

TRUTH BE OLD

AMANDA LIVINGSTON
Editor-in-Chief

“You’re such a cry baby,” “Let it go,” “You’re too soft.”

I hear those words more often than not, and I’m not whining when I say, it’s understandable, but completely uncalled for.

As human beings we all have a very powerful emotional drive. Whether that emotional drive is constantly on the high or low side of life’s roller coaster, it’s there. However, some people get more worked up over that roller coaster than others.

Life is crazy when you’re a teenager filled with school work, extracurriculars, family, and sometimes even a job. It can get so hectic that people tend to discount the importance of emotions and make it seem minimal.

Even though this can be a nice way for some to cope with the stress, not everyone has the ability to flick that switch and turn it off

Some people are born with a deeper sensitivity to

STOP POINTING FINGERS AND START FEELING THINGS

their emotions — myself being one of them.

I always knew this was true, but it became especially known to me when I took

the Myers Briggs Personality Type test. It’s the most psychologically accurate personality test out there, created by Katharine Cook Briggs and her daughter Isabel Briggs Myers.

The test features four sections called preferences, with two sides to each. Total, there are 16 different personality type combinations. I personally received the type ISFJ. Generally, this appeals to people who are introverted, pay attention to facts, act on their feelings, and appear to be task oriented.

I immediately connected with this result because when diving into deeper detail about each section, it clicked like a key in a lock.

I deeply care for people — those close to me and even strangers to a certain extent. I also tend to react more emotionally to major events like bad news.

I’m constantly being criticized for this deep, emotional connection and I’ve had enough.

I’ll admit that it can be a hassle dealing with someone who can’t always keep their emotions in check.

Those emotions can transfer from one person to another, and nobody needs more emotional stress in their life.

However, what I don’t agree with is the negativity put on people like myself who live with this heightened sensitivity.

Many people with the same personality as me don’t want to feel this way. We don’t want to feel like our heart is being ripped out when something bad happens.

It’s not easy living with common concerns like body image and sharing your deepest feelings with friends when your worries are further heightened by emotional sensitivity. Sometimes we resort to bottling up these feelings to avoid getting hurt even if the pain is inflicted unintentionally.

We often find ourselves, at least I do, searching for that switch. But like searching blindly in a dark room, we can’t find it.

Wouldn’t you say life would be so much more enjoyable without sadness or fear? So would we.

Instead of pointing a finger at us and telling us that we’re being over dramatic, try putting yourself in our shoes and telling us we’re not crazy for feeling the way we do. 🐼



Red Cups are not anti-religious



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Another “War on Christmas”

Controversy has ridden in on Santa’s sleigh this Holiday season, and it’s tag is addressed to Starbucks.

This isn’t the first time Starbucks has been the subject of controversy, with the last one taking place earlier in 2015 with their “Race Together” campaign. The company meant to encourage conversations about racial tensions coming from events like that of Ferguson. Despite the good intentions, criticism erupted with claims that Starbucks had no right to comment on the situation, due their lack in diversity in their staff.

Now, Starbucks is embroiled in the latest “War on Christmas” complaints with critics arguing it took Christ out of Christmas with its latest coffee cup design.

Every year Starbucks switches up their classic white cup with a red one featuring holiday designs. In past years the red cup has pictured snowmen, tree ornaments, reindeer, and various other symbols of the holiday season.

This year however, Starbucks decided to take a minimal approach and release their red cup as is, without any decorative designs.

This has brewed up a heated discussion between conservative Christians like Joshua Feuerstein, who started the conversation with his Facebook video, claiming Starbucks “removed Christmas from their cups because they hate Jesus.”

Then he claimed they actually cared that he “pranked” them because he told them his name was “Merry Christmas” to force them to acknowledge the Christian holiday. But the fact of the matter is: Starbucks doesn’t care.

Starbucks has never had any religious affiliation on their cups. To say that they’re attacking Christmas is ridiculous. Starbucks is a company that spans over 67 countries around the world with over 22,000 locations. They serve people of many different religions. The employees can’t wish every customer a Merry Christmas, because not everyone follows the Christian religion, especially in the boiling pot that is the United States.

Wake up and smell the pine trees people! Nobody is trying to take the Christ out of Christmas. Nobody is attacking Christianity. It’s a coffee cup that is eventually going to end up in the trash.

