

Headlight

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

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A People Held Hostage

Dan Rosenberg
Editor-in-Chief, Senior

It seems like twice a year, over the past few years, America has had the threat of a government shutdown looming, like a storm-cloud on the horizon. And yet, every time, we've managed to escape relatively unscathed, with Congress striking an eleven-hour deal, or pushing the issue further down the line. But for once, it seems like we will not be so lucky; as of this writing, the government seems destined for a partial shutdown within 24 hours. And, every time the possibility of a shutdown comes around, the question I have to ask is why; why is the threat of a shutdown being used? Why is Congress, a legislative body that is directly elected to directly represent the American people, holding our own livelihoods hostage? I take serious issue with the idea that American jobs, and American lives, can be

used as a bargaining chip in political fights. We don't elect a party to office; we elect a man, a person, who is supposed to act not in the interest of his political party, or in the interest of his wealthiest lobbyist, but rather in accord with the wishes and wellbeing of the very people who elected him. I don't have a problem with debate in Congress, and I don't have a problem with congressmen disagreeing. But I can't stand the idea that our elected officials care more about squabbles over policy than the needs of the American people.

The most ironic part about a government shutdown, of course, is the fact that, while many government workers will be furloughed without pay, Congress runs with no interruption, no docking of pay, and no furloughing. So, while you won't be able to visit a national park during the government shutdown, you will be able to see the wild spectacle that is America's legislative body. You might not be able to see priceless works

of art in the Smithsonian museums, as they'll all be closed, but you can most definitely tune in to CNN or NBC to see Ted Cruz and Harry Reid arguing with each other, on the taxpayers' dollars of course.

There are no major elections in the Senate or House of Representatives for well over a year. By that time, I'm sure that someone will have compromised over Obamacare, and the government will have come out of shutdown. I'm sure that there will be many new issues which Congress has failed to agree on, and many new challengers to the incumbents of today. For me, that next election will be the first in which I can vote. And while I'm confident many people will have forgotten the current Congress's sheer ineptitude, and its ignorance of the wants and needs of the American people, I implore you to at least think on this; is it better to have someone in office who votes along the people's wishes, or on party lines?

Music

Liam Reilly
Entertainment Editor, Junior

Drake: Nothing Was the Same (September 24th)

Some may know Aubrey Graham, a.k.a. Drake, from his days on the cast of *Degrassi: The Next Generation* on Nickelodeon. However Drake has long since traded in his acting career for a microphone, and is now one of the most successful Hip/Hop acts in the music industry. The Toronto-native is a true musical dual-threat, able to both rap and sing exceptionally well. In Drake's first two albums, *Thank Me Later* and *Take Care*, one can hear a healthy balance between Drake's rapping and singing, with about an even-split on both of the albums. On the last track of *Take Care*, Drake raps, "My Junior and Senior will only get meaner". This promise was fully met on *Nothing Was the Same*, as Drake comes out of the gate with force, rapping often and with authority throughout the album. Even with a significant piece of the album devoted to rap, Drake still puts his vocal talents on display with R&B-style tracks over a hip/hop beat, much in the style of his friend and contemporary *The Weeknd*. With several notable cameo appearances from the likes of Jay-Z and 2 Chainz, *Nothing Was the Same* stakes Drake's claim as a powerhouse in the Hip/Hop industry. (8.5/10)

Key Tracks: "Hold On, We're Going Home," "Too Much," "All Me (feat. 2 Chainz & Big Sean)"

Senioritis

Shanna Smith
Reporter-in-the-Field, Senior

Seniors have a reputation for being the "lazy ones" in high school. With junior year finished, standardized tests taken, and high school's end just months away, why would seniors do anything but live every minute of their senior year?

This was my preconceived view of senior year. Everyone gets the notion that seniors constantly slack off because it really does not matter what they do; their future is set. This is one of the most horribly wrong rumors I have ever heard.

