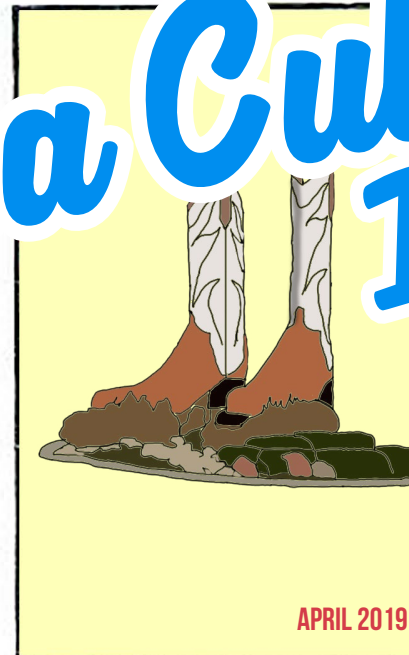
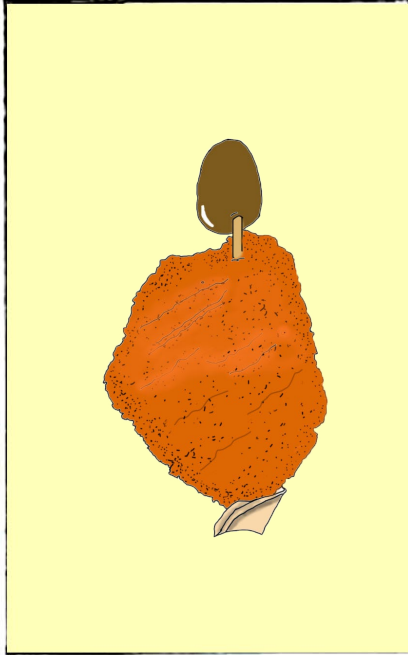
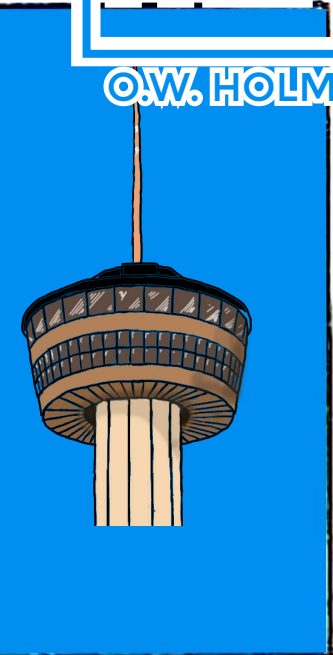
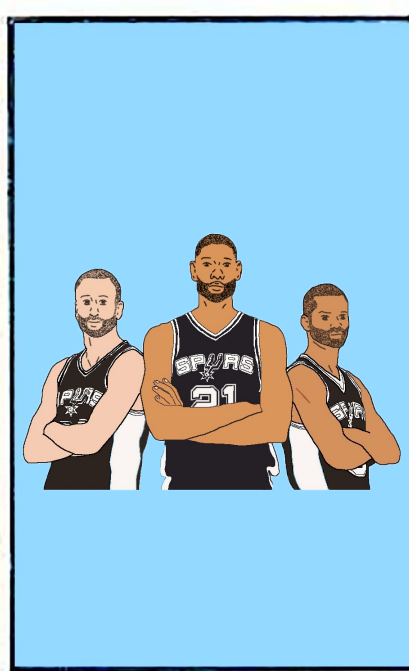


# THE GAVEL

OW HOLMES HIGH SCHOOL



# La Cultura Issue



THE BEST

**HHS** **TACO TOURNAMENT**

BEAN & CHEESE



March Madness may be over, but the Gavel Staff is ready to introduce the more important tournament. Welcome to the first annual HHS Taco Tourney, where we put nearby breakfast taco joints head-to-head to decide which spot has the best when it comes to the most fundamental breakfast taco there is, the bean and cheese.

Fill out your bracket here and let us know which place has the best bean and cheese in your opinion, take a photo of it, and then share it with us by DMing it to @holmesbcnews or by emailing it to holmesjournalism@gmail.com.

Then check out the results of each matchup this month online at studentnews.nisd.net/holmes or on Twitter and Instagram by following @holmesbcnews as we release our ratings!

by Jesse Badillo, Digital Media Producer



DOS EMPANADAS



LOS BALITOS



TINK-A-TACO



TAURINOS  
2 THE GAVEL



BILL MILLER



TACO CABANA



HENRY'S PUFFY TACO



TAQUERIA GUADALAJARA

*Fill in your bracket with which bean & cheese you think wins! Then tag us at @holmesbcnews and follow to see the taco showdowns for yourself!*

FINAL FOUR

2019 CHAMPION

FINALIST

FINAL FOUR

# La Cultura Issue

With Fiesta season comes celebrations of culture in our city, and we thought it was fitting to explore the ways in which Holmes is a part of San Antonio's culture-at-large. What makes Holmes a uniquely San Antonian campus, how has the changing city culture affected our campus, and what cultural influences impact students on our campus the most? We asked these questions and more in *La Cultura Issue*.



# THE GAVEL

APRIL 2019 VOL 55 NO 3



TWITTER:  
@holmesbcnews



INSTAGRAM:  
@holmesbcnews



FACEBOOK PAGE:  
Holmes/BC News

VISIT US ONLINE FOR MORE EXCLUSIVE ARTICLES & CONTENT:  
<http://studentnews.nisd.net/holmes>

This magazine is published twice a semester, along with regular postings on the Gavel Online ([studentnews.nisd.net/holmes](http://studentnews.nisd.net/holmes)), and daily news via our Facebook page (Holmes/BC News), Twitter, and Instagram (@holmesbcnews) by the journalism department at Holmes/Business Careers High School, as a laboratory project for students in advanced newspaper classes. Its purpose is to provide leadership in news and editorial content, and to create a forum for student and staff opinion.

Letters to the editor are encouraged, and may be submitted via e-mail to [matthew.singleton@nisd.net](mailto:matthew.singleton@nisd.net), or presented in person in room A004. The staff reserves the right to edit all letters for length and/or appropriate language or libelous content. All letters must be signed. For advertising information or rates, e-mail Matthew Singleton, or call (210) 397-7054.

**Executive Editor:** Paige Borenheim  
**Print Co-Editor:** D'Mitre Dimas  
**Online Co-Editor:** Janice Ramirez  
**Design Director:** Adam Vasquez  
**Managing Editor:** Roslynn Briseno  
**Digital Media Manager:** Lailah Villegas  
**Sports Director:** Damaris Malave  
**Copy Editor:** Abigail Wylie  
**News Directors:** Natalia Martinez & Jarlyn Landeros

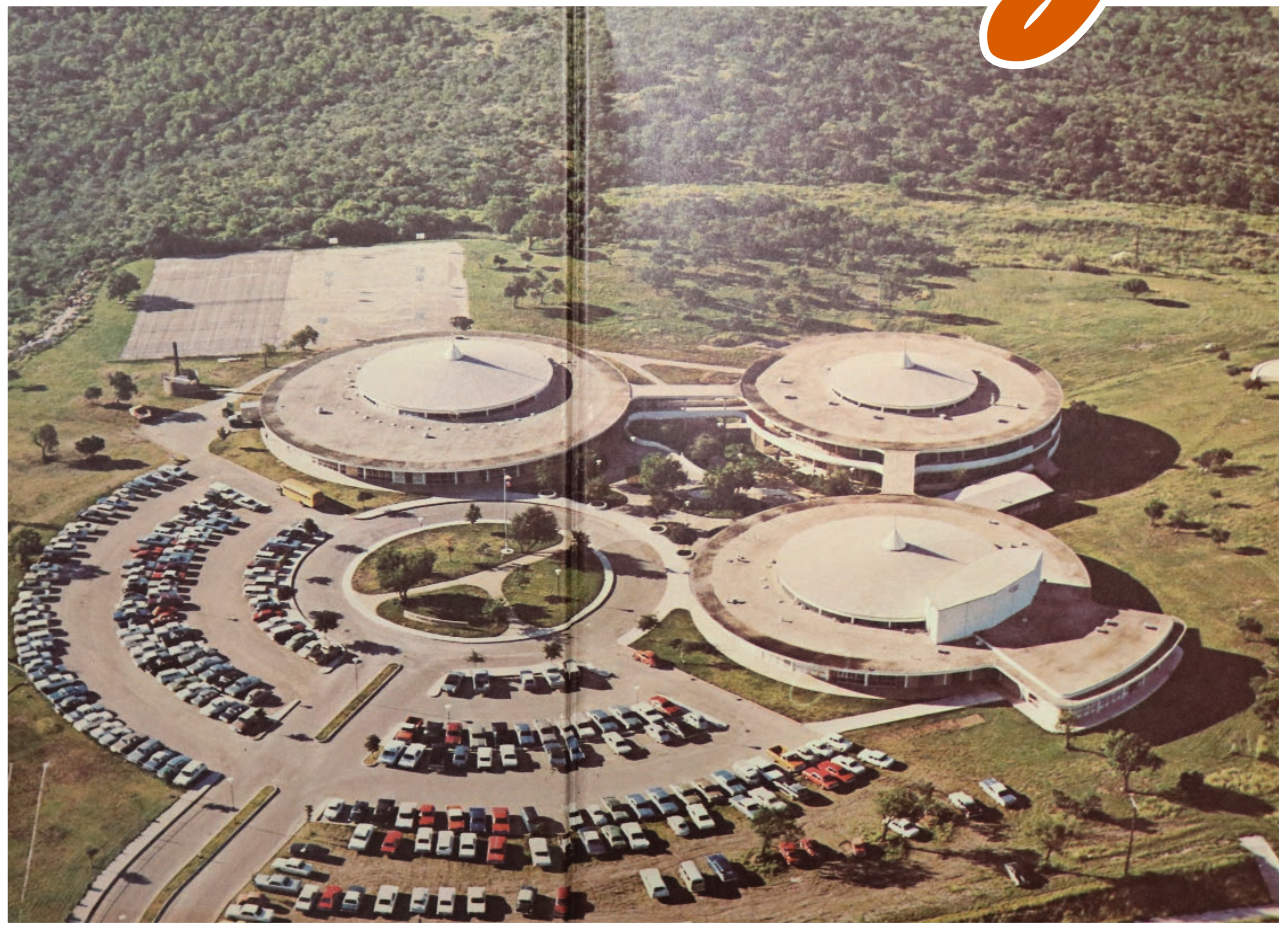
#### Staff Members:

