

# THE COLLEGIAN



SERVING THE TARRANT COUNTY COLLEGE DISTRICT

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DFW

DISTRICT

## HAUNTED HISTORY

### Spooky DFW locations host paranormal guests

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Miss Molly's Hotel, Old Alton Bridge and the Stockyards Hotel have one thing in common: Their history is rich and their ghost stories are plenty. "The Collegian" takes to the streets to investigate the history of these hauntings.

See Ghouls, pages 4-5

Alex Hoben/The Collegian

## Child care program helps TCC parents

**KEYLA HOLMES**  
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For students seeking childcare services, finding the right fit can pose a challenge, especially for those who may not be able to afford the expensive rates many centers charge.

The TCC Child Care Assistance Program supports students by providing financial support and other services to those in need of them.

TR student Taniya Harbour-Jones, a relatively new member of the program, has a 4 month old daughter. She said the program is a life saver.

"I do not live with my parents so I must work in addition to school," Jones said. "My family just lives too far away for them to provide consistent childcare, so we for sure needed to have her in a childcare facility."

Coordinator of Child Care Assistance Karen Hutto said the program seeks to help students in any way it can.

"We are able to provide them with tuition assistance, child care centers that are pre approved, and our grant does require us to use accredited child care centers," Hutto said. "Once we approve a student we send them the approved list and then they can select off of that list the ones that might be convenient to them."



Childcare is very expensive so if we can assist in any way we want to be able to do that.

**Karen Hutto**  
Coordinator of Child Care Assistance



Hutto said the program's mission is assisting college students so they can stay in school. Those interested in applying must be enrolled in at least 9 credit hours. For more information regarding the program's mission, eligibility requirements, financial assistance, and access to an online application, students can visit the TCC Child Care Assistance Program web page.

NE student Lillian Wright said she See Care, page 3

DISTRICT

## Concerns over Wi-Fi addressed by IT experts

**FOUSIA ABDULLAHI**  
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Wi-Fi network issues for students and faculty are being rectified with new wireless access points installed on NE campus.

In response to this problem, Chief Information Officer Todd Kreuger shared the administration's work-in-progress solution.

"We understand the importance of improving the Wi-Fi coverage at Northeast Campus and throughout the district," he said. "As a result, we are in the process of installing new Access Points District-wide. We have installed and activated new wireless access points on the Northeast campus in NTAB and NHSC."

On Sept. 24, a new wireless access point was activated in NACB, along with three

more times as many wireless points across the campus. These additions will improve the network issues, students and faculty have been experiencing.

In the first weeks of the semester, one of the running themes in classes, library and other spaces has students and faculty frustrated that the Wi-Fi doesn't stay connected for long periods or lags.

"I do most of my schoolwork online; when the internet is slow, it makes it harder for me to complete my assignments," said NE student Layla Stewart, a cybersecurity major, "I have to kind of rush through them."

In a board meeting on Sept 21, 2021, a motion was approved to upgrade the district's Wi-Fi and six wireless access using \$3.5 Million in HEERF (Higher Education Emergency Relief Grants) with a 15% for contingency to date, \$3.9 Million has been spent.

"Wi-Fi six is an ongoing multi-year project and is anticipated to be completed in 2025," Kreuger said.

Waiting on speed or connectivity can take instruction time from students and faculty if assignments or information need to be sent to the instructor during class and the internet is slow or students have to sign in multiple times. Stewart has experienced just that.

"It just takes longer to get assignments submitted and for my professor to see that I have submitted my papers so that it is able to be graded properly and it wasn't that I turned it in late," she said.

Julia Overby, a NE health studies major, said she was frustrated with leaving campus and working in a coffee shop, because she can't stay connected to the Wi-Fi long enough to study.

"It's hard to grab 100% full information

if a professor wants you to look up the textbook or even get on Canvas," Overby said. "Sometimes I really need the extra PowerPoint when they move the slide, I keep the PowerPoint right next to me so I can finish my notes. So, it definitely affects even the little things."

Faculty are also affected by the Wi-Fi connection in class. If the classroom isn't equipped with computers, teachers have to wait for students to log in multiple times, or the internet speed takes too long to load on personal devices.

NE speech adjunct professor Kenny Leblanc said the Wi-Fi connection has been an issue for her and students for all three semesters she has been working at TCC. Furthermore, the problem has recently worsened.

Several students said they don't know See Wi-Fi, page 3

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New album defies gender and pop genres  
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**Undiagnosed**

You are not crazy for what you cannot control  
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TRINITY RIVER

# Author stresses Latino voting participation

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Being a part of the majority isn't enough, one should be educated as well.

Richard Gonzales, author of "Raza Rising Chicanos in North Texas" gave a presentation Oct. 16 on the importance of the Latino vote and how education fuels action as the end of the Hispanic Heritage month approached.

He said the conundrum Texas is facing is that even though the Latino population is increasing, they are not represented in government, corporate, non-profit executive levels or boardroom positions.

