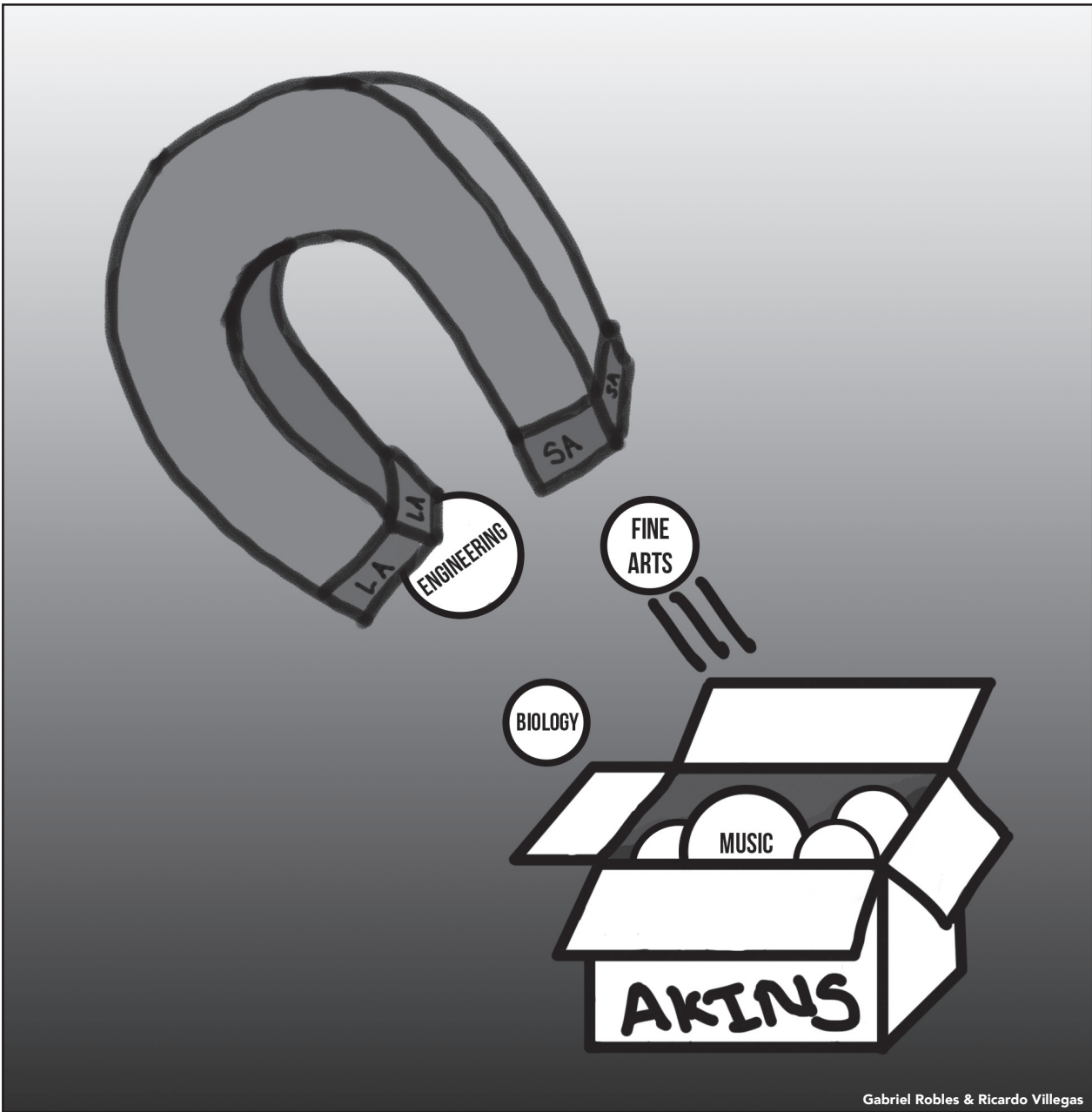


# Trustees devise opportunites for advanced classes in South Austin

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.

