

THE GAVEL

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Cover art by Victoria Falcon. Homecoming mums are a tradition embraced throughout Texas, and have been a part of generations of Husky students and families since the school opened in 1964.

THIS CAMPUS IS RICH WITH HISTORY.

EVERY BUILDING, CLASSROOM, STUDENT, AND STAFF MEMBER HAVE THEIR OWN STORIES WITH UNIQUE HIGHS AND LOWS. IN THIS ISSUE, WE WANT TO CELEBRATE THE HISTORY MADE IN THESE HALLS. WE'LL TAKE A LOOK INTO THE EVENTS AND PEOPLE THAT BREATHE LIFE INTO OUR SCHOOL, MORE WIDELY KNOWN AS **OUR TRADITIONS.**

WE'RE A SCHOOL KNOWN FOR MANY THINGS BY MANY PEOPLE, BUT NO ONE CAN DEFINE OUR EXPERIENCES BETTER THAN OURSELVES. THIS ISSUE IS ABOUT US, BY US, AND FOR US.

WE'LL CELEBRATE A CULTURE OF WINNING, SCHOOL SPIRIT, AND **GIVING BACK TO THE COMMUNITY** INCLUDING THE DECADES OF WINNING FOOTBALL, THE **RITUALS OF GAMEDAY PEP RALLIES**, ALUMNI WHO HAVE **MADE IT BIG**, AND CURRENT STUDENTS DOING GREAT THINGS IN THE COMMUNITY. IF THE PAST AND PRESENT ON THIS CAMPUS HAVE ANYTHING IN COMMON, IT'S THE TIMELESS TRADITIONS THAT UNITE US AS HUSKIES. THIS ISSUE SEEKS TO HONOR THE PAST AND INSPIRE THE FUTURE.

THIS IS THE TRADITION ISSUE.

THE GAVEL

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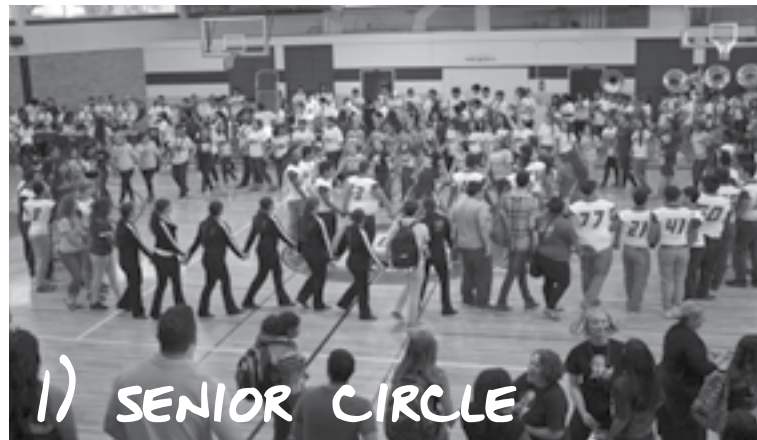
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HUSKIES, ARE YOU READY?!

PEP RALLY TRADITIONS OVER THE YEARS

by Amber Villanueva and Janelle Martinez, Staff Writers

Throughout the years, pep rally traditions have stood the test of time, and students still participate in them today. What makes pep rallies so great is the tremendous amount of school spirit they bring out in everyone. Everyone has a favorite pep rally tradition, and some of these traditions have a long history that generations of Huskies have enjoyed.



1) SENIOR CIRCLE

Photo by Patricia Rodriguez



2) ALMA MATER

Photo by Lizbeth Perez



3) JUMP ON IT

Photo by Alexa Gonzalez



4) COMPETITIONS

Photo by Victoria Falcon



5) PARENT BOOGIE

Photo by Lizbeth Perez

6) BOOGIE DOWN

Photo by Yvonne Amiola

5 & 6) The "Huskies, Huskies are you ready?" chant goes back to at least the late 1980's according to our research, and the "boogie down" response is a tradition that student groups, alumni, and parents enjoy participating in during pep rallies. The chant is directed to specific groups who then respond by dancing. Groups like band, the football team, the cheerleaders, and the dance team are regularly featured, but there are usually other groups called out as well, including parents, who don't shy away from the spotlight.

A-BUILDING VICTORY LAP:



The A-building, one of the three original round buildings, as seen from the circle at the entrance to campus. The building is set to be torn down this June.

