

Cost of Austin living is ridiculous, prices are at their all time high

EDITORIAL



Austin's family friendly environment, it's main attraction, is being undermined by expensive housing

“There’s so much focus by city leadership on swanky downtown condos, that cost more than my house did,” Akins math teacher Natalie Peterson said.

We as the editorial board of The Eagle’s Eye agree with Peterson. The cost of Austin living has reached an all time high, and it’s outrageous.

Sail down Lady Bird Lake, walk through the Bob Bullock History Museum, and shop on South Congress. Austin is a thriving youthful city, full of unique restaurants, wide shopping variety, and home to a huge live music scene. We have something for everyone here. Families with younger children can enjoy events like the Kite Festival, Trail of Lights, and visit the Thinkery, other known as the Austin Children’s Museum. Teenagers and older citizens enjoy events like ACL, South by Southwest, and other various local concerts held in the venues downtown.

According to the Austin Visitor’s Bureau 22.6 million people visited Austin in 2014. In addition, according to the Austin Chamber of Commerce, the Austin MSA population grew by 13.2 percent.

We love sharing our city and our home with people everywhere. However, Austin is no longer an affordable place to live. We have so many people moving here that some people’s property taxes have risen 60 percent in 8 years in some cases, forcing even teachers in our school district to move away to afford a home.

To meet the huge need for housing in Austin, new apartment complexes are being built, along with more subdivisions with houses. Unfortunately, the pace of building is not nearly enough to keep up with the explosive population growth. According to the Austin Real Estate Council, from 2000 to 2012, the Austin region grew by more than 570,000 new residents, but the number of housing units

within the city limits increased by only about 84,000.

Our generation faces the very real possibility that we will not be able to afford to buy a home in the very city we call home because of how quickly housing costs are rising. And if the very people who grew up in Austin are not able to stay here the character of the city is likely to change dramatically.

It could soon get to the point where it becomes just another overgrown metropolis without the character Austin is known for.

Until there is enough housing for everyone who wants to live in Austin to live here, something needs to be done to alleviate the strain on Austinites. According to a student survey conducted by The Eagle’s Eye, almost half the survey group indicated that their family was thinking of moving to the suburbs such as Buda and Kyle to be able to purchase an affordable home.

People have every right to live where they want, but something needs to be done to fix the affordability. Right now, some of those things are of the following:

- raise people’s wages
- change the way tax appraisals are determined
- give tax breaks to people who have lived in Austin for an extended period of time
- give tax breaks on property outside of downtown Austin

The editorial board believes that the best way to fix the housing problem with the least repercussions is to implement tax breaks for long standing Austinites.

This would alleviate some of the expenses on those living in Austin, and increase expenses for those moving into the area. While this may sound like discouraging people to live here, it in fact would help the city.

This would slow down population growth temporarily so that the supply of housing can match the demand for housing, rather than the demand for housing rising exponentially while people come in quicker than housing can be provided. While this might sound unfair, this would only be temporary, and the taxes would only apply to new Austinites until they have lived in Austin long enough, which encourages long term living in Austin. 🐾

ADMINISTRATION SCHOOL POLICY

Hosack gets rid of tardy passes



D'SHALON WILLIAMS
Staff Writer

Since January, a simple change of the rules is keeping students in class, avoiding wasted time and keeping hallways clear of wandering students.

After years of tardy students being sent away from classrooms to seek a pass before entering, now they simply enter the class late and the teacher counts them tardy on their attendance. Administrators said that habitually tardy students were taking advantage of the previous policy, which enabled students to avoid going to class with the excuse that they needed to get a tardy pass.

With the previous policy students would sometimes miss up to 30 minutes of class to get a tardy pass.

I personally had to experience taking 30 minutes to get to class. When getting off the bus after the first bell rang, administrators were guiding everyone to get tardy passes. When I got to the room to get my tardy pass, there was a line that wrapped around the corner and down the hallway. After waiting in line for 10 minutes all students were instructed to just go to class without a pass and they would make he will make an announcement for us to be exempted. The fiasco caused me to miss 10 minutes of U.S History class just because the bus was late.

One way this new policy benefits students is that they will be in class longer than before. The previous policy made students miss too much class time, especially in cases where the student has no control of when they make it to class because of late buses and other legitimate reasons.

Many of students had to deal with this problem when the bus they’re riding shows up to the school late and they do not have time for breakfast.