Evan Alban	Harmoni Guerrero
Madison Chapa	Jake Lee
Anjelina Gallegos	Jonathan Long
Citlali Diaz	Julian Munoz
Victoria Garcia	Angel Tran
Lucille Gradillas	Alexis Trevino

Holmes/Business Careers High School  
 6500 Ingram Road, San Antonio, TX 78238  
 Holmes Principal: Ada Bohlken  
 BC Principal: Randolph Neuenfeldt  
 Adviser: Matthew Singleton

2		<b>IN THIS ISSUE:</b>
4		<b>GROWING PAINS</b> From rural wealth to urban poverty, changes at Holmes reflect city's issues
8		<b>SA TOWN SNACKS</b> Students embrace unique snack culture
10		<b>THINGS TO DO</b> Things to do in San Antonio before you call it lame
12		<b>YKYFSAW</b> You Know You're From San Antonio When...
14		<b>STAY OR LEAVE</b> Culture pressures students to stay close
16		<b>FIESTA</b> From parades to food booths, Huskies make it happen
18		<b>OPINION</b> OPINION: Students, city must better support LGBTQ+ peers
20		<b>BACK PAGE</b> Sports Shorts, Comic Relief, and Shout Out

# Growing Pains

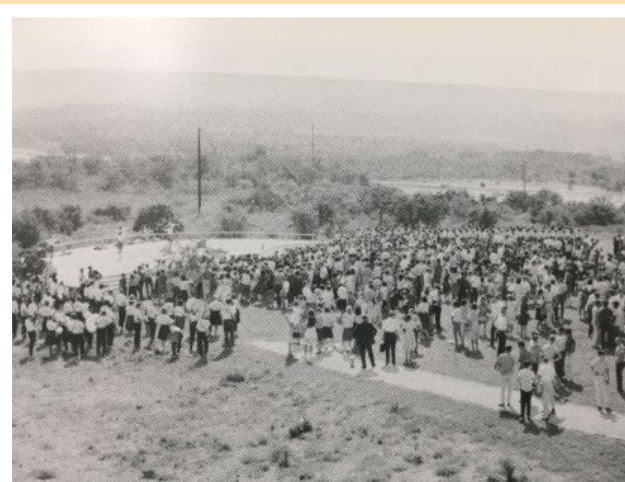


From rural wealth to urban poverty, changes at Holmes reflect city's issues

by Evan Alban, Staff Writer and Natalia Martinez, News Director

**F**rom rural wealth to urban poverty, 6500 Ingram Road, once a bare and underdeveloped area on the outskirts of an expanding San Antonio, is now the home of the highest percentage of economically disadvantaged students in NISD. Oliver Wendell Holmes High School, established in 1964, consisted of only three round buildings, with "stately spires," as the alma mater says, lighting the sky on top. It was surrounded by nothing but vacant plots and untamed trees. With a majority of wealthy, upper middle class, white families living in the newly developing area, Holmes was a school with many active parent volunteers with free time, who helped form effective booster clubs and didn't have to think twice about spending money on fundraisers. This atmosphere allowed the campus to flourish and helped support powerhouse extracurricular activities, including dominant athletics teams like in football, where the team claimed multiple district and even city championships regularly.

Over time, like the city as a whole, the campus and surrounding community have undergone drastic changes, the most obvious being the increase in poverty and dramatic shift in demographics. These changes have happened gradually at times



## A CHANGING LANDSCAPE

The top photo shows the Holmes campus in 1970, surrounded by empty lots in a rural setting, with just three buildings. On the bottom left, a photo of campus taken in 2015 before construction on the new Fine Arts building, shows a campus surrounded by highways, neighborhoods, and businesses. On the bottom right, a photo from the 1960's shows students walking around campus surrounded by empty, open land.

during the 55 years Holmes has been open, and at other times, more drastically, as in 2002 when NISD opened Warren High School, which would tip the scales of economics on campus more quickly.

### THE EARLY YEARS

Looking at historic photos of campus and the surrounding community tells part of the story, where slowly, with time, the country atmosphere (for many years Holmes had a thriving Future Farmers of America program) gave way to new restaurants, stores, gas stations, and, at the time a true mark of middle class living, Ingram Park Mall (now the butt of jokes on social media memes). With both the campus and the physical surroundings changing year after year, and as the student population changed with the city's trends, the campus is almost unrecognizable when compared to its initial state. The Holmes area is now considered "inner city" as San Antonio has, and continues to spread outward with new developments outside of loop 1604.

To understand these changes, we have to start by looking back. School nurse Sharon Olsen, now a member of the "Husky Hall of Fame," was a student at Holmes in the early 70's, just a few years after the school opened, and recalls what the area was like

when she attended.

"We had nothing behind Holmes," Olsen said. "No movie theater. The mall wasn't here. Across the street we had the motel, but we didn't have the businesses. None of that was there."

The campus, then considered on the rural, "country" edge of the city, also served a very different population of students and families than it does now.

In 1970, around the time Olsen attended, only a small 7.91 percent of families from in the Holmes attendance area were considered below poverty level according to U.S. Census Data, and many of those in that 7.91 percent were rural farming families, being pushed out and surrounded by the city's growth and development.

The demographics of the students and families in the Holmes area was also dramatically different then.

For example, a review of the 1967 Holmes yearbook found that out of a senior class of 236 students, 91 percent were white, with Latino students making up only six percent, African American students making up three percent, and Asian students making up less than one percent of the total.

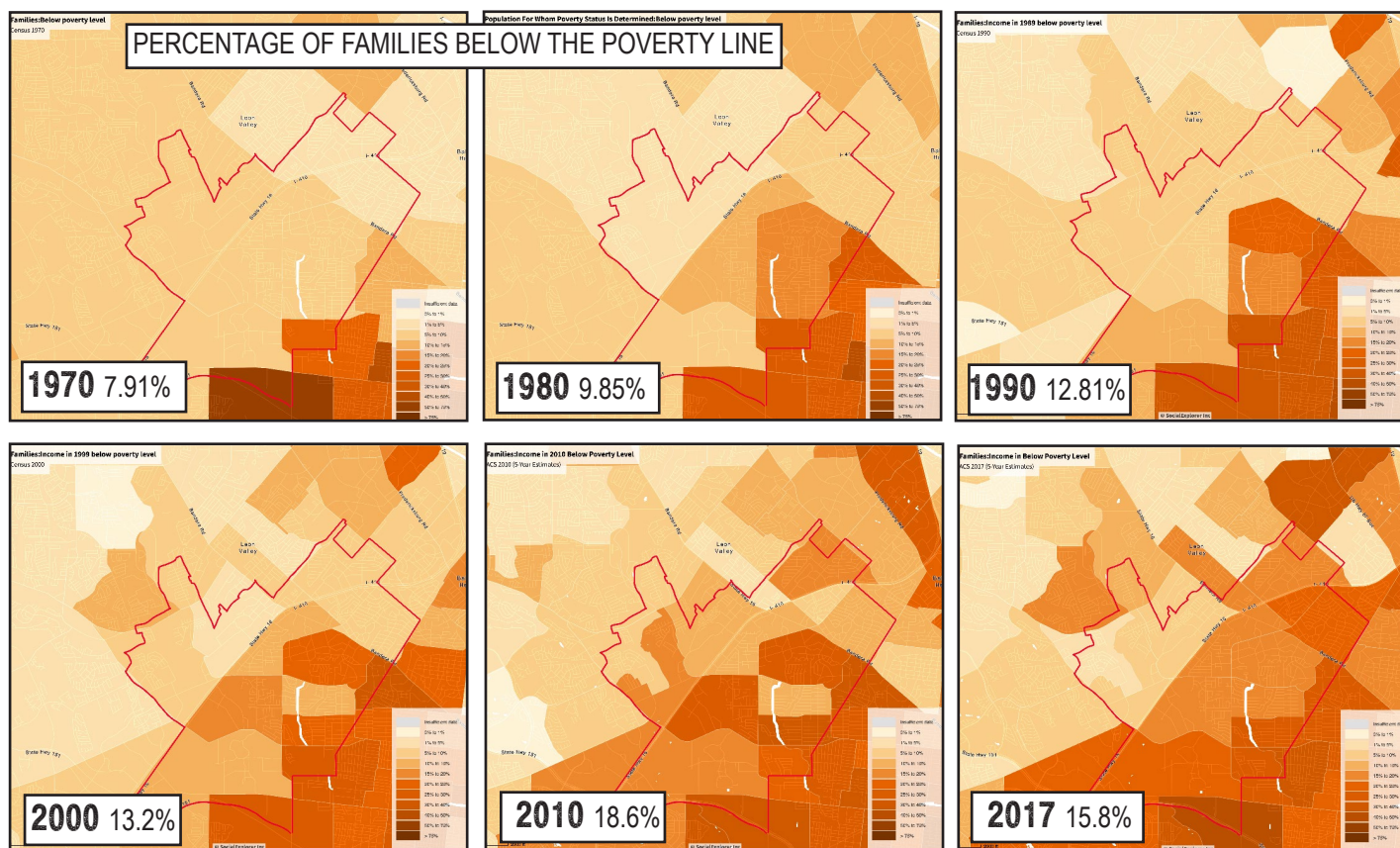
Today, those numbers are very different. Schools are now required to keep track of student demo-

graphics using the Public Education Information Management System (PEIMS), and according to that data, the current breakdown in student population shows a student body where 77 percent of students are considered economically disadvantaged. The campus demographic population also shows that only six percent of students are white, while the Latino population makes up 85 percent, and the African American and Asian/Pacific Islander populations have held about the same over the years.

