

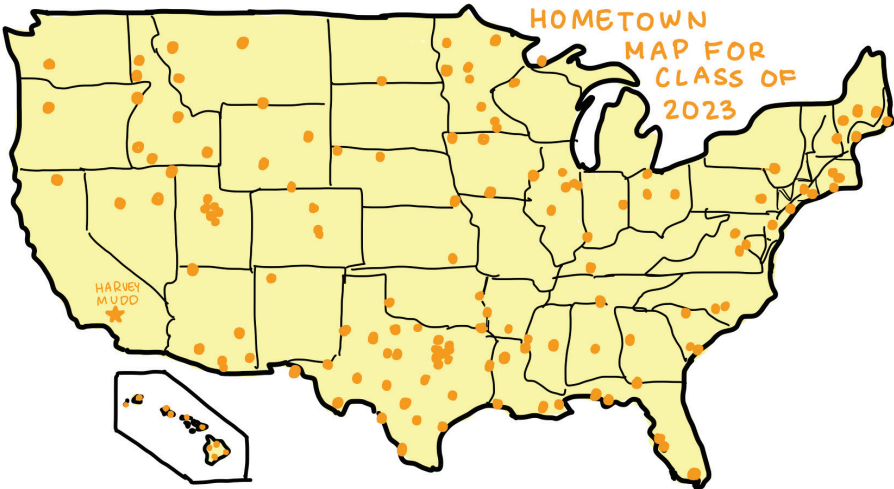
# THE MUDDRAKER

## SENIOR SURVEY

SURVEY BY ALINA SARATOVA

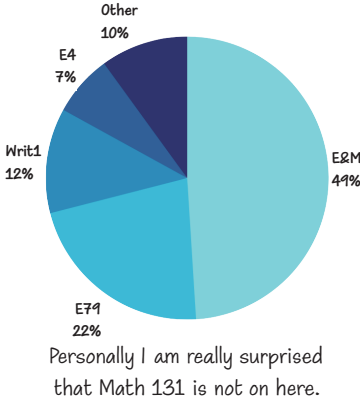
### HOMETOWN MAP

Always good to go back to our roots!

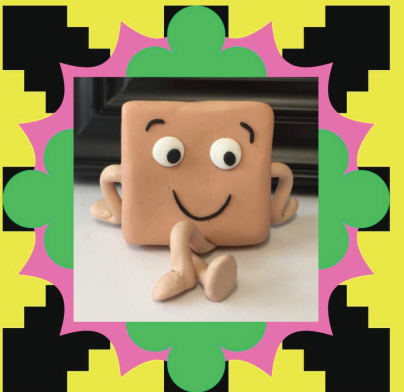


Kinda crazy how we only have a single person from California! Shout-out to everyone going to college out of state.

### FAVORITE CORE CLASS?



### SPOTIFY WRAPPED



Top Artists	Top Songs
1 Usher	1 Ultraviolence
2 Radiohead	2 Radioactive
3 Drake	3 Me and the Devil
4 Adele	4 On the Floor
5 Doja Cat	5 Mr. Brightside
Minutes Listened	Top Genre
101,010	Gaming

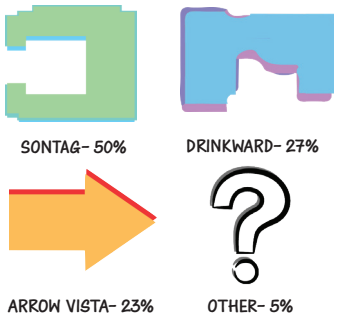
We polled Mudders on which song should replace our national anthem. "Stars and Stripes" is just so outdated. Side note: did you know that the Alabama 3 are a musical group from London?

### NEW YEAR, NEW DORM?

Rumor has it that construction on Mudd's newest dorm will begin this summer. With triples being the new standard of living, The Muddraker staff is relieved that future generations will have another three-story building to reside in. While further details are yet to come, we hope to suggest a few names for Mudd's newest warty abode.

- 10. Or is it 2? What better name for a Mudd dorm than a binary number?
- Leavitt. Taking inspiration from Mudd's latest play, and it also sounds cool.
- Marty. It's like warty, but with an "m"
- The Swamp. For the past 20 years, Shrek continues to be an inspiration to all, and what better way to honor him except by building an underground pool and a residence hall on top of it?
- Marvey Hudd.

### BEST PARTY DORM?



I think the courtyards in these dorms are the tiebreakers for the best party atmosphere.

