

Editors Column

Berendo Street Baptist Church's Annual Mission Bazaar



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After eating tacos, my friend and I combined money to buy a barbequed pork belly plate (삼겹살) with some vegetables on the side.

[Source: Irene An]

On June 2nd, 2024, Berendo Street Baptist Church, better known as BSBC, had its annual Mission Bazaar. For many, this event represents a day full of fun, a wide variety of food, and festive vibes all around. However, for the Christian community who attend this church, this day holds much more significance for both themselves and their family and friends who surround them.

As someone who has been attending BSBC for 6 years, I can say that the annual Mission Bazaar

is a day unlike others. After service, my friends and I excitedly ran across the street to the main chapel to walk around the stations of food that the different age groups at our church prepared. Our church is in the middle of Koreatown, a symbolic location that is the pinnacle of the South Korean diaspora. This day, out of the many days of the year, is one where, no matter your age or gender, there is only one task that you have to complete: have fun. As you walk up the stairs to

the outdoor plaza, several multi-colored canopies stand, each embodying a different age group that ranges from 7th graders to 50+ year-olds. At each of these stations are different items, whether it's food, clothing, drinks, or miscellaneous objects. Everyone is squeezing by to get past one another to see what foods are available, while the designated vendors of each age group stand at the canopy to promote their products. Mission Bazaar is a perfect embodiment of the South Korean shijang (시장) culture, the commonly known outdoor markets that combine industries of textiles, food, makeup products, household supplies, and more. It may sound hectic, but the environment is truly unlike any other.

This year, Mission Bazaar once again lived up to its merry expectations. My friends and I gathered at the plaza before it got crowded and enjoyed many meals. For

us, this day was the last before the bulk of our final exams and projects began, so being able to spend time together like this was a great way to relieve some stress. We had foods such as tacos, traditional Korean banquet noodles, sometimes referred to as Korean noodle soup and 잔치국수 in Korean, nachos, and fruits. Clearly, the festival offered an extensive selection of foods. However, the day's meaning is more symbolic if you know the event's goal. Every year, volunteers comprised of high school students and older people travel to different states and nations for missionary purposes. Mission bazaar is a way to fundraise for the groups that will soon be traveling. As a church, it is the perfect way to bring the entire community together and support a united cause. Personally, I enjoyed Mission Bazaar very much and cannot wait for its return next year.

Student Reporter

The First Female Mexican President: 2024 Elections



Eunice Minji Choi

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I saw the longest line of people recently. This line of men and women, young and old, extended over 2 blocks. Intrigued, I was shocked and curious, so I followed the line and was led to the Consulate General of Mexico in Los Angeles. The long line was made up of people who wanted to vote for Mexico's next president in the upcoming 2024 elections. This was a historical election for Mexico and its citizens because it was the first time a female president was guaranteed for the country. Mexico has had female presidential candidates in the past, but this was the first where there were 2 female candidates, and where a female candidate was leading the race.

Mexico's elections take place every 6 years, unlike the US's, which take place every 4 years. The two female candidates running in this election were Claudia Sheinbaum, representing the MORENA party, and Xóchitl Gálvez, representing the PANAN party. The other candidate was Jorge Máynez,



The long line of voters wrapping the Consulate building and continuing down a couple of blocks.

[Source: Author, Eunice Minji Choi]

representing the MC party. I interviewed a few people waiting in the line to vote and asked a very general question: Any thoughts on this year's elections?

"This is an interesting election because everyone knows [(Sheinbaum)] is gonna win, and she is a girl. My granddaughter is 16 [(years old)] and she is very excited for her to win. I also believe she will win because the stats show that she's winning, and she deserves it." stated Mr. J. Hernandez, age 67.

Hernandez mentions his 16-year-old granddaughter, who

looks up to one of the female presidential candidates. He mentions that she hopes to be involved in politics in the future. Hernandez has been a part of the MORENA party his whole life, so he says he will be voting for Sheinbaum.

Another person, Ms. S. Alvarez, age 17, stated, "Although I am not old enough to vote yet, this year's election gives me hope for women in politics in the future. Seeing two female candidates, and one winning so far, I am excited to see a female leader come into office." Alvarez talked to me about

her hopes for more female political leaders in the future. She explains that role models are a big factor in influencing the future and that a female leader will help to give young girls the courage to pursue a job in this field.

Another person in line, Mrs. J Garcia, felt differently. "I say this is a boring election. Yes, it's exciting to see a female candidate leading, but it's so predictable. I support the MC party, but I disagree with Máynez's political ways, so I will be voting for Gálvez." Garcia mentions her disagreement with one of the political leaders but then finds another whose actions work with her beliefs. She also mentioned later that, hopefully, the female candidate will do a great job in voicing the citizens' opinions.

So... who won? Claudia Sheinbaum! And she won by a landslide, obtaining over 59% of the votes. Gálvez won about 27% of the votes and Máynez 10%. Congratulations to her, and I hope more female political leaders take the spotlight in the future.