### HOLIDAYS

### RELIGIOUS DISPUTE

## Red Cups are not anti-religious



AMANDA LIVINGSTON  
Editor-in-Chief

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.

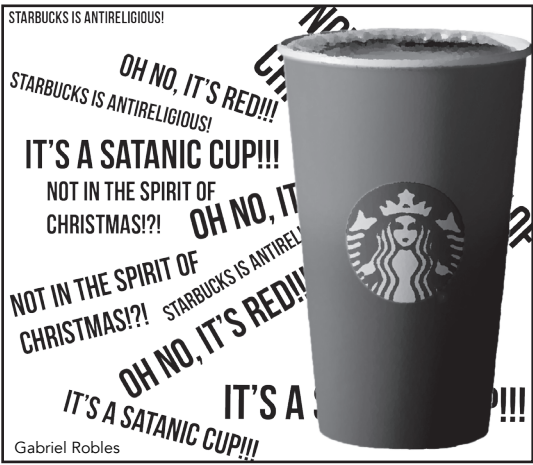
Starbucks has never had any religious affiliation on their cups. To say that they're attacking Christmas is ridiculous. Starbucks is a company that spans over 67 countries around the world with over 22,000 locations. They serve people of many different religions. The employees can't wish every customer 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

### TERRORISM

### INJUSTICES

## Syrian immigrants require help, not fear of ISIS



GABE ROBLES  
Opinions Editor

With the war on terrorism resulting in ISIS outspoken attack of countries like France and Kenya, terror has reached an all time high, and despite the fight that we've put up, when the Syrian refugees need us most, we, among others, back out of Middle Eastern affairs.

To make matters clear: Syrian refugees are not a band of terrorists. Texas Agriculture commissioner Sid Miller made the mistake of comparing the refugees to a horde of rattlesnakes on Twitter. "Can you tell me which of these rattlers won't bite you? Sure some of them won't, but tell me which ones so we can bring them into the house," he said.

