

- DRESS CODE IS REASONABLE
- ANIMALS NEED SAFE FLIGHTS

MPD Girls are valuable

by Anna Esslinger
Culture Editor



If you have ever seen a movie like *Garden State* or *500 Days of Summer* you are probably familiar with “Manic Pixie Dream Girl” characters. For those who don’t

know, a Manic Pixie Dream Girl or MPDG is a stock character type who is, in simple terms, a bubbly young woman. In movies, she is typically portrayed alongside a brooding, sensitive male protagonist and is every nerdy, socially-awkward boy’s dream. She listens to indie music, wears “quirky” outfits, and is enthusiastic about life. When the term was first coined in 2006 by film critic Nathan Rabin, there was love for Manic Pixie Dream Girls, but today there is also an overflowing amount of hate.

The biggest critique of Manic Pixie Dream Girls is that their only function in movies is to guide the brooding-male lead out of his emotional slump, instead of being their own developed character with a strong personality. Some people believe that because these girls are emotional guides for their male counterparts they are going against feminist ideals. What these critics do not see is that these

characters are incredibly strong; the biggest similarity that all Manic Pixie Dream Girls possess is their unabashed optimism and fearlessness to take life by the horns. In fact, these “stock characters” are so strong that they are able to convert their brooding romantic interests into happier and more worldly individuals. Yes, some may not be as developed as their male love interests, but that is simply because they are supporting characters. It is not because they are the superficial products of a sexist film industry. However, there are plenty of well-developed, leading Manic Pixie Dream Girls like Holly Golightly from *Breakfast at Tiffany’s* and the titular character, *Annie Hall*. It is unfair to say that because these women have eccentric and optimistic personalities they are not strong. Who says that just because a woman wears colorful tights she can’t take down the patriarchy?

There is nothing wrong with Manic Pixie Dream Girls; they are not weak, they are not anti-feminist, and they are definitely not pointless. Just because they are optimistic and typically help young, brooding men find their way does not mean that they are feeble characters. There are many types of women portrayed in the media and each one is valid in their own right.

Dress code at LG is justified

by Sean Clark
Humor Editor



When the principal comes on the intercom and gives us the dress code speech, people are bound to be upset. That same speech happens routinely at schools across America. Many people

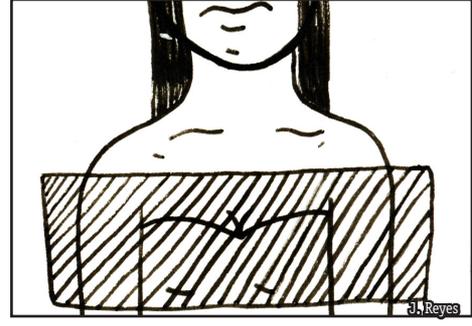
have accused the dress code of being sexist, but this argument does not hold water at our school specifically. The dress code is not sexist because both boys and girls should not be sexual at school. It is a well known fact that females often wear more revealing clothes than males, which makes it seem like the only people who are getting in trouble for violating the dress code are girls. However, women are not being dress coded because of a “double standard” regarding dress codes, they are being dress coded for violating a legitimate school policy.

School is a learning environment and should not be a place where sexual behavior is encouraged or allowed. There are some problems with the dress code, but LGHS does not perpetuate these flaws. For example, many schools tell women to cover up because it is distracting towards male students. This is sexist because it is not a woman’s fault if a man cannot stop looking at her. However, the school administration does not use this as a reason for enforcing the school dress, so there is really no reason to get upset. The school administration is trying to maintain a nonsexual environment for everyone, including teachers. Also, boys have been dress

coded at LGHS, so the dress code double standard does not exist here. But if boys are not violating the dress code, the administration cannot prosecute them just to make the rule seem balanced.

People are getting worked up over this school policy for illegitimate reasons. Women at LGHS are not being oppressed by the dress code. However, some schools do perpetuate dress code sexism. The idea that a woman should change her own behavior because of a man’s misbehavior is sexist. This just shows the sexualization and objectification of girls in America. If a man cannot look at a woman without being overwhelmingly distracted, it is not the woman’s fault. Schools should not use this idea as justification for the dress code because the dress code doesn’t need justification. Sexual freedom is not a bad thing, but at school, it is.

People need to realize that the dress code at LGHS is not oppressing anyone. Our school’s approach to the dress code eliminates the common sexist connotations of many high school dress codes and does not deserve any criticism.



Sports fans should descend from their bandwagons

by Brian Shunk
Sports Editor



Urban Dictionary provides a clear and concise summation of what it means to be a bandwagon fan: “Anyone who claims they are a ‘fan’ of a particular sports team, even though they had no prior support for/interest in the team until that team started winning.”

Choosing to support a team is not wrong, but bandwagon fans choose to support or stop supporting teams for all the wrong reasons. The shifting of loyalties and the reason behind those shifts, not the actual act of rooting for a team, define bandwagon fans and make them horrible people. Their reasons for choosing teams to support are despicable, and reflect on their character and lack of innate loyalty. On top of that, they refuse to admit their true motivations behind rooting for a team, as if everyone does not already know. Worst of all, they have the nerve to give themselves the same title as true fans despite not having put in the time, blood, sweat, and tears that come with being a die-hard fan.

