



THE GAVEL O.V. HOLMES HIGH SCHOOL

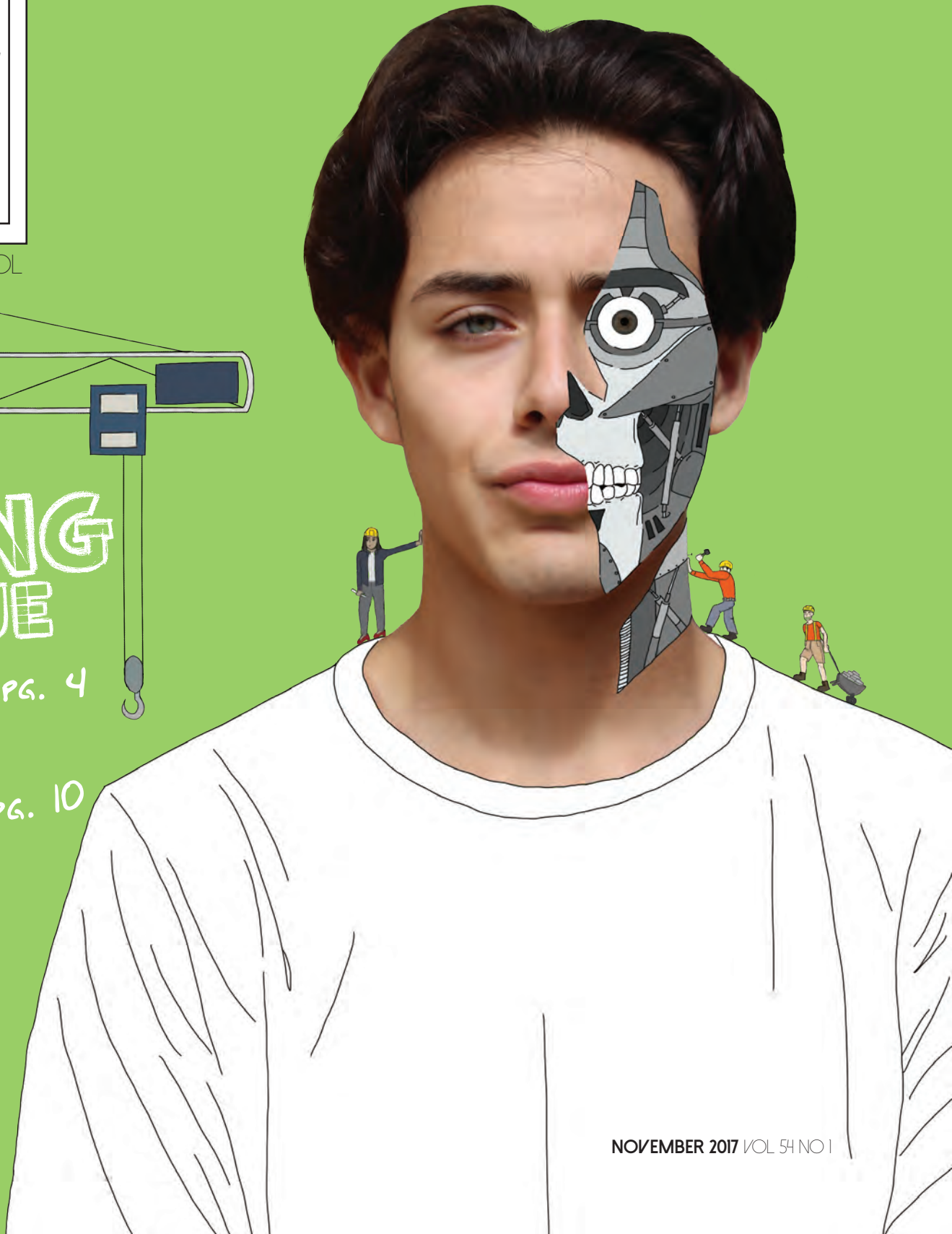


THE
REBUILDING
ISSUE

REBUILDING CHARACTER PG. 4

"A" REBUILDING PG. 8

REBUILDING LIFE AFTER DEATH PG. 10



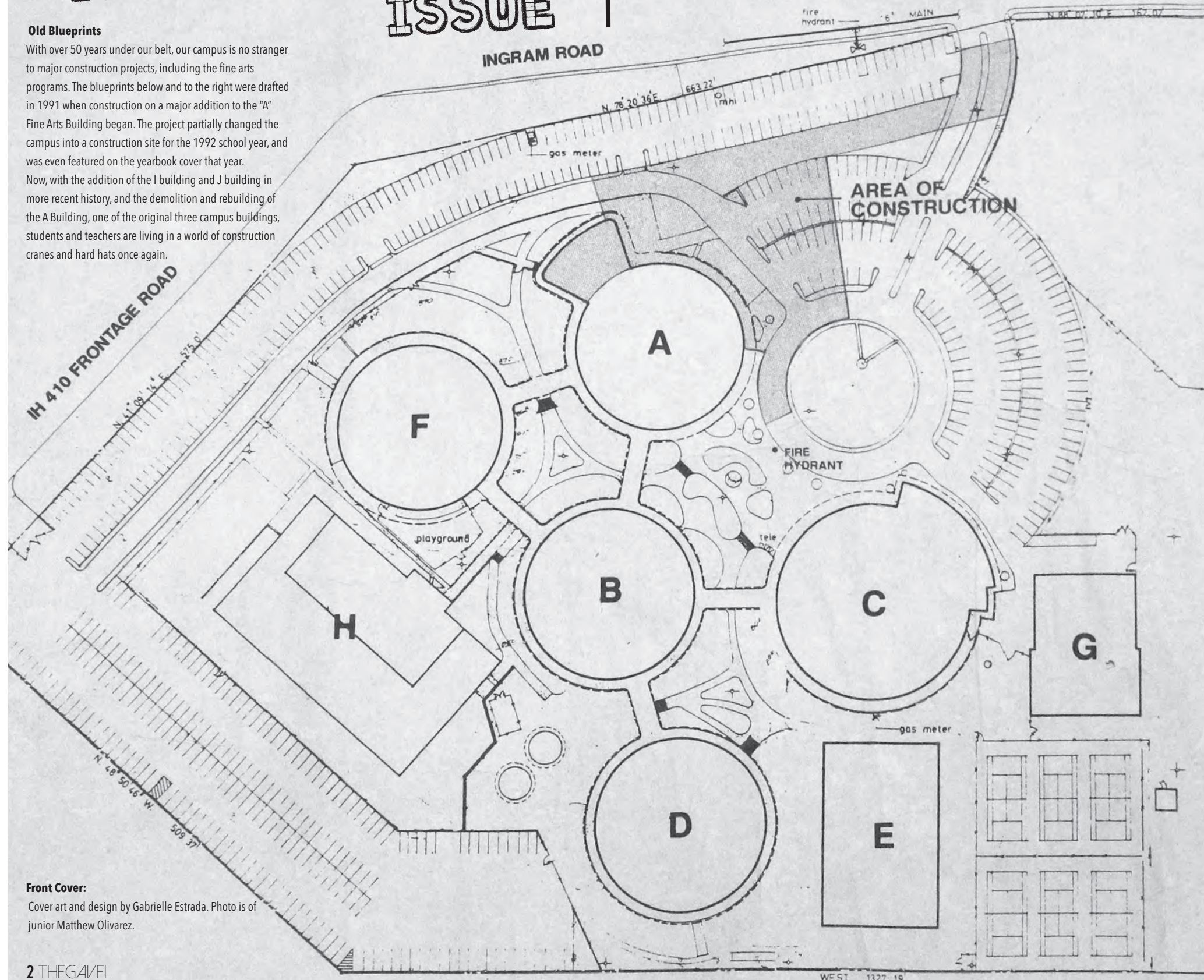
NOVEMBER 2017 VOL 54 NO 1

THE REBUILDING ISSUE

This new school year is bringing many changes to our campus both externally and internally. In this issue, we take a look at the theme of rebuilding happening both literally and metaphorically on campus. We explore the different changes affecting people along with how students and teachers have rebuilt themselves, whether their character, spirit, confidence, mindset, or even lifestyle. We hope you enjoy the issue! -Gavel Editors