"I wanted to stress to students the path to those positions is to become politically involved and to become as educated as possible," he said. "There is a gap in the professional positions for people of color, and I'm stressing to not be hesitant to aspire to be in one of those higher professional positions. Whatever professional level that requires higher education that is a 4-year degree, master level, a professional school. Don't hesitate to be those if you aspire to do that."

Another topic he discussed was voter education and how it should be taught earlier than even high school or middle school, it needs to be taught from the beginning.

As a person who came from a family that



Olla Mokhtar/The Collegian

Richard Gonzalez presents to a group of students the history of Latino education with a picture of students in one of the first Latino schools.

didn't vote, TR student Heaven Acevedo said she had to read about it herself.

"I got involved in a speech and debate club, and I practiced creating bills and stuff," she said. "It was all fake, but we had to do research and use actual sources, so I was con-

stantly reading new policies, and I still do."

TR student Gideon Green said that he believes Texan state officials aren't doing enough to push and challenge people enough to vote and educate themselves more, to avoid activism and knowledge.

"I think it's very deliberate in our government that they don't because it's easier to control people when they're uneducated," he said. "Our society values work over education and it's easier to have people working for lower wages when they're uneducated and they don't know their rights or the laws."

Green said he also believed that Americans aren't educated so that nothing changes and the same people who are in power can stay in power.

"If that wasn't the case there would be a lot more positive change within north Texas and Texas as a whole."

Lucia Ramirez-Amarasekara was one of the organizers of this event as a part of the Hispanic Heritage Month committee at TR. Ramirez-Amarasekara said the purpose of it was to educate students on the importance of the Latino vote.

"We wanted to make students aware of voting power, not just one group but every group which is why we also have the League of Women Voters," she said.

The League of Women Voters is "a political grassroots network and membership organization that believes the freedom to vote is a nonpartisan issue." They gave students the chance to register to vote as they exited the auditorium.

"Education plays an important role in each student's future, they should get involved politically to help make change whatever change that may be."

NORTHEAST

# Film Workforce Program offers certification for RTVF students

**KEVIN MORALES**  
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TCC presents an easy and quick four to five-month program that allows individuals to fast-track their way into the film industry.

TCC is in collaboration with the Fort Worth Film Commission and 101 Studios to launch the Film Workforce Program otherwise known as the Fort Worth Film Collaborative.

They've already launched the introduction course for the Workforce Program and have already begun the classroom courses began on Oct. 16. The program is divided into three certifications, depending on which of the different certifications the student chooses from will depend on whether it be held in the South or NE Campus.

"We are trying to design a pathway for people that have started in the Continuing Education Workforce Program to give them credit for the classes that they've taken to apply to an associate's degree if they'd like," says Chad Jones, the department coordinator for the RTVF program.

The Fort Worth Film Collaborative was designed to fill in the gap of necessary crew members that local productions don't currently have, Jones said. He said he believes that by having the collaborative, it will benefit the film industry in supply and talent.

This is a good way to get training fairly quickly, to be able to get a job as quickly as possible on a film set," Jones said. "So it's an opportunity for someone that doesn't have the time to invest two years to go back and get a complete degree."

Offering certifications in hair and makeup, light commercial construction and gaffer and grip, students will learn about film operations, safety practices, electrical and mechanical principles, hair and makeup and lighting and set construction.

The courses only take about a month to complete, designed so that students can either go one course at a time or double up on the courses and finish the program in four to five months.

The current prices for the program are \$200 per course. Jones can't confirm if prices will change in the future but financial aid is also available for students. He said that other courses will be added in the future.



Alex Hoben/The Collegian

NE student Rachael Adams operates one of the TV cameras during the TCC Newsfeed broadcast. The Newsfeed is run by the RTVF department and is open to student volunteers. It is a way for students to get on-the-job experience for newscasts.

Though the Workforce Program is a more fast-paced and fast-track way to get into the film industry, it does demand a little more physicality compared to the traditional associate's degree.

"On a film set typically requires a lot of bending, lifting, standing on your feet for long periods of time. You know, just physical demands of the job," Jones said. "Of course, we wouldn't rule anyone out and not accept them into the program because of a limitation like that, but they may find it difficult to obtain work if they're not able to actually do the job on set."

Jack Fredrick, a student who's gone through some of the Workforce Program says that the program has gone by quickly and described it like a crash course for understanding film production in the industry.

Since starting, he said he has felt comfortable with the pace of the class, even

though each course for the certification only lasts one month.

"I'm able to digest it. I feel relatively good. But I don't think I'll know if the course is going, at a good pace until I'm on set," he said.

Some students are open to the idea of the new program whereas others are concerned as to what might be covered in the program.

NE RTVF program student Lauren Harper said she is concerned about the quality of the education, but sees benefits for those who already know what they want to do in the film industry.

"Those who are already established within an industry or maybe have a nine to five or who have 40-hour weeks in which they can't fit two years into their schedule," Harper said. "Or those who need a job to pay bills, need to pay rent, or pay for their children or provide for families. Maybe

having that four to five doesn't put as much of a financial strain as opposed to a two-year commitment."