## OPINION: Why Harvey Mudd College Should Consider Dropping its STEM Focus

BY CHAD PLATTASHANAHOCH

Harvey Mudd College has long been known for its rigorous and challenging curriculum, producing many talented scientists, engineers, and mathematicians. However, there is growing concern among some members of the Mudd community that this focus on STEM may be limiting the college's potential and students' opportunities for growth and development. It's time to ask a difficult question — is this focus on STEM truly serving the best interests of its students, or is it time to consider a shift in priorities? Here are some reasons why Harvey Mudd should consider dropping its STEM focus:

Given the constantly changing job market and the skills employers are looking for in the 21st century, Mudd's STEM education does not effectively prepare students for the real world. Many employers today are looking for employees with a wide

range of skills, including communication, cheerfulness, cool-headedness, confidence, and charisma (also known as the 5 Cs). However, Mudders hate Writ1, the one course that teaches written communication, students are too often stressed than cheerful or cool-headed, STEM p-sets chip away at students' confidence, and...let's just say Mudders are not really known for their "rizz." The unfortunate truth is that these "5 Cs" cannot be gained at the 5Cs.

STEM can also alienate and isolate Mudd students. STEM requires a significant amount of time and effort to learn, which can lead to Mudders making their entire lives revolve around STEM. This intense focus on STEM can cause students to isolate themselves from activities and extracurriculars that are not directly related to their field of study (read: are not useful to put on their resume). This explains why

Mudd students are rarely seen participating in any non-STEM 5C clubs or classes.

Some alumni are disappointed in how Mudd has changed over time. For example, alumnus Sal Ty HM '65 rants, "Back in my day, only 5 people would graduate from a class of 300. The rest dropped out, transferred to CMC, or stayed a few extra years at Mudd to rough it out, like me. Personally, I took Physics 24 four times and E79 five times before I passed....no complaints there, I loved those classes. Best years of my life. And it paid off. The rigorous STEM education is precisely why I succeeded in my career as a software engineer at Nvidia. The kids nowadays have it easy — what kind of education are they getting with Harvey Mudd's 92% graduation rate? Harvey Mudd should have higher standards for its students — this isn't Harvard Med."

As an institution that deeply values its alumni network, it is important that Mudd empowers and lifts up minority perspectives. This is why we must pay

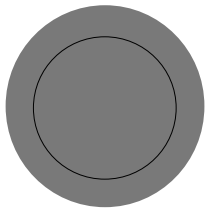
attention and listen to those like Ty so they can continue feeling welcome to share their unsolicited opinions.

Some might argue that dropping the STEM focus would hurt Harvey Mudd's reputation and make it less competitive in the world of higher education. However, there are already many people, like Ty, who already believe that the quality of Mudd has declined. Thus, we can capitalize on this by rebranding Harvey Mudd as a non-STEM school. We can appeal to disappointed alumni who are upset that more people are succeeding in STEM by eliminating all STEM students at the school altogether! In this way, we can address the issue at its root cause.

Perhaps it is not enough for Mudd to be non-STEM — next steps could include making Mudd anti-STEM. When we think outside of the box, so much is possible.

Chad Plattashanahoch HM '25 is from Chugwater, Wyoming (yes, this is a real place). A fun fact about Chad is that he never forgets to hydrate.

APRIL FOOLS



# letter from the editors

Dear readers,

Happy April Fools! In the spirit of the holiday, The Muddraker has decided to publish a special edition of our newspaper, the first April Fools' Muddraker to ever be published (as far as we know of).

In this issue, you'll find some hot takes on topics as varied as the trials and tribulations of the narcissist community (pg. 4), Mudd's need for toxicity (pg. 5), and Disney's newest hit "Zombies 3" (pg. 8). Also, check out some (objectively correct) rankings of campus life, including creative choices for study spots (pg. 2) and underrated toilets around the 7Cs (pg. 3). But don't take these recommendations too seriously!

While reading, keep an eye out for hints of artificial intelligence. One of this issue's articles was penned with the help of everyone's favorite new chatbot, ChatGPT. At the end of the issue, we'll be asking for your take on which article is the odd one out.

We hope this issue makes you laugh, and happy pranking!  
Michelle, Avani, and Shivani

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# Professors hate this weird trick!