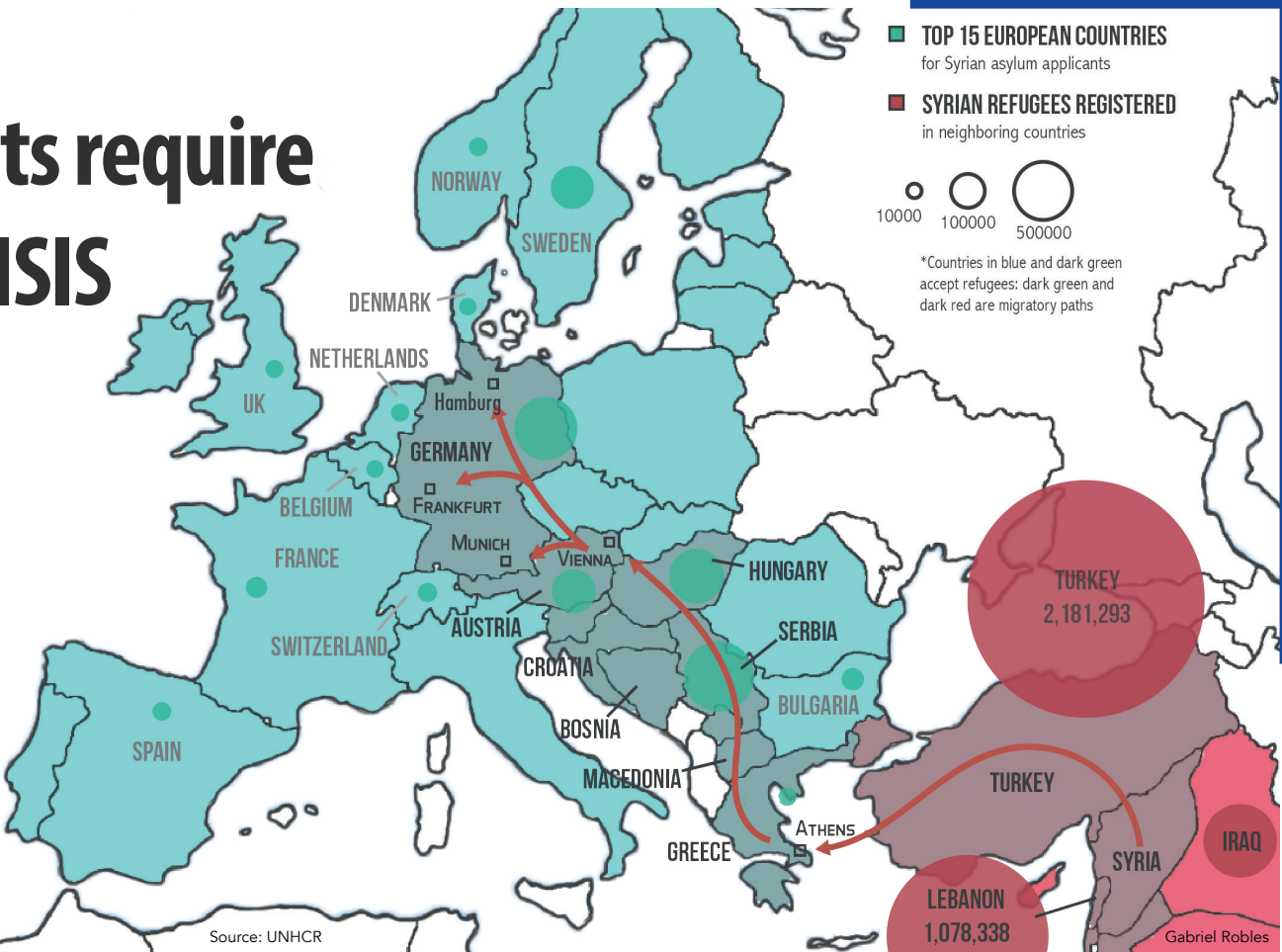
This mentality is toxic. We have a purpose in granting refugees sanctuary, and it's being undermined by this fear that we're endangering ourselves by letting people in.

Governor Greg Abbott also seems to think that "American humanitarian compassion could be exploited." Why would 15 million people want to risk their safety? If there is a terrorist among their ranks, we could be certain that the people actually seeking help would rat them out.

This fear of ISIS — this poison we present to ourselves — is keeping us from doing the job that we set out to do since 9-11. If we take one look at France and succumb to the fear that we're the next country to be attacked by the next set of suicidal radical Islamists, then we're giving ISIS just what they want. Not only do the Syrian refugees need us to get our act together, we need to get our act together so that we don't give terrorists the joy of winning and having their way.

Furthermore, for all the selfish reasons, what good does it do us to keep Syrian refugees out? It doesn't help the conscious, and the only reason we can do without getting frowns and winces from other countries is because every other country is doing it. For those of you that hate it for what it is, imagine the way that we take the Syrian crisis in like Donald Trump feels about Mexican immigrants: they're all rapist and drug dealers, right?

We did this in World War I, in World War II, and we're doing it, again. We need to pull ourselves out of this cycle of intervening in things if we aren't prepared to do so. And when we do, we need to take responsibility for the things to come. We need to overcome this fear and welcome the refugees. It's the justice the world owes them.



## Islam is faith, not a deadly ideology



MAHEEN ANJUM  
Life & Styles Editor (top)



YASMINE DAHER  
Guest Writer (bottom)

In February, a Muslim woman wearing a hijab (headscarf) named Darlene Hider said she was discriminated against by a fellow traveler and Delta Air Lines staff because of Islamophobia.

If only the woman who threw out the insults knew that Islam teaches its followers to be peaceful, kind and honest. Unfortunately, the hijab and other signs of Islamic faith become targets for stereotypes by those who know nothing about these tenets of our religion.

