



10 Ways To Do The Right Thing With Eggs and other Homecoming Ideas.

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History of Homecoming

Looking back on the AHS tradition.

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Homecoming SPECIAL EDITION

Albany High School

# THE COUGAR

Albany, California

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## Campus Connection

- \* Homecoming begins today and runs through next Friday.
- \* Red Ribbon Week, which discourages tobacco, alcohol and drug abuse, gets under way tomorrow through Oct. 31.
- \* The Advanced Chorale will perform "A Madrigal Evening" in the Little Theater. Doors open tomorrow night at 8.
- \* New School Construction Update: Key Route Blvd. will be partially closed until Oct. 25 for the placement of a storm drain. Students are reminded not to distract construction workers.
- \* First Quarter Grading Period ends Nov. 5.
- \* SAT I and SAT II will take place Nov. 6.
- \* Rehearsals for the Fall play *Tom Jones* have begun. Tentative performance dates are Nov. 12-14, 19-20 in the Little Theater.
- \* Floatbuilding hours :  
Sun. 10/24 6-10 p.m.  
Mon. 10/25 6-10 p.m.  
Tues. 10/26 6-10 p.m.  
Wed. 10/27 6-11 p.m.  
Thurs. 10/28 6-11:45 p.m.
- \* Congratulations to Mr. Kenneth Maynor of the English Department and his wife Louise on the birth of their daughter Miranda Isabela Maynor: 7 pounds, 12 ounces, 20-1/2 inches.

by Amy Chen

Gaze into the crystal ball and what do you see for next week?

For starters, the future of Albany High's Homecoming depends largely on the actions of its student body.

Under a concerted effort by the Administration and the Albany community to curb students' Homecoming Week antics, midnight forays that often include such weapons as eggs and toilet paper will no longer be acceptable.

Adopting a zero-tolerance policy, the AHS Administration and Albany Police Department have been notified of floathouse locations for all four classes.

"We've tightened the link between the Police Department and AHS," warns Superintendent Gary Mills.

In a further crackdown on surprise showers of shaving cream and other messy condiments, adults have been recruited to stand guard during all floatbuilding.

"We're going to have district personnel at each floathouse," says Vice Principal Randall Booker. "It could be me or a person designated by the district to represent school personnel."

According to new Homecoming guidelines formed by a subcommittee of students, PTA and Board of Education members, floatbuilding hours will be implemented for the first time.

"Why else have Homecoming if it's not fun and enjoyable?" Mr. Booker asks. "Homecoming is be-



**MONEY TRAIN** passes through AHS as PTA President **Carolie Sly** gives \$100 checks for floatbuilding to Class Presidents (from left) **Kathryn Kirkpatrick, Keenan Moore, Helen Lau, Elizabeth Nelson.**

Photo By Adan Gonzalez

ing with your friends, hanging out, taking pictures, working on the float. We want that to happen.

"We're just trying to curb the 5% who tend to screw things up."

As a way of keeping close tabs on the floathouses which have been past targets of vandalism, a personnel member and class officer must be present at all times of float construction.

"I'm going to be at floathouses above and beyond my work day to do this for you," states Mr. Booker. "We're trying to provide a safe environment at the floathouses."

"If we're going to support you, you have to support us."

Under other revised regulations, only students from the appropriate grades will be allowed on the premises with the stipulation that any adult has the authority to remove a student or group of students from the property.

In the event of a discipline problem, "we want to take it case by

case," Mr. Booker says. "All we can control is what's happening at floathouses."

Mr. Booker also notes that students in ASG may lose their participation grade in Leadership if found to be involved in unsavory nighttime activities.

"You guys are leaders and in order to do that you need to lead by example," he told the Leadership class last week.

In recent meetings discussing the new rules, the number of students allowed at a floathouse at any given time became a sensitive topic of debate.

"One of the goals of Leadership this year is to make the invisible kid visible," Mr. Booker says. "Homecoming is generally one of the more inclusive events at AHS. Where do we draw the line? What is that number?"

After much reasoning and compromise, the committee reached an upper limit of 50 students to be

permitted at each floathouse at a time.

"We don't want to send kids away because we're one or two over," PTA member Janet Seltzer explains. "We don't want to have kids excluded if they aren't doing anything wrong."

In other changes, more faculty will be on hand to ensure that students will be held to the same responsibilities as on campus.

"We're going to have more faculty signed up to walk with the parade," Mr. Booker points out. "Students on a number of occasions have expressed that they want more involvement from teachers."

