

Photojournalist of the year statement - Reagan Zuniga

Ever since I started my journalism career, there was always something about photography that interested me more than other aspects of journalism. While I found it captivating to write and conduct interviews to learn more about my subject and deliver a well-thought story, having the perfect image to accompany it was just as important to me. I came to understand that the emotion and visual aid one can gain from a photo can be more telling than just writing about it.

This past year, I was granted the role of managing editor for my publication. While I helped lead the staff and give guidance to design and photography, I also had the responsibility of doing six photo-essay spreads.

The previous school year I was also responsible for a photo essay spread, so this past school year I strived for each one to be better and different from the ones before. I would try telling the story in a different way, whether it would be chronologically, or from a variety of different photos. I would also try to broaden the topics I covered and create new designs for each of my spreads.

Through my page, I was able to cover topics of interest to students and give them something compelling to look at. For example, in Texas, football is all any student talks about in the fall semester, and this past school year my school's team made it to round three in the playoffs. So, my first photo essay of the year was dedicated to them and the work they've put in this year, and the support they've regained since students were back on campus and allowed to attend games again after Covid-19.

On other spreads, I covered memorable events that happened around my campus such as student-led events like yearbook distribution day, "way back winter" a winter-themed event that hosted nostalgic games, and the "no place for hate parade" that brought students together to spread the message of accepting everyone and giving them a place where they belong. All these events are significant to my campus and it was a pleasure being able to capture these moments and put them on my spreads for students to look back at and reminisce on.

I was able to learn so much through my experience as the photo-essay and managing editor. My advisor was able to teach me the importance of variety in photos and topics I was covering. I also had the pleasure of attending the NSPA fall conventions in Washing D.C and Philadelphia, where I learned about the importance of lighting, cropping, and other technicalities behind shooting and editing.

Through my learning from all these amazing and experienced mentors, I was able to lead the first-year photographers on my staff and share with them the information that I've learned throughout my years in photography, adobe products, and design. I am very proud of the spreads and leadership I have provided this past school year and cannot wait to see what the next generation of student photojournalists produce in their upcoming years.

Descriptions of submissions - Reagan Zuniga

Submission 1 (Here come the dawgs): The varsity football team runs out of the inflatable bulldog head as the crowd cheers. The team was preparing to play rival school, Austin High.

Submission 2 (Touchdown): Jackson Howard lifts up wide receiver Cash Peters after scoring a touchdown.

Submission 3 (Three-legged race): Marley Anthony and Will Louis hold the lead in their three-legged race against Katherine Crosley and Ella Maedgen. This event was hosted by student council to remind students of their elementary days by hosting nostalgic games.

Submission 4 (In their cowboys boots): The silver stars dance in the courtyard during the annual no place for hate parade to promote inclusivity on campus.

Submission 5 (Spreading the message): Cami Demetri excites students they come to collect their yearbooks. The year's was yearbook's first in-person distribution celebration since 2019.



THREE, TWO, ONE, GO: Marley Anthony and Will Louis hold the lead in their three-legged race against Katherine Crosley and Ella Maedgen. Student council hosted the game, and incorporated the winter theme of the event into the three-legged race by tying the participant's legs together with Christmas ribbon. "My favorite part of the event was getting to sit back and see people actually participating and genuinely having some fun," project manager Ava Webber said. "It's really difficult to come up with something that will engage high schoolers in general so getting to see so many people playing the games and enjoying themselves was really rewarding." PHOTO BY Reagan Zuniga



SPREADING THE MESSAGE: Cami Demetri attracts students in the right direction to receive their yearbooks. Demetri instructed students to the right line based on last name and reminded them to have their student ID's out. "I am really proud of the final product of the book this year," Editor-in-Chief Kristina Jeffus said. "All of the staff worked so hard to make this book the best it could be and I am so proud of every spread that we made." PHOTO BY Reagan Zuniga



TOUCHDOWN: Senior Jackson Howards lifts receiver Cash Peters after he scores a touchdown against Stony Point. Peters averages 91 receiving yards a game. "We played the ball very well in the Stony Point game," Peters said. "We had a steady rhythm going which was the biggest key to us putting up so many points." PHOTO BY Reagan Zuniga



IN THEIR COWBOY BOOTS: Silver Stars dance to 'Cotton Eye Joe' in the pit. After Tyton Benson's performance in the courtyard, music played for students to dance to. "This event was especially important for Bowie this year as students are still adjusting to a "normal" school year post-pandemic," Reese Gutshall said. "It is so important for our school to be unified as one, and lift each other up rather than drag each other down, especially after all that we have endured these past two years." PHOTO BY Reagan Zuniga



HERE COME THE DAWGS: The varsity football team runs out after halftime at their white out game against Austin High. The score at halftime was 47-0, with the final score being 59-0. “The game against Austin high was an important one because it was our district opening,” Sonny Dedmon said. “With that being said I think the team performed really well and showed how well we play as a team in all phases of the game” PHOTO BY Reagan Zuniga