Those who are obsessed with calling out businesses and individuals for not recognizing Christianity as the most important religion during the winter holidays neglect to remember that this country was founded off the principle of freedom of and from religion.

Ruling Christianity as the default of the country defeats that founding idea.

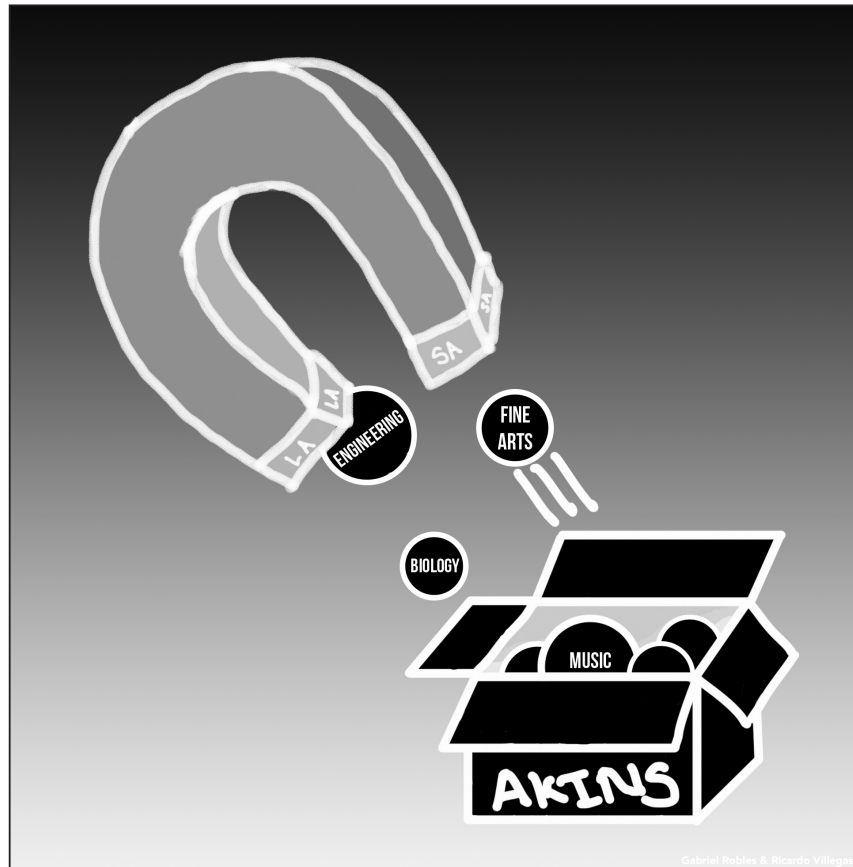
If you’re going to let a silly cup determine whether you have a good day because it doesn’t wish you Merry Christmas, then maybe you need to reevaluate what the holiday spirit is all about. 🐻



Gabriel Robles

Trustees devise opportunities for advanced classes in South Austin

EDITORIAL



LASA south proposed as one of five different solutions for introduction of 'Advanced Academics' in AISD

Why do so many people want to attend the Liberal Arts and Science Academy in North Austin? Only reason is because there is no magnet program for advanced academics existing in the southern district.

Approximately 400 students attending LASA live in the southern area of Austin ISD. There many more who wish to attend LASA who can't because the campus is at its capacity limit. In addition, transportation and general distance away from students' homes present problems.

This has caused a discussion downtown within the board of trustees to help combat this issue.

Five proposals to expand the advanced opportunities in South Austin were discussed at a board meeting in early November. One proposal that has gained some support from trustees would be to implement an advanced academic magnet program at Crockett High School.

Some trustees believe this is the best choice because it would provide an advanced academic program in South Austin, closing the gap currently existing between students and the LASA, which is located in North Austin at the LBJ High School campus.

In addition, this would balance out the current differences in enrollments between schools in the district. According to the Texas Education Agency, last year Bowie had approximately 2,871 students, Akins had 2,667, and Crockett had 1,487.

The enrollment difference between Crockett and the other South Austin schools is staggering, with a difference of approximately 1,180 students between Crockett and Akins.

Enhancing programs in South Austin and centralizing it at Crockett would bring students to their campus, and take some of the load off of other schools like Bowie and

Akins. Although there was some consensus in support of this proposal, school administrators have informed us that the board of trustees have gone back to the drawing board and formed a new committee charged with making a decision.

