

Headlight



Written by the students of Marblehead High School for our school and community

2015-2016 Issue

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Music Videos: Are They Worth it?

Linda Fitzpatrick, Senior
Editor-in-Chief

There are two types of people in this world — those who watch music videos and those who don't. I watch music videos religiously, but I know many people who don't see the value of these videos. In some respects, I understand the want to listen to music and interpret the lyrics for yourself. On the other hand, music videos are a developing form of media I live by.

Taylor Swift's "New Romantics" video, released exclusively on Apple Music last Wednesday, stirred some buzz regarding music videos—specifically tour videos. "New Romantics" highlighted Swift's 1989 World Tour, including footage from her Apple Music exclusive film, *1989 World Tour Live*. Swift is a regular when it comes to tour videos. For every album she releases and every tour she embarks on, Swift compiles backstage footage, live performances, and happy fans into a roughly three minute video. And they're...*nice*. Swift's videos certainly capture the joy of attending a concert and the true passion she has for both her career and fans. But, these videos lack creativity. I opened "New Romantics" eager to see what world I'd be thrown into — especially after the dark and mysterious "Out Of The Woods" video a few months prior. Like many others, I was disappointed when I received a shorter contemplation of the Apple Music film. Normally, this wouldn't upset me, but after watching the entire tour I felt there was too much potential in this song for an impressive video rather than what I watched, which felt like the easy road out.

As a storyteller, I view music videos as an ever growing platform for stories. The band Thirty Seconds To Mars has been pushing the definition of what a music video should be for years now. In 2013, they produced a twelve minute video for their song "City of Angels" unlike anything I have ever seen. The soul and passion that seeps through this music video almost feels tangible. The video includes candid interviews with artists such as Kanye West, Selena Gomez, Shawn White, and Lindsay Lohan, as well as impersonators of Michael Jackson and Superman. There is something so magical about a song and video that capture the darkness and light of artists in a competitive industry. You don't have to be an artist to connect with "City of Angels" either. No matter who you are, this video digs deep into your life. Artists like Thirty Seconds To Mars are evolving a once very static form of media.

MTV was once known for their music videos. Most of the videos they broadcasted were performance videos, similar to tour videos. While these videos are enjoyable every once in a while, there is too much potential in this media platform for them not to change. I can't tell you how many times I've overheard adults complain about MTV and music videos these days, but if MTV was the same as when adults were teenagers, there would be nothing exciting about the company. Change is inevitable. While I don't personally watch MTV often and can't vouch for their evolution through the years, I will say that the progression of music videos is only a good thing.

I sincerely think that those who don't watch music videos are missing out. While there is such joy in connecting with music for personal reasons, there is also such joy in watching an artist's vision of what the song means to them. If you're not a music video fan, don't waste your time on tour videos or the old fashioned MTV performance videos. Search for the musicians who push the limits, producing videos that spark emotion within. You might not believe they're out there, but like anything in life, as long as you look, you will find.

What's on the Board

Current Event:

John Kerry makes historic visit to Hiroshima Memorial

The U.S. Secretary of State said his visit to the Japanese city of Hiroshima was a "gut-wrenching" reminder of the need to get rid of nuclear weapons.

John Kerry made the comments at a press conference after laying a wreath at the city's atomic bomb memorial.

He is the first U.S. secretary of state ever to visit the memorial or the city.

Around 140,000 people, most of them civilians, were killed when the U.S. dropped its atomic bomb on the city in 1945.

Describing it as "a display that I will, personally, never forget," he said: "It reminds everybody of the extraordinary complexity of choices in war and of what war does to people, to communities, to countries, to the world."

Source: BBC World News

Quote of the Day:

*"With confidence,
you have won before
you have started."*

-Marcus Garvey

PC: Both Extremes

Andrew Dearborn, Sophomore
Reporter

Political correctness is a term which, in modern usage, is used to describe language or policies that are intended not to offend or disadvantage any particular group. Currently there seems to be two views of political correctness. There are those who disregard the idea entirely, and those who cling to it feverishly. Both sides have been in the news, and both sides are increasingly militant.

