

Headlight



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

2015-2016 Issue

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100 Years in a Day

Becky Twaalfhoven, Junior
Editor-in-Chief

Ask any AP U.S. History student what they think of the course, and they will most likely give you an answer comparable to one of the many definitions given by Urban Dictionary:

1. "A class that you only take solely to boost your GPA, although many people's GPAs decrease substantially."
2. "A class to prepare you for the AP exam that probably 35% of the student population passes in the United States depending on the teacher you have."
3. "A course designed to cause brain implosion/explosion immediately before finals and AP test. Topics covered include everything from 1500 to today. Students sit and listen to lectures during class day-dreaming about how death must be much better than AP U.S. History."

The latter description most closely resembles how I felt throughout the week leading up to the AP Exam. I took three exams this year, but as the only subject requiring memorization, naturally United States History took up most of my attention. Last year I experienced the "AP process" for the first time with AP World History, which I assumed would be similar to U.S. History. I was so, so wrong. First, as a sophomore I still possessed the insatiable eagerness to prove my academic merit and maturity, and to do more than necessary purely for self improvement. Because of this, I approached the AP test confident in my ability to name the Chinese dynasties and write an essay on the development of Swahili as a language.

Junior year killed that spirit. Instead of poring over the textbook and meticulously coloring maps of ancient Australia, I resorted to writing notes to my teacher on my quizzes, apologizing for my stupidity. So it was no surprise that, as "AP Week" approached this year, I found myself struggling to recall the second president of the United States, a key fact which set the tone for my study "boot camp": a hand-cramping, snooze-inducing week of taking notes about John Tyler, who was apparently the tenth president. I could write the phrase "white, landowning men" in my sleep. My crowning achievement was covering 100 years of United States history over the course of one day. The cherry on top was the changed test setting to accommodate the increased numbers of students: the school gym, in all its buzzing, squeaky glory.

Though I cannot say for certain, I think the test went surprisingly well. I cannot exactly discuss the questions, but the fact that essays involved such topics as women's rights in World War II and causes of the Revolutionary War should say enough. Granted, it would have been nice to remember what exactly happened during the First World War in order to discuss its effects. However, if there's one thing I've learned from the AP History tests, it's that 75% percent of success is faking it. And, if you really have no idea, you can always draw a picture of a dinosaur. You might still get a 2.

Don't Be Afraid of Failure

Jake Emerick, Junior
Reporter

Many people are extremely afraid of failing. They think of all the bad things that could happen before they start doing anything. There have no doubt been millions of people who have had great ideas that could have had a positive impact on the world, but they were too afraid to fail and so failed at their chance to leave behind a positive legacy. The cure to cancer or AIDS may be sitting in the mind of a person who is afraid of what their colleagues in the scientific community might think about them. Or they fear rejections by doctors because the treatment is too unconventional and doubt others would ever administer it to their patients. Think of our current presidential election. The best candidates might not be candidates at all because they are too afraid they might be rejected at the polls.

There have been many famous people who failed, kept trying, and had success. Thomas Edison failed hundreds of times when he was attempting to create an incandescent light bulb, but because he didn't give up, I will be doing my homework and reading my book tonight by the bright light of a light bulb instead of a kerosene lantern. Steve Jobs was kicked out of the company that he had created. He then went on to create Pixar, which was highly successful. When he sold it to Disney he became the largest shareholder of Disney. Speaking of Disney, Walt Disney was fired from a company for not having any good ideas. Now the company that bears his name has seven theme parks around the world, a cruise line, a private island, a TV channel, and many classic movies that are often the first movies children see. Former president Richard Nixon knew failure first hand. John F. Kennedy defeated him in the 1960 presidential election. He then ran for governor of California but lost that election as well. He then came back to run for president again and won.

So why exactly are people so afraid of failing? Perhaps they think that they will lose respect. Maybe they are politicians who don't want to propose their ideas because of the upcoming election. Maybe a man won't take a new job because the company is new and thinks it might go under. Some people have too much pride and don't want to look foolish in front of others for not succeeding. Many just want to impress others and failure doesn't seem very impressive. Some are insecure, while others simply like the way their life has been and just don't want to change their daily routine.

If you have the opportunity to go and do something and might fail at it, go ahead and do it. I'm taking an art class and failed for two days to mix paint into a color I liked. I tested 19 different mixtures before I found the shade that I wanted. Don't be afraid of failing; embrace it. Failing is only failing if you view it that way. If you view every failure as if you learned a new way to make an improvement, then you didn't fail, you educated yourself.

From the Dark Comes Lemonade

Maeve Reilly, Junior
Entertainment Editor

Beyonce set the world on fire with the surprise release of her new album, *Lemonade*, which tells the story of an unfaithful marriage in the form of a song-by-song epic, each track with a different feeling than the last. The twelve track masterpiece is jam-packed with emotion—anger, betrayal, pain, perseverance, vengeance, and everything in between. The album is soaring in success, currently holding the number one album spot on iTunes, and for good reason.

This latest release shows off a new side of Bey's voice, as in "Don't Hurt Yourself," a passionate track with an incredibly raspy and bold sound unlike anything Beyonce has done before. However, she lets the long-loved pureness and rich strength of her voice shine in the ballad "Sandcastles." Furthermore, Beyonce jumps flawlessly from genre to genre between songs, giving *Lemonade* a little touch of everything: pop, rock, hip-hop, and even country influence. Yet somehow, it all flows together seamlessly, like some sort of ingeniously crafted musical experience. Beyonce is showing the world that she'll never stop surprising us and that, vocally, she can do it all.

Due to its lyrical content, *Lemonade* has stirred up massive reaction and speculation amongst fans. With lines like "this is your final warning...you gonna lose your wife," "he better call Becky with the good hair," and "it's such a shame, you let this good love go to waste," Beyonce and Jay Z divorce rumors have begun to fly. The public has taken to social media in huge numbers to speculate who this "Becky" could be.

However, regardless of whether or not there's truth behind these rumors, *Lemonade* is a gift to music lovers everywhere. With impossibly catchy songs such as "Hold Up" and "Sorry," as well as some powerful black pride anthems such as "Freedom" and "Formation," *Lemonade* is truly one of a kind. It's clear that Beyonce has taken her deepest and most personal struggles and somehow cultivated them into a work of art that is authentic, relatable, and altogether beautiful. Maybe life didn't give her lemons, but still she made lemonade.

Volunteering for Students

Magic Hat Update

MHS thanks the Magic Hat Thrift Shop for its amazing donations to the schools. The most recent allocation to MHS was \$15,640.33!

The Hat has given \$125,000 to the Marblehead Public Schools since April 2015. This affords MHS the ability to provide enrichment for students that would not otherwise be possible. High school students, please log on to SignUpGenius and volunteer!

<http://www.signupgenius.com/go/30e0b44aead29a46-mhsmagic8>



Pictured from left to right are Wendy Roworth, President of the Magic Hat Board of Trustees, Jenn Shaeffner, MHS PCO Co-President, Michelle White, MHS Magic Hat rep, and Amy Tully, MHS PCO Co-President.

Volunteer for the Special Olympics

MHS Student Volunteers are needed for the Special Olympics at Harvard University on Sunday, June 5, from approximately 6:45 AM to 4:30 PM. Register at our MHS group link by Friday, May 20, once you are sure you are volunteering. The link can be found at marbleheadboosters.org. There will be a brief meeting on Thursday, June 2, at 2:35 PM in the MHS cafeteria for all volunteers.

For more information, please email wlgillis@comcast.net. Sponsored by Marblehead All-Sports Boosters and MHS.

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