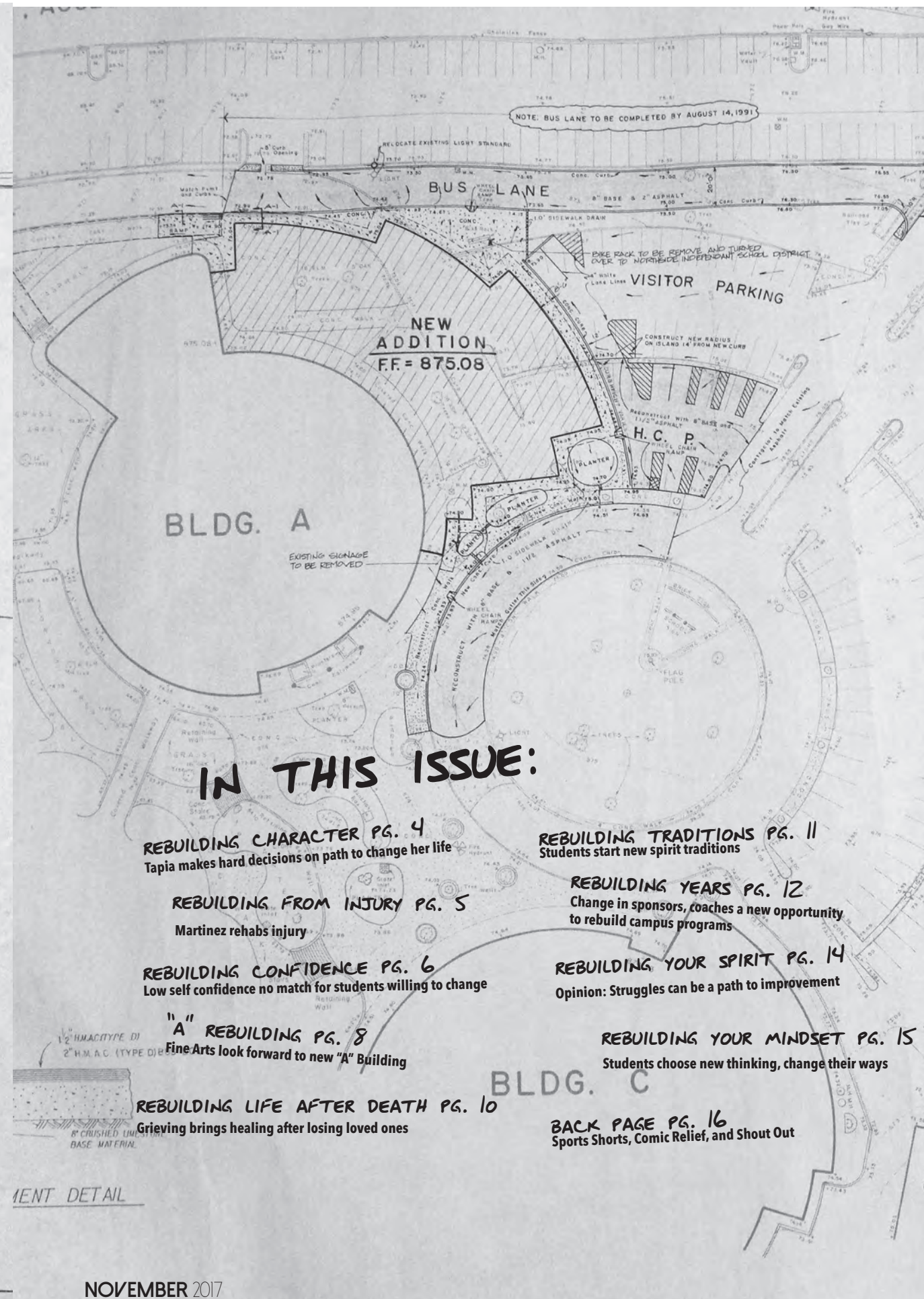
Old Blueprints

With over 50 years under our belt, our campus is no stranger to major construction projects, including the fine arts programs. The blueprints below and to the right were drafted in 1991 when construction on a major addition to the "A" Fine Arts Building began. The project partially changed the campus into a construction site for the 1992 school year, and was even featured on the yearbook cover that year. Now, with the addition of the I building and J building in more recent history, and the demolition and rebuilding of the A Building, one of the original three campus buildings, students and teachers are living in a world of construction cranes and hard hats once again.



Front Cover:

Cover art and design by Gabrielle Estrada. Photo is of junior Matthew Olivarez.



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THE GAVEL

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Rebuilding Character

TAPIA MAKES HARD DECISIONS ON PATH TO CHANGE HER LIFE

by Dezaray Villarreal, Co-Editor

Looking down at a report card, Gloria Tapia sees grades that barely allowed her to pass into sophomore year. She has a moment of clarity, realizing that these grades, and her lack of not caring had made things pile up and led to the scores on the paper she gazed upon. It's in this moment that Tapia knew she had to change, to be better—a better student and person.

For many, the idea of change is a scary one which requires treading into new territory and having to alter what we are used to. But this is exactly what senior Gloria Tapia chose to do in the middle of high school, changing her character, attitude, outlook, and mindset to better herself and create a new approach to school, life, and her future.

As a freshman, Tapia didn't care for school and was angry with just about everything. With family problems and school not going well, she felt that it was her against the world. This mindset it what eventually led her to go so

far as dropping out for a couple of months her freshman year.

"I was bad. I would always skip. I dropped out and then came back. I had an attitude prob-

lem. I had a problem with everything. That's just how I was freshmen year," Tapia said.

It was then that she entered into AVID with Monica Yzaguirre, her AVID teacher. Knowing Tapia since she was younger, Yzaguirre understood Tapia's mindset at the time.

"Freshman year, Gloria was stubborn, hard-headed, simple-minded, and didn't want to be a part of anything because she believed that she could do anything by herself," Yzaguirre said.

For Tapia, the changes began the summer after her moment of clarity looking at her report card. Seeing that her grades and attitude weren't getting her anywhere, she realized that she wanted to alter her future for the better.

"I decided to change the summer before sophomore year. I told myself, 'man, if you don't get it together, you're just going to get pushed more behind than what you've already put yourself'. So I told myself, 'when you go back to school, you're gonna do it'. So I carried a binder sophomore year, for the first time ever," Tapia said.

Not only was Tapia trying to change for herself, but she was also motivated by her brother, who was incarcerated at the time. Tapia wanted to be a better person for when her brother came back. To her, this was a big moment to self-reflect and take advantage of an opportunity to rebuild herself that would change her life forever and make her family proud.

"My main motivation was I knew that my brother was coming home, and I didn't want him to be disappointed that I wasn't doing anything with myself or with my life. That's

what motivated me. I thought about it and was like, 'dang, if I don't do anything with my life right now, then I'm never going to do anything with my life later'. That's why I decided to change and I just worked harder and did what I had to do," Tapia said.

For Tapia, the most challenging aspect of trying to alter her life was getting out of the mindset and life she was living on a day to day basis. With the many different wrong roads there seemed to be before, offering her chances to veer off the path she wanted to take, Tapia was determined to overcome it.