The idea of including and not excluding extends to the community when the 33rd Annual Homecoming Parade will wind through Solano and Marin Avenues, past the elementary schools and onto Cougar Field for the football game against Kennedy High.

However, the City of Albany has the authority to cancel the parade permit if circumstances warrant such action.

With these changes, PTA President Carolie Sly hopes to have a more community-friendly Homecoming in the future since "we can't find sponsors for various classes until we have a Homecoming that doesn't turn off businesses."

"But I believe we can all work together as a team," predicts Superintendent Mills. "And make Homecoming a good activity. That's all we're asking."

## Straight Talk From Top Cop

by Johnny Din

How does the idea of not having Homecoming this year sound?

According to a former AHS student — none other than Albany Police Chief Larry Murdo — it may very well happen.

"There could be a move of canceling Homecoming this year," he warns, "if the problems from the past years continue."

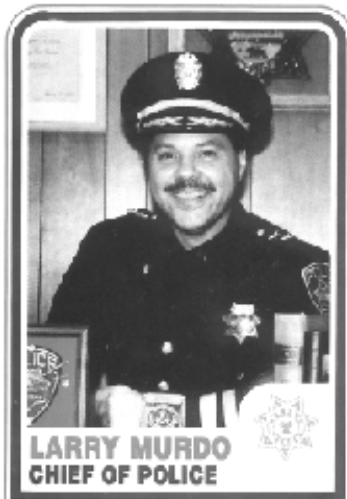
Chief Murdo knows the Homecoming tradition well and would like students to take the high road.

"I don't want to see this happen," he admits.

Still, the possibility of the cancellation of Homecoming exists, especially if past problems with vandalism persist.

There will be extra APD personnel in marked and unmarked vehicles to oversee next week's events.

The goal of the Albany Police Department this year, according to Chief Murdo, "is to prevent unlaw-



ful conduct and, if it occurs, to do what is legally required."

In addition, there will be consequences for those students who exercise such unlawful conduct.

They could face school sanction, criminal action and civil action.

Violators may be suspended or even arrested and taken to court.

School officials have been told by the District Attorney's office the district can be held liable for prob-

lems related to Homecoming, even if they do not take place on school grounds.

Also, the rumor that the Homecoming parade permit will be revoked remains if a single egg is thrown, though Chief Murdo refused to either confirm or deny this supposition.

What the former Cougar and top lawman suggests to make everyone happy and continue the tradition of Homecoming is "to have a good time but do it lawfully!"

### News Flash

AHS spirit stickers are no longer something you need to think about.

Although the stickers gave great discounts at home game sporting events, it was perceived by many as unfair to those who could not purchase the sticker.

Full refunds will be given throughout the month by Ms. Julie Salas in the Bookroom.

## Homecoming 1999 Schedule For Next Week



### Theme Days

- Monday— Twins
- Tuesday— Flashback
- Wednesday— Pajama
- Thursday— Super Hero
- Friday— Red & White

Today, students are dressed in beach gear to celebrate Beach Day.

### Lunch Activities

- Monday— Tug-of-War
- Tuesday— Relay Race
- Wednesday— Eating Contest
- Thursday— Lip Sync
- Friday— Afternoon Parade

### Night Activities

- Monday — Boys' Volleyball at Middle School Gym with a night rally led by AHS Cheerleaders to introduce Varsity Football and Girls' Volleyball players. \$1 admission to be contributed to charity, 6:30-9 p.m.
- Wednesday — Powder Puff at Ocean View Elementary, 6:30- 9:30 p.m.
- Friday — Dance at Middle School Gym, 7-11 p.m.

# Teachers Split Over Homecoming Issues

by Margaret Chan

Even though students feel energized going into Homecoming, many teachers let out a long, exhaustive sigh.

Most of the teachers at Albany High agree that during the last week of October, students become distracted by all of the exciting things going on.

While participating in Homecoming events such as Spirit Days may be fun and entertaining to students, History teacher Mr. David De Hart points out that students often become "preoccupied with nonsense."

He feels that this nonsense is detrimental to constructive class activity, an opinion shared by many other AHS teachers.

Others, such as Science teacher Mr. Rich Lohman feel that in most

cases, these days "add to the life of the class."

A few sympathetic teachers feel for students who lose precious homework time to late night float-building.