Photo by Victoria Falcon

Inside: THE A-BUILDING

With the demolition of the over-50-year-old A-building set to begin this summer, classes, specialty courses and student services will have to be displaced. Here's who will be affected:

- Art classes
- Orchestra
- Band
- Theatre Arts
- Technical Theatre
- Mariachi
- Choir
- Auditorium & stage
- some ALE classes
- Yearbook
- Newspaper
- HBCN (Broadcast)
- Photojournalism
- College & Career center

Plans haven't been released on where these programs and classes will be housed, but are expected to be out soon.



Photo by Victoria Falcon



Photo by Victoria Falcon

ABOVE: Awards like these in the band hall fill the A-building from over the years and are a testament to the success of fine arts and other programs. Students have worked hard to refine their skills and talents in this building for over 50 years, and have called the A-building home, logging many hours of rehearsals, shows, practices, staff meetings, and more.

FINE ARTS CLASSES TO DISPLACE DURING DEMOLITION, REBUILD

by Keren Cumpian, Staff Writer

The A-building made its own history in the architecture and educational world in 1964 by being a round school building, one of the first of its kind, and since then it has housed students that have made history of their own and impacted the life and history of Holmes. In the name of progress, the building will be demolished at the end of the school year. The building will be reconstructed to allow for the same opportunities that other NISD schools have with their fine arts programs. The construction will begin June 3, along with the necessary changes for the electives located in the A-building, and parking spaces.

"[The] plan to relocate the fine arts classes has become quite challenging due to the nature of the classes," Holmes principal Ada Bohlken said.

Since the A-Building consists of electives such as orchestra, mariachi, band, and theatre, there's going to be some difficulty to accommodate the current classes because they need rooms that are sound proof or with sinks to clean up art projects. Relocating these classes is not going to be an easy task, which is why the district will help in this matter. The challenges the construction will bring will be dealt with as they arise.

"Parking continues to be a challenge so we will have to work with the theater next door to explore options," Bohlken said.

In the past, when the J-building was being constructed, Regal Cinemas agreed to a parking arrangement, and the school hopes it will be the same again for this upcoming construction.

"I'm excited to see the new facilities," choir director Vanessa Alvarado said.

Many of the teachers are excited to see what the new building will bring. They hope for rehearsal and storage space, plus just having extra space to move around and they would like for the new facilities to go along with the unique needs of each course. The teachers in the A-building want the best for their kids, and for them to have the same opportunities as others, along with new equipment to learn and amplify their skills.

Although this is a goodbye for the original building, it is not a goodbye to the second home of many of the fine arts students.

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FROM **HERE** TO **THERE**

ALUMNI FROM ACROSS THE YEARS FIND FAME IN ATHLETICS, POLITICS, JOURNALISM, THE ARTS, & MORE

compiled by Victoria Johnson, Archives Editor

Many successful alumni have walked our circular halls over the years including military leaders, public servants, business professionals, scientists, lawyers, doctors, and more. Here are a few of that group who have found fame and notoriety in the public eye for what they do. This compilation represents a much larger group of achievers and, by necessity, leaves several famous alumni out, including NFL stars and other public figures.



DAROLD WILLIAMSON

-Attended Holmes/BC during the 1998-2001 school years
-Won an Olympic gold medal in track and field, running the anchor leg of the men's mile relay team at the 2004 Athens Olympics and continued a professional running career with Nike as his sponsor.

JOHN CORNYN

-Attended Holmes during the 1966-1968 school years
-Representing Texas, Cornyn is one of 100 current United States Senators in Washington, DC. Cornyn was in band and a variety of clubs as a student, attending from his freshman to his junior year.



DAVID PORTILLO

-Attended Holmes during the 1995-1998 school years
-Famous opera singer who has performed all over the world. In December, he'll make his Metropolitan Opera House debut as the lead in *Barber of Seville*.



HECTOR TANAJARA

-Attended Holmes during the 2012-2015 school years
-During his senior year, Tanajara signed a professional boxing contract with Golden Boy promotions, and is currently undefeated (2-0) in his pro career. He'll be fighting on RingTV Live Nov. 20 from Las Vegas, NV.



UMA PEMMARAJU

-Attended Holmes during the 1973-1976 school years
-Starting out as editor of the *Justice*, Pemmaraju worked her way up from local news outlets to winning Emmy awards as anchor for the Fox News Channel nationally.

ANGELA CHRISTIAN

-Attended Holmes during the 1985-1988 school years
-Christian has starred on Broadway and in London's West End as a live theatre performer, and originated the title role of *The Lady in White* in London.



TREY MARTINEZ-FISCHER

-Attended Holmes during the 1985-1988 school years
-As Representative for District 116 in the Texas House of Representatives, Martinez-Fischer has made a name for himself in state politics, where his priorities include education.

