

THE GAVEL

JANUARY 2016/VOLUME 52 NO.2



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COMMUNITY
ISSUE



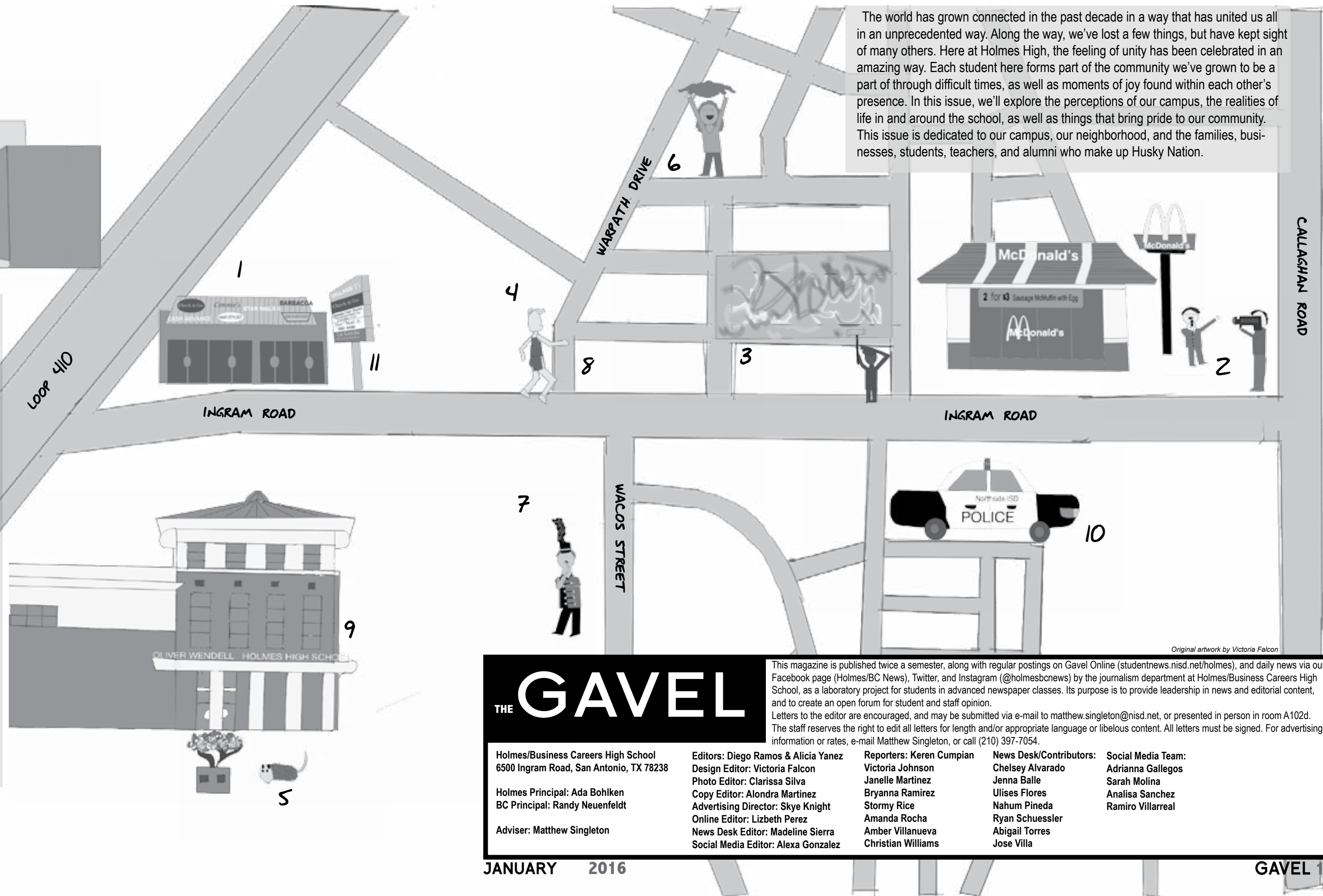
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COMMUNITY ISSUE

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The world has grown connected in the past decade in a way that has united us all in an unprecedented way. Along the way, we've lost a few things, but have kept sight of many others. Here at Holmes High, the feeling of unity has been celebrated in an amazing way. Each student here forms part of the community we've grown to be a part of through difficult times, as well as moments of joy found within each other's presence. In this issue, we'll explore the perceptions of our campus, the realities of life in and around the school, as well as things that bring pride to our community. This issue is dedicated to our campus, our neighborhood, and the families, businesses, students, teachers, and alumni who make up Husky Nation.

Original artwork by Victoria Falcon

THE GAVEL

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MISLEADING REPORTS CHALLENGED BY COMMUNITY AND STUDENTS

by Alondra Martinez, Copy Editor

In the time span of two months, Holmes and the surrounding community were featured in three news reports by KENS 5, along with accompanying online articles, all of which have included elements and generalizations that have been challenged for accuracy by students, local businesses, and community members.

The first report appeared on Sept. 24, 2015 and covered the “Holmes Jinx Day” in which some Warren High School students wore offensive costumes stereotyping the Holmes student body. The second report appeared not long after, on Oct. 7 and stated that “rampant Holmes HS brawls” were causing “chaos” for nearby businesses and in the community. The most recent appeared on Oct. 29, after the Oct. 7 article met with pushback from campus and community members, covering “street fights” that feature a location down the street from campus at Ingram and Ingram Hill, near the McDonalds.

The articles were all filed by reporter Justin Bourke and featured on the KENS 5 nightly news broadcast as well as online at www.kens5.com. The presentation of these stories, some of the facts within the stories, and the overall treatment and characterization of the Holmes community by KENS 5, has many students and adult community members challenging KENS 5’s reporting and misleading characterizations.

Bourke’s first report, “Warren HS parents outraged over ‘demeaning’ display” aired and published on Sept. 24, covered the spirit day at Warren High School where some Warren students dressed as “cholos” and other class and racial stereotypes. The Warren “Jinx Day” occurred during their homecoming week before the football game against Holmes, and Warren students were supposed to wear Holmes’ school colors and t-shirts as a way to “jinx” Holmes before the football game. Instead, some Warren students wore the offensive costumes, despite Warren administrator warnings not to do anything demeaning.

KENS 5’s report on the story was titled and focused around the reactions of Warren parents, but failed to include any perspective from Holmes students and parents, the victims of

the demeaning display. In the article, quotes only appeared from Warren junior Lee Shaffer and NISD spokesman Pascual Gonzales. Although Bourke says he spoke to Holmes students, the only time Holmes was shown in the report was in an exterior shot of the campus, and it included no reactions or comments from any Holmes students or community members.

Bourke was made available for an interview about the report, and he explained the decision to not include Holmes students or community members in that story.