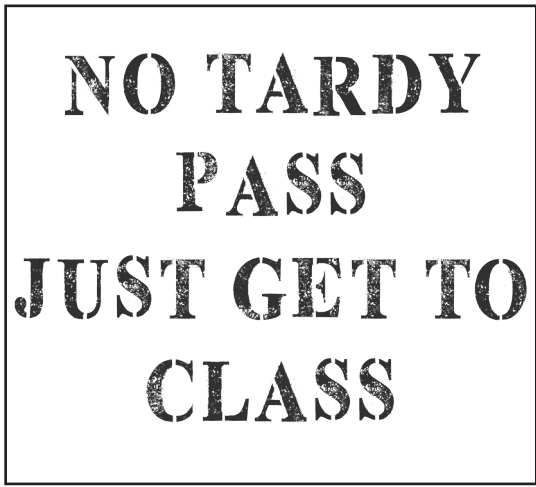
The policy also benefits teachers who do not like locking students out of the classroom and making them go and get tardy passes and having them missing out on the beginning of a lesson. Since this new policy was issued students have been getting to class earlier than before and have not been missing out on instructional time.

Assistant Principal Robert Deckard said he runs a report at the end of each week to find students with three or more tardies, who are then assigned Saturday school to make up for it.

“We had 100 students with three or more tardies, that is less than 4 percent of the school population,” he said. “What that means is that 2,568 students can get to class on time to their classes.”

It’s not that surprising that many students are tardy at this point when the policy is new. Students will start thinking twice about being tardy when they get assigned Saturday school on a regular basis.

Overall this new policy is helping the school run better. It is helping students get to class on time. It’s helping administrators keep the hall clear from wandering students. 🐾



Staffers debate if gun regulations should be strict or not

MORE THE MERRIER

GUN RESTRICTIONS

LESS IS BEST

Guns are dangerous weapons that need to be regulated for the safety of the people



NAMIAH WRIGHT
Staff Writer

On Jan. 1, Texans were allowed to openly carry handguns in most public places throughout the state.

This new right was the result of gun rights advocates who believe that openly carrying weapons can make themselves and even others around them safer. Supporters of the law passed by the Legislature in 2015 say that openly carrying weapons can also help deter potential mass shootings that have happened frequently across

the country this year.

However, not everyone has been happy about seeing weapons openly carried, and some businesses have displayed signs by their doors that explain that openly carrying weapons inside is prohibited. There is going to be confusion and unease if someone sees someone openly carrying a gun in a place where they are not often seen.

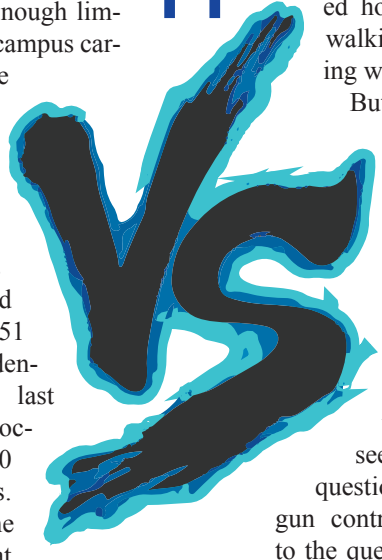
It is still illegal to openly carry holstered handguns in some other public places, including schools and certain parts of college campuses. However, legislators also recently passed a “Campus Carry” law that will require state universities to allow people who possess a concealed handgun license the right to carry weapons onto college or university buildings.

There are simply not enough limitations to open carry and campus carry to ensure that these new rights do not cause even more problems of gun violence in Texas.

For 2015, the numbers of gun deaths are 13371, and of those, 1951 are from accidental shootings last year, of which occurred from 330 mass shootings. I think that the more people that possess guns in public will only add on to our problems, and fear that the increasing presence of firearms in life will only lead people to believe that brandishing weapons is the only way to stay safe. With so many cases of mass shootings in recent years it’s understandable that people would be nervous about seeing someone openly carrying a handgun who is not a police officer or working in some other type of law enforcement capacity. 🐾



Chelsea Cuevas



Gun control creates false safety and infringes on the rights of United States citizens



GABE ROBLES
Opinions Editor

On Jan. 1, Texas became the 45th state in the nation to allow handguns to be openly carried in the same places where once before could carry a concealed handgun if properly licensed. Opponents of open carry predicted horror stories of gun nuts walking the streets brandishing weapons in public places.

But now more than a month into the existence of open carry in Texas there has no major shooting incidents or cases of innocent bystanders being terrorized by those who choose to openly carry.

