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MVHS Journal



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Homecoming 2017: A Magical *Harry Potter* Experience at MVHS Staff Reports



Members of the Class of 2018 come together after an eventful banner presentation on the football field the Wednesday of Homecoming Week 2017.

Photo by Taylor Johnson

This year's Homecoming theme, *Harry Potter*, brought out the creative side of MVHS students during the week of October 23rd, 2017. The theme, along with the corresponding days and class assignments, had been devised by Student Council members during their annual summer retreat. They christened the seniors members of Slytherin House, the juniors Gryffindor, the sophomores Ravenclaw, and the freshmen Hufflepuff. Over the course of the week, the classes battled it out to be crowned the best house at Hogwarts, from hall decorating and participation in theme days, to Peach Fuzz, Powderpuff, and Quidditch competitions. Ultimately, the seniors triumphed, but all the classes enjoyed the spirited competition leading up to the Homecoming weekend festivities.

The *MVHS Journal* staff congratulates this year's Homecoming King and Queen, **Andrew Martinez** and **Lesli Lopez-Gonzalez**, as well as the rest of the Monte Vista High School Homecoming 2017 royalty (**in bold**) and attendants, crowned at coronation at Central Auditorium on October 23rd, 2017, by Brianna Villagomez, last year's queen.

Freshmen:

- Matyson Jones**, escorted by Elias Sigala
- Madison Edmonds, escorted by Andres Villa
- Sara Nehring, escorted by Leon Romero
- Jimena Lopez, escorted by **Cobi Garcia**

Sophomores:

- Larissa Medina, escorted by Levi Trujillo
- Jovanna Arroyo, escorted by **Josh Chacon**
- Kayla Hernandez**, escorted by Andrew Smith-Martinez
- Madison Plane, escorted by Kaidon Wenta

Juniors:

- Amber Michel, escorted by Darrius Garcia
- Hannah Jones, escorted by **Reyes Nevarez**
- Jordan Duran, escorted by Zach Hinds
- Grace Beckner** escorted by Kevin Castro

Seniors:

- Brandy Hoffstaetter**, escorted by **Colby Self**
- Lesli Lopez-Gonzales, escorted by Stephen Clutter
- Isabel Contreras, escorted by Cedric Perea
- Lanaya Cleghorn, escorted by Andrew Martinez

Monte Vista Homecoming 2017 *Harry Potter* Theme Days a Novel Success

By Grace Beckner

The Monte Vista Pirates kicked off their 2017 Homecoming Week on Monday, October 23rd, with Stoplight Day. Students wore red, yellow, or green, based on their Homecoming date status: Red if they already had a date, or did not plan on attending the dance, yellow if they were unsure if they were going to the dance, and green if they wanted to go to the dance and were looking for a date. Each class was given a score based on the percentage of the class that participated. Overall, the sophomores took first place, the juniors second, the seniors third, and the freshmen fourth.

On Tuesday, the second day of Homecoming Week, the classes competed in hallway decorating, Opposite Day, Peach Fuzz volleyball, Powderpuff football, and the class video.

For the hallway decorating competition, the freshmen decorated their section of hallway as a Hufflepuff common room, the sophomores their hallway as a Ravenclaw common room and the Forbidden Forest, the juniors' as a Gryffindor common room, and the seniors' as a Slytherin common room. The seniors took first place, the freshmen second, the sophomores third, and the juniors fourth.

Opposite Day was also a success as boys dressed as girls, girls dressed as boys, and teachers dressed as students. Due to lots of enthusiastic participation, the scores were close: The seniors barely took first place, the juniors

second, the sophomores third, and the freshmen fourth.

For Peach Fuzz volleyball, the boys of each class went head-to-head fighting for supremacy. The first game of the day was the juniors versus the freshmen, wherein the juniors crushed the underclassmen 15-6 in the first match, and 15-9 in the second match, ultimately taking the win. The second game of the day was between the sophomores and the seniors, with the upperclassmen easily overtaking the opposition yet again, winning 15-13 and 15-4. The third game was between the freshmen and the sophomores, with the sophomores effortlessly taking the win 15-3 and 15-5. For the championship game the seniors and juniors both competed fiercely, but in the end the Seniors came out on top, barely winning both matches, 15-11 and 15-12. The seniors and the teachers then decided to play a quick game for fun. Both teams played well, but the seniors won once again, winning both matches, 15-9 and at 15-8.

Powderpuff football was held later that night under the lights, with the senior and sophomore girls teaming up against the junior and freshmen girls. Ultimately, the senior/sophomore team easily overtook the juniors and freshmen, 27-0.

The class videos were also presented Tuesday, with the seniors taking first place, the freshmen second, the juniors third, and the sophomores fourth.