“We focused on parent outrage because it was the [Warren] parents who reached out to us regarding that. It was parents who sent pictures from Twitter. It’s an interesting story because I don’t think any of the high school kids were particularly outraged by it. Most of the high school kids we spoke to about it, didn’t participate in it. I believe we went over to Holmes. Every time we do stories involving Holmes, we do go over there and try to talk to students,” Bourke said.

Without offering the perspective of Holmes students or community members, the report did not provide a defense or confirmation of the stereotypes presented about the Holmes community outside of Gonzales’ comments which were focused on how Warren administrators handled the event.

The next report involving the Holmes community originally aired and was originally posted online on Oct. 7 (Changes were made to the online article on Oct. 8, which altered the stated post time and date for the article in the dateline). The headline “Stores caught in ‘chaos’ from rampant Holmes HS brawls,” caused a controversy within the Holmes community, with students, teachers, and community members disputing the characterization and misleading nature of the report.

One of the people who contradicts the report is a business owner in the Village IV strip mall where the violence is said to have taken place.

The specific characterization of fights occurring at the strip mall directly across from the main entrance to the campus being “rampant”, causing “chaos”, and even involving Holmes HS

students is disputed by Abby Amparan, the manager of Connie’s Hair Stylists, one of the businesses in the strip mall referenced in the report.

“It’s always other people that come and start stuff,” Amparan said. “It’s always someone coming and picking on the kids at Holmes. I guess it has been severe situations that make it seem like it’s always going on. It’s honestly like one drastic thing every year that makes it seem like it’s always happening,” Amparan said.

Campus officer Chris Casias also disputed the characterization in the report that any fights in the vicinity of the school are “Holmes High School fights.”

“The majority of kids here are good kids. It’s a lot of kids that come from other schools to cause trouble,” Casias said.

The opening to the KENS 5 report stated that, “rampant brawls have shattered windows and spilled into their stores.”

The specific event that is being referenced by the report happened three to four years ago. Now, there are little to no fights happening in the Village IV strip mall, involving Holmes students or others.

Campus officer Adam Dominguez also disputed the characterizations made in the article about the scale of the “rampant brawls” which KENS 5 stated is causing “chaos”.

“I don’t think there has been anything as big as the article cites, but I’m glad they have security working there to keep the community safe,” Dominguez said.

Another of the four businesses in the strip mall referenced in the report disputed the characterizations made in the report about Holmes’ relationship to the past events in the area.

“They are exaggerating in the stories. These are good kids,” La Corona’s employee Laura Montes said.

With the report characterizing violent “brawls” across the street as “Holmes HS fights” coming only 13 days after the initial report about the Jinx Day at Warren where Holmes students were presented as “cholos” and “thugs”, Bourke stated that the Warren Jinx Day and the Holmes HS brawls reports had nothing to do with each other and were not connected. Bourke says the tip for the article came from a random conversation with a Bexar County Sheriff Lieutenant.

“The story regarding the Holmes fights; we were out there in the area for a completely different story and randomly had a conversation with the Bexar County Sheriff Lieutenant who was patrolling that area. He told us just in conversation that fighting had been a problem three to four years ago, and that’s when he got over there in the parking lot,” Bourke said.

While in his interview with the Gavel staff Bourke stated that the Bexar County Sheriff Lieutenant whom he spoke with about the fights mentioned that they occurred three to four years ago, neither the article nor the broadcast by KENS 5 mentioned this fact. No time frame was reported, and in the news broadcast, anchor Deborah Knapp introduced the story with the statement, “It sounds like this has become a chronic issue.” The characterization of the event that occurred three to four years ago as “chronic” and “rampant” by KENS 5 is misleading according to the timeline in which they actually occurred.

“This was honestly about two or three years ago. Now it’s better. Two months ago, there was a beginning of a fight, but that’s it,” Amparan said.

In the report on the “brawls”, the only quoted source about the

fights was the son of the owner of Star Nails, Daniel McGrath, a former Warren High School student.

The sole source quoted about the fights by KENS 5, McGrath claimed they began after students displaced from Hurricane Katrina in 2005 arrived at Holmes.

“The time that I saw the three fights I went outside and talked to a kid and asked, ‘Man why are there so many fights going on?’ He told me at Holmes in the bathrooms all the kids that are here are talking about the Katrina kids, and the Katrina kids were talking all over the walls about the other kids. All the kids were beefing against each other, so that’s why there’s been so

**“THEY ARE EXAGGERATING
IN THE STORIES.
THESE ARE GOOD KIDS.”**

-Abby Amparan

many fights,” McGrath said.

Bourke confirmed that almost all of his other sources had the fight McGrath described as occurring three to four years ago.

“We talked to the employees and the owners of the stores. Only one of the employees in one of those stores would actually go on camera, but we spoke to all of them off camera. They all said the same thing, which was three to four years ago it was a big problem,” Bourke said.

The fight which McGrath describes in detail in the KENS 5 report happened at least three to four years ago by most accounts.

“They mentioned one particular fight where the student’s head was put through one of the glass windows. We weren’t there, but we confirmed the story with a number of people,” Bourke said.

This fight from three to four years ago was the main incident referenced in the KENS 5 report, which characterized fights such as these as “rampant” and “chronic” as well as labeling them as “Holmes HS fights”. McGrath recounted the fight’s events, as he saw them, including the fact that he wasn’t sure if those involved were students.

“That day, whenever that happened, there were these three

kids, older kids, well I don’t even know if they were kids, but I’ve never seen them before. All three of them beat up this little kid that went to Holmes,” McGrath said.

McGrath went on to describe how the window of Connie’s Hair Stylist was broken during the fight. Both McGrath and Amparan confirm that this fight from three to four years ago was the reason on-site security was hired.

“Until we went to the district, they wouldn’t do anything. My mom complained to the people here and she would say ‘You guys don’t do anything’. It wasn’t until after they slammed the window that she said, ‘I’m going to call the news and make this company look bad.’ That’s when the actual owner came, which was a shocker because he’s on the other side of the world. He came here and they brought the news and he said, ‘That’s it, we’re going to bring security for you guys, but we got billed for security and it was a lot of money,’ Amparan said.

The employees told them that security stopped the fights in Village IV, but not in the surrounding neighborhoods.

Another point in the article that students and community members have suggested is misleading came, again, in the form of a lack of accurate representation of Holmes students by KENS 5.

For the Holmes HS brawls article, Bourke says he spoke to every student who walked across the street that day and none of them expressed interest in watching or promoting the fights.

“We told the district we would be outside the school and we simply talked to every student that came by. None of the kids we spoke with had any interest in fighting,” Bourke said.

However the only student interviews KENS 5 showed in the airing of the story portrayed the opposite. The only students that were shown in the broadcast, were students who showed interest in watching and encouraging the fights.

