

Headlight



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

2015-2016 Issue

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April 28, 2016

Zootopia: Empowerment in Animation

Maeve Reilly, Junior
Reporter

You've probably heard the name and you've probably seen the ads. Maybe you've thought "just another typical animated film," but Disney's latest animated release, *Zootopia*, is not to be passed over. *Zootopia* tells the story of a small bunny, Judy Hopps, who dreams of becoming a police officer in a world filled with other larger species. Her dream is shot down by nearly everyone, regardless of how hard she works, because, after all, a bunny can't be and has never been a cop. However, Judy doesn't give up. She's determined to prove to everyone that she can be what she sets her mind to, no matter what species she was born.

In terms of surface features, *Zootopia* is excellent and beautifully put together. From the detail of the furry animation, to the many action-packed adventures, to the wide variety of color used in each scene, the film is visually captivating. Additionally, *Zootopia*'s writing is hilarious and fresh. The movie is filled with moments that will make the audience break out into collective laughter, but it also lacks lines that feel forced or overly cliché. The many quirky and unique personalities developed in *Zootopia*'s different creatures— from a flamboyant leopard to a glamorous mole— make the film even more absorbing and endearing.

There's no doubt that *Zootopia* is a fun and entertaining watch for audiences of all ages. However, *Zootopia* has more to offer than just what meets the eye. The film uses the inequality in opportunity and status between animals of different species, predators and prey, to symbolize racial inequality that exists today. *Zootopia* sends the message that although racial discrimination and stereotypes exist, you—like Judy Hopps—shouldn't allow them to limit you. With enough hard work and perseverance, anyone can defy society's expectations and become anything they dream, regardless of their race. *Zootopia* is funny, exciting, colorful, unique, and oozing with empowerment. Disney hit the nail on the head with this latest animated must-see.

Searching For an Icon

Jack Krivit, Junior
Reporter

I was ten when I found out that Michael Jackson had passed away. He didn't mean much to me before that day, but I still knew that it was a big deal. I had listened to "Thriller" and some of his Jackson 5 songs before, but I didn't idolize him in the same way that so many other people did. Despite this, I spent the following months listening to nothing but Michael, almost as if I was trying to make up for the decades of worship I had missed. For me, it wasn't so much about the music he made, but the fact that so many other people loved him. I think I wanted to understand where those feelings came from, and to be able to feel that same way about someone.

I knew more about Prince when I heard the news that he had passed away, but still, I wasn't as avid a fan as so many other people around the world. Prince was cool. When I was younger, I would listen to his album *Around the World in a Day* every time I felt like dancing around my room. The very first 45 record that I had was a copy of "Raspberry Beret."

So Prince's death made me sad. Not necessarily because I knew all of his songs, which I didn't, but because I knew that thousands of people around the world had lost their idol, the person who taught and encouraged them to be who they are, to be different or expressive. And following so closely the death of David Bowie, the loss of Prince made me realize that I don't have someone speaking for my generation.

Hopefully those reading this don't think "Ugh, here's another Prince story. I've heard so many over the past week," because trust me, traveling by car over break, that's the only thing I heard on the radio. But there's so much about Prince to hear because there's so much for people to tell. People like Prince are really hard to find, and that's why he holds such a special place in so many people's hearts.

Now that I'm older and I've figured myself out a bit more, I'm not going to go through the same phase with Prince that I did with Michael. But I do feel the same respect and longing that I did when I was ten. I only wish that there was some musician today that I could really connect with, someone who understands the difficulties that I'm going through, and isn't trying to connect to me because of some contract for producing music, but because they really believe in what they have to say.

Currency Changes

Amber Born, Junior
Reporter

Last week, U.S. Secretary of the Treasury Jack Lew announced that the new twenty dollar bill will feature the abolitionist Harriet Tubman rather than the controversial president Andrew Jackson. This is the biggest news to hit the currency world since the Sacajawea Dollar Incident of 2008. Depending on how you look at it, the Tubman decision is either a pointless act of political correctness, or a genuine attempt to diversify currency and signal that the United States does not condone Andrew Jackson's actions toward Native Americans. I find it kind of amusing that Jackson is finally getting removed from something himself, but I'm a little concerned that changing the faces of our currency is going to start happening regularly. If it does, here are some of my predictions for who will be the first to go and who their replacements will be.

1. Sure, George Washington was an important political figure, being the first president of the United States and a military hero and all that, but the man owned slaves. We can't have slave owners on our money. That sends a bad message and reminds people that the United States wasn't founded by perfect 21st century wizards. Who should we replace Washington with? If we're trying to keep at least part of George Washington's name, either George Clooney or Kerry Washington. Everybody likes them, no one would have a problem with it.

2. Alexander Hamilton will probably be taken off the ten dollar bill, not because he's an unpopular figure, but because the Treasury needs to make room for his replacement, Lin-Manuel Miranda.

3. President/General Ulysses S. Grant was a Civil War hero, but as a president, he wasn't especially noteworthy. There are a number of other generals who could replace Grant on the hundred dollar bill: Eisenhower, Patton, Electric, etc.

4. Abraham Lincoln is on both the penny and the five dollar bill. At first I thought that seemed a little redundant, but then again, it's Abraham Lincoln. The only other president who might deserve two types of currency is William Henry Harrison, and that would only be to make up for the fact that he only spent 32 days in office.

5. Salmon P. Chase is pictured on the ten thousand dollar bill. The bill is no longer printed and most of them have been recalled, but I think it's un-American for this country to have currency featuring a man named Salmon. Might as well put Donald Trump on it, since he's probably the only person who would actually use ten thousand dollar bills on a regular basis. "Sure, I'll loan you five bucks. Do you have change for a ten thousand? No? Oh well, too bad for you. My money is the best. It's yuuge."

Looking to Grow? The SPUR Seed Grant Program

The SPUR Seed Grant Program offers school-aged youth in the Marblehead, Salem, and Swampscott, Massachusetts communities an opportunity to receive the support needed to carry out youth initiated and directed community impact projects.

Our Seed Grant empowers 4th – 12th grade individuals and groups who possess the initiative and aspiration to implement thoughtful, sustainable and executable ideas which positively effect the local community.

Limited only by total overall program funding, the SPUR Seed Grant aims to support as many projects as possible in a non-competitive manner. In other words, our desire is to fund all projects which meet program guidelines for sustainability and community impact, with each project eligible for funding up to \$500.

To apply, potential recipients, including groups, must be in 4th – 12th grade and complete a formal application which will:

- Define the problem
- Specify project objectives, including benefactors and timeline of no more than 3 months
- Submit project budget and supply list for seed grant request
- Articulate implementation plan
- Explain intended follow-up and evaluation method

We will work with the Seed Grant recipient, purchasing materials as necessary for the project's execution, up to the awarded amount. In addition, we commit to provide as much logistical help as possible, including mobilizing volunteers to support the recipient in the implementation of their project.

Throughout project execution, the recipient will be required to document their progress and reflect as they learn first hand about project management, including, but not limited to, budget development and tracking, impact assessment, and final project evaluation.

A key component of our mission is the involvement of youth. We believe deeply in the value of service learning and the transformative impact it can have.

SPUR recognizes even the smallest of seeds can SPUR good deeds. By empowering youth and covering the costs associated with youth directed projects, we remove major obstacles that may be hindering our young and bright community members; investing in the next generation and working to cultivate a group of compassionate and community-minded neighbors, friends, and colleagues.

Sponsor a project. Mail your tax-deductible donation to SPUR: P.O. Box 1274, Marblehead, MA 01945 and note Seed Grant in memo or donate online (we incur a 3% fee for online transactions).



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