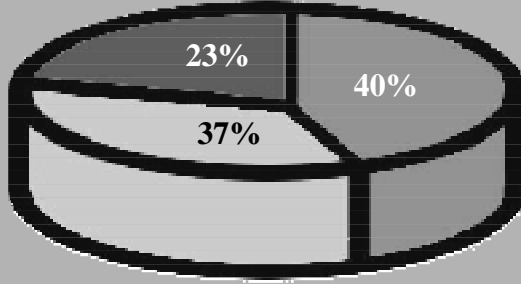
Such teachers vow to rarely assign large projects or excessive homework during this coming week.

Though some teachers feel that classes are adversely affected by Spirit Week activities, all AHS teachers surveyed believe that Homecoming is an AHS tradition that should not be canceled.

Whether or not teachers facilitate fun by lightening the homework load remains to be seen.

However one thing seems to remain true: they too want Homecoming to stay.

## Question: Does Homecoming bring distraction into the classroom?



Source: Based on a survey of 30 AHS teachers.

"Class atmosphere is constructed by the teacher and students. There is only a distraction if you make a distraction."

— Mrs. Peggy Carlock

"My philosophy is play hard and work hard. I think it's great for students to play hard but they need to work hard too."

— Mrs. Joan Sextro

"All work and no play makes Jack 'n Jill very dull kids."

— Mrs. Janice Hickey

"I think people can make it be but I don't think it's a significant distraction in class."

— Ms. Elisabeth Klein

"In the past, it's proven to be destructive."

— Ms. Susan Charlip

"I think Homecoming at AHS has become a twisted ritual — It needs to be reinvented."

— Mrs. Laura Mori

## Whether You Love It Or Hate It... It's Back

by Matt Haney

It's late October here in Albany and everyone — students, teachers, administrators, police and community members — know exactly what that means.

For teachers, it is the time of year when students kiss their feet for a reduction of homework.

For administrators, it is a period of great stress and anxiety.

For Albany police, it could quite possibly be the most exciting and eventful week of their entire year.

For community members, it could mean a week of sleepless nights and condiment-covered lawns.

And for some AHS students (yes, even the Freshmen), it is po-

tentially the most engaging and enjoyable week of the entire year.

Yes, as you all know, it's Homecoming.

And whether you love it or hate it, you can't stop it 'cause it's back.

It's not a question of love or hate in the minds of Albany High School students. Everyone loves Homecoming.

It embodies all that a healthy teenager should love: competition, school and class spirit, cooperation, revenge, gloating and flat-out fun.

Homecoming has always been a tradition at Albany High School.

It is an eternal tradition much like football to De La Salle or high-test scores to Piedmont.

Nobody does Homecoming like

we do and it is important that we pride ourselves in this.

In a high school career full of sub-par sports teams and a school that can be overlooked with a ladder, this Albany tradition of having a crazy, zealous Homecoming is darn near the only thing we have left.

It is the week in which school spirit reaches its zenith and is the only reason why class spirit exists in the first place.

It is the only week of the year when we are not just AHS students, or even just Freshmen, Sophomores, Juniors or Seniors.

Instead we belong to the Class of '00, '01, '02 and '03 and take great pride when yelling out these two numbers.

Homecoming forms memories like no other aspect of the high school experience ever could.

Nothing is reminisced upon more than those dawn's-early-light Homecoming nights. Nearly all of my most memorable high school moments happened during the last week of October.

To all of you who have never participated in Homecoming events and do not plan to, you are missing out on a lot.

Never again in your life will you have another chance to participate in events such as the ones Homecoming provides.

This Homecoming, let's cut the violence but beyond that,

let's keep it the tradition it has been for years and years.

Go ahead, administrators and policemen, do what you must: punish those who are too violent or too destructive in this coming week.

But otherwise, please keep the new rules and regulations to a minimum and let Homecoming be what it has always been.

Homecoming is only one week of the year, one week when Albany students can let it all hang out.

It's one of the few times when we can celebrate our love for our school and class.

Subduing our tradition can't make anything better.

Our school was torn down already, please don't take our most cherished tradition down with it.

## Top 10 Constructive Things To Do With Eggs

by Chris Colvin

10) Put 'em in a warm place and see if they ever hatch (probably they'll just get stinky).

9) Try to break 'em by pressing equally on each side.

8) Boycott 'em and make a statement about animal rights. How would you like it if all your babies were taken away and sold as food?!

