

Making a Difference One Falcon at a Time

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reporter

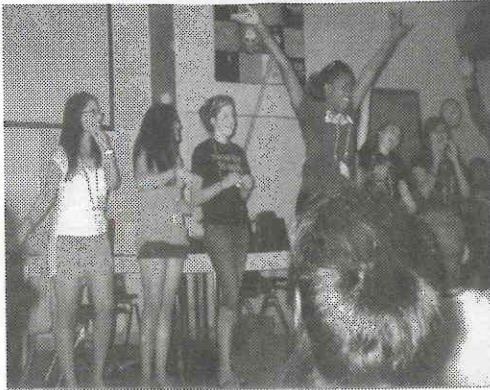
According to their website, Camp CommUNITY formerly known as Anytown, Texas is a diversity leader-

ship retreat for incoming high school juniors and seniors in the Tarrant County Area. Camp CommUNITY is designed to educate Delegates to be responsible leaders and social change advocates in our diverse

community. Each year, students from various backgrounds, beliefs, experiences and opinions come together for a five day residential camp. Last summer on June 14 through 18, Nayelly Dominguez '11 had the opportunity to participate in the 29th annual Camp CommUNITY.

Dominguez, an active member in the Diversity Club, first became aware of this opportunity when Judy Garrett, the Diversity club sponsor, who plans to send representatives every year from now on if possible, nominated her to attend Camp CommUNITY. From then on Dominguez discussed the cost of attending the camp with her parents.

"I viewed the opportunity as a pleasant summer activity in which I could meet new people and have a good time,"



Nayelly gets involved in one of the many group activities offered by Camp CommUNITY. **PHOTO COURTESY OF NAYELLY DOMINGUEZ.**

Dominguez said.

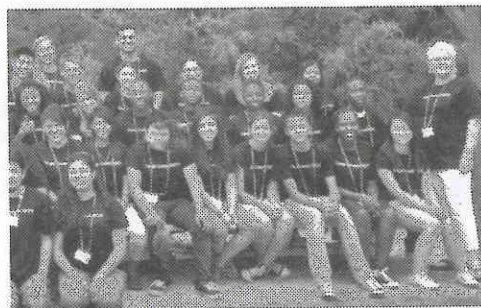
Dominguez's first impression of the camp was that since "the camp was local and inexpensive, it was not going to be as much fun or as well constructed as a more expensive diversity leadership camp or conference would be."

Her first impression soon changed from an assumption to an actual experience after her five day involvement at the camp.

On June 14, the first day of camp began. Dominguez and 76 other strangers met up at the North East Mall in North Richland Hills. Without anyone knowing anyone, they all boarded a bus and headed to the camp site. When they arrived there, they were given their cabin assignments and then took a group picture. Afterward they spent some time getting to know and become familiar with each other.

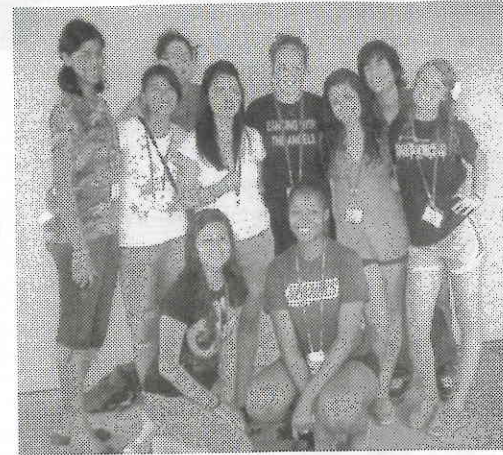
"All of the 76 delegates, including me, underwent a series of acquaintance activities, and after we were somewhat familiar with each other, the serious work began," Dominguez said.

The following days soon became a daily



Group photo of Nayelly and other camp participants. **PHOTO COURTESY OF NAYELLY DOMINGUEZ.**

routine schedule. First, starting off the morning with breakfast, then a program, free time, and some more programs and more free time.



Nayelly's group takes a break from a project after a lot of hard work. **PHOTO COURTESY OF NAYELLY DOMINGUEZ.**

Some of the activities they participated in, although serious but at the same time still having fun, are were issues that many people in the world have been facing. They discussed religion, race, gender, and cultural diversity.

"We participated in activities ranging from discussing oppression and discussing our diverse heritages, and singing in circles," Dominguez said.

Unfortunately, the program came to an end. From her experience at Camp CommUNITY, Dominguez gained insight into how other people from different ethnicity's, religions, and backgrounds live.

"Camp CommUNITY empowered me to know the reason why I am, who I am, and why I must always fight for what I want and make the best of the world I live in," Dominguez said.

Although it has been a few months since Dominguez's experience at Camp CommUNITY finished, she still misses everyone and keeps in contact with the friends she made.