GRAMMY AWARDS, HBO HIT SHOWS, & BEING A TEXAS MUSIC LEGEND: ACTOR/MUSICIAN STEVE EARLE REFLECTS ON TIME AS A HUSKY



TOP LEFT: Steve Earle (center with guitar) plays the character Harley Watt in the hit HBO TV series *Treme*, opposite actor Steve Zahn in a clip from the show on YouTube. Earle's character plays an important role in the series, and he appeared in nine episodes.
TOP RIGHT: From the 1971 yearbook, Earle can be seen accompanying other Holmes stu-

by Victoria Johnson, Staff Writer

The list of famous Holmes alumni includes a United States Senator, an Olympic Gold Medalist, and a world class Opera singer. Arguably the most well known former Holmes student is a high school drop-out that overcame the odds to become a Grammy-award-winning musician.

Steve Earle attended Holmes during the 1970 and 1971 school years, and is a three-time Grammy-winning singer-songwriter, actor and author. He's most famous for his music, where he's recorded several albums and ranks among Texas' most well-known country and folk musicians. He most recently extended his acting career as a member of the cast of hit HBO shows *Treme*, set in New Orleans and *The Wire*, the popular series that continues to grow a following. He only became interested in acting later in life, but music has always been a part of his life.

"My uncle who is five years older than me, I got my first guitar from him," Earle said. Earle sat on his tour bus outside the famous Gruene Hall, where he remembered his time as a student at Holmes in the late 60's, and how his experiences shaped him. "Used to be really hard on the freshmen, those round buildings. They would kind of go around in circles half the day before they found all their classes," Earle said. While many freshmen still wander the circular hallways lost, there is much on campus that

has changed since those days and many current students don't know that there was an area for students who were 18 to smoke cigarettes on campus.

"The smoking area was established while I was there. It was actually under one of the round buildings," Earle said. And the dress code has changed as well. In the '60's and early 70's, male students weren't allowed to have long or shaggy hair, so they would tuck their long hair under short-haired wigs. "Guys wore wigs to keep their hair long, and I was kicked out constantly for my hair being too long because I wouldn't wear a wig," Earle said.

Although he never graduated from Holmes, the time he spent here prepared him for all the obstacles he would face early in his career including overcoming addiction, multiple divorces and a bit of jail time. And despite all this, he still strives to learn.

"Out of guilt, I read nearly all non-fiction, because I don't have that much formal education," Earle said.

Earle has transformed the entertainment world with his vision and talent.

Even with all the success, he explained, "The only regrets I have are about a lack of education."

His golden advice?
"Stay in school and don't do drugs," Earle said.



Senior strong safety Kwame Daniels "hits the quan" to celebrate the team's 19-6 win against Central Catholic as teammates lift their helmets to the crowd in the traditional post-game moments.

Photo by Lizbeth Perez



Photo by Lizbeth Perez

Senior defensive end Dillion Tietz and junior defensive lineman Robert Perez celebrate with juniors Abel Vasquez and Stefan Tanajara, along with senior Omar Garcia (in the green suit) by exchanging congratulations and high-fives after the Central Catholic game.



Photo by Victoria Falcon

Coach Edward Veyran holds up the football trophy from the 1999-2000 State Semi-Final team at a pep rally, using it as inspiration for current players chasing the first winning season since 2001-2002.



Photo by Clarissa Silva

Coach Jamie Arizpe and senior wide receiver Dominique Rogers celebrate after Rogers catches a 55-yard touchdown pass from Senior Quarterback Joel Ortiz

CURSE OVERSEEN

VICTORIES END TWO-YEAR LOSING STREAK FOR VARSITY FOOTBALL PLAYERS, FANS

by Alondra Martinez, Copy Editor

Three years ago, freshmen walked onto the football field for the first time. Expectations of dramatic wins and high school football glory lay before them. Game after game, season after season, that dream of glory seemed out of reach with each game going by without a win. Going up against South San this year, those same freshmen, now bigger, more experienced and determined seniors, changed their circumstances, finally tasting an on-field victory.

The varsity football team heads into the final game of the season, with four wins on five losses and the fan base and excitement have increased with each win starting with the victory against the South San Bobcats, which ended the team's two-year-long losing streak.

The year was filled with a newfound spirit that was contagious with students, faculty, and community members catching a passion for the winning football tradition again.

"It has been a year that you just feel something different. As far as people's attitudes, the kids, their support, and the game attendance, there was a lot more people at the first game than I've ever seen since I've taught here. It just feels different this year," class of 2000 alumnus and world geography instructor Cruz Arrieta said.

