



A Summer's Climate

By: Cheyenne Kirksey

Sam Houston is in the midst of many changes. From the building of the new school to the designation of Sam as a hub for newcomers to the United States, the situation at school is very hectic and disarrayed. While not ideal, very few of the issues are permanent. In order to get a handle on the political climate on the school, the Aegis spoke with Mr. Summers, principal of Sam Houston MSTC.

The newest change affecting Sam is the new Superintendent, Richard Carranza. Summers thinks it's a change for the better, "If I had a problem, I would not hesitate to call him." This speaks to the approachability of Carranza, and Summers also thinks that the new Superintendent truly cares for students.

Additionally, he stated that Carranza has a special place in his heart for English Language Learners because he himself was an ELL. This is especially important for Sam because as of this year it is a hub for recently immigrated students in HISD's northside area. What this means for Sam, is that high school aged students that moved here from other countries, can go to school at Sam regardless of where they are zoned in the Northside. Summers thinks it's a good idea, "I think if I were in that position, I would want to be near people that were like me." He feels that students will feel more comfortable around a large ELL population and it will help them to better acclimate.

All these new students pose a different problem. In Sam Houston's case, we need a new building as we are over capacity and the building is not meant to hold as many students as it does. Things like getting to class on time are affected by this because the narrow hallways make traffic bad, and so the new building will rectify this with wider halls and plentiful space. Thankfully, HISD is rebuilding every high school in the near future, including Sam. "There's only so many repairs you can make over and over before you scrap it and start over," says Summers.

A criticism voiced by many students is the ability to have laptops for every kid, but not air conditioning. Unfortunately, Summers says these two things are not connected, "They are simply two different parts of the budget."

Overall the political climate at Sam seems to be hectic, but Mr. Summers is confident that the general climate of the school is on the rise. Once again he'd like to remind students and staff that he has an open door policy and wants to hear their thoughts.



Photo courtesy of samhoustonalumni.com

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School Lunches Poll

Charles Markcray

1. Cafeteria Frequency

	Response Total	Response Percent
Never- I do not eat the cafeteria food at this school	47	38%
1 time per week	9	7%
2 to 3 times per week	35	28%
4 times per week	8	6%
I eat the cafeteria food everyday	26	21%
Total Respondents	125	
(skipped this question)	1	

2. Lines

	Response Total	Response Percent
Homezone (big cafeteria- left side)	17	15%
Custom Bros Grill (small cafeteria)	50	43%
Tortilla Tex Mex (big cafeteria- right side)	11	10%
School Snack Store (near main office/library)	37	32%
Total Respondents	115	
(skipped this question)	11	

The reason the Aegis wrote the poll is to see what students think about cafeteria food here at Sam Houston MSTC. We wanted to know how often they eat the food, which lines they go through, how much they would pay for better food, what alternatives they want for food, how they feel about the healthiness of the food, how they feel the portion size, and if simply making salt & pepper available would make a difference. We had some answers we expected and some we didn't expect based on the typical verbal feedback from students on the school lunch.

#1: Cafeteria Frequency:

One of the things that were most noticeable is that 38% of students who responded don't eat the cafeteria food. This is interesting because most Sam Houston students are eligible for the free or reduced lunch program. Many Sam Houston students aren't eating the school food by choice.

#2: Lines:

Most students go through either Custom Bros Grill at about 43% (small cafeteria) or the School Snack Store at 32%. Interestingly these students mainly go through the School Snack Store because of the snacks and drinks they sell, which is not a sufficient lunch.

#3: Cost/Price:

It is no surprise that most students would rather pay less than 3\$ (76%), but surprisingly we did have 24% of students who would pay more than 3\$ for better food.

#4 Alternatives:

The winner of this section is Chick-Fil-A with 75% of students choosing this as their preferred alternative with some kind of Mexican fast food coming in second at 55%. A lot of students still voted for Papa John's Pizza and Subway sandwiches, they probably prefer fast food alternatives to the school lunch.

#5 Health:

According to the results, not surprisingly, 92% of students don't believe the school food is healthy. Go to this web link if you want see if the school's food meets one of the healthy food guidelines:

<https://www.choosemyplate.gov/MyPlate>

#6 Portion Size:

This isn't even that surprising either, but 81% of students are unsatisfied with the amount of food on the school lunch. Is this a school lunch standards or a money thing?

#7 Salt & Pepper:

This one was a surprise because we thought based on student's verbal feedback that they wanted salt & pepper, but the results say that even with salt and pepper only 23% would eat the current school lunch food. I guess Michelle Obama is not to blame for the food lacking the flavor.

The Great Wall of Trump

Charles Markcray

So far during this election, you have been hearing Donald Trump talk about building the wall. He posted on on his twitter saying "**Mexico will pay for the wall!**" But the real question that people aren't asking is **Can the wall be built?**



According to Verdict, a news agency for lawyers and news reports, Trump says that Mexico has been exporting criminals, rapist, and murders to the U.S. and wants to build a wall to keep them out. "**He even plans to make Mexico help pay for it.**"

Building the wall would be a very expensive and rugged challenge for engineers. There are canyons, mountains, public lands (parks, national parks, big bend), private lands (farms, houses), and rivers. That is the merely geographical features that the wall would need to be built over and especially the cost. According to an article in the Washington Post, they estimated the wall would cost about 25 billion dollars. The information the article cited came from the government accountability office.