"The most difficult part of changing would be the lifestyle I was living, always being in the streets, and always wanting to do bad things. I still have that urge to do whatever I want, even though I know it's wrong, but I tell myself no because that's not the way to live anymore," Tapia said.

While Tapia had to go through struggles, it took these struggles to lead to the change that has allowed her to be the person she is today. She has taken all her hardships and built herself into a more loving person who sees the importance of going through the hard points to get to the good.

"Gloria's become a helper. She sees where if you let your guard down, where you could be. Freshman year, college couldn't even have been on Gloria's mind. She was dealing with life. She had a brother that was incarcerated. She was struggling to find who she was. She thought she had to run with the same people and be the same person. She didn't realize that she was angry, and now she's a lot more sensitive to people. She sees that people care, and that they just don't talk about it. She went from a class ranking of I think 481 to a ranking of 168. She's worked hard, and she asks for help. She's not afraid anymore," Yzaguirre said.

Tapia's road to a better lifestyle was in trying to get past her struggles. Her close friend senior Leslie Nunez has seen her change from a troubled student to a happier and hopeful young adult.

"She got better. All of the struggles she went through at the time made her angry and mad at the world, and when you look at

her now, she has overcome her anger and she has a more optimistic outlook on her life," Nunez said.

Tapia has seen the change for herself, noticing the big shift that her life has taken. While it took trials and tribulations to get where she is, her main focus now is the future and the exciting chance of going to college.

"[My focus] has changed a lot. I've become more independent than I was. My mindset is on going to college, not on me wanting to be in the streets. I'm more independent now because I actually work. Yes, I've gone through stuff, but I don't look back and think, 'why did this happen to me?' It's just like, 'oh, it's a lesson learned,'" Tapia said.

With this shift taking place, many, including Yzaguirre, Tapia's teacher of four years, celebrate how she's rebuilt herself and how she's been able to take what's been handed to her, change her outlook, and handle situations better.

"She went from being stubborn and a rock, where she wouldn't let anything in, to understanding growth takes good and bad. She didn't expect everything to happen that happened. She knew that bad things had to happen and good things had to happen for her to grow. Now she's okay with that. Her mindset is a lot more positive. She still knows it's work and she still gets frustrated, but it's a fraction of what she used to be, because she rebuilt who she has become based on what she could do with her life now. She'll have a chance to go to college," Yzaguirre said.

For friends and peers, Tapia is an example of how they don't always have to stay the same. If they have the determination and heart, they can change for the better. Friends like Nunez say that Tapia's change allowed them to not only become closer to her, but also motivates and inspires her as well.

"As a friend of hers, I was very proud to see her progress, and it actually brought me closer to her," Nunez said "And to see her overcome her past has motivated me and others that we can also overcome our struggles as well."

REBUILDING *from injury*

MARTINEZ REHABS INJURY

by Maria Garcia, Sports Director

"I felt a pop, it kind of hurt. Not kind of, it really hurt. I couldn't really walk on it, and I couldn't put pressure," sophomore student athlete Alissa Martinez said of the moment when she knew she was injured.

Martinez participates in multiple sports including volleyball, basketball, softball, and track and field. Towards the beginning of her volleyball season this year, she suffered a meniscus tear in her knee, and for weeks, she was working to get back to doing the things she loves the most. She spent her time rebuilding her physical capabilities so she could compete again, like so many other student athletes on campus who are out due to injury.

Martinez's rebuilding plan included having to undergo physical therapy in order to get back to playing.

"I did rehab for about four weeks, consisting of leg lifts, different stretches, and things like that, and then I was cleared the 11th of October. Now I'm back to playing again," Martinez said.

Being sidelined by an injury was a challenge, and maintaining a positive attitude throughout recovery was one of her goals. Martinez managed to keep her composure throughout her situation.

"I really want to play again. I know I can do it on my own. I just want to get back to the game I love and I like to play, and help out my team," Martinez said.

Head Athletic Trainer Krisity Garza is a beloved figure for many student athletes on campus and she has helped most of them on their road to recovery. She has seen students with various injuries and helped get them back to playing.

"The hardest part of being sidelined is not being able to do what you love," Garza said.

Garza has witnessed all sorts of injuries.

"This year the most common injuries so far are ankle sprains and concussions," Garza said.

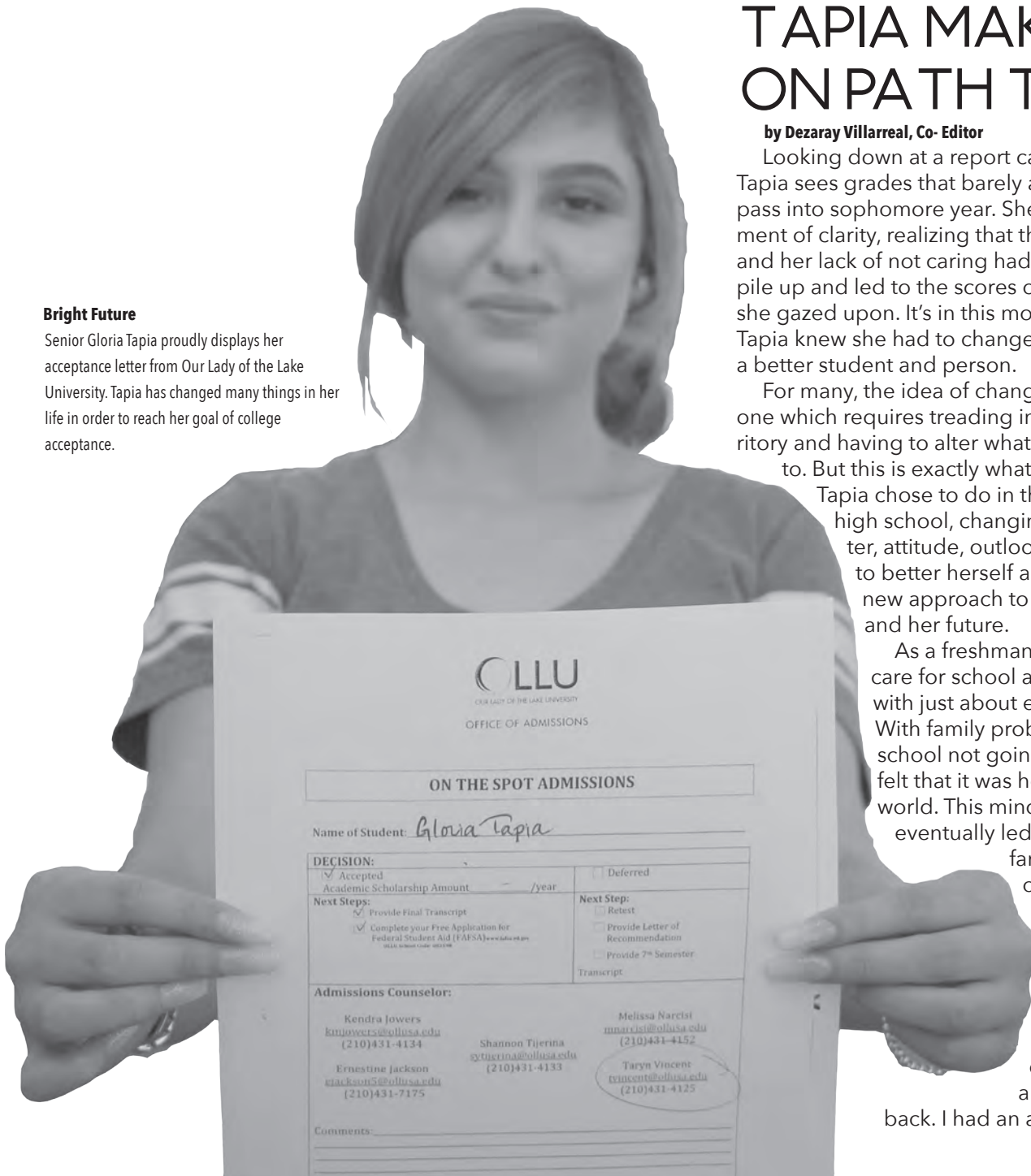
For these student athletes, and for Martinez, injuries threaten to cause lack of confidence along with the physical pain, but the team mentality and a community of support often lifts the injured, rebuilding athletes' spirits.