Even before the win, the team had committed fans that supported

them through every loss. With every game, their hope was tested, but they never left.

"We've always felt like leaving the game, but there wasn't much scoring. Even though the game was out of reach, we would get super hype when we would score. Plus you don't want to miss the game they actually do win," senior Tyler Dick said.

It was a great way to start the year. It was a confidence booster and a magnet that gravitated everyone towards each other.

"It was a perfect start to senior year because everyone was happy and came together," senior Zach De La Garza said.

Winning was a brand new experience for the team. Throughout the first three years as freshmen and junior varsity players, for most of them, they never had the taste of victory. The support that the families, students, and faculty gave to them established pride in the team.

"It was a great feeling. It was something that even from my freshman year [I didn't experience], I didn't win games then either. That was really my first win ever at Holmes. It was something that I haven't felt in a very, very long time. Just to see all the positive feedback from the community was just great," senior

varsity linebacker senior Miguel Reyes said.

Although the coaches are proud of the boys and how far they have come, they understand that the players have to keep pushing themselves. They know this isn't the time to start slacking off.

"I'm feeling pretty good. We have a lot of work to do. Like I said, it's a week-by-week thing. Every team is getting better every week, so we have to keep competing and working hard to get where we want to get," varsity coach Donald Streit said.

The win was gratifying for the team. They've been working and they dedicated their summer days and afternoons to building themselves as a team rather than individuals. It was a sigh of relief for them not having all the pressure of needing to get a win.

"Our team had finally overcome such a huge obstacle and was able to reap the benefits from the work that we've been putting in for a long time," Reyes said.

The team faces Warren on Nov. 7 for the final game of the season at 7pm at Gustafson Stadium. This will be the second meeting between the two schools this season, with the Huskies holding off the Warriors for a win in the first matchup.



Photo by Clarissa Silva

Students cheer from the student section after a Husky score during the first win in two years, against South San. The student section has continued to grow the past three seasons, with more and more student involvement, and is now one of the largest and most active in the school district.

A WINNING TRADITION

HUSKY FOOTBALL'S BEST SEASONS

- Year: W-L
- 1967: 8-2
- 1968: 6-4 Huskies Excel in Defense & Offense
- 1969: 8-2
- 1976: 6-4 Number One Defense
- 1977: 9-3, 7-0 District, First Championship
- 1978: 8-4
- 1980: 8-2
- 1981: 10-0 City Champs & State Semi-Finalists
- 1982: 10-0 Bi-District Champs
- 1983: 9-2 3rd Year City Champs
- 1984: 8-2-1
- 1985: 9-2
- 1986: 10-0 City Champs & State Semi-Finalists
- 1987: 11-1 City Champs & State Semi-Finalists
- 1989: 9-1 District Champs
- 1993: 12-3 City Champs
- 1995: 9-3
- 1996: 8-4
- 1999: 7-3 Tri-District Champs
- 2000: 13-2 City Champs & State Semi-Finalists
- 2001: 10-2 State Quarter-Finalist



Former Baylor wide receiver and HHS class of '00 graduate Robert Quiroga catches a pass against former Texas cornerback and BCHS '01 graduate Cedric Griffin, who won a National Championship with Texas in '06 and had a 10-year career in the NFL. Both were a part of the 1999-2000 State Semi-Finalist team at Holmes.

Rituals in the ROUND

THEATRE ARTS STUDENTS KEEP PRE-SHOW TRADITION ALIVE

By Amanda Rocha, Staff Writer

It's only a couple of minutes before showtime and everyone begins to gather up in a circle, arms crossed and hands interlocking with one another. This is something that has been going on for as long as anybody can remember, including recently retired theatre teacher Larry Patlovany, who was only the second teacher in the program's 50-plus years.

According to head theatre director and class of 1999 alumnus, Anne Bridges, as much of the crew as they can get will gather up in a circle backstage just before showtime. The circle represents the cast's unity and references the unique round shape of the campus buildings.

"We talk about the work we've all put into that show, sometimes we'll talk specifically about that show and about those characters and we give them some words of encouragement and then we end the circle with a prayer," Bridges said.

Because Holmes is so diverse and consists of students with many different beliefs and backgrounds "we do the prayer in a very unique way," Bridges said.

In only the first year without Patlovany, Bridges will, for the first time ever, begin the prayer herself and is incredibly excited to do so as well as to continue the tradition because it has been going on since she was a student at Holmes through the time she began teaching here to now.