Between the school's first years in the late 60's and early 70's to the early 2000's, the changes happened at a steady, but predictable pace. Even in the late 80's and early 90's, Holmes, while different than how it opened, enjoyed the economic stability that fueled the community's ability to uphold a reputation as a force to be reckoned with.

"Back in '89, we only had five Northside high schools and Holmes was number one in football and basketball," current Business Careers front office manager and Holmes alumnus Michelle Noriega said. "We went to state for football and back then Holmes was considered a powerhouse."

Student Success Administrator and Holmes class of 1990 graduate Alejandro Anderson remembers



## THE MAP tells the story

You can track the economic changes in the Holmes attendance area from upper-middle class families to families struggling with urban poverty in this series of maps that use official U.S. Census data to detail the concentration of families below the poverty line. The lighter areas on the map indicate low concentrations of poverty, while the darker the color on the map, the more families are dealing with poverty. The red outline shows the current Holmes attendance area on all of the maps.

You can follow the increase of poverty from year to year by looking at how the colors change from mostly light, to darker shades. By averaging the reported percentages in each zone within the Holmes attendance area, a clear picture is painted where stable wealth is drained from the community year by year.

In 1970, only 7.91% of families in the area were below the poverty line, while in 2010, the percentage of families peaked at almost 20%. According PEIMS data, a different measure used to track poverty in schools, the percentage of students qualifying as economically disadvantaged went from 45.3% in 2001 to 76% today.

the physical surroundings still developing as well. "All there was was a Circle K convenience store, with an insurance place right next to it," Anderson said. "The shell wasn't there. It was an old Texaco gas station only with no store or anything. The hotel wasn't there, and there used to be a community pool that the Thunderbird Hills neighborhood used to have."

Census data for the area tells the story even more. By 1980 the percentage of students below the poverty level had gradually increased to almost ten percent, and by 1990, that number was up to almost 13 percent.

A review of the 1980 and 1990 yearbooks show a shift in the ethnic breakdown on campus as well. In 1980, the senior class had become 52 percent white, 40 percent Latino, and eight percent African American. And in 1990, those numbers shift again to 31 percent white, 62 percent Latino, and seven percent African American.

By the 2000's, the area around campus looked much like it does today, and while U.S. Census Data had the area's percentage of families below the poverty line holding at just above 13 percent, PEIMS data determined that 45 percent of students on campus qualified as economically disadvantaged by the state, meaning they required assistance in paying for school breakfast and lunch. The senior class was now decidedly different than when Holmes opened, with 23 percent white students, 71 percent Latino students, and six percent African American students.

At the start of the 2000's, the reputation of Holmes had become decidedly "inner-city," according to others in San Antonio, and terms like "ghetto" were established as negative stereotypes about the campus, even as the community and campus maintained an economic balance, enjoyed fully supported programs and enough parents with comfortable incomes and flexible work schedules to help student activities thrive. In 2000 and 2001, the football team was still known as a powerhouse, making deep playoff runs, including an appearance in the state semi finals, and was ranked 7th in the State going into the 2002 season by *Texas Football*.

Current offensive coordinator Sean Salinas was the starting quarterback on those teams, and he remembers how having a balance between students from more economically stable homes and those

students without that advantage helped keep the campus and it's programs thriving.

"We had similar kids with home life situations that are the same as students now, but the support our kids got from the community was great," Salinas said. "Families literally took kids in and helped provide for them, and student athletes ended up with great stories and bright futures."

## WARREN OPENS

Prior to the opening of Warren HS in 2003, former teacher and yearbook sponsor from 1987 to 2014, Martha Singleton, describes a campus whose programs were still thriving and dominating.

"Groups were flourishing," Singleton said. "It was a very active campus with very active parent support groups and everyone had booster clubs. There was no limit to what we could do."



**GOING THROUGH CHANGES** The two photos on top show the change in demographics of students on campus from when the school opened to today. The bottom photos show the dance team before Warren opened with 29 members, and after Warren opened when only seven students could participate.

According to Singleton, the campus had resources, booster funds, and a large student population which directly affected the success of extracurriculars. She recalls the specific shift when Warren High School opened and took a huge chunk of the school's population away, almost all from the demographic on campus with the most income.

PEIMS data backs this up. Within the first few

years of Warren opening, the student population dropped, and the percentage of students considered economically disadvantaged jumped from 45 percent in the 2001-2002 school year to 67 percent in 2005-2006. Holmes went from a community hanging on to a delicate economic balance, to a community with few economic resources, and what resources that were left, were draining quickly.

Singleton remembers how this change affected things like yearbook sales.

"We went from selling 900-1000 yearbooks every year, no problem, to 400 the first year Warren was open, which makes a huge difference."

That forced the journalism program to cut down on pages and prints, making it a struggle to build back up over the years. Funding for the program has never fully recovered.

Losing so many students to Warren not only decreased the amount of parents with the means to

support, but it took away many organization's allotted budget as their support was based off of overall student population as well. This created challenges across the board, and even the football team, with its historic success, could barely field a varsity and JV team, and has never fully recovered, with only one winning season since Warren opened.

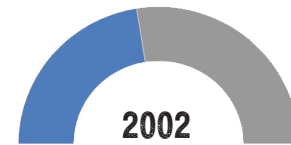
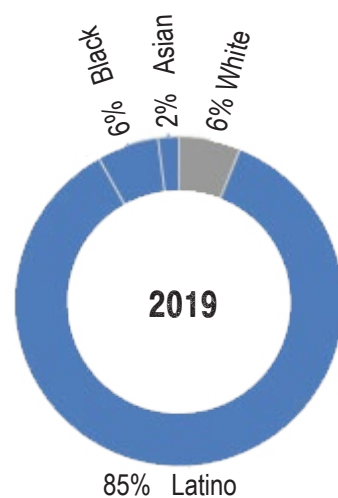
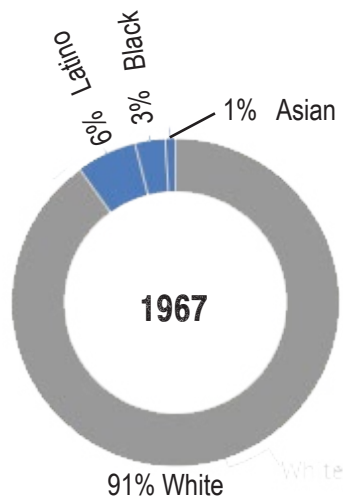
The most drastic evidence that the opening of Warren impacted Holmes could be seen with the dance team at the time. In the years leading up to 2003, Holmes had a full dance team of 30 members, but after the transfer of many students from Holmes to Warren, the team decreased to only seven girls, which wasn't even enough to compete, according to Singleton. Programs like dance cost a lot of money to be a part of, and relies heavily on fundraising and parents with means to make a way for students to be involved. Programs across the board, including football, saw a dramatic drop in involvement, and traditions and morale dwindled as a result, affected pep rallies, dances, spirit tradition involvement and more, due to not as many students having the means to participate, much less students who had enough to help their peers participate.

The toll on fundraising for things such as prom, sports, homecoming, and other graduation necessities is still being felt, according to prom and homecoming sponsor Emily Vasquez.

"Prom costs roughly around \$29,000, and about \$6,000 more for graduation and supplies," she said. "That's \$35,000 we have to fundraise just so that

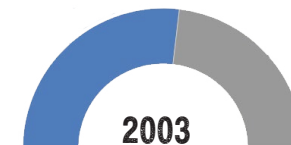
# States of Change

Below, you can see a dramatic flip in student population from the early years at Holmes, with a 91 percent white student body, to today where Latino students make up 85 percent of students. To the right, you see the largest jumps in the percentage of students considered economically disadvantaged with the opening of Warren High School slowly draining the economic balance in the student population.



45% Economically Disadvantaged  
3,120 Total Enrollment

— Warren HS opens to underclassmen



54% Economically Disadvantaged  
2,473 Total Enrollment

— Warren HS with 9-12th fully opens



67% Economically Disadvantaged  
2,012 Total Enrollment

we can have enough left over so that when seniors graduate we can give them something to eat after rehearsal.”

Vazquez knows that fundraising this amount can be challenging on a campus that now, according to PEIMS, has a student population where almost 80 percent are economically disadvantaged. In selecting fundraisers, she is forced to consider the resources that students and their families have in the community, and to select things that work for the student base.

“We always want to provide for them, so not being able to fundraise as much and what we’re limited to fundraise makes it very difficult to be able to raise the type of money that is needed,” Vasquez said. “Sometimes we’re barely scraping by.”

The same is true for athletics, where a lack of resources in the community affects programs like golf, which require more financial cost to participate in, according to golf coach Harrison Blaine.

“If I had more funds I could get new equipment and would actually be able to take the students to courses even more frequently so they would have more time and opportunities to up their game and get more experience,” Blaine said. “Also with more outside support, I could possibly lower the price for students to join and maybe even eliminate the fee to

allow those students who can’t afford it to have the same opportunity as those who can.”

In the last few years, these difficulties are at a peak in Holmes High School’s history.

## A PROBLEM WITH HISTORIC ROOTS

University of Texas researcher Greg Worthington focuses on education policy, school choice, and the historical contexts of education. He also is from San Antonio, and has been in San Antonio schools as both a student and a teacher. His research sheds some light on why the kind of changes that have happened at Holmes and to other areas of town occur.

“The city has grown a lot since 1964 and 65,” Worthington said. “And with that growth, white people have sort of moved out further and further.”

Worthington explains that this trend initially started years ago when the city began annexing outlying areas around 1952 because the original boundary of town was a small rectangular shape established by the Spanish, and the city was growing past it. Those new areas became the desirable location for families looking to buy a home away from a growing urban area with a majority Latino population. This pattern repeats itself in places even now on the edges of

NISD, around the newest schools like Harlan.