On Wednesday, the third day of Homecoming Week, each class presented their banner and dressed up in their assigned house colors. Overall the sophomores (blue) won first place, followed by the juniors (red); the seniors (green) were next, and the freshmen (yellow) took fourth. That afternoon, each class presented their banner to the school, which ultimately resulted in the seniors winning first place for their Slytherin banner, the juniors (Gryffindor) earning second, the freshmen (Hufflepuff) getting third place, and the sophomores (Ravenclaw) ending up in fourth.

On Thursday, the fourth and final day of school leading up to the Homecoming game and dance, each class competed in Pirate Pride Day, presenting their class float at the parade. For Pirate Pride Day, the sophomores won first place with the biggest percentage of the class wearing green and gold/Monte Vista Pirate gear. The juniors earned second, the seniors third, and the freshmen fourth. As for the parade float competition, the results were close, but, ultimately, the sophomores took first, the juniors second, the seniors third, and the freshmen fourth.

Overall, the seniors took first place in the Homecoming 2017 class competition, with the sophomores not far behind. The juniors took third and the freshmen fourth, rounding out yet another great Homecoming Week.

Homecoming 2017 Hall Decorating Lends a Hand to the Parade and Dance

By Irene Aguilera and Karicia Ceballos



Juniors Luis Espinosa and Jesus Vasquez embrace on Opposite Day (the junior class' participation nearly earned them first place).

Photo by Taylor Johnson

On October 23, 2017, all of the classes decorated their assigned halls. The freshmen decorated their hall based on the Hufflepuff common room, the sophomores decorated theirs as the Ravenclaw common room and the Forbidden Forest, the juniors' as the Gryffindor common room, and, last but not least, the seniors' as the Slytherin common room.

The seniors came in first place with a green paper snake filled with recycled paper, earning them a score of 100 points. The freshmen, who used Christmas lights and yellow balloons, scored 75 points. The sophomores, who made use of a smoke machine, scored 50 points, and the juniors scored 25 points.

A few days later, each class' hall decorations were put to use in the annual Homecoming parade. On Thursday, October 26th, all of the classes decorated floats, joining the Homecoming royalty, bands, and groups participating in the parade. The seniors took on Hogwarts, the juniors Diagon Alley, the sophomores the Forbidden Forest and, lastly, the freshman float featured Fantastic Beasts. The Monte Vista High School Band and the Monte Vista Middle School Band led the floats and trucks representing the sports teams, clubs, and classes, interspersed with the Homecoming Royalty. The cheerleaders and mini-cheerleaders also walked in the parade, along with the Monte Vista Middle Schoolers, wearing green and gold Pirate gear to show their school spirit. The floats and

groups gathered behind the Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) hall. The parade route went through Adams Street and 2nd Avenue, passing Bill Metz Elementary, where all of the students were sitting on the sidewalks, enjoying the parade. The parade ended at the high school, where the class placement was announced: The sophomores took first, the seniors placed second, the juniors third, and the freshmen fourth.

After an exciting week, the tradition of the Homecoming dance capped off the festivities on October 28th, 2017. Attendees were surrounded by the wonderful Halloweenish decorations, featuring Hogwarts and the Forbidden Forest. The decorations included a background of brown spooky trees, a beautiful sunset, a moon with shining stars, elegant black and blue chair covers, and a light-up dragon. DJ Justin Romero and photographer Aaron Perrill, along with Student Council's setup and takedown efforts, made for an unforgettable night. This year's dance was one of the best-attended in recent years, and especially enjoyable after the Monte Vista Pirates took down the Dolores Bears, 58-0, at the Homecoming football game.



Juniors Parker Randolph, Alyssa Rawinski, and Tristen Holder showcase their banner; the juniors' creativity also showed in their Diagon Alley parade float, which featured Daniel Miller's chickens.

Photo by Taylor Johnson



Sports News



Sophomore/Senior Team Has a Homecoming Week Powderpuff Victory

By Nashawna Chiquito

On October 24th, 2017, at 6:00 pm the Monte Vista High school freshmen and juniors played the seniors and sophomores in Monte Vista's annual Powderpuff game. All of the players and coaches gave it their best effort for the enthusiastic crowd.

In the first quarter senior Mariah Barbosa (#83) started things off with a touchdown for the senior-sophomore team. The senior-sophomore team started the game off well, but the freshman-junior team, after a third down, gave them a run for their money. Unfortunately, their run wasn't good enough to put them on the score board. Sophomore Larissa Medina (#40) also scored a great

catch, bringing the score to 20-0.

In the second quarter the freshman-junior team tried to work their way up, getting the first down. Then, ninth grader Anastasia Yanez (#47) made two great tackles before senior Mariah Barbosa (#83) made a long run for a touchdown. After the ball was turned over by the freshman-junior team, the sophomore-senior team



Senior Mariah Barbosa outwits freshman AnJanae George and junior Jordan Duran, leading the sophomore/senior team to victory.