Still, Harper prefers the long term in getting her associate's degree over the shorter-term program even with the benefits it has. She likes the fact that she can try a bit of everything before heading into the film industry, though doesn't discourage the idea of having the program available for others who might need a different route for their education.

"It allows customization for the circumstance of the individual. I think that's always been a benefit of community college, especially when it comes to, the more affordable pricing, the flexibility and classes," Harper said.

## TCC Fall Festivities

Oct. 27 Boo at SSTU	Oct. 27 Fall Festival	Oct. 27 Trick or Treat Down Main Street	Oct. 31 Halloween: Let's Glow	Oct. 30-Nov. 3 Dia De Los Muertos Altar Display	Oct. 31 Float-In Movie in the pool
Participate in a costume contest and get free candy with your peers.	The annual Fall Festival will feature university representatives, games, candy and a live DJ.	Experience family-friendly fun on Main Street. Play games, go on scavenger hunts, spooky crafts and more.	Take a dip in the LED pool or take a breath at the oxygen bar in your finest Halloween costumes.	View the Dia De Los Muertos Altar to commemorate the holiday.	Bust out your bathing suit and celebrate Halloween by watching "Casper" in the pool.
6 p.m. - 8 p.m.	5:30 p.m. - 8 p.m.	5:30 p.m. - 8 p.m.	11 a.m. - 1 p.m.	All Day	2 p.m.
South Campus SSTU Dining Hall	NE Campus NSTU Patio	TR Campus Main Street	SE Campus North Ballroom	SE Campus ESCT	NW Campus PE pool
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**Illustration by TJ Favela**

### Care (continued from page 1)

learned about the program through the school's website, called, and was prompted to apply.

She said the program gives her some peace of mind, relieving the stress of childcare.

"I was unable to afford the cost of day care alone and I am able to go to my classes knowing my daughter is well taken care of."

Wright is a single mom. She has 2 kids, works full time and is a full time student. She said balancing it all gives her a great outlook on time management.

"One day, I hope it reflects highly on my kids as they grow," Wright said. "No matter the

direction life takes them there's always someone there to help, even when they don't think so."

Hutto said informing students about the program is important.

"Some students may be paying for childcare right now because they don't even know about the program," she said. "Childcare is very expensive so if we can assist in any way we want to be able to do that."

She said there's not a limit on how many children the program can accept.

"We're just trying to spend down our money because it's a great program and we want it to be

successful."

Jones said what her advice is for students who may feel anxious about seeking childcare.

"There are people you don't even know that you trust with your babies, but the centers under the Child Care Assistance Program are very professional. At the center we've chosen they genuinely enjoy the children and care."

Jones also advises students to look into what may be offered.

"Really take advantage of the resources that they have for us here because they truly do care about our success and it can really help ease some of the pressure."



File photo/The Collegian

A child sits and plays in the Child Care Center on NE Campus. The Child Care centers are open to students and teachers alike.

### Wi-Fi (continued from page 1)

how to log into the school's Wi-Fi, and others have noticed that connecting to the school Wi-Fi was never part of any orientations or emails they've received, as well.

"Probably 80 or 90% of our students are using TCCD public even though our website says don't," McMicken said.

It has impacted her ability to grade on her personal device as well.

This can inhibit students' growth because students can't view feedback from the teacher on canvas and ask questions about her feedback in class. This has left her having to use her hotspot to connect to the internet and do grading.

On Sept. 28, NE campus experienced a network outage due to an old wireless controller and everyone was advised to use ACC12 or TCCD public to connect to the schools, Wi-Fi.

Director of Network Communication Services Nelson McMicken said the problem with the old wireless controller was fixed.

He explained that buildings NIMC, NHSC, NACB, NADM, NTAB and NBSS are all working now with new access points. He also added that it's important TCC members know which Wi-Fi network to use.

"To put it simply, there are



Alex Hoben/The Collegian

NE students Mimi Nguyen and Victoria Baeza work on assignments in the study areas in NSTU. Nguyen said that the Wi-Fi in buildings such as NSCE is unstable at best when connected to

five total networks. Rather than using the listed TCCD Public, an unsecured network, or TCCD Guest which is for non-students," McMicken said. "Students and staff members must use the TCCD

option listed unless an administrator or support worker tells you otherwise."

An example of such network instruction change was on Sept. 28. During the network outage, there

was a canvas notification and email about using the other networks.

Similarly, this can be explained on a call or through an IT support ticket.

"The network seems to be

“As you can imagine, this is a major undertaking that requires planning and coordination to ensure the right technology is installed and functioning properly.”

Todd Kreuger  
Chief Information Officer

getting better, but there are times when it's still slow," Stewart said.

McMicken also said the school is having issues with students not leaving their contact information in the support ticket, and they don't have a way to get back to the students about their problem.

"We will continue upgrading access points while also assessing and addressing additional coverage needs. As you can imagine, this is a major undertaking that requires planning and coordination to ensure the right technology is installed and functioning properly," Kreuger said.

