

Headlight



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

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A Conversation Begun, but Not Finished

Opinions, Stories, and Advice, Oh My!

Dan Rosenberg
Editor-in-Chief, Senior

the speakers are actually put into practice.

I can remember as a sophomore, we had a group called Rachel's Challenge come into the school. They told the story of a girl who died at Col-umbine, and it was a very moving presentation. Af-terwards, every student was encouraged to sign a banner that was hung in the school, a banner which said none of us would ever participate in bully-ing. And for a few days, our school was a picture of harmony. But instead of continually focusing on fostering this sense of community, the school simply began to move on. The banner still hung in the school, but it lost the meaning it had held when it was first signed. Slowly but surely, Rachel's Chal-

lenge became a mov- ing yet distant memory. So while the school did a great job of beginning this discussion on bullying and kindness, there seemed to be a lack of continuing focus on the issue long after the speakers left the school. That brings us to last week, when the school brought in Calvin Ter-rell, a man from Phoenix, Arizona, who has exten- sive experience with so- cial justice, and issues of hate, to speak to us about being "warriors, not cow- ards." Mr. Terrell brought perhaps the most intense message I've heard in our school, and encouraged students to apologize for wrongs they had commit- ted against each other pub- licly. It really was a heart- felt and emotional

experience for all of the students at the presenta- tion. But after Mr. Terrell came, there has been no follow up. So while his message was clear, I'm worried that once again it will soon go by the way- side. And so then perhaps next year there will be a new speaker, but no new change. I commend the school on their commitment to beginning the discussion on social justice; but it is a conversation that has been begun over and over again. We need to go further than just this beginning; if we really do want to make a lasting change to the com- munity at Marblehead High, it will need to come not from the outside, but from within the school.

Morgan Hardwick,
News Coordinator,
Junior

the students can deter- mine. I know letting eighteen year olds make such a huge, life-chang- ing decision on their own might be scary, horrifying even, but no one knows where they belong better than themselves. Parents only want what is best for their child before they leave the nest; however, what they think is best isn't necessarily right.

A day doesn't go by without someone asking me about college. The questioning becomes an endless cycle of: "What schools are you looking at?", "Which major are you thinking of?", "Do you want to stay close to home?", "Big or small?", "Graduate school?" And before I can answer, an- other opinion is thrown at my face filled with some- what impractical advice and lined with old memo- ries. Although appreci- ated, enough is enough. Adults don't understand that hearing old tales about how hard they stud- ied (or partied) in college is not going to make me consider a school any- more or less than before. My junior year is coming to a close and college is one of the most impor- tant things on my mind,

Coming from a teen- age girl dealing with the college search herself, I believe that the one thing parents must uncondi- tionally supply isn't their opinion, but their support and guidance. Thinking about leaving for col- lege is scary, no matter how hard someone might deny it. But with the add- ed stress from the family, friends, and friends of the family, students find themselves pushing off the thought of college.

but it is becoming clut- tered with the opinions from family, friends, and even strangers that I can- not think straight. My own mother is pushing for UMASS Amherst, a prestigious university no doubt, but with the amount of articles she's printed out and emails she's forwarded me, I think my head might ex- plode.

A mix of annoyance and fear, combined with an overloaded brain filled with the thoughts of oth- ers, makes the college selection that much less exciting and helpful. So parents, occasionally of- fer your opinions and al- ways offer your support; and students, the time has come for us to take the reins of this decision- making process because college is fast approach- ing and we need to hold on tight.

Picking a college ulti- mately comes down to the students' own opin- ion, and while adults are often wiser in aspects of teenagers' lives, this choice is something only

Spring Is In the Air

Riley Sugarman
News Coordinator, Junior

one thing: spring has officially sprung.

understand that refer- ence), which is probably my favorite part of spring.

ture the five feet from my bedroom to the bathroom in the morning, I can see where I am going (versus hitting something, usually the wall). Spring track re- cently started too, so when I race the mile I can run four laps, versus the ten or eleven on the indoor track. Everyone has their favorite part of spring, and whether it's the cloth- ing, attitude, birds, or sports, I think we can all agree that the best part is ditching the heavy parka for a light windbreaker.

The first thing I like to do at this point in the year is to break out ev- erything spring. This includes clothing, ac- cessories, makeup, and even a new attitude. This year I have become ob- sessed with kimonos (re- ally loose shawl-type gar- ments) and floral patterns. In fact, last week I bought a floral kimono. When the equinox hits, I (along with many others) acquire a new "spring attitude." All winter blues dissipate and I feel reborn; I feel like Fawkes the Phoenix (raise your hand if you

If you ask me for my favorite season, I am 99% sure you will be told whatever season we are currently in. I love all seasons, and I really don't have a favorite, but at the moment I love spring the most. I love how every- one seems reborn, and how in the morning, the birds start chirping bright and early. The trees start to bud, my crabapple tree is a bright pink (sadly for only a few weeks), and a windbreaker is the only coat you need on many days. Also, when I ven-

A Stronger Boston

Drew Faria
Reporter-in-the-Field, Junior

relationship between the genes of humans and insects, when my brother ran over to me with wide eyes. His hand clenched his phone, which would not stop buzzing. He told me of an explosion at the marathon finish line in Boston. A friend of his kept him updated, for her mother was a runner in the race. My brother would not stop his worrying reports. His phone vibrated incessantly. I began to feel a deep knot tighten in my stomach; something was definitely happening back home. The rest of my family had left the exhibit, which my brother could no longer pay attention to. The two of us caught up to

them on a bridge that spanned a large tank of fish. My brother instantly burst into an explana- tion of what happened in Bos- ton. Mom reached for her phone to search for news updates. Sure enough, a bomb exploded at the end of the marathon, but details were scarce. Even though we were on the opposite side of the country, we could sympathize with our fellow Bostonians. It was at this time I looked over the edge of the bridge into the tank below. Thoughts flowed through my head faster than the water. I saw several sharks and sting rays in the tank. With them, several smaller and de- fenseless fish swam calmly

around them. My mind sudden- ly stopped all of the unending thoughts, except for one: why can't we be like the fish? Think about it, the sharks and rays had the teeth and barbed tails to easily kill all of the fish in the tank, but they didn't. So, why do humans with weapons have to use violence on each other? I reflected on this idea for a while. We do not hold responsibility for the marathon bombings. The terror and suffering that has been endured ever since is inexcus- able. But in its wake, we should consider how our actions affect others, both short and long term. Maybe we yelled at someone in anger, and now they carry the

same animosity we did. Only negative consequences will re- sult. If Massachusetts truly iden- tifies itself as "Boston Strong," then our goal as a community is more than showing resilience since April 15th. We must focus on treating everyone with the respect and kindness that every- one deserves. The news reminds us of this all of the time. Too many shootings and attacks oc- cur for us not to notice a pattern: most of the perpetrators faced persecution themselves. If we overcome the negative impulses we associate with different peo- ple, that is the way to truly make ourselves "Boston Strong."

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