"Mr. Patlovany always started the prayer by saying, 'Well sir, here we are again' instead of saying 'Dear God.' That is a famous line from the play *You Can't Take it With You* and the grandpa character starts his prayer this way every time they sit down to different meals," Bridges said.

The pre-show tradition is one that has a huge impact on each and every one of the cast members.

"It gets us focused and in the zone so that we aren't playing around and that we know what we're supposed to be doing, and also it just makes sure that we're all connected and that no one is left behind or left out," senior actress Makayla Sloan said.

The pre-show tradition gathers the cast and crew members together to be whole, and it also influences their individual performances.

"I feel like without it, I wouldn't be in my theatre zone or comfort. It gets me into my character, not as me, Makayla, but the role I am playing," Sloan said.

The tradition is vital to the performers of the show and is something that is also heavily appreciated by the theatre teachers.

BELOW: Junior Jared Pereida, junior Layla Moreno, senior Tavian Trevino, junior Elizabeth Rodriguez, sophomore Madison Rogers, and senior Michael Romero intertwine hands as a part of their pre-show tradition.

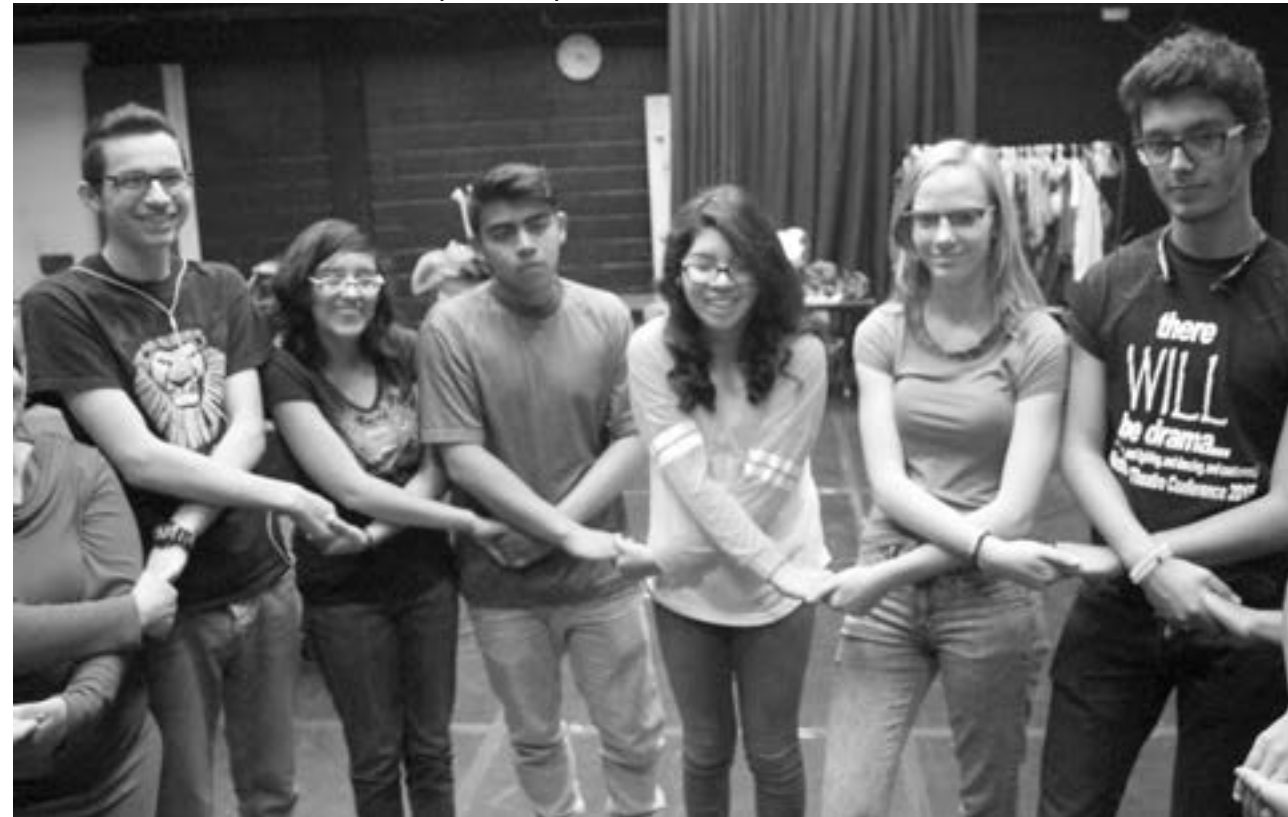


Photo by Victoria Falcon

Circle up: OTHER GROUP TRADITIONS

- Football Pre-game Ritual: Players get in a circle, hold hands, and pray before the game. Also, before they stretch at the game, they make a circle on the field, break it down, and spell out "Huskies."
- Band before UIL: Senior band members make a speech about their four years in band, and give a pep talk. Then they touch the "Husky Fight Never Dies" plaque before going to UIL.
- Color Guard before performances: Members create an "energy circle" where they hold hands, and the captain starts a hand-squeeze chain to pass on good vibes.