Muslim women all around the world have felt discrimination of some sort for wearing the hijab which represents a Muslim women's Islamic identity and her respect for the religion. Many people are mistaken by the purpose of the hijab and what is the actual meaning behind it.

A Muslim woman who wears the hijab not only follows the path of Islam by wearing it, it also helps cover their physical beauty and bring out their inner beauty within themselves. It is the principle of modesty and it's intended to reflect one's piety.

We started wearing the hijab at the beginning of our freshman year in high school. It has impacted our lives

in different ways, bringing us closer to our religion and helping us discover our true identity of who we are as Muslim girls.

Some people have done horrid and offensive acts towards the Mosque (holy place of worship). An incident occurred in Pflugerville about a Mosque being vandalized by having feces and ripped pages from the Quran thrown on its front door. This act of discrimination has shocked many Muslims, including us. It has been heart-breaking for many Muslims to process and understand why inhumane acts are being caused towards the Muslim community. In Chicago's downtown Islamic center, a couple of Hijabi volunteers had stood out in front of the Mosque giving out donuts and hugs to people who came up to them. They were inviting individuals to come in and experience a heartwarming environment of peace, love, and prayer. These actions have shown through love and compassion out in the open that stereotypes about Islam do not define the religion and are false accusations.

As Muslim students at Akins, we are speaking for everyone. Stereotypes are spread by those who discriminate against us.

Once rude comments were yelled across the hall about us and our religion.

SEE AKINSEAGLESEYE.COM  
FOR THE FULL STORY

### LIFE & STYLE

### IMPOSITIONS

## Shaving a terrible social normality



JESSE FARQUHAR-GRETH  
Co-Graphics Editor

"You are so lucky to have light arm hair!" says the girl sitting next to me in class, black hair falling from her head over shoulders.

I notice her arms, barren of any hair, folded in vexation. I ask if she shaves her arms. She says she does, explaining how her body hair makes her feel incredibly disgusting.

Why do people, particularly young girls, feel inadequate with hair on their bodies? Why is it only socially acceptable for women to shave their body hair, and not men as well? Historically, there is a relationship between shaving and worldly events. It has ended up as a pointless, expensive process, that has people needlessly hating themselves.

In 1915, Bazaar Magazine publishes a picture of

a model with her under arms barren of body hair. Razor companies found that they now had a new demographic group to target. They could now double their target audience by peddling their wares to women.

During World War I and II, razor companies looked for ways to increase profits: they targeted legs as the next area of the female body that should be shorn clean of hair. After a wartime advertising blitz against hairy legs, it was at this point that the shaved legs trend became a mainstream norm. Leg hair became seen as unfeminine, and today women are expected to be hairless creatures.

So, the only reason people have been shaving in the last century is basically the result of a manipulative ploy by razor and fashion magazine industries making us hate ourselves and thus consume more.

The sleekness of the human physique will always be appealing, and by all means, shave. But don't condemn yourself to shave because the media advertises humans as required to be like prepubescent hairless beings.

# 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 our 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 akinsjournalism@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  
2007 - H.M. Sweepstakes  
2010 - 2nd Sweepstakes  
2011 - H.M. Sweepstakes



All-American  
2013  
Nominated for Pacemaker - 2013



2011 - Silver Medal  
2012 - Gold Medal

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## EAGLE THE VIEW

## Question: How do you feel about the school district making a LASA south location?

"Pretty smart idea, but they might need a whole other school."  
-Kaylani Hernandez  
Freshman

"It'll give more kids a special chance. Provides a new challenge."  
-William Banda  
Sophomore

"Build another school. Mixing two school cultures is bad."  
-Victoria Rangel  
Junior

"People down south now have more options and paths."  
-Michael Medrano  
Senior

"Kids here start to lose opportunities... all going to LASA South."  
-Hannah Spitzfaden  
Math Teacher