For more information about how to connect to the Wi-Fi go to <https://www.tccd.edu/services/support-services/tech-support/wireless-internet-access/>



# BOLDLY GO

**Pioneer Preview Day**  
Nov. 18, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

**Learn** more about Admissions, Housing, Financial Aid and Scholarships.

**Preview** Academics and Student Services.

**Tour** the campus.



Register



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# GHOSTS, GHOULS AND GOATS

## Local legends intrigue tourists and residents alike

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Three places stand tall over Texas, steeped in rumors and tall tales. These spectral creatures stalks the halls and creeps along dirt paths, a capture in time while the world changes around them. Among the swirling whispers, these places call out "If you dare," to those brave enough to try.



### The Stockyards Hotel

The Stockyards Hotel in the heart of the town onlooks a busy brick street of locals, tourists and buzzing establishments.

One of the hotel windows faces The Maverick Fine Western Wear, a former bank. In 1933, the famous criminals Bonnie and Clyde stayed at the Stockyards Hotel and planned a robbery on the bank, according to Stockyards Hotel employee Daphne Castro.

The room the two criminals stayed in is said to have bullet holes in the walls and a poem written by one of them framed.

There are rumors of ghostly apparitions, appearing and

disappearing figures, cold calls and late hotel employee Jake roaming the halls of the hotel, according to [hauntedrooms.com](http://hauntedrooms.com)

Castro, who has worked at the hotel for over a year said she has only experienced on unexplained encounter.

During a room inspection for one of the Victorian rooms, she heard the shower curtain in the bathroom open and thought it was the housekeeper.

"It wasn't, and I was like, 'No, it's just me playing tricks on my mind.' And I went back to check the bed and I heard it close."



### Miss Molly's Hotel

Nestled next to a bar and above a cafe in the Fort Worth Stockyards sits a 112-year-old hotel's little pink door. A cowboy in blue casually leans against it, a peek into the history of who used to board the rooms.

Miss Molly's Hotel was an example of the Stockyard's rowdy, unruly nature of the old western days. It went through many changes and had various faces, from a boarding house in 1910 called Palace Rooms, The Oasis during prohibition and a brothel called Gayatte Hotel in the 1940s. All to eventually become the historic Miss Molly's Hotel.

Those who visit the hotel commented on unexplained occurrences like "blue orbs," whispers, footsteps and doors opening according to reviews on the hotel's website.

It is said that the Cattlemen and Cowboy's rooms are most famously known for their "apparitions." These instances commonly appear to be young girls.

"Most of the sightings have involved the former working girls from the hotel's days as a bordello," Miss Molly's Hotel about page said.



Photos by Alex Hoben/The Collegian  
Spiders and other bugs can be found creeping and crawling across the beams and railings of Old Alton Bridge. The bridge, found in a forest, is teeming with wild life.



Locks can be found shackled to the bridge railings. These are put there by couples because of a legend started in Serbia signifying love.

### The Goatman's Bridge

Old Alton Bridge attracts the daring and curious for the chance of spotting something supernatural on the red, Pratt-truss iron bridge.

The history of the bridge dates to 1884 and was meant to connect travelers from Denton to Dallas. According to Denton County Office of History and Culture, popular local legend says the bridge became a hotspot for supernatural occurrences after the hanging of Oscar Washburn, a Black man and successful goat farmer who was attacked by the Ku Klux Klan in 1938.

Washburn's tragic lynching story has not been confirmed yet, however according to a Dallas Morning News story, UNT students were able to uncover evidence of high Klan activity in Denton during the 1920s.

