

Headlight



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

www.mhsheadlight.weebly.com

March 26, 2015

We Are One Class

Liam Reilly, Senior
Editor-in-Chief

"Marblehead High School students can be divided into two main groups," commented Senior Show host Dan Gawrys on the annual event's opening night, "one group are people who are generally nice and care for their fellow man, and another group are evil geniuses with predatory instincts." Gawrys and fellow Senior Show host Jackie Burke provided in this remark an interesting idea for the audience to ponder between acts. One act in particular called this statement back into my head, and unfortunately, for the latter supposed group of Marblehead High School students.

The Weekend Update is an act at Senior Show which has become in many ways a tradition. It is both a cornerstone of the first night's roster and one of the most anticipated acts of the show's two day duration. The act is comprised of anywhere from two to four outspoken seniors who convey the "news" to the audience, preparing jokes at many of the audience members' expense. I'm sad to report that this year's edition of the act strayed far from its semi-roast premise, and became an appalling display of disregard for not only classmates, but fellow seniors.

The act's main component, a bit in which fake superlatives were read to the audience, was not all bad. However, the great majority of these superlatives, and other jokes found in the act, were terrible to hear, as they willfully abused and shamed seniors. In my opinion, the act is far from deserving of its name, as its namesake is nowhere near comparable. The ever-popular Weekend Update portion of the hit TV show Saturday Night Live uses a clever brand of humor, ribbing individuals and stories in the news with jokes that required thought, while the MHS Weekend Update uses a brand of humor more commonly found scrawled on the stalls in a public restroom that does not need to be repeated. Not only did the act openly call out and accuse female audience members of allegedly participating in indelicate activities, but it openly shamed other audience members for other qualities, like being overweight, ugly, or even hated "by most of the school".

What's important to consider is that at Senior Show, as well as every other school event in which students speak or perform, there is a level of discretion on the part of the event's coordinators as to what's said. This raises some interesting questions that may not have easy answers. For one, if what was said in the act had successfully passed the discretion of the coordinators, what were these coordinators possibly thinking? In a school where student speech is somewhat regulated, even valedictorian addresses un-

dergo drafts and drafts at the hands of coordinators to be deemed "acceptable", one must only assume coordinators experienced a severe lack of judgment in what they considered to be appropriate for the act at Senior Show. While it cannot be ignored that fellow classmates wrote and performed many jokes in poor taste, the school coordinators for the event should take the majority of the responsibility for what occurred; they had the power to veto jokes. In the case of Senior Show, even the coordinators were students, so some level of oversight cannot be unexpected. What is more concerning is that student coordinators were deemed an appropriate final filter for the event by the school. With all the planning that goes into school events, it seems a bit surprising that not one of the many MHS employees was able to oversee what content went into the show. Another question one must ask is, if the coordinators had in fact vetoed jokes and tailored a more suitable act, and the act deviated from the script and delivered unapproved jokes anyway, how was the act allowed to go on? For those who were not at Senior Show, the Weekend Update lasted for at least five minutes. Not once in these five minutes was the act interrupted. Those in charge of the event never once put their foot down and said, "this isn't right," in a visible and effective way from an audience member's perspective. What's more, if the act was given the incredible amount of freedom required to deliver content that was obviously unsuitable for the event, how much control of Senior Show do the coordinators really have? It seems to me that the level of responsibility displayed in regards to the Weekend Update act on the part of coordinators was no greater than that of a lethargic bartender at an open mic night at some dive in Boston.

Like it or not, the students who are currently seniors will be in the Class of 2015 forever. Forever is quite a long time. How would it feel to return to our ten year reunion and look out over people who used to be peers, knowing that some of them called you fat in front of the whole school community, while others laughed? Conversely, how would it feel to look out over people who used to be peers, knowing that you were personally responsible for publicly mocking them in a way that seriously crossed a line? I like to think that no one should have to know what either of those feelings are like; I would like to think that we as a class all fall into the group of students that "care for their fellow man". However, it is clear now, if it hadn't been before, that the Weekend Update act at Senior Show is a farce, and nothing but a sad facade that provides a handful of students to be capable of unleashing awful thoughts and statements on their classmates. Hopefully, those in charge of future Senior Shows keep this in mind, and do their very best to be "generally nice people" by removing the Weekend Update act from Senior Show.

Staying Home is Bad for Your Health

Jack Krivit, Sophomore
Reporter

A runny nose, equally wet eyes, a violent hacking cough, and an inability to actually get any needed rest are all symptoms of a high school sickness. In middle school, running up an abnormally high fever and being excused from the lessons of the day was the most enticing alternative to actually going. But now, with the ever-increasing burden of keeping up with my classmates weighing on me, being forcibly bed-stricken for the day is a huge setback in my progress. Ironically enough, most of this sickness usually comes from the exhaustion of balancing hours of homework with extracurriculars. The pride of accomplishing everything after one exceptionally stressful week makes a high school student think that it is okay to miss parts of the next, when in reality, these mindsets only create a cycle of stress.