*Study at these 5 underrated spots to ace your classes.*

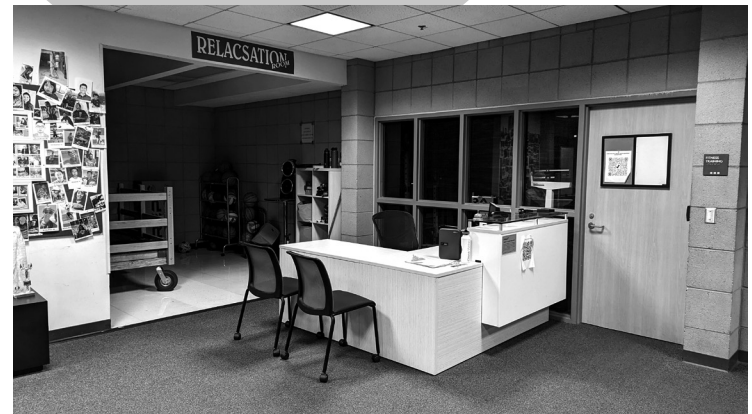
## Hoch Exhibition Line

Standing in the lengthy exhibition line is 30 minutes of time wasted. If you're not staring at your phone like a screenager, you're gazing aimlessly at bell peppers and mushrooms being coated in an aggressive amount of sauce. In that case, why not stare at your p-set instead? Be sure to choose a rush hour mealtime, and remember to bring your iPad with you before you enter the line for half an hour of independent study. This first-rate study spot comes with a bonus: the Hoch's inviting aromas. Maybe associating Abelian groups with the scent of garlicky potatoes will convince you to not drop abstract algebra after all.

## LAC Weight Room with Bluetooth Speaker



Working out is painful, both physically and mentally. The only thing on your mind is the unbearable pain resulting from a much-dreaded leg day after one too many rest days. Have you considered shifting your attention to the homework you have urgently due in an hour? (For Mudders especially, reminding ourselves of academic stress is a well-known trick for displacing mental agony.). You can even blast your lecture videos on the LAC's large Bluetooth speaker, coordinating your gym session with classmates so you can all review the bio lecture you collectively skipped between sets.



## North Party

North parties are the perfect setting for a quick study session. Awkward moments of bounce-dancing and wandering around between loud conversations are better replaced with the completion of an integral or two. Everywhere you look, you see the real-life applications of Core — whether it's the inflow versus outflow rate of attendees, the projectile motion of pong balls, or the social dynamics of college parties. Plus, you can tell your friends the next day that yes, you did go out last night.



## McGregor Showers

When the next midterm is looking a little rougher than you thought, self-care might slip down your priority list. Luckily, the McGregor showers were built to address this exact dilemma. Though the average engineer may not have time to squeeze in a shower, these bathrooms are conveniently located so as to allow for simultaneous showering and studying. Dozing off in a Makerspace team room? Simply hop into the showers two floors up. Make sure to bring your notes along — that will ensure that you 1) conserve water and 2) study faster than ever (because if you don't, it's on you if your paper dissolves).



## Actually Studying

I know what you're thinking. Serena, this isn't a place. Well, I'd argue it's a place your mind should be. When you're studying, you should be actually studying. Not "gossiping five minutes into the 'study session'" studying. Not "surely I can multitask with the Simpsons playing in the background" studying. Not "I'll just play the recorded lecture in bed and definitely not fall asleep" studying. Not "It's fine if I skip class because I'll actually read the textbook and slides this time" studying. Actually studying.

*Article by Serena Mao | Photos by Mikayla Mann*

# Toilet Talk: Underrated Bathrooms of the 7Cs



by Elizabeth Lucas-Foley | Disclaimer: For most of these buildings, only the women's bathroom was surveyed.

Tired of going back to your dorm after classes just to use the bathroom there? Sick of your suitemates leaving the toilet seat up? Satisfied with your bathroom situation, but looking for some more variety? Well, as a Mudder, you've probably seen your fair share of the first, second, and third floor Shan restrooms — or perhaps you're already extensively familiar with all the winners of The Muddraker's exclusive HMC's Bathroom Superlatives — but I'm here to inform and/or remind you about some of the great, unexpected, or interesting bathrooms you maybe haven't been in.

## 1 Academic Computing Building (CGU)

To be honest, I had never been inside this building before last semester, and I still am not quite sure of its proper name. It seems to be labeled (not very prominently) as the Academic Computing Building, the School of Information Systems and Technology, the School of Behavioral and Organizational Sciences, the School of Interdisciplinary and Artistic Studies, the School of Mystical Pedagogy and Engineering, and the Paul Gray PC Museum.\* The Academic Computing Building (if that is what it's primarily called) can be found near Hagelbarger's (the most underrated cafe of the 7Cs), or due south of the CGU fountain, or roughly one block west of the Honnold/Mudd Library. The bathroom is a perfectly normal modern bathroom, with a soothing gray color scheme, and a standard water bottle filling station just outside. So, it may be somewhat out of the way, but I'd say this bathroom is a pleasant, calming experience.

Also, both women's and men's bathrooms have a condom dispenser (not free, but costing some number of quarters), which is something I'd say I've never seen in a bathroom before. The women's room also has a menstrual products dispenser (also not free), which I'd say I've seen fairly frequently in bathrooms before. I guess it would be even nicer if such necessities were free, but it is nevertheless a plus that these bathrooms provide easy access to them.

(Anti-disclaimer: Both bathrooms here were surveyed in the interest of validating the #1 pick on this list.)