Student Reporter

Never-Ending Food: The Bliss of a Bottomless Stomach



Audrey Park

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Buffet dining holds a special spot in the hearts of many, offering an abundance of food and variety in one sitting. However, the pressure to eat enough to justify the cost can present an unfortunate mental load. On the other end of the spectrum, those with big appetites may find frequent visits to buffets financially burdensome. In response to these concerns, restaurant chains offering bottomless appetizers present an alternative, satisfying their customers' hunger for variety.

Now that school is off for summer, I have found more opportunities to meet friends. As a result, our circle went through the motions of going down a list of activities to do. At the end of this list, however, we found ourselves increasingly craving for a time to simply sit down and talk. Eventually, we began taking trips to restaurants in order to try their never-ending dish promotions. Many restaurant chains

implement this system into their customers' dining experiences where the rules are, simply put, you can place as many orders as you want for a certain item. Being high school athletes, an unlimited supply of these carb-rich meals sounded ideal for fueling training sessions in our respective sports.

At one location, Olive Garden, the group had a satisfactory experience with eating breadsticks and salads to our heart's content. Olive Garden is recognized for its high-quality Italian cuisine paired with quaintly furnished rooms, but it is most praised for its bottomless soups, salads, and breadsticks. So, as we sat down and collectively investigated the menu, the waiter came back and offered to take orders, ending the interaction with a genial "breadsticks are fine, correct?"

When the complimentary appetizers came out, the group basked in the warmth radiating off

of the breadsticks, observing the steam gracefully lift into the air. A smoky string of ivory danced above the dish, and as the seconds went by, our thoughts were consumed with the urge to finish 6 more baskets of the loaves. Needless to say, this did not happen. We were most definitely a hungry group of high school athletes, but we were no Olympians training for a week-long marathon. However, the initial thought that we could fill our stomachs without any foreseeable limits urged us to exhilaratingly continue for as long as possible.

On the other end of the spectrum, the option of having endless food without being in a buffet setting is also available in the form of an initial transaction. For instance, at Applebee's, another restaurant known for pleasing bottomless stomachs, customers can pay a fee that is cheaper than typical buffets in order to enjoy unlimited wings, shrimp, and



Many restaurants have the option of getting endless appetizers or "refills" alongside main meals.

[Source: Author, Audrey Park]

riblets. Another outlet for enjoying an abundance of food at an inexpensive cost, this restaurant will likely also become another go-to this summer for me and my friends. So, if you're looking for something to do, for a good price, while catching up with friends, I would advise bottomless food this summer!

Student Reporter

Reuse, Reduce, or Recycle?



Ashlyn Choi
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On the left are some of the plastic containers I was able to clean and repurpose! Those on the right I could not reuse but recycled.

[Source: Author, Ashlyn Choi]

Reuse, reduce, recycle. That's the recurring message we have all gotten from the media, climate change activists, and even the government, pleading for us all to reuse plastic containers when we can, reduce our consumption, and recycle takeout containers and aluminum cans. But is it even possible that one person's contributions will change the entire global

climate crisis? Is it possible to live with "zero waste"? I decided to live as sustainably as possible for two months to see.

At the start of my journey, I thought that I could start by recycling everything. However, when I took inventory of my plastic containers and waste, I realized that many of them were not recyclable (ex., most personal hygiene products), and the ones that were had to be driven to a specialized recycling plant (assuming that they made it into the 9-11% of the plastic that gets recycled every year).

Although recycling is heavily promoted, it's the least efficient of the three r's to sustainability - reuse, reduce, recycle. Reusing is actually the most helpful, as simply reusing a cleaned, old plastic container requires no production or breakdown energy. Recycling takes used plastic and requires

energy to sort, clean, break, and produce a new piece, often with the newly manufactured piece not made 100% of recycled plastic. I learned that you should reduce, reuse, and lastly, recycle, in that order of priority.

I realized that I needed to change my consumption to reflect a more sustainable outcome. I decided that I would reuse as much plastic as I could and attempt to reduce my plastic consumption. I did so by buying bulk food, collecting the plastic I used in the two months, switching to sustainable utensils for all of my meals, and committing to using all of the plastic in my house before purchasing green alternatives.

These switches I made actually decreased my plastic consumption, and I saw firsthand the amount of plastic I had avoided

using. Even by simply switching to sustainable (metal or wood) utensils at school, I saved on using over 80 plastic forks and knives!

The two months actually flew by once I had gotten into the habit of reusing everything I could. By the end, I couldn't believe that I hadn't started earlier. I'll be continuing to reduce my plastic consumption, and I've begun to look at more facets of my life to see where else I can refuse unnecessary plastic, with the eventual goal of cutting down all plastics. I didn't realize how easy some switches were - like not buying produce shrink wrapped, but by weight or how difficult others were, as almost all of my cosmetics and hygiene products were packaged in plastic, often unrecyclable. By taking inventory of what plastic you use in your daily life, finding a fast, sustainable switch can be easier than you think!