7) Whip 'em up, add a little Mayo and use as hair gel, a la Cameron Diaz in *There's Something About Mary*.

6) Scramble 'em!



ACTRESS Cameron Diaz uses Homecoming eggs the right way.

5) Paint 'em.

4) Crack two of 'em into a glass and gulp 'em down raw. It's the original "Powershake."

3) Use 'em to shine up that bald head.

2) Fry 'em on a hot sidewalk.

And the number one constructive thing to do with eggs is....

1) Leave 'em at the store and spend your money on toilet paper!

## Why Don't We Try Leniency?

by Andrew Hara

Let's be honest, Albany High students love their tradition of dousing students from rival classes with anything that will make them pungent, wet and dirty.

This tradition was not meant to inflict pain upon underclassmen or cause damage to the community. It was simply a way for Albany High to enjoy harmless class rivalries during a week designated for school spirit.

Unfortunately, this tradition has soured in recent years, eliciting numerous community complaints.

Cars have been dented, houses have been damaged and people have been injured.

Now, in an attempt to negate the destructive behavior between rival classes, Administration has threatened to cancel Homecoming if stu-

dents don't "eliminate activities and substances which result in any property damage, temporary or permanent," per AHS guidelines.

This is the wrong step in trying to solve Homecoming's problem.

Canceling Spirit Week would only arouse anger among the student body, prompting more chaos than what's already at hand.

Perhaps the conflict is not as uncontrollable as people think.

With Administration's strict definitions of "damage," students have reverted to destructive behavior because even non-destructive behavior has been prohibited.

The main cause of damage has stemmed from incidents involving eggs.

Alternative materials include water balloons, shaving cream, condiments and toilet paper.

These materials are innocuous in comparison to the harmful effects of eggs.

Nevertheless, in recent years, Administration has prohibited any and all use of these substances, even in places where the harmless materials would not cause community damage.

Such bans have only provoked students into running rampant on the streets with eggs because there is no legal alternative.

These students, oblivious to the damage they might cause, reason "if an egg and a water balloon are equally punishable, why not use the egg?"

The past Administration's actions in trying to stop the behavior of students with this attitude have had little positive result.

The threat of suspension, the threat of arrest and now the threat to cancel Homecoming has had no effect on changing their misconduct.

Rather than laying down rule after rule, threat after threat, maybe Administration should look to compromise with the students.

Perhaps they could allow school-sponsored, egg-free battles to take place at Cougar Field or Memorial Park between rival classes.

The threat of disciplinary action if caught with eggs would keep the hazard away because there would be legal, not to mention safer, alternatives.

This proposal would satisfy students who desire the messy class wars and it should satisfy those who wish to keep destructive activities off the streets where it causes the most damage and generates the most community complaints.

Face it: neither side really wants Homecoming to be canceled.

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# Friendly Frugality: Homecoming Outfits Made Cheap

by Erin Danielson  
and Colleen Smallfield

Pajama Day. Twin Day. Flashback Day.

As you contemplate these dress-up day themes and relate them to your closet you will probably realize that there is no connection whatsoever. All you have is 200 pairs of identical Gap Khakis and some other generic stuff.

Does this apparel have any soul? No. And to win best outfit on a spirit day, you must have soul. That is the bottom line.

How can you remedy this problem? Have no fear... the Thrifty Girls are here.

## Hey, Freshmen: Just Remember It's All In Fun

by Sanam Jorjani  
and Nellie Lommen

With no Homecoming experience to speak of, the Freshmen have only images gathered from television, older siblings and upperclassmen to help them survive the coming week.

Some have formed their own ideas about what Homecoming is like here at Albany High, others don't know what to expect.

So, what do these anticipating Freshmen imagine the next five days hold in store for them... and are they ready?

For those brave souls who would open up and confess to their premonitions, we have spared them by using only their initials.

Interestingly enough, those who expressed fear were mostly male.

But what exactly are they most afraid of? Answers varied but in the end, it all comes down to one thing: upperclassmen.

"Basically I'm afraid of Chris, Ben and the '00 girls," admits Freshman C.M.E., "I heard they throw people in the garbage cans."

"I'm afraid of Powder Puff... I've seen the Junior girls play, and they seem to be great athletes. I just want to survive." ~T.C.M.

Freshman Z.A.P has a strong idea of what it will be like: "When I think of Homecoming I picture a bunch of upperclassmen jumping up and down around a bonfire with Freshmen burning at the stake."