Photo by Taylor Johnson

made a quick long pass, which was, unfortunately, incomplete.

The senior-sophomore team was still on a roll, but nearly in trouble after a fumble. Larissa Medina (#40) and Jovanna Arroyo (#14) then followed that up with two great

catches. Then, junior Hannah Jones (#55) was on the run after a great catch, but she was brought down by senior Kaitlynn Porter (#62).

At that point, the senior-sophomore team was still in the lead, even as Hannah Jones (#55) ran for a touchdown, followed by a fumble. The senior-sophomore team then got a first down, followed by some very intense play, including an interception by senior Kaitlynn Porter (#62).

Her team ultimately triumphed over their opponents, 27-0, helping the Class of 2018 maintain its lead in the Homecoming 2017 class competition.



Junior Hannah Jones runs for a touchdown, tailed by seniors Tayler Chacon and Kaitlynn Porter, themselves being chased by junior Amanda Avila and freshman Sara Nehring.

Photo by Taylor Johnson

Tradition Gets a New Spin: Peach Fuzz Volleyball and Quidditch

By Kylee Henderhan

On October 25th, 2017, Monte Vista High School students played Quidditch to go along with the *Harry Potter* Homecoming theme. Quidditch is highlighted in the movie series: The game is typically played between two teams, with each team consisting of seven players. The players “fly” around on broomsticks, scoring points by shooting a ball called a quaffle through one of three hoops. The only way scorers can be stopped is by the Keeper (who blocks the three hoops), or by the Bludgers (flying balls that try to knock unsuspecting players off their brooms). A team can win by either scoring the most points by the end of the game, or by catching the Golden Snitch, which is a little gold ball that flies around.

Though the game was clearly modified so that the students could play it, it was still very similar to the game portrayed in the movie series. In the first match of Quidditch, the seniors

(Slytherin) played the sophomores (Ravenclaw), and the sophomores won this game. The next game was between the juniors (Gryffindor) and the freshmen (Hufflepuff); the juniors were the victors.

After the first two games were played we had a consolation bracket, which consisted of the seniors and the freshmen, and a winners bracket, which consisted of the sophomores and juniors. The consolation bracket played first, and the seniors won. Then the winners bracket began, and the juniors won.

Overall, the freshmen took fourth, the seniors took third, the sophomores took second, and the juniors took first.



Senior Enrique Ortiz readies himself to send the ball back over the net in the championship Peach Fuzz match against the juniors.

Photo by Taylor Johnson



Senior Tristan Castillo charges ahead in a Quidditch match against the freshmen, as freshman Andres Maestas, riding his broom, looks on.

Photo by Taylor Johnson

MVHS Volleyball and Football Take on Creede and Dolores, Respectively

Staff Reports

At the Homecoming volleyball game, the Monte Vista Lady Pirates (record 3-18, league 0-10) were taken down by the Creede Miners (record 17-8, league 8-2), 3-0 (25-16, 25-17, and 25-10). Though Creede had also been victorious the last time they played the Pirates on September 29th, that entailed a tense five-game matchup.

For the Homecoming football game, the Monte Vista Pirates took on the Dolores Bears on October 27th, beating them soundly, 58-0. The Pirates had an especially impressive first and second quarter, scoring 14 points in each quarter. Sophomore Kaidon Wentz (#7) led in passing yards, senior Jacob Chavez (#45) led in rushing yards (Wentz and Chavez also made two touchdowns a piece), while sophomore Levi Trujillo (#30) led in tackles. Senior Enrique Ortiz (#83) was also responsible for two touchdowns, and senior Parker Randolph (#3) racked up another ten points as Monte Vista's kicker.

October School Board Meeting Filled with Recognitions and Policy Discussions

By Karicia Ceballos

October's Board meeting began with recognizing Elizabeth Conner and Beverly Martinez with a plaque to thank them for all their support of and service to the Monte Vista School District. Discussion of hires followed, including approving Chuck DeHerrera as a custodian, Cassidy Doherty and Krystina Morgan as assistant girls basketball coaches, Betty Romo and Derek Stevens as certified guest teachers, Brooke Gallegos as a guest classified employee, Arnold Martinez as a guest bus driver, Brian Martinez as a guest custodian, and Keith Romero as a guest custodian. After the approvals, teacher Cathy Armstrong made a comment from the audience, thanking board members Conner and Martinez for their donations of books to her classroom, as well as donations to the new building fund and swimming program.

