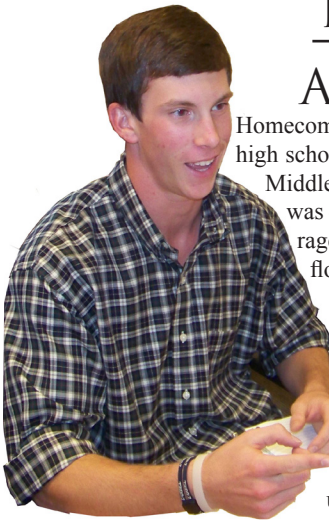


THE NEVARMORE

RAVENS CROFT SCHOOL 7409 FALLS OF NEUSE ROAD NOVEMBER 2011

Homecoming Protests

TAYLOR LETTS & LAYLA TANIK
STAFF WRITERS



"I have never left a dance at the earliest time possible."

- Thomas Sigmon, '13

As the freshman boys and girls got all spiffed up for the 2011 Homecoming Dance, they didn't quite know what to expect of their first high school dance. They likely expected it to be a lot different than the Middle School dances that they were accustomed to, and it certainly was different as the students demonstrated their frustration and outrage in the form of a sit-down strike in the middle of the dance floor.

This year, the popular, yet controversial grinding style of dancing was not permitted. Bill Pruden, Head of Upper School, clearly stated the guidelines for student behavior prior to the dance in an email addressed to all Upper School students.

"Obviously, attendance at the dance is not required but if you do choose to come, you should do so with a full understanding of the rules. Too, we seek, as we have in recent past, to have the dancing be appropriate. We have talked with the DJ about the type of music that will be played, and as we did at the end of last year and we want to discourage the grinding style of dancing. Growing numbers of schools are eliminating dances from their programs amidst continuing concern about this issue, and in an effort to avoid this step, we are asking you to dance in a way--face to face--that more accurately reflects the mutual respect that is a part of our school culture."

Pruden said that the DJ was not given a play list

but was asked not to play an abundance of songs that were likely to elicit grinding on the dance floor. When the DJ did play music that students were anxious to dance to, the grinding would start, and the DJ was asked to stop the song immediately. That's when the songs began to play that caused the dance floor to empty.

Students described the type of music played as southern or eighties type rock from artists such as Lynyrd Skynyrd and AC/DC. While some of the students like this music, they reported that they do not know how to dance to it.

Shagging was the most popular style of dancing at Homecoming and although there were a lot of beach music songs played, those who did not know how to shag were left out of that part of the dance.

"I'd rather be at a Middle School dance. They had a better DJ," said John Bailey, '15.

Last year, grinding was permitted at Homecoming, but after the dance, some parents requested a meeting to talk about this style of dance in hopes of eliminating it from future Ravenscroft dances. *The Nevarmore* conducted a survey to collect student opinion about this idea and 234 students responded; 189 of which were in attendance.

The results showed that 183 students, 78%, did not feel uncomfortable at the dance. Of the 51 students, 22%, that did feel uncomfortable, only 39 students, 17%, said the reason for their discomfort was the style of dancing.

The survey also asked, "Would you attend a Ravenscroft dance that featured a band and shag style of dancing?" 49% said they would not attend, 24% were undecided, and 28% said they would attend.

About one third of the students in attendance left as soon as they were permitted to do so at the 10:15 p.m. mark, according to Kevin Billerman, Assistant Head of Upper School. Most ninth grade students expected it to be a lot different than what the dances were like in their Middle School days.

"Middle school dances were more intense," said McLean Voelkel, '15. More protests occurred throughout the night in the form of chants. The majority of the students thought the music selection could have been more suitable for the age group and atmosphere. Some students made it clear that they felt like they had a blast from the past having to dance to 80s music.

"The goal of the dance was to have us dance face to face; but they weren't playing shag-worthy music."
- James Turner, '13



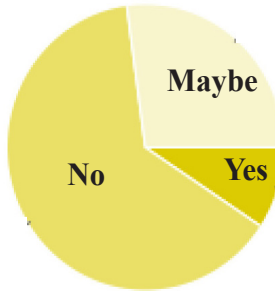
Students sit in protest at Homecoming Dance
Photo by Nat Park

Winter Formal?

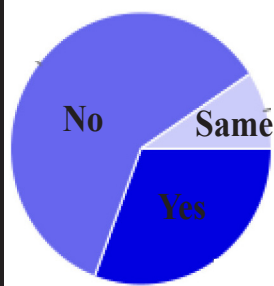
Will you attend the Winter Formal Dance if grinding is permitted?



Will you attend the Winter Formal Dance if the rules remain the same as the Homecoming Dance?



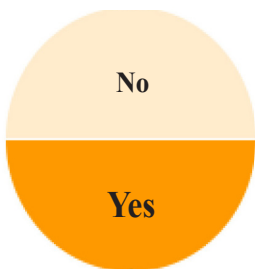
Nevarmore Homecoming Survey: 141 Total Responses



What did you think of the enforcement of rules at the 2011 Homecoming Dance?



After reading Mr. Pruden's email about Homecoming Dance rules, was the dance what you expected?



Freshmen, did you enjoy the Homecoming Dance more than the Middle School dances?

On a scale of 1 - 5, how would you rate this year's Homecoming Dance?