Though their identities were protected, the only students quoted in the report contradict Bourke’s admission that the majority of students KENS 5 interviewed that day showed no interest in the fights. The student interviews that appeared in the report included a quote from a young man describing how word of fights spread, and then a small group of two to three students laughing who said, “Why wouldn’t you watch a fight?”, and “Yeah. They’re exciting.”

In an apparent effort to correct that, by the next day, two
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MISLEADING REPORTS CHALLENGED

Continued from page 3
changes were made to the online article, but without noting that the original article was changed with a standard posting of “correction” or “clarification” at the end of the article.

The first change was a quote that was from Gonzales explaining why students would gather to watch fights, saying, “It’s like watching a train wreck.” According to Bourke, this was changed because Gonzales told him that he didn’t like that quote and wanted a different one. The other item that was inserted after-the-fact was a one-line sentence added acknowledging the majority views of Holmes students that were interviewed, reading, “The majority of students Eyewitness News spoke with had neither knowledge of, nor interest in fighting.”

Bourke explained the rationale for the changes. “I talked to Pascual [Gonzales] after the story aired and he wasn’t happy with the quote that we had picked and I told him that we were happy to change it out for another one. We weren’t trying to make the district look bad or the school. Pascual and the district as a whole have been amazing with us, really bending over backwards to help us get our stories on a weekly basis, so we were happy to make that change. We didn’t think it took anything away from the story,” Bourke said. A little more than three weeks after this article was posted and then changed, a third story was reported by Bourke as a follow-up about the alleged fights in the community surrounding Holmes.

Posted and aired on Oct. 29, the article “‘It’s horrifying’: San Antonio street fights gaining online notoriety,” focused on YouTube videos of street fights in San Antonio, with Bourke reporting on location just down the street within a mile from campus near the McDonalds on Ingram Hill. Similar to the report about the “rampant Holmes HS brawls”, the video displayed screen captures of YouTube videos of fights.

In both reports, no dates are reported for when the videos were posted on YouTube, nor is there confirmation of their locations. According to Gavel staff research, the videos used in the “rampant brawls” report were originally posted at least three to four years ago, and it’s unclear if any of them are in identifiable areas such as the Village IV strip mall. The videos used for the Oct. 29 report also go without note of their actual posting date, and while other clips are shown, the report focuses on what Bourke calls “the biggest” of “a number of fight videos from all over the city.” That video appears to take place near the McDonalds on Ingram Hill, some time in 2011. “The reason we focused on that fight was because it was the only fight that was at a location that was distinct enough for us to find it. Most of the videos, we found they were in back yards or really indistinct areas, like a McDonald’s parking lot. This one was very easily identifiable, so we said okay, it’s near the area of Holmes High School,” Bourke said.

Gavel staff members conducted an identical search on YouTube of “San Antonio Street Fights”, and found videos of fights clearly and identifiably taking place outside of the Holmes HS area.

The first video that appears in the list is titled “San Antonio Street Fight Knockout at McDonalds” with the location clearly

labeled in the description as the McDonalds on Marbach and Loop 410. There are others located in iconic, identifiable San Antonio areas including a more recent fight right outside of the famous Mercado in Market Square in downtown San Antonio. Throughout all of this, the impression of the Holmes community has stayed the same for some people.

Additionally, the only YouTube video used in the report that shows the title and description of the video along with the content, is the only video that has Holmes High School in the title. While the recent reports by KENS 5 show the Holmes community as a place where students engage in “rampant brawls” and “street fights,” most who come in contact with Holmes students maintain a positive impression.

“Personally, it’s Holmes. It’s good. I love Holmes. I do think that there are a lot of the other kids that come and try to pick on them. I don’t think it’s a bad school, I really like it,” Amparan said.

Bexar County Juvenile Probationary Officer Gilbert Perez works with students on campus every day. Perez knows the students and has experience with both the good and the bad that happens around the community.

“I agree with Pascual [Gonzales], there is no school that doesn’t have fights. I don’t think because of a few individuals Holmes should be generalized,” Perez said.

While the public perception of the Holmes community is influenced by news reports and stereotypes, when individuals interact with students, they often have a different impression. “If I’m being honest, we spoke with a number of Holmes kids and they all were wonderful, nice, bright kids,” Bourke said.



More screenshots from the series of reports by KENS 5’s Justin Bourke referencing Holmes and the surrounding community.

If it bleeds, it leads.

OPINION: HYPERBOLE IN KENS 5 STORIES SERVES AS ‘CLICK-BAIT’

Staff Editorial

In journalism, there is an old saying that goes, “if it bleeds, it leads.” It’s a saying about which stories in a newspaper or broadcast should be put out front in order to get your audience to stop on your channel or pick up your newspaper, and it suggests that the best way to do this is to lead with something shocking, or violent, or bloody.

In an age when stories are posted online, the phrase used to describe this practice of using a shocking headline or tweet in order to get an audience to read an article is “click-bait journalism,” where journalists exaggerate or disregard the facts of a situation in order to get their audience to click on a link and read their story or view their video in order to prove to advertisers that people are watching or viewing their pages.

The reports referencing Holmes by KENS 5 are just that; click-bait journalism less interested in the truth, and more interested in hyperbole and exaggeration in order to generate clicks and views.

Our campus has been an easy target for other schools to bash for as long as we can remember, focused on tired stereotypes about class and race. No matter the accomplishments, there is always someone ready to point out a negative situation, whether real or imagined.

When adults and students from both within and outside our community suggest these things, we’ve learned to overcome the negativity and continue to show great pride in our school, its students, and the kind of people created by this community’s influence.

However, when a big news station broadcasts story after story that exaggerates and promotes this myth to the public, it takes a toll and causes many students to become discouraged in what they have been fighting to defeat, both personally and as a student body.

Professional journalists have a responsibility to report news accurately and fairly, to minimize the harm a story might cause, and to provide a balanced view of an issue from a variety of sources.

The reports by KENS 5 that targeted our campus and community failed at this responsibility and instead exaggerated, generalized, misled, and misrepresented the Holmes High School community in exchange for a catchy headline that would work to confirm what some already mistakenly believe about our community.

The two stories KENS 5 published about violence in our community were untimely. They covered events that happened years ago and presented them as current news. From the headline to its source’s quotes, it bashed our school for an event that happened when most of current students were not even attending yet, dramatizing and begging for attention. The stories were inaccurate in how they characterized the events as “Holmes High School” events when many sources stated that those involved often aren’t connected to the school. Also, to characterize these events as “rampant” and “chronic” is inaccurate. Most of all, these reports were unfair in that they brought down a whole community simply for the entertainment and attention of viewers, when the majority of students and community members do positive, newsworthy things on a weekly basis that go generally unreported by KENS 5.