Following comments from the audience, the Board discussed policy and who would be attending the Colorado Association of School Boards (CASB) convention. Superintendent Webb then reported that the solar farm was being put on hold until 2018, due to the monitoring of energy costs. The costs are unexpectedly not going down with the new buildings, so the administration is searching for solutions to the plateauing of energy costs. This discussion segued nicely into a review of the budget, which included acknowledgement of the student count's drop to 1162. Concerning the Marsh roof project, CDE granted a waiver, allowing for BEST funds to be set aside for its repair.

After discussion of new employees, the CASB convention, energy costs, and the roof project, the Board moved on to action items, the first of which is to approve the minutes from the September 14th meeting, the August 2017 financial reports, and the non-eligible student transportation request.

Finally, Mr. Webb reported that the SAC has been discussing Science Fair: They are debating whether to have it at the Alamosa Community Center to avoid conflicts that may come up with Adams State basketball. Then, Mr. Wilkinson reported that the Education Foundation had a meeting about putting a banner up in the high school cafeteria to honor those students who have attended International Science Fair, with space for future attendees. This was partially funded with the money that was donated in Harvey Sullivan's name. The Education Foundation plans to add a plaque in memory of Harvey Sullivan, as well. The Foundation also assisted in funding the middle school math program. Mr. Webb is also planning to meet with Debbie Garcia from the City to discuss the Christmas Festival, and how the city would like to end the Christmas parade at the high school football field, as fireworks are currently part of the lineup. Mr. Webb also described his positive meeting with the new police chief, prior to Dirk Oden's update on the math curriculum and formation of a math team of one teacher per grade level, including three high school teachers. Oden also reviewed the grade-level expectations and their standards, explaining that teachers had been having vertical team conversations in preparation for implementing the curriculum next school year.

After covering all that ground, the Board announced that the next meeting had been scheduled for Thursday, November 9th, 2017, at 6:00 pm.

Not Ready to Let Halloween Go Yet? Irene Aguilera, Kaitlynn Chavez, and Angel Gallegos Have Some Ideas In Store!

Movies to Scare You Out of Your Wits:

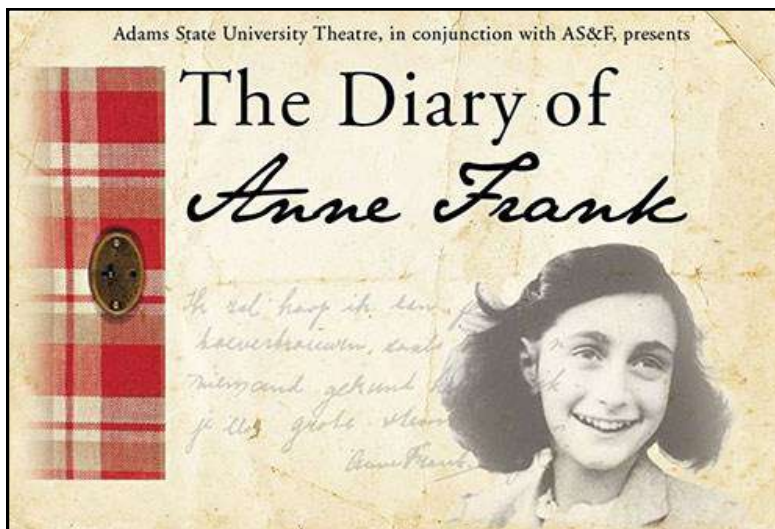
1. *The Shining* (1980)
2. *The Exorcist* (1973)
3. *The Texas Chainsaw Massacre* (1974)
4. *Carrie* (1976)
5. *The Orphanage* (2007)

Terrifyingly Hilarious Pickup Lines to Help You Out:

1. You know what you should be for Halloween?
My girlfriend.
 2. If you were a Transformer for Halloween, I bet you were Optimus Fine.
 3. I need to get a you-sized bag, because you're 100% eye candy.
-

Honors English and Dramatic Literature Classes See *The Diary of Anne Frank*

By Kaitlynn Chavez



Source: Adams State University Theatre

On September 26th, the Honors English 9, Honors English 10, and Dramatic Literature classes departed Monte Vista for the Adams State University Theater in Alamosa to watch a theatric depiction of *The Diary Of Anne Frank*, written by Frances Goodrich and Albert Hackett. Monte Vista High School students had been invited to the student matinee by Dr. John

the students, were excited to see a dramatic presentation of *The Diary of Anne Frank*.

The play depicted many of the entries in the diary, but not all of them. The audience responded emotionally to those shown, however: The play started off by introducing the characters of the play, and how the play would proceed. There was a 15-minute intermis-

Taylor. The play started at noon, but the three classes left Monte Vista after second period in order to get something to eat and get settled. The Honors English and drama teachers,

along with

tion halfway through the play, but, in an interesting twist, the characters did not leave the stage, just as their real counterparts were not able to leave the space in which they were hiding. The play emphasized this point throughout, leading up to the tragic ending where the audience realizes that all of the characters' efforts had been in vain.