\*only two of these names are inventions of the author



## 2 Estella (Pomona)

This recommendation also might be a bit out of the way, but I'd say the lavatories on both floors of Estella Hall are dependable, new bathrooms, in an extremely nice contemporary building. These bathrooms have high ceilings, hand dryers, and a relaxing gray color scheme similar to that of the ACB. The only things to beware of are that the stall doors have a tendency to slam, and if you're using the restroom right before you have class in Estella, you won't want to end up being late to class on account of letting yourself get distracted by the enchantments of this bathroom.

## 3 Mystery Suite Bathroom at North Dorm (Mudd)

OK, I haven't personally used this bathroom ever, or visited it, nor do I even know exactly where it is (though maybe that will be remedied by the time this article prints). But from what I've heard, there is a very cool student-painted mural on the back of the door, and, if you can get someone who lives there to let you in, it's worth a look!

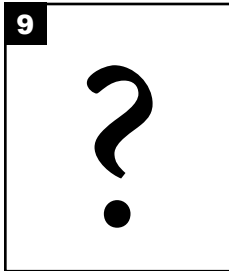
## 4 Kravis Center Near Roberts Hall North (CMC)

This is another fairly modern bathroom with a gray color scheme, and although it seems like just a random bathroom in the corner of a random academic building, it has as many stalls as a (small) airport restroom. (Like, at least 7 of them!)



## 5 The Hoch (Mudd)

This may be a controversial inclusion, but I quite like the Hoch bathroom. It may be well-trafficked, but the bathroom is always well-cleaned, the soap is always stocked, and the toilets always flush dependably but not too loudly. If you want privacy, go during breakfast — there's hardly anyone in the building at 8 or 9 a.m.



## 6 The Conveniently Located Bathroom (Scripps)

Conveniently located at the corner of Mills and Platt (just on the northeast corner of Scripps by the soccer field and beach volleyball courts), The Conveniently Located Bathroom (AKA The AndyGump "Executive Restroom") meets — and maybe exceeds — all expectations. With a total of four stalls in the women's room, and presumably just as many in the men's room, this is like a king-sized bathroom on a luxury charter bus.

## 7 Harper Hall (CGU)

Inconveniently located at Harper Hall (right next to Hagelbarger's!), this is an interesting bathroom. I mean, if you're a fan of bathrooms with interesting dimensions, definitely check this one out. From what I remember, at least in the women's room, there are two stalls, one with fairly standard width and depth, and the other being extremely narrow yet spanning the entire depth of the bathroom. Also worth noting: 1) the sinks are weirdly high, and 2) the door to the bathroom itself is often propped open directly to the outside.

## 8 Garrison Theater (Scripps)

A row of around a dozen clean and shiny stalls, a (probably normal size) mirror that feels extremely large, vases of flowers next to some sinks, good acoustics... what more can you ask for? Note: this one might be a little hard to get into if the theater isn't currently hosting a concert, since the building is generally kept locked during the day and night.

## 9 The Other Other Shan Basement Restroom (Mudd)

You surely are familiar with the Shan Basement Restroom, which is accessible from a convenient door by the Shakespeare Theater (Shan Steps) and houses a water fountain, the famous Shan Shower, and a decent number of toilets. If you've had class in the basement, you've also probably seen the Other Shan Basement Restroom, which is essentially adjacent to the main Shan Basement Restroom (through the walls), and which in my opinion, probably doesn't get enough love. But, you definitely haven't seen\* the Other Other Shan Basement Restroom, which can only be accessed through a door in the secret tunnel\*\* next to the Tiered Classroom (AKA B460). I've heard that, unlike the other Shan Basement Restrooms, this one has black walls and white tile floors, as well as indescribably excellent faucet mechanisms. Definitely worth looking out for!

\*warning: that's because it may not actually exist

\*\*this one is real, but only goes one direction

## 10 Joseph B. Platt (Mudd)

The Platt bathroom is, as far as I can gather, fairly popular, but it's worth mentioning just in case anyone has somehow avoided it. And if you haven't been inside both the women's and men's rooms, you're missing out. The quaint marble countertops, which some may claim are a touch too low, are an essential part of the experience. The window panes have an elegant paper surface, and although in the women's room, this papered window wall is mostly blocked by the sink, from what I've heard, the windows in the men's room actually slide open and look out directly over the staircase to Jay's Place!



MARKUS SPISKE • THE STUDENT LIFE

A Mudd student who missed their registration time taking classes at a local preschool.

## OPINION: Give the humanities and/or STEM a chance

BY HB ESSELL  
DESIGNED BY ISABEL GODOY

5C students are known for taking courses. With so many courses to choose from and only so much time each semester, students must answer a difficult question: Which is better, the humanities or STEM? Noah Schitt HM '26 offers a few controversial takes on the age-old question.