Everyone understands the need to grab the attention of viewers and to find stories in today’s fast-paced news world, but when writing stories and broadcasting them, good journalism requires that reporters should be fair and accurate, and minimize the harm to students and a community that has historically been an easy target for the public, as evidenced by things like Warren’s “Holmes Jinx Day”. The consequences of the release of these stories should be considered more carefully, and reported more fairly. At the very least, good journalism requires that incidents years in the past not be presented as current news.

Most importantly, the next time a news outlet is looking for a story about our school and community, we hope they’ll consider listening to the majority of the students and community members that they might speak with, and finding any one of a number of positive, inspirational, worthy stories in and around our campus in order to create a more fair and accurate portrayal of Holmes High School to the public.

INSIDE OUT:

CAMPUS STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS SERVE HOLMES FAMILIES, FELLOW STUDENTS, AND COMMUNITY



Photo by Clarissa Silva



Photo by Tiareka Woods



Photo by Lucia Salinas

by Alicia Yanez, Co-Editor

Helping each other out in a community is something that is normal. The way the communities inside Holmes High School help each other out, and help out those in the surrounding area, stands out in a unique way that benefits many. Organizations on campus such as Culinary Arts, Air Force JROTC, Auto Collision, and many others do work in the community that helps others. This year, ROTC has done different community services such as the penny drive to benefit all the Holmes families during the holidays, graffiti clean-up in the neighborhood, and can drives during the holidays.

“We will do four clean-ups this year around the city and clean up graffiti. We’ve invited other organizations such as CIS, GT, AVID, Campus Life and Interact Club,” Major Anna Kramm said. The community is a very big part of the daily lives of ROTC students and they make it a priority almost every day.

“We tell the cadets, ‘You’ve got to go out and do for other people so that rewards come back to you in multiple ways,’ and we have them sign that they will come and do community service with us, and it raises participation,” Kramm said.

The helping hands don’t just stop on campus, but move into

the surrounding neighborhood and other schools.

“There is this van that was left here, and we are fixing it up to donate it to someone who doesn’t have a motor vehicle,” Auto Collision teacher Alvaro Gutierrez said. Students from other campuses also bring their cars to have work done by Auto Collision students, and even people who live in the neighborhood visit and then give references to other people. Being able to see the reactions from those they helped really can make it all worth it in the end.

“Seeing my students do a job on their own is great, because I’ve taught them and held their hands since they were freshmen, to now being seniors. They always take pictures of their work and post it on social media and they are very excited,” Gutierrez said.

Helping people even in the smallest ways can make a big difference and Cosmetology does just that.

“We have late nights where we give haircuts and other resources to anyone for cheaper prices,” senior Sabrina Martinez said.

“I like knowing that by doing the Monday night haircuts and other services, not only is it helping the community, but also it

gives us the experience we need to be more successful,” Martinez said. Anyone can help out and can make a difference for not only the people they help but also their own lives.

“It keeps the students out of trouble and from hanging out with the wrong crowd. The students that would skip and that were always tardy changed completely now that they must be early for their job, and they now get rewarded with a paycheck as well,” Gutierrez said.

Culinary Arts helps out inside the community starting right here on campus, by helping other organizations with food and mentor lunches. One example is how Culinary students made dinner for theater students staying late for rehearsals and performances.

“Mrs. Bridges bought all the ingredients and I have all the equipment here and we made it taste better and we gave it to the theater kids,” culinary teacher Kelsea Featherston said.

Cleanups, fixing people’s broken items and even giving cheaper prices for haircuts all make a big difference. The outcome, and feelings of the person going out of their way can make it even more important.

THE PATH(s) TO STATE

CROSS COUNTRY ATHLETES RUN THROUGH THE COMMUNITY, TO STATE MEET

by Janelle Martinez & Keren Cumpian, Staff Writers

They run paths that cut across our community from our campus to as far away as St. Mary's University and SeaWorld on any given morning, often before the sun is up. And on Nov.7, those paths ended all the way at the state cross country meet.

The Cross Country team was able to place 9th, including an individual accomplishment of placing fourth in state by sophomore Ethan Hageman in what was described by coach Faith Barlow as the worst conditions ever seen at any sporting event. The state meet was held at Old Settlers Park, Round Rock, TX, where all the team's hard work paid off.

To prepare for their races and the run to state, the athletes run routes all over the Holmes community. The team has about 25 different routes that they take depending on how much mileage they need to get in, or how much time they have. Throughout these runs, the team has the chance to see what all other students may miss by driving in cars or busses to school.

"Every morning a bunch of dogs have chased us. Since our freshman year by Linton Elementary, we have seen the same crossing guard lady out there rain or shine. Every time we pass by her, she says 'Y'all have a nice day'. We have seen other runners, and people yell out 'your shorts are too short.' Even deer sometimes run with us," senior Skye Knight said.

"As much as it hurts and as much as we want to give up, we couldn't because the cross country team is like a family that depends on us. Giving up was never an option." senior Nahum Pineda said.

Being part of the team means pushing themselves over the limit and to keep running even when they are tired or sore. The runners depend on and support each other because everything they do affects the team, including the outcome of the races.

"We want to be better than last year, and that happens with hard work, not talent or anything else," coach Stephen Barlow said.

Barlow's message to his students is to accomplish something today that will make them better than yesterday. The runners put in hard work every day, sometimes in difficult weather circumstances, including storms, thunder, cold or pouring rain, in order to reach their goals.

"They worked hard and got rewarded for what they've done," Coach Faith Barlow said.

At regionals, when they heard the announcement that they got 3rd place out of the four teams that advanced to state, it came as a surprise. They always referred to themselves as state-bound, but never thought they'd make it close to qualifying.

"That just brought a smile to my face and I think I may have started crying a little. I will remember that moment for the rest of my life," Hageman said after hearing that Holmes was going to state. After years of practice and dedication to intense training, the Cross Country team finally grasped the title they had only dreamed of receiving.

Their many experiences together have created a family bond throughout the team. There's a unity in the team that despite all their struggles, never breaks. That camaraderie shows on the bus going to a meet, during races, and after their races when taking care of each other.

"Cross Country provides an opportunity for kids to become a part of a family. They learn to be responsible for something bigger than themselves. Our successes in Cross Country also provide the community with something to be proud of," Faith Barlow said.

The whole team has been volunteering to give back to other organizations in school and around the community. All the support they have gotten from the district, families, staff, and students has helped them end up where they are now, running up and down the streets criss-crossing our community, representing Husky pride.

RIGHT: Sophomore Ethan Hageman leads the pack at an early cross country meet this season as a crowd of spectators look on.

BELOW: After a muddy race at the state cross country meet in Round Rock, TX, brothers Nehe-miah Pineda, junior and Nahum Pineda, senior, share a moment at the end of their state race.