As one of the Honors English 9 students able to experience the play, I believe that it was an eye-opener for some of the students, myself included. All throughout the play the characters stressed how terrible it was to be in hiding. However, they were all able to still maintain their sense of humor and humanity. I cannot help but wonder if that's how it was in reality, or if it was even more terrible than the play let on, which I imagine playwrights Frances Goodrich and Albert Hackett hoped audiences would consider.

Monte Vista HS Knowledge Bowl Teams on a Roll at Adams State Meets

By Kaitlynn Chavez

At the Knowledge Bowl meet held at Adams State University on October 12th, the Monte Vista High School varsity and junior varsity teams both took second in the large school division.

There were a total of 13 high schools at the meet, including Monte Vista, Alamosa, Del Norte, Creede Centauri, Lake City, Sierra Grande, Sangre de Cristo, Antonito, La Veta, Leadville, and Custer County.

One of the Monte Vista Knowledge Bowl participants explained that the activity "is a fun and good way to use your academic knowledge." Other participants agreed; the club practices Tuesdays and Thursdays during lunch in Ms. Loree Harvey's room.

Varsity Knowledge Bowl members are Colby Self, Stephen Clutter, Molly Nehring, Evan Acosta, and Trysten Ogden. Junior Varsity members are Blaine Gillespie, Sara Nehring, Trinady Gonzales, Justin Carr, and Jocelyn Lopez.

Holiday Season Horoscopes: Anticipate Sharp Thinking and Tense Communications

Compiled by Jessica Castillo Gallegos

Sign	Element	Color	Spiritual	Emotional
Aries (March 21-April 19)	Fire	Red	Perseverance	Courage
Taurus (April 20-May 20)	Earth	Pink	Security	Sociability
Gemini (May 21-June 20)	Air	Yellow	Wisdom	Contentment
Cancer (June 21-July 22)	Water	White, Silver	Peace	Peace
Leo (July 23-August 22)	Fire	Orange, Gold	Purity	Optimism
Virgo (August 23-September 22)	Earth	Brown, Navy	Steadfastness	Confidence
Libra (September 23-October 22)	Air	Pastels	Fertility	Balance
Scorpio (October 23-November 21)	Water	Dark Red	Love	Strength
Sagittarius (November 22-December 21)	Fire	Purple	Faith	Inner Calm
Capricorn (December 22-January 19)	Earth	Black	Loyalty	Power
Aquarius (January 20-February 18)	Air	Turquoise	Integrity	Innovation
Pisces (February 19-March 20)	Water	Sea Green	Compassion	Reflection



Source: Daily Horoscope

Aries: Expect some big changes—just don't forget to focus on others' needs, as well as your own.

Taurus: Serious conversations about delicate subjects will come up frequently, so ready yourself.

Gemini: The holiday season will start out complicated, but you'll get through it with your knack for socializing and conversation.

Cancer: Faced with turbulence during the month of November, you'll be more predisposed to moodiness.

Leo: A change in thinking or a piece of news might surprise you, causing you to be more flexible than usual.

Virgo: Unexpected issues around shared resources could cause stress in an important relationship.

Libra: Your mind will be especially sharp and active this holiday season, so make the most of it in your friendships and professional interactions.

Scorpio: Plan to be in the spotlight more than usual. The first part of November will be a romantic and creative time in both your professional and personal life.

Sagittarius: The first part of the month will be a great time for networking, but, after that, erratic energy could create some unexpected drama.

Capricorn: Since your relationships might seem more work than usual, take some time for yourself to process.

Aquarius: This holiday season will be a busy one for you, but you'll be able to get through it using your own unique strategies for dealing with friends and family.

Pisces: Your mysterious nature will only increase during Scorpio season, so be careful communicating.

(broadly.vice.com)

