

Looking Back on the Turbule

A never ending year of protests, war concerns, political tension

by Cody Gough
Staff Reporter

1968 was a year that changed the nation forever, and we are now looking back on it 50 years after. There were defying moments in this year that are still talked about and seen in different ways in the year 2018: such as those of the Vietnam War, the assassinations of political leaders such as Martin Luther King Jr. and Robert Kennedy, protests for peace and violent riots, and music and cultural differences fueled by it all. History was made in 1968 and reflecting on it helps us understand where we stand now in 2018.

During this year the continuation of the Vietnam war was ongoing as the Tet Offensive caused it to reach its climax. President Lyndon B. Johnson didn't help in the situation as his grand plan was signing off on sending more troops over, reaching maximum

numbers. As we were in the midst of war those at home were outraged over us even being apart of this war.

Which in the years that have followed made many of those involved not wanting to discuss it, as if it never even happened. Even though we were not at war now, if our current president keeps letting his mouth run we may; and after seeing the fight against war in 1968 it's obvious nothing good comes from it and no American, not even one in 2018 wants the same consequences payed then.

In this time the media had played a huge role in making this the first ever uncensored war that was brought back home and seen in the eyes of everyone. This was the time where media began to

dictate and find their own voice. It showed how strong they could be and what they would become, which is what we see today. In today's society we have seen a media that is beginning to be silenced by the concepts that gave them their voice to begin with.

Tensions began to grow between those of all backgrounds, from hippies looking for peace in a never ending war to African-Americans resisting change after the assassinations of their leaders. Following the successful Tet Offensive by Northern Vietnamese troops, anti-war marches and other protests such as one's organized by mostly students and young adults fired up, as many were just searching for peace in a broken world. A world that is still broken and even more and more



ent Year 1968: 50 years later

sions and cultural differences that changed a nation forever.

people and many younger ones are standing up for changes that still haven't been solved from 1968.

At the time the unexpected assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. on April 4 in a Memphis, Tennessee motel gave way to days of violent riots in major cities over blacks losing their only voice. Today we see protests all over some peaceful yet other violent over our own feelings and differences between each other, it's turned from looking for answers to more screaming at each others faces and not communicated our differences and finding the solutions like those in 1968. If we just could find better ways to talk through our differences than protests, tweeting or posting photos and videos of our anger, than maybe we would be

in a different and better place today and from that of 1968.

The culture of 1968 couldn't have been more divided, which is a perfect representation of how our culture is in 2018. With how tensions were high in politics and relations with our foreign neighbors, how we had differences in what we wanted to see changed and how we didn't want to see change. Yet what always could find its way in bringing, even the most broken together is our music, television, movies and all things pop culture: such as television specials like the NBC special "If I Can Dream" the return of Elvis Presley, sporting events that bring the nations together like the Summer Olympics in Mexico City, a space race that led to the Apollo 7 launch and teen heartthrobs The

Beatles. There is something powerful in cultural moments that can bring a whole world crying out for help all together in one voice.

The year 1968 reflects so much of what we see today in 2018 in how similar and at the same time different we were. It was a devastating war that brought hardship on all and made media what it is and isn't now. It was protests that had a true cause that now are bickering fights without an end in sight. It was a fist in the air and the return of a icon that today is the defeat of a dynasty and the rise of new stars that bring us all together as one. We have come along way since that year of 1968, and we may have some work to do, but it'll be worth it when we look back on 2018 in 50 years and say "Wow, what a year!"

