

THE SHAMROCK

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Gen Z's Voice Rings Throughout Nepal

VALERIE MACEDO

News Editor



AMBIR TOLANG/Getty Images

Gen Z protesters gather in Nepal to raise their voices and their concerns.

Between Sept. 4 and Sept. 13, 2025, protests escalated in Nepal which included a vast majority of Gen Z individuals protesting for a better government and living conditions.

These once peaceful protests escalated to violence as protestors set fire to government buildings and clashed with police forces.

Initially, the protests started as retaliation against the government's social media ban of numerous apps such as Facebook and Youtube. However, things quickly took a forceful turn as the police used weapons like tear gas and rubber bullets leading to 74 deaths and over 2,100 injuries according to Reuters, a global news source.

"Seeing how Gen Z can make a big impact in a difficult situation gives me hope for our own future," junior Evan Maisenbach said.

Worldwide, this news has made other Gen Z people inspired that their voice matters. The people of Nepal's voices were not getting heard until their generation stepped up to guarantee they were.

Gen Z protesters collaborated over many different social media platforms, especially one called Discord. Discord is a platform usually used to make new friends or find new communities. Using it as a way to bring thousands of people together is unheard of and historic. Gen Z used this platform to plan protests as well as choose a new prime minister, their first

women prime minister, former Supreme Court Chief Justice Sushila Karki.

"Discord? I do have it," a student who prefers to remain anonymous said. "I never knew so many people could connect and make big decisions like that (on Discord)."

In our modern society, the standard of communication is through social media. Even now we use platforms to plan, create, and act. The citizens of Nepal are no different, representing how Gen Z can use our resources and take action.

With the use of violence and a continuous amount of protesting, Gen Z of Nepal were able to make their own mark on their history.



SUNIL PRADHAN/Getty Images

Gen Z's impact is being felt across Nepal.

Letter From the Editor



HANNY CHO

Editor-In-Chief

Dear Reader,

Welcome to the first issue for Volume 54 of "The Shamrock!" I am truly honored to have the opportunity to lead our school newspaper as this year's Editor-in-Chief.

As we launch our first issue of the year, I am excited to present our newspaper and bring the stories, ideas, and creativity of our amazing school community. By

making the newspaper as engaging and entertaining as possible, my ultimate goal is to capture the moments that make this school year special. Whether it is celebrating achievements, highlighting student voices, or reflecting on memorable events, my hope is that each issue will serve as an archive of memories our community can look back on with pride.

When I first joined "The Shamrock," I was simply looking for an elective that could possibly improve my communication skills. I never could have imagined how invested I would become or how much I would grow through this experience. "The Shamrock" has allowed me to explore creative writing styles, experiment with layout design through InDesign, and express my creativity in ways I never expected.

Working together, our editors and staff

reporters have dedicated themselves to creating something meaningful for every student. Our goal is to make "The Shamrock" something the community can relate to and enjoy. We aim to capture what matters most to you – your interests, your experiences, and the unique moments that make our school life so special. From engaging articles to eye-catching photos, we hope each page brings something that makes you smile, think, and connect.

We hope the articles we present throughout this volume will inspire you to be more engaged, more connected, and more proud to be part of our school community. We are proud to present our new volume to you!

Hanny.



Trump Trending Toward TikTok End

CHRISTINA KIM

Staff Reporter

Since January 19, 2025, the ban on TikTok has been circulating in the U.S. The reason President Donald Trump wants to ban TikTok is because of the concerns from the U.S. government about data collection. As of right now, TikTok is being operated under a new ownership structure by Trump. However, many citizens wonder if the ban is really necessary.

“I thought it was dumb how quickly it came back,” senior Andrea Enriquez said. “I use TikTok every day. I also feel like the most impact would be the influencers that use social media daily.”

Recently, Trump announced that the ban on TikTok was postponed for the fourth time. These delays had raised questions about limiting presidential power and the rule of law in the U.S.

The government had previously sparked multiple concerns about TikTok posing a national security risk under Chinese ownership: an argument lawmakers and officials have been making for years. These officials feel that people who use TikTok daily are likely to have their data tracked and collected.

Back in April of 2024, Congress passed a bill that was signed by former President Joe Biden. The bill gave ByteDance, TikTok’s owner, nine months to decide whether or not to sell the app. Many U.S. creators say that it would be quite devastating for the loss of the app, especially for the ones who love TikTok.

“I don’t use TikTok, but I feel like this ban is quite unnecessary,” junior Janellen Monzon said. “I feel like the ban only happened because TikTok is owned by China. It feels like Temu was getting in trouble for security reasons. There could be a similar situation where they tried to get rid of TikTok.”

TikTok was originally owned by ByteDance. However, the Trump administration made an announcement that there was a deal reached with China. The deal was an ongoing negotiation about avoiding the ban.

Since August 2018, TikTok has been the type of app that thousands of people, especially teenagers and influencers, visit on a daily basis to watch videos or post to their millions of followers. Back in 2024,



Courtesy of HARDWARE UPGRADE

The Trump administration has been in a battle over the safety and security of TikTok.

users would spend 51 minutes per day on TikTok.

“I don’t think that TikTok should be banned,” junior Garrison Christensen said. “I feel that maybe people have truths and

questions and answers to any problems we face.”

So far, the decision to ban the app has not been made, but officials are still working together to gather enough evidence.