Opinion: Generation Z Revealing How Complex Growing Up Nowadays Really Is

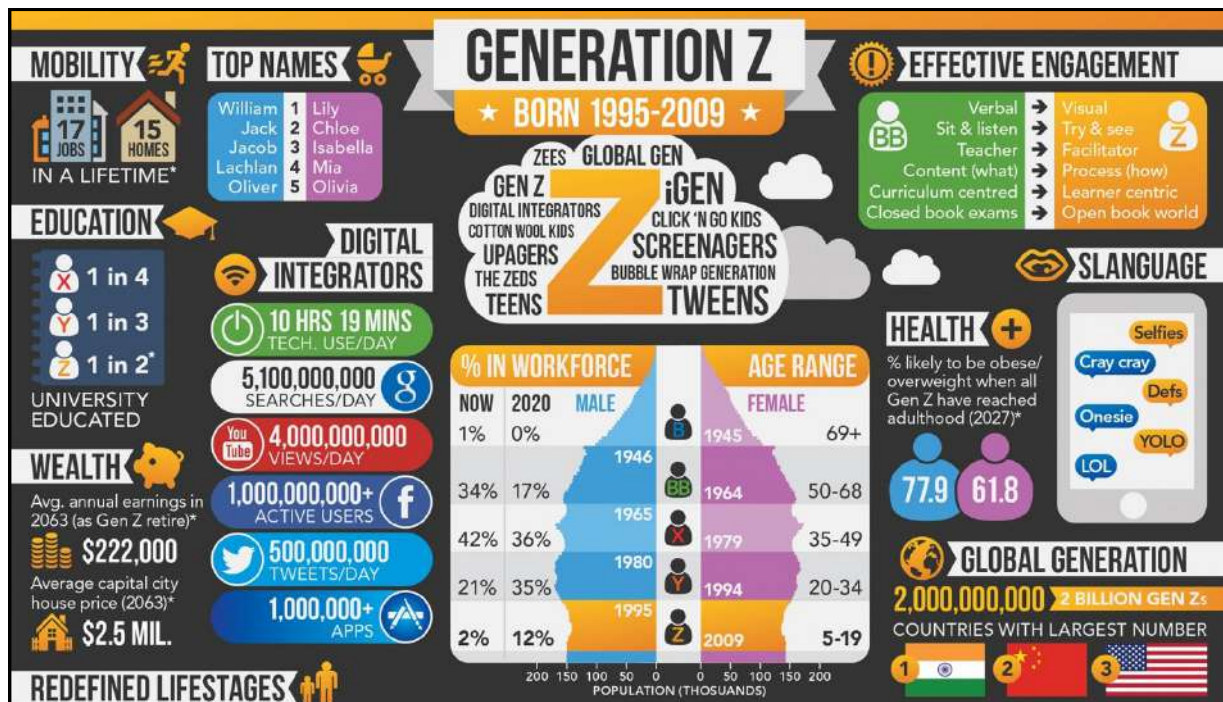
By Karicia Ceballos

Generation Z (those born from 1995-2009) is becoming an infamous part of American culture. There may be reasons behind Generation Z's deviation from the values of previous generations, from different approaches to parenting to advances in technology changing the way we all live.

First off, parenting plays a big role. What you grow up learning can affect you in different ways. Many Generation Z children are growing up without a father or mother figure, due to one or both parental figures using illegal drugs, being incarcerated, or simply not being ready to take on the responsibilities of parenting. Growing up with a single parent isn't necessarily bad, and many single parents are great parents, but Generation Z is having to deal with growing up in single-parent households more than did those of previous generations. Thus, they have to learn about life on their own, and many don't make good decisions.

Even though Generation Z is making a lot of bad decisions, they are different from previous generations in good ways, as well. One potentially positive development is the shift in attitudes about dating. In the past, people would be married with children before the age of 20! Now, young people get judged for marrying "too early" or having "too many" kids; many teens even consider committing or getting married too early a nightmare! Generation Z has also developed the "talking" stage as a way to get to know a potential partner before the actual dating stage. For those of you who don't know, in a more simple way, the "talking" stage is basically where you act like you're dating but it's not serious. It's confusing, but it's a low-risk way to see if someone is actually a good match for you, instead of just jumping into a serious relationship.

Because of this new "talking" state of relationships, our personal lives have become extremely dependent on technology. Technological developments have also made people extremely lazy in many ways. Technology can be a great teaching tool (nowadays you'll see children playing on iPhones and tablets before they can even walk or talk), but it has to be monitored and used deliberately. Technology has changed the way everyone, but especially Generation Z, purchases products, completes everyday tasks, communicates, travels, and learns. This generation is definitely different (**check out the visual from McCrindle below**), but if it can overcome certain obstacles, it could positively affect American culture and society.



Opinion: LGBTQIA Discrimination Issues Deserve a Closer Look

By Irene Aguilera and Karicia Ceballos

According to Mary E. Williams' *Homosexuality*, "being gay is not genetically transferred." She believes that many people are just gay because they are. People do not exactly just choose to be gay, however. Williams also believes that it would not matter if being genetically gay was a real phenomenon. People would still judge and criticize. Many people use gay, transsexual, or sexist insults as jokes, or even "terms of endearment". The LGBTQIA (Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer, Intersex, and Asexual) community, however, shouldn't be the butt of jokes, or the target of ignorance.

For example, the term "no homo" is commonly used to stress the speaker's heterosexuality, masculinity, and/or other traits to avoid being perceived as LGBTQIA.

