



PUTTIN' ON THE RITZ: Looking forward to Homecoming, the Alhambra student body works hard to promote school spirit in order to make this dance memorable.
MOOR montage by SHANNON KHA and YIBEI LIU

Homecoming: Blast to the Past

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In previous years, Homecoming themes have consisted of trending topics; however, this year, ASB hosted a Homecoming week based on the 1920s, which is characterized by feather headbands, Oxford bags and T-bar shoes. The theme, "Puttin' On the Ritz," was inspired by a song from the late 1920s featured in a musical film. The theme's corresponding colors are black, gold, and white.

"This year's homecoming was very unique, because the theme is something very versatile and fun! Even our spirit week days are modeled off our theme," Junior Council President Vivian Chau said. "Having people at the dance dressed matching the theme would take you back to a century ago!"

Traditionally, Homecoming Spirit

Week is introduced alongside the announcement of both the Homecoming game and dance. This year's Spirit Week includes themed days such as "Nineteen Twinty" Twin Day, "Do the Updo" and "Flappers and Dappers." ASB aimed to make this year's theme especially unique compared to previous themes.

"What [made] this spirit week different from [previous ones] is that we are constantly putting out the message that more people should get involved, even if it means going up to a random person," Director of Pep Brianna Sandoval said.

Along with the distinct theme, ASB has revised dance contracts to reduce the requirements needed to attend the Homecoming dance. Changes include the removal of bookroom and library checks for any fines. Students are now only required to sign their contract and

turn it into Student Services for approval. Dance contracts have also been placed in all classrooms, which is designed to be more convenient for students.

Many students have reacted positively to the idea of Homecoming revolving around the 1920s.

"Out of all the Homecoming themes I have seen so far, this theme is the most creative yet. It's not like the past themes we have had, [which] makes [this] dance stand out," senior Tiffany Huynh said.

To publicize Homecoming, ASB translated posters into Spanish and Chinese, allowing more AHS students to have a chance to be informed of events. ASB has also used several social media sites to promote Homecoming events, such as Facebook and Instagram.

ASB has worked earnestly in guaranteeing that this year's Homecoming

week will be an unforgettable event for years to come.

"ASB is working extremely hard every day just to prepare for Homecoming. ASB members [have] been staying in for lunch and after school for the past 3 weeks. We have [filmed] the video, [painted] posters, and [made] decorations," Commissioner of Clubs Raymond Wong said.

ASB hopes that students display school spirit and support by attending the Homecoming game against Mark Keppel High School, located at Moor Field, and dance, which will be held at the Big Gym.

"We are anticipating a great turnout for the game and dance with lots in store. We have added a lot of things that we have not in the past and believe that it will start traditions for years to come," Director of Visual and Performing Arts Oscar Menjivar said.

Developing History Curriculum to Include LGBT Community

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Although an estimated 3.8 percent of America's population is a member of the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender (LGBT) community, according to the Williams Institute, the prominent roles in U.S. history of these people are almost entirely glossed over in social studies classes across the nation.

However, within the next few years, resources related to LGBT history will be provided to California schools by ONE National Gay & Lesbian Archives, one of the world's largest research libraries on LGBT history. Through research and training of teachers, ONE hopes to establish a curriculum that effectively depicts the contributions of LGBT Americans.

The new curriculum is being

developed because of the Fair, Accurate, Inclusive and Respectful Education Act (FAIR) that was passed by state senators in 2011. FAIR is the first national bill that requires schools to integrate age-appropriate information about the social movements, roles and contributions of LGBT people into social studies classes. It also prohibits the adoption of discriminatory materials based on factors such as gender or sexual orientation.

"For me, [the FAIR Act] was a dream come true, specifically [because of] all the students, teachers and parents who will benefit from it. It allows for opportunities of courage and self-realization," Gay-Straight Alliance adviser Carlos Villagomez said.

The updated curriculum will be implemented within various grade levels. According to the Safe Schools Coalition, appropriate lessons for elementary school

students include topics such as family diversity, gender stereotypes and anti-bullying. LGBT history comes more into focus for middle school and high school students, whose studies on civil rights movements will incorporate significant LGBT events such as the Stonewall riots, the Black Cat raid and the murder of gay college student Matthew Shepard. The curriculum will mostly be focused on the 1940s to the present day.

"Schools that perpetuate silence or harmful stereotypes about LGBT people can be breeding grounds for the fear and ignorance that fuel bullying [...] and hate violence. Accurate depictions of LGBT Americans in classroom materials teach all students to respect each other's differences, thereby increasing students' sense of belonging and ability to learn," the fact sheet from Equality California's web-

site stated.

At AHS, some students and teachers support how the FAIR Act gives LGBT Americans recognition.

"[LGBT events] should absolutely be covered. Anyone who makes a contribution to our country deserves every right to be a part of our history," U.S. history teacher Jose Sanchez said.

However, there has been some opposition to this bill as well.

"[I don't agree with the implementations.] Why do people make a big deal out of [the] LGBT community? What's different about them is that they have a different sexual orientation," a student who wished to remain anonymous said.

In 2011, some schools tested out the LGBT history implementation and received positive results, according to GLSEN.

"Students in schools with an LGBT-inclusive curriculum, [for

example] one that included positive representations of LGBT people, history and events, heard fewer homophobic remarks, were less likely to feel unsafe because of their sexual orientation [...], were more likely to report that their peers were accepting of LGBT people [...] and felt more connected to their school," an article from Think Progress said.

In recent times, the LGBT community has reached several milestones. These include the repeal of California's Proposition 8, which defined marriage only as between a man and a woman, the ruling of the Defense of Marriage Act, which banned same-sex spouses from receiving marriage rights, as unconstitutional. Now, the introduction of LGBT history into California public schools will be added to the growing list of LGBT landmark occasions.

MOOR graphic by SIMON ZHAO