There were of course those who are excited to see what Homecoming is like, and have a more optimistic view. They'd heard stories or seen pictures from past years and await the week in endless anticipation.

"I'm really looking forward to the dance, just to see what Homecoming's all about." ~C.L.T.

S.C.M. comments enthusiastically, "Homecoming, I think it's going to be great."

This was quite a contrast to what K.C.L has to say: "My Mom said I could stay home that week."

When confronted about Homecoming, most Freshmen simply shrugged, and quietly snuck away.

Makes you wonder what it is they're so afraid to share!

Here's a hint: Don't plan on sporting a white shirt and jeans unless you want to be twins with half the school.

Not that there aren't many more creative people in the student body. While there are of course some benefits to the white shirt and jeans combo, it's Homecoming—go out on a limb!

Creativity is the key to a successful Spirit Day ensemble. Try to go where no high-schooler has gone before. Anything bright, loud or just plain ugly is just the thing you need.

First off, places like Telegraph very rarely yield any good products. The racks are all too often

scoured by others and what is left behind is usually surprisingly over-priced.

Any shirt that costs more now than it did when it was manufactured in 1971 is not a bargain.

However if you are willing to spend a Saturday looking through all the racks in the vicinity, then you are probably going to find something useful.

Our personal favorite, as we've mentioned before, is Thrift Town. Nestled amongst the bungalows of El Sobrante (which means the leftovers en Espanol), Thrift Town is located on San Pablo Dam Road.

The perils of Thrift Town include the never-ending racks of

granny sweaters, not to mention the locals, but if you can look past this Thrift Town will provide you with good and cheap stuff.

Thrift Town can also supply you with clothes for all the Spirit Days, since they have everything from pajamas to platform shoes.

Most things here hover around the dollar range but we stress the importance of thoroughly washing your purchases.

If you find all of this way too much to handle, head to Target along San Pablo Avenue, next to the El Cerrito Del Norte BART station.

Target has all sorts of new, yet affordable items which lend them-

selves nicely to Pajama Day and Twin Day

For those of you who are really cheap or on a tight budget, the closets of your parents and grandparents no doubt house some pretty cool stuff.

Some of it may provide for an authentic costume on Flashback Day. Sunday dresses and '80s pantsuits may also lend themselves nicely.

If you are the type that has more than just 200 pairs of Gap Khakis, your own closet could also have a plethora of opportunities. Just mix and match.

And voila—instant Homecoming fun made cheap!

## Sophomores, Juniors and Seniors Reminisce

compiled by Linda Zhou



"I remember our pathetic little toilet paper float Freshman year..."  
— Marion Adams, 2000

"Marching in the Pep Band before the Homecoming game was fun."

— Genelle Benker, 2001

"Float making was fun but we got egged... but egging and getting egged is the most fun!"

— Nick Ching, 2001



"Powder Puff was off the hinges! We won!!"

— Sheila Ferreira, 2000

"I remember Freshman year, the night of Powder Puff. It was such an incredible rush to see everyone cheering for their class. It was an exciting night."

— Kyle Kemp, 2001

"It was fun because I got egged..."

— Amy Lee, 2000

"I remember hearing about how a bunch of kids threw eggs at the Junior floathouse's mom, accidentally cracking her tooth and cutting her lip with the eggs."

— Niki Pretti, 2001



"I still remember Home coming seeming too patriotic of the school."

— Columbine Robinson, 2002

"I remember I hit some girl in the back of her head with an egg. And she was in my own class! Oops."

— Luis Reader, 2001

"Freshman year's Drag Day was the best day and it was hilarious! It's so sad it's not around anymore."

— Morgan Theis, 2000

"I broke two of my ribs while people were throwing stuff at me."

— Nick Trahan, 2001



"I remember beating the Seniors in Powder Puff football!!!"

— Melody Wright, 2000

"When Esteban got down on the ground and ate the pie."

— Tali Weininger, 2000

"It was really fun getting shaving creamed. That was the highlight of Homecoming!"

— Kristie Yamasaki, 2000



"A great sadness was brought upon my soul due to our loss in the Homecoming football game... and I wish I had brought more clothes because it was really cold."

— Howard Zhao, 2000

## Hollywood High vs. Albany High

by Tamara Failor

Before we were Freshmen, unless we had particularly communicative teenage brothers and sisters (yeah, right), the high school experience we looked forward to, or dreaded, was what we saw on TV or in the movies.

