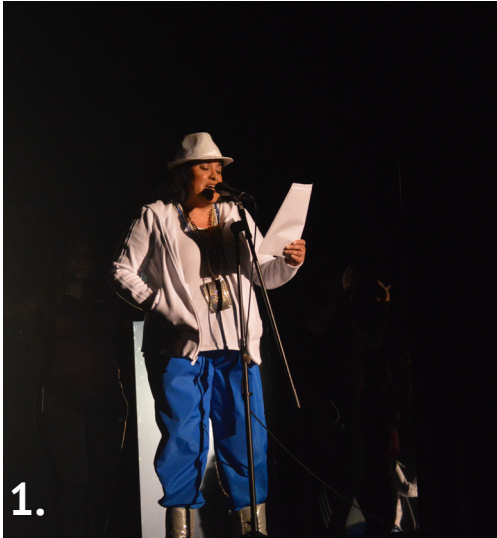


Pageant Material

Fourth annual competition gives faculty a chance to shine outside the classroom



1.

1. Spanish teacher and Teachers and Tiaras winner Juana Gun sings a Spanish class version of "Hotline Bling" by Drake.



2.

2. Counselor and second runner-up Mindy Croom sings her original song, "Everyday Living." In an interview before the competition Croom talked about her view on winning and losing. "You know life is about winning and losing, and it's the losing that makes the winning so special," Croom said. "So if I lose, I'll just be looking forward to another win somewhere else."



3.

3. Special Education and life skills teacher Jason Hiatt sings and plays his original song, "Pocket in my Shoe." During the interview portion Hiatt was asked what class he teaches. "I work with our students here at McCallum that are special needs," Hiatt said. "And I am so grateful every day to be here, to be with my students, and I don't have a funny answer for that, 'cause I love it here."

4. Juana Gun poses during the evening wear portion of the competition. Gun attributed her win to her lucky wedding dress as well as to her students, or "well-to-do friends," as she called them.

Photos by Charlie Holden.



4.

*"It's a very lucky wedding dress. Every time I wear it, I win things."
- Juana Gun*

DECEMBER IS A MONTH WITH

Light director Miles Johnson and emcee David Zarzoza improvise a song to keep the audience entertained during technical difficulties before the start of the second annual McCallum Radio Talent Show. Jennifer Rivera won first place in the competition with her rendition of Rihanna's "Stay." Photo by Jennifer Rivera.



Riley Simpson dances to "Hello" in the Field House Dec. 2. "I like that informal dance concerts are low-pressure, and offer opportunity for everyone to shine." Photo by Madison Olsen.



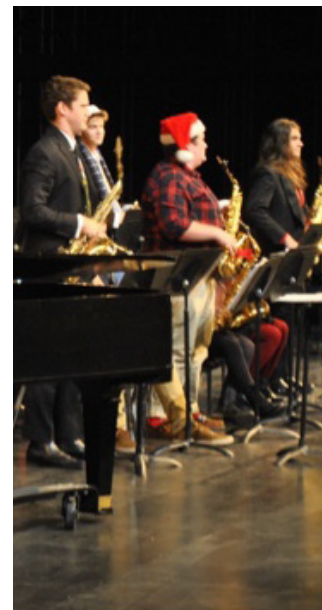
Sophomore Matan Bos Orent plays the violin at the orchestra class concert Tuesday night in the MAC Theatre. The orchestra playing a slate of holiday favorites. Photo by Camille Selis.

Junior Ta'tyana Jammer plays guitar and sings an original song at McCallum Battle of the Bands last Thursday. "It was nerve-racking at first, but I felt really pumped to be there," Jammer said after the performance. She was even more pumped after she found out she received more votes from the audience than anyone else. Photo by Ellie Blankenship.



Blue Tongue performed Saturday Dec. 5 and the second annual McCallum Radio Talent Show. Led by senior lead guitarist Tre Pham, the band closed the show, performing three songs. Although they didn't win, they did bring down the house. Photo by Jennifer Rivera.

The jazz band waits as Ms. Nelson introduces them to the audience before the band holiday concert Monday night in the MAC Theatre. To add to the jazzy atmosphere, the band members decided to bring in guitar and bass guitar players. Photo by Gabi Williams.