At the end of the day, the argument constantly seems to devolve to a single question: do we need stricter gun control? The simple answer to the question really just involves another question: has gun control actually done anything?

On Tuesday, Jan. 5, President Obama made a call for “sense of urgency” to fight gun violence, and ended his argument for stricter gun control by mention the death of Daniel Barden, who was murdered in the 2012 massacre at Sandy Hook Elementary School in Connecticut.

But as far as we have seen, none of it has made any difference. There have been five shootings in the

month of January alone, according to the Gun Violence Archive. There is no statistical evidence that shows that gun control actually achieves the goals they were set out to achieve. Instead, it makes it harder for people who follow the law to purchase guns to protect themselves.

The effects of gun control is simply a false sense of safety. People are stripped of their ability to effectively defend themselves against an armed perpetrator, who, by the way, isn’t a law abiding citizen, and made the commitment to break the law and go around the legal gun purchasing system.

Furthermore, it undermines the fundamental reason that our right to bear arms was established by the second amendment: “...being necessary to the security of a free State.” In the eyes of our forefathers, gun control takes away the power of the people to rebel against an unjust, authoritarian rule.

Now, it would be unsensible to allow any person to buy a gun — such as known criminals, non-U.S. citizens, etc. It’s fair to feel this way, however, there is a saying that has been around longer than dirt in our books that governs the instincts of every creature on this planet: “Better safe than sorry” —and no, that “safe” is not defined by infringing upon the rights of law-abiding citizens. 🐾



Chelsea Cuevas

EDUCATION ISSUES

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.

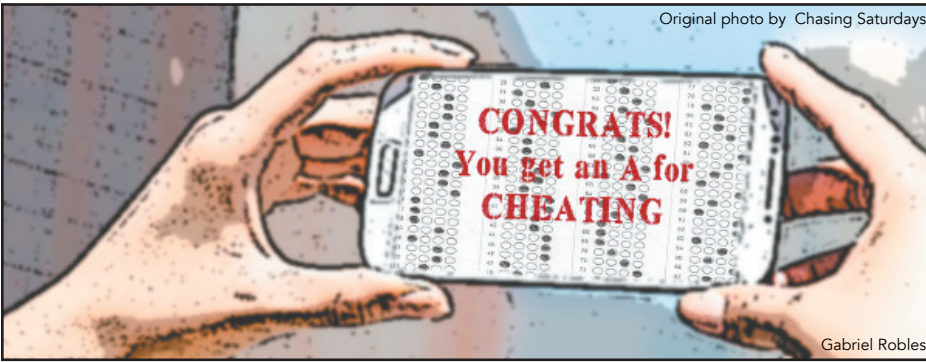
Cheating can take all sorts of different forms ranging from looking over the “smart kid’s” shoulders for the answers to sharing copies of an answer key photo snapped nefariously by a cell phone.

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. 🐾

THE EAGLE'S EYE

Editorial Policy

The Eagle's Eye is the official student newspaper of Akins High School. It is published six times a year, generally once per six weeks for the school's students, staff and community.

The Eagle's Eye is an open forum for student expression. The Eagle's Eye is not reviewed by school administration prior to distribution, and the advisor will not act as a censor. Content

represents the views of the student staff and not school officials.

The Eagle's Eye will work to avoid bias and/or favoritism. We will strive to make our coverage and content meaningful, timely and interesting to our readers. Our articles will reflect the genuine objective of reporting news and will be held to a high standard of quality.

We will make every effort to avoid printing libel, obscenities, innuendo and material that threatens to disrupt the learning process

or is an invasion of privacy. We will avoid electronic manipulation that alters the truth of a photograph.

Staff editorials represent the opinion of the editorial board arrived at by discussion and will not be bylined. Bylined articles are the opinion of the individual writer and do not necessarily reflect the views of the Eagle's Eye staff or administration as a whole.

The Eagle's Eye welcomes reader input. Please send any letters, articles, comments

or corrections to akins.journalism@gmail.com or mail them to 10701 South First Street Austin, Texas 78748 or drop them off in room 223 with advisor David Doerr or an editor. Letters must be signed, and emailed letters will require verification before publication. We will not necessarily publish all letters received and reserve the right to edit for length and clarity.

The Eagle's Eye does not necessarily endorse the products or services found in advertisements from local businesses.

Honors



Bronze Star Award
2007
2011
2012
2013
2014



Superior Coverage
2005
2008



All-American
2013
Nominated for Pacemaker -2013



2011 - Silver Medal
2012 - Gold Medal

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