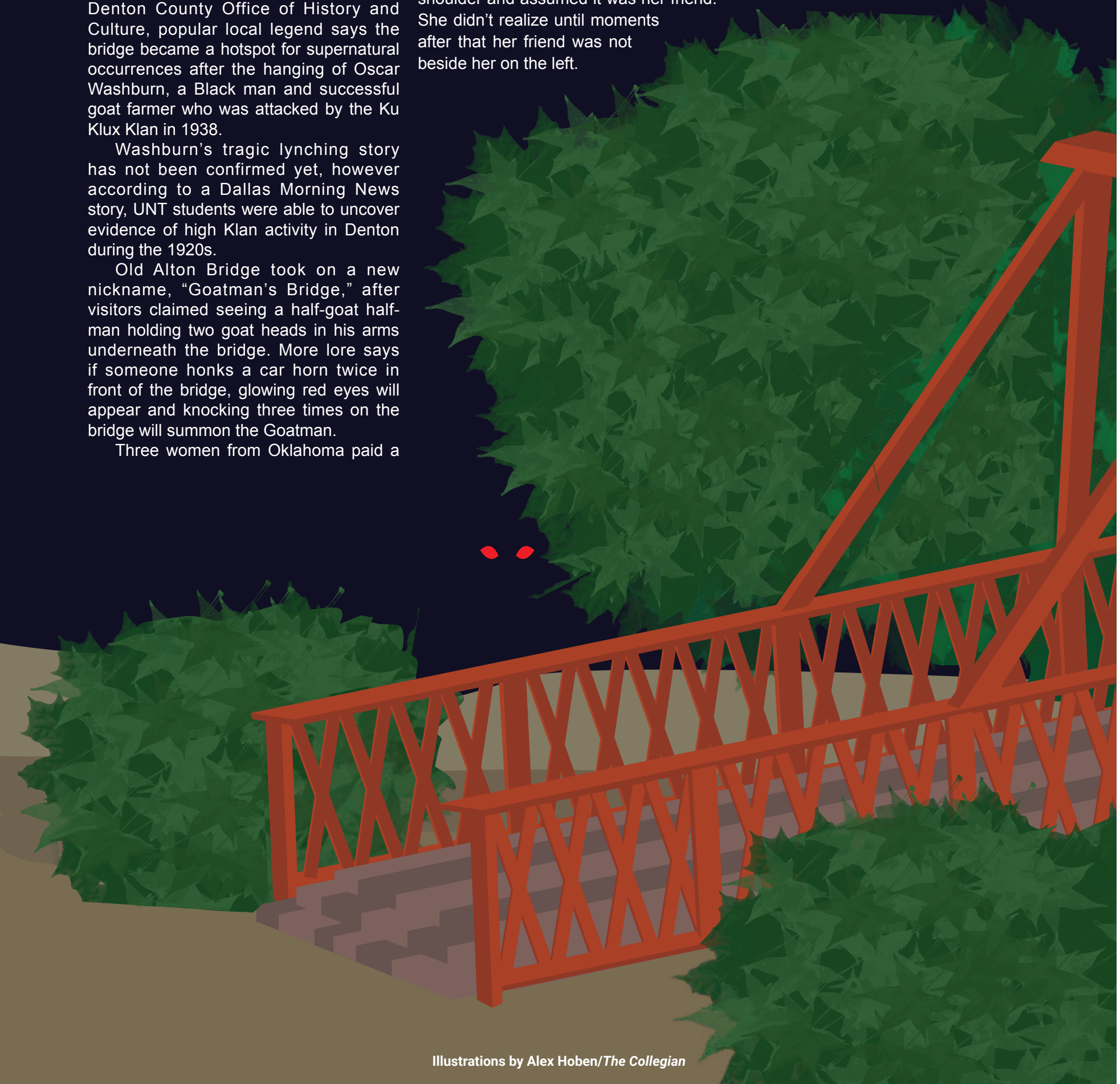
Old Alton Bridge took on a new nickname, "Goatman's Bridge," after visitors claimed seeing a half-goat half-man holding two goat heads in his arms underneath the bridge. More lore says if someone honks a car horn twice in front of the bridge, glowing red eyes will appear and knocking three times on the bridge will summon the Goatman.

Three women from Oklahoma paid a

visit one night hoping to catch a glimpse of him, however they explained that they hadn't experienced anything out of the ordinary on the bridge.

However, on the trails Kayla Hensley said she felt something brushing her shoulder and assumed it was her friend. She didn't realize until moments after that her friend was not beside her on the left.

"I didn't say anything, but I was feeling my back and I flashed my light," she said. "Jesse was standing to my right, and she was back behind me a little bit, so her shoulder couldn't match mine."



Illustrations by Alex Hoben/The Collegian

MOVIE REVIEW



Photo courtesy of Walt Disney Animation Studios

Iconic Disney mascot Mickey Mouse and others anxiously await their group photo in Disney's animated short entitled 'Once Upon A Studio' aired Oct. 15 on ABC.

# Disney celebrates with special short film

## 'Once Upon A Studio' animation pays tribute to century of icons

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One hundred years ago, the house of mouse was created, and a short film was lovingly crafted to celebrate.

The Walt Disney Company has survived for a whole century, creating countless beloved stories for people the world over. It's probably rather difficult to find someone who hasn't heard of Disney or isn't familiar with one of it's pieces of work.

Iconic characters from across said work united in Disney's "Once Upon A Studio," a massive tribute to the long, rocky road that is the company's animation history. While not a Disney super fan by any means, the short still managed to appease my nostalgia and was quite pleasant all things considered.

The basic premise behind the short was that Mickey and Minnie Mouse try to rally up a wide selection of Disney characters (only from the animated feature films with no Pixar or Disney Channel series in sight of course since we can't always have nice things) for a big 'ol group photo. Things go astray when Goofy acts all goofy (as he should) and wrecks the camera. But with the power of magic and help from his friends, the camera

is repaired, and they take the photo.

One thing that stood out most from the short was how good the animation was. It's to be expected given the company's extensive background in the medium, but it bodes especially well for such a heartfelt production. It didn't feel cheaply made.

Each character present, ranging from Moana to Winnie the Pooh, is represented accurately and looks great. Their behaviors and movements look spot on, and it seems like the people who worked on this had a passion for these characters and their stories and personalities.

The voice acting was also top notch, as is expected from the mouse. Not every single character got a moment to speak, but the ones that did delivered. Then there are stand-out moments, like when "Aladdin" character, Genie, famously voiced by the late Robin Williams, spoke. It was brief but hearing Williams' voice again in a tribute like this was welcome.

And best of all, it wasn't some shoddy AI rush job or whatever, it was supposedly unused audio clips from the man himself from back in the day.