New iPhone, Same as the Old iPhone

MARY PERERA

Staff Reporter

The release of Apple’s new iPhone 17 on September 19, 2025 has sparked more anger than excitement among many Apple buyers.

Rather than lining up to buy the phone, many people are saying that it is too expensive and not very different from older versions.

The starting price of almost \$1,200 is a major reason for the backlash. Many students and adults feel that the cost is too high, especially since the design resembles that of the iPhone 16.

Some believe Apple is making only small updates, like new colors, instead of more significant changes that would make the phone feel worth the hefty price.

“Honestly, I don’t see much difference from the iPhone 16,” freshman student Macy Carralejo said.

Battery life is another common complaint of the new phone model. Several users have reported that the phone loses



Courtesy of SUPERSAF

Many argue that the new iPhone 17 lacks big changes needed to for consumers to upgrade.

power quickly, particularly when using the new AI camera tools. Apple also introduced an “eco-charging” feature that is meant to protect the battery over

time. However, some people say it makes charging slower and more frustrating.

“The battery life sounds better, but I’d rather wait until a better model before

spending that much money,” freshman Mili Patel said.

Apple has defended the iPhone 17 by highlighting its new camera system and stronger durability. Tech reviewers agree that the phone is powerful, but they also note that it may not seem like a significant upgrade for those who already own a recent model.

“The iPhone 17 deserves some credit for its new features, especially the camera,” Kennedy Technology Student Association President Samantha De Anda said. “However, Apple’s prices continue to rise, and the changes often don’t seem worth it. Apple has become kind of redundant with their iPhones.”

The backlash has raised questions about how long Apple’s loyal fans will continue to upgrade each year. With prices rising and changes remaining small, some wonder if this is the moment when customers start to hold back.



4|FEATURES

Six-Seven Silliness

HANNY CHO

Editor-In-Chief

A little boy shouts “six-seven” at a basketball game. The video goes viral, and soon two numbers – 6 and 7 – are echoing throughout TikTok, Instagram, and YouTube edits. What began as a random chant has turned into one of the most popular memes among Gen Alpha, leading to countless remakes, parodies, and jokes.

The “6-7” meme first went viral in March 2025 through a boy at AAU basketball game and TikTok edits. The “6-7” originated from a song called “Doot Doot” by a rapper Skrilla, where he repeats the lyric “six-seven”. It quickly spread across social media and became popular as users associated the lyric with NBA player LaMelo Ball’s 6’7” height and transformed it into strange edits. Today, the meme shows up everywhere from sporting highlights to classroom pranks. This raises questions about why it appeals so strongly to young audiences and how it manages to stay relevant.

“I hear and talk about ‘six-seven’ every day with my friends,” Satit Bilingual School 7th grader Daniel Han said. “I do



Courtesy of CLAIRE RUBY YOUNG

Many people believe Maverick Trevillian is behind the “6-7” meme craze.

it because my friends do it too, and it’s a trend that I feel like I have to follow. But I don’t really know where and how it came from.”

Han’s comment shows how the “6-7” meme has spread into daily school life, getting absorbed by students through social influence and shared humor. The students persist in using the joke despite not knowing where it came from. This demonstrates the way memes can spread

from online trends into real-life social phenomena.

“Whenever the numbers 6 and 7 appear in class or a teacher mentions them, all of us shout ‘six-seven!’” Chiang Mai International School junior Amber Kwon said. “It just became my daily life.”

Kwon’s experience shows how the “6-7” meme has evolved from social media to become a fun part of daily life for students. Its spread in the classroom

highlights how memes tend to gain a life of their own as they become popular through repetition and participation by other students.

“I saw the ‘6-7’ meme on Instagram Reels and honestly thought it was kind of stupid,” Duke University junior Sarah Suh said. “I’m glad I didn’t choose to be a kindergarten or elementary teacher - I can’t imagine dealing with kids constantly shouting ‘six-seven!’ all day.”

Suh’s opinion underscores the point that not everyone would find the meme funny, yet its popularity among students is undeniable. The spread of the meme “6-7” shows how memes can dominate school culture, whether some find them silly or nonsensical.

To me, the “6-7” meme stands out for its simplicity. It captures an unexpectedly funny moment, lying in randomness. Making it both entertaining and oddly memorable, the meme demonstrates how something so ordinary can become a viral source of laughter across social media.

Whether we laugh or roll our eyes, “6-7” has become the classroom joke that no one can escape: a meme that demonstrates that even numbers can go viral.

A Night Across the Spider-Verse: Hoco 2025

ADDISON AGUIRRE

Sports Editor

This year's Hoco theme and dance swung in from another universe! On Oct. 11, 2025, Kennedy students wore dance shoes and thwiped along to “A Night Across the Spider-Verse” at Kennedy High from 7 to 11 p.m. Our own ASB hosted the dance which cost students \$65-\$80, depending on when they purchased the ticket and whether or not they had an ASB card.

Almost everyone said the Hoco dance was amazing. People stated that it was so fun, was put on very well, and was exciting to attend. ASB really did a good job on the dance, and it was so fun for everyone to go to.



The live band, decorations, people, and overall vibe were amazing, making it feel even more special. Everyone singing along and dancing to the DJ’s music just made it feel so in the moment.

“While the songs were playing, you were just in the moment, and everyone around you just made it feel like you were having so much fun,” freshman Samantha Torrez said.

As for the pep rally, people thought it was okay. Students described it as crowded, boring, and said that ASB should choose better games.