"As a teacher, it's a quiet moment before the show where myself and the other directors can really connect with all the students," because there is usually so much going on before it is actually time for the show to start, it is really nice to have that one moment where you just acknowledge everyone and let them know, 'I see you. I appreciate you. Your work is good,' before they go on stage," theatre teacher Vanessa Eichler said.

The tradition does not simply continue on because it is something people want to keep around, it is continued because it makes a difference in people.

"The tradition reminds me of all the hard work that led up to that moment. It is the last time you will ever do that show with those exact same cast members ever again so it is incredibly sentimental because, in that moment, you know all your hard work will pay off," senior Tavian Trevino said.



Photo by Victoria Falcon

ABOVE: Seniors Makayla Sloan, Katarina Hernandez, and Nuad Luna cherish one of their moments in the theatre circle.

THINGS I NEED TO REMEMBER:

- WHEN THE STUDENT SECTION WAS HYPE
- SPENDING MY PAYCHECK AT FOOD FEST
- BEATING WARREN IN THE TWITTER BOWL
- DANCING TO JUMP ON IT
- THE PEP RALLY PIE EATING CONTEST
- WHEN WE GOT ALL ONES FOR BAND UIL
- THE TIME XC WENT TO STATE
- HOW MY TEAM BECAME A FAMILY
- THE ALADDIN CURTAIN CALL
- MY SECRET CRUSH
- WINNING OUR 1ST GAME IN 2 YEARS
- TYLER THE DOLPHIN
- MY OFF-CAMPUS LUNCH SPOT
- OUR LAST PERFORMANCE
- MY ~~BOYFRIEND~~ EX
- THE HAIRCUT I THOUGHT WAS COOL
- MY RIDE-OR-DIE TEACHER
- MY LUNCH CREW
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RIGHT: Senior picture of Bill Ludwikowski in the 1977 yearbook.

BELOW: A painting of Bill Ludwikowski which has been displayed in the football locker-room area for many years.



A life, a death, a gift.

CLASS OF '77 REMEMBERS CLASSMATE WITH ANNUAL SCHOLARSHIP

by Diego Ramos, Co-Editor

This school has prided itself in being a community that gives back to its residents, exemplifying itself as a campus that respects and helps its members in any way possible. One such group of alumni graduated in 1977, and works to give back to the community because they were inspired by a classmate those many years ago.

A student who exemplified the ideal of selfless giving was Bill Ludwikowski. Ludwikowski was an honor student as well as a multi-sport athlete, active in the classroom as well as out of it. Given his heavy involvement in the school, Ludwikowski should have had a long, happy life, but the swift sword of cancer struck during spring football drills in 1976, Ludwikowski's junior year.

"Bill underwent surgeries and chemo and radiation treatment that summer to combat his illness, and was able to come to school to start his senior year," Ludwikowski's former teammate and Holmes alumnus Jeff Kuwamura said.

As the year progressed, Ludwikowski's health had begun to look up, as well as his teammates' performance on the football field. The football team became bi-district champions that year.

"Bill led our team as captain and was our inspiration. He was confined to a wheelchair during most of the season," Kuwamura said, "He would come into the locker room every week before

kickoff. As our senior year progressed, he showed improvement, and we were lifted by the progress, as it appeared he was on his way to recovery."

Unfortunately, this was not the case, as Ludwikowski relapsed in the spring of 1977. This was not the end of his story.

"Bill still managed to be ranked as one of the top ten seniors in our class. His goal was to finish high school, and as usual Bill achieved his goal," Kuwamura said. "On graduation day, May 27, 1977, a contingency of football coaches, players and the principal went to Bill's hospital room to award him his diploma," Kuwamura said.

Later that day, Bill lost his battle with cancer.

"We received the news and as you can imagine, not only us football players but the class as a whole were devastated. The players wore black arm bands to the ceremony to honor him," Kuwamura said.

Bill's spirit lives on however, in the form of a scholarship. In 1997, Kuwamura and other graduates from the class of 1977 decided to create the Ludwikowski Scholarship at a golf outing as a form of giving back to the school, and fundraising has been done through a golf tournament since then.

