

JUBILANT Ecstatic Lion players go through their traditional victory jumping jacks after handing the Holland Hall Dutch a 13-42 loss on the Lion's Homecoming night Oct. 17.



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48 HOURS Spread out over two October days, Homecoming 2014 offered something for just about everyone. At the pep rally, the Lion mascot (left) entertains the overflow crowd; Lion receiver Case Brabham and running back Justin Jones (center) await the opening kickoff against Holland Hall Oct. 17; defensive end Andrew McClain (right) charges his query, holding the Dutch play to just two yards. The Lions ultimately overpowered the Dutch 42-13 to improve their record to 6-3.

Rays of neon blue and alien-green lights illuminated the black leather interior as the speakers shook the bus on its way to Rio. More of a moving living room than a vehicle, the couches of the party bus seamlessly curved around the walls and merged with the floor, interrupted only by circular speakers. A group of seniors including George Lin and his date laughed and sang along to the songs, joyous grins flashing across their faces.

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—freshman Edward Ro



CELEBRATION
After being announced Homecoming Queen and King, (1) Elizabeth Farrow and Jake Holder slow dance together. His heart racing in excitement, sophomore Gopal Raman (2) lets out a shriek of joy. Senior Michael Fletcher (3) and others go crazy on the dance floor to a bumping jam. Celebrating in style, seniors Travis Nadalini and Justin Jones (4) perform their secret handshake during the Homecoming pep rally.



ROYALTY Homecoming Queen and King nominees Jake Holder, Elizabeth Farrow, Mason Smith, Rachel Robinson, Anesu Nyatanga, Justin Jones, Stuart Montgomery, Avita Anand, Nick Buckenham and Dominique Sung, gather at mid-field during halftime.

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Meanwhile, freshman Edward Ro nervously filed onto the freshman bus. His first Homecoming, Ro only learned about the procedures like the mum and corsage a couple of months in advance. Hands sweating, he sat next to his date as nervous laughs and hushed whispers came from the couples around him. Excitement growing with every passing minute, Ro really didn't know what to expect.

The freshmen buses screeched to a halt next to Edison's, the venue chosen by the Student Council. Models clad in Amazonian-hued Carnival dresses greeted Ro and his date as they entered the spacious room. Nervous at first, Ro ate dinner with his date then took to the dance floor, watching with delight as the upperclassmen started flowing into the room. The butterflies in his stomach now completely gone, Ro felt rejuvenated by the contagious fun of his older peers.

"I thought it was really cool seeing the older guys and how comfortable they felt on the dance floor," Ro said. "Just being around them as they had great times really made me feel accepted and comfortable."

After attending Homecoming all four years of Upper School, Lin enjoyed the environment of the dance floor, the senior room made Homecoming more low-key," Lin said. "It added a quieter room for the seniors to enjoy their last Homecoming. It really gave it a more relaxed feel."

As his first Homecoming came to a close, Ro felt like "one of the boys."

"I thought it was exciting because I felt accepted," Ro said. "The older guys didn't ostracize me or anything. When it all came down to it, we were all having a good time dancing on the same floor, it lived up to all the expectations."

Looking back on all his homecoming experiences, Lin remembered all his dances with fond memories. "I remember looking up to the older guys when I was a freshman," Lin said. "It was really cool to finally be a senior who everyone admired and respected."

Before coming here, I didn't know American parties were so formal, and I was really surprised by all the pictures before. However once I got to the place, it was like a normal teenage party, everyone dancing and having a great time. The casino made it even better because I made a lot of fake cash.

—senior Oscar Garcia del Rio

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—senior Oscar Garcia del Rio

Rio.

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After a 42-13 win Friday night, Marksmen flock to 'Rio' for a night of celebrating

34 | 35 YOUTHFUL DAYS | homecoming

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