Student Reporter

Tennis's Past, Present, and Future



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Tennis is a sport enjoyed by millions of people across the entire world through recreational playing or by attending or watching matches played by pros. In the present day, tennis is played in different environments and places through the use of three different styles of courts, which are hard, clay, and grass. Different types of courts are favored in different parts of the world, and certain competitions use a certain type of court while others use different ones. Wimbledon, in the U.K., is played on grass courts, the U.S. and Australian Opens are played on hard courts, and Roland Garros, in France, is played on clay courts. The three types differ in production and maintenance costs, the physical and skill demands of the players, and comfortability. Grass courts are the most expensive but comfortable and least exhausting to play on, while clay courts require a lot of maintenance and are subject to extreme weather, but provide an easy surface to play and improve



Tennis has changed throughout the years, but the fun and enjoyment one gets from it has not.

[Source: Vecteezy Stock Photos]

on. Hard courts are well-rounded for all players but require a lot of physical demand.

In 12th century France, where tennis originated, players would hit a ball over a net back and forth with their bare hands. The game evolved to where players would wear gloves, which were later replaced by wooden rackets. They developed scoring systems and had specific courts dedicated to the game. The modern version of tennis became popular in the late 1800s when a British army officer created "lawn tennis" during the era in which having homes with backyards became more com-

mon. Tennis became popular in England because of this, and in the mid to late 1900s, it spread across the world and became a global sport.

Aside from the surface tennis is played on, tennis rackets have also evolved beyond what anyone would have thought. Rackets are now made of different, more durable materials rather than wood, have different designs, weights, and styles than rackets back then, and the strings and grips have also changed. Rackets have different string patterns and shapes compared to old wooden rackets and also have different weights to ad-

just to the different playstyles now. Strings also have more variety and innovation now, and we have found better ways to string them onto the racket for more durability, comfortability, and customization for preferences.

The play style of tennis has also varied throughout the generations. One of the biggest differences is the way the ball is hit with the racket and how much spin and power is produced in a shot. In the earlier days, players hit more flat and direct shots with the racket, while nowadays, some players hit balls with a lot of spin that would have been unheard of back then. Different strategies, such as where to direct the ball on the court and how hard or curved the shot should be, have also been introduced to the game and have made it a more intricate and complex sport.

Tennis is an interesting sport not just to learn about or play, but also to watch. So next time you are flipping through the channels on TV, if you see tennis, take a moment to stop and watch.

Student Reporter

What It's Like Having Your Art Displayed?



Sain Kim
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In April of this year, I had the honor of having one of my art pieces displayed at the Autry Museum of the American West in Los Angeles. Furthermore, I was able to get full access to the whole museum and its food and drinks at no extra cost because I was one of the finalists in their Visions of Freedom student art competition. The museum set up an allocated space for all of the pieces on the first floor, and when I saw all the other works students had created, I was in awe of the creative ways they interpreted the main themes and topic.

The main theme and topic for this art competition were about the freedoms and liberty of America throughout its history and the people that helped develop this and nurture it throughout the United States of America. My piece depicts the ideals of freedom and liberty by breaking the chain of oppression choking America. Through dis-

mantling this chain, we were able to unleash a flock of freedom, which is represented by America's national bird, the bald eagle. We also see that through freedom, people become more inclined to address issues that require communal efforts, such as poverty, war, and environmental protection. Freedom allowed all races and genders to work together without the pressure of feeling judged or unaccepted. Finally, the child throwing the paper airplane helps show how freedom will allow future generations of Americans to thrive and further fly into a greater and brighter sky. All of these aspects encompass what freedom means to me, and at the center of all this, of course, Abraham Lincoln, one of the great fathers of freedom.

When I first arrived at the museum, I was greeted and given a lanyard with my name to confirm my arrival. After this, we were encouraged to explore the museum

and also told where the students' exhibit was. As it was my first time at the Autry, I was intrigued to see all that it had to offer, but with little time before the ceremony, I was only able to explore the second floor, which included lots of art pieces, dioramas, and information stations about the history of the western Americas and Native Americans. These exhibits gave a better scope of how events from our past allowed for what we have now in America, especially in the western Americas, in terms of cultural practices and the landscape. As we got closer to the ceremony time, the museum set up a buffet-style dining line in their beautiful backyard garden, and served small appetizers, drinks, and desserts. During the ceremony, they unveiled the exhibit and had all the pieces on display grouped by grade.

It was a very surreal feeling having one of my pieces displayed in



Me standing next to my artwork at the Autry Museum of the American West.

[Source: Author, Sain Kim]

such a public setting, especially in a museum. With this experience under my belt, I have felt even more motivated to compete in competitions and continue my passion for drawing and creating art; I am currently applying to a multitude of other competitions and drawing programs, so I'm hoping for the best.