It's cool to know clips like those were so well preserved for all these years since this is the same company that almost deleted the entirety of "Toy Story 2" before release, but



Photo courtesy of Walt Disney Animation Studios

Moana from her namesake animated theatrical blockbuster holds Flounder from "The Little Mermaid" in the lead up to their group photo.

that's neither here nor there.

The musical side is nice, but a little underwhelming. Disney has always had a knack for music, and while the sequence where a handful of characters sang a rendition of the Disney "theme," it still felt a little lackluster.

The short was well-produced both visually and sonically, and overall, it was an enjoyable watch that did right by the century long legacy of the famous (and infamous)

house of mouse.

Though, hopefully next time they show some love for the rest of their properties because not including Phineas and Ferb in the music number was downright despicable. Oh well, maybe in another hundred years.



MUSIC REVIEW

# Troye Sivan makes masses "Rush" to album

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Troye Sivan has graced the world with his angelic vocals and gender-bending good looks in his third studio album "Something to Give Each Other."

My introduction to Sivan came in 2018 with his song "Dance To This" featuring Ariana Grande. Prior to the song, I was vaguely aware Sivan was an artist, but I mainly knew him from when he was a YouTuber in the early 2010s.

Since then, I've heard songs here and there. When "Rush" was released, I immediately tuned into Sivan's new album and was pleasantly surprised. Ten tracks, 32 minutes and definitely no skips.

Sivan took inspiration from a breakup in 2019. The titles alone convey the lovesick feel of the songs without even listening.

The album is primarily pop and rotates through its various subgenres, from dance to synth. Sivan also explores some contemporary R&B. I typically fancy myself as an R&B gal, but I still enjoyed the different pop genres.

My favorite song from the album is "One Of Your Girls." Clips of the music video recently went viral on TikTok of Sivan in drag while giving heartthrob Ross Lynch a lap dance.

And like so many others, I can appreciate beautiful people. But, there is so much more to be enjoyed about the music videos besides the godlike beauty of the two.

The music video starts black and white



Photo courtesy of Instagram @troyesivan

Sivan wears drag in music video for "One Of Your Girls."

and Sivan is presented as a man. 50 seconds in, the video becomes saturated with color and Sivan is in drag. The song is about Sivan's relationships with men questioning their sexuality, hence the title and Troye presenting feminine.

There is so much about this song and music video that is brilliant. Intentional or not, I enjoyed the 2000s inspiration for the video. The overall vibe of the music video felt very nostalgic to the music videos I

watched from the early 2000s. The white background, rhinestone jewelry and elevated Y2K style, it was practically a Gwen Stefani music video.

Sivan in drag was such a brilliant stylistic choice and made such perfect sense with the lyrics. And when you look as good as Sivan presenting either gender, who can complain?

A close second to "One of Your Girls" is "In My Room." I suppose anytime a song

is named "In My Room" it never fails to disappoint. The song features Spanish singer-songwriter Guitarricadelafuente. In an Instagram post, Sivan said the song feels like he's a teenager "kicking my feet on my bed using Tumblr on my first MacBook." I couldn't describe it better if I tried.

The drums are reminiscent of lo-fi and 2019 indie music, dreamy and soft. Their vocals compliment on another as Sivan sings in English and Guitarricadelafuente sings in Spanish.

"Got Me Started" would probably be jarring to anyone in the meme scene during 2018. The start of the song is sampled from the Bag Raiders "Shooting Stars." While I never thought the original song was catchy besides the meme, Sivan pulls it off somehow and turns the sample into a beat that works well with the rest of the song.

My only qualm with the album is that the songs occasionally run together. The vocal mixing in each song is similar to one another in most songs with some exceptions. While I did enjoy the album, it is not my usual genre I reach for or sound like albums I listen to. That being said, I enjoyed the experience Sivan gave me and other listeners and can appreciate how this genre is compelling to so many.

Sivan's album is a work of aesthetically pleasing art. I will be rushing to the presale line to get his tickets.



EDITORIAL

# Comfort is not an excuse to ignore suffering

Simply feeling overwhelmed is a privilege, only feeling worried is a privilege as well.

The overloading of information surrounding war, rights, genocide policies and more that impact people can be overwhelming, but Americans cannot lose sight or turn a blind eye because of that. While the feelings are not nice to have and affect people's mental health, it isn't a reason to turn a blind eye to what is happening in the world.