David Soto (above) and his Pantheon bandmates received the most paid votes at the Battle of the Bands Thursday in the MAC Theatre. "The student performers were very impressive," guitar teacher Andrew Clark said. "Some students could easily be mistaken for pro session musicians." The event raised more than \$1,100. Photo by Ruby Dietz.

KNIGHTS ON STAGE EVERY NIGHT.



Pro choice supporters gather on the steps of the Texas Capitol Building Friday, Jan. 22 to celebrate the the anniversary of Roe v. Wade. Keynote speakers included an Austin nurse and rabbi as well as a UT student who shared her own story of abortion. Photo by Charlie Holden.



Pro-life supporters marched on the streets of downtown Austin on Saturday, Jan. 23, arriving at the Capitol where guest speakers included Gov. Greg Abbott, who encouraged attendees to continue the fight against abortion. Photo by Charlie Holden.

Anniversary elicits dueling rallies

Roe v. Wade Supreme Court ruling brings pro-choice, pro-life supporters to Capitol steps

MYA NAJOMO
staff reporter

A reconciliation bill that would de-fund Planned Parenthood was passed by the House of Representatives on Jan. 6. The vote came after hearings where the House heard vehemently contested allegations that Planned Parenthood might have violated federal laws by selling body parts of aborted babies. According to lifenews.com, the House voted 240-181 with a Republican vote of 239-3 for the bill and a Democratic vote of 178-1 against it. This is the first bill ever to reach the president's desk that would defund Planned Parenthood.

President Barack Obama vetoed the reconciliation bill to defund Planned Parenthood. He believes the bill would reverse all the hard work and improvements in health care in America. Congress can override the president's veto by passing the act by a two-thirds vote in both the House and the Senate.

Before the landmark 1973 Roe v. Wade decision, abortion was a crime. The Supreme Court concluded that a woman's right to

make any decision regarding her pregnancy deserved extreme constitutional protection.

Pro-choice advocates consider Planned Parenthood to be America's most reliable reproductive health provider. The organization provides reproductive health care and sex education to all women and men, especially young adults. The sex education they provide is intended to prevent the spread of sexually transmitted diseases, to teach about the contraceptive options available and to promote overall good health. At a Texas rally to support pro-choice and celebrate the 43rd anniversary of the Roe v. Wade decision on Jan. 22, supporters gathered to advocate for the organization.

"Planned Parenthood is a really valuable, institution that a lot of people need for a lot of reasons," said a local Austin man who attended the rally but did not give his name. "I'm pro choice, but abortion isn't the only thing they do. What they do is essential for many people's lives."

He added that Planned Parenthood works to provide valuable programs and education that everyone can benefit from and to fight for comprehensive sex education in schools.

The man also praised the organization for fighting for the constitution's protections established in the Roe v. Wade court decision.

"Well I'm gay, I'm a gay activist, and that means that I can tell the government to mind its own business," the male activist said. "I'll do what I want to with my own body, and that's exactly what women are faced with."

The next day at a Texas rally for pro-life on Jan. 23, pro-life advocates argued against a woman's right to an abortion.

"All people should be allowed to be born once they've been conceived because I believe life starts at conception, and that [abortion is] murder," said Janet Krueger, who attended the pro-life rally. "I don't understand why our United States has allowed that to even get started, and here it's been 43 years, and it's still here."

Pro-life advocates believe the decision of abortion should be overturned, and while they don't support Planned Parenthood's version of sex education, they do believe that preventative education is essential because the personal costs of abortion are high and not always immediate.

"You can get more educated about protect-

ing yourself from actually getting pregnant before the problem, the issue, is there," rally attendee Elaine Houle said. "It does hurt you, I feel like it just hurts you and the baby once the abortion has begun because you'll never know the emotional damage until later on, and that's why people should be more precautionous and careful about having sex".

As for the court decision that prompted both rallies, one side might be very happy after the Supreme Court weighs in on Texas House Bill 2. HB 2 is a four-part state law that restricts abortion access. Passed during the 2013 legislative session, the law placed great restrictions on physicians performing abortions that led to the closure of half of the state's abortion clinics. The law's provisions have made it harder for poorer women to afford or even qualify for an abortion. The U.S Supreme Court will now consider whether or not HB-2 is constitutional. According to the *Chronicle* this case is expected to be the most pivotal abortion rights case since 1992, *Whole Woman's Health v. Hellerstedt*, and could very well set the course for reproductive health laws across the country for decades to come.