Crowding was a big issue. People were so close together and everyone was getting kneed in the back. Boring might be right too since there were three dances all performed by cheer. Although they did great dances, three was just too much.

Lastly, the games weren’t exciting to watch. The ASB staff should choose volunteers in the crowd to get everyone excited. For it being the first pep rally, ASB did okay and has a few small things to improve on.

“It takes a lot of time and effort to put on something like the pep rally, and as ASB, we did as good as possible,” freshman Jordynn Addie said.



Photos Courtesy of KENNEDY ASB

“A Night Across the Spider-Verse” had been a somewhat controversial theme. From seniors to freshmen, everyone had a different opinion. Some thought it was a unique and cool theme; others did not. Many people thought the theme was hard to dress for and even to decorate.

“I think the hoco theme is okay, it’s cool, but I just don’t know what to wear

with it without it being basic,” freshman Brooke Srey said.

The first dance of the 2025-2026 school year changed everyone’s thoughts on this homecoming theme. No matter if it was positive or negative, ASB put on the dance very well, making it an unforgettable memory for every person going freshman to senior. Way to start the year!



Not Just Black Clothes: The Many Styles of Alt Fashion



LEILA SELL
Opinions Editor

To most people, Emo just means wearing black. Dark hoodies, band shirts, or accessories. That's just the stereotype. In reality, Alt Fashion is much more than that.

Emo stands for "Emotional." The subculture is mostly about being in touch with your feelings, and most of the music includes emotionally intense lyrics and sound.

Many famous bands of the Emo genre include My Chemical Romance, Panic! At the Disco, and Fall Out Boy.

"I've heard people say it's stupid, and I

hate that because Emo isn't about wearing black," senior Michael Sell said. "It's about the music."

Emo is just one piece of the Alt

Fashion pictureThere's Grunge, Punk, Metal, and Scene:

Each with its own style.

People may interpret how they are all the same because they all "look the same."

Some go as far as making fun of these styles

because they don't know the deeper meaning of where they come

from.

"A lot of people make fun of others who tend to dress Emo, Scene, Goth, etc." sophomore Madison Trinkle said. "It saddens me in a way because people just want to express themselves and in this generation it seems like you can't do that without getting any weird looks or harmful comments."

Grunge originated from the 1990s in Seattle where bands like Nirvana, Pearl Jam, and Soundgarden gained popularity.

These bands

land in the Alternative Rock genre. They mostly wear baggy shirts, flannel, and baggy jeans. Some people would describe the style as "bummy" when it's more laid back and casual.

"Goth and Emo are very different, because of their music and their styles of clothing," senior Erin Frazier said. "Goth is more colorful as Emo wears darker colors."

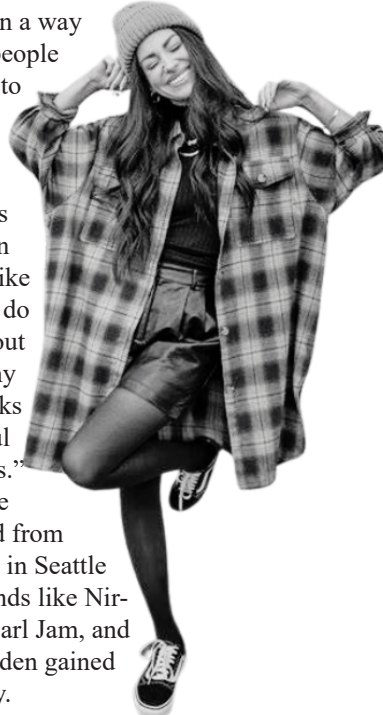
Bands like The Cure, Siouxsie and the Banshees, and Joy Division are most known for their gothic lyrics and sound.

There are many sub genres of Goth but the styles are fishnets, leather, and plaid. Goth and Emo are the most likely styles to get mixed up due to their identical color palettes and choices of accessories like, chokers, spiked and/or studded belts.

So is wearing black "Emo?" Well, it can be, but Alt Fashion is all about owning and expressing creativity.

There are many styles that come with black clothing. Each style says what some words can't.

Courtesy of AMAZON and PINTEREST



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Halloween
Costume
Contest

AYDEN BASTIDA
Features Editor

Halloween is on Oct. 31st, and Kennedy High will hold some events. By far the most anticipated one is the Costume Contest.

“A typical one at Kennedy,” Kennedy High assistant principal Amanda Bryant said, “is the Costume Contest at Lunch, on Halloween day.” Bryant was unsure, however, about whether it would happen at Kennedy again. “I hope it makes a comeback this year.” However, ASB Director Sara Daddario confirmed that it would occur on Halloween day. “The only Halloween event we hold is a costume contest on the stage on Halloween.”

Off campus, many Halloween-related events have already taken place, like Silverado Days. It is an annual community fair held in Buena Park, California, at William Peak Park, which features a carnival, food, a marketplace, contests, and rides. It was held on Oct. 17-19. Silverado Days is typically held on the third week of October. The Silverado Days website reports, “Silverado Days draws over 60,000 people over a 3-day period to Peak Park in Buena Park.”

From Halloween, there are plenty of events to watch and enjoy. With them, we hope that you get involved in one of these and enjoy that experience to the fullest!

LAST-MINUTE COSTUMES



Halloween | 7

SCARY MOVIES!



