

# Headlight



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

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## House of Cards Returns for Third Season

Ginny Naughton, Freshman Reporter

The second of Netflix's original series, "House of Cards" first aired in February of 2013, and it will be returning this month for a much anticipated third season. Being the first online-only web television series to receive any major nominations or Emmy's (the show has collected a total of twenty two Emmy nominations and four awards over the first two seasons alone), the series has well earned its spot in the public eye. The political thriller, centered around Francis Underwood, the democratic congressman from South Carolina and House majority whip, and his wife Claire, is a classic story of pragmatism, prestige, and most importantly, power. Combining elements of Macbeth, Othello, and everyday corruption, "House of Cards" explores the depths of human greed while still being a cinematic work of art, and should be next on your list of what to watch.

The series is not critical of today's politics; it walks the thin line between scornful and cynical, yet presents Washington in an oddly neutral way. While the show is built around corruption and the less-than-innocent scheming of some in government, it never condemns those who participate in Washington itself. "I have to be ruthless," Doug Stamper, Francis' Chief of Staff tells the audience, "because failure is not an option." As straightforward and frank in its ideas and themes as Francis himself, "House of Cards" is without a doubt one of the most refreshing shows being made right now.

Breaking the fourth wall, something many movies and television shows stay away from, and usually using one camera per scene, adds to the show's uniqueness, creating a slightly theatrical atmosphere to parallel the two plays the story is partially inspired by. From the spot-on casting, including Kevin Spacey, Robin Wright, and Corey Stoll, to the incredible directing, to the harsh cruelty of government the show portrays, "House of Cards" has earned its place among some of today's, if not history's, best shows. The next season, especially after the unthinkable ending of season two, will only be more intriguing and more twisted. So get your popcorn ready for this February, and if you haven't already seen the first two seasons, log onto Netflix and start watching.

## If You're Reading This It's Too Late: Album Review

Maeve Reilly, Sophomore Reporter

On February 12th, rap/pop artist Drake released his new album, *If You're Reading This It's Too Late*, which he's referring to as a mixtape. Like Beyoncé's 2013 self-titled *Beyoncé*, Drake released these 17 new songs completely unannounced. In terms of content and music, this album represents Drake returning to his roots.

The songs off this latest album are of a simpler and purer style of rap, more characteristic of Drake's earlier work. While Drake's latest release lacks the breadth of collaborations found on his earlier albums (only Lil Wayne, PARTYNEXTDOOR and Travis Scott are featured), and features little to no influence of other genres, it manages to display the 28-year-old artist at his best. Laced with vampy and moody vocals, *If You're Reading This It's Too Late* discusses Drake's childhood as well as his experiences with fame. He incorporates the number six, which represents his hometown of Toronto, Ontario, into both song titles and lyrics throughout the album as a sort of tribute to where he grew up.

Notable tracks include: "Energy," "You & The 6," and "6pm in New York." "Energy," the second track on the album, is arguably the catchiest song, featuring a fast paced hook in which Drake refers to all his "enemies." "You & The 6," track 15, is a heartfelt and sincere track addressed to the artist's mother, and is in direct contrast to the colder, removed lyrics of other songs on the album. He explains how he is grateful for all she has done to shape his life: "This is a crazy life/ but you and the 6 raised me right." "6pm in New York," the 17th and final track, closes the album with a bang. He reflects on his life and how people can change the world while subtly criticizing society, "Maybe we should try and help somebody or be somebody/ Instead of being somebody that makes the news, so everybody can tweet about it."

*If You're Reading This It's Too Late* is an honest and raw rap album that has soared to the number one purchased album on iTunes and has broken streaming records. One music reviewer said that through this latest work, "Drake seems to try to free himself from the image of a hip-hop-gone-mainstream artist." Although he may have been attempting to escape a manufactured image with a change in style paired with clever and thoughtful lyrics, the sincerity and genuine quality of *If You're Reading This It's To Late* is sure to have fans more impressed with Drake than ever.

## Snow is Not as Pretty as We Thought!

Lily Frontero, Sophomore Reporter

The Boston area as a whole has suffered through a major cycle of snow storms for the past month. Some people have been lucky, and others have felt that these storms will never end. Some Bostonians have had no leaks, floods, or injury, while others have experienced collapsing ceilings, trouble commuting to work, and major losses of money. As I can no longer see the "one way" sign on my street, I am starting to realize why most Bostonians were not as excited as I was when we had six snow days.