"We reached out to the school for applicants and the following summer we awarded our first scholarship for \$1,000. The first recipient was Brian Navarro, who eventually ended up coaching at Holmes after he finished college. The golf outing became a tournament, and we formed the William Ludwikowski Foundation," Kuwamura said.

To date, the foundation has awarded \$165,000 to students, they expect to pass \$200,000 this year. Ludwikowski's spirit also lives on through the recipients of his scholarship, such as Navarro.

"Every year I play in the golf tournament to help raise funds for future Husky scholarship winners," Navarro said.

Last year's scholarship recipient, Trey Driggers, now a student at Texas Lutheran University, is also inspired by Ludwikowski and his friends from the class of '77.

"His positive attitude and being there for others really says a lot about his character," Driggers said.



ABOVE: Bill Ludwikowski (center) poses in a picture with a few classmates for an extracurricular club his senior year.



SPORTS SHORTS

from the Gavel News Desk

NEWS BRIEFS

As the fall sports season comes to a close, we take stock of the growth and accomplishment in some of our programs during this year. It's been a turn-around year for many programs on campus, with several sports seeing a return to winning ways, and even a trip to state.



Photo by Makayla Sloan

FOOTBALL

Wins: 4 Losses: 5
-The team plays Warren for the second time this season on Nov. 7 with a chance to earn a 5-5 record and the first winning season since the 2001-2002 football season.



Photo by Joseph Vasquez

SWIM

23 first place medals in 3 meets
-The team is off to a great start, with juniors Caine Brogan, Griffen Cornell, and Bianca Irwin on pace to return to regionals this year.



Photo by Alexis Trevino

TENNIS

Mixed Doubles went 5-5
-Won their first tennis team match against East Central, marking their first team win in four years.



Photo by Stormy Rice

VOLLEYBALL

Wins: 28 Losses: 15
-The team closed out their season with a win against Marshall, and landed just outside of play-off eligibility. A young group, the team has a lot of experience heading into next season.



Photo by Tiareka Woods

CROSS COUNTRY

Boys team going to state meet
-The boys team will compete at the state meet on Nov. 7 in Round Rock, TX. The last time they advanced to state was 2011.

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KEEP TRADITION ALIVE

OPINION: SCHOOL SPIRIT HEART AND SOUL OF CAMPUS



Staff Editorial
 This school year there has been talk of traditions like spirit week and pep rallies being cut back, due to their potential distraction from academic school work. Fifty-year-old traditions should not be sacrificed at the altar of standardized testing and the ever-changing pursuit of "higher scores."
 Students enjoy coming to school these days and the positive impact on school spirit is obvious. Athletes feed off of that spirit, especially from the support and encouragement they receive. A recent performance by the Goldies to the song "I Believe" at a pep rally has given the football players and student sections a new encouraging chant. This support and enthusiasm gives the athletes, student body, and community something to be proud of, which is necessary with all of the recent negativity in the media and on social networks directed at Holmes.
 Spirit weeks are fun, memory-making weeks of school that students will look back at with fond memories, just as many parents, siblings, cousins, aunts, and uncles who took part in these traditions do when they look through their yearbooks. Many students share these memories and traditions as a part of a family and community heritage. During our nationally-recognized yearbook sales week marketing campaign, students get to crowd around the circle and play games to receive discounts on their yearbooks, benefiting those on lunch duty by keeping students from wandering around campus.

ABOVE: Senior Makayla Sloan dressed as Rosie The Riveter during yearbook sales week's "Life, Liberty, Yearbook" sales day. This tradition has been around since the 1980's.
 Other district campuses like Marshall, Brennan, and Warren still have fun with face paint, body paint, and showing their school colors during spirit week and at football games. Beyond our school district, schools in North East ISD and at elite private schools like Central Catholic are given the freedom to creatively show school spirit. Texas, as a state, is famous for the hoopla and spirit surrounding sporting events like football, and limiting or doing away with these traditions takes away from that Texas high school experience that the state is famous for. Why should our campus be different?
 Spirit days bring students together like senior week, where seniors have their own week to dress up and make memories for their last year at high school, while getting the senior class even closer before they move on to universities and other cities and states.
 Pep rallies and spirit weeks have always been around since the school was established in 1964. It has never been a distraction, but positive fun moments made in high school instead. Instead of looking for a way to minimize, cut back, or do away with our traditions, we should embrace and celebrate them and appreciate the life, positivity, and community connection they continue to create through the years.