"STEM," says Schitt, "has a lot to offer. And for that matter, so do the humanities. If you only take classes in the humanities, you won't learn anything about lithium-ion batteries, or special relativity. But on the flip side, if you only take STEM classes, you'll have a very weak grasp on postcolonial theory and ceramics." For that reason, Schitt advocates for balance. "I'm all about balance," he writes. "If you take some humanities classes and some STEM classes, you'll get the best of both worlds."

Schitt takes an even harder stance on the

individual student's right to form their own opinions. "You don't have to take my advice if you don't want to; that's part of what it means to attend a liberal arts college. If you're really into the humanities, then it's okay if you only give the humanities a chance. And the same goes for STEM, too. You can just take the courses you're interested in; that's completely fine."

The one stance that Schitt refuses to compromise on is the importance of taking classes. "I actually don't personally mind what kind of courses you take, since there's so much value in all of them. It's just important to sign up for them. Don't miss your registration time. Also don't drop out, because then you can't take any classes."

"Basically," concludes Schitt, "only taking courses from one discipline isn't great, but telling people how to structure their academic lives is even worse."

## OPINION: It's okay to be a narcissist

BY HB ESSELL

With such a wide variety of low-quality personalities on campus, it can be tempting for above-average students to think of themselves as better than their peers. And in one case, as Hugh Jee-Go PO '24 explains, that belief is actually completely valid.

"I don't feel the need to apologize for being better than my classmates," says Jee-Go. "It's a common misunderstanding that being the best means that everything is easy for me. There's nothing easy about being constantly surrounded by dim-witted inferiors." Jee-Go expands on the challenges faced by the narcissist community. "It's a small community for sure — at the moment it's just me, which means that all the weight falls on my shoulders. The hardest part is dealing with the utter cluelessness of every other 5Cer who doesn't know how to take my advice." Jee-Go regularly invites himself into private conversations at neighboring Frary tables and offers valuable insight into which personality defects may have factored into that recent breakup or internship rejection. As Jee-Go has learned, however, no good deed goes unpunished. "Invariably, my kindness is repaid with glares and unprovoked insults," laments Jee-Go. "It's both shocking and disappointing that the 5C community collectively struggles with handling genuine feedback."

In addition to being receptive to criticism, Jee-Go urges average 5Cers to be mindful of lifestyle differences between justified narcissists and everyone else. "My classmates have no idea how insulting it is to ask whether I'm coming to No Chella on Saturday night. If they knew that I had plans to read up on contemporary views on postmodern epistemological relativism, they wouldn't ask me something so ridiculous."

Instead of allowing this social stigma to continue, Jee-Go argues that it's time for the Claremont Colleges to embrace a more progressive view of narcissism and begin celebrating individuals exactly like him. Ultimately, however, Jee-Go expresses regret that his call for action will likely fall on deaf ears. "I doubt anything will change because Opinions section readers are weak-minded sheep desperate for someone else's viewpoint to assume as their own. My only hope is that it raises some awareness of the challenges faced by my community."

Despite the rocky road ahead, Jee-Go remains motivated in his efforts. "All it takes is just one intelligent, resourceful, determined, charming, handsome, well-endowed, and otherwise superior man to make a lasting difference in the world."

# OPINION: Mudd Isn't Toxic Enough — Let's Fix That

BY JOSH RAKESHIRE

One of Harvey Mudd College's major selling points is its amazing, collaborative community. Ignoring the fact that this is also every other college's selling point, we must recognize that Mudd needs to do better in other facets of student life — particularly toxicity. Mudd students are usually very nice and caring toward each other, which can lull students into a false sense of security and belonging.

Constant niceties and empty platitudes maintain complacency, discouraging students from discovering their flaws and reevaluating their (likely incorrect) worldviews. Similarly, peer-to-peer academic support leaves students reliant on a support system, leaving them vulnerable to the harsh realities of life after college.

"I just don't like it. Honestly, I'd prefer if more people were mean to me," opines Ant E. Soshal, HM '25. Ant suggested a few ways Mudders can be more unfriendly towards each other:

1. Berate your roommates or suitemates any chance you get. Making them uncomfortable should be your number one priority — this will teach them

how to be extra considerate, stay organized, and pick up after themselves.

2. Don't work in group projects. Just don't show up. But do the bare minimum to pass the class so you don't have to worry about the group project again. Your teammates will learn the valuable skill of how to deal with an inadequate team member, a skill they will never develop if Mudd keeps its collaborative culture.

3. Work with others to not do homework together. A group of people wants to study in Platt? Too bad, find somewhere else. Or better yet, don't work at all! Then, there is a 0% chance that you'll be exploited for homework answers.

