



Facebook's Whistleblowers

Benji Boyd, Freshman

Whistleblowers and Criticism

If you've been following the news recently, you'll know that the shutdown isn't the only major headline to feature Facebook this year. Former Facebook employees turned whistleblowers have been raising their voices against the platform in recent months, publicly releasing stories and documentation of their time there. A whistleblower is someone who informs on an organization for illicit activity.

Frances Haugen, the former Lead Project Manager for Facebook's misinformation team, has become a media celebrity overnight for releasing thousands of Facebook's internal documentation collected during her time there to the Wall Street Journal, exposing the company for purposefully spreading misinformation and knowingly causing psychological harm to their users. She touched upon the theory that Instagram negatively impacts the mental health of teens and young adults due to its addictive nature and brutal algorithm, claiming that Facebook has known about the harm it's been causing all along. In an interview with *60 Minutes*, Haugen said, "Facebook, over and over again, has shown it chooses profit over safety."

On October 5th, she testified against Facebook in a congressional hearing called, "Protecting Kids Online: Testimony from a Facebook Whistleblower." Shortly following her testimony in the United States, former Facebook data scientist Sophie Zhang appeared in the British parliament to confess similar allegations. "It's a company whose official goal is to make money, [it's] more focused on protecting itself."

The Whistleblowers Have a Point

In her congressional hearing, Sophie Zhang spoke of misconduct with

Facebook's regulation of fake accounts, which only appears to scan for fake personal accounts. That means anyone anywhere can set up a fake page under a business, brand, or individual name and likely get away with it. Why is this a problem?

Zhang followed trails of fake accounts that were used by political figures to sway online debates in their direction or boost their own media. She also found evidence of unregulated fake accounts being used by foreign countries to register as another nationality and have influence in that country's politics. But fake accounts aren't the only type of regulation Facebook needs to brush up on.

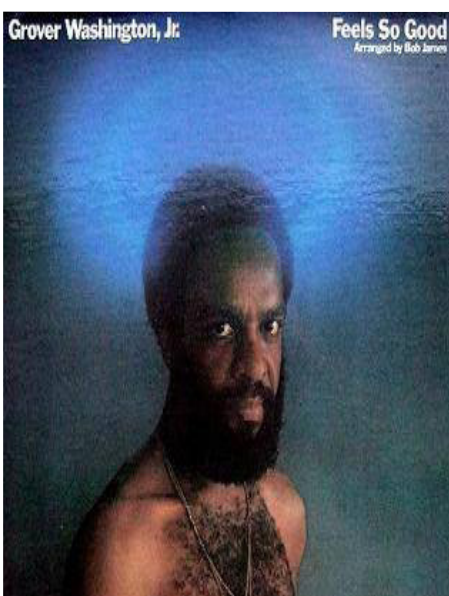
We all remember the January 6th Capitol riots, right? Well, some of those involved in storming the Capitol have been tied to several specific Facebook groups that allowed them to communicate and plan their attack.

Now, let's just give Facebook the benefit of the doubt and say there was no way they could have caught that particular thread of correspondence and shut it down before it was able to be used to cause harm. Well, Facebook groups such as "Alamo City Trump Train" already have a record of being used for mayhem. In October of 2020, members of the group got together to try to frighten and run a Biden-Harris campaign bus off the road. Members of the same group were tied to the Capitol riots. Furthermore, Facebook has officially promised a zero tolerance policy for all QAnon related posts and activity, yet some of QAnon's theories were mentioned in the group in relation to the bus incident.

For many, this proves that Facebook's dedication to making sure their platform is not being used to cause harm is shallow and their policies are not enforced.

Grover Washington Album Review

Benjamin Burns, Sophomore



There were a huge number of musicians that worked on this album. Along with Washington Jr., 29 other musicians accompany him on the album, including the famous Bob James, who is known for having his music sampled over 1500 times by artists such as Eric B. and Rakim and Common. This album itself has been sampled over 190 times.