But how similar are high schools of the screen to our real-life high school?

For one thing, Homecoming appears to play a tiny, if even existent, part in the movies these days. That doesn't mean there's a lack of football, cheerleaders, partying, formal balls, competition or hazing.

It now seems that the "in" subjects for high school-oriented movies aren't floats and pep rallies, but mostly Prom, the last days of school, Freshmen and even the Winter Ball.

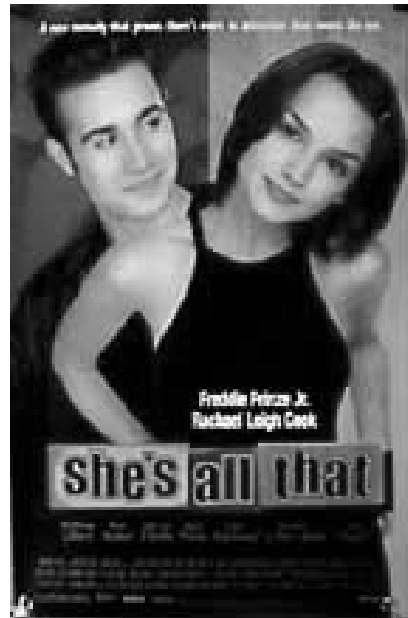
A good example is the heart-warming (but not mushy) comedy *Angus*, released in 1995. Angus (Charlie Talbert) is a sizable JV Freshman football star and science whiz, who is still taunted by his kindergarten archrival, Rick.

Rick is portrayed by the shorter and slightly twerpier, though not yet balding "golden boy" James Van Der Beek. (Check out Van Der Beek in another football flick, in which he stars as a Senior, *Varsity Blues*.)

Angus's horny little sidekick, Troy, is played by redheaded Chris Owen, who also doubles as a cowardly bully in *She's All That*, where he is also older and much taller.

Melissa, Rick's girlfriend, and Angus's crush since, yes, kindergarten, is played by Ariana Richards, also recognizable as that teenage chick who evaded Velociraptors with her little brother in *Jurassic Park*.

The movie opens with Angus causing a fumble for the opposite football team, but of course Rick catches it and gets the credit for the winning score.



Angus, who has broken Rick's nose multiple times, believes Melissa doesn't know he exists.

The movie, based on a short story, ends a bit sappily, but is overall enjoyable. This is one script that isn't afraid to put realistic dialogue (read: dirty words) into the mouths of teenagers.

But for once, it is done in order to actually further the plot and character development.

Another movie that isn't about Homecoming, but is somewhat pertinent, is the recent *She's All That*.

It focuses on a bet between the student body president and his best friend. Zachary Silers (Freddie Prinze Jr.) believes he has enough star-power that any girl he takes out could win the Prom Queen election.

Supposedly located in LA, the high school they attend is the perfect ex-

ample of the inconsistencies between Hollywood's view and ours.

The school is gigantic and overly elaborate. So is the Prom, deejayed by the same student who runs the campus radio station, played by rapper Usher.

To me, Zachary's character wasn't convincing either. Really, how many schools do you know of where the school president is a popular jock with a 4.5 GPA, and swooned over by all the girls in school?

No offense to our student government members, but how does he do it? Maybe the presidential rank isn't the aphrodisiac it used to be.

*Dazed and Confused* is one movie that isn't at all about Homecoming and is set in a place that is about as far away as you can get from Albany High as say, Texas.

It's the last day of school, 1976, and the things on incoming Senior Randall "Pink" Floyd's mind are the no-drugs-no-alcohol pledge pressed upon him by his football coach, giving incoming Freshmen a good paddling and... finding a place to party.

As dated as it sounds, this movie is actually one of the most amusing I watched, and features lots of young star-power, including a stoned Milla Jovovich (the leggy redhead of *The Fifth Element*) and Ben Affleck (*Chasing Amy*, *Good Will Hunting*) as a sadistic Senior who flunked just so he could enjoy the Freshman initiation rituals again.

Despite the fact that this movie has nothing to do with Homecoming, it gives us insight to what high school supposedly was like in 1976.

And even if you don't find that interesting, at least you can laugh at their drunken antics, and the way they dressed.

Hey, some of them could have been our parents, right?

## Femme 'Powder' Pumped Up

by Margaret Manson

Powder Puff, one of the most anticipated Homecoming events, brings femme power to a new level.

The Senior Class is scheduled to battle the Sophomores, while Juniors will be busy picking a fight with the Freshmen.

