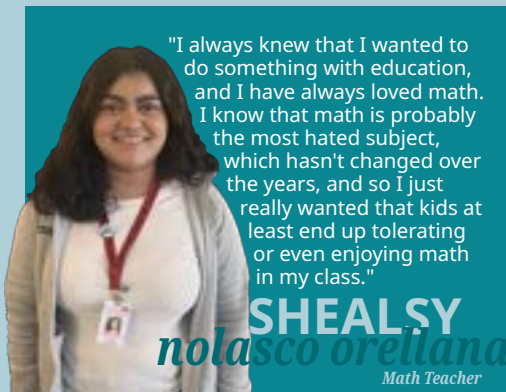
THE story BEHIND THE degree

Spread by Hannah Salz

What Personal Experiences Brought You to Education?

"Mr. Sauter was my English teacher in 11th grade, and he was a big inspiration for my love of reading. He put some good books in my hands. I think it was the first time I read Kurt Vonnegut, his love for literature was contagious. Mr. Baynum, my civics teacher, was also an inspiration. He would get so excited about the topic that his voice would get really loud, and he would always connect it back to weird and cool history. The teachers near him didn't like him so much for that reason, but his passion for the subject was, once again, contagious."

jacob MORGAN
English Teacher



"I always knew that I wanted to do something with education, and I have always loved math. I know that math is probably the most hated subject, which hasn't changed over the years, and so I just really wanted that kids at least end up tolerating or even enjoying math in my class."

SHEALSY nolasco orellana
Math Teacher

"I make things outside of school, whether it's refinishing furniture or just making things. I like to take classes to learn things. If I can learn a skill, I'd like to. Often I have a vision, I see something that has good bones. I'm also learning to quilt more, because my grandmother made us all wedding quilts. She's not around anymore, so I've been practicing because I want to do it for all the grandkids and carry on that tradition."

wendy THOMSON
Entrepreneurship Teacher



"I once taught a girl how to read. At my old school I had a lot of refugee students that came from Latin America, this one specifically came from Venezuela. She didn't know any of the course material, so she would come during her lunch and her and I would read the same books that I was reading with my daughter, except she was twelve and my daughter was four, so these were like basic books as she was learning to read in English."



isaac NEVAREZ
Spanish Teacher

"In high school I was in PALS, I actually went to Bowie. I really loved working with kids, I specifically had a fourth grader that I saw grow immensely throughout the year, and seeing the impact you could have on another person was really meaningful to me and so I wanted to pursue it. I had always loved learning and loved school, so it all fit together."



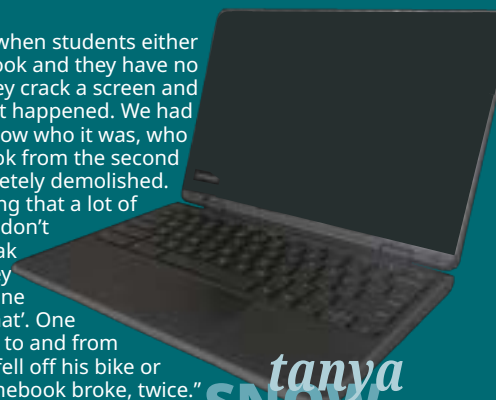
dalton POOL
Social Studies Teacher

"I always loved English, even though I was actually best at math and science. I just always loved unlocking meaning in books, and I felt like it was a cool way to unlock emotional topics in kids and get them to think about themselves and life. I think literature builds empathy, and that's a big goal of mine as a teacher. I love being around students and watching them form as adults and humans, and I am so inspired by them so I would never want to take myself out of that."

