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

—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 Gopa 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 pep rally.







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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 Carnaval 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 comfort

After attending Homecoming all four years of Upper School, Lin enjoyed the environment

it was one of his favorite homecomings. "It was really cool, probably one of the best Homecomings that I've been to." Lin said, "It was really nice being the oldest guvs there and having

everybody look up to us."

of the dance and thought

Flickering videos of the Rio nightlife and traditional South American dances lit up the front two corners of room, transporting the downtown Dallas venue into the heart of Brazil. Hundreds of strands of beads swung from the necks of the Marksmen and their dates, adding to the Brazilian flavor of the night. Like a South American Mardi Gras beads food and music filled the

atmosphere

As a senior, Lin enjoyed the usual homecoming activities like dancing to the loud music, but he also enjoyed an added twist: the senior room.

"Along with the open environment of the dance floor, the senior room made Home coming 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."

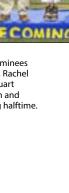
Looking back on all his homecoming experiences, Lin remembered all his

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."

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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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