Covered with mud and pumped with spirit, the two victors then slug it out in the championship.

The big question is: Who's gonna win? Will the class of '00 take first place for the second year in a row? Junior Alison West says, "No, '01 is going to kick butt. I'm going all out this year."

West doesn't just talk the talk, she also walks the walk.

In last year's Powder Puff competition, West proved to be a major asset for the Junior Class. Kyle Kemp, this year's Juniors' quarterback, is also expected to have an excellent performance.

Senior quarterback Leifa Mayers of the Class of 2000 led her team to victory in last year's



WINNING PLAYERS gloat after last year's Powder Puff victory.

championship game.

"We've got great athletes returning," says Senior Laura Jensen. "Hopefully we'll come out strong again. I dare the other classes to challenge our team."

Class of '02, headed by quarterback Kira Jones, is up to the challenge. Returning from their loss Freshman year, the Sophomores are loaded with new class spirit.

They may be the newcomers but the athletic talent of the '03 class should not be ignored.

It is up to the girls of each team to claim a victory but having the right coach is crucial. Each class is responsible for picking its own coach(es), which usually ends up being a few guys from the football team.

There will no doubt be a fight for the services of Coach Josh Freeman (aka "Fuzzy").

Beware the 27th of October when the Powder Puff girls strut their stuff at Ocean View Elementary.

Don't forget your war paint.

## What Other Schools Do For Their Festivities

by Chris Colvin

When students at AHS describe Homecoming, they talk about the Spirit Days, Powder Puff football and most of all interclass rivalry.

In recent years, this has turned the streets of Albany into a battlefield.

Each night of Homecoming week, students run around town carrying eggs, water balloons, shaving cream, ketchup, mustard and chocolate sauce looking to "make dessert out of each other" and sabotage float building efforts.

Sometimes other schools raise spirit by disrespecting their rivals.

As El Cerrito High's Leadership teacher Ms. Nancy Storer says, "When I went to high school, the floats were all themed against the rival school."

At some schools, class competitions are held at the nightly rallies. In Idaho Falls, Idaho, students at Skyline High School participate in ice sculpting competitions, a soap box derby, karaoke competition and class skits.

Male cheerleading demonstrations and armwrestling competitions (guys and girls are split into divisions by size) are popular at Central Valley High School of Redding. Also, each year, the teachers put on a skit and participate in all the dress-up days.

A good school to compare AHS to for floatbuilding is El Cerrito. Justin Lee and Keiske Satake are the Commissioners of Student Activities and Social Affairs at ECHS. Their class has won the float competition every year but one.

"We have a month after the theme is announced to build and prepare our float," says Satake. "This year the theme is cities. We [the Seniors] have San Francisco."

This extended period of time for floatbuilding is helpful in creating bigger and better floats because

there's time to come up with a creative design and a sturdy base.

Lee adds that, "Usually for the first three weeks there are just five to 10 people building, but by the last week, it's crunch time, and there may be as many as 25 or 30."

Despite the small number of people working on the float, it doesn't seem that people feel left out because anyone who wants to contribute is given the opportunity.

The final step in float assembly is to put them onto flatbed trucks.

Trucks are usually donated to each class, explains Satake. "Businesses want to support the school, so they gladly donate paint or whatever you need."

There is something at stake here besides just bragging rights. Float competition winners get prize money for the class.

As in Albany, the floathouses are all within close vicinity of the school and the police are notified of their location.

"Everyone tries to keep their floathouses a secret," Lee explains. "But when you hear banging of hammers and loud music, it's pretty clear."

ECH's Ms. Storer explains one serious problem during their Homecoming last year:

"There was a water balloon fight at the Senior Rally. It was going quite well, when a Senior threw a water balloon into the crowd. That escalated to the point where people were throwing basketballs. One girl was hit by a plastic bottle and had to go to the emergency room."

After that one incident, ECH's Administration canceled the event.

Here at Albany we too are faced with the possibility of events being canceled.

We should look to other schools for new Homecoming ideas, instead of suffering similar punishments.

## Thanks For Being There, Kennedy

by Abdul Jandali

Okay, so you're probably thinking poorly of the Albany High football team right now.

After its sordid performances the past five weeks, you probably dismiss any still existing claims of a new and improved squad at AHS as feigned school spirit.

We at the Sports Department believe otherwise — Albany's peril is over.

