



Justin Bieber: A Renewed Purpose

Kyra Veprek, Junior
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Reporters

Almost every girl my age can recall a time ten or so years ago when they suffered from "Bieber Fever." It was everywhere. Girls my age quickly fell suit after listening to his lite pop songs and his innocent romantic lyrics. His first two breakout albums, *My World* and *My World 2.0*, were both full of pop guitar loops, simple beats, and Bieber's famous young voice. After the release of those albums, Bieber did not release another serious album until 2012, with his release of the pop and R&B record, *Believe*, which did not achieve the enormous success of his past albums. Bieber then released another album, *Journals*, the following year which, again, failed to top the sales of his past records. Bieber has been in the public eye for the last couple of years, but not for the reasons one would hope. After a series of scandals and the loss of support, the 21-year-old singer is making a huge comeback. The apparent dark fate of Justin Bieber seems to have changed as he's showing the world that he has matured and has found his purpose once more with the release of *Purpose* on November 13, 2015.

Bieber's sound takes a 180 turn on his new album. The tracks on *Purpose* do not reflect the pop and R&B sounds that the world has come to associate with Bieber. Almost all the tracks fall under the EDM or dance-pop genre, which is tailored more towards the club scene rather than the young tweens Bieber's music was originally targeted towards. Many of the tracks hold a unique balance between the presence of a fast electronic beat, and the preservation of raw and rich vocals. Justin's voice sounds fuller and more mature than ever before. The lyrics are relatively basic and clearly written to be subconsciously memorized by all listeners; however, they no longer tell tales of making one less lonely girl or giving his heart to someone. Bieber opens up and makes himself vulnerable in a way the world has never heard from him before. He remains humble while describing his struggles with love, fame, self-image, and more. The intimate style of songwriting makes the tracks feel genuine and honest. He sings about the pressure of being in the spotlight and asks the world, "don't forget that I'm human." In the end, he makes promises of a better future. "No matter what they say, I'll show you," one song concludes. Additionally, Bieber speaks to his listeners through the use of spoken audio clips placed in many in the songs. In these clips, Justin gives his listeners advice, defines what love means to him, encourages them to continue their journeys with hope, and reminds them, "Life is Worth Living."

With all that said about the lyrics of each song, the main appeal comes from the background beats created by producers including Justin Tranter, who is known for creating tracks for artists such as Fifth Harmony and Selena Gomez, and DJ's such as Skrillex. There is one song on the album, however, that stands out for its gentle and raw acoustic guitar beat rather than techno sounds. "Love Yourself" is co-written by fellow singer/songwriter, Ed Sheeran. Here, along with a few tracks with piano, Bieber's vocals sound their richest and most pure. But, overall, the fun beats and repetitiveness of the tracks make the music on *Purpose* perfect for dancing, working, or driving around to.

Bieber's album was also preceded by the release of "Where Are U Now," which featured Bieber's vocal tracks over the tangled beats of Diplo and Skrillex, two widely renowned EDM and Dubstep DJ's. The release of this track began the association of Bieber with a Dance-Pop scene rather than the lite and acoustic pop he was previously recognized for. Again, the popularity of this song is mostly based on the background tracks produced for Bieber rather than his talents. Nonetheless, "Where Are U Now" is still a widely successful and fun song. Following this success, the debut of *Purpose* was preceded by the release of Bieber's single, "What Do You Mean?" which is popular for its flute instrumentation and tropical synths. The song was clearly written to please a wide variety of listeners, including teens and college students, which it achieved. The tribal tones of this song make it the perfect summer song for anyone to dance along to. The fan favorite at the moment, however, appears to be "Sorry," Bieber's final headlining single before the release of *Purpose*. The bouncy drum beat and synth-styled background vocals make "Sorry" instantly addictive and fun to sing along and dance to with friends. Equally as entertaining is the music video that accompanies this song which showcases the talents of a female hip-hop dance crew.

Bieber's shift to a Dance-Pop artist is one that ultimately benefitted him in the chase to make money in the ever progressing mainstream music scene. Enjoying Bieber's music was once associated only with pre-teen girls and is now widely accepted and shared among high-schoolers and college students. Regardless of past controversies involving Bieber, *Purpose* has instantly blown up and become hugely popular. This album is just the thing Justin Bieber needed to come back and continue to create music with just as much, if not more, support than ever.

Christmas Walk Events

The Marblehead Christmas Walk starts today for its 45th year! Here are some of the events taking place in town that you won't want to miss!

Thursday, December 3

Ginger Bread Festival Judging and Opening Reception
5 to 7 p.m., Jeremiah Lee Mansion

Friday, December 4

Tree Lighting Celebration
6 to 7:15 p.m., National Grand Bank

Saturday, December 5

Santa's Landing by Lobster Boat
9 a.m., Lobster Boat

Christmas Walk Parade
11:45 a.m., State Street Landing

Sunday, December 6

Celebrate in Town
Events start at 12 and end at 7:30 p.m.
Listen to live music by MHS band and a cappella groups!