When it comes to Martinez's process of rebuilding from injury, Garza offers encouragement.

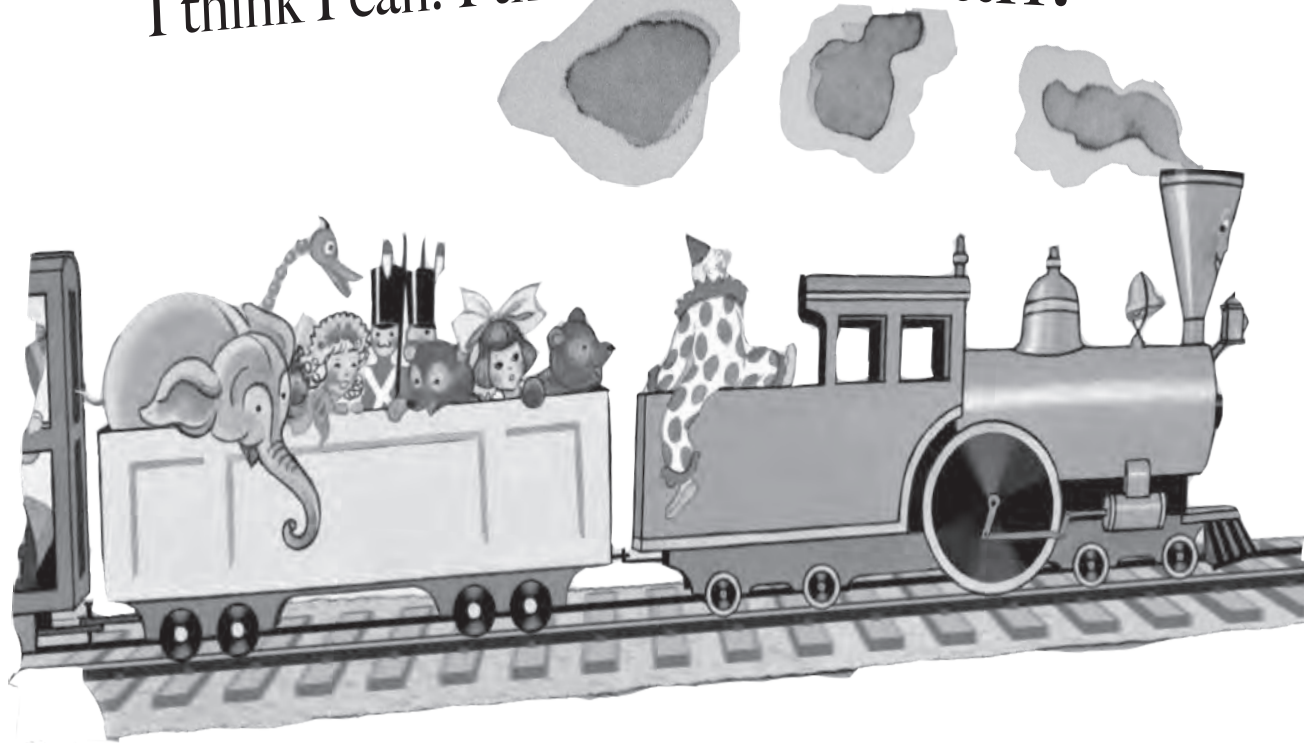
"She's still very young," Garza said. "She's still developing the strength in her muscles. She's got a lot of potential to still meet."

Bright Future

Senior Gloria Tapia proudly displays her acceptance letter from Our Lady of the Lake University. Tapia has changed many things in her life in order to reach her goal of college acceptance.



I think I can. I think I can. I can!



REBUILDING CONFIDENCE

LOW SELF CONFIDENCE NO MATCH FOR STUDENTS WILLING TO CHANGE

by Chantal Melesio, Staff Writer

Developing self confidence takes time. Some are lucky to grow up with the mindset of “loving yourself” and others have a hard time accepting that message because they’re too insecure and afraid of judgement. The thought of not being good enough for anyone or anything can wear down those who are already insecure. Eventually, it can lead to a spiral where they degrade themselves more and more, and think less of themselves.

Junior Marissa Morales developed this mindset throughout her younger years to the point where she thought she just wasn’t enough. But as time has passed, she’s grown and decided to make a change in her thoughts about herself, to what’s best for her health.

Not having confidence took advantage of how she saw herself and thought. It’s acted like a virus in

the brain, taking over to ruin everything and get in the way of her ability to function.

“I get overwhelmed thinking of how I’ll look everyday, and I always overthink what others will think about me. I wish I could see how I look in other people’s eyes, because it would be easier for me to see how I really look,” Morales said.

Morales felt outside of what the standards of being in high school should be, giving her more stress and placing an overwhelming weight on her shoulders.

“A setback rises and I crash sometimes because I lack self confidence. That makes me feel like an outcast because I see so many people with confidence. It’s a thing that happens and it’s always on our campus. Sometimes we want to ask ourselves if it matters. Or should we interfere, but the feeling is

always inevitable,” Morales said.

Morales decided she could go about fixing her own issues by helping those around her that go through the same thing. This makes her own negatives spiral stop so that it doesn’t continue to build up.

“I wanted to change and to understand what I was putting myself through. It wasn’t healthy and it was defining me because I let it take over. I didn’t want to let my mindset be consumed with negativity, so I could build myself up little by little and grow. I saw how much the negativity tore people around me down and I wanted to help close friends grow too,” Morales said.

By invoking the change in herself, she’s discovered first-hand what it’s like to be confident again.

“I feel more outgoing and confident in myself. I can approach people and won’t feel self conscious. I’m not as concerned anymore and I feel more capable seeing that I grew a lot, especially from where I was,” Morales said.

She’s not the only one to walk down that path of rebuilding self confidence. Senior Luciano Cantu has grown to finally have self confidence, and his journey has not been easy. Over time, he has chosen the positive path but there have been obstacles trying to stop him.

“I feel like I have self confidence because I think it’s essential in order to have personal growth. I recently read a book called *The Fountainhead* and it was talking about individualism and having self confidence. I thought it was very essential to have that in order to succeed, because that’s how people look at you and that’s how you can take on different roles, by having that confidence,” Cantu said.

Cantu has given advice to himself and those around him in order to get to where they need to be to achieve their goals without being afraid.

“Look within yourself to find yourself. Don’t look at others. Don’t look around you, because confidence is looking into yourself. Know what you’re good at and work on things that you’re not good at. That’s how you have more self confidence in yourself,” Cantu said.

Cantu decided to finally step out of his comfort zone for the better in order to get recognized by teachers to get his goals achieved.

“Last year I really focused on being more active around school and that’s usually what I attribute my positions to and that’s what I worked hard for. After completing all that hard work and all the stress and responsibilities, it felt great and other teachers see it along with students,” Cantu said.

Cantu has found himself and decided to use what he’s learned from having confidence in his future

to make the best out of his journey toward being a neurologist.