“The pattern has been that throughout the past, white people started moving out of these urban areas and started building their own communities on the outskirts of the city,” Worthington said.

According to his research, this pattern has created the economic segregation that San Antonio is now known for, holding the negative distinction of being the most economically segregated large city in the United States. Economic segregation means that the city is split between areas with a lot of money, and areas with a lot of poverty, and that these areas do not mix much. This segregation has troubling roots, according to Worthington, who says the key to remember about economic segregation in San Antonio is that it is racialized.

White people are almost entirely found in wealthy neighborhoods,” Worthington said. “Any poor side of town is going to be a majority people of color living in those neighborhoods.”

The issues facing schools like Holmes have been faced by other campuses inside loop 410, and are starting to affect schools outside loop 410. As the city continues this pattern of growth and economic segregation, Worthington believes it’s important to keep resources spread more evenly, and that cities and school districts have plenty of reasons to try and keep schools more economically balanced. He points out that whites have historically hoarded wealth for well over a century, and that it’s even been given to them freely on multiple occasions in U.S. History.

“They have all the wealth which means they have all the resources and its why white schools usually do better than schools that are serving students of color,” Worthington said. “Usually what a good school means to folks is a white school, and a wealthy school. And unfortunately tests scores correlate with wealth pretty well so you have to be aware what contributes to the problem.”

As the city continues to grow and NISD continues to open new schools, the Holmes community, made up of students, families, and alumni, are left to wrestle with their past and current identity in the city as whole. For now, alumni like Bryan Inglis, who graduated in 2001 and is now Regional Sales Director for Professional Enrollment Concepts, strive to make the best of the school’s reputation, and find their way to success.

“I used the assumptions about coming from a low-income area where they believed I was maybe undereducation or not qualified, to exceed expectations and progress in the business world,” he explains. “The education and life experiences I gained at Holmes have allowed me to outperform many of my peers from other schools in the greater San Antonio area.”



**HOT CHEETOS & CHEESE**

Nothing touches the soul more than a warm and spicy snack. Hot Cheetos and cheese is a San Antonio favorite that can be found at many local vendors. From football games to being at the park, it's never out of reach.

"I eat Hot Cheetos a lot, and I've been eating them since I was little. They are really good."  
~ Pauline Diaz 10th



**RASPAS**

Hailing from the streets of Baltimore, snow cones were just snow cones until they reached South Texas, where they received the name "raspas," meaning "scraped ice". They are crunchy, sweet, and come in endless combinations, even piccadilly (a raspa flavored with kool aid powder and chopped pickles).

"I remember playing outside as a kid and hearing the ice cream truck and begging my mom to buy us raspas. When we would be able to get them, we'd yell at the top of our lungs, "Stop! Stop!," for the icecream man to stop. That's childhood right there."  
~ Samantha Sanchez 10th



**PAN DULCE**

When colonizing Mexico, the French and Spanish brought along their food, more importantly their sweet breads. The french sweet breads influenced our modern day pan dulce. It is very popular in SA and can be found at any of the hundreds of panaderias.

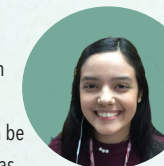
"Whenever I was sad or down, my mom used to get me pan dulce, and she said, "whenever you eat this sweet thing, sweet things would come to you also," and that really cheered me up."  
~ Xavier Gonzalez 12th



**BREAKFAST TACOS**

It is believed that breakfast tacos originated in the Rio Grande Valley and then were quickly and tastefully adopted throughout the southern regions of Texas, most notably by San Antonio. And more recently, they've been falsely claimed by Austin.

"I was at my dad's house and I wanted to pull a prank on my uncle who is a year younger than me. He had gone to the bathroom after we had just gotten the best breakfast tacos on the southside, and I decided to spike his tacos with loads of beer salt, regular salt, lime juice and old cheese. I waited for him to eat them but he never did because he had already ate his tacos. It turns out the spiked tacos actually belonged to my aunt."  
~ Xavier Huerta 10th



**MANGONADAS**

This sweet snack originates from Mexico and can usually only be found in Mexican communities. It is a mango sorbet, coated with chamoy drizzle, and sometimes flavored chili salt.

"I was with my boyfriend in the car and we had just gotten mangonadas from 210 Ice Cream. I grabbed the mangonada, but I dropped it and it spilled everywhere in the car. His mom was pretty pissed."  
~ Kaiyana Garcia 11th



**BARBACOA & BIG RED**

Some time after Big Red was invented in 1937, it was paired with its soulmate, the barbacoa taco. Although we can't be sure exactly where and when these two first got paired together, we can say for sure that they were quickly adopted into the hearts of San Antonians, so much so that we even started an annual Big Red and Barbacoa festival that is enjoyed every year.

"I remeber waking up Sunday morning and my dad would get us barbacoa and Big Red. It's such a good combination."  
~ Samantha Sanchez 10th



**PUFFY TACOS**

Invented in San Antonio and popularized at Henry's Puffy Tacos, this treat may be the most unique to our city. Celebrity Chef Guy Fieri tried them while in town and described them as being "Fluffy, puffy, and you can't get enough-y." The Puffy Taco is also the unofficial mascot of the Missions minor league baseball team, where kids get to chase and tackle him during the 7th inning stretch.

"When I was in elementary school, I went to a Missions baseball game with my parents and I'm pretty sure the Henry's Puffy Taco mascot tackled a police officer."  
~ Anthony Miklaucic 10th

# TOWN SNACKS

## Students embrace unique snack culture

by Lucille Gradillas, Staff Writer and Jake Lee, Staff Writer

If you grew up in San Antonio, you probably have a taste for the perfect combination of salty, sour, spicy, and sweet that make up so many of the unique treats that outsiders often claim "look gross." We asked students for their top iconic snacks, and they shared their favorite memories with the food that fuels our love of special San Antonio culinary culture. Here's what they said:



**PALETAS**

Paletas are a key part of San Antonio culture that can be traced back to almost before 1927. Translated as "little shovel" or "trowel" reflecting its shape, paletas have been a part of almost all of our lives. From pickle or Lucas flavored to pineapple or orchata, everyone enjoys their favorite flavor!

"When my family has a cookout, we typically buy an ice chest full of paletas. I don't really see that side of the family a lot and I cherish the time I have with them."  
~ Jarlyn Landeros 10th



**FRITO PIE**

We can trace the corn chips known as "Fritos" back to their origin here in San Antonio, where the "chili queens" sold fried strips of tortilla covered in inexpensive meat flavored with chilis. While multiple people attempt to take credit for the "Frito pie," one constant remains the same; it's a beloved snack that certainly has a home here not just in the hearts of San Antonians, but also in our stomachs.

"When I was six, I sat on a frito pie. We were at a party and I put it down and forgot about it and I sat on it. I had a frito pie stain all over my pants. My mom had to block me for the rest of the party."  
~ Christian Muniz 10th



**TWANG SALTS**

First opened and operated from a garage in town, the Twang brand has certainly grown not just into a successful business, but into a representation of San Antonio with its great qualities, ideals, and overall love of San Antonio culture. Originally meant to flavor beer, San Antonians, and now people around the nation, use the many Twang flavors on popcorn, fruit, as a snack on its own, and for many other savory uses.

"When I was little, I'd go around with my friends and offer some Twang to them. I'd feel cool because I had the salt. I was known as the kid with the Twang salts. I even made friends over Twang Salts."  
~ Divivna Martinez 10th



**ALAMO CANDY CO. CANDY**

First opened by Felix and Juanita Samame in 1991, the local candy store quickly gained popularity and has not looked back since. They moved to a bigger location after six years in their original store and are frequently trying new recipes that bring sweet, sour, and spicy together for the perfect SA snack.

"Alamo candy is sort of expensive but it is worth it. It's spicy, sweet-everything I like. I'm Hispanic, so I grew up with Mexican candy. My mouth is watering just thinking about it right now."  
~ Frank Viesca 10th





# THINGS TO DO in San Antonio BEFORE YOU CALL IT LAME.

BY LAILAH VILLEGAS  
AND MADISON CHAPA

### Unique Eats & Atmosphere

Want to try new and different food but don't ever know where to go? Big Lou's is known for the biggest pizza in San Antonio along with its great sides. Barrio Barista has delicious coffee and barbacoa. And lastly, El Paraiso Paletas have cheap but great popsicles and Mexican treats.

- Barrio Barista
- El Paraiso Paletas
- Big Lou's Pizza

"I liked the atmosphere at Big Lou's. It was very friendly, very chill, and the food is really good."

- Junior, Paige Borenheim

### Places to Cool Off in the SA Heat

If the heat in San Antonio ever feels like too much for you, these water-based activities could be a great alternative to check out with your family and friends.

- Schlitterbaun
- San Pedro Natural Springs Park
- Go Float the Comal

"The Comal was clean, and a little cold, but the people were just enjoying it and tubing. When I went, we were fishing and we caught three catfish and of course threw them back, but after that we just relaxed while tubing."

