

Headlight



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

2016-2017 Issue

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The Edge of Seventeen: Authenticity in Imperfection

Maeve Reilly, Senior
Entertainment Editor

Ahh the teenage years. Who doesn't love basking in the awkward glory of this stage in life, especially on the big screen? Just under three weeks ago, the movie that critics are calling the best teenage film in years was released into theaters: *The Edge of Seventeen*. But what's so special about this film, anyway? Written by Kelly Fremon Craig and starring 19-year-old Hailee Steinfeld, *The Edge of Seventeen*, feels so much more real than almost any other movie about teenagers.

Hollywood tends to create films with content that they *think* teenagers will want to see: glamorized versions of perfect, carefree lives that don't focus on what teenage life actually looks like. That's what makes *The Edge of Seventeen* so refreshingly unique. In the words of Kelly Fremon Craig on capturing young adulthood, "Here it is, warts and all." Unlike most movies geared at teenagers today, *The Edge of Seventeen* doesn't come off as phony. Each character, even the antagonists, are entirely human, with both good and bad traits. Each situation feels realistic and relatable, with no roll-your-eyes-this-would-never-happen moments. Furthermore, above all else, each conversation between characters in the film sounds astonishingly natural, even when it's cringe-worthily-awkward. Craig wisely made a point to focus on the flow of dialogue. As stated in an interview with Vox, Craig told lead actress Hailee Steinfeld up front that if anything felt unnatural or wrong, she should change it. In this way, *The Edge of Seventeen* feels just like your average walk through high school halls or your typical fight with your parents: unscripted.

In terms of visual depiction of characters, this movie is spot on. While both beautiful girls, Steinfeld and Haley Lu Richardson (who plays Steinfeld's best friend in the film) are not perfectly made up or exquisitely dressed—they just look, well, normal. There is no mean girl with a gorgeous wardrobe and flawless hair, and there is none of the garbage that you only see on the screen.

Currently, *The Edge of Seventeen* holds a rating of 94% fresh on Rotten Tomatoes, and anyone who knows the critical nature of Rotten Tomatoes knows that this is a big compliment. This film is refreshing in its authenticity, flawless in its portrayal of imperfection, and an absolute must-see for teenagers and parents alike.



Hailee Steinfeld as Nadine Franklin in *The Edge of Seventeen*

Political Change in Italy

Sophie Mae Berman, Junior
Political Reporter

Italian prime minister Matteo Renzi resigned late Sunday night after facing a substantial defeat in the referendum. 70% voted as a result of discontent with the prime minister and his future political policies: Renzi planned to change Italy's political system by strengthening the central government and weakening the senate and upper house of Parliament. Renzi's opponents include members of his own party, who argued that Renzi's reforms would give the prime minister's office too much power. But the referendum results were not solely based on constitutional reform. They showed citizens' rejection of establishment policy.

Many European Union leaders are worried, as Matteo Renzi was the only premier in Europe who supported the future of the EU. Italy, as the euro's third largest economy, is perceived to have a difficult economic future. Since the election results, stocks and the euro's value have fallen in trade with Asia. Although there are currently no signs of panic, long-term financial influence of the election is possible. There has been growing concern in Italy that the country is 12% smaller than when the financial crisis began in 2008. The country's debt to GDP ratio is 133%, second only to Greece's, and its banks are weak. People question whether the populist parties will be able to solve major economic problems.

After a final meeting with his cabinet, Renzi will hand over his position to Sergio Mattarella, who may ask him to remain a part of the cabinet, at least until Parliament passes a budget bill later in the month.



Prime Minister Matteo Renzi



Celebrations in the streets of Rome after the referendum.

Sources:
"Matteo Renzi's referendum defeat risks Italy political crisis" (BBC)
"Hello (Ciao), Matteo Renzi: Prime Minister of Italy" (Council on Foreign Relations)

Early Bird

Kyra Veprek, Senior
Reporter in the Field

Life can be unexpected. Even on a daily basis, we are thrown by rejections and setbacks that we may not have been expecting. As a year-round runner, I was faced with my largest hurdle this past cross-country season: when I was revoked of my clearance to run in school athletics after running too hard on an injury. Motivated by my love of fitness and craving for team dynamics, I put my name on the sign-up sheet for the swim team, placing me on a team I had never met, partaking in a sport I had never practiced. Even more concerning were the practice times, the first of which having been scheduled for 5:20 a.m. on a Monday morning. Waking up earlier than usual sounds nearly impossible for most, and prior to this season, I could barely make it from underneath my warm comforter after hitting the snooze button on my alarm clock three times. After a week of this routine, however, I have found life-changing benefits that have me looking forward to waking up at 4:30 in the morning.

The first benefit is that breakfast tastes so much better. Like, so much better. Be honest with yourself, how often do you really enjoy that piece of poorly buttered toast you grab on your way out the door each morning? Or how likely are you even to be hungry at the start of your day? I have found that, by waking up an hour or two earlier, I am always hungry by 7 a.m. Although this may be due in part to the large amount of exercise I cram into my mornings now, by increasing my appetite, I am more apt to fuel myself with the calories and nutrients I need for the day. On top of eating a proper amount of food, it always tastes so much better. Despite my unwavering habit of eating a cup of yogurt with granola each morning, its taste and filling effect have improved exponentially, making my morning, and the rest of my day, that much more enjoyable.

Now close your eyes and imagine something wild: you're sitting in first block, listening to your teacher, and you're actually awake. No way, right? Since I've begun waking up earlier, I get over the groggy funk of my day at least an hour before school starts, leaving me awake and attentive at the kick-off of every morning. Although feeling awake during your first block may not be a priority (because let's face it, who likes their first block class), this newfound burst of energy ultimately speeds up the entire day. I find that since I am able to contain a consistent amount of energy from the first to the last bell, the school day flies by, leaving me astonished at my efficiency and involvement in my in-school academic work.

Ultimately, I have found the greatest benefit of waking up early to be quite simple: having the ability to relax in the afternoon. Much like many students, I find it unbelievably difficult to muster any motivation at the completion of a school day. Chances are you've taken a test or two and have sat through a few unbearably slow classes, leading to complete mental exhaustion. Along with this mental exhaustion comes a complete physical roadblock, as you change into your gym clothes while dreaming about the comfort of your couch. Luck would have it that there is a way to get out of this: Get your stuff done early. Having completed a rigorous workout in the morning, along with a full day of classes, I find nothing more rewarding than returning to my bed at the close of school and relaxing before diving into more work. Although the initial discomfort of waking up early shakes many, the reward of relaxing after school is often too great to pass.

You have to know pain to know pleasure, and make sacrifices to reap benefits. For me, the most important lifestyle improvement I've made during my high school career has been transitioning to an early-bird schedule. I know it sounds scary; I love the comfort of my bed in a way I'm sure you do. However, I challenge you to experience these benefits yourself, and see how early you can go.

Come See *Sister Act*

The students of Marblehead High School have worked countless hours to put together a wonderful show for all to see. Come for a night of fun and entertainment for your whole family.



The cast of *Sister Act* displays the banner that will be hung above Tedesco Street.

Performance dates and times:

December 8, 9, 10 @7 p.m.

December 11 @2 p.m.

Performances are at Marblehead High School

Tickets can be bought online at
<http://www.ticketstage.com/T/MHSCHOOLS>

or at the door ½ hour before the show.

Buying online is recommended because it is reserved seating.

Headlight Staff

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