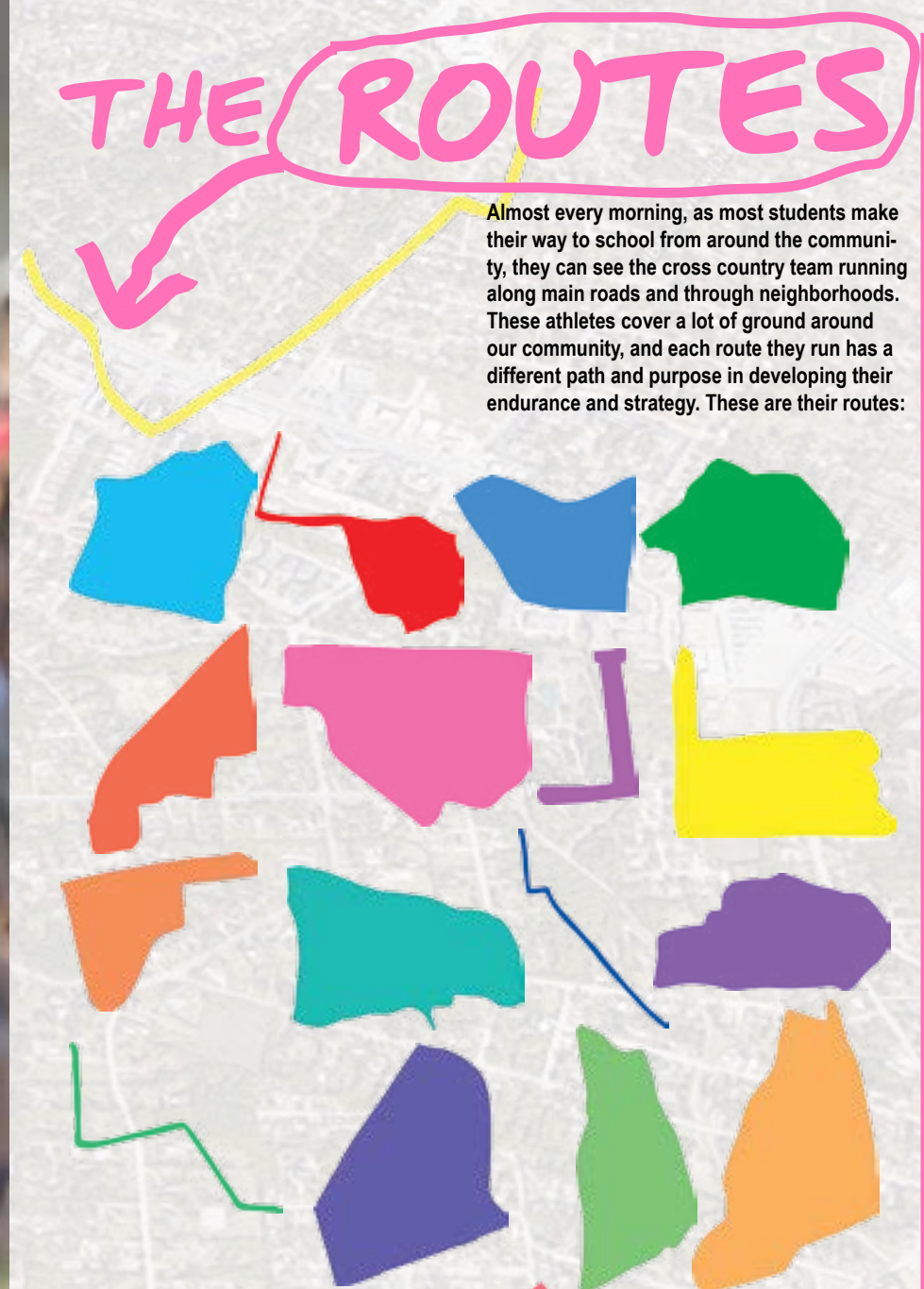


Photo by Phil Garcia



Photo by Phil Garcia

ABOVE: Varsity boys huddle together as senior Skye Knight gives one last motivational speech before the team runs at the state meet. The team placed 9th in state, beyond their predicted finish based on their ranking heading into the meet.



Almost every morning, as most students make their way to school from around the community, they can see the cross country team running along main roads and through neighborhoods. These athletes cover a lot of ground around our community, and each route they run has a different path and purpose in developing their endurance and strategy. These are their routes:

XC ROUTE KEY BY COLOR

- Sea World 14 mile**
This is the longest route and it goes all the way out by SeaWorld from campus.
- 6.5 mile loop**
- Warren 10 mile**
One of two routes that starts at Holmes and takes students near neighboring Warren High School.
- Square mile**
- 13.5 mile loop**
The second-longest route, this loop goes around the edges of the Holmes attendance zone to the west of campus.
- 2.5 mile loop**
- 3 mile run**
- Linton 2 mile**
This shorter run takes athletes past Linton elementary school.
- Tempo 4 mile**
- Warm up 1 mile**
The shortest route, this one serves as a warm up or cool down.
- 8 mile run**
- Stevens 10 mile**
This route runs near Stevens High School.
- 5 mile run**
- Warren 8 mile**
- 4 mile run**
- Hillcrest 8 mile**
- St. Mary's 11 mile**
This route runs east from campus past St. Mary's University.
- Church 5 mile**
- 9.5 mile loop**
- 7 mile loop**
- Benrus 6 mile**



Photo by Phil Garcia

ABOVE: Sophomore Ethan Hageman receives a medal at the conclusion of the state cross country meet after placing fourth in state individually.

WILD LIFE

ANIMALS FIND HOME ON CAMPUS

by Victoria Johnson, Senior Staff Writer

It's been over fifty years since this school was a wooded habitat, home to the native wildlife of Texas. Over the years, the population of wildlife has declined as roads, houses, stores, restaurants, and even the mall have sprung up all around the school. The only animals left are the occasional stray dog, the cats that live under the buildings, the ever-mysterious opossum, the runaway squirrels, and the low flying birds. In an effort to maintain what's left of the animal community, teachers and students are joining forces to help the little critters that call our school home.

"The dogs are really cute and friendly. I wish the school would help them instead of kicking them to the curb," freshman Kaylee Thompson said.

Even a small act of kindness makes a huge impact. Art teacher Joyce Muncy makes a point to care for and feed the cats that have lived under the A-building since they were kittens.

"It's been over ten years that I've been feeding the cats," Muncy said.

Muncy is not the only one contributing; some students have even taken these animals into their hearts and homes.

"I've had a few students try to take care of the dogs and cats while we find them homes and caring families," Muncy said.

The week before the holiday break, a lost husky found its way onto the campus, and students and staff alike were happy to see the friendly pup and take pictures of this unofficial live mascot on campus. It didn't take long for current Registrar and Holmes Husky alumnus John Aguilar to bring this husky into the pack.

"There are a lot of stray dogs and I saw my chance to give [this husky] a home so that it wouldn't be on the streets. It was out on the bridge outside of my office with a couple of students that were petting it. I love huskies and I graduated from here so I decided to take it home and take care of it," Aguilar said.