- Senior, Jagger Reyna

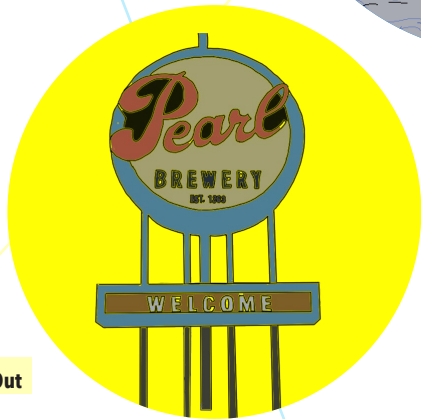
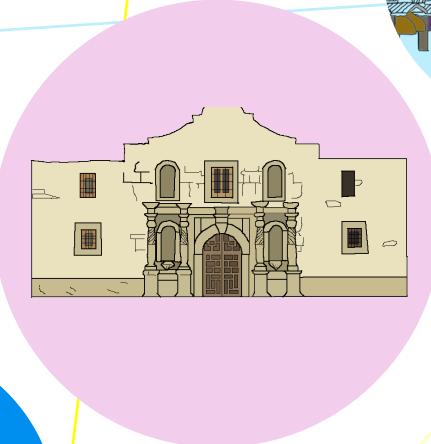
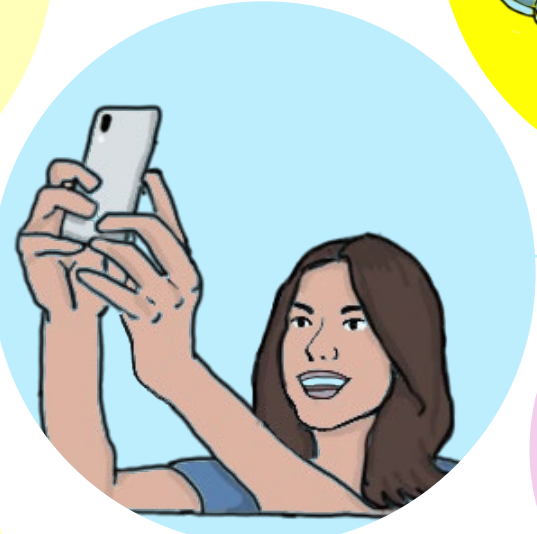
### Smaller Music Venues to Check Out

While the big concert venues like the Alamodome and AT&T Center offer solid shows, it's the smaller venues in town like these where you can have a unique experience.

- Paper Tiger
- Imagine Book Store
- Aztec Theatre

"It was my first concert and Miguel was performing at the Aztec Theatre, around that time, I started getting into his music. The Aztec has a lot of extravagant paintings when you enter and is a nice little theater. The atmosphere before he even performed was amazing. All of the fans were very pumped and were the real reason it made the experience amazing. Any time there's a chance you can attend an event at the Aztec, I highly recommend it. It'll be an amazing experience."

- Junior, Nathan Robles



### Local Shopping Experiences for Unique Finds

For unique finds, these are the places to go. More specifically, Barbacoa Apparel and SA Flavor dedicate their apparel to San Antonio related themes.

- Texas Thrift/Thrift City/Family Thrift
- Trader's Village
- SAFlavor.com/BarbacoaApparel.com

"Texas Thrift is a calming and well organized store, so that's why I always find myself going there. Unlike a lot of other thrift stores, the employees are nice and really helpful."

- Senior, Audrey Cura-Faz

### Burgers Joints You Gotta Try

Tired of basic fast food burgers? You should definitely try out at least two, if not all of these places. Their burgers are always the best. Go with the classics at one of these spots, or get something different!

- Burger Boy
- Chris Madrids
- Chesters

"There are a lot of people at Chris Madrid's and their burgers have a lot of cheese in them. Their fries are really good. Everyone was talking and loud; it was a good time."

- Freshman, Jayce Sibley

### Aesthetic Locations to Instagram At

Ever been really indecisive about where to take cute and aesthetic pictures? Go to one of these places for a good adventure and earthy pic.

- Botanical Gardens
- Japanese Tea Gardens
- Hayes Street Bridge

"The Tea Garden was really good. The environment was really nice and I love going there because it's a clean place to go and take pictures with friends and family and just enjoy the outside."

- Senior, Itza Navarro

### Yearly Festivals or Events Not to Miss

Now these places are more for when you have money to spend on occasions where you just simply want to attend a concert or listen to good music and eat a chicken on a stick. San Antonio classics.

- Fiesta
- Rodeo
- Mala Luna Music Festival

"At Mala Luna, there's a whole bunch of singers and it's an all day event so you're just there. It's friendly, there's a whole bunch of food, so it's just there for everyone. There's games to play and chairs to chill on while people wait for specific artists."

- Sophomore, Asia Maines-Goff

### Places to Embrace Spooky Season

Don't feel like going trick-or-treating on Halloween? Or want spooky season year round? These are haunted places that would most likely spook you or your friends.

- Donkey Lady Bridge
- 13th Floor
- The Menger Hotel

"I went to 13th Floor about a year ago because everyone was hyping it up, and when I went, it wasn't that bad. There were a few parts that were trippy though, like when half the building was sideways or when we had to go down this long balloon type tunnel. I hated that because I felt all claustrophobic."

- Junior, Joseph Davilla

### Random Things to Do For Fun

If you're ever bored and don't feel like going to theme parks or the movies, you should try out at least one of these places with your friends or family.

- Cool Crest Mini Golf Course
- Go ride Lime or Bird scooters around downtown
- Top Golf and iFly

"Top Golf was fun but chill at the same time. They played music and had good food, and also good service."

- Junior, Aislynn Lara

### City Parks That are Always Poppin'

These parks are some of the best places to BBQ or even celebrate a holiday at. They're very family-oriented and have unique elements in each park.

- Brackenridge Park
- Woodlawn Lake Park
- Travis Park

"Woodlawn Park is a really nice place. I go there pretty often, feed the ducks and even go to the little dog park across the street where I walk my dog. They also have a specific water fountain for dogs, a tennis court, a basketball court, and then a couple of food trucks that sell different stuff. It's all around pretty neat."

- Senior, Alyssa Salinas

### Three Parks to Escape the City At

If you ever feel like getting out into nature, one of these local or nearby spots are perfect. From hiking trails to water features, there is something for everyone.

- Guadalupe State Park
- Government Canyon State Park
- OP Schnabel

"My experiences going to OP Schnabel have been exciting and adventurous. I enjoy going to OP when I want to get away and enjoy a run or walk because the sights are beautiful. There's different types of animals along the way and a lot of beautiful plants. OP is a family friendly place and has a playground for kids, and I always enjoy every visit."

- Junior, Jolie Castillo

### Regular Events to Check Out

If you're not really into big festivals but want to do something chill, check out one of these regular events for a relaxing time.

- First Friday
- Second Saturdays
- Car shows at Brackenridge Park

"The car show is honestly a good show, with many people there, and there's a lot of cars and just the atmosphere is very chill."

- Senior, Amara Maglorie

### Boujee Spots to Check Out on Payday

Ever debated on where/what to spend your paycheck? These are a couple of malls and markets that have an upscale atmosphere where you can cop cool stuff at a cost.

- The Pearl
- La Cantera
- Central Market HEB by IWU

"La Cantera is a place where you go shopping, but it's also a place where there's a lot of different things to enjoy. There's also a lot of out door walking so you can enjoy the weather while shopping. There's nice places to go eat and there's more room. It's not as packed as a mall would be, plus there's good places to eat."

- Junior, Angela Camposano

# You know you're from San

## City culture impacts students

by Roslynn Briseno, Managing Editor

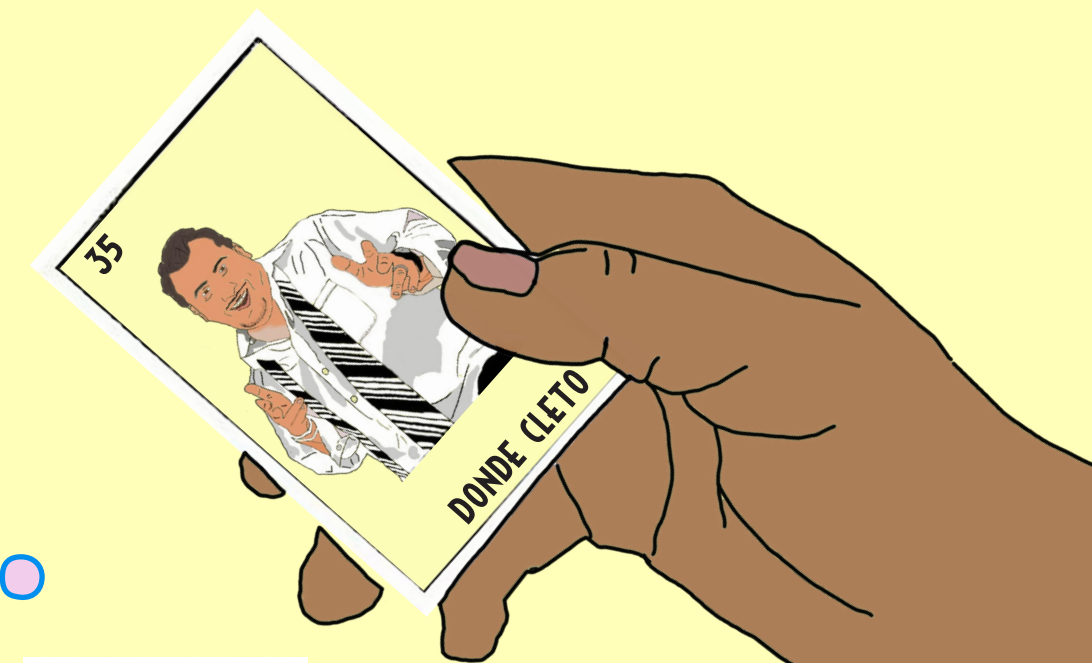
The Holmes attendance area is located on the edge of the westside, sitting inside loop 410 within site of both downtown and Sea World from different campus views.

For students on campus, it's difficult not to be impacted by unique San Antonio experiences that people not from

San Antonio, or from the outer edges of the city, might not understand.