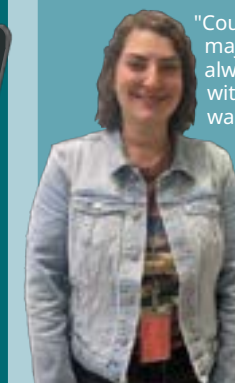
kimberley WIEDMEYER
English Teacher



"It's always interesting when students either lose their Chromebook and they have no idea where it is, or if they crack a screen and they don't know how it happened. We had a student, we don't know who it was, who dropped a Chromebook from the second story and it was completely demolished. I think it's interesting that a lot of students don't know or don't admit to how they break their Chromebook. They say that they opened it one day, and it was 'just like that'. One student who rides his bike to and from school, twice he either fell off his bike or his bag flew and his Chromebook broke, twice."



tanya SNOW
Library Clerk



"Counseling was always my thing, I double majored in math and psychology and I always wanted to do something working with troubled teenagers. My younger sister was pregnant in high school, and seeing how not only our whole family was treated, but also how the counselors at our high school were just like ready to shoo her out and not really provide any help towards her academically or at all, kind of spurred me wanting to specifically help and be in a high school."

dana STILES
Math Teacher

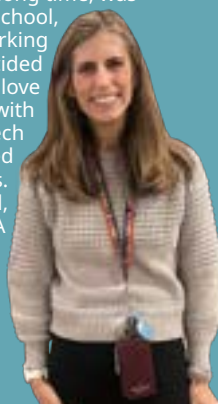
"My mom was an elementary school teacher, she was my first grade teacher. We used to always have 'Bring your child to work' day, so I would go with my mom, and seeing her with those children I was like 'yeah, I'm not ever going to teach little kids'. I love that in high school everyone has their sarcasm and their jokes, and there's all these things that you can put into your planning and your lessons, little things like that. It's a lot more fun than elementary school."

caren GARZA
Math Teacher



"Before teaching I was in Biotech for a long time, was volunteering at my kids' elementary school, and found that I was really enjoying working with kids. So, when I turned 40, I decided to go ahead and make the transition. I love talking about science and working with kids so it was a good match. In Biotech I worked at a company that specialized in gene expression technologies. We looked mostly at the RNA level, being able to quantitate specific RNA transcripts to see if certain cells express genes more often."

jessica DAVIS
Science Teacher

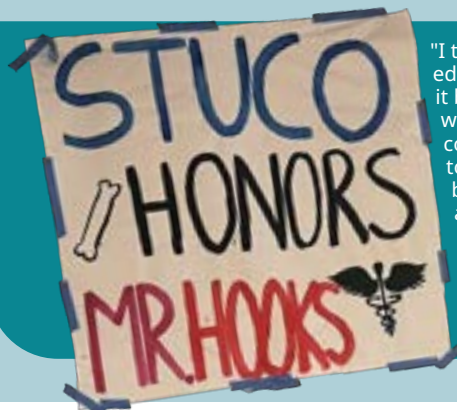


"I grew up in the UK, I moved here when I was 28. I left the UK when I was about 24 and spent some time in Australia, then I kind of bounced back between the US and UK for a couple years and was doing temporary jobs. I got my masters in the UK and worked in Human Resources there for a couple years, and I finally made the move here when I was 28. My favorite, favorite thing to do is go to concerts and see live music. I love it, I went to see some freeweek shows recently and saw a lot of local artists. I've always loved live music, ever since I was 10 and my dad took me to see George Michael."

JENI huereca
Business Teacher

"I thought I wanted to be a teacher in college, and I took education courses in college and then walked away from it because I was a part of healthcare and I wasn't sure I was ready for it yet. It took years of maturity for me to come back around and realize that I have something to offer as a teacher. My wife and mother-in-law were both teachers, and have been for many, many years. It always seemed like there was such a bigger impact than what everybody else can see, like when you're in the classroom you can see things changing."

corey HOOKS
Health Science Teacher



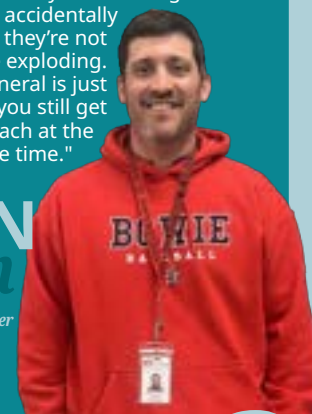
"I really like to travel, and I especially love to go to national parks, so when I travel I go to a lot of different national parks. Last summer we went to Alaska. I normally take five or more trips a year. I think I've been to around 20, and there's 63 national parks, so I still have a ways to go."

kelly LANGDON
Ready, Set, Teach Teacher



"Growing up I had influential teachers in my life, specifically in middle school. I had a group of coaches that pulled me out of joining gangs and it really changed my path. As I got older I saw the effect it had had on myself, and I wanted to give back like they did for me when I was growing up. I've had a few kids that we got out of gangs and into sports, turned their lives around. Both of those kids got into A&M and went on to become engineers and did fantastic. There's also tons of stories from over the years of things almost catching on fire or accidentally exploding when they're not supposed to be exploding. Teaching Science in general is just a lot of fun because you still get to be a kid and teach at the same time."