Psycho
(1960)
Directed by: Alfred Hitchcock



Night of the Living Dead
(1968)
Directed by: George A. Romero



The Shining
(1980)
Directed by: Stanley Kubrick

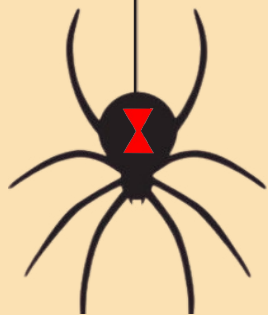


The Nightmare Before Christmas
(1993)
Directed by: Tim Burton



The Substance
(2024)
Directed by: Coralie Fargeat

Halloween WORD SEARCH



Z	E	R	B	P	W	Z	F	P	I	F	Q
E	P	K	O	I	K	N	A	R	F	G	V
S	S	U	W	I	T	G	N	U	H	R	A
P	E	F	M	B	T	E	G	O	P	X	M
I	L	P	Z	P	X	I	S	X	R	V	P
D	L	Y	I	N	K	T	I	F	T	S	I
E	A	S	U	D	A	I	E	M	A	P	R
R	F	R	O	L	H	E	N	Y	B	L	E
A	C	O	B	W	E	B	S	S	D	K	U
T	L	C	A	M	S	P	O	O	K	Y	V
B	V	L	B	T	I	N	G	Y	H	J	P
H	C	O	H	A	L	L	O	W	E	E	N



Word Bank (one bonus word!)

Spider	Pumpkins	Vampire
Bites	Fall	Spooky
Fangs	Blood	Claw
Cobwebs	Ghost	Bat



8|OPINIONS

Dress Code or Dress Control?



LEILA SELL
Opinions Editor

This year's Dress Code has become the talk around Kennedy High, with many people feeling the policy is unfair and outdated. Female students have been saying the Dress Code is sexist and mostly negatively affects the girls rather than the boys. Last year's dress code was reasonable on some level because we were allowed to wear tank tops, but this year the Dress Code went a little overboard.

One of the policies that the girls have been talking about is "No tank tops and shoulders must be covered at all times."

This seems to go too far. Since when has showing your shoulders been distracting? Southern California gets really hot throughout the school year. Wearing a t-shirt alone can make people feel hot and sweaty.

"I think the dress code isn't fair at all towards girls because how is showing your shoulders distracting?" sophomore Cheyenne Taffolla said. "Also, I think the dress code is much stricter than last year's dress code."

Sometimes, the Dress Code could be fair on some terms, like sagging pants or crop tops, since schools want students to dress appropriately.

The Dress Code isn't all that bad. The issue is less about having rules at all and more how unevenly they're enforced and how some of them feel confusing or unfair.

If the Dress Code focused more on keeping the rules equal and clear, it

wouldn't be so bad. For example, girls can wear tank tops but spaghetti straps aren't allowed.

"The Dress Code is fair sometimes, but sometimes they make the rules confusing and unfair especially towards girls," sophomore Kody Penza said. "But if the crop top is way above the stomach, then it's reasonable."

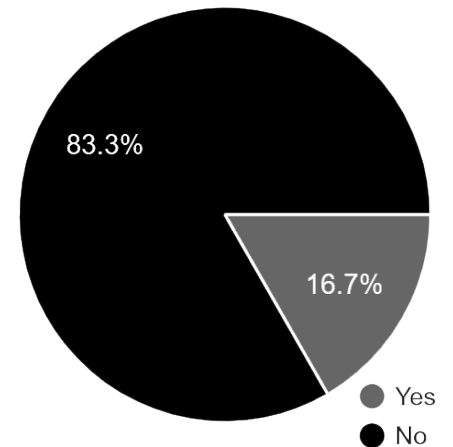
Many students understand that Kennedy High wants to keep the dress code more appropriate and professional, but sometimes the policy/rules can target the girls more than the boys. The confusion on what's "appropriate" only makes it more frustrating and makes students rebel over the policy.

We reached out to Assistant Principal Jeff Howe on the subject, but he declined to comment.

At the end of the day, most students don't mind the dress code. School is a learning environment, not a place for judgement. Some students like to embrace their uniqueness with no intentions of "attracting boys with their shoulders

showing."

Most aspects of the Dress Code are valid and reasonable, but not showing your shoulder shouldn't be in the dress code because it's "distracting." Boys get away with a lot of their clothing styles, so why can't girls be allowed to wear tank tops?



*Courtesy of THE SHAMROCK
Kennedy students were asked if they believed the current Dress Code policy was fair.*

District Cell Phone Policy



KATHRYN MARTIN
Staff Reporter

Starting this school year, Anaheim Union High School District has enacted a district-wide cell phone ban during times of class instruction as well as while outside of the classroom and during passing periods.

Students and teachers alike have mixed emotions and diverse reactions when it comes to this cell phone ban. Personally, I know I get anxious when my phone isn't in my pocket. The thought of not having my phone often distracts me during class. Phones shouldn't be completely banned

on campus, just limited.

California Governor Gavin Newsom signed Assembly Bill 3216, the Phone-Free School Act, to require every school district, charter school, and county office of education to develop a policy limiting the use of smartphones by July 1, 2026.

Several students like Sophomore Jasmin Lopez have very mixed feelings about it.

"Obviously I don't like it because I'm attached to my phone" Lopez said. "But I think it does actually help me learn more and be able to focus on my school activities and my work more."

Banning phones has students and parents in a mix of opinions. Several students like Lopez don't agree with it, while most teachers do agree with it.