Sick days always start out the same. You wake up at the same time you always do, but for some reason it just feels like so much earlier, so as you pull yourself from your bed and beg your equally groggy mother to let you go back to sleep, it seems like the day will be endless and without consequences. That is the first mistake made. Although it may seem like you have all the time you need to fill out the AP World History packet you received last class, time seems to slip away as you carelessly watch Freaks & Geeks on an iPod screen. Trust me, I've been there.

Before you know it, it is 2:30 and school has already been released. While all of your friends and classmates are each one day wiser, you have accomplished nothing besides getting an extra hour of some still-much-needed rest, and perhaps learning what a "creole" is. Perhaps. At this point in the day, as a feeling of unaccomplishment hits you, you begin to realize that maybe missing school was not worth it.

Although it may seem tedious and unnecessary, one of the most important things to do after missing school is to get in touch with your teachers. They might not all respond, but by letting them know that you care about what you missed, it shows your appreciation of what they do. So now, you not only have to make up the work you were planning on doing that day, but also everything new that was assigned. It is not impossible to do, but it can certainly be strenuous. Because although you might think it only takes one day to recover from missing school, it is never that simple. Before you know it, there will be so much piled on top of you that you begin to feel overworked. Then, severely exhausted and finally, pushed to the extent of being under the weather, you have entered an incessant, yet extremely ironic cycle.

Hey High School Seniors!

The application deadline for Marblehead Dollars for Scholars is **Wednesday, April 1**. Seniors who demonstrate financial need are encouraged to apply for a scholarship by visiting the following website and creating their on-line profile: www.marblehead.dollarsforscholars.org

Marblehead Dollars for Scholars Questions can be directed to:
*Day Newburg at 781-631-0010 or daynewburg@gmail.com,
Debbie Green at 781-631-8108 or fin2rite@aol.com, or
Mary Ellen Hart at 781-631-8293 or rams12351@aol.com.*

One Last Drama Festival

Alex Kerai, Senior
Editor-in-Chief

There is a euphoric moment in theatre that is unrivaled in most other pursuits; a moment that can only be experienced after pouring your heart, soul, and months of your life into a performance that will live only for the select people there to experience it at that particular time. This moment is in the split second right after the final blackout and just before the applause where a weight is lifted off the crew and performers' shoulders and they are finally able to let their heart rest while they sit back and listen. In my three years as the lighting designer at Marblehead High School, through the twelve shows I have designed, that moment is still unmatched each time I go to the final blackout. This year during the semi-final round of Drama Fest, when I pressed the button for my final time as a student at MHS, it was bittersweet. I knew the moment was coming up so I took my Clear Com headset off to hear the final notes of Mozart's "Masonic Funeral Music" and waited. As the stage went dark there was a moment of complete silence.

We performed at the Nelson Aldrich Performing Arts Center in Marblehead, as hosts of the semi-final round of Drama Fest, and although *Amadeus* did not move on I could not have asked for a better cast, crew or theater to bookend this incredible run of theatre I have been fortunate to partake in. There was also no better way to end a high school drama career than with Drama Fest. Drama Fest is like a sport with levels of competition and

awards given out to shows. Three judges adjudicate each show and determine whether the sum of all parts make it a great production. Drama Fest is like the theatre version of a tournament... A theatre sport. But one of the great thing about this particular "sport" is everyone knows the hours you have put in. It's not like you can start "training" for Drama Fest when you're three years old by running with your parents, you have to wait until the show is announced, cast, and rehearsals have begun before you can actually "train" for your 40-minute show. And believe me, training does not end until the very last blackout!

Luckily, being at the PAC for this round of Fest made preparing for the show easier as we were used to the stage, acoustics, and equipment. One of the great behind-the-scenes aspects of hosting is the community and, as some tech crew members will tell you, making friends. There are four of us who are at the PAC all week assisting with each visiting school's tech rehearsal and making sure their festival day will run smoothly. We get to meet all the cast and crew while getting them pumped up for Fest on Saturday.

On the Festival day, we get to see all of the shows and look back on the work we have seen produced throughout the week. It is a great collaborative experience where there is not a competitive atmosphere but one of good theatre and fun times. Like Mr. Gregory Dana, the MHS Technical Director who celebrated his fiftieth year doing Festival this year (as both student and teacher), said about Fest, "It's good to see the students from other towns, it's good that our students get to see shows from other towns. It's really a great day! You get to meet-and-greet many students, friendships are made." And that is what the spirit of Festival is all about. We are a group of people who take pride in their craft and love to entertain, but having the chance to do it for like-minded people is even better. There is nothing like Drama Fest for when the show is performed it is only the stage for 40-minutes and once that split-second after the blackout is up we are thrust back into the real world again. But we are always ready to take the leap back in...

Headlight Staff 2014-15

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