KEVIN laughlin
Baseball Coach & Science Teacher



"Before teaching, I did a program in Alaska, where we built hiking trails and I tutored people for the GED at night. I came down to Austin and did another AmeriCorps program with communities in schools, and I tutored and mentored students in Math and I really liked it. AmeriCorps is like a domestic Peace CorpS. What I love about it is that you can find a program in anything. If you want to work in marketing, you can find an AmeriCorps program for marketing. If you want to work in disaster relief, you can find a program for that. They have programs all over the country. Anyone who's not interested in jumping right into grad school, that's an excellent thing. It's a great program, I loved it. It really helped me figure out who I was as a person, and really made me step out of my comfort zone."

KRIS maniscalco
Computer Science Teacher

faculty & staff

BUT WAIT-

138 MARCH 1 - 15
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THERE'S *more*

fourth quarter

In the huddle, Coach Karl Lauer and Lillie Gideon¹⁰ gather together with the team to present the batting lineup for the game versus Weimar. Gideon was one of the few freshman on varsity during the previous season. "In the circle before the game is when I get the most excited to play because it helps me mentally prepare for the game ahead," Gideon said. "We all talk with Coach Lauer about what the word for the game is and what we can do to make the game exciting and get in the right mind-set by giving us motivation and getting hype for the game ahead." Photo by Ryan Cruz



KEEP AUSTIN abstract

Spread by Henry
Pickerell & Hannah Salz
Student Joins
Artist Kevin
Abstract on Stage

Music blaring and flights flashing getting sucked into the crowd. At Austin City Limits this year, the crowd was packed with cheering fans, as always, some of whom were Bowie students.

One fan that got to attend was **Hannah Fellers¹¹**, who was able to see some of her favorite artists in concert. Going into the festival, Fellers was most excited for headliners "Tyler, The Creator" and the pop band "The Marías". Ultimately, her favorite act ended up being Kevin Abstract, who called her and her friends up on stage during his set.

"We hopped over the barricade, and I was sprinting up on stage. I was light-headed from screaming and kind of nauseous from the anxiety," Fellers said. "When we got up, we got to see all of the people in the crowd, it was insane."

Many fans never get to see their favorite artists in concert, but Fellers

was able to be up on stage with him, and it instantly became her favorite experience of the whole festival.

"We just got to vibe on stage, and it was really cool, and everyone was really nice," Fellers said.

At the end of the concert, Fellers stayed around in the field waiting for her friends, who were watching a different artist. While waiting, she got to meet Kevin Abstract, chat with him, and get a photo. The entire place was cleared out, and he came out to get some tacos, and we got to meet him.

"He was so nice," Fellers said. She emphasizes how kind he was, and it's unsurprising after watching his performance at ACL. "He called my fit

fire, said that we were lit, and it was a really cool experience," Fellers said.

When looking out at the crowd from atop the stage, Fellers was overwhelmed with just how many people there were. However, that same crowd looked small compared to Chappell Roan's crowd. Her concert audience was so big due to only one other artist playing the same time slot as Roan, small rapper Mike was a last-minute addition to the festival. With no one of any comparable fame to compete with, Roan managed to draw in nearly 75,000 people. Right after this record-

breaking show, Tyler, The Creator performed at the same stage, which, according to Fellers, created a lot of commotion due to the sheer number of people.

"It was really chaotic because it was one huge fan base for Chappell

Roan and another huge fanbase for Tyler, The Creator right after one another," Fellers said.

Both artists have similarly massive fanbases, both being in the top 50 most listened to artists on Spotify. "So while all the Chappell Roan people were trying to get out, all the Tyler, The Creator people were trying to get in," Fellers said. "It was just an insane crowd."

Despite all the fun and excitement at ACL, it's not always for everyone. "It's a very overstimulating experience because there's so much going on, and if you don't have a big social battery, I wouldn't suggest going for more than four or five hours," Fellers said.