"That's so gay," is another insult which stigmatizes gay and queer people. It uses their identities to describe something as undesirable and bad.

On a related note, when people say, "Bisexuality doesn't really exist. You're just gay or straight," it denies the fluidity of sexuality and dismisses people's experiences and definitions of self. People deserve the right to define their own identities any way they wish and have those definitions honored. "I think everyone is really bisexual," on the other hand, is often meant to acknowledge the

fluidity of sexuality, but dismisses people's actual sexual preferences and experiences.

Gender is often treated in a similarly insensitive manner when it come to bisexuality: "You're too femme/butch to be bisexual," for example, is misguided, because gender presentation does not indicate sexual orientation. Bisexual people have a wide range of gender presentations.

Bisexual people experience discrimination within straight communities and lesbian/gay communities. They never fully experience straight privilege because they do not identify as straight, but their identities are often not respected in lesbian/gay communities, either.

Perhaps part of this derives from the misconception that "bisexual people are just greedy and want to have sex with everyone." This is not only a harmful stereotype of bisexual people, but creates negative attitudes toward sex, in general. It also demonstrates an underlying belief that bisexuality is only about behavior and is not a legitimate identity.

Just as is the case with those who identify as bisexual, whether or not someone identifies as trans, calling anyone "tranny" is extremely offensive. While some folks within the trans community may choose to reclaim this word for themselves, it is not okay to use it to label another person or use it as a joke.

Bullying, which members of the LGBTQIA community disproportionately experience, is becoming a bigger problem, even as people are showing less interest in stopping the problem. Perhaps this is because physical bullying, such as hitting, kicking, pinching, or pushing, is more obvious than verbal bullying (name-calling), and social bullying/cyberbullying (revealing hurtful information or images), which are becoming increasingly common. This poses an especially tough situation for those who openly identify as LGBTQIA. They frequently deal with bullying in the forms of harassment, violence, and attacks. However, the most frequent is bigoted verbal abuse such as name-calling. According to NoBullying.org, the Gay, Lesbian, and Straight Education Network conducted a study in 2005 that concluded that appearance was the number one reason for bullying. The second most common reason was actual or assumed sexual orientation and gender identity. The statistics show 82% had problems during the previous year with bullying about sexual orientation, 64% felt unsafe at school due to sexual orientation, and 44% felt unsafe at school due to gender identification. 61% never reported the attacks, and when they did, 31% said the school made no effort to address the problem. This needs to change in order to protect students from others, as well as from suicide and self-harm.

Happy Death Day A Surprisingly Fun and Clever Take on *Groundhog Day*

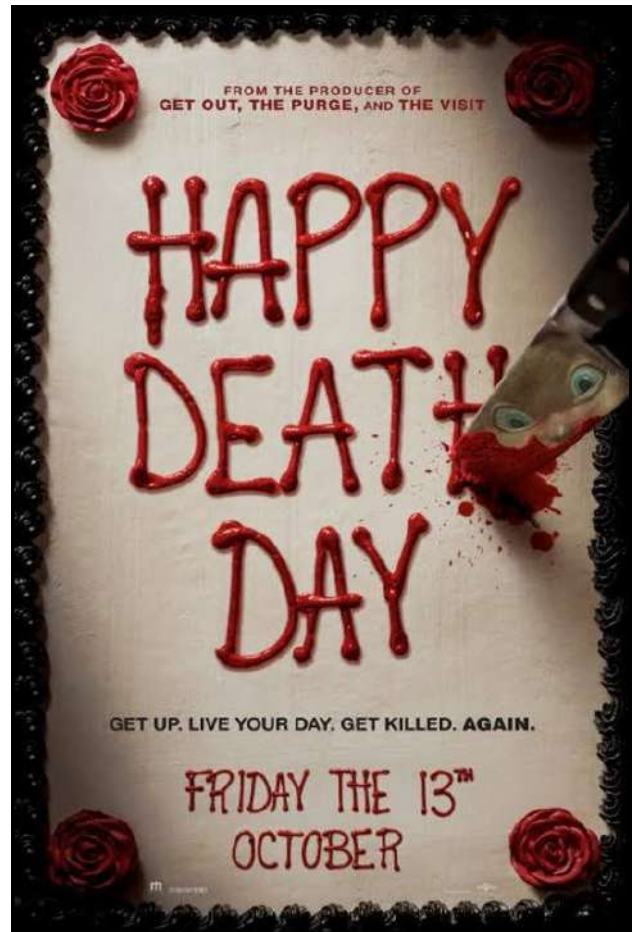
By Jessica Castillo Gallegos

Happy Death Day (2017), which was fittingly released on Friday the 13th, is a strange combination of horror film, romantic comedy, and *Groundhog Day* (1993) conceit that actually works. Because it doesn't take itself too seriously, and keeps the whodunit premise very simple, audiences are able to appreciate the cheap scares, as well as the protagonist's predictable discovery that she's a horrible person who should allow herself to be transformed by her nerdy love interest.

