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Newman's Culture And Spirit In The Early 1970's and 2020's

Cardinal Newman High School is celebrating its 60th anniversary in 2024. Starting as two separate schools, Ursuline High School and Cardinal Newman, Newman's community has lived through some intense highs and lows. When comparing the early 1970s to 2024, the Newman community has remained consistent in one category: its unrivaled spirit. However, when comparing these two different eras, there are a few differences in their culture. Something as simple as buying gas or smoking in one era may mean something completely different in today's society. In this paper, I will discuss the similarities and differences in the culture of Cardinal Newman High School in 1970-1974 and today, 2024.

In 1972, Newman's Men's Basketball made its way to the championship game in the Rose City Tournament. Sadly they lost, but the student section was unlike something anyone had yet to see in all of Sonoma County. The stands were packed with students, teachers, alumni, and people from all over the community cheering for their team. Cardinal Newman was awarded an outstanding rooting section award at "Top of the Bay" that year. This is just one example of the unrivaled spirit that Newman's community already possessed after only being open for eight years.

Fast forward to the present day, on November 16th, 2024, the Boys Water Polo Team earned its place in the Division Two NCS Championship game against Marin Academy. Unfortunately like in the 1972 Rose City Tournament, the boys lost by one goal. However, the cheering section was overflowing with the Newman community. The fans, which included past

coaches, alumni, family, and other CNHS students, were cheering so loud that our players could hear what our coach was telling us during the game. As a player in the game, I can attest to this.

Through the years, Newman's community has maintained a school spirit quite unlike any other. Every single home football game this year, we had the Danger Zone packed with students from all four grades, cheering nearly every second of the game. At rallies, we'd hold spirit competitions between the grades to see who could be the loudest, most spirited class. At the Arts Alive Performance, everyone was waving their LED lights to support the arts programs at Newman. Cardinal Newman's unrivaled spirit is evident in multiple aspects of the community and will continue to flourish as past classes pass down the torch to future generations.

Social norms in the Newman community were anything but similar in the early 70s and the 2020s. As many can recall, in October of 1973, OPEC initiated an embargo on oil that lasted six months and affected all of America, the Newman community included. Before this embargo began, no one was worried about the price of gas. Like today, once the blockade began, everyone was devastated by the price of oil. Today, oil prices have increased 2x in a matter of a decade. However, this embargo was short-lived and ended in March 1974. Americans returned to a relaxed oil price.

Like oil in the 70s, communication was largely perceived differently. Bernadette Lane, Class of '75, describes life when she went to high school as "a small community". When she went to high school, Santa Rosa held approximately 50,000 residents. Today, the population is just under 176,000 and continues to grow. Santa Rosa in the 1970's was definitely classified as a small town, and Newman's private school community was even smaller and more tight-knit.

In an interview with Mrs. Lane, she talks about how no one in that day had a mobile phone on their person, it wasn't invented yet. She explained that the only time you could call

someone was when they were at home with a landline. This meant that you couldn't just call someone whenever it was convenient like today with our cell phones. In present-day society, 99 percent of Newman students own a cell phone. They can call, text, or Snapchat all of their friends with the touch of their screen. Teachers and faculty today have described Newman's student life as "disconnected" and "isolated" recently due to cell phones and the effects they have on the student's social life. Catherine Eggleston, Class of '02, Vice Principal of Student Affairs, and ASB teacher proposed a new technology policy that would begin in the 2023-2024 school year. This new policy would make Newman a no-phone zone. It was intended to bring Newman's students closer and influence more social prosperity between the classes and their classmates.

Another social norm that was different between the two eras was smoking. In the 1970s, many people were becoming aware of the fact that smoking cigarettes was damaging to your health. Despite this health development, many Americans were still smoking. This included some of the older students at Newman. In an interview with Graham Rutherford, Class of '77, he explained how there were no designated smoking areas, but some students and faculty still smoked on campus in certain areas like the bathroom or sitting outside on a wall in a group. He said that no one was bothered by the smokers and none of the faculty punished students for smoking. Mr. Rutherford was quoted saying that smoking was essentially "a part of life" at that age. Today, any sort of smoking or vaping is prohibited on campus grounds. Nevertheless, a few select students get caught smoking or vaping in the bathrooms and are punished accordingly. This is one of Newman's major cultural differences between the early 1970's and 2020's.

Newman's unrivaled spirit stayed consistent from its founding year of 1964 until the present day. However, there were some differences between the cultures of the early 1970s and

the present day. Everyday concerns like the price of gas for someone today didn't shake anyone's spirit in the 1970s. Means of communication today are more convenient and impactful on Newman's students. Social media has created more social isolation among all students today, whereas, in the 1970s, students could only call their friends on a landline at home. Smoking was normal and legal for minors 16 years older or older, now it's illegal for all minors. Between the early years of the 1970s and the 2020s, despite some similarities and differences in Cardinal Newman's culture, there's one thing for sure... our spirit is unrivaled and will never cease!