However not everyone in the four-legged community takes kindly to students.

"That poor baby opossum, I felt so bad. It was just minding its own business and then people started crowding around it, and it got scared and hissed at them, and then they tried to hurt it until the janitor came and rescued it," senior Emily Espinoza said. One thing is sure: Holmes would not be Holmes without the little animal lives that call our school home.

"I think it's the animals that help make our campus look nice and welcoming," junior Ben Harrison said.



The wildlife that calls the campus and community home includes an opossum, several cats that live in the gap under the A-building, and dogs, some lost and some stray, including a husky that was recently adopted by campus Registrar and alumnus Jon Aguilar.

Photos by Victoria Falcon

TAKING CARE



Photo by Victoria Falcon

ABOVE: Communities in Schools representatives Roxanne Castillo and Tanya Hulbert speak with AVID students about CIS services.



Photo courtesy CIS

ABOVE: The "can-struction" created from canned goods to be given to Holmes families in need during Thanksgiving.

COMMUNITIES IN SCHOOLS SERVES STUDENTS, FAMILIES WITH MEALS, SUPPLIES, CLOTHING AND MORE

by Christian Williams, Senior Staff Writer

The community of students, families, teachers, and neighbors that make up Holmes prides itself on how they look out for one another. Community In School (C.I.S.) is an organization on campus that is dedicated to helping students and the community. Tanya Hulbert, in charge of C.I.S., has been a part of the organization for almost four years.

"C.I.S. is for every student on campus. Any student can come for any kinds of needs such as school supplies, jackets, food, hygiene items, counseling; all types of assistance," Hulbert said.

Any items students may have forgotten at home, don't have, or don't have the means to get themselves, C.I.S. has in room in D203.

"We keep these items in our room for any situation out there. Even things like if a student's family needs assistance, we supply them with HEB gift cards or help them apply for food stamps if it's a ongoing situation," Hulbert said.

C.I.S. also contributes to the community surrounding Holmes and gives back. The holidays are traditionally a time to help others in need, and this past Thanksgiving, C.I.S. went out to help families in the community.

"This past Thanksgiving we served 100 families the full

Thanksgiving meal such as the turkey, ham, and sides," Hulbert said.

Students can get involved with helping the community too. C.I.S. allows students to be involved and Hulbert wants students to do so for the right reason.

"We try to empower students with the idea of giving back. It doesn't take a million dollars from a student. It just takes giving their time. We take students to food banks, to do bone-morrow tests to see if they would qualify for a match, to participate in graffiti clean up, and other events," Hulbert said.

Hulbert views Holmes and the community as a really wonderful place.

"I live in the area and I see the community as an extension of me. People don't take the time to learn about our community and our students. If students were as bad as some people may say, they wouldn't bother showing up for school. Holmes and the community is a wonderful place to work and live as well," she said.

Hulbert has a passion for what she does and she wants to be the difference for those in need, because she knows what that feels like. She also recalls her most memorable moment working

as a part of C.I.S. and what had a huge impact on her life.

"I wanted to be a part of C.I.S. after my family moved here because of Hurricane Katrina. It was a new experience for me because we had no home, and we were standing in lines just to apply for food stamps. We were treated very poorly by those who were supposed to be helping. I wanted to be different and treat others with the compassion and respect that they deserve," Hulbert said.

Hulbert's work with C.I.S. is fulfilling, because of the opportunity to connect with others and offer something meaningful.

"I knew I was at the right place a few years ago when a mother came to me and shared her personal life stories, and it surprised me because these people really trust me and they know I'm there to help. She came to me a few months ago and I asked if I remembered her and I did not. It impacted me when she remembered who I was, and how I helped her and her daughter through a really tough time when her daughter was at a point in her life she was going to drop out of school. I realized these people don't forget what you do for them, and that really means something. This is what I live to do and have a passion for doing. I enjoy serving others," Hulbert said.



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THEY WE GOT YOU.

SUPPORTIVE COMMUNITY MEMBERS STUDENTS NEED TO KNOW

by Amber Villanueva, Senior Staff Writer

Whether it's through fundraisers, showing up at concerts and athletic events, or giving of their time and energy to students on campus, there are countless individuals from the community who support Holmes students and programs. Here are a few of those individuals and what they've done for Holmes.

REP. JUSTIN RODRIGUEZ

State Representative for District 125, Justin Rodriguez represents the majority of the Holmes community in state politics, and recently took the time to send the cross country team and coach Steve Barlow a letter of congratulations on their finish at the state cross country meet (pictured).



RICK PFLUKE

Owner and operator of the Chick-fil-A on Ingram, Rick Pfluke has worked to support Holmes and its various programs at every opportunity, including making donations, and hosting fundraisers and spirit nights. Additionally, Pfluke's own children attended Holmes and the store employs several Holmes students and alumni. They also provide band members and student-athletes with meals on game day at a discount.



Photo by Clarissa Silva

BAND BOOSTER CLUB

The band booster club is made up of the parents of band students and community volunteers. They organize fundraisers and help with performance logistics at football games and throughout the year.



Photo by Vianey Manjarrez



Photo by Victoria Falcon

MAX GARCIA

Campus plant manager Max Garcia has been a fixture on campus throughout the years, cooking famous "Max Burgers" for school events, keeping the campus running, and rooting on students at athletic events.



Photo by Victoria Falcon

AVID GRAD VOLUNTEERS

AVID alumni volunteers like Eric Falcon (pictured) help with administrative work and tutor current students, teaching them how to give back to the community by example.

ATHLETIC BOOSTER CLUB

The athletic booster club consists of several parent and community volunteers as well as the leadership team of President Jovanna Desardin, Vice President Lisa Arrevelos, Treasurer Veronica Garza, Concessions Chair Cindy De La Garza, and Secretary Pattie Holladay. The athletic booster club hosts the athletic banquet at the end of the school year, decorates athlete lockers before some games, manages a scholarship fund for student-athletes, works the concession stands throughout the year, sells Husky spirit items, participates in Meet the Huskies at the beginning of the year, and puts on annual fundraisers including plate sales.



Photo by Joseph Vasquez



SPORTS SHORTS

from the Gavel News Desk

NEWS BRIEFS

Basketball season is in full effect for both girls and boys teams, and upcoming spring sports like softball and baseball are preparing for their seasons. Meanwhile, Husky golfers, tennis athletes, and swimmers continue their work for the second half of the year. Information as of 1/4/2015.