On one hand there are the SJW's, or Social Justice Warriors, bloggers and Tumblr users who stand up for disadvantaged minorities. They live and die by political correctness and have gained a reputation for being easily offended. Originally SJW's stuck to the internet, posting about race and gender inequality, but these internet "warriors" have cast themselves into the limelight recently on college campuses all over the U.S. On these campuses they have become a strong force for upheaval with their fragile emotions and loud voices. One of the key phrases of the SJW's is "microaggression," a word used to describe a situation in which a person or group of people may be offended by something that is not meant to offend them. When a college refuses to acknowledge these aggressions, or if they commit a microaggression themselves, it often leads to the SJW's protesting and calling for members of the administration's resignation. One such event occurred at Yale University this past December. Protesters were upset by a professor's reply to an email that warned students not to wear offensively halloween costumes. The professor said that students should be able to wear whatever they please and that people have lost their capacity to disregard things that offend them. The SJW's reacted vehemently, declaring that the campus was no longer a "safe space." The professor later resigned from the university.

On the other hand, some people completely disregard political correctness. An outspoken example of this is current GOP front-runner Donald Trump. When Mr. Trump began his campaign he claimed that society had become "too politically correct," and he has tried to elevate political incorrectness as a campaign theme. Political commentators have deemed his comments racist, sexist, and offensive to the handicapped. Trump's campaign of political incorrectness has become a thinly veiled excuse for insulting whomever he wants, however he wants. This rhetoric has seeped into the speeches of other presidential candidates, turning debates and even the entire election into a string of petty arguments.

In this age of political undecidedness, where does the layman find himself? Forced with the decision between too much and not enough, is there a just right?

11 Ways to Stay Productive Over Spring Break

Julia Murphy
Guest Contributor

Spring break is here! Maybe you're jetting off to a tropical island or another exciting destination. The weather is getting warmer, and break is a great time to relax. Your mind might not be thinking about school any more, but here are some great ways to stay focused and productive while you enjoy your spring break.

1. Work on your resume and look for jobs. Free time during spring break is a great time to revise or amp up your resume. You hopefully won't have any distractions so you'll be able to focus on perfecting your resume and getting it ready to send out to potential employers. You can peruse job listings to find potential job openings you may qualify for. If you're an underclassman, start applying for summer jobs so you'll be good to go when summer vacation rolls around.
2. Stay active. It's spring break, so, hopefully, the weather has started to get nicer. This is a great time to get outside and exercise. Since classes aren't in the way, you can't make excuses about why you can't hit the gym or exercise. Get out there, and get moving! You can go for a jog, walk with some friends or maybe sign up for a class at the gym.
3. Play catch up. Chances are, there are some things you've fallen behind on during school. Life can get busy, but spring break is a great time to catch up on all the things you need to finish (or start). Don't let school work take up your entire break, but getting a few hours out of the way is a great way to knock things off your to-do list.
4. Do some spring cleaning. You can start by organizing your room. Throw out any junk that you don't use anymore and organize clothes. Store away your winter clothes and accessories to free up some space. Recycle papers and notebooks you don't need anymore.
5. Read a book. Maybe there's a novel for class that you're a few (or many) chapters behind on. If you're lucky enough to be sitting on a beach, you can soak up some sun and catch up on your reading. If you don't have any books to read for school, maybe crack open that book you've been wanting to read.
6. Get ahead on school work. You might not be able to do this while you're away on vacation, but if you're lounging at home you could try to get ahead on your school work. When you get back from break, your workload will be a lot lighter and you won't be completely stressed out.
7. Volunteer. Give your local to the community while you're on break by checking out your local food pantry or food library. See if there is anything you can help them out with. They'll probably have something you can do. This is a great way to fill your time while helping others.
8. Get your sleep cycle back on track. While you might not think sleeping is the most productive way to spend break, it will really help you in the future. While you're at school, your sleep schedule can be sporadic. Try to get to bed earlier so you'll be more rested and more likely to wake up earlier.
9. Take some "me time." School can be a lot of stress, whether it's school work, group projects, work or helping others out. Sometimes you can forget to take care of yourself. Make sure your mental health is in check so you can return to school at 100 percent.

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