“My ambition after high school is to utilize everything that I’ve learned here, such as my speaking habits and my presentation skills. I want to use that to pursue my career and hopefully change the medical field. That’s really what I want to strive for. I want to do groundbreaking research and really make a difference for someone,” Cantu said.

Throughout this journey of wanting a change, most students hesitate on taking a step forward from being too afraid of being judged or not being capable of having confidence. Licensed Master Social Worker Sarah Picken offers various steps and advice to achieve that goal and help those who are at loss of not knowing how to start.

Picken says low self confidence is a common experience for many high school students.

“The enormity of these decisions can cause students a lot of anxiety and make them believe that there is something wrong with them for feeling that way. This can cause low self-esteem and make it difficult to trust oneself and trust your inner compass,” Picken said.

There are steps on fighting against the negative thoughts throughout the process of changing in order to not let it get the best of oneself and finally have that weight off one’s shoulders.

“It’s important to focus on telling yourself positive messages about yourself. That can include writing positive words on your mirror, or collaging inspirational quotes or happy pictures on your planner or binder that you see every day. Another helpful thing is when you’re focusing on the negative perspective of things, try to look at the other side of the story,” Picken said.

According to Picken, many have learned to build self esteem by taking that first step.

“If you feel like you can’t even start to change, it’s important to talk to a friend or an adult you trust about it. You’ll discover they’ve dealt with some of the same feelings also, and might have some wisdom to share from their experience. Even the best athletes and the best scientists had to practice a lot before they got it right,” Picken said.

Picken believes every individual deserves to feel good about themselves, because everyone has something unique to offer, and self confidence can help when things are difficult.

“Everyone has gifts and strengths to offer the world, whether they think so or not,” Picken said. “Without confidence, the world might miss out on you and your gifts. Self confidence is like an anchor. It can keep you grounded throughout the storms of life.”



Here the latest news?
**Chikin
is better than
beef!**



Ingram Park (inside and outside the mall)

REBUILDING

FINE ARTS LOOK FORWARD TO IMPROVED "A" BUILDING

by Gabriel Wilson, Managing Editor

As construction continues on the new fine arts building, students and staff are excited to move out of temporary classrooms and portables and into the much-improved facility. We talked to the programs that will move into the new "A" Building, and asked what features they were most looking forward to for their programs.

Additionally, Assistant Superintendent for Facilities and Operations Leroy SanMiguel sat down with the Gavel Staff to talk through the construction's process and special features. Read more about the progress and features while checking out the new floorplan and computer renderings of what the new building and surrounding spaces will look like.

BUDGET:

\$32,014,466

CONTRACTOR:

Bartlett Cocke General Contractors

COMPLETION DATE:

Phase one of the project, which included demolition and removal of the old building, was completed over the summer. Phase two began in August of this year. According to San Miguel, "If that schedule continues, the completion is going to be sometime in the later part of 2018. So the fall of 2018 is where we're targeting completion of the new fine arts facility."

POTENTIAL DELAYS:

Luckily there is not much that could delay the construction. Some of the few possibilities however are, "weather, labor strikes, like if there is a strike for concrete blocks or plumbing supplies or shortages," SanMiguel said. "The chance of that happening is very small."

OVERALL LAYOUT:

"It has a lot of spaces that the old building didn't have, so we added wherever we could to be able to make it more comfortable for the students, so we can give them the instructional spaces they need," San Miguel said.

COURTYARD PLANS:

In addition to the building itself, the courtyard area around it will see an upgrade. According to SanMiguel, "We are going to put new stairs and we are going to save that tree that is in the middle." (See artists rendering to the right).

"We'll continue to do performances in a new version of the Little Theatre." -Theatre Arts Director Annie Bridges
ADDITIONAL FEATURES: Set and costume storage, dressing rooms, and a classroom

"I'm excited that the kids are going to have a new and improved choir room and new practice rooms for sure. We've always had only two practice rooms available because the majority of them were being used for storage because we never had enough room for storage." -Choir Director Vanessa Alvarado
ADDITIONAL FEATURES: New sound equipment in auditorium

"The only downside is I'll have to share the room with the beard and the Orchestra teacher." -Mariachi Director Aaron Rios
"We have a mariachi room for the first time. The mariachi went into the choir room to practice, they didn't have their own space. Well, this one they have their own space." -Assistant Superintendent for Facilities and Operations Leroy SanMiguel
ADDITIONAL FEATURES: A shared office with orchestra

"Space and proper storage is what I'm excited for." -Band Director Daniel Lugo
"The portables are moving away unless there is another reason to keep them there, but that band field belongs to the band so we want to restore it back." -Assistant Superintendent for Facilities and Operations Leroy SanMiguel
ADDITIONAL FEATURES: Individual practice rooms for all music programs to use

STAGE

"We are going to get a fly system, which means that we can raise and lower scenery instantly so if we want to change sets, like the musical we are working on now, where we go from the North Pole to to New York city in five seconds, all we'll have to do is lower New York city and raise the North Pole to change sets." -Theatre Arts Director Annie Bridges