These past few weeks, my brother and I have been helping out by shoveling for a certain family. This couple happened to have two porches that wrapped around their home, and they were very scared because each could potentially collapse. Luckily, my family did not have to worry about our home. I was in awe of how much damage snow could actually do.

As soon as I realized that snow days are not awesome for everyone, I also heard on the news that people are unable to get to work. When the MBTA is not able to transport our citizens, it can do a lot of harm. While Massachusetts, as well as the rest of New England, does not normally experience natural disasters like earthquakes, tornados, and hurricanes, the rest of the country should understand the issue with not being able to get to work. Some people get paid per hour, and if those people are unable to be transported to work for a few days, that loss of time working could spell trouble for many families.

After receiving knowledge about this, someone at school mentioned that the Starbucks in Marblehead had closed due to its roof collapsing. While other towns and people think, "Oh God forbid, kids in Marblehead won't be able to get their frappuccinos," it's not about that. It's about the stress that the employees of Starbucks are experiencing because who knows which workers depend on their weekly pay for rent and food.

As Bostonians continue to help one another with this never-ending series of storms, most of our citizens have realized that patience really can go a long way.

**MHS Presents *Amadeus*,  
TONIGHT at 6:30 pm!  
The performance is FREE,  
open to all, and at the  
MVMS Performing Arts Center!!**

\* MHS will perform *Amadeus* in the MA Drama Festival on Saturday in Hamilton-Wenham \*

## Review of the 57th Annual Grammy Awards

Olivia Eddy, Sophomore Reporter

This years 57th Annual Grammy Awards received controversial reviews, most reflecting feelings of boredom from its multiple so-called "low points." *The Hollywood Reporter* felt as though it was "as if you were walking away from a buffet feeling nauseatingly overstuffed." *The Los Angeles Times* noted that "apart from a few exceptions," the 57th Grammys, broadcast on CBS Sunday, February 8 from the Staples Center, felt defined by "rawer, less elaborately conceived moments." A more controversial review from *Rolling Stone* viewed the awards as "a three-and-a-half-hour emotional roller coaster." *The New York Times* mentioned that the Grammys "were a mixture of old songs, new faces and upsets."

These reviews can be summed up by a general dislike towards the odd mashups featured on the show. Strange pairs of performers were featured that apparently did not click very well. Com-

binations such as Hozier with Annie Lenox, or Tom Jones with Jessie J, came across to some as bizarre. Pharrell Williams singing "Happy" at a whole different tempo was found to be displeasing to some viewers. *The Hollywood Reporter* even said it "drained the happiness out."

The range of performances, all different in genre, also caught viewers off guard. The lineup of songs transitioned from pop, to hard rock, right to more emotional pieces. AC/DC kicked it off, and was followed by performances from Eric Church, Ed Sheeran, Madonna, Kanye West, and many others. The lineup was found to be lacking in cohesiveness. The many performances also took up a large portion of the show, leaving the Grammy winners with little time to deliver a speech. This became evident as music started playing almost instantly after a winner was announced, then the musician was ushered off the stage.

I disagree with most of the statements made about the show. I can understand the confusion or unhappiness about the performances, but I found each

one to be unique and original. They were not something we get to see too often. The range of performances consisted of throwbacks and current undiscovered songs. I genuinely loved the Adam Levine with Gwen Stefani duo, as well as the historic trio of Rihanna, Paul McCartney, and Kanye West.

Reviews aside, the awards were exhilarating for 22-year-old Sam Smith, who stole the show. "I'm having a really, really, really good night," Smith said, while posing with his first four Grammy Awards. His album *In the Lonely Hour*, and lead vocals on Disclosure's hit single "Latch," led to Smith's recent breakthrough in the music industry. Smith has endured many hardships on his road to success. He had not been discovered until the age of 21, and had trouble finding what it would take for people to like his music. He tried losing weight, changing his style, really anything that would bring him success. Eventually, he came to the realization that all he needed to do was be true to himself. Once he focused in that direction, he was able to captivate the emotions of millions.

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