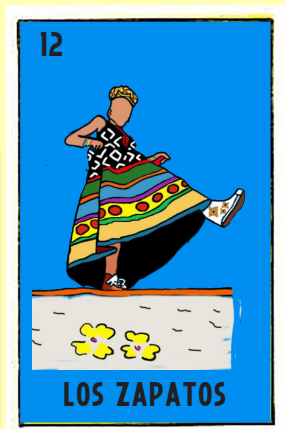
We talked to students about their definitive San Antonio cultural experiences and they shared their Countdown City credentials. From food to Spurs fever, here's what they said:

# Antonio When...



**YOU WENT HONKING DOWNTOWN AFTER A SPURS WIN.**

"During the 3rd quarter of the game my family and I started to drive downtown, not knowing if the Spurs were going to win. We got there right as the game ended, and I put on all of my Spurs gear and ran all around downtown. It was such a memorable experience knowing that the whole nation is focusing on your city."  
- Noah Contreras, senior



**YOU'VE SPENT MOST OF YOUR DAY HELPING SAVE SPOTS FOR THE PARADE.**

"Usually we have one of my tio's come early in the morning and save a spot for the whole family. We do it as a tradition, and the spot we have is unique and always allows us to watch the parade better. My favorite part is spending time with my family, eating good food and just seeing the parade. Not everyone from my family is there all the time, so it's nice to enjoy the time we have together."  
- Jett Knight, senior



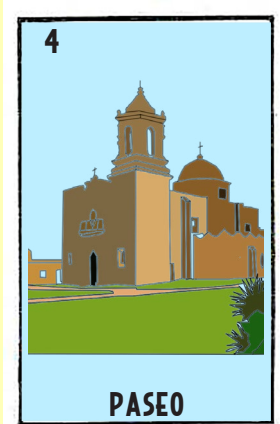
**YOU'VE HAD AN EGG RUBBED ON YOU TO PREVENT OJO.**

"In Mexican culture, 'Mal de Ojo' is well known. This tradition is done to suck up any bad energy and to keep the spirit clean, kind of like a dreamcatcher. You put the egg under your bed to absorb the negative energy. I believe it works, because after, I always feel renewed and happy, and the negative things feel like they went away."  
- Neyda Garcia Sanchez, senior



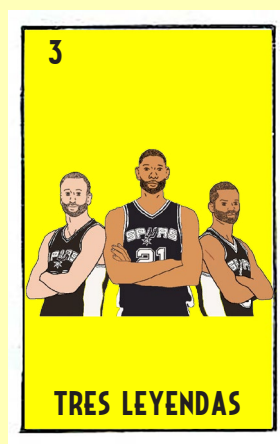
**YOU BUY PALETA FLAVORS EVERYONE ELSE THINKS ARE GROSS.**

"My weird flavor I like that most people judge me for choosing is the vanilla with raisin. I love that flavor and it's so good. Some people attack me for liking raisins in my paleta or tell me, 'Ew that's a gross flavor.' I usually just tell them to shut up because it's actually really good."  
- Adam Vasquez, senior



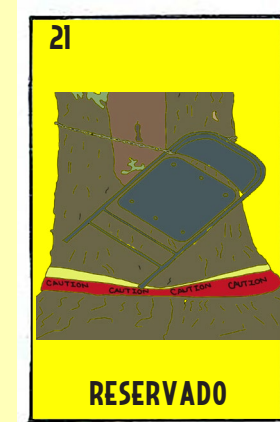
**YOU'VE BEEN ON A FIELD TRIP TO THE MISSIONS.**

"I remember going to the little defense tower with my friends throwing rocks like if we were in the Battle of the Alamo. It was really fun just being able to be in the Alamo. The symbol of the city is really inspiring, and to look at the history is what makes San Antonio so different and unique."  
- Jesse Badillo, senior



**YOU CRIED WHEN YOU REALIZED TIMMY, TONY, AND MANU WEREN'T PLAYING THIS SEASON.**

"That was the dynasty right there, I mean you kind of expected them to play their entire lives and with Timmy and Manu retiring and Tony going to Charlotte, it's tough. I'm looking forward to seeing how the Spurs do without them this season. But having those three was an amazing time and I loved it."  
- Elijah Ibarra, sophomore



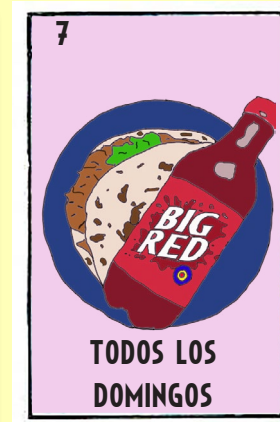
**YOU'VE HELPED SAVE A SPOT IN BRACKNRIDGE PARK FOR EASTER.**

"My family and I would go days in advance to pick a spot that we like and that's always far from other people. We would either play volleyball, kick ball, ride the bike trail, or just eat barbecue all day long. I feel like it's important to us because we have been doing it for awhile, and now it's what we do that keeps us all together, and we always have a new crazy story to tell on how we got that spot."  
- Casey Mendoza, senior



**YOU STILL FEEL ANGRY WHEN YOU HEAR ABOUT WHAT KAWHI IS DOING IN TORONTO.**

"When I found out Kawhi left, I was hurt. Not only did he let his team down, but he let the fans of the Spurs down. It's a love/hate relationship on whether I like Kawhi as a player. You have to respect the man's game, so traditionally and fundamentally he shows no emotion. He's never too flashy and keeps it professional, but in all, I don't like seeing him play for another team."  
- Jagger Reyna, senior



**YOU'VE HAD BARBACOA WITH A BIG RED ON A SUNDAY.**

"Celorios is the only place my family and I get our Barbacoa from because they're meat isn't just all fat. Their chicharrones are the best, and their tortillas are really good. Then we'll usually just buy Big Red from there and it just makes the whole meal come together. The chicharrones or the avocados probably make this meal the best. Without them, it just wouldn't make the meal smack."  
- Lailah Villegas, junior



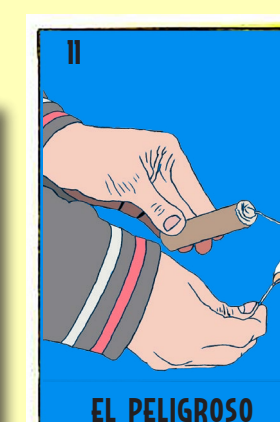
**YOU GOT FREE COFFEE FROM A VALERO AFTER A SPURS WIN.**

"Ever since I was little, my dad would take me to get free coffee after a Spurs win. It's a small bonding moment me and my dad have experienced together. I felt the San Antonio pride, and being in the playoffs made the coffee ten times better. I love coffee and the Spurs, and it's the best combination put together. Two things I love in one morning after a win always made my day better."  
- Jacqueline Rocha, senior



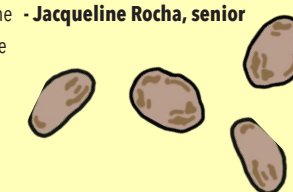
**YOU'VE DANCED TO SELENA AT A BACKYARD BBQ.**

"Amor Prohibido" is my favorite because of the good vibe it brings and how Selena kills it without even trying. I think she's so important not just in San Antonio, but in Houston, Corpus, etc. because of the major influence and popularity in the Latino community with her songs. People still listen to her songs today for a reason, even after 20 years."  
- Alejandro Valdivia, senior



**YOU'VE ILLEGALLY POPPED FIREWORKS INSIDE THE CITY LIMITS.**

"For Cinco de Mayo last year, we bought some fireworks and when we began to pop them, my cousin threw a big one on to the neighbor's yard and it ended up catching on fire. My dad was over there with the waterhose trying to take it out. It was really bad but really funny. We pop fireworks because they're fun, and my nephews and nieces just love them."  
- Paula Flores, senior





# TO STAY OR TO LEAVE

## Culture pressures students to stay close

by D'Mitre Dimas, Co-Editor Print

On his way home from school, he frantically checks the mailbox, looking for his acceptance letter from Texas A&M College Station. He shouts with excitement as he runs home, clutching the letter in his hand, not wanting it to fall. He runs to his parents, gasping for air, waving the letter. "I got it! I got it!" he says with glee. "I got accepted!" However, his excitement isn't shared with his parents as they stare at him with a gloomy frown. "Son, we've discussed this. I don't feel comfortable letting you go," his mother says. "This isn't the way we have run things in our family," his father adds. "I know, but I thought if I got accepted everything would change," he says, still hanging onto hope. As the silence between the three hangs in the air, he stands and feels his life falling into pieces. Finally, his father says, "Let's sit down and talk about this."

There is no mistaking that college choice is important and that students make the decision of where they go based on various factors. In San Antonio, there is often a sometimes unspoken "culture rule" that prefers families stay close with each other, even if it means recent graduates passing up an opportunity out of town. On our campus, a strong factor in determining a college may be how close we plan on staying near family. Students are faced with choosing an exciting opportunity out of town, or even out of state for college, and keeping nearby to close-knit families, who are rooting for them to stay home.

### DEL TORO FAMILY

Senior Viviana Del Toro knows this conflict of culture all too well.

"When I told my mom that I wanted to leave to New York, she started crying because in our family we always stay close to each other and wanting to leave the family isn't really known," Del Toro said.

Del Toro's parents strongly believe in the culture rule that family is supposed to stay together, mostly because that's the way they have been raised and they have continued with that lifestyle for all of Del

Toro's life.

"My parents agree with that rule a lot because that's how they were raised and that is also how they raised us. They mostly agree with the fact that children are not supposed to leave home but stay with their parents and grow up with them instead," Del Toro said. "I agree that family is supposed to stay with each other, but I feel with each generation, children are going to grow to take their own life path and do what they want."

In Del Toro's family, no one went to college and they have always lived with each other no matter what. Her family has only ever known to stay close to each other, so college is a new concept to her family.

"My parents don't want me to leave because it's a tradition in my family where we don't go to college and work in factories in Mexico instead," Del Toro said. "We also have a tradition where none of us go out of state and instead live in the same neighborhood near each other."

Del Toro made a compromise with her mom that she will only go to schools around Texas instead of trying to leave the state. The only thing holding her back from going out of state for college is the fear that she will be without her family. She's afraid to leave without her parents because it isn't a normal thing for her family to do.

"I'm mainly scared because I don't want to leave my family," Del Toro said. "I'm mostly afraid that I will lose connection with them because I won't be able to talk to them as much. Usually, when my mom picks me up from school, she asks about my day and we tell each other everything, so if I leave I wouldn't be able to do that anymore."

### KANE SANDOVAL

Much like Del Toro, senior Kane Sandoval and his mom Esmeralda Morales have also come up with a compromise.

"The deal I made with Kane was to stay until he gets his associates degree and then he can leave,"

KEEP  
AUSTIN  
WEIRD

Morales said.