While it is unclear why the board had started the process over, at least we have more time to propose our own solution.

Currently, Akins and other schools in South Austin have advanced classes like Advanced Placement, On-Ramps, and Career Tech classes. While advanced to us, these classes don't fully reach the desired level of difficulty that the district truly considers advanced.

What the district is really looking for is a step above what we currently have to offer. One example of what they prefer are programs like International Baccalaureate courses.

We agree that there needs to be a program of the same caliber in South Austin. Centralizing these special courses in north Austin is very inconvenient for students of Austin ISD because the admission rate is limited and everyone in the district deserves the opportunity to take the hardest classes available and challenge themselves.

However, we do not believe adding onto Crockett alone is the best idea.

If the courses we consider advanced are not truly what they need to be, then introducing a new set of classes to meet that standard will completely void what we already have and have been working toward creating at Akins.

So instead, we propose to revamp our current classes to the level the district requires and to do this at all campuses. This will also help prevent the so-called "Brain Drain" that happens with magnet programs that concentrate the brightest students at one campus and pull them away from neighborhood schools.

We as the Editorial Board of the Eagle's Eye want to have the opportunities more available that are now restricted to north Austin. We urge the board of trustees to consider our proposal while ironing out plans, because we feel it would be the most beneficial for not only us here at Akins, but our sister schools in South Austin as well. 🐔

Cheating doesn't give the answer but causes the problem



AMANDA LIVINGSTON
Editor-in-Chief

School is stressful. Sometimes it can all get overwhelming; making your head spin like a tornado ripping through the landscape. That's something we can all agree on.

However, what we don't agree on, is cheating.

Most people would say cheating is bad, but some disagree, are jaded or simply don't care.

The reality is, cheating is a problem at Akins right now, and it needs to stop immediately. Unfortunately, the problem seems to be worse among the students who should be setting the example for the rest of the campus — the seniors.

The pressure of battling it out to be in the top 10, 8, or 5 percent seems to be driving students who should know better. There's a huge push to be the highest

ranked in the class, instead of what school should really be about — to become educated.

Cheating can take all sorts of different forms ranging from looking over the "smart kid's" shoulders for the answers to sharing copies of an answer key photo snapped nefariously by a cell phone.

Just because school is hard and you don't want to put forth the extra effort, doesn't give you a reason to cheat. It completely defeats the purpose of you being here. You are only cheating yourself.

It's not an excuse to say "But most of the classes I'm taking won't help me with what I want to do in the future, so what's the point?"

I completely agree. I love math, but the chances of Geometry helping you to be a dancer for the Rockettes are very slim. But you know what taking Geometry will teach you that will help? No, not how to find the area of a triangle.

You may not want to hear this, but school is made difficult for a reason.



Original photo by Chasing Saturdays

Gabriel Robles

Taking Geometry will teach you how to get through something you don't enjoy. You may love to dance, but more than likely there will be bad days, or steps to be a Rockette that you won't enjoy. So the determination you learn from truly working hard in your Geometry class despite not enjoying it, directly helps you in the real world.

Have you ever noticed, how tired your parents are when you both return home in the evening? They're not tired because they're old. They're tired because working in the real world is hard work, and in

the real world you have to make it on your own with no one to cheat off of.

Cheating will only make college and the real world more of a shock when you leave the sheltered confines of school.

If you're having trouble, ask for help. All of the teachers on campus have tutoring hours, and there are even some who would be available to help you even if you're not in their class.

Buck up, do your own work, and if you need it, ask for help.

School is a headache at times, but cheating should not be your Advil. 🐼

Potential gun laws could raise danger

EDITORIAL

The right to own and carry guns is at the top of the list of hot button issues in America, especially in Texas.

With the gun debate at a high, it's not surprising then that emotions are running high at the Texas Capitol as lawmakers debate bills that would expand access to guns in new places across the state.