Photo by Stefan Tanajara

BOYS BASKETBALL

Wins: 14 Losses: 6
-"We worked really hard during the offseason to get to where we are now. If we keep playing team basketball and stay focused, I think we can go pretty far."
-Marquise Ware, 12th



Photo by Joseph Vasquez

GIRLS BASKETBALL

Wins: 5 Losses: 25
-"I feel like we're growing as team and we're working hard and are a lot better than we were two years ago when we started working with coach."
-Abigail Gutierrez, 12th



Photo by Michael Wilbourn

GOLF

Varsity Golf is off to a strong start, competing in various tournaments across the city and practicing at Top Golf.
-"All made putts break six inches straight down."
-Coach Larry Czeszewski



Photo by Zach DeLaGarza

BASEBALL

Tryouts will be Jan. 29
- "Our goal is to win district. This team is by far the closest team I've ever been on. We don't leave one man behind and are buying into the team-first mindset."
-Alex Lopez, 12th



Photo by Gage Gaytan

SOFTBALL

Tryouts will be Jan. 23
-"We want to go to state, so we work hard every practice and take it one game at a time. We should be fun to watch and we're excited to compete."
-Savanna Bustos, 12th

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WHO WE ARE :

OPINION: LOOK BEYOND COMMUNITY STEREOTYPES TO SEE THE TRUTH

Opinion column by Victoria Falcon, Design Editor

Given our location, our predominate culture, and some of the history within our neighborhoods, we are a community that is easy to pick on. We are constantly labeled with stereotypes that are tired, hurtful, and inaccurate of the reality each one of us lives. People seldom take a deeper look at the reasons we are perceived in such negative light, and spend even less time trying to see the positive underlying truths about our community.

While opinions from outside sources plague a community from the outside looking in, the stereotypes and opinions don't carry weight once you know the real stories of the real people. Most people form ideas of this community based on surface aspects, and fail to see how certain situations play a part in our socio-economic status. Labels of "poor" and "ghetto" are thrown at us because of where our community is geographically located. Inside Loop 410, we have limited space for growth, leaving less opportunity for economic development, meaning this community has less due to factors that are out of our control. Profiled as "cholos", "thugs", or simply receiving an unpleasant glare when informing someone of where you attended high school are all sad situations this community has faced. While we have a strong blend of multicultural people who bring so much life to our community, these terms are used because we happen to be a campus whose population is largely made up of racial minorities, and racial judgment recycles many stereotypes. Most people only see the titles and fail to hear our stories, so all they know is we are economically disadvantaged, and somehow less-than because of the perception of our economic class and race.

Where people fail to see past a fixed mindset is where they refuse to learn, and refuse to be wrong. Most people will never see the good things people do in this community, and what kids in the high school are accomplishing, despite their toxic environment. We have a lot of good people in this community, who are smart, capable, and do not fall under the stereotype applied to them. Although we do have many good people who aren't "cholos" or "thugs," we are also not ashamed of the people who live the complicated, difficult realities that are labeled that way. What people don't realize is that those "thugs" are real people who are living through rough times, and when you make light of their lives, you are judging people that have seen unbearable pain, trying to live and do better. This just continues to hold them down in that place.

When kids from Warren were punished for making fun of people at Holmes and dressing as "cholos," they thought it would be a funny joke because of the constantly stereotyped campus. Many students from Holmes were upset with the inaccurate representation of them as individuals. But what if there are students on campus who actually dress like that? What may seem ridiculous to some is the truth for others.

We stand by our belief that it is a culture, and just as it is insen-

sitive to make fun of a culture of Hindus who wear bindis, or a culture Muslims who wear hijabs, it is judgmental and ignorant to make fun of urban kids who sag.

People from this community have been fed these negative ideas often for their entire lives, and instead of trying to help the area, even people within the community perpetuate a hurtful cycle of profiling and stereotypes. Most people, including kids, in this community have been taught that they are bad. This has a domino effect of unconscious self-hate, and they struggle to validate their lives.

Stereotyping pits the community against itself. A lot of those who don't fit into the stereotype visibly, disown their community and view themselves as better-than. It is disheartening knowing people are eager to leave, and begin to hate the community that brought them up due to stereotypes. It shouldn't be a matter of whether we have good people too, not just "thugs." Everyone should be equally upset with the fact that there are people trying to bring down our community as a whole. Although some didn't experience as harsh a story as others, it doesn't take away what this community has rooted in us all. Because of this community, we all have some self-doubt.

Even if you are a student going to college, you will still always wonder if you are good enough, just the same as the kid your same age who lived rough thinks they aren't worth much. We share similar fears, and we all have to get out of the same hole dug for us. In the case of our community, the saying "Less is more" will continue to ring true.

Because of this community we are: humble, loving, caring, respectful, diverse, and above all else, real. We are real people, with real and riveting lives. The stories behind these people will be some of the most shocking, and in the same breath, beautiful, stories ever heard, if only people would make the choice to look past stereotypes, and begin to root for this community and the lives within it.

Despite what is said and believed about this community, we want everyone to remember one thing: success stories aren't about people who had the odds in their favor, they're about people who had life against them and fought hard to make it out of the hole they were born into.

If you want to be a part of the change to minimize stereotypes about this community, simply start up a conversation with someone who would seem to be an unlikely friend, find your favorite parts about this community and amplify those ideas, listen, lend a helping hand, learn what it means to have empathy, and share the stories of the wonderful people and things that happen here every day. If you have a story or example of the good things our community and campus offer, we encourage you to send us a letter about it through email to holmesjournalism@gmail.com or in person in A102d.

TO CONNECT AND TO SERVE

CAMPUS PROBATION OFFICER PEREZ SERVES STUDENTS, FAMILIES

by Diego Ramos, Co-Editor

Through the years, the community around Holmes has gone through an unimaginable amount of change. Since 1964, Holmes has undergone an amount of change that not many schools can say they've been through. One individual who has been able to witness a portion of this change is Bexar County Juvenile Probation Officer Gilbert Perez, who himself is a graduate of the Holmes Class of 1989. Perez began attending Holmes in 1987, and attended it until his graduation. Perez has been an officer on campus for ten years, and has seen the community expand in more ways than one.

"There used to be a daycare at school for the teacher's kids when I attended. It was strange how you could be walking to your class and you'd just hear children playing," Perez said. "I've seen a lot of growth within the community since the 80's, I've seen a lot of economic growth from the time I've been here. I've seen the community become more diverse as time progressed."

Perez has also worked with the other police on campus, Officer Chris Casias, who is a graduate of the Holmes class of 1997 and Officer Adam Dominguez. Each has worked with Perez for at least three years.

"Officer Perez has a good relationship with the students at Holmes, and he has a positive attitude around the kids," Casias said.

"He's a good worker and a hard worker. He has attention to detail, he's observant, and an important asset to some of the investigations here," Officer Dominguez said.

Though the community has grown exponentially while Officer Perez has been at Holmes, he also feels there could be room for improvement in other areas involving Holmes High School, a

sentiment shared by the campus police officers as well.

"We need to have a better relationship with the school, the community, and more parental involvement would be ideal. The relationship between law enforcement and communities aren't as good as they should be," Perez said.

