

Marvel's "Black Panther" breaks records during opening weekend

"Black Panther" became the fifth-biggest opening weekend of all time

by Katie Kim

When "Black Panther" was released to cinemas, it was projected to make close to \$100 - \$120 million. However, numbers currently show that it has grossed over \$427 million worldwide, breaking box-office records.

The movie starts off with extremely vague as to what exactly is happening. I feel as though Ryan Coogler, the director of the film, intentionally started off the story in order for the audience not to be exposed to too much about the story right off the bat.

The main character, T'Challa, (Chadwick Boseman) has been living his life in the United States, as a typical American citizen. After the death of his father – the king of his homeland Wakanda – T'Challa returns home and takes the throne. As time goes on, the director exposes bits and pieces of the truth to the audience by using flashbacks, memories, and epiphanies – providing more and more insight over a long period of time, building up the suspense.



Michael B. Jordan (left) and Chadwick Boseman (right) play their roles as Eric Killmonger and T'Challa | AP

I've always loved superhero movies. They're exciting, fun, and make you feel empowered to be just as strong as the heroes. The downside of all superhero movies, though, is that they are all dramatically unrealistic and share problems that are non-existent.

That's what makes "Black Panther" different from most Marvel and DC films. In an effort to avoid accidentally exposing spoilers, I will explain why "Black Panther" sets itself apart from the rest of the superhero movies.

The story's main conflict is that someone dangerous, who holds a despicable goal, takes the throne from T'Challa. His despicable goal, his motivation, the very reason he's been training his whole life to kill T'Challa in order to become a powerful king was formed due to the already existent problem of racism.

His goal is to give a specific group of people a taste of their own medicine and after this motive is exposed in the movie, it makes the viewer wonder about the oppression that the black community has had to

endure and still has to endure today.

"It was a breath of fresh air. The comic book genre movies are usually about explosions and violence but with 'Black Panther', it was refreshing that there was such depth to it," said outdoor education teacher Leif Gamrath.

On the same note, senior Cailey June shared her thoughts saying "'Black Panther' did a good job in the way that it touched real world issues that the black community deals with but through a platform where it attracts our generation, which is

through entertainment. Not only did they make it a superhero movie but it was also a political statement."

About the story itself as an entertaining, box-office record breaking film, it has gotten the acknowledgement and popularity it deserves.

Not only is it a "woke" superhero movie, it is a new addition to the Marvel collection and does not, in the slightest way, put shame to that collection.

"Personally for me, it was a bit slow in the beginning. I think that it was an overflow of background information that it made it a little confusing. But after I finished it, I like the movie overall. It had good actions, a good plot and I think that they killed it with their casting of good actors like Michael B. Jordan and Forest Whitaker," said senior Ethan Kang.

Senior JP Tucker added that "the movie itself has the best villain that Marvel has had in a while. It shared his backstory and why he feels the way he feels and why he desires to do what he desires, whether it's an act of goodness or not. I thought it was interesting and different that you couldn't exactly tell who the villain of the story was until it got towards the end of the movie."

Winter Carnival brings smiles to faces

Class of 2018 holds 24th annual Winter Carnival

by Hans Schmit

New Trier seniors held the 24th annual Winter Carnival on Feb. 23 at the Winnetka Campus. Carnival go-ers enjoyed games, activities, and food to raise money for the Habitat for Humanity project.

The Winter Carnival has always been a fundraising event, and this year was the 18th year that was dedicated to Habitat for Humanity. Later this spring, each advisery will take a trip to the construction site to work on building the house, using the funds made from the carnival.

Habitat for Humanity is an international, non-profit organization that aims to provide economical housing by selling houses to its partner families with affordable, interest-free mortgages.

Credit for New Trier's partnership with Habitat for Humanity goes to the class of 2001. They were the first class to hold a fundraiser and successfully raised \$30,000. Since then, New Trier has built 33 houses and plans to build its 34th this spring.

Chris Pearson, Senior Boys' Adviser Chair, acknowledged the hard work of this year's seniors.

"The Winter Carnival is all about the level of student engagement and participation, which happens naturally. This year was awesome and the class of 2018 did a great job."

Susie Paunan, Senior Girls' Adviser Chair, shared that "walking through the carnival, I saw everyone's excitement. Everyone was engaged in the community. The class of 2018 had a very successful evening."

Although some of the booths have already existed before, "each advisery tried to add to it and make it their own," said Paunan.