Her reasons for wanting her son nearby are rooted in her concerns about him needing family, and the strong influence of her culture.

"He's good at everything regarding school but I feel mentally he isn't strong enough to be without his family yet," Morales said. "Also, our culture plays into why I want him to stay. It is hard to let our children or any of our family leave because we are always worried about them."

Sandoval feels as though he is ready to go off on his own due to trips he has taken with the TRIO program. However, his mom still insists that Sandoval isn't ready to leave home.

"At first when I went on TRIO trips, I didn't feel good being without my family, but as time went by, I figured that I was capable of being alone," Sandoval said. "But I feel my mom doesn't think I'm ready mainly because she does a lot for me at home and doesn't give me the chance to prove myself to her."

Sandoval ultimately backed down from his original plan in order to stay close to home a little longer.

"I originally wanted to go to Texas A&M in College Station, but my mom wanted me to stay in San Antonio," Sandoval said. "I was really set on going there to study zoology, so my mom and I came up with the deal that I would stay two years in San Antonio then transfer to to A&M for the other two years."

His mom feels that her connection to her son is very strong and if he were to leave that it would be broken. She also takes the love for her family very seriously and doesn't want her family to be separated in any way. Sandoval ultimately agrees.

"For me, my mom, brother, grandma, aunt and I are really close," Sandoval said. "It would be hard for me to leave them because we are close and they have done a lot for me."

### THE STUDENT VS PARENT PERSPECTIVE

Students like senior Amara Magloire try to create a balance between their own desires for their future and respecting her parent's concerns and wishes.

"I think students should be able to do whatever they want as long as they fully know what that is. I can understand some parents wanting their child to stay even if the child doesn't, because then your parents can help you," Magloire said. "Overall, kids should be able to pursue whatever it is that they want away from their parents, just make sure you know personally what's best."

Senior Arthur Martinez agrees with Magloire about parents respecting the wishes of their child.

"I feel like parents have the right to tell me what they think is best for me, but at the same time, I don't think they should control what I want to do, because it is my life," Martinez said. "Even though

my parents have supported me and given me everything, I hope they would still support me with the decisions that I choose to make."

Even though Magloire thinks that students should be able to make decisions on their own away from their parents, she also recognizes that a parent's input can be important.

"I think parents should have an input because if there is anyone that knows you the best it would be your family since they have been with you since you were born," Magloire said. "They still should respect your wishes and decisions instead of letting their own ideas block yours."

Morales, Kane Sandoval's mother, believes that parents and children who are having this struggle should meet in the middle and compromise as she did with her son. She believes the number one key to easing the tension between parents and students

**"When I told my mom that I wanted to leave to New York, she started crying because in our family, we always stay close to each other."**

*-Viviana Del Toro, Senior*

is by communicating and listening to each other.

"Of course communication is important to see what both sides want and then listen to each other, so you can see what the parents' worries are and what the child wants for their future," Morales said. "Come to an agreement and meet in the middle to make both parties happy, as not only individuals, but as a family."

### MAKING THE CHOICE

Like Morales, AVID teacher Monica Yzaguirre, who helps her students apply to college, make decisions, and find scholarships, shares her tips on how to talk to parents if students are having trouble communicating with them. She urges students to communicate effectively, be rational, and respectful.

"Don't get into an emotional battle with your parents because, at the end of the day, they are your parents and will always be," Yzaguirre said. "Have a real conversation with your parents about what you want and why you think it's important to go away, and be respectful because they have spent their life getting you through a system that isn't always designed to let you be successful."

She reminds students that parents are people too, and that it's important to see and address their perspectives and fears..

"It's not that they want to see you fail, they are

afraid for you and we have to tell them it's okay for them to be afraid, because that comes from love and nowhere else," Yzaguirre said.

Yzaguirre also tries to help students understand their own personal needs above anything else. When students seek her input about the decision of whether to stick around or head out somewhere new after graduation, she relies on how well she knows the student personally.

"If a student is super close to their family, never ventured away, and they lack discipline, skills for college, and motivation, then I always advise them to stay here," Yzaguirre said. "Because there is no reason for a student to go to a school outside of San Antonio if the chances of them being successful are less than 50 percent."

Yzaguirre considers five skills that a student needs before they make the decision to go away for college. The student needs to be able to manage their time, budget, be independent, learn to use their resources, and have a good home connection. If she sees a student with all of these assets, and they want to leave, she supports them fully, but warns that it will be a challenge.

"If they have all those in place, I always advise them to go away for college if they want too," Yzaguirre said. "It will be a difficult challenge, but if they have all those skills in place, they should be ready."

As for weighing the advantages and disadvantages of either staying or leaving for college, Yzaguirre believes that colleges should be chosen for the specific needs of each student.

"I don't think there is a better choice one way or the other, and I think every student should follow their own path," Yzaguirre said. "Everyone's an individual and college is based on individual needs and opportunities."

The reality is that most seniors will be staying close to home after graduation, proving that the culture rule is strong in the community. And for those students who are struggling with not wanting to leave their parents due to this culture rule, Yzaguirre shares a hopeful message. She reminds students that just because you leave your family, it doesn't mean you are not close anymore, it just means you have to work harder to connect with your family regularly.

"Culture is what you make of it and how you share it and celebrate it," Yzaguirre said. "There's this predetermined factor that says always stay close to home, always be next to each other, but if we don't share our connection and our cultural celebration with the world, then no one's ever going to know how great of a community we really are, ever."



## From parades to food booths, Huskies make it happen

by Janice Ramirez, Co-Editor Online

Bright festive colors fill the city of San Antonio during the month of April. Whether it's all the different smells of fried foods while walking through Market Square, the chants of "show us

your shoes!" shouted at Fiesta royalty on top of glittering floats, or different rhythms of music in competition with each other on performance

stages, it's almost impossible to live in San Antonio and not experience some piece of

Fiesta. Most of us enjoy Fiesta without thinking about all the

hard work and long hours others have to

dedicate during this festive time in our city.

Students from our campus have been involved in Fiesta events such as the Battle of Flowers Parade, and have even worked some food stands on the hot, busy days of April.

While plenty of students may have enjoyed the Battle of Flowers parade as a spectator, maybe even helping save parade route spots with family members all day, most have never experienced what it's like to actually be a part of the parade itself.

Junior Alexis Martinez has been in the parade for the past four years, even enjoying simple things like riding in a truck and honking the horn for the crowd. It's something she likes being a part of and she enjoys seeing all the people and colorful floats which are her favorite.

"I'm in it for my mom's job at North Park Toyota and during the parade we go around honking the horn of a truck and yell 'go North Park,'" Martinez said. "As we ride in the truck, I love looking out the window and seeing all the people that attend and seeing all the floats decorated in very unique ways."

The parade also features performances from dancers and bands from different schools, and Goldenbelle Dance Team member senior Aubrey Monistere has been among them.

"I liked just being able to dance with my friends and do something for San Antonio," Monistere said. "It was a great experience. It was something I went to as a child, so it was really fun to actually be a part of it."

But it's not all as glorious as childhood dreams

might imagine. In April, weather in San Antonio starts to change, with the sun starting to heat things up more. The heat can be a problem for those participating in the parade, and make it a less enjoyable situation, as Monistere experienced.

"It was very hot," Monistere said. "Our makeup was melting, I got a sunburn and I ended up being so exhausted. But besides the heat, it was very fun."

While Monistere marches, students like senior Robert Torres work behind the scenes preparing and selling classic Fiesta foods and beverages downtown at places like the Historic Market Square with family.

"Our stand is located in downtown market square," Torres said. "Usually we do something called Biting for the Boost, so this year we had aguas frescas, fruit cups, snow cones, hamburgers and gorditas."

Working a stand like this one is not easy, and requires a lot of time and dedication to attend the millions of people who stop by to grab one of these savory foods.

"I don't like the long hours," Torres said. "We get there at around six or seven in the morning and we stay there until about midnight."

While the hours are rigorous, Torres still enjoys being a part of Fiesta and all of the people who come enjoy his family's stand.

"The mass amount of people that come here and just the different kinds of faces that you see and the different people that you meet is a lot," Torres said.

Participating in any fiesta event can be exhausting for students involved, but what matters is the experience and being able to do something for their city, helping bring the community together. Monistere sees this value, and is proud to be a part of it.

"I felt really blessed to be able to be a part of something so great," she said. "Especially for my hometown."



## Don't Miss These Events!



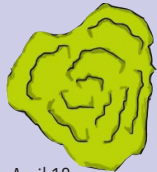
by Anjelina Gallegos, Staff Writer

April 12-13

5-11pm on Friday  
Noon- 11pm on Saturday  
@ St. Mary's University  
\$30 at the gate

### Fiesta Oyster Bake

A scholarship fundraising event including music featuring five stages of entertainment including Rock, Country, Tejano/Latin, R&B/ Hip Hop/ Pop and even children's music. Presenting various types of oysters that are served baked, raw and fried by vendors, as well as other classic Fiesta foods.



April 18

3-9pm  
@ 434 S. Alamo St.  
Free Admission

### Fiesta at Hemisfair

A playful spot for every San Antonian, this event features booths of every sort, including music, a boutique of arts & crafts and mouthwatering vendors of San Antonio's culinary creations.



April 18-28

Hours vary  
@ 449 S. Cherry St.  
\$22-\$25 for a wristband

### Fiesta Carnival

With laughter and smiles filling the atmosphere of color and excitement, this event includes a variety of foods that you can feast on and rides that you can take a whirl in, all in the heart of San Antonio. All proceeds benefit of Fiesta San Antonio.



April 23-26

5:30pm-10:30pm  
@ 418 La Villita St.  
\$15 at the gate

### NIOSA

"A Night in Old San Antonio" is a riveting four-night event in the heart of downtown San Antonio with an uplifting, remarkable atmosphere. Celebrating the city's heritage with over 200 varieties of food and drink stands; it includes 14 continuous live musical acts and festive decorations in 15 themed areas. All proceeds benefiting the San Antonio Conservation Society, which works towards restoration, preservation, education and advocacy programs for the City of San Antonio.