4. Devote all of your time to making the world a worse place. Mudd is all about impact on society — make sure it's a negative one. If you think differently, you'll defeat the status quo. You'll be making unique change in the world by thinking differently. The world has only ever improved when people push against the norm.

5. Create clubs that value toxicity over anything

else. Make sure nobody can join. Now it's just you with all those ASHMC funds. Use those finances to buy stuff, like that 55-inch TV I know you've had your eye on. This will also improve the economy.

6. Make a ranking of all your peers. If you want, you can make a list of everybody's weaknesses. Then you can get better than all of them and rise up in the ranks in no time.

"I know, it's much easier said than done," Justin Nguyen HM '25 admitted. "I think if we work together to do all or most of these things, we can all leave Mudd more toxic than we found it, even if just a little bit more. If we channel our League of Legends energy, it's a bit more natural — we just need to reach into that dark place that exists within all of us," he suggested. After a few additional moments of thought, he sighed. "We all just have to do our part. It starts with each and every one of us."

*Josh Rakeshire HM '25 is from Phoenix, Arizona. He enjoys arguing with his roommate and only friend Justin.*



COURTESY: HARVEY MUDD COLLEGE

Mudd students "collaborating" in the Platt living room. Imagine how much more efficiently they could work if they didn't talk to each other all the time!

# An Objective Ranking of HMC (Harvey Mudd Chairs)

article by Mira Kaniyur | photos by Jonathan Ipe

## #1 The Dorm Rocking Chairs

There's nothing like the constant fear of having your skull cracked open like Humpty Dumpty to motivate you to finish your homework. If you disagree, here's a little known tip — you can ask F&M to exchange it for a normal chair.

## #2 Platt Couches

I keep falling asleep instead of doing my homework, which is fine, that was my goal, but I also miss dinner, which was not my goal.



## #3 HMC Automatic Toilets

These toilets love to flush when you're sitting on them. And suddenly forget how to flush when you stand up.

## #4 Bio Lab Chairs

Once, my foot accidentally pressed the lever that makes these chairs rise, and I was literally bounced off my chair in the middle of pipetting.

## #5 Drinkward Bunk Beds

This isn't a chair, but I use it as one. And it covers two of the six outlets in my triple.

## #6 Drinkward Laundry Room Table

This is also not a chair, but I had to sit on it to reach the dryer and I had lint on my pants for the rest of the day.

## #7 Case Lounge Chairs

By association with the next-door Case kitchen. If you know you know.



## #8 Makerspace Bar Stools

Short people deserve to Makerspace just like tall people.



## #9 Your Stack of Linear Algebra Homework

Too tall.

## #10 The Chairs West Dorm Hung Upside Down For [CENSORED]

You unfortunately can't special relativity your way out of gravity :(

# April Fools' Crossword

by Kishore Rajesh

### ACROSS

- 1 Theme of
- 6 Not winner (misspelled)
- 8 Candy heart saying (misspelled)
- 9 Actions displaying great skill (misspelled)
- 10 Foray (not misspelled)
- 11 This Puzzle

### DOWN

- 1 Beers (misspelled)
- 2 Popular Southern California Cuban bakery chain (misspelled)
- 3 Juliet's lover (not misspelled)
- 4 To be interested (not misspelled)
- 5 Daal, for example (not misspelled)
- 7 \_\_\_ Pieces (misspelled)

1	2	3	4	5	
6					7
8					
9					
10					
	11				

# The Harvey Mudd Experience: MEME EDITION

By: Kaitlynn Gray

This semester, The Muddraker conducted a survey in which we asked students to submit memes related to Harvey Mudd and student life at HMC. We sent out the email pictured below, advertising a “secret Muddraker project,” then collected and compiled the responses into this very page.

To the students who submitted your responses for this “secret project,” Kermie thanks you.

## The email:

### Long:

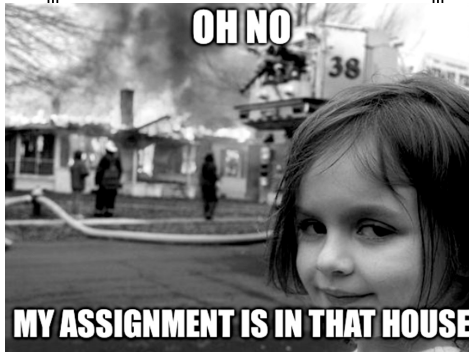
The Muddraker is in need of Mudd-related memes! We are looking for meme submissions from the student body to use for our top secret project. Submit your funniest, most chaotic memes about Mudd for a chance to be included!