In addition, it's very dusty and can take a physical toll on your body. So while Fellers went for the full three days, her friend and fellow student **Lyla Womack¹¹** was only there on Friday.

"Every time I go to ACL, I end

ALL IN ONE

ACL Provides
Opportunities To See
Favorite Artists

Tyler, The Creator



JACK WARREN¹⁰
Photo courtesy of Jack Warren

"I left at 12:30 to get to ACL at 1. I went to the food area to buy a pizza and 5 waters for me to camp. My favorite song that Tyler played was either "Sorry not Sorry" or "Deathcamp". He hasn't done "Deathcamp" in a while, and it is one of my favorites. The energy when it came on was insane. Overall, I would give his set a 10/10, he's my favorite artist of all time and I was very close."

blink-182



SOFIA FLORES¹¹
Photo courtesy of Sofia Flores

"The wait wasn't too bad because we talked to people around us to pass the time. It was worth it because we ended up pretty close. My favorite song they played was for sure "Feeling This". Whenever me and [my brother] Joaquin are in the car, we listen to it a lot. The overall environment was very hype."

Reneé Rapp



ISABELLA ANDERSON¹²
Photo courtesy of Isabella Anderson

"The atmosphere was honestly just vibes- everyone was so fun and cool and energetic! I loved her performance throughout, but I do wish she would have played less background music so I could hear her voice more live throughout the entire show."

Dua Lipa



MAGGIE STALNECKER¹⁰
Photo courtesy of Maggie Stalnecker

"I would rate [Dua Lipa's] set a 10/10. All parts of the production were really fun to watch, there was never a dull moment. I was entertained the whole time. My favorite part was probably when her dancers got to have a solo moment with just the music."

welcome to the PINK PONY CLUB

Chappell Roan Takes ACL By Storm With Record Breaking Crowd

Imagine being stuck in between so many people that you can barely get through the crowd. Though there were more than one hundred acts at Austin City Limits, Chappell Roan was one of the standouts, with a record-breaking crowd of approximately seventy-five thousand people.

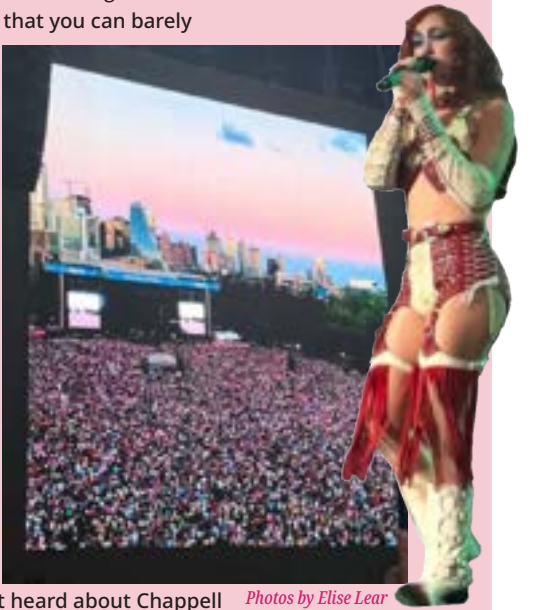
After the release of her debut album "The Rise and Fall of a Midwest Princess" in September of 2023, Roan blew up on social media platforms and began performing at festivals including Coachella and Lollapalooza. As a result, some of her songs, including "Good Luck Babe!", "HOT TO GO!", and "Pink Pony Club" have become huge hits amongst young adults.

"I was pretty far from the stage, but I still had a really good time," **Kaia Kuryak⁹** said. "I expected the crowd to be that big because I knew that everyone wanted to see Chappell Roan after she performed at Lollapalooza."

A few years later, Chappell Roan's music was discovered by fellow singer Olivia Rodrigo, and she opened for her worldwide tour. These performances gave Roan new exposure in the music industry and really put her on the map.

Cooper Medeiros¹⁰ saw Chappell Roan's performance at the second weekend of ACL. "I first heard about Chappell Roan from the radio and I really liked one of her songs," Medeiros said.

"My favorite song is 'Hot To Go!' and seeing Chappell Roan perform at ACL made me really excited and energetic."



Photos by Elise Lear