AUDITORIUM

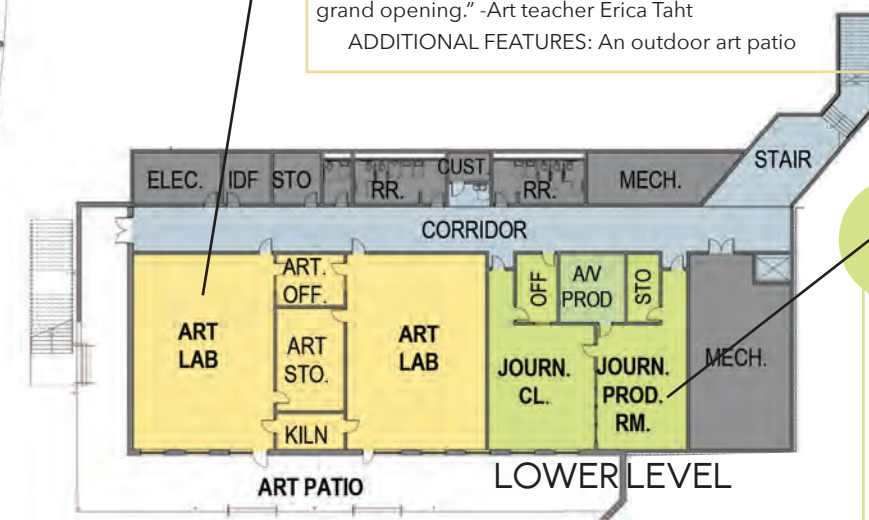
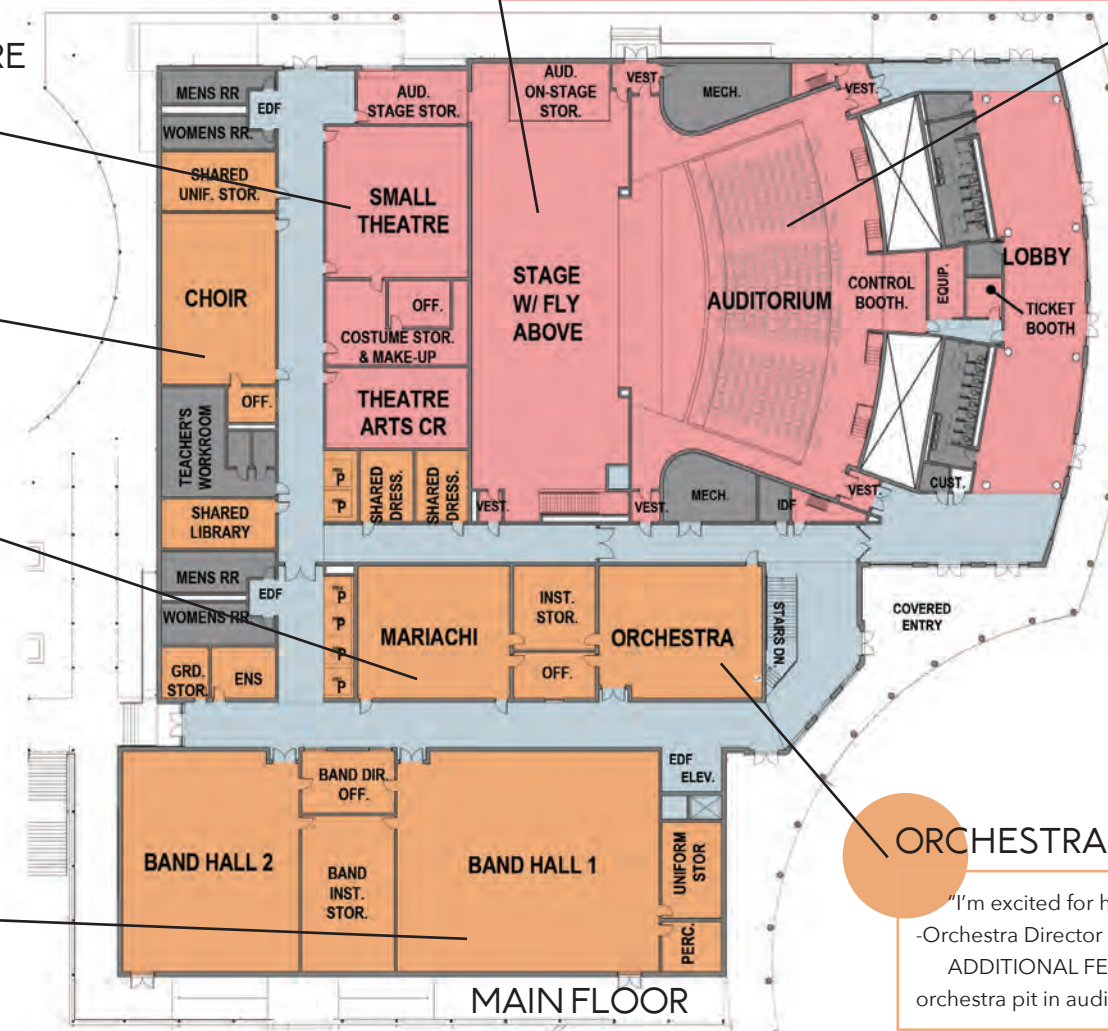
"In terms of seating, it will be about the same seats, about 900 seating capacity. This is what we call stadium seating, so it's going to pop up and it's going to be a little steeper. The control booth is going to be at the bottom, it's not up at the top. It's going to be right in the middle of the auditorium." -Assistant Superintendent for Facilities and Operations Leroy SanMiguel

ART LABS

"What I'm hoping to see is enough space. But what's really exciting is that we are going to have two kilns to fire clay and pottery. That's what I'm expecting hopefully, and a lot of windows. Natural light is the best." -Art teacher Michael Goodwyn
"I'm excited for the kiln, having a teacher work room, outside access, and the grand opening." -Art teacher Erica Taht
ADDITIONAL FEATURES: An outdoor art patio

JOURNALISM

"The biggest difference will be replacing what was originally a dark room space for developing film with a studio for broadcast and audio recording. We do digital photography, and have never had a space to accommodate our broadcast or audio recording." -Journalism teacher Matthew Singleton
ADDITIONAL FEATURES: A lab for publication production, a classroom, and an office for interviews





GRIEVING BRINGS HEALING AFTER LOSING LOVED ONES

by D'Mitre Dimas, Staff Writer

The loss of a loved one makes you feel as if time has stopped, like everything you have ever known has shattered before your eyes, like the entire universe is against you for taking something so precious to you and destroying it, along with your heart. In every classroom on campus, you can find someone trying to rebuild from the grief of loss. Sitting in her desk, senior Mckenzie Himes has felt this pain, losing her father unexpectedly.

And from the front of the classroom, English teacher Eileen Krueger has too, suffering two losses, at one time, her son, Damien, and then her husband, Tim. Their stories of loss couldn't be prepared for.

"I lost my dad, and he wasn't even sick. He wasn't ill or anything. He didn't have cancer. He was a very healthy and strong dad. One night he collapsed

and he fainted. He had an enlarged heart that couldn't even be detected. And when he collapsed, his heart was too big and it couldn't make the connections it needed to. He just passed away right there," Himes said.

For Himes, her father was someone precious to her. He was someone who would help her with the simplest things.

"Me and my dad were extremely close. I've always lived with my dad.

And my dad was my best friend. We did everything together, like no matter what, I always went to my dad for everything," Himes said.

When her dad died, it was a Saturday night, and her friend was sleeping over. Himes was awakened by her mom telling her that her dad had collapsed. She thought that he had just fainted and needed to go to the

doctor.

"The next thing I know, I was being told that he was gone. It was just like in the movies where everything stops and you just feel like you can't breathe anymore. I fell down and I just started bawling, and I went outside and started screaming," Himes said.

She never felt like she could lose him, because she saw him as an invincible person, a manly dad. She saw him as healthy, as being happy, a man who loved his work and his family. But when he died, she felt like she had no control over anything anymore.

"It felt like I had lost a part of me. And I knew I couldn't get him back, which is really hard. But it just felt like somebody tore my heart in half, and just gave me half of it back, but they took the other half. It could no longer be a part of me because my dad had it. So once he left, that part left," Himes said.

Himes will miss the small things he provided for her, such as her routine of coming home and her father having dinner prepared. It's hard for her to come home and not see him working, or watching him cook again. It's a struggle to think about the things she won't be able to do with him.

"He won't get to see me graduate high school, and he won't get to walk me down the aisle on my wedding day, so that's been hard. Trying to accept the fact that I have to go on with my life now without him and without him being able to be here the way I want him to be here is hard," Himes said.

People suffer from loss, and most people struggle with letting go of their departed. It can be a terrible feeling when you lose the person you love the most, and in one day knowing they won't ever be able to be with you again.

That day was May 13 for Krueger, eighteen years ago. She went to wake up her son, but he had died in his

sleep overnight. She and her husband had only just moved to New Jersey, living there for only three weeks, and they faced the nightmare of this tragic incident.

"His twin sister was devastated and is still devastated to this day, as were we all. I don't know what I would have done without a whole lot of prayer and people's patience," Krueger said. That isn't the only loss she has gone through. On Aug. 10 this year, at 4:15 at night, Tim, her husband of 42 years, passed away, in her hands.

"My husband of 42 years, Tim, died of lung cancer. It's so hard starting a new life, you know, he was a part of my entire adult life," Krueger said. Krueger grants herself lucky enough to at the very least have a distraction

from having to go to her house every day without her departed husband. She tries to make an effort to grab joy whenever she can, and she hopes she can do it a little more intentionally now, as she rebuilds her life after another painful loss. Some things help that process.

"Teaching during the day, my students are an incredible gift to me; a distraction. When I go home, it's really hard, but it's my responsibility to try and build this new life. And I have incredible friends here at school and family, so I remind myself that I am very lucky about that," Krueger said.

The hardest thing for Krueger is not being able to speak to her husband. Every night when he was out of town he would call her. For the days since his passing, she hasn't been able to talk to him, so she keeps paying the bill for his phone just so she can hear his voice. This ritual brings her comfort and helps her more through the day.

"I can hear his voice when I call, and for right now, I'm going to keep that so I can hear his voice in a way that's not just in my memories," Krueger said.