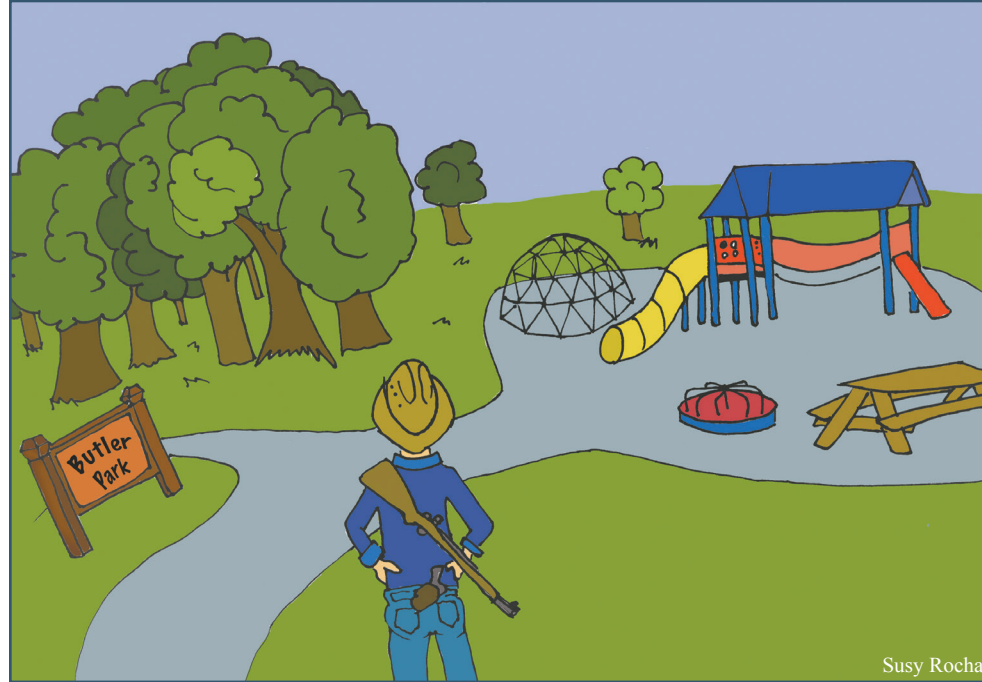
One bill would allow college students who possess a concealed handgun license to carry guns on college campuses. A second bill would allow concealed weapons permit holders to carry holstered handguns openly in public.

Currently, state law allows the open carrying of long guns like rifles and shotguns, but handguns may only be carried in a concealed fashion by those with a license.

The Eagle's Eye editorial board believes that lawmakers should be mindful of the consequences that could result if these bills are approved.

While the board is not unanimous in its opposition to these bills, the majority of members believe the ability to openly carry and campus carry would heighten danger and casualties.

In a poll taken by the Texas Tribune, 10 percent of voters think handguns should always be allowed even without a license, while 23 percent don't think guns should ever be allowed on a person in public. Finally, 22 percent of voters don't have a preference on whether or not the gun is concealed or not,



Susy Rocha

and 45 percent will allow for handguns only if they're concealed and hidden.

Another Texas Tribune poll shows that 47 percent of voters support campus carry, 45 percent oppose, and 8 percent don't have a preference.

On April 16, 2007 – almost eight years ago – a senior at Virginia Tech opened fire

on fellow students. During the shooting spree, 32 people died, and 17 others were wounded before the shooter, Seung-Hui Cho, committed suicide.

The tragedy at Virginia Tech still looms over our heads, and especially for those against the campus carry bill, like the University of Texas' System Chancellor

William McRaven.

McRaven has clearly stated his position in the topic, stepping onto the side against letting students carry a gun on campus.

"There is a great concern that the presence of handguns ... will lead to an increase in both accidental shootings and self-inflicted wounds," McRaven wrote in a letter to the Legislature.

The few students who are in favor of the bills being passed believe the campus carry law would allow students to better protect themselves in case of emergency. They also believe the open carry law, would make non-law abiding citizens think twice before making the wrong decision.

However, most of the editorial board disagrees and opposes both of the bills.

If campus carry becomes law guns will be allowed where they have no place.

We believe the Texas Legislature needs to reconsider the danger these two gun laws could bring, and take into account the risk they would be taking to allow them to pass.

College campuses are for learning, and furthering your education in what you want to do for a living, not a place for artillery. Guns create tension that shouldn't be prominent in an education setting.

Knowing a fellow citizen has a gun on them could restrict people's ability to voice their opinion, which defeats the purpose of college and further challenges the beliefs of freedom of speech in our country. ■