"One of the ways we could build a relationship with the community is parents having a meeting with us before and after the school year just to go over expectations," Casias said.

Despite the gaps that might still exist, the officers believe there has been a large amount of improvement with the relationships between the community and the law enforcement.

"The community around Holmes backs a lot of the law enforcement, it's a lot of community policing," Dominguez said.

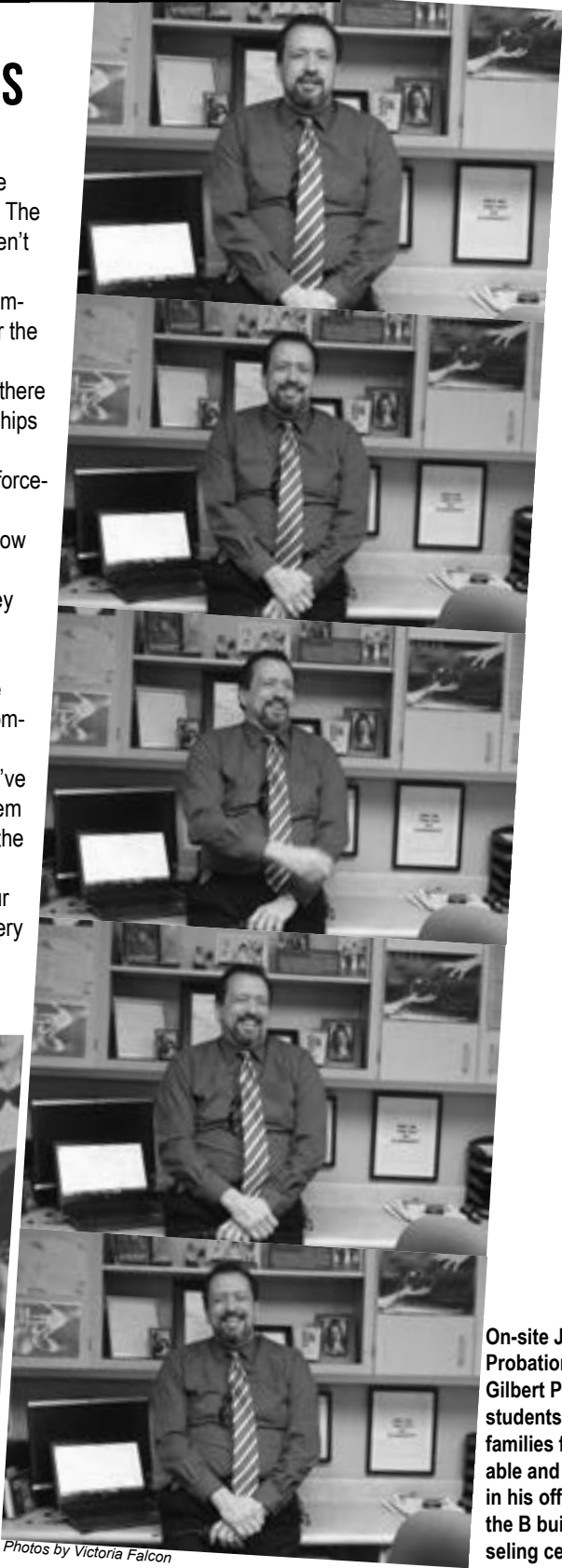
"We hear people call in to help, which just goes to show how far we've come. The SAPD is very proactive, and it takes a community effort. We need citizens to get involved, and they have," Perez said.

Along with the improvement of the relationship with law enforcement, Perez cites an increase of diversity within the community, something that has allowed Holmes and the community around it to flourish.

"The school has become more open and progressive. We've offered a lot of help to the students that opens doors for them to grow. The school has been more open and proactive to the community," Perez said. "I think the diversity has made us more empathetic. I think it's helped us realize how close our realities are. You can walk around this campus and see every part of the world represented, and it's a beautiful thing."



ABOVE: Officer Gilbert Perez graduated from Holmes in 1989, where he appeared in his senior yearbook already beginning his effort to give back to the community, appearing as Santa Claus at the once on-campus daycare for "little Huskies."



On-site Juvenile Probation Officer Gilbert Perez makes students and their families feel comfortable and connected in his office inside the B building counseling center.

Photos by Victoria Falcon

EAT LOCAL.

FIVE LOCALLY-OWNED RESTAURANTS THAT ADD FLAVOR TO THE COMMUNITY

by Amanda Rocha, Senior Staff Writer

McDonald's, Chick-fil-a, and the Wingstops of our lives are very important. They are well-known and we could never really go wrong with them, right? But what about those times where we want to try something new, and a little more home-grown? Lucky for you, we have five locally-owned businesses in the community that we think can give you just that. So break your normal fast food routine, and make time to have a meal at these restaurants. These are the type of places that are so good you might need two hours after to stare off into blank space for reflection and digestion. Enjoy!

LA CORONA

LOCATION:
6511 Ingram Rd #101,
San Antonio, TX, 78238

MAKE SURE TO TRY:
The Migas Plate

FUN FACT:
Formerly La Gorda, and a Barbacoa restaunt, the new ownership at La Corona welcomes Holmes students and even employs Holmes alumni.



Photo by Victoria Falcon

LEON VALLEY CAFE

LOCATION:
6562 Bandera Rd Suite 4,
San Antonio, TX, 78238

MAKE SURE TO TRY:
Media Noche Cuban
Sandwich with Fries

FUN FACT:
Leon Valley Cafe is operated by the parents of BC student Diego Ramos, and the food is gourmet quality at an affordable price. Great for a date.



Photo by Clarissa Silva



Photo by Clarissa Silva

CHUNKY'S BURGERS

LOCATION:
4602 Callaghan Road,
San Antonio, TX, 78228

MAKE SURE TO TRY:
Big Chunkburger with
homemade queso, two
crispy onion rings, and
bacon.

FUN FACT:
Chunky's has been
featured on *Man vs Food*
for their "Four Horseman
Burger."



Photo by Clarissa Silva

PHO HA LONG VIETNAMESE NOODLE RESTAURANT

LOCATION:
6424 NW Loop 410 #104,
San Antonio, TX, 78238

MAKE SURE TO TRY:
Fried Vietnamese Rolls

FUN FACT:
Pho Ha Long includes
all kinds of traditional
Vietnamese cuisine
including delicious pho
(pronounced "fuh") and
you can order it to go.



Photo by Clarissa Silva

LOS ROBERTO'S TACO SHOP

LOCATION:
6446 NW Loop 410, San
Antonio, TX, 78238

MAKE SURE TO TRY:
Quesadillas

FUN FACT:
While most students
swing by Los Roberto's
for their breakfast tacos,
they offer full plates and
meals that receive good
reviews as well. They
even have specials for
Holmes students!