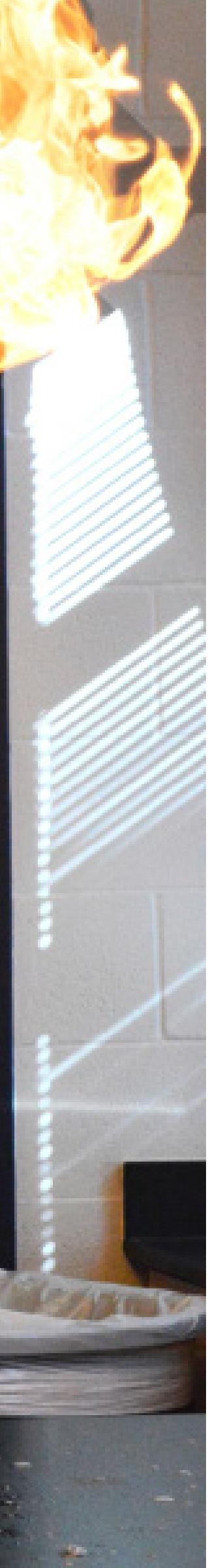


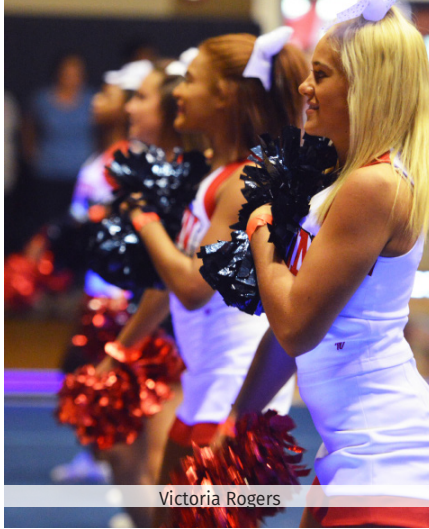
Feel the Burn. For a Pre-AP Chemistry demonstration, teacher **Stephen Kenney** ignites methane bubbles to demonstrate combustibility in a chemical reaction. "We were beginning our unit over types of reactions and the methane bubble demo is an example of a combustion reaction," Mr. Kenney said. "The students really enjoy seeing what chemical reactions actually look like." Photo by K. Huerta



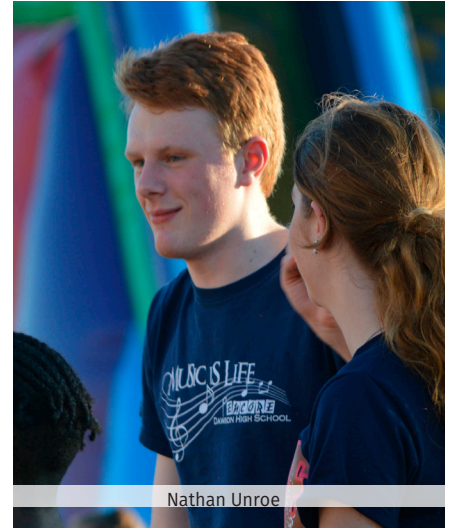
Inside the **CHAOS**



Hannah Michael



Victoria Rogers



Nathan Unroe

Big Crowds Can't Stop Small Inside Moments

You grope around in the black of your bedroom as you emerge from deep sleep at 6 a.m., searching desperately for your iPhone 6 so you can turn off the alarm. Why didn't you finish speech over the summer and take first period off? Oh well -- it's time to face the day, or rather, the year. No more afternoons lounging by the pool under the Texas sun, hanging out with your best friends for ten hours on a Tea Tuesday at the Drink Station, or staying up until 3 am, scrolling through your Twitter feed. **Here comes CHAOS.** It seems like just weeks ago you were trying to stay cool at Free Press while waiting for Chance the Rapper to take the stage. You hope your tan doesn't

fade as quickly as summer did. Your feet hit the floor, and it's officially a new school year.

You probably should leave early since 645 eager freshmen are bound to make navigating tricky today. You remember yourself as a freshman, and consider what lies ahead for them. They will have four years to find their niches. For them, the year will be about appreciating the small victories, like keeping their lunches down while dissecting rats, the lessons learned, like figuring out how to get a ride home from practice, and the "aha" moments, like finally perfecting the note you've been rehearsing for weeks. For you, it will be a strange blend of looking back and forward.

Confronting **CHAOS**



We're Gonna Need a Bigger Boat. As the school year begins, administrators are tasked with fitting 2400 students into a building built for 2,000 students. Even though the building opened in 2009, by 2015, the school board had begun discussing expansion. *Photo by K. Huerta*

SCHOOL

SUMMER

It's 6:55 a.m. on an August Monday, and you are trapped in an endless line of cars on Cullen. Hopefully, the tardy stations won't be running yet. Your dad mutters about facing this traffic for the next nine months as he finally pulls up to the curb to let you out so he can head in to Houston to fight more traffic. On the bright side, maybe a few days of this will convince him to give back your car keys.

You step out and look up at the clock looming above the front entrance. You still have a minute or so left so you rush to the doors.