"I agree with the phone ban, I think students are very addicted and spoiled to their phones," Child Development and Principles of Teaching & Learning teacher Tamara Aden said. "I also think students should be able to go on (their phones) during passing period, however when people aren't going from class to class, then it

becomes a bigger issue than it is."

Assistant Principal Jeff Howe went the extra mile to make sure the district's phone ban went into practice. Howe provided teachers with cell phone pockets in each of their classrooms. The hanging holders have slots for 40 smartphones making it so students can 100% have no chance of being on their phones during instructional time.

However, Howe did allow the teachers the opportunity to individually make the choice to decide whether or not they wanted to use the cell phone pockets.

"I think the phone pockets are horrible," sophomore Elizabeth Arizon said. "Phone pockets make it to where if there is an emergency, kids are gonna rush to get their phones and crowding the doorway making the emergency worse that it potentially already is."

Kennedy High has mixed emotions about it, but the majority of people do agree with it when they think of the bigger picture. This generation is much more of a technology generation than it was in the past and even a couple years ago. Students

obviously show that they use their phones more than they use computers or laptops, and if they have a deadline for something and their Chromebook is dead, what choice do they have but their phone to turn it in? I know when I have last minute deadlines and I'm not able to get to my Chromebook, I do it on my phone.

As more time goes on and the world starts becoming more technologically advanced, the school administration should start thinking about how much teenagers in this day and time need their phones.



*Courtesy of JULIA SILVERMAN
Students are forced to turn in their phones.*



It's Time for Professional Softball

ADDISON AGUIRRE

Sports Editor

For over 100 years, softball has never had a team they could play for after college professionally, except for the USA Olympic team. On June 4, 2025, Jon Patricof and Jonathan Soros created the Athletes Unlimited Softball League (AUSL) for the best of the best softball players.

Thanks to the MLB investing 10 million dollars, the founders wouldn't have

been able to start the league as soon as possible. Softball players playing in from T-ball to 18u have a new hope and dream of being able to play for this new league.

"Softball is underpaid compared to men's sports," Freshman Cienna Wilson said. "They don't have much money to give, but the men's league gets many sponsorships and donations. It makes a big difference in the league and popular-

ity."

This has given people more opportunities to do more after softball. It's very uncommon for people to make any money from softball unless they get a brand deal like Nijaree Canady or make their own gear like bats, gloves, cleats, and catcher gear. Nijaree Canady played for Stanford and got paid \$1,050,000 to transfer over to Texas Tech and she is sponsored by Easton.

"If this league were made about 10 years ago, I feel like this would have motivated me more to work harder to go D1 and make the little girl in me proud," Cailyn Jordan Apacible. She was the starting 2nd baseman for Felician University in New Jersey, which is a D2 softball program.

The AUSL currently recruits players from 2013 to current college players. Their four teams are Talons, Blaze, Volts, and Bandits, which don't have a specific location to play. Out of the 60 people



Courtesy of AUSL

playing in the AUSL, there are seven past or current players for UCLA, six for Florida, Oklahoma, and five for LSU.

"I think the world of softball has expanded for every person who plays softball and opened up opportunities," Freshman Abigail Hernandez said.

Girls now have a bigger dream than just making it to college. These players want to work harder to make it to the AUSL. Girls are inspired and look up to the women playing in the AUSL now and hope to one day play for them.



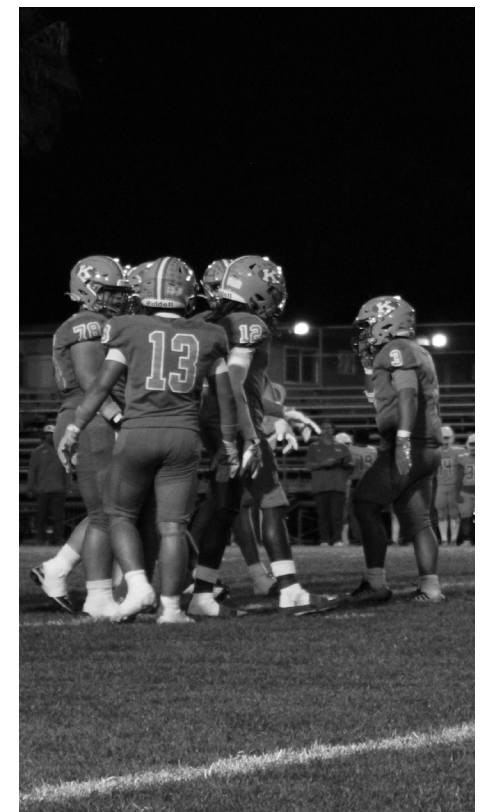
Courtesy of USA TODAY

The AUSL offers college softball players a chance to go pro after graduation.

Irish Football Homecoming Game 2025: Photo Highlights

IRELYNN ORTIZ

Photo Editor



Hollywood Horror Nights: Is It Worth the Screams?

HANNY CHO

Editor-In-Chief

The gates creak open, fog spreads across the streets, monsters hide in the shadows, and the screams start. Universal Studios Hollywood's Horror Nights has made the theme park into a living nightmare once again, drawing thousands of thrill-seekers eager to face their darkest nightmares.