April 26

9:30am-2:30pm  
@ Parade Route  
\$12-\$25 reserved seat  
Free if you find a spot

### Battle of Flowers Parade

In honor of the "heroic spirit of the patriots of the Alamo," this parade celebrates the victory of San Jacinto and the diverse customs of Texas and our nation.

April 27

7pm-10:30pm  
@ Parade Route  
\$19-\$35 reserved seat  
Free if you find a spot

### Fiesta Flambeau Parade

With "Reflections of Music Past" as the parade theme, the lit-up night parade is a can't miss. With food and drink vendors along the route, this parade is a San Antonio favorite for many.



## Here the latest news?

# Chikin is better than beef!



Ingram Park (inside and outside the mall)



# WE CAN MAKE THE WEIGHT FEEL LIGHTER

## OPINION: Students, city must better support LGBTQ+ peers

### Staff Editorial

We firmly believe that those on our campus who identify, openly or privately, as LGBTQ+, do not receive as much support from our campus community, or overall city culture as they should. From blatant negative remarks and slurs in classrooms, hallways, and at the dinner table, to problematic misunderstandings on how to support those within the 'queer' community, we need to do better.

Imagine receiving negative remarks from your peers for your love of a type of music, or being threatened based on your love of food. Imagine having to lie about who your brother or sister was or being ignored by your closest friends. Every day, students within the LGBTQ+ community are forced to hide who they are in fear of being judged in a negative manner, and those who are out have to deal with the majority of their peers treating them differently. When it comes to those identifying within the LGBTQ+ community, they just want to be treated normally.

According to Human Rights Campaign ([www.hrc.org](http://www.hrc.org)), nearly 92% of LGBTQ+ youth claim to live in a society that throws around negative remarks regarding the 'queer' community. And with LGBTQ+ youth reporting that they seriously consider suicide at a

rate three times higher than heterosexual youth, it's important we show support. We believe that the main problem is that many do not know when certain remarks and/or comments cross the boundary of being demeaning. Simple phrases such as "that's gay" or "stop being gay" can seriously hurt someone, and communicate to them that they are somehow less-than, or that who they are is a defect. If we see or hear someone making rude remarks or using negative phrases regarding those within the LGBTQ+ community, even casual phrases like those above, it is our job as a community to speak up. Whether we identify within the community or not, if we don't tell people to stop, they will continue their demeaning and destructive habits.

Another mistake many in our community make either out of ignorance or intentionally to demean or dismiss others is assuming someone else's gender and/or pronouns. We completely understand that sometimes it is difficult to know what someone identifies as, but a great solution to that is to simply ask them. It is better to get clarification before we make a mistake, and accidentally make them uncomfortable.

We understand that not everyone agrees with the lifestyle of those within the LGBTQ+ community

due to their specific religious interpretation, but if a friend comes out to us, the best thing we can possibly do is support them. Regardless of what our friends think or even what our religious interpretation is, if someone close to us, even family, comes out to us, it is proven to be devastating and destructive to not find a way to support them. While it may seem like not so big of a deal to us, it took a lot for that person to tell us. That person obviously trusts us, so why ruin that trust? Even if we don't agree, it is best to keep our opinions to ourselves because our peer can't change just to make us feel better. While some groups, often due to religious interpretation, believe that these things are a choice that can be changed through "conversion therapy," the vast majority of organizations in the fields of psychiatry, pediatrics, family therapy, medicine, counseling, and social work have official positions that definitively say it is not a choice, and that presenting or discussing it as such is immensely destructive to the LGBTQ+ individual.

Even those of us who wish to support the LGBTQ+ community must re-evaluate the ways we believe we should give support. We strongly advise you not to try to "out" anyone. Every day, friends and family members try to find a way to "out" those

## the SUPPORT starts here:



### Organizations that support LGBTQ+ youth in SA:

Equality Texas  
Fiesta Youth  
Human Rights Campaign of SA  
Pride Center San Antonio  
San Antonio Gender Association  
SA LGBT Chamber of Commerce



### LGBTQ+ Friendly Churches:

Good Shepherd Lutheran Church  
Madison Square Presbyterian Church  
University Presbyterian Church  
San Antonio Mennonite Church



### Resource/Support Groups:

BeHuman San Antonio Transgender Online Support  
The Trevor Project Lifeline  
Q Connection LGBTQ+ Support Group  
PRIDE Families Pride Center Support for Parents

within the LGBTQ+ community, thinking that it is a great idea, believing that it shows their support, or they do this by accident because they assume everyone in that person's life knows. It's great that we fully support whoever comes out to us, but it is not our responsibility to tell others. Our friend or family member told us and us alone. It would not only break their trust with us, but also bring great amounts of anxiety, feelings of insecurity, and even danger to them. Instead of trying to do the work for them, we should try holding a light-hearted conversation with them, reminding them that we will be by their side if and when they decide to go public. We shouldn't rush them into coming out either, and instead encourage them to do what they need to do with their own timing.

When all is said and done, the best thing to do in any situation is to keep any negative remarks we have to ourselves. The LGBTQ+ students on our campus and in our community already deal with enormous amounts of stress, anxiety, negative comments, feelings of self doubt and other difficult trials. We don't want to be a part of that or be known for that as a campus or a culture.

This student editorial was approved unanimously by the Gavel Staff Editorial Board.



The Pool Management Group

San Antonio Pool Management

# NOW HIRING



- *Lifeguards*
- *Swim Instructors*
- *Pool Managers*
- *Gate Attendants*

**APPLY NOW**  
[sanantonio-pmg.com](http://sanantonio-pmg.com)

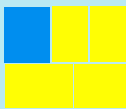
**210-822-8100**





# SPORTS SHORTS

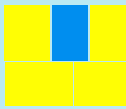
by Jake Lee, Sports Reporter



## VARSITY SOFTBALL

Current Record: 18 W - 3 L

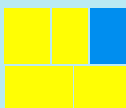
Senior pitcher Jalissa Alicea, heading to play at Texas A&M International, steps up to the plate, hoping to hit a "dinger" and get on base, adding to the offense game in addition to what she already brings on defense.



## VARSITY GIRLS SOCCER

Season Record: 1 W - 21 L - 1 tie

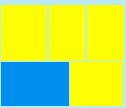
Sophomore Natalia Martinez looks downfield for an open passing lane to move the ball forward to a teammate in order to quicken the pace of the offensive attack in the game.



## TRACK & FIELD

12 Athletes Advance to Area Meet

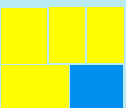
Senior sprinter William Rogers hands off the baton to junior anchor Brandon Reynosa at the Northside Meet in the four by 200 meter relay. The boys 4x200 team advanced to Area from the district meet.



## VARSITY BASEBALL

Current Record: 0 W - 21 L

Junior Antonio Maldonado exerts full force with perfect form, getting some warm up throws in before an O'Connor hitter steps up to the plate. The young team this year gained valuable experience and showed growth, despite a frustrating record.



## VARSITY BOYS SOCCER

Season Record: 3 W - 16 L - 3 ties

Senior right mid-fielder Seth Girard looks to put the big boot on the ball as Warren defenders try to close in on him.



photo by Alyssa Salinas



photo by Jonathan Schuessler

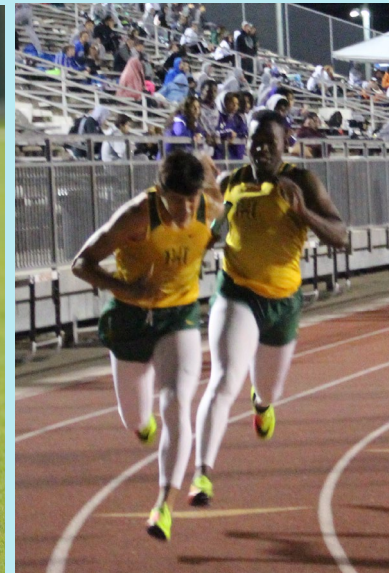


photo by Jett Knight

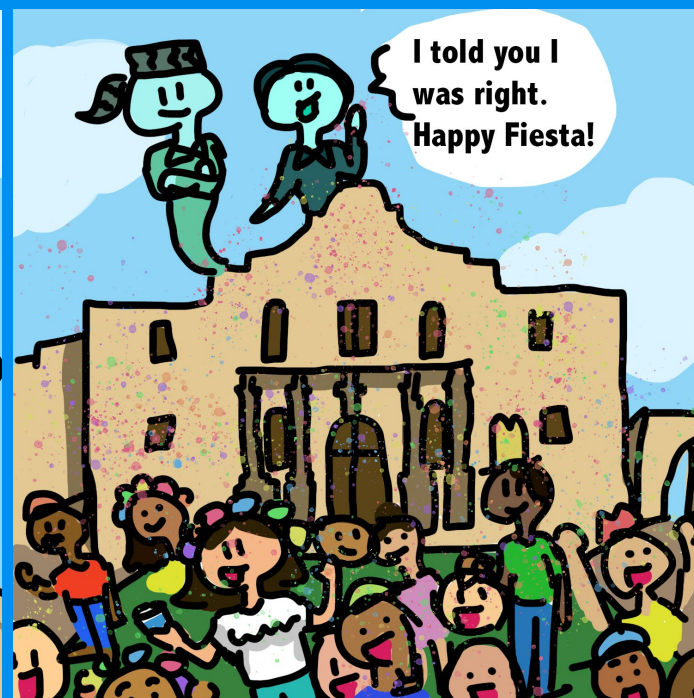


photo by Arthur Martinez



photo by Jett Knight

# COMIC RELIEF



"FIESTA SPIRIT(S)"

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:

**Mariachi Oro** - For all they do to make our school culture better, and for another trip to State!

The **Cyber Patriot Team** -For continuing their winning ways and representing Husky Nation on the national level.

**All of those who sent us congratulations** for the Gavel Staff's second Gold Crown Award from CSPA. Your words, encouragement, and support mean the world to us!