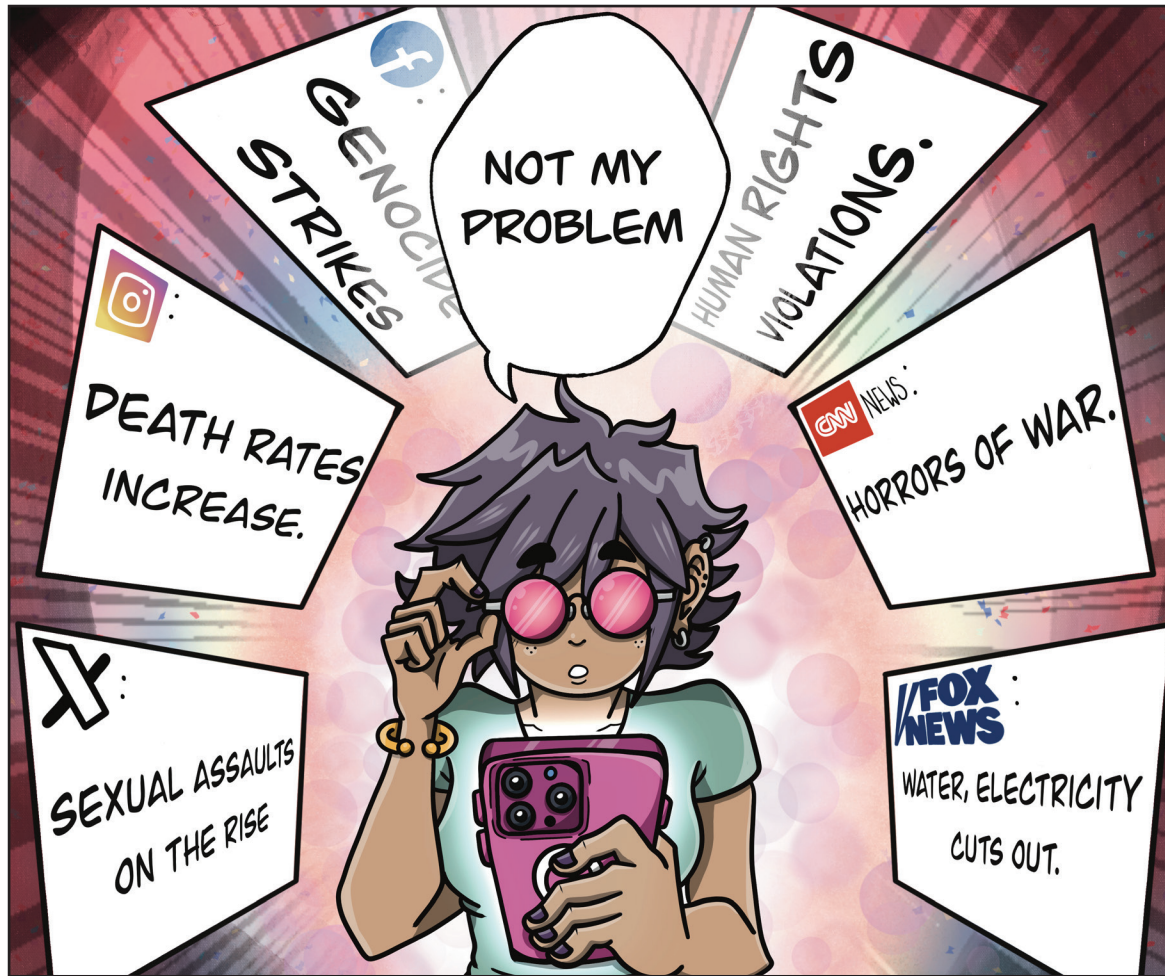
For many reasons, the U.S. has been perceived as a selfish country. One that only thinks of itself when it comes to global news. This is because of a popular narrative that has been circling social media lately, to turn off media outlets and social media for one's own mental health.

While the mental health of Americans is important, so is the mental health of a person who is overseas struggling with the possibility of being killed. It is arguably even more important.

But what is lost with this is the fact that many people facing tragedies cannot shut off what is happening to them because they are literally living it. Americans can't be ignorant of what is happening. Although many things are hard to hear and look at, willingful ignorance is unacceptable.

The most dangerous part of not living in imminent danger and the privilege of it is we don't realize that while we're worried about the homework that's due tonight, others are worried about whether they'll live tonight.

Willingful ignorance is how



Tj Favela / The Collegian

genocide after genocide, war after war, propaganda after propaganda is fueled. It is understandable that certain things like killing, violence and abuse of power are hard to watch. This is normal because people are humans after all. America needs to see the reality of other people's lives

to be fully aware of the world.

Instead, educating oneself independent of news outlets is a positive way to be sure that what they're consuming is true and if there is any help to give. Educating yourself is especially important after the age of 18 since the informed

decisions of that population is what impacts not only domestic but international communities via voting.

The nuance to this conversation is also applied to those who are affected or who have family that's affected. It's insensitive to think everybody should participate. We

can't expect the average American to do anything beyond contacting their representatives, the White House and protesting. But at least this is something.

Though issues surrounding voting, the upcoming election, racism, colorism, genocide and war is happening around us does not mean it does not concern us. The importance of knowing is the same importance of taking a mandatory history class in high school or college, to not repeat it. To repel actions of genocide, war and lack of humanity.

The everyday struggle of an average American is not lost either, especially if one is from a marginalized community. Their struggles and fight for equality is ongoing. Those communities and struggles are valid in their worries but can still go home and be so enveloped in their own lives that the lives of others seem too complex. Too big. Too much to handle.

Having that perspective is how nothing, whether it be in Tarrant County or another continent, gets done and nothing changes. We are in an era of news and resources where they can be seen and accessed by the tap of a screen.