My personal hatred of bandwagon fans comes in no small part from my experience with them following the San Francisco Giants’ World Series victories in 2010 and 2012. Before 2010, the Giants had

not been relevant in the playoff picture for five years, and in those years I did not see many people wearing Giants’ clothing. Suddenly, October 2010 happened, and I could not open my eyes at school without seeing one of my classmates wearing a brand new article of clothing sporting the Giants’ logo. Seriously, they were all brand new, a dead giveaway that the interest in the team was as well. I was surrounded by people who did not have a clue about the Giants’ roster and could not even name five players on the team, yet they did not hesitate to flaunt their fandom. Some even thought Barry Bonds was still on the team, and it was grotesque that they could proudly masquerade as a dedicated fan and feel like what they were doing was acceptable.

There was one fellow student of mine whose bandwagon jumping still bothers me to this day. Over the course of three days, he shed his allegiance to the New York Yankees in favor of devoting his support to the San Francisco Giants. This switching of loyalties conveniently coincided with the Yankees’ elimination from the playoffs and the Giants’ advancing to the World Series. He stopped wearing his Yankees’ clothing to school; instead, he chose to wear his brand new Giants’ clothing every day. It was the most blatant switch of loyalties I have ever seen, and people just let him get away with it. Choosing to root for the Giants did not make him a horrible person; the problem was how readily he ditched his former team in favor of another, his “second-favorite team.” He apparently rooted for the Giants whenever they were not playing the Yankees and had supposedly done this all

his life. Switching his allegiances is a violation of what it means to be a fan, and a key reason why bandwagon fans are so disliked. Sure, you can root for a team when your favorite is not competing, just don’t go around calling yourself a fan, because true fans stick to one team, always have, and always will.

Perhaps worst of all is how bandwagon fandom demeans true fandom. Typical bandwagon fans’ crude imitations of real fans disgrace what it means to be a true fan. People have no right to call themselves a fan if they did not care about the team until it started winning and if they stopped caring about the team the moment it started losing. One of the key characteristics of a bandwagon fan is that they jump off the bandwagon just as readily as they jump on. I can’t stand how those people put themselves under the same label as people who stuck with a team from the beginning and will root for that team until the very end. The classmate I mentioned earlier was such a bandwagon fan. His Giants clothing mysteriously disappeared sometime in 2011 much like the Giants clothing of countless others, only to reappear in October 2012 when the Giants had once again made the playoffs. This was a common trend for many bandwagon fans. Throughout the Giant’s success, they all claimed they cared, just as much as anyone else did, maybe even more. When the giants started losing again, they crawled back into their shells, and their Buster Posey jerseys began to collect dust. A blatant mark of their disappearing loyalties, it was proof that bandwagon fans want all of the glory but none of the commitment that comes with being a true fan.

Time’s “100 Most Influential People” must be revised

by Justine Reyes
Web Editor/Graphic Designer



Every year, Time Magazine releases a list of the 100 Most Influential People in the world, commemorating singers, actors, political figures, activists, authors, and more. This year, Time honored people ranging from Beyonce, Pharrell Williams, and

Amy Adams, to Edward Snowden, Malala Yousafzai, and Pope Francis. However, the two voter favorites that topped the polls, Laverne Cox and Lupita Nyong’o, were left out of the final list, angering a large number of their supporters. Although the placement of these 100 most influential people is largely based on global voter polls, Time stated that final decisions are made by Time Magazine editors.

Although a number of extremely influential people actually belong on the list, many have voiced their concerns about the validity of a few supposed “most influential people.” The most controversial issue with the list is the exclusion of Laverne Cox and Lupita Nyong’o. These two actresses not only possess an extremely unprecedented amount of talent on screen, but are also two of the most important people in the mainstream pop

culture scene at the moment.

Lupita Nyong’o, who became a household name after her stellar performance in *12 Years a Slave* and for garnering multiple awards and endorsements worldwide, is one of the few people in American culture who actually represents women of color. Even after topping the voter polls, Nyong’o was surprisingly excluded from the final list.

Laverne Cox, the African American transgender actress who stars as a transgender hairdresser in the Netflix original series “*Orange is the New Black*,” is an important member of the transgender community and plays a huge role in transgender rights activism. Rarely is a transgender ever represented in a popular television role, and seldom are they ever portrayed by an actual transgender.

Fans rallied behind Cox and got her over 88,000 votes, with fewer than 10 percent of voters saying that she shouldn’t make the list. After she was excluded, 91 percent of readers who voted for Laverne Cox said that she should have been included.

Representation for the transgender community on such a list is especially needed at a time when they are expanding and attempting

to gain more rights and support worldwide. A recent study from the Organization of American States revealed that transgender people are murdered throughout North and South America at a rate almost 50% higher than gays and lesbians. A report called “Injustice at Every Turn” from the National Center for Transgender Equality and the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force found that 41% of trans people in the United States have attempted suicide. In addition, a report called “A Broken Bargain for Transgendered Workers” reveals that transgender workers report an unemployment rate that is twice that of the population as a whole (14 percent versus seven percent). It is also noted that there is no federal law protecting transgender people from discrimination based on gender identity, and that only 17 states and the District of Columbia have this protection.

People included on the Time list have even voiced their opinion concerning their disappointment with Cox and Nyong’o’s exclusion; John Green stated on his blog, “Laverne Cox is the most visible trans person of color in the world and she has helped millions of people to learn about trans people and the discrimination they face. I think Laverne Cox is one of the most important and influential people in the world and should’ve been included in the TIME 100.”

Although I’m usually not one to obsess over lists such as this one, I found myself infuriated by the exclusion of Nyong’o and Cox.