Please submit your memes at the following google form: <https://forms.gle/100700700>

Do it for Kermie,  
Wally Wart  
Chief of Da Memez



Submitted by:  
Minnie Kittivorawong



Submitted by:  
Kaanthi Pandhigunta

HMC students when they apply a useless theory to a useless concept in a book they paid 80K dollars to read in a classroom with broken AC

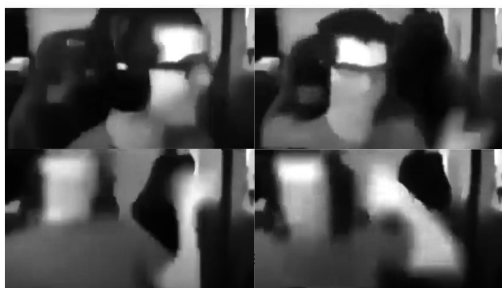


Submitted by:  
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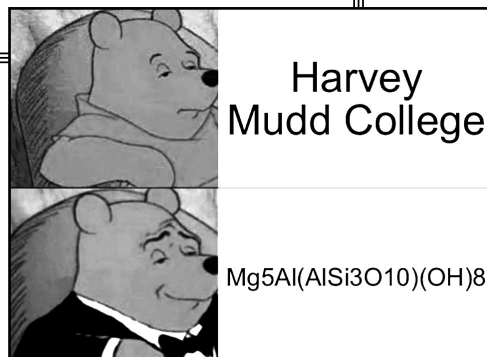
Submitted by:  
Anon

HMC students when a new study comes out saying that climate change can be solved with upvotes and AI/ML/CV/BBQ technology



Submitted by:  
et4w6

Submitted by:  
Minnie Kittivorawong



Submitted by:  
Nile Phillips

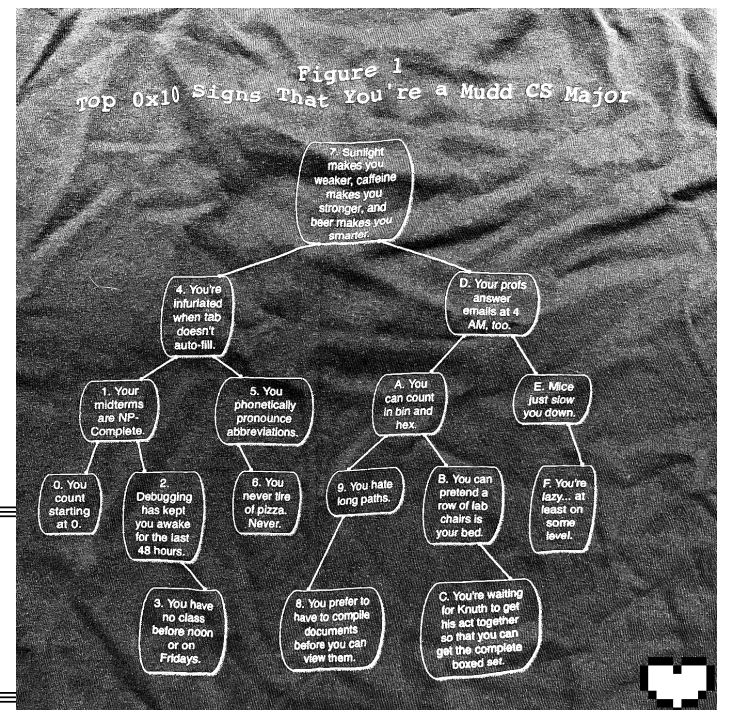


Submitted by:  
horace



Submitted by:  
nora oconnor

Submitted by:  
Anonymous



# MOVIE REVIEW: ZOMBIES 3

BY MIKE JOHNSON  
DESIGNED BY ISABEL GODOY

When I was approached by my esteemed colleagues at The Muddraker to write a movie review, I racked my brain to find the most incredible, life-changing, current Hip-And-New movie I could. Would I cover the new hit “Puss in Boots,” whose portrayals of emotional vulnerability brought me to tears multiple times? The controversial “DWD”? Tom Cruise’s “Top Gun Maverick,” or the movie that changed people’s perceptions of googly-eyes forever, “Everything Everywhere All At Once,” starring the incredible Michelle Yeoh and Stephanie Hsu? Try as I might to write a review on one of these critically acclaimed movies, I could not bring myself to do it. Because what movie could even pretend to hold a *candle* to the greatest, most socially conscious movie I’ve ever seen: “Zombies 3” the Disney Channel Original Movie (DCOM), viewable now on Disney+. Spoilers ahead!!

For those of you who live under a rock, “Zombies 3” is the third installment of the hit DCOM series “Zombies.” The series takes place in the utopic town of Seabrook, where 50 years prior, a nuclear power plant accident turned half the town into Zombies. The first movie stars Zed (a football star and Zombie) and Addison (a white-haired human cheerleader) who, against all odds, fall in love and win the cheer competition by bringing together the Zombies and the cheerleaders! This may shock you, dear readers, but the Zombies in Seabrook serve as a metaphor for racism. I tell you, no other movie in history has ever gone so far in tackling real-world social issues as “Zombies.” The second movie features a new student group: Werewolves! The Werewolves believe that Addison, because of her white hair, might secretly be a werewolf too. Addison believes she has finally found where she belongs, but all is not as it seems. When she puts on the magic necklace that will transform her into a Werewolf, nothing happens! Instead, Addison is left to find where she really belongs in the third and final “Zombies” installment.

