

Togas worn on last day of school

By **KIMBERLY DAVIS**

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In 1979, 79 seniors graduated from Decatur Community High School.

Those students will celebrate their 30th class reunion on Saturday at the American Legion.

One of those students was Tonya (Jones) Tally. The first thing, she said, that comes to mind when looking back at her class is that the last day of school the seniors dressed up in togas. "Animal House," the movie, was popular so the seniors decided to wear sheets as togas the last day of school.

"We all met at Peggy (Gawith) Ream's house across the street and got dressed in our togas," said Mrs. Tally. "It was a lot of fun. I remember that the teachers got wind of it and were told to ignore us."

Also, she said, someone let several geese loose in the hallway of the school on the last day. Mrs. Tally said she wouldn't mention any names.

Mrs. Ream said she too can remember the toga party the last day.

Other things, she said, she remembers that as far as athletics went the girls were a little more talented, although the boys probably thought otherwise.

Mary Neff, said Mrs. Ream, and she decided to run cross country because Mary had an older sister who was a good runner and she didn't want to do it by herself. Mrs. Ream joked that the friends were moral support for the sister, although they ran in the back of the pack and she was in the front.

It was different then, she said, they could run cross country during the weekend and still play volleyball during the week, which is what she did.

The football team, said Mrs. Tally, only won two games their senior year.

She said the class colors were blue and silver, song was "I Want to Live," flower was a Gladiola and motto was "Life is a mystery to be lived, not a problem to be solved."

Some of the songs that were popular, she said, were "Tragedy," by the Bee Gees, "In the Navy," "YMCA," and "Macho Man," by the Village People, "Reunited," by Peaches and Herb, "Last Dance," by Donna Summer and



ON THE last day of school the Class of 1979 dressed in togas. The idea came from the movie "Animal House."

"Ready to Take the Chance Again," by Barry Manilow.

Tim Stallman said it used to be different when they hung out than it is for kids today. They would get together on Main Street. Both sides would be lined up with cars and people would be hanging out. Others were driving Main Street.

Today kids set plans or talk over their cell phones or text messaging. It was more personable back then.

Mr. Stallman said the Powder Keg had pool tables, a DJ playing modern music and dancing

on the west side of the street. On the other side was the Alibi which had foos ball tables. The students in his class would hang out at both of them.

Also cars kids drove were different too, he said. The vehicles were more humble as most kids just wanted something that ran. Kids weren't driving nicer cars than their parents.

The Class of 1979's president was Jeff New, vice president was Joe Mines, secretary was Tonya Jones and treasurer was Mary Dark.

The student council officers were Jon Dunn,

president, Rex Olson, vice president, Amy Anderson, secretary and Patti Bryant, treasurer.



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