

Leaving the post, keeping the memories

Security guard leaves Bryan for North

Chiquita Hayes, Editor-in-Chief

After six years of serving on the security team, Nov. 7 marks Antwan Bradshaw's last day before he moves on to North High.

Bradshaw's move was not his choice.

"First I am a dad," said Bradshaw. "It wasn't my choice."

Looking back on his time with the security team, Bradshaw described the switch as emotional.

"It's bittersweet," Bradshaw said. "Nothing wrong with new beginnings, but I like where I'm at."

Security guard Donnell Dixon noted Bradshaw's significance on the team.

"I don't like [that Bradshaw is leaving]," Dixon said. "He's part of our team. He's been an important part of our team."

Security guard Virgil Caldwell reflected upon the deep ties he's had with Bradshaw's family.

"I'm going to miss him," Caldwell said. "I've been knowing his family for all my life."

The change made Bradshaw realize the importance of life's small things, and each school day has become meaningful.

According to Bradshaw, a good day at school is "the fact that I walked in here on my own two feet," he said. "Any time that happens, it's a great day at Bryan."

Dixon reflected on Bradshaw's overall impact at the school.

"[He had] great communication with the kids," Dixon said, "mostly with the school."

Caldwell noted that Bradshaw's mentorship touched students in every corner of Bryan, whether it was coaching on the football field or the hallways.

Bradshaw thought back on his best memories of Bryan.



Chiquita Hayes

During A2 on Nov. 7, junior Sarah Mesfin jumps to high-five security guard Antwan Bradshaw.

"I would say pretty much every graduation, seeing the kids go across the stage," he said.

Dixon pointed to Bradshaw's personality as one of the things the team will remember.

"He's always a Bear," Dixon said. "We'll always welcome him."

Caldwell expects Bradshaw to handle his new assignment with the same determination he showed at Bryan.

"I hope he does good over there (at North)," Caldwell said. "That's a tough school, and he's tough too, so hopefully it'll work out."

Bradshaw's goal at Bryan was to always reach every student who walked through the doors.

He will miss "every student in the building, from the most active characters to the ones who sit in the shadows."

Bradshaw enjoyed the Bryan's close-knit environment and the support he had from the staff.

What Bradshaw will miss most, "the atmosphere, how everybody takes care of each other [and] obviously, the kids, me, some of the great co-workers that I'm working with."

Bryan students 'fight for those who can't'

Students participate in nationwide walkout

Chiquita Hayes, Editor-in-Chief

Recent Immigration and Customs Enforcement events have resulted in protests. In Los Angeles, Keith Porter was shot and killed Dec. 31. On Jan. 7 in Minneapolis, Renée Good was shot and killed. On Jan. 16, ICE agents in Omaha rounded people up to take them to detention centers.

On Jan. 20 at 2:30 p.m., students participated in a nationwide 'Free America' walkout, in response to the one-year anniversary of president Donald Trump's second term. Students at Northwest initiated the walkout through a Jan. 18 post to the Instagram @nwclassof26. Benson, South and Bryan ended up participating, too.

Junior Suh Htoo shared the post and got her peers' feedback that they wanted to join her in doing the walkout. Senior Maryann Bautista created an Instagram group chat that had over 100 of her peers, encouraging them to make signs and spread the word. Signs were made the night before, including those that said "No one is free when others are oppressed," "History repeats itself if we stay silent" and "Fight for those who can't."

Htoo pointed out that the school's diverse background is impacted by the political actions surrounding the community.

"I know Bryan has a high immigrant population, so students are affected, families and friends and neighbors and even citizens across the United States," Htoo said. "So I felt like we should stand up to bullies, the Trump administration, and I just don't feel like we should stay back and stay silent because that's not good."

Junior Christian Garcia-Hare felt moved by his status as a U.S. citizen to participate in the walkout.

"I am a citizen of the United States of America," Garcia-Hare said. "How can we call ourselves the United States of America when we're anything but united?"

Students' willingness to participate in the walkout left a positive impression on Htoo.

"It was actually so heartwarming," Htoo said. "It was great to see so many kids come out and support the movement."

Garcia-Hare said his peers are what drove him to participate.

"It was actually really fun," Garcia-Hare said. "It motivated me a lot more because I had moral support with people who I knew, so it just made the entire protest just a lot more uplifting."



Maryann Bautista

On Jan. 20, junior Christian Garcia-Hare speaks out about ICE.