Two of Albany's three league losses this season have been at the hands of perennial ACCAL powerhouses De Anza and St. Mary's.

The third setback was to Piedmont, a team which has proven to hold a renewed and highly potent air attack, evidenced by its 38-34 victory over St. Mary's, the same team that last year chewed out

Piedmont, 41-22.

With these teams already played, Albany's woe in indomitable foes is done for the season. The only exception may be El Cerrito, who they will play today.

Hopefully the phrase "Last year's team is history" will find its fruition in the latter part of the season.

Regardless of Albany's improvement upon last season, however, one thing is certain: we dominate Kennedy High.

Remember Kennedy? Who can forget our rival out of Richmond, the lone ACCAL school that fell victim to Albany last year, 16-8.

The passing game flourished for Albany, providing huge gains and accounting for a touchdown and a two-point conversion.

The defense excelled as well, shutting down Kennedy's running game and severely restricting Eagle receptions.

Look for even better gameplay this year, with an indefatigable running game and a punishing core of linebackers on defense.

With Kennedy as our Homecoming rivals, Albany school spirit will undoubtedly burgeon as the likes of Billy Bennet "truck fools" and make for a lopsided victory.

The Cougars ruined Kennedy's Homecoming last year but don't expect any productive revenge from the Eagles.

Albany's "new and improved" squad will quite surely control the game, making this year's highly-anticipated Homecoming all the more exciting.

## Albany's Homecoming Through The Ages

by Colleen Smallfield

Tradition is the word most used in conjunction with Albany High's Homecoming.

While some of it has been changed over the years, many traditions endure.

Mr. Ed Hill, an art teacher in his 27th year at AHS says, "Homecoming has stayed pretty much the same. Floats, the parade, the excitement of the class competition."

The Homecoming that is familiar to the students and community now all began in 1966 when the first float was built by Cougar students.

Floats have remained quite similar but modern floats seem to have benefited from students gaining experience with building.

In the mid '80s and early '90s, lawn floats accompanied the traditional car floats and were displayed in the area which used to be our beloved courtyard.

But the lawn floats were often promptly destroyed by rival classes.

Still, the actual product has traditionally been less of a stress than the "bonding" the students do over floats.

Campus Supervisor Josh Freeman, better known as Fuzzy, graduated from AHS in 1987 and says that floatbuilding "was more of a social gathering."

Fuzzy also recalls another class bonding activity: "We had a Senior sleep-over in Memorial Park, there was barbecue and music. It was actually a fun thing."

At the end of the parade through Albany, the Cougar football team has always played but unfortunately not always won.

However, Mr. Hill cites his favorite memory as the 1990 Homecoming, mostly because "Albany beat Piedmont that day."

To support AHS, the Cougar mascot has been present at most Homecoming games along with the Marching Band.

While the mascot has gone through at least four different costumes, the AHS Marching Band is still sporting those red and yellow

polyester suits with pieces dating back all the way to 1970.

Perhaps another time-honored tradition as important as floatbuilding is Powder Puff.

This tradition began in the mid-'60s with Senior girls playing a lighthearted game against Varsity Football players.

Powder Puff existed in this fashion until it was mysteriously dropped in the early '90s, only to return a few years later.

When the activity was brought back on the scene, it had a new edge.

This generation of Powder Puff players are bloodthirsty.

Each class creates a team and plays each other in tournament-style fashion.

The Senior Class dominated over the years, until last year's Homecoming when the then Junior Class of 2000 became the first to tip Seniors from their throne.

Along with the spirit of Powder Puff, the AHS male population often switched roles and wore the girls' cheerleading uniforms—a



MR. JOSH FREEMAN shows off his stomach at 1987 Homecoming festivities and the moment is forever captured in his Yearbook.

tradition which seems to have slowly drifted out of the Homecoming festivities.

However, both Mr. Hill and Fuzzy point out that eggs were never part of past Homecomings.

"We knew everybody's parents," confesses Fuzzy. "Egging each others' houses wouldn't be acceptable."

Mr. Hill clearly agrees with Fuzzy's sentiment: "Eggs are more abusive, they aren't a part of Homecoming. If we could elimi-

nate the negatives — eggs, water balloons — and all the other cowardly acts, Homecoming would be great."

Homecoming has always revolved around traditions. Some date back 30 years and some will be created by this year's Seniors.

Perhaps the rich history of this school comes from these traditions.

Whether or not this is true, here's to a crizzly Homecoming for everyone!