Himes and Krueger both went through loss and it took a toll on the both of them. But luckily there are peo-

"I tell people to give themselves permission to be sad, to give themselves permission to grieve and to not try and suck it all up and hope that it goes away."

Rebuilding Traditions



Crowd Coaster

Mostly senior students get wild in the student section at Alamo Stadium for the opening football game of the season, in a new gameday tradition, taking a fake ride on the "crowd coaster," complete with lights.

STUDENTS START NEW SPIRIT TRADITIONS

By Clara DeLaRosa, Copy Editor

The roaring cheers of students fill the stadium as the Holmes football team piles onto the field. There's determination in their eyes as the opponent's supporters cheer just as loud. The players' intensity is matched by the student section at the football games, noticeably filled with a tremendous amount of school pride. Even on slow days, they never let their guards down, not for one second.

Senior Class President Ethan Hageman lends his voice to the most important traditions around campus such as the pep rallies and in the student section at the football games. He leads his peers in a tradition of tailgating before every game this year where he, along with others, encouraged classmates to bring themselves, food, and drinks to share, getting spirit going before kickoff.

"I think I just like to attend those events and show school spirit," Hageman said. "I believe if one student has school spirit, then it might influence other people to have school spirit."

Hageman isn't the only student that is raising the levels of school spirit. Senior, Reyna Herrera helps with getting the students up and hopeful during the football games in the student section. She is always cheering and screaming just as loud as the rest.

"Even if we are winning or losing, I'm always trying to be hype," Herrera said. "We just want to make everyone there feel comfortable."

Junior quarterback, Jacob Longoria has taken notice too. He may be playing, but student traditions aren't something you can just ignore. In a way, they help the football team.

"[Traditions] get us motivated, and we feel comfortable when we go to the games. It helps us enjoy the games, in the way we want to play," Longoria said.

"When we have our student section packed, it feels like

[everyone is] there with us the whole way."

Current traditions are important, but one Husky alumni thinks that there should be more student attendance. Anne Bridges now teaches theatre, but when she was in high school, football games were packed.

"Homecoming, my freshman year, I had to sit on temporary bleachers in the end zone because there was no room in Gus," Bridges said.

New or old, traditions are a part of the school that students will remember the most. The homecoming rollercoaster, the courtyard decorations, and the Alma Mater have been sprawled across many generation of Huskies.

"A lot of our parents went to school here, and I teach second and third generation Huskies," Bridges said. "Former Huskies can come back and see that the school may look different, but who we are, the essence of the school, is still the same."



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REBUILDING YEARS

CHANGE IN SPONSORS, COACHES A NEW OPPORTUNITY TO REBUILD CAMPUS PROGRAMS

by Kodi Oehler, Photo Editor and Samantha Urdinales, Convergent Media Manager
 Rebuilding is what we do after a natural disaster damages our cities or after a catastrophe destroys everything we know. This school year has been about things being rebuilt. Here, we take a look at the rebuilding of the different programs around campus who have experienced a change in leadership with a new director or coach.
 We asked each new leader, along with one student in the program, to talk about how the rebuilding of the program is going so far. The consensus is that although rebuilding can be scary, for the most part, it's a good thing for the programs and our campus. Despite the difficulty that comes with change, there is hope for a fresh start with endless new possibilities.



photo by Kodi Oehler

SPEECH & DEBATE

How do you bring your team together?

"We do a lot of family style things. We'll probably do some team building. We actually have someone in charge of the connectedness, they plan things for the holidays to hang out outside of school."

Debate Teacher Eric Falcon

"He has an idea; a vision on where he wants to go. He knows what we need to do, but he also wants to find out what we want to do in order to get to where we need to go."

Ashleigh Gonzalez 12th
 What's the biggest difference this year?



photo by Kodi Oehler

BOYS BASKETBALL

What's your biggest struggle in working with a new group of students?
 "I think just getting my players to believe in a new coach. When you're first coming in as a coach, you learn your players and your players learn you."
 Coach James Joseph

"Both of our coaches were great. But one is definitely more enthusiastic, more hype, and more energetic. We do more skill sets and just work a lot harder."

Estefan Trevino 12th
 What changes are you noticing with your experience on the team?



photo by Kodi Oehler

FOOTBALL

What can people expect from your leadership?

I think you're going to see more athletes that are going to become more leaders, not just in the team, but in the community."

Coach Juan Morales

"He puts forth his best effort every day for our program, for each player, good or bad."

Ricardo Luna 12th
 What's your impression of your new coach?




photo by Kodi Oehler

AFROTC

What's your biggest struggle in working with a new group of students?

"The students, they don't know me, I don't know them, so whenever a new teacher, a new supervisor, a new commander comes in, one of the challenges is to learn what the atmosphere is like."

Lt. Col. Levertris Davis

"He's out there and he brings out the moral of the core when we really need it the most."

Serena Vaudt 12th

What changes have you noticed with a new instructor?

What's your biggest struggle in working with a new group of students?

"Whenever you go anywhere new, you first have to build a relationship with your athletes."
 Coach David Gibbons

"He's probably more focused on the students and putting the work into what students want to do."
 Xavier Segundo 11th

What's something important you've noticed about your new coach?




photo by Justine Quinteiro

BOYS TRACK

How do you bring your students closer together?

"I think when we cook together, that it does it automatically. You know, it's just like building family, we do all kinds of cooking activities. We eat together."

Culinary Teacher Robert Yoas

"The greatest difference with the new teacher is that we're actually learning a lot of stuff. With our old teacher, it was more paperwork and tasks for the school instead of pushing us to learn sauces and basic ingredients for stuff."

Jazlyn Benson 12th
 What has changed this year?

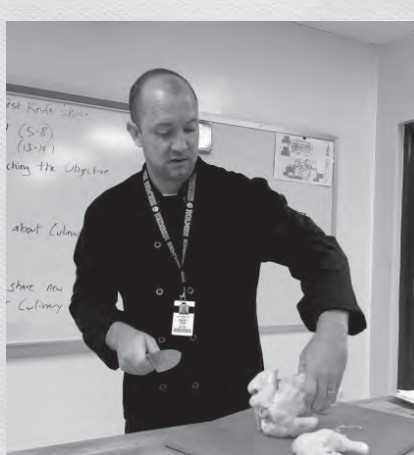


photo by Kodi Oehler

CULINARY

What's your biggest struggle in working with a new group of students?

"The only struggle is getting all of the girls on the same page and as enthusiastic about some of the new things we're going to try and do."

Coach Andrea Barrientez

"Coach Barrientez pushes us more, as in she wants the best we can do."

Lisa Montano 12th

What changes are you noticing with your experience on the team?



photo by Kodi Oehler

GIRLS SOCCER

What should people expect from your leadership?

"They should expect me to actually teach them how to play the game this year, not just leave it up to them, and they should expect for me to do what's right by them."

Coach Gerald McCaslin

"He encourages more and he's less negative. If we mess up, instead of getting mad at us for it, he helps us fix it so we won't make the mistake again."

Karissa Caldera 12th

What changes are you noticing under new leadership?



photo by Kodi Oehler

GIRLS BASKETBALL



OPINION: STRUGGLES CAN BE A PATH TO IMPROVEMENT

by Samantha Ruvalcaba, Co-Editor

Having your spirit broken can easily be one of the worst feelings there is. It's that feeling of despair you get when everything piles up on you, when the person you love hurts you, when the school of your dreams rejects you, or when you remember that Barack Obama isn't (technically) the president of the United States anymore, and Donald Trump is. Whatever the situation, this feeling can often be so strong that it makes us forget who we are and what we're capable of. Letting that despair drag us to that dark place is easy. Figuring out how to get out of that place and rebuild is the difficult part. Look at what happened when Han Solo tried to get Kylo Ren out of that dark place. It didn't go well.