In the third movie, Zed is doing what no Zombie has ever done before: applying to college. He desperately wants to be accepted — not just because Addison has

already been accepted and they are destined to be together forever, but because being the first Monster (an umbrella term for all Zombies and Werewolves) to get into college would break down barriers for all Monsters. But life isn’t quite perfect — Seabrook is invaded by aliens! You’d think, by this point, that Seabrook would have learned a lesson about not judging a book by its cover and accepting new Monsters or something. Instead, “Zombies 3” makes a powerful statement on human nature, and everyone in Seabrook freaks out super hard. Everyone, that is, except Addison, feels a... strange kinship to these Aliens. It turns out, Addison has *finally* found where she belongs! She is one-quarter Alien, and using her newfound minority status, she convinces Seabrook to accept their new neighbors, and helps the Aliens find not just a new planet to live on, but a *home*.

While navigating these incredible trials and tribulations, “Zombies 3” manages to not just mention and address, but also solve every major problem currently plaguing our world today. Below is a subset:

- Discrimination against Minorities: Solved (Zombies and Werewolves as a metaphor for race)
- Discrimination against Immigrants: Solved (Aliens as a metaphor for aliens)
- Discrimination against Women: Solved (Women as a metaphor for women)
- Discrimination against Gingers: Solved (Having white hair as a metaphor for having red hair)
- Discrimination Against Interracial Couples: Solved (includes White Zombie x White Human, White Zombie x Black Human, Black Zombie x Latino Werewolf, and you’ll never believe this...)
- Gay Couples: Solved (LESBIANS)
- Mixed Race Struggles: Solved
- Having Non-Binary Characters: Solved
- Having Non-Binary Bisexual Characters: Solved
- Imposter Syndrome: Solved (song: “Exceptional Zed”)
- First Generation College Students: Solved
- Toxic Masculinity: Solved
- Gendered Colors: Solved (the male cheerleader judge wears PINK, y’all)

- Racial Segregation: Solved
- Casting Adults to Play Teenagers: Solved (the two main characters were actually 17 and 18 when the first Zombies movie came out)
- Teen Actors: Solved (the rest of the major characters were like 21 to 26, someone please check my math)
- Teenage Pregnancy: Solved (if one of your actors playing a highschooler gets pregnant, give their character in the movie an internship in a different city so they can zoom into the movie and never show

their stomachs)

- HIV and Sex: Solved (hear me out — Zed has to wear rubber gloves so Addison’s Alien powers don’t zap his Z-band)
- Safe Sex: Solved (see above)
- Climate Change: Solved
- Mass Complacency in Response to the Climate Crisis: Solved (The Aliens’ home planet was destroyed in a multi-year environmental catastrophe :( that wasn’t stopped because none of the Aliens spoke up :( because they didn’t want to cause conflict. Also the Zombies in Seabrook are canonically the result of a nuclear power plant explosion that’s never addressed but whatever)
- Aliens and the Job Market: Solved (it’s OK if literal Aliens beat your bench press record, so long as they write your college app for you, duh)
- Long Distance Relationships: Solved (just get Aliens to write your college app for you so you can go to college with your girlfriend and not be long distance, duh)
- Breakups: Solved (The alien A-Spen handles it really, really well /sarcasm)
- Polyamorous Relationships: Solved (Did you know sometimes two people can like-like the same person? This is not allowed actually)

My dearest readers, you may be asking yourself: how does a single movie tackle all this without becoming a mish-mash of talking points, with many of these issues garnering only mere seconds of screen time? Well, many of these issues are brought up and addressed in mere seconds — and isn’t that the beauty of “Zombies 3”? This stunning conclusion to the “Zombies” series drives home the brilliance and absolute genius of the “Zombies” writing team. This series has it all: Zombies, Werewolves, and Aliens — all planned from the very start! Truly, what movie could ever compare to the musical, magical, life-altering experience that is “Zombies 3”? If I can leave you with one piece of advice, it is that you should absolutely 1000% watch this movie. And you should *definitely* be sober for it.

*All social issues described here are mentioned only for humor and making fun of Zombies 3. If you ever want to chat about how clumsily the movie tackles its social issues, or just giggle at a movie meant for 6 year olds, you can reach me at [mljohnson@g.hmc.edu](mailto:mljohnson@g.hmc.edu).*

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