The movie opens with the main character, sorority girl Tree Gelbman, waking up in a stranger's room. The audience quickly discovers, along with Tree, that she is doomed to relive the day of her murder, which just happens to be her birthday, until she discovers the identity of her killer. While the filmmakers engaged in a little overkill (pun intended) to make this point, it is humorous watching Tree die over and over again, until she confesses to her would-be one-night stand her suspicion that she's stuck in a loop that she can only escape by catching her killer. As audiences would expect, he helps her hatch a plan to eliminate suspects one by one. The plan looks like it's going to work, until a "surprise" twist at the end.

Happy Death Day is enjoyable because it knows its twists really aren't that twisty, and that it plays into many modern horror film clichés. It's that satirical touch that keeps it from being annoying, with help from director Christopher Landon (2015's *Scouts Guide to the Zombie Apocalypse*), writer Scott Lobdell of Marvel's *X-Men* fame, and actors Jessica Rothe (2016's *La La Land*), Israel Broussard (2013's *The Bling Ring*), and Ruby Modine of Showtime's *Shameless*. Though the main characters are acted convincingly, none of their back stories are deeply developed; they provide just enough justification for the *Groundhog Day* loop premise to be plausible.

And plausible and played out it is, but, again, the director and writer are very conscious of it, so they have fun with the time loop concept, from the Universal logo restarting before the opening scene, to the main character making her "walk of shame" from her eventual love interest's dorm room to her sorority house several times, each with humorous variations. Eventually, Tree strolls naked across the quad, knowing she'll be reliving the day, anyway. According to IMDb, this scene was filmed on an active college campus, so it had to be done in just a few takes, while the crew kept potential onlookers out. In addition to attention-grabbing scenes, *Happy Death Day* makes a nod to a number of mystery, horror, and science fiction films, including *Repo Man* (1984), *Ghostbusters* (1984), *Back to the Future* (1985), *They Live* (1988), and *Mystery Science Theater 3000: The Movie* (1996). The numerous references and conceits pair nicely with the simple premise (time loop that can only be escaped by solving the mystery) and character profiles (the heartless sorority girl, the mousy roommate, the hot nerd, the closeted ex-love interest, the sociopathic queen bee, the deranged criminal, and the detached grieving father), so I recommend it if you're looking for an entertaining date-night movie, or a way to get over your Halloween withdrawals. I doubt it will be garnering any awards for cinematic achievements, but I found it way smarter and more engaging than I anticipated. It's not thought-provoking, or even very scary, but it employs familiar elements in a novel way that breathes fresh life into the time loop genre.



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Upperclassmen Dispense Advice to the Freshmen of Monte Vista HS

Compiled by Grace Beckner and Kylee Henderhan

Advice from Seniors:

- “Don’t slack, because you’ll never catch up.”
- “Get you a nice wife to sustain you through the years, just not mine.”
- “Either don’t procrastinate, or procrastinate very well.”
- “Tell them to shut up.”
- “Don’t drop out.”
- “If you’re going to be late, make it count.”

Advice from Juniors:

- “Suck up to all the seniors.”
- “Keep your legs closed.”
- “Don’t stink”
- “Do your work.”
- “Don’t be dumb.”
- “Don’t try to act tough when, in all reality, you’re really just a wuss.”
- “Join football.”
- “Don’t get used.”
- “Don’t be a bum.”
- “Don’t let the player get played.”
- “Don’t fail your classes; do your work.”
- “Use your locker, not your friend’s.”
- “Don’t grow a mullet.”
- “Keep up with your work.”
- “Get your homework turned in and don’t start drama.”

Advice from Sophomores:

- “Don’t get shoved in a locker.”
- “Never carry too much money on you, because it could get stolen.”
- “Don’t do stupid stuff.”



After an impressive showing during Homecoming Week, the Seniors share their wisdom with the underclassmen.

Photo by Taylor Johnson

- “Keep a bar of soap in your locker, in case of emergency showers, and for when the soap dispenser doesn’t work. Plus, it makes your locker smell really good.”
- “Be confident and do your work.”
- “Don’t be annoying, and pay attention in class. It will help on tests.”
- “That senior does not love you.”

Advice from Staff:

- “Don’t get behind.”
- “Try to avoid arguing with your teachers.”
- “Mocking your teachers is not a form of flattery.”
- “Never assume you don’t need to know something.”



The Pirate is always watching, so follow your elders’ advice (teachers and upperclassmen).

Photo by Taylor Johnson