

"I made the mistake of wearing [my mum] to the game and I took it off in the first five minutes."

-Sophomore Gabrielle Nelis

Texas tradition **Progression of mums**

For six years senior shares mum making experience with her mother

- by Kaylie Yingling

Going through the hallways

during any Texas homecoming week is a celebration like no other. And, senior Gabrielle Nelis wouldn't have it any other way.

"You walk down the hallway and it's like a competition for who has the most bells on their mum," Nelis said. "And you've got to go big for your last year, since you're not going to get another chance. They don't do it in college."

For Nelis, the craft experience of creating her mum provided her a week of fun, stressful and special moments spent with her mom.

"It's just like everyday, you know, you don't have time to sit down and do special activities," Nelis said.

Despite the plan for the project to be a fun one, Nelis and her mom had a rough road ahead creating the biggest mum they ever had made

"We were using super glue staples," Nelis said. "We broke like two staplers making it. It was horrible. It took like a week to put it together, but it was a group effort. It was fun and also stressful, because when you're making it and it's breaking you're like 'This isn't worth it.' Then, when you see the final product, you're like 'It's worth it.'"

As Friday came around, also known as game day, Nelis put her mum and some paint on her body to walk around the halls and celebrate with her friends. She soon realized it wasn't that easy.

"It was hard because I tripped a lot," Nelis said. "I was constantly trying to hold it because I didn't want it to get damaged. I wanted it to last."

Although she had a bit of a challenge through the day, she enjoyed going all out.

"It's mostly just something fun,

like everyday it's the same thing," Nelis said. "You wear a T-shirt, go to school, go home and go to work. It was fun just getting out of that routine, just doing something a little different to change things up. If you have that chance you should paint to have a little fun."

Nelis has four years, a progression of mums from her high school homecoming experiences.

"I have them on my wall," Nelis said. "We've learned better because my seventh grade one sucked. We paid like \$100 for all of the supplies. It's just better to learn on your own. It takes time to get a hang of it though."

While there's quite a few years to wait, Nelis says she looks forward to her next time making mums.

"[My kids'] mum is going to be twice as big as mine," Nelis said. "I'll have my mother, little grandma, over there helping me."