Running from Sept. 4 to Nov. 2, Horror Nights has built a reputation as being among the most frightening and most costly Halloween events in Los Angeles. Starting at \$77 and increasing with express passes, a major question for many fans is whether or not the experience justifies the price of the ticket. Consumers mention the environment, the scare factor, and the overall experience as the main considerations in deciding if the thrills are worth paying for. Despite the high price, it seems that the Horror Nights successfully combine storytelling and fear, standing out for its detailed settings and intense atmosphere, ultimately being a must-see event for those who like thrills.

"I would describe the Horror Nights as very eerie since the decorations and everything played into the dark haunted theme of Halloween," La Costa Canyon High

junior Grace Issarangkuln said. "However, I felt like I should've gotten express because I waited in really long lines which took up most of my experience and night."

Issarangkuln's reaction identifies two of the most discussed aspects at Horror Nights: the chilling environment that brings customers into Halloween horror and the sharp compromise between standard admission and express passes. While the sets and scare zones create an eerie, film-like setting, the wait in line too often challenges visitors' patience and leaves visitors wondering if the experience is worth the price.

"The decorations were very cool and interesting since they were able to prepare all of this in the span of two months which impressed me," junior Jisoo Shin said. "I would recommend Horror Nights to many people because it is a fun way to experience Halloween whether it would be with family or friends."

Shin's viewpoint highlights the creativity and effort that goes into Horror Nights. The intricate sets and relatively quick setup increase anticipation for the event. To the majority of the guests, it's



Courtesy of WESTCOASTER

Actors pose in character during Universal Studios' Hollywood Horror Nights.

not just about the scares; it's about experiencing Halloween in an impressive atmosphere that's social and festive.

"I was shocked at how unorganized the lines were," UCLA freshman Onyu Park said. "So many people were cutting, and there weren't nearly enough staff members around to control it."

The disorganization frustrated many of the visitors. What potentially could have been an exciting night turned into a stressful experience. The long lines grew even longer when people cut in line. With few workers on hand, little was being done to encourage fairness.

However, reviews found on Youtube

and Yelp highlighted activities that can be experienced in the Horror Nights like haunted houses, themed scare zones, Terror Tram, and thrill rides the event are worthy that cannot be experienced in other places.

Despite the extensive lines, chaos, and high ticket prices, Universal Studios Hollywood's Horror Nights still attracts crowds with its immersive scares, detailed environment, and classic Halloween experience. For thrill-seekers, it's still a must-see event; however, the majority might pre-book an express pass to optimize the night to the fullest.

"Demon Slayer: Infinity Castle" Audiences Say It Lives Up to the Hype

DEVIN VASQUEZ

Staff Reporter



Courtesy of KIMETSU-NO-YAIBA WIKI

After having been treated to a theatrical screening of "Demon Slayer: Infinity Castle," audiences can genuinely say the movie lives up to its hype.

From the very first scene, the animation had me engrossed and the action scenes were some of the best I've ever seen in anime because of the detailed and vibrant animation. The emotion that was conveyed in the characters produced a feeling as strong as the action: something I was deep in thought about even while the credits were rolling.

One reason this film made an impact on audiences was how well the story and spectacle balanced each other. Certain anime films offer so many flashy fight scenes that they barely give the viewer anything

with a story.

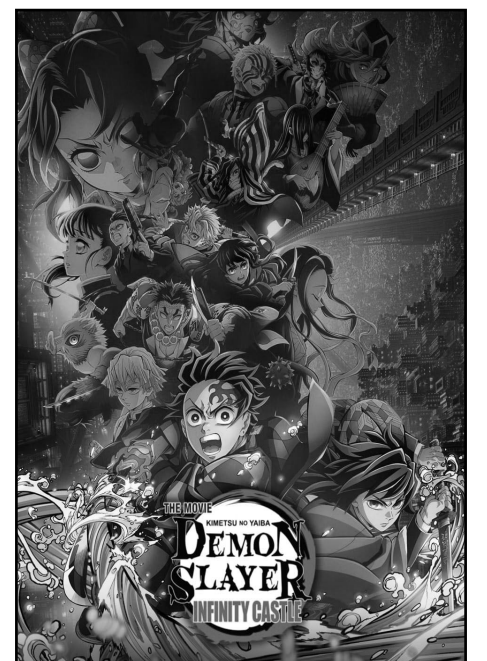
"Infinity Castle" gave us both: gorgeously wrought images and real emotional weight. Tanjiro's unwavering resolve and the trials of the other Demon Slayers made the movie feel worth investing in rather than just fun.

Critics seem to agree with sites like Rotten Tomatoes and IMDb showing high scores not only from critics, but from audience members, too.

"The visuals blew me away," junior Connor Iazok said.

Meanwhile junior Drew Edler appreciated how the story built on the earlier arc.

Whatever your interest may be, "Demon Slayer: Infinity Castle" is an anime with something for everyone.



Courtesy of IMDB



Banksy Mural Removed

IRENE KIM

Staff Reporter

A Banksy mural criticizing the United Kingdom's justice system, which was put up on Sept. 7, and the subsequent announcement of its removal have sparked online controversy.

The mural, which was posted on the outside of a well-known London courthouse, The Royal Courts of Justice, depicts a judge using a gavel to beat a protester with a bloody sign.

This followed the ban on Palestine Action, a British activist group in support of Palestine that was founded in 2020. The U.K. labeled Palestine Action a terrorist group on July 5, 2025, and since then many pro-Palestine protestors and activists in the U.K. have been arrested or charged.