Trump wants Mexico to pay for about 5 - 10 billion dollars. Enrique Peña Nieto, the president of Mexico, tweeted "**At the beginning of the conversation with Donald Trump I made it clear that Mexico will not pay for the wall.**"

According to Verdict, the way Trump would punish Mexico if they don't pay for the wall (as president) he would cut off the welfare of immigrants sent home to their families. In fact, Mexico makes more money off of money being sent back to Mexico than any other industry, according to an article from the Associated Press.



There are other examples of walls that have been built for different purposes. The



wall Trump suggested wasn't even his own idea and simply came from other people. An example would be the walls in Korea, Israel, India- Pakistan, Cyprus, Ireland, The Iron Curtain, and the Great Wall of China. The purpose of these walls is to prevent drug dealers and criminals from moving in, to stop trouble between states and countries, and to help keep the peace.

Trump wants to build a wall to keep out the criminals from Mexico and threatens them to pay for it. The wall would have a lot of cultural, geographical, and financial issues with it. The American people must think about the financial cost and how much space it would take. Are the benefits greater than the cost?

Satire: Conformity

Santo Feuer (edited by Rusty Shackelford)

Disclaimer: The following is one student's humorous take on uniforms/ IDs

Hitler did it. Mussolini did it. Lenin did it. Putin is doing it. All of the totalitarian nations in the world have done it. China and North Korea have done it. What have they all done? Enforced the wearing of uniforms and identification badges.

Uniforms are a conforming invention. Who else in the world has the sort of time necessary to take the most sacred thing in the world and then turn it into a weapon to achieve their sometimes questionable desires, other than a dictator? The role of uniforms is to create a state of homogeneity in the educational establishments; a faux sense of equity and indifference permeates the cheap fabric often washed in chlorine to remove its stench of day old tasteless moldy cheese.



We are to be the sufferers of dress code policy, if we fail to wear plastic cards around our ever stiff necks. We are subject to painful repercussions if we fail to wear a piece of attire that demonstrates our identity; we will be the recipients of corrective measures if we don't appropriately respond to the HISD conformist manifesto indoctrination protocol. Even though our educational bureaucracy has valid reasons for asking us to wear IDs in the form of safety and

identification issues, it still comes across as an invasion of our individuality and sense of self. We are not puppets, clones, drones, binary code, robots, or living in a totalitarian society that would make sense for this situation of forced conformity.

Nowadays it is normal to see young girls who are pregnant and a few of us are wondering if this is sending a statement to our society. That statement is whether it is okay for young girls to be allowed to be in these sort of situations. I believe that we think that solving this problem is impossible, but if we could prevent them from committing such acts irresponsibly maybe we could save them from the consequences that they are undeniably to face. Furthermore, although this seems like an embarrassing topic to broach it is crucial to know, what we need to know about sex and its aftermath.

The Houston Chronicle cited research site Childtrends, “The problem is particularly profound in Houston — where more girls under 15 give birth than in any other U.S. city” Before committing and arriving at a consensus, you must truly be sure that what you’re doing is the right thing to do. There are times when we feel pressured to do things; maybe it’s because others are doing it and it may seem “cool” to do it as well, but afterwards while everything appears to be normal it might not be at all. We must not cave under the pressure of what most people expect from young girls and rise above the standard that we’ve somehow set. If we want to be respected then we must think responsibly.

Go to your local health clinic and ask if they can provide you with condoms or with birth control pills, but there’s still a possibility that you can get pregnant when missing pills, and a 1% or 2% chance that the condom, while being sexually active might tear. It might seem like a small chance, but it’s a chance you shouldn’t be willing to take. Talk with your parents about the matter, it won’t be fair for them if you do accidentally somehow get pregnant. Then they won’t just be responsible for you but the child as well. If you wait to have sex, then according to ETR Associates you lower your risks of acquiring STDs and HIV. If you have followed through and have had sex then it’s never too late to get tested.

Ladies maybe it was unexpected and somehow you did get pregnant, that’s okay, There are certain services that can help you get through the whole ordeal. For example, at Sam there is a parenting class, for girls who are in HISD’s Pregnant Related Services program you can have a teacher work with you at home until you eventually go back to school. This time period lasts for six weeks after birth before you go back to school. The first step is always speaking to the school nurse if you know, or think you might be pregnant. Then you will need a doctor to confirm.

For more information talk to the local PRC representative or the school nurse.



Shown here is the school nursery at Wisdom High School, Formerly Lee High School

Photo courtesy of the Chronicle

Sam Houston MSTC high school received a visit from the Gulf Coast Regional Blood Center on October 6, 2016. There were about 30 nurses that came out to draw blood and a total of 125 donors.

- Some of the requirements in order to be eligible to donate blood include:
- Be at least sixteen with a parent's consent,
- Weight needs to be at least 122 lb.
- ID's are required
- No tattoos



Individuals must wait at least 15 minutes after the blood has been drawn.

Photo courtesy of katynews

According to a nurse from the Center, the whole process takes about 45 minutes, depending on any reactions the donor might have. Once they have received the blood, they take it back to their lab separate it and test it for any type of diseases. After this process, hospitals contact them and ask them for specific amounts of blood types. They also send blood to Puerto Rico because they can't draw blood because of the Zika virus. So next time that the blood center comes around don't forget to stop by and help Puerto Rico and hospitals by donating your blood. The Gulf Coast Regional Blood Center plans on coming at least four times a year, and would like to have more and more students donate blood each time.

For more information regarding blood donations, visit www.giveblood.org



Photo courtesy of giveblood.org

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Don't Forget about the Haunted house this Friday the 28th

Dress up day and pink out day Friday!

College night on November 16th

PSAT is November 2nd