You are surrounded by CHAOS. Students crowd around looking for their homerooms on the library windows. The freshmen cram together, trying to get up the packed stairs on Main Street, still not sure what will happen if they are late to homeroom.

You head away from the madness to an exterior stairwell and take the stairs two at a time, ducking into homeroom while the teacher is still sorting through the yellow schedules that will determine how you spend your days.

For Dawson, We Wear Pink. At the Dawson vs. Pearland game, students embrace their inner *Mean Girls* and wear as much pink as they can for Breast Cancer Awareness Month. Dawson lost the game by one point with a final score of 28-27. Photo by J. Smith

FALL



Containing CHAOS



A month or so into the school year, you're finally getting the hang of your schedule. You travel a certain route, walk with the same people, find your groove. **But the CHAOS crowds you.** Too many people invade your bubble between classes.

Braving long lines for cafeteria food with 400 students more than last year in the building sometimes means no place to sit. When football tickets to the Eagles vs. Oilers game finally go on sale, you spend 10 minutes of lunch in line, worrying that they might sell out, and then gobble down some cookies on the way to Mr. Reyes' aquatic science class on the third floor.

After that, you trek what seems like miles back down to seventh period government class in the portables. There, you'll get to weather the last 48 minutes of the day with Coach Grant, who, still hot from coaching football, cranks down the thermostat like he's part polar bear.

On the positive side, the crowds make it easier to avoid your ex and harder for teachers to spot the forbidden ripped knee in your jeans. Friday night, the crowds will fill the home side at the district stadium as you take the stands for the last time as an Eagle Addict, making sure the underclassmen are ready to keep school spirit alive next year. And for the first time ever, the Oilers see their score on the VISITORS side of scoreboard.

Pa-Rup-a-Pum-Pum. The mixed varsity choir takes its talent to local nursing homes in a winter holiday caroling session. This hymn-filled day encouraged senior citizens to join in on the caroling and reminisce on their own winter celebrations. *Photo by A. Macias*

WINTER

IF
MUSIC
BE
THE
GOOD
OF

Conquering

CHAOS



Before you know it, you are in the stands at your last high school football game, yelling at the Friendswood fans until your vocal chords ache and fail you. **The CHAOS takes a toll.** You can feel it closing in on you.

You struggle through your Beowulf presentation and strive to impress the EncOvation directors at tryouts for How to Succeed in Business without Really Trying.

You tumble out of the car on the morning after finishing three college applications, disheveled, nervous and red-eyed from lack of sleep. The florescent lights make you feel even more exhausted, your eyelids like bricks. But you push through, dashing up and down stairs on the three-story campus. Honestly, it should be worth a P.E. credit.

After Christmas break you remind yourself, "One more semester left," before turning your attention to the latest gossip about promposals and college decisions.

Milestones slip by. You pose for senior photos and order graduation announcements. And you finally celebrate that birthday that is supposed to magically make you feel like an adult.





Frong Moonin

Photo by A. Macias



Paige Clark

Morgan Clark

Photo by T. Jordan



Akshat Kumar

Photo by A. Macias



Jalen Jones

Photo by K. Huerta



Elyse He'Bert

Photo by K. Huerta



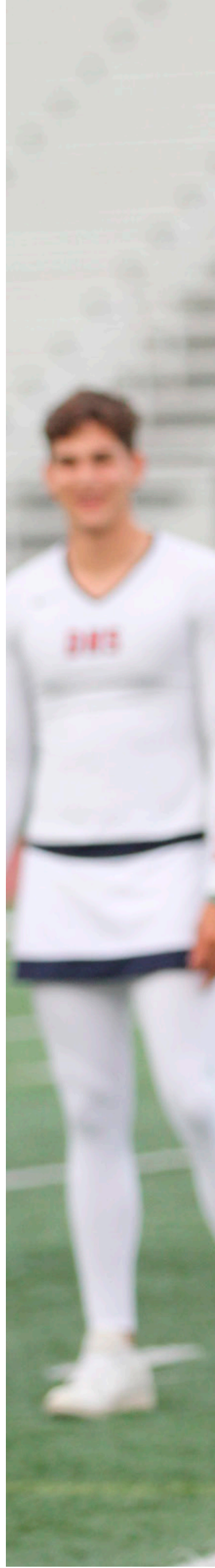
Lily Powers

Photo by M. Leaman

Big Moments Top Trying Adjustments

Maybe it's just you, but the year went by so quickly. You are back to lounging by the pool, at least until freshman orientation next month. **It's the calm before the CHAOS.** Some of your friends are gone for the summer. Some are already

taking classes. You float in the Texas heat, reflecting on the year. You painted up at games, got fancy for Prom, passed tests, perfected a seemingly unending stream of essays and made memories with your friends. Your work here is done.





5-6-7-8. During the halftime performance at powder puff, **Justin Staten** takes his turn to wave to the crowd as one of the cheerleaders. "I'm used to performing on stage in front of an audience in an auditorium," Justin said. "At Powder puff, I was performing on a football field in front of (still an audience) but in a completely different environment with different people, in skirts!" Photo by A. Macias