Prior to the walkout, principal Anthony Clark-Kaczmarek focused on maintaining a secure environment, advising teachers via email not to hold students back and to mark them absent if they participated. Clark-Kaczmarek insisted on students staying on campus, where staff could monitor the situation.

"If they walk off the property, I can't protect them," Clark-Kaczmarek said. "But if they stay on the property, and they stay together and they allow us to keep an eye on them, then we can protect them from the outside in case of anything that happens."

During the event, Htoo spoke out twice, in which she emphasized the importance of speaking out and advocated against staying silent.

"The first time it was at the very beginning and I started the chant and was like, 'No justice, no peace, no ICE in our streets,' ..." Htoo said.

"The second time, I spoke about how we shouldn't stay silent. We shouldn't let history repeat itself."

Garcia-Hare encourages his peers to use their voice to defend their identities and families.

"Stand up for your rights, stand up for who you are, stand up for your family," Garcia-Hare said. "There are people out there who can't speak, and by standing up, you're able to speak for the people who can't."

Clark-Kaczmarek highlights the importance of students staying up-to-date with current events.

"I want students to know what's going on," Clark-Kaczmarek said. "That's part of what we are as a society. Our job is to make sure the youth are ready to be the next generation of leaders."

New wave of leadership

Swim team welcomes new coaching staff

Chiquita Hayes, Editor-in-Chief

This swim season, the team received two new coaches: English teacher Landon Chapin and first-year physical education teacher Cory Carrillo. English teacher Nathan Moore was also promoted to head coach after two seasons as assistant.

Chapin, who stepped down from coaching track, didn't take long to decide to help out with swim.

"I wanted to coach because I missed it," Chapin said. "I knew I was going to miss it from track, and so I needed a coaching position, and this one felt like it would be better because it is less school that I'm missing."

The coaching role has broadened Carrillo's connections, giving her the opportunity to connect with a more diverse group of individuals.

Coaching "allows me to meet other students because I only know ... the students that I teach and the softball girls," Carrillo said. "I wanted to expand a little bit more."

Moore's confidence in Chapin's ability to connect with students helped him make his choice for the position. He believes those qualities align well with the demands of coaching and the team's culture, since Chapin previously coached and they are close friends.

"Chapin is somebody that I admire for how he is able to work with students one-on-one, and I assumed that would transfer to being a coach," Moore said.

Despite it being Chapin's first year coaching swim, his track background gave him a head start in finding his rhythm.

"The thing that I learned really quickly is that having a track background helps a lot because it is kind of similar," Chapin said. "I was really surprised by how technical swim is. It's kind of a crazy sport, honestly."

Initially, Moore questioned his ability to be head coach because of his lack of experience.

"I didn't feel like I was fully ready, or maybe even qualified, because I had never done swimming in school," Moore said. "I did learn a lot over the last few years, and I had a good conversation with one of the South coaches at one point last season about not being qualified, and he was like 'That doesn't matter.'"

Carrillo's approach extends beyond competition, stressing discipline and personal ownership as core lessons alongside success in the pool.

"I want them to succeed and prepare them for life as well," Carrillo said. "So, it goes beyond swim. It goes to taking accountability, being responsible and being respectful to your coaches because at the end of the day, that's how it's going to be when you get older in the real world."



Courtesy of Nicholas Wennstedt

Gathered around head coach Nathan Moore, members of the swim team listen to him speak during practice Nov. 24.

For Chapin, the bonds built with new people is the most rewarding part of coaching.

"The relationships that you form with the students in the athletic setting is nice because it's a difference from the classroom setting," Chapin said. "It's something between the relationships and also being able to watch [students] improve meet after meet and watching their times go down and them just growing as athletes and watching the relationships they have with each other."

Carrillo's perspective highlights a changing dynamic in the program, with younger coaches using their athletic tenure to build connections.

"We have five young coaches," Carrillo said "...We're fresh in the sense of we've been athletes more recently than most coaches, so we can give them that sense as well."

Moore's goal for the upcoming season is team growth fueled by high standards and a results-first mindset.

"I want to see passion and a drive from them more so than we've had the last two years," Moore said. "Not that they weren't passionate or they didn't have drive, but I want to see it even more. I want them to have high goals for themselves and realize 'If I want to hit these goals, I have to hit this amount of work.'"

The next swim meet is Jan. 8 against Millard West at Bryan Middle School starting at 4:30 p.m.