Personally, my frustration is with how spontaneous these moments seem to be. We could be at our highest point in the week, month, or year, and here comes pain knocking on our door. People respond to pain in different ways. Some welcome it and throw pity parties. Some let that pain in, but don't give it much power. Others don't welcome it at all; they ignore it. Regardless of what type we fall under, we have to open the door at some point, so we can begin to rebuild.

The first time I allowed for my spirit to be broken, I discovered I was the pity party type. I was rejected from a job that I convinced myself I wanted more than anything in the world. This rejection cut me to the core. It validated my insecurity, sent me spiraling into the usual "whys" and "hows", and I wallowed. One thing I love about pain, other than its spontaneity, is how it doesn't have a preference. Someone could be doing everything right and have good

intentions - like I thought I did - but it doesn't matter. Things can go wrong for anyone at any time.

I stopped wallowing when I started asking myself why I was wallowing in the first place. Why did this job position mean so much to me? Why did I want it so much?

Turns out, I wanted validation. I thought this job would show colleges my worth. I wanted my family to be proud of me. I thought this job would get me to stop feeling like an imposter. To me, it would validate the idea that I knew what I was doing. Once I saw that I was just looking for a detour around bigger self-issues, my focus shifted.

Rebuilding your spirit is easier said than done. Happiness is a process; it can't happen overnight. That process will be long and difficult, especially if you have struggles coming at you left and right. However, trying to look at these struggles as lessons makes it easier to get through them. The reason why we constantly examine our situations and don't let these things go is because we're not meant to. These moments are an opportunity for us to reassess and grow. The moment I stopped self-victimizing and started asking myself how I could be better or what it really was I wanted, it no longer felt like a failure.

If you're having one of these moments or you've hit a wall, ask yourself why and how. Not the cliché, "why did this happen to me?" or "how could this happen?", rather, why was this so important to me? Why did I let it affect me this much? How can I get better?

Allow yourself some time to sit down and reflect.

Talk yourself through it if you have to. Write it down on paper, or record it on your phone. Use the voice memos app as a place to store your thoughts and ideas. If you're worried about nosy people figuring out your deepest sentiments, use technology instead of pen and paper like voice memos or note pad. Phone intruders usually go to your messages or social media apps, not the ones meant for grocery lists.

Talking it out with someone is another option that can also be extremely effective because they might make you face the truths you're trying to avoid. It has to be someone you trust completely and you can talk to unfiltered, unapologetically. This person may not be emotionally affected by the situation, and this is a good thing because it means that they're approaching this without bias. Sometimes, all you need is a fresh perspective.

While this approach of seeing struggles as a lesson doesn't apply to everything, such as the grieving of a loved one's passing, the all-too-common experience of ending a relationship can be one of the biggest opportunities for growth, because you start identifying the things you felt that you needed from that one individual. By doing this, you start learning more about yourself and reflecting on your needs.

We have to keep in mind that we aren't the only ones struggling. The next struggle might be worse than the last, but we'll get through it because we've worked through a difficult situation before. It's not a wrap for us just yet, we still have a lot of growing to do in order to become the people we need to be. And in a world where Donald Trump is our president, humanity needs us to be those stronger, better people.

REBUILDING YOUR MINDSET

STUDENTS CHOOSE NEW THINKING, CHANGE THEIR WAYS

by Krissie Ruiz, News Director

Rebuilding happens all around us. Sometimes we notice it, like when giant construction cranes swing over our campus, and sometimes we don't because it's happening internally in people's brains. As teenagers, we are changing all the time and continually rebuilding ourselves.

Brain researches tell us that we are not the same person we were ten days ago, or even ten minutes ago, as our ideas about ourselves and our world constantly develop. We need to rebuild the way we think in order to grow as a person, and to fit into our world better. When we face the challenge to rebuild ourselves, that process can happen even more efficiently.

Junior Mariah Sanchez moved schools during her sophomore year. She had no friends, and had to build her social life in the only way she thought she could, by joining clubs.

When she started to make friends, some of them had forced her to join clubs that they were already in, and she reluctantly agreed to do it. Sanchez realizes that if she could not give it her all, then it was not fair to the club leaders nor to herself, and had to give up some of the activities.

"It feels like crap to stay for five minutes in a club meeting and have to leave for another meeting. It felt as though I could not give the club my full focus and energy," Sanchez said.

When she reflected on herself, she understood that she had to rebuild her time extra-curricular-

atives she has going on in her life.

"I had a major wake up call," Sanchez said. When she realized that it was all too much for her to take on by herself, she noticed she was in over her head.

"I became less stressed," Sanchez said.

In hopes of regaining herself, she took a crack at reworking and rebuilding her approach, and decided to pick only three clubs to give all of her energy to, while she dropped the others.

"I had this ideology that if people didn't like me, it's the end of the world," Sanchez said.

Stuck in a dilemma, she decided that it was time to rebuild the system that dictated her life.

Senior Madison Rogers follows a path that is governed by the 'golden rule,' to treat others the way she wants to be treated. Knowing her actions could affect her peers, it did not sit well with her to know that her actions could have hurt anyone. Rogers wasn't always that careful in the past, but when she realized that words could hurt, she made a change.

"I didn't have a filter. I had not realized how others would take it," Rogers said.

She decided to implant the 'golden rule' into her daily routine, to rebuild herself and to ensure she had a positive impact on her peers.

"The impact that you have on people, you don't want it to be negative," Rogers said.

When tasked with the responsibility to affect a person's life, Rogers sees it as a way to keep herself in check, to never allow herself to be a negative



SPORTS SHORTS



CROSS COUNTRY 2ND & 10TH IN REGION
Senior Ethan Hageman holds a lead to earn first place in the meet. After placing second overall at regionals, Hageman advanced all the way to the state meet along with Alexis Quintero who placed tenth at regionals.



VARSITY FOOTBALL RECORD: 2 W - 8 L
Junior quarterback Jacob Longoria looks to scramble past a Southwest HS defender. The team beat both Harlandale, and Sam Houston this season under new head coach Juan Morales.



VARSITY VOLLEYBALL RECORD: 13 W - 25 L
Sophomore Ashleigh Ramirez serves the ball to a ready Warren HS defense. The team of mostly underclassmen gained valuable experience this season, with only seven seniors graduating this June.



WATERPOLO BOYS RECORD: 2 W - 10 L
Freshman Santos Belmarez prepares to extend out of the water in order to block an opponent's pass. During water polo season, Holmes athletes teamed up with Health Careers athletes to compete against other combined teams.



TENNIS FALL SEASON RECORD: 5 W - 5 L
Junior Francisco Ruiz eyes an incoming shot, ready to return with his backhand. Ruiz moved from the bottom all the way to being ranked number two on the team.



photo by Jesalyn Lopez Esquivel



photo by Ryan Kalka



photo by Ricardo Ramos



photo by Madison Chapa



photo by Arthur Martinez

COMIC RELIEF



"DIFFERENT PRIORITIES"

written and illustrated by Lucille Gradillas

SHOUT OUT

The "shout out" section is dedicated to those making a positive impact on our campus, whether it be students, faculty, or organizations.

We appreciate your time and dedication to making our school a better place. In this issue we would like to shoutout:

-Math teacher **James Hamric** for providing SAT help

-College and Career Center director **Mary Clack** for aiding in everything college-related.

-AVID teacher **Monica Yzaguirre**, senior seminar teachers **Sebastian Tugwell, Kim Zapper, and Carolyn Mullins**.

Thank you for helping seniors during this stressful period of applying for college.