

## Different Kind of Dance by Emily Winter

The 3 p.m. hair appointments hadn't been made. The hours on Revolve hadn't been wasted looking for a dress. There were no awkward poster pictures asking your date to Homecoming. There was no Homecoming at all.

"I had found out through word of mouth and I was really disappointed, but it one hundred percent made sense," said senior Colin Fitzgerald "There is no way we could've had a big homecoming."

Many East seniors were upset about not getting to experience their final high school days, so they decided to have a fake homecoming. A Foco.

Students from every grade were beginning to plan their focus. One group of seniors decided to dress up and do an outdoor dinner and afterparty.

The girls all went to a makeshift get ready area in senior, Maisie Sheet's backyard while the boys kept their usual shower and show up routine.

Another group of freshmen had decided to make it a more casual night and wait until next year to get the full homecoming experience.

Pictures were one part of the night that everyone agreed had been consistent from years past. The popular locations of Loose Park and the Verona Columns in Mission Hills were flooded with masked up teenagers in high heels and suits on various October weekends.

Most of the dinners were outside, the Tavern and country clubs would have to wait until next year. Backyards were set up with plastic folding tables and chairs and dinner was catered in from Chick-Fil-A and Raising Canes.

Freshman, Christian Gooley along with the rest of his group decided to go down to the Grand Cafe on the Plaza where they were treated with over-the-top service.

One of the hostesses had thought a private room was being reserved for a wealthier group of contractors, but after double and triple-checking the reservations, the freshmen in fancy outfits were seated there.

"They didn't know where else to put us because they had already gotten the room ready," said Gooley. "It kind of just turned into a big joke of the night that us boys were 'contractors'".

Since East had been closed off to visitors since March, the actual homecoming dance was sure to be canceled.

While the freshman hadn't gotten to experience the joy of the SME cafeteria on homecoming night, the sophomores, juniors, and seniors were sad to see it go.

Whether you would stop by to say "hi" and make use of your \$10 tickets, or unstrap the three-inch heels to dance for an hour, it was always a momentous part of the night.

Afterparties would be the next step in these focus. One group of sophomore students decided to go for more of a classic theme this year to make dressing up easy—a colorful lei or Hawaiian shirt from Target would do the job.

Junior Kate Rasmussen came up with the idea of a Vegas theme for her group. Costumes ranged from brides and bachelorette parties to movie characters. Junior Tyler Moore and a couple of his friends decided to dress up as characters from the movie, *The Hangover*.

“I was Alan [from *The Hangover*]” said Moore, “I had a babydoll strapped to the front of my chest with a Hawaiian shirt and aviators.”

Focos helped make up for a portion of the experience the students wouldn't get this year, but the lines of students that formed off the north ramp before the morning bell waiting to buy tickets and the sight of your friends in outfits other than school clothes were irreplaceable.

The seniors would never truly get their final high school homecoming and the freshman would never get their first. Homecoming would be another event added to the long list of ones that Covid-19 had taken away, but the memories would last forever.