Pearson shared that each year,



The Bushell's senior boys' advisery hosted a Mario Kart booth | Schmit

the carnival is always different due to the new events that come up.

New booths this year included Glow in the Dark Musical Chairs and Guessing Games. One of the most popular booths was the Justin Bieber Room, where kids went to listen and dance to music, take photos with a Justin Bieber cut-out and get Bieber tattoos.

Another widely shared favorite was the Air Balloon Pump booth, where kids competed to see who could blow up a balloon the fastest.

The Bushell boys' advisery organized a booth for kids to play Mario Kart on the Nintendo Switch. It was one of the most engaging booths at the Winter Carnival, and had a line out the door for majority of the night.

The Easton boys' advisery held the Plinko booth. The game includes a chip that is dropped down a divided board with the goal of landing the chip in the area with the highest point value in order to earn prizes. The Plinko board was hand-built and painted by english teacher and senior

adviser Paul Easton and his advisery. According to senior Tim Murtaugh of the Easton advisery, the Plinko booth was "mobbed" with grade-school children.

There were 45 booths this year, including 3-point basketball shootout, animal balloon workshop and toilet toss.

Senior Joe Levee was excited to participate in this year's Winter Carnival because he used to go as a younger child himself. Levee worked with his classmates and adviser, Andrew Horne, at their 3-point basketball shootout booth.

Adviseries take responsibility to raise money for their booth. Some adviseries held bake sales or other fundraisers to raise money, while the rest set up their booths using student and adviser donations.

Overall, this year's Winter Carnival was a success due to the creativity of the new booths, all the participating seniors' fun energy and the excitement the carnival go-ers experienced.

Trash around common areas remains an issue

Students blame laziness for the litter found around school

by Danielle Kurensky

Majority of students attribute laziness to the reason behind the problem of trash left anywhere in the school.

While students say they know that trash should be thrown away, it is a common sight to see litter left on the floors and lunch tables. Students believe setting more trash cans throughout the school is not the solution, but rather a change in attitude.

Students argue that littering is not an act of malice, but simply students not realizing the impact it has on others. "They just kind of forget as they are going from place to place and kind of assume someone will take care of it," said junior Kate Thomason.

Student Alliance President Jacob Imber agreed that the root of the issue stems from laziness.

"No matter how many trash cans we put in a common space, it will always be easier to leave it on the ground," said Imber.

This issue has become more prevalent with the completion of the new building. The new building, which has many locations for students to sit and relax, is accumulating more trash in these areas.

"The benches in the lower level of the concourse, the first floor outside of Trevian Commons, and in the cafeteria itself are the areas that are the worst" said Facilities Manager of Physical Plant Services, Steve Linke.

Student-lead campaigns about throwing out trash have proven to be successful in the past, like Throw It Out For Real, a parody of the song "GDFR" by Flo Rida, parodied by Student Alliance and starred Kinetic Wellness teacher Andrew Horne.

"When students are in the midst of a campaign we see the

amount of trash that gets left out reduced," said Linke.

These campaigns are successful as students express to the rest of the student body that it is their responsibility to throw away their trash and not that of the custodial staff.

Linke agreed that the responsibility to throw away their trash falls on students. "Our custodians' job is not supposed to be to pick up trash that is left all over the floor, it's supposed to be dumping trash and sweeping the floors," shared Linke.

While it is not the job of the custodial staff to throw away the trash left on the ground, some students don't understand the magnitude of the issue as their trash is always picked up for them by fellow students or a custodian.

According to the *Throw It Out For Real* video, New Trier fills five garbage bags just with trash left on the ground every day. That is enough to completely fill a small bathroom stall every single day.

Bender thinks that many don't throw away their trash because they are unaware of how much is left on the ground.

"I think it would be interesting if one day they just didn't pick up any trash and the students had to be stuck going to school in their trash," said Bender.

Since trash left on the ground still remains an issue, Student Alliance is looking to prioritize this issue for second quarter.

"Most of our project so far this year have been pretty event-based and so we haven't had as much time to pursue individual projects, so cleaning up is definitely at the top of our radar," said Imber.

Ultimately, students feel change will come from a shift in the mindset of fellow students. Sophomore Arman Bozkurt, believes throwing away trash is an easy way to have a big impact on the school. "It's a really small thing to do that would help out on a grander scale," said Bozkurt.