Banksy, a controversial anonymous street artist, is known for his political commentary. His works often have a strong anti-war and anti-capitalist/establishment sentiment. Banksy has shown support for Palestine in some of his previous works in the West Bank.

The new mural, however, was on a legally protected building. Because of this, the piece was to be removed, and Banksy could face legal consequences. Many people, especially online, have pointed out the irony in this.

"[The removal] is apt because the art piece itself was about how the hand of the law is like kinda coming down on protestors and free speech," senior and Visual Art Club Co-President Aiden Kim said. "Free speech is obviously very important, right? And when governments try to clamp down on free speech rights, it's obviously concerning. ... It's really disturbing when the government comes in, then like arrests [protesters] and prevents them from speaking freely."

Though the fact that he made this piece on private property leads others to believe its removal was inevitable and expected. The stated official reason for the removal was criminal damage to a listed building.

"There are two ways to look at it," U.S. History and Art History teacher Kelly Chong said. "It is private property, it's owned by the government if you look at it that way. ... In another way, it is free



Courtesy of BBC NEWS

A mural by street artist Banksy was scrubbed off the walls outside of a London courthouse.

speech."

The message of the piece itself may be more divisive than its removal.

During the removal of the mural, photographs of the "shadow" of the paint and news reports regarding it were posted online. These images went viral across multiple platforms, such as TikTok and X (formerly known as Twitter), with many users pointing out that the stain leaves a stronger impression.

"The amount of symbolism that can be

attached to the fact that they weren't able to remove it fully is insane," junior Mars Reyes said. "The shadow of it basically haunting the building is almost cathartic in a way."

Whether Banksy pieces should be treated like art or graffiti has been a widely debated topic. His works have been removed in the past, but many remain where they were put up. However, in the eyes of U.K. law, this piece seems to cross the line into criminal damage.

Tears, Dolls, and VMAs

ARI GAPPMAIER

Arts Editor

On Sept. 7, 2025, Sabrina Carpenter's "Tears" performance at the VMAs showcased signs that called for the protection and support of transgender and LGBTQ+ individuals. The musical artist danced alongside Drag Queens and transgender dancers who held up the famed phrase "DOLLS DOLLS DOLLS" in response to what many see as the United States' regressive political climate.

"DOLLS DOLLS DOLLS" echoes a past spectacle; "Protect the Dolls" calls for support of transgender rights. Dolls, an affectionate term for trans women, has transformed into a demand for respect,

visibility, and protection. This movement has popularized recently due to the danger that transgender communities are in now. As of 2025, half of LGBTQ+ violence is targeted towards transgender or gender non-conforming individuals. The term "Dolls," and use in fashion and celebrities, was popularized by fashion designer, Conner Ives, to advocate that the lives of queer and especially transgender models/people are filled with hardship and discrimination.

The Drag Queens holding these signs weren't just performing; they were resisting erasure.

"I feel like her performance helps to normalize and advocate for queer communities, especially transwomen, despite

the fact that artists today tend to forget to speak up for the very people that inspire their work," junior Jaz Escano said. "We live in a society that's continually pushing farther Right, that rejects people on the basis of who they are."

Under the Trump Administration, aggressive executive orders and deconstructive legalities protecting queer Americans are purging "gender ideology." As of January, Executive Order 14187, "Protecting Children from Chemical and Surgical Mutilation," restricts access to gender-affirming care and withholds federal identification documents from youth seeking affirmation. Concurrently to these halts in medical care, the Trump administration attempted to ban identity corrections on passports. However, the court enacted a preliminary injunction.

Legislators, nonetheless, have continued to pass bans and defund gender affirming care, enforcing criminal penalties towards medical providers. To further defund queer protection, the national LGBTQ+ youth hotline was terminated on July 17, 2025. The livelihood of queer Americans are at threat, and no longer safe.

Carpenter has taken this opportunity to use a wide-spread event to speak for LGBTQ+ individuals, as well as the rising hate that these laws brought upon the community. She has been an open supporter of queer rights since 2018, and has

hosted fundraisers in support of LGBTQ+ lives.

"I believe that this could be an amazing moment in protecting LGBTQ+ youth right now like myself and others," junior Sophia Morrello said. "However, it could be a double edged sword as many people could believe that it could be performative. Sabrina has been under controversy for one of her album covers."

Identity and the embracement of her body has always been a controversial topic that Carpenter faced due to provocative imagery and her music's sensual nature. She faces arguments pointing out the fact that her latest album, which her "Tears" performance comes from, promotes sexist stereotypes. However, it's ambiguous whether or not she argues for or mocks these stereotypes as seen within the content of her lyrics.

"I find [Sabrina's] lyrics to be eye-opening and awakening in how limited identity rights are in the political atmosphere," junior Brighton Ortiz Luis said, "They're also a safe haven for embracing identity."

Legal, fundamental rights are eroding daily, and Carpenter has allowed for people to find themselves in her music. Being queer is just the same as everyone else, finding yourself; finding your identity.

Queer voices aren't silent; society has gone out of their way to speak over them.



Courtesy of USA TODAY

Carpenter made international news for her performance at the MTV Video Music Awards.



