

# eleight

**SPECIAL  
THAT 70's  
REUNION II  
EDITION**

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## New Music Building Opens at Leigh



**The front and back of the new music building, located in the old shop area near the bowl. It will house both the choral and instrumental classes.**

If you've driven by Leigh in the last six months or so, you might have noticed a new "appendage" to the old shop area by the bowl.

What once was a storage area for the graduation bleachers and who-knows-what, is now a pristine new building for the Music Department.

Built to seamlessly match

Leigh's existing "beige walls and brick accents" motif, the building has now

The former music buildings will temporarily be used as large classrooms,

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At its peak in the early 1970's, Leigh's marching band numbered about 110 -- and everybody marched.

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opened this summer and will be ready for use when school resumes this fall.

and the ultimate plan is for the library to move into it and the administration

to expand into the current library.

(Or so say the Measure C plans on the district website ([www.cuhsd.org](http://www.cuhsd.org)).

After suffering downward enrollment in the 80's and early 90's, the music program has now expanded and nearly matches the peak numbers of music students from the early 1970's.

## After Forty Years -- The Bowl Gets Some Respect

One of the best things about going to Leigh had to be our bowl. It was a *real* bowl. Not just a field with elevated bleachers on either side.

Its entry ramp was pretty cool, (especially if you were in marching band), and the entire bowl just gave the whole campus a classy air.

Remember those great night football games against Los Gatos? They had stadium lights, so most of their home games were at night.

As of the 2002 season, many of those night games have been played at Leigh.

That's right.

As part of the district's ongoing Measure C facility



**The announcers booth (green and yellow, of course) was constructed shortly after lights were added to the bowl. The old oak tree still stands guard nearby.**

renovation and improvement program, Leigh received the luck of the draw and had stadium lights installed a few years back.

Many times through the years, Leigh's bowl was ready to get lights, but protests from neighbors keep that long dream from

becoming a reality.

In addition, an actual announcer's booth was built at the top of the "home" side bleachers -- which are now aluminum.

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*But ...  
The Ice Plant Goeth*

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Now, think back a few decades ...

If you remember, about 60-70% of the "sides" of the bowl were adorned with that weird, thick ice plant, with the odd flower blossoms, which gave the bowl a nice colorful look.

Throughout the last 30 years, drought and erosion have slowly taken their toll on the bowl, and the ice plant was reduced to one small patch at the end of the track. But alas, that now is gone, too.

Some years ago, a number of trees were planted so that in, say, 2050, the bowl might have a nice look to it again.

If I'm still around at age 95, I'll be glad to report on how they look ...

# That 70's Reunion: Year 2

The Leigh High Classes of 1973 and 1972 got together on July 26, 2003 to jointly celebrate their 30 and 31-year reunions.

As a result, a new, annual reunion was planned for the classes of 1970-1974.

As not-so-much-anymore-die-hard veteran reunion planner Ted Kopulos puts it, "This gives people more chances to hook up with old friends, not only from their own class, but from those who were attending Leigh during the four years they were there."

Also, if someone misses a one of the regular, large-scale reunions, they won't have to wait another five or ten years

for the next one.

"And it's a much more casual event. People can come and go as they please, and bring their families, and the cost will be affordable," adds Kopulos.

The *That 70's Reunion* plans on being held the last Saturday of every July from here on in, at the Pollard Road Round Table in Los Gatos--for the time being.

"If it keeps growing, we might look into holding it back on the Leigh campus."

"We hope to start getting some of the teachers to attend, too."

Reactions to the annual reunion idea have been very positive.

## Memorable Quotes

"Slaughterball, that accurately named sifter of the men and the boys, remains as the last ditch effort to gain some activity from the P.E. gentlemen."

*Pat McDermott, 1973*  
(describing PE class on rainy days)

## New Theater Bows Out

Over the last few years, an amazing thing has happened. High school arts have actually gotten some facilities funding.

Apparently ignoring the lasting sting of 1974's Proposition 13, a number of high schools have gotten, or are getting, brand new theaters so they no longer need to perform in their cafeterias.

Saratoga, Presentation, Wilcox, Valley Christian, Santa Clara, and Pioneer have added (or are adding) performing arts centers to their campuses.

Los Gatos High, too, is get-

ting a serious remodel of their Prentiss Brown Auditorium.

By 2007, Leigh was to have a brand new, district theater on campus. But now, apparently due to the plundering of the education budget by the Governor's office, those plans have been scrapped.

Instead, there will be cafeteria "improvements" made which hopefully will include the stage area.

By the way, Leigh finally *did* replace those 40-year-old metal cafeteria chairs a few years back. The new ones actually have some padding!

## Memorable Quotes

"[The Student Council] is constantly being accused of being ineffective or a farce. These accusations stem from those misinformed individuals who believe that the student council should establish coed P.E. classes, allow for dispensing of marijuana during lunch, and have Mr. Dyer exiled to Upper Silesia with a family of Mesopotamian meatballs."

*Lance Hamilton, 1973*  
(January 19, 1973)

## The Daily Meditation

by Scott Lyman

[EDITOR'S NOTE: This was actually written for the 2003 reunion, and just finally included by the slug editor two years later -- so I've just added two years to everything]

Ted asked for a *Daily Meditation* for the reunion, and saying hello to a long lost friend made me think it might be fun to post some nonsense here for practice.

For those who didn't know me back in the day (lucky you), in my freshman year, I spent study hall writing the *Meditation* (ably assisted by Ted, and Peter Jordan), and spent the rest of the day passing it around to long-suffering friends (Well, nobody else was studying in study hall).

Lame as it may have been, it was the only thing keeping some people awake in Mr. Schwartz's algebra class ("a total wipe-out").

If you're interested, check in occasionally, It'll repeat like a bad burrito. It might not be funny, but at least it's self-indulgent!

So here I am, nothing much to note: a middle-class, middle-aged guy getting a bit large in the middle.

A wife (20 years in September, bless her heart), five kids (four from her first marriage,

one together), five grandkids (and you're right, I'm not that old, thank you very much), a mortgage (had to come to Sacto. for that), a dog, fish, a bazillion books (nope, never wrote one), and a burning desire to go anywhere but to work in the morning.

Our youngest daughter is 17 and a half (you go through your youth using that "and a half" til you're about 9 or 10, then drop it as too childish, until driver's permit time), a recent graduate, a slightly better student than I was, and has refined parent-directed sarcasm to a high art--but then what teenager hasn't, whether they speak it or not?

So, are you going? I am. [He did].

My plan was to drop down to something resembling High School Weight & turn heads; but now I believe that the only way to do this involves harpoons & flensing knives.

I'm going anyway--the money I save in new clothes can be spent at the bar.