First of all, standardized tests are not over. While a select few have managed flawless SAT scores, the majority of high school students have not. Most students are advised to take one last shot at the SAT or ACT senior year to make certain they're sending colleges their best work.

Not only do seniors still take standardized tests, but they also must complete the most difficult part of their application: the college essay. This essay can make or break a college acceptance. A few individuals, who the rest of the grade envies, have perfected their essay before the start of senior year. However, many seniors' college essays are still in their embryonic stage. Seniors must complete one of the most important parts of their application senior year; they do not get to simply slack off.

College essays aren't the only thing seniors must be conscious of. Junior year is over, but that does not mean that grades are over. Senior year grades do matter. Colleges not only see first quarter, second quarter, and end of year grades, but some may base admissions decisions off of them. For example, if a straight A and B student receives an F in history third quarter, a college can revoke its acceptance. If this happens after the student has committed to that college, he has no other options.

Not only do senior grades count, but many seniors know they count. Many seniors in fact take on more difficult classes than ever before. I am currently taking double the AP classes that I took junior

year and, as a result, I have even more homework than I did last year – which I didn't even know was possible until last month. This is not uncommon amongst the seniors at Marblehead High School. Many others like me are taking on a huge work load, school sports, school clubs, a job, and other activities on the side.

Which brings me to the final rumor: seniors' futures are set. Just because standardized tests, applications, and 7/8 of seniors' grades are sent to colleges by the end of first semester, that does not mean that seniors do whatever they want second semester. In fact, our minds will be constantly plagued with one of the worst feelings of them all: anxiety.

The four month time interval between submitting regular decision applications and receiving acceptance letters is by no means "the lazy period". We will constantly wonder which schools have accepted us, which school we will choose from that list, and we will continually pray that we are good enough. We also must be productive; seniors must keep up their grades so they don't get denied from their dream school weeks after being accepted.

And even once we are accepted, our futures are the farthest from set in stone. What will we major in? What will our roommates be like? Will we get homesick? And most importantly: is the college we chose the right fit?

We do not live a carefree senior year; seniors do not have the chance to be lazy.

So then what is senioritis? It is a result of the exhaustion from all of this. Not all seniors suffice to this disease, however. Of course seniors take every chance they have to make their senior year as memorable as possible. But this does not mean that we ignore our future; we multitask. Many of us still study for tests, take on extra-curriculars, and eagerly learn from our teachers, as well as fill out applications and constantly stress over our future. The fatigue that accompanies this is why all seniors are labeled as victims of senioritis.

An Interview with Dean Oliver

Sarah Oliver
Reporter-in-the-Field, Sophomore

Dean Oliver had been hoping for a turf field in Marblehead ever since he became involved in Marblehead Youth Soccer nearly a decade ago. But it wasn't until last year, when he organized the All Sports Foundation, with turfing Piper Field as their first goal, that this dream was able to become a reality. Mr. Oliver agreed to answer some FAQs about the new turf field.

S: Why did you want a turf field?

D: As former president of Marblehead Youth Soccer, I saw how limited athletes could practice and play because of field restrictions. The high school field in particular was tremendously underutilized, and seemed the most logical place for a turf field because of lighting, parking, and ease of access.

S: What was your first step in the turfing process?

D: I met with the other youth sports leaders, athletic director Mark Tarmey, town officials, and parents.

Oliver cont.

S: Who was originally involved?

D: Bruce Bial, Steve Maxwell, John Tompson, Bill Quigley, Derek Norcross, and Mark Tarmey, but it quickly expanded.

S: How much did the project cost?

D: About \$900,000.

S: What did The All Sports Foundation do to fundraise?

D: We contacted local citizens, held "Turfs Up," a concert where local band "Better Than Nothing" performed, and held an auction.

S: When did construction begin?

D: In June of this year.

S: When did the field open?

D: It was officially rededicated to Sergeant Chris Piper on September 12th.

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