The Idiot's Guide to Good Reporting

Kathleen Alexandrou, Sophomore
Reporter

"If a story is in you, it has got to come out." - William Faulkner. The feeling summed up by this quote is one that I believe many writers, both young and old, can relate to. Sometimes, you just have to write. When we talk about "writing," especially writing done by students, it's often assumed that if writing is not an assignment, then it's creative writing for one's own enjoyment. The little niche of middle school, high school, and college journalism is generally overlooked. Many Marblehead citizens know of Headlight (if you didn't, you would not be reading this), the student-run paper at Marblehead High School, but Headlight is not the only school paper in Marblehead. Both Marblehead Veterans Middle School and Marblehead Charter School have their own newspapers. I interviewed two student reporters, Alex Kerai (now a freshman at the Hobart and William Smith Colleges), and Nicole Alexandrou (an eighth grader at MVMS) in order to make more public this niche of student journalism.

Alex has been a reporter for a grand total of seven years now, starting out with the Charter School magazine. He spent four years with Headlight at Marblehead High School, even serving as editor-in-chief his senior year (along with Meredith Piela and Liam Reilly). Currently, he is on staff for the Herald at HWS.

Nicole has just begun her second year as a journalist for the MVMS Gazette, the middle school paper run by Mr. Schaffnit.

When asked what his favorite article was, Alex said: "It's hard to pick a favorite article because I tried to do things that were different every time. I had probably four that were mainstays. I always did a recap article at the end of the year, and then Drama Fest and the Oscar issue. Everything else is different every time. At HWS I did an interview with an artist I know and one on the Starbucks controversy. I try to do things that are different every time. I think it's a good way to practice your writing skills and not do the same thing over and over. In terms of my favorite Headlight article, I'd say my last recap one. But overall I don't have one."

Nicole, on the other hand, immediately responded, "I think my Les Mis one because I wrote it with a friend. It was like a summary of Les Mis."

Alex says that over the last seven years, he's grown as a writer and a reporter. "I approach topics differently. One thing I remember Mr. Higgins telling me with my first Oscar article (Alex's M.O. was publishing an annual issue devoted to the Oscars) is that you want to tell them something new. I remember I was brainstorming ideas about it with him and he said, "Pick an idea and make it your own." The biggest thing is you always look at what's going on; you want to always approach things with a new perspective. What's stayed the same... I don't really know. I think you always have to evolve. Your writing style changes, but you have to maintain a certain voice that stays with you."

At the middle school, things are a little different. Nicole says, "You go to the club, and you sit down and write pretty much. Mr. Schaffnit might say, "Someone do an article on this topic," but mostly you just write whatever. I think this helps me grow as a writer, because I can basically do whatever."

Finally, I asked for any words of wisdom they had for aspiring journalists. Nicole said: "Oh I don't know... Work hard, I guess. If you work hard, the writing gets done faster." Alex ended with: "Here's three things: be observant. Always look around and see what's going on, 'cause that's what will make you a good reporter and a good citizen - always knowing what's going on. Write a lot; it doesn't matter if it's journalism or not, just write. That leads into the third: enjoy your school paper. It doesn't matter if it's high school or college, just enjoy it." In conclusion, it is pretty safe to say that whether it's middle school, high school or college, two things are obvious: in order to become a better writer, you have to write - and you have to write a lot.

How Selfless Are Our Good Deeds?

Abby Schalck, Junior
Reporter

Given that it is the holiday season, people are often more conscious of being kind to others. Many people participate in food or clothing drives for the less fortunate, or donate their time to soup kitchens. These good deeds are wonderful to do, even when it is not during the holiday season. However, it is important to stop and think about why you are doing them, and if it is for the right reason.

If you are selflessly taking action to help those in need simply because you know that it is the right thing to do, then you are all set. Unfortunately, a very small amount of people have this way of thinking. Numerous people often take part in things such as fundraisers or food drives simply to make themselves look better to others. A major part of this comes from students trying to get in community service hours. The National Honor Society requires students to participate in a certain number of community service hours in order to become a member, and some high schools expect students to accumulate a certain number in order to graduate. This seems good in theory; after all, it means that students will be helping the community, or giving back to those in need. However, it also raises the question: Would these students give back on their own if not prompted with a reward?

The answer to this question varies from person to person, but for the most part, it is thought that humans are inherently selfish. Therefore, it is conceivable that most people would not give to others if there were not some sort of reward for their work. However, one can pose the counterargument to this and ask: What's the problem with being selfish, as long as you help those in need? For example, if a student were to donate his time at a soup kitchen simply to get his required community service hours, he would still be helping people less fortunate than him. Looking at it from this perspective, it is a win-win for both the student and those he serves at the soup kitchen. So then what's the big deal?

In short, it is no big deal at the moment. Yet, what would happen if there were not a reward for helping others? Would people stand up and help each other regardless? Or would those in need of a little extra help never get any? If they would not receive any help because of our selfishness, how can we change our actions to ensure that they can get the help they need?

The answer is to remember that not everything needs a reward for it to be important and meaningful. When participating in fundraisers or food drives, remember not to think of yourself, but, instead, to think about those whom you are helping through your good deed.

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