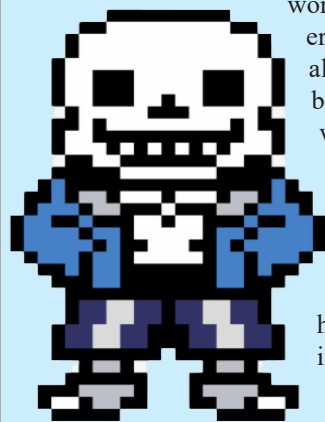
“Undertale” Anniversary

IRENE KIM

Staff Reporter

On Sept. 15, 2025, the hit indie game “Undertale” celebrated its 10th anniversary. Initially released by Toby Fox in 2015, the game quickly became popular for its incredible soundtrack and charming character writing.

“Undertale” is an indie, story-based RPG. Most of the game’s content lies in character interactions and exploring the



world. However, there are also turn-based battles with enemies and bosses. The battles are in the style of “bullet hell” games, in which the player controls an

avatar which must dodge “bullets” that fly toward it. “Undertale” became very well-known and amassed a large fanbase soon after its initial release.

The fanbase itself helped shape the modern “fandom” with the many creative works they made based on the game. This included fan art, fan fiction, animations, and even fan songs. Many of these works have millions of views and boosted “Undertale”’s popularity even further.

“I discovered ‘Undertale’ when I was in second grade. I learned about Undertale first through the fan works being produced at the time,” Cal State University Northridge freshman Finch McGougan said. “It’s still crazy to me that Undertale is now a decade old. It’s kind of grown up with me if that makes sense.”

“Undertale” has had a huge impact on many lives. For the anniversary, Fox put up a website where fans could submit a short paragraph about what “Undertale”

means to them. On the weekend following the anniversary, Fox and two friends livestreamed a playthrough of “Undertale”. During the stream, the messages submitted by fans on the anniversary website were read out. The playthrough also included brand-new content and other unmentioned changes to background characters and environment.

Many of the messages sent were heartfelt and expressed positive sentiment

toward the game and gratitude toward Fox for his work.

“‘Undertale’ means a lot to me since it made up so much of my childhood,” Copenhagen University freshman Ele Beck said. “I feel like it’s kind of stuck with me forever now, since I often go back to the game to replay it and also listen to the soundtracks often, and it’s always a great time. It’s an amazing game and I’m glad 11-year-old me found it and experienced

it.”

Many of the small changes to the background of the game during the playthrough involved references to “Undertale”’s successor game, “Deltarune”. “Deltarune” gained popularity upon its initial incomplete release in 2018 and recently had a resurgence when chapters 3 and 4 came out together on June 5, 2025.

“I have nothing to say other than ‘Deltarune’ is one of the best successor games,”

Saint Joseph Convent junior Kanidt Shaichana said. “Not only did it feed ‘Undertale’ fans more high-quality content, but it also introduces new players to the fandom.”

“Deltarune” also celebrates its seventh anniversary on October 31 this year with the game’s next chapter release planned for 2026.

Your Miis, Their Choices, Your Soap Opera

Tomodachi Life Living The Dream 2025

ARI GAPPMAYER

Arts Editor

Tomodachi Collection, a Japanese social simulation series popular during the early to mid 2010s, resurges with Tomodachi Life; Living the Dream. During the Nintendo Direct 3.27.2025, it was announced that the latest game would be released 2026, Before later confirmation it would be on the market in Spring.

Nintendo responded after over a decade of quiet to the attention the game received.

The Tomodachi Collection series entails a unique blend of character customization, unpredictable events, and surreal humor. The player is allowed to step back, and watch randomly generated scenarios and relationships unfold in an entertaining and quirky manner.



After 2013, Tomodachi Life had mediocre profit, allowing for similar Mii based games to discontinue them. Nintendo’s shift towards an adventure-RPG based format allowed Mii games such as Miitopia to profit due to its player driven relationship aspects.

However, during 2020, so-called ‘cozy games’—life simulating video games—rose in popularity due to the lack of social stimulation. During quarantine, these games entertained many, allowing Tomodachi Life to regain popularity and become one of many titles that people enjoyed, alongside Animal Crossing and the Sims.

“I think cozy games are fun and all, but focusing on aesthetics sort of ruins how long I can play them, you know?” Junior Student Alyssa Flores said, “I guess I like comedy, but it’s hard to find a game that can make me laugh. Some games try too hard to balance being serious and being fun.”

The series’ past installments have made an impact on non-violent video game’s

popularity; the offbeat charm and humor have left a lasting imprint on cozy games.

Tomodachi Life does not take itself seriously and allows for the unpredictable to happen. However, the main focus is on relationships.

The upcoming Living the Dream is expected to further flourish relationship features, advance customization options, and have cuter stylization. This installment’s tone is expected to stay unserious, and the player’s ability to develop relationships between their Miis has the audience excited to have more of a series they had so little of.

“We’ve kept the original spirit of Tomodachi intact, but with more ways for players to influence their Mii’s stories.” The Nintendo representative team said. “The unpredictability is still there, but the experience feels fresh and surprising.”

Just as previous games, the player can expect an island life simulator in which you, as a creator, stand by to watch relationships blossom after being able to customize clothes, personalities, and



appearances.

“All in all, I’m really excited for Living the Dream! One of my biggest problems with the original Tomodachi life was the random romantic advancements.” Northwood University Freshman Mer McGougan said. “Randomized pairings can be fun! But it’s for that reason I’ve preferred Miitopia’s friendship system. So I’m most excited about the ability to pair Miis together!”

Nonetheless, fans are excited. “I’m relieved that a lot of the original charm seems to have been left intact from the original releases!” McGougan said. “I can’t wait to empty my pockets!”

