

UNDERAGE PAGE



Trucks, trucks, trucks

• The monsters return, this time to the Killeen Rodeo Arena for car crushing mayhem on Friday and Saturday.
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Teens talk politics

OPINIONS: A hot button issue and cultural dissonance

Pro-life, pro-choice: A woman's legal right

BY CHRISTINA FALLOWS
BELTON HIGH SCHOOL

At any given moment one might come across a magazine article, commercial, news special or even forwarded e-mail dealing with abortion. The topic is especially fresh in Americans' minds with the inauguration of a new president who may present new ideas and laws about the issue.

Obviously, living in deeply conservative and Republican Central Texas, most are pro-life. Many teens in area high schools believe that abortion should be allowed for special circumstances, such as rape, but should only be provided if the possible mother-to-be has a good reason to not consider adoption or another option. But do many people actually know why abortion became legal, and under what circumstances? A case made in the 1970s finalized abortion as an approved alternative if a woman decided she did not want to keep her baby. Today, statistics show that our country is almost evenly split between pro-lifers and pro-choosers. But with so many people against abortion today, how did abortion become legal almost 40 years ago when people were even more conservative and outwardly moral than they are today? Understanding abortion's origins may give more insight to the touchy topic.

In 1973, a case involving a woman who had been raped, become pregnant and wanted to abort her baby was brought to the Supreme Court for the

unprecedented case of *Roe v. Wade*.

The "Roe" decision argued that laws against abortion were violating the right to privacy as stated under the due process clause of the 14th amendment. The outcome of the case ruled that any state laws restricting abortion were now overturned.

Other controversies surrounding abortion during this time included women aborting their own fetuses at home, by primitive methods. Because of no doctor assistance and the dangerous procedures done, this often resulted in serious injury or sickness, and sometimes death. With illegal practitioners assisting in the procedure, many women who could have been saved died from not turning to a doctor. So instead, this practice was made legal.

But were women aborting their own babies and people having a right to privacy really good enough reasons to legalize the highly controversial topic?

These points are not meant to change your view on abortion, but only to deepen your understanding of the topic. Many of us forget to learn from our past, our history and its mistakes.



What do you think?

Do you have an opinion, or response to one of the issues discussed today? Is there another topic on your mind? Please send your article submissions to: telegramteens@yahoo.com.

Getting past cultural prejudice in America

BY NOOR AL-AHMADI
BELTON HIGH SCHOOL

Sept. 11 is considered one of the worst days in America's history. Not only for the lives lost and the people we will never see again, but also for the Arab-American community. After the planes hit and the hijackers were identified, there was a sense that racism in America would increase.

Students are taught the history of the Holocaust, Pearl Harbor and the treatment of minorities before, during and soon after the Civil Rights movement.

History only seems to repeat itself. The Holocaust was caused by the belief that the Jewish people were inferior to the "German race," which led to the slaughter and relocation of millions of Jews.

After the attack on Pearl Harbor, Asian-Americans were seen as the enemy. Most were rounded up and placed in detention centers.

The struggle African-Americans went through to have the same rights as everyone else was brutal and many believe is still ongoing. It has taken many years for society to recover from

these tumultuous events.

America is based on the acceptance of all cultures. Every culture has had its hardships in this country. But it should be used as an example to stop prejudice from ever rising again. Instead of fearing the Arabic and Muslim cultures, they should be embraced. Without Arabs, many advances would not have been made, including algebra, astronomy and the basis for modern medicine.

Sana Ayyoub, 42 years old, said that she once feared saying her son's name in public after Sept. 11 because her son's name was Osama, a traditional Arabic name. He was only 1 or 2 at the time and his name was considered a threat.

What is ironic is that Muslim women fear walking out of their homes wearing a scarf, when the reason they wear it in the first place is for protection. But it seems that they have to deal with the glares and stares that come with that decision.

The reason Iraqi or Iranian Arabs are feared in the Middle East is because of the ongoing Iraq war, yet the neighboring Egyptian and Moroccan Arabs are not feared because they are in Africa. They are all Arabs. But when someone says they are from Morocco, it is not thought about twice. It is just some foreign country that is not brought up a lot.

Black History Month, Hispanic Heritage Month and Asian Awareness Month all celebrate great cultures. An Arabic History Month might also help to create an understanding and appreciation of yet another great culture.

A Grand Old Party

How the Republican party formed

BY ALLISON CURRY
BELTON HIGH SCHOOL

Today we hear about the two major political parties almost every day. These two parties didn't just pop up one day. They were created, changed and changed, until we got to what we have today, and most likely it will change again. The Republican Party, which has nominated 18 of our 44 presidents, is one of these two major parties.

The Republican Party started off as a group opposing the Kansas-

Nebraska Act. They did not agree with slavery expanding to Kansas. They were much like the Whig Party but soon passed the Whigs and became known as the Democrat's greatest opponent.

Abraham Lincoln was the first Republican president to take office because of his opposition to expanding slavery. During the Civil War, the Republican Party fought for the Union and against slavery. The election of 1864 caused the party to split into the Radical Democratic Party, made up of the more radical Republicans, and then the others joined up with the pro-war Democrats to form the National Union Party, who re-nominated Lincoln.

During the 1870s to the 1890s, the Republican Party supported big business, the gold standard and high tariffs and ran the country. The Democrats took over, though, after

the McKinley Tariff was passed because it was so high and upset many people.

After two terms of Democrats in the White House, William McKinley finally gained the presidency and helped initiate the resurgence of the Republican Party. During this time the Republican platform was high tariffs, big business and anti-League of Nations.

Once the Great Depression hit, the Democrats pretty much controlled everything, including Congress and the House of Representatives. Toward the end of Franklin D. Roosevelt's term, conservative Democrats, mainly from the South, joined up with the Republicans and dominated Congress until the early '60s.

Today, the Republican Party focuses on social conservatism, a strong foreign policy, policies that help businesses grow and a free market.



Name: Jason Tse
Age: 14
School: Temple High School
Grade: 9
Parents: William and Bonnie Tse
Grandparents: George Tse, Martin and Lai Chum



SPOTLIGHT ON YOUTH

Goals in Life:

Jason wants to attend a four-year university and concentrate studies in the field of political science, history, music and law. He enjoys traveling and wants to incorporate this interest into seeing the world.

What's important to you?

I feel it is part of our obligation as human beings to better the world. I feel the need for a cleaner environment and efficient use of our natural resources, the promotion of tolerance and most importantly the serving of God and faith in Jesus Christ.

Who is Jason?:

Jason achieved Grand Recognition in the 2007 Duke's Talent Search. He participates in THS Chapter of Mathcounts 2008 and received a first place rating.

Groups:

He is a member of THS Band and has been first chair All Region as a bassoonist. He is a member of First Baptist Church where he participates in the FAITH program.



Get involved.

This page is all about teenagers – their interests, their activities and what they want to read. We accept stories, photos, graphics and ideas from any area teenager.



Submit your stuff to telegramteens@yahoo.com or call Jerry Prickett at 778.4444 x225
For more info visit www.temple-telegram.com/nexgen

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