A CULTURE OF SELFLESSNESS

STUDENTS CONTINUE TRADITIONS OF GIVING, CHARITY, SERVICE, AND KINDNESS IN COMMUNITY

by Christian Williams, Staff Writer
 Out of the many traditions that are celebrated on this campus, the one that sometimes goes unnoticed is the tradition of community service. Students and teachers come together to do voluntary work intended to help others for a good cause, and to find a way to help others in need.
 One student that has gone above and beyond for the good of others is junior Leslie Gamez. Gamez, who is currently helping work on the play *Aladdin* in theater which will invite area elementary students to attend their play. In order to make this happen, money needs to be raised for busses to transport the kids to and from the play. Last year's play was such a success, Gamez wanted these children to attend the play once again.
 Gamez already has a major interest in designing tie-dye shirts and decided to raise money for the children to attend the play by selling her shirts.
 "I love tie-dying and people would ask me if I could make them, so I thought I could charge them for one," Gamez said. She sold her shirts for five dollars each and has raised money that will contribute to the busses and transport the elementary students to the play Nov. 11-13.
 "We did the play for elementary students last year and it was so much fun, so I really wanted to do it again. It was great seeing little kids come and enjoy the show," Gamez said.
 Monica Yzaguirre, AVID Teacher, knows more than most when it comes to community service. She encourages community service projects because it looks great on transcripts when applying for colleges, and also because of the impact it has on others.
 "Service hours are not required but we encourage students to do service not just for transcripts but to help others less fortunate," Yzaguirre said. AVID is a college prep class, but it does more than just prepare students for colleges, it prepares students for life outside of school.
 "There are a lot of people that are less fortunate than our students, and we look very rich to them," Yzaguirre said.
 To Yzaguirre, community service means, "doing something and getting nothing back in return except the benefit of helping others."
 This is what she instills in her students and she takes much joy in encouraging them to help out their community.
 "I like it. I enjoy teaching kids about humility, service-owning projects, and helping others," Yzaguirre said. She loves seeing and helping students do their part in their community.
 Junior Ariana Maldonado goes above and beyond helping her community and others by putting in hours whether it's after school or on weekends.
 "I usually stay after school helping teachers with whatever they need and activities that are going on at school like Food Fest,"



Maldonado said. As part of AVID, she puts in a lot of hours that look good on her transcript, but she gets more out of it than that, especially when working with children.
 "I love helping other's, it's a really great feeling. When I help out at Morgan's Wonderland, it's really special. I love helping with kids and babies," Maldonado said.
 Many on campus do their part in the community without the need to be recognized, and are examples of great individuals doing great things. With the holidays approaching, it's a good time to help others that are in need and less fortunate than we are. Serving is more than just service that looks good when applying to colleges; it's a life lesson and good deed that will leave people with a satisfied conscience and heart. Whether it's a campus group like AVID, community or service projects, or just finding ways to help meet the needs of friends and family, Huskies do their part in giving back to the community.



TOP: Senior Savannah Bustos donates money along with hundreds of other students and families as senior Jonah Holladay helps two Central Catholic students collecting the donations for a charity hosted by Central Catholic.
BOTTOM: Junior Leslie Gamez, who came up with a plan to raise money so that elementary students can attend the fall musical, discusses *Aladdin* with theatre director Anne Bridges.

HOMECOMING HOMECOMING HOMECOMING HOMECOMING HOMECOMING

IN PICTURES

compiled by Victoria Falcon, Design Editor



1

Photo by Tiareka Woods



2

Photo by Tiareka Woods



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Photo by Alyssa Villagran



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Photo by Joseph Vasquez

1. Members of the class of 2016 pose for a picture after participating in the tradition of decorating the senior tree for homecoming week.

2. Senior Skye Knight carries his freshman brother, Jett Knight with paint on his feet from decorating the traditional paws in the circle as senior Amarissa Rojas looks at the result.

3. The student section celebrates a touchdown against the Hutto Hippos at the homecoming game.

4. Students at the homecoming dance "wobble with it" in the cafeteria which was transformed into the dance venue by Student Council.

5. Senior defensive end George Puente spends halftime of the game away from his teammates as he's crowned homecoming king. The queen was Joyce Hinajosa.

6. Senior quarterback Joel Ortiz finds an open running lane off of an option play against Hutto's defense. Ortiz led the team in passing and rushing yards against Hutto.

7. The defense gang-tackles a Hutto ball-carrier, digging for the football, hoping to come up with a turnover.



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Photo by Joseph Vasquez



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Photo by Adolph Aguero



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Photo by Adolph Aguero