It is an advantage, and we must use it so that others don't just see Americans as dumb. They see Americans as educated and willing to be compliant and ignorant. Saying something is better than saying nothing, action is better than inaction and being ignorant is no excuse.

VIEWPOINTS

## Fluent in Japanese food, sushi is the language of love



**NINA BANKS**  
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I'm not fluent in Japanese, I don't know our traditional holidays or the proper angle for bowing. And yet, I'm fluent in Japanese food.

My mom always knew she didn't want to live in Japan forever. She favored American artists like Madonna and Van Halen to Miki Matsubara. She didn't like the strict social hierarchies and didn't care to uphold them. When she was 20, she moved to Canada and fulfilled her dream.

Eventually she returned to Japan, she met my dad, they fell in love and she emigrated to the US in 2004 while she was pregnant with me. I was born a few months later, and she's been here ever since.

For the first few years of my life, my dad's job required him to travel for extended periods of time, so I was around my mom 24/7. I watched Japanese kids shows like "Anpanman," read children's books in hiragana, ate umeboshi onigiri and was fluent in Japanese.

My fluency didn't last long though. My dad got a new job where he was home more and then I started kindergarten. Bye-bye bilingualism.

When my mom talks to me, I can understand it for the most part and I can read and write. But I'm nowhere near

fluent anymore. The few Japanese people I have met my age are usually more fluent than I am and know a lot more about Japanese culture. They usually summer in Japan, know how to put on a kimono or can respond to their grandparents without smiling and nodding.

But where I lack in language, I make up in food. My mom is a certified foodie. She worked in the hotel industry as a waitress in upscale restaurants and reminisces about the days of eating decadent cakes and robust wines. There was a time in her life where she thought she wanted to be a chef, so she went to culinary school.

But like many Asian moms, she can be frugal. Her eyes light up with joy when I tell her I use a coupon. You should've seen her face when I got a \$15 bottle of Essie nail polish for \$2. She looked at me like I cured every form of cancer and simultaneously got a perfect score on the LSAT.

However, she believes not to be frugal on quality food. Twice a year, my family goes to Kura Sushi, a revolving sushi restaurant in Carrollton. It's the closest we get to good sushi, and we drop nearly \$200 every time. But it is absolutely worth it.

The power of food is impalpable. I may not be fluent in the language, but trust when I say I know the difference between the quality of sushi-grade salmon and grocery store salmon.

Maybe I can't connect in the usual sense by speaking, but put me in a room with sashimi and I might as well be singing "Kimigayo."

Food is one of the only ways I feel I am able to share my culture with someone.

So, if I ever take you to get expensive sushi, just know I probably love you a lot. Or I haven't had good sushi in months and I'm desperate. Take your pick.

## How you function does not define your place in society



**HOPE SMITH**  
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Second grade taught me that there was something not quite right about myself.

My report cards were riddled with concerns about my focus, and on parent-teacher days my mother was shown the neatly organized classroom cubbies and had to guess which one was mine.

Her hint was the disorderly chaos box of pens, pencils, odds and ends spilling over the edge that was not like the others.

And just like that cubby, I felt very different. Not in the way people want to be, anyways. I was disorderly in ways that teachers were concerned about.

I knew something was not quite right with me when I was eventually placed in a small focus group.

I knew when I stayed there three years later, when time fell through my fingers like sand, when I watched my peers get separated into classes for those better at school than others and I was not in that group.

So, as a child, I decided something was wrong with me and that no one could really tell what. And that was a big problem, which made me a big problem. And I lived thinking like that.

I was seventeen when I was diagnosed with ADHD. I had already spent most of my life believing that my symptoms were a result of something terribly wrong with me, so this

diagnosis was both relieving and horrifying.

My "wrongness" finally had a name, but I had grown up with it completely untreated.

The thing is people are not made defective and mental disorders don't make you any less deserving of a happy, successful life.

I was not wrong for the way I was. I was a child operating in a world that hadn't yet explored how ADHD looked in young girls. I did what I could with what I knew.

My symptoms were not the typical obvious hyperactivity, it was subtle. I was easily distracted, talkative, forgetful. All these things just seemed like they were a "Hope" thing.

Something about it all made me think I just grew wrong, like a tree warping around its obstacles.

I did not see it as something quirky or silly. I hated my "Hope" thing that made me disorganized, late, forgetful and distracted.

I tried every day to be anything but that so people wouldn't see how imperfect I really was. That reality was terrifying, because it could confirm every bad thing I thought of myself since I was eight.

I wish I could've gone back in time to tell myself as a kid that just because I was not advanced did not mean I lacked worth or importance.

Coming to the realization that nobody is normal was the best thing that could've happened to me, because it took me outside of my own perspective.

Absolutely nobody is the model citizen or the perfect human being.

There are so many people like me out there that my own problems are hardly world-ending serious.

Everything I deal with, someone else has. What matters is how I navigate my life knowing I am not neurotypical.

Differences in how you function don't define your place in society.

### Letter Policy



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