I enjoyed this album as it stayed interesting throughout its whole playtime. Grover Washington, Jr. and his multiple skilled musicians give it their all without stopping. The songs can be very long, with "Hydra" reaching 9 minutes, but they never get boring and instead stay engaging. My favorite song from the album would have to be "Knucklehead" as I love the main trumpet melody that continues throughout the song. Overall, this album is very good and I would recommend it if you like energetic jazz music.

The album I am reviewing is *"Feels So Good"* by Grover Washington, Jr. The album has five songs and its running time is 37 minutes. It was initially released in 1975, under Kudu and Motown Records.

Interview with Superintendent Buckey

Ila Bumagin, Sophomore
ASSISTANT EDITOR

Students want to know a bit about your personal history. Where are you from, what made you interested in public education?

He had exceptional teachers in high school that made him want to become a teacher himself, especially his high school Spanish teacher who joined him on trips to both Mexico and Spain. Dr. Buckey majored in Spanish and secondary education.

Magic Blocks!

"Mr. Bauer started Magic Blocks. We want our students to be able to make connections with an adult in the building. Social emotional learning surveys show that students need more support. We wanted to set it up so that students have a choice in how to use that time."

Studies - are they being removed and how will that affect senior privilege and curriculum support?

"The state requires 990 hours of instruction time in part of an education reform from the 90s. Studies do not count for that calculation, and in order to meet the 990 hours, we need to account for that time. What can we add instead, that will still be beneficial? The answer is Magic Blocks. So, yes. We are looking for ways to support students that are equitable and meet their needs."

Masks and future mandates?

"We are currently collecting vaccination cards because we have to prove that 80% of the students and staff are vaccinated in order to apply to the Dept. of Elementary and Secondary education to make masks optional at the middle school and high school. We don't have the 80% yet but will send in the request ASAP when we do."

Flipped classroom. Did you know about this method, and what are your thoughts?

Dr. Buckey thinks that flipped classrooms makes sense in some disciplines and for some students. A flipped classroom in math worked at his old school (Nantucket HS), and then it didn't, so they went back. Mr. Bauer knows of this method, and flipped classrooms have been around for many years. The teachers are basically experimenting, so they are adjusting as they go along. We have to adjust, too.

Plans for a more sustainable school system?

Dr. Buckey is restarting a sustainable advisory committee with representatives from the high school. We got rid of styrofoam in the cafeterias, and they are looking at composting.

Traffic patterns due to the Brown school and early school start times? "The Brown School opened on Oct. 13, and surprisingly the traffic flow is going well. I would love to see us expand busing, so that would help sustainability, too."

Considering how many students are tired, sometimes to a point of not being able to complete their schoolwork or focus in class, do you personally think schools should start at a later time to better adhere to the sleep schedule of teens? "If it were that simple, we would let students come in later. But it isn't possible at this time with traffic patterns, the required 990 hours, and the collective bargaining agreement with teachers."

"We provide an exemplary education, and we're always looking to make it better." - Dr. Buckey

Our small, beloved town of Marblehead is a rumor mill. Everybody knows everybody, all the parents are on the same Facebook pages, and despite the wonderful communication from our school administration, there are still questions we have for our leaders. After an interview with Dr. Buckey and Mr. Bauer, my goal is to clear the muddy water, and inform our town and students about what our superintendent and high school principal are thinking about.

Most of the topics we discussed were about what is currently happening at the high school: Magic Blocks, study periods, mask mandates, and the flipped classroom. The Magic Block is a new class period that students get every Wednesday, and it can be used however the student needs. There is the option for extra help, relaxing activities like board games and cooking, clubs to meet, or simply an extra study period. The reasoning for changing Wednesday schedules for simply one block is closely tied to taking away study blocks, which yes, is going to happen. The state requires 990 hours of instruction time, and studies do not count. However, the administration was and is continuing to look for a way to have the time remain useful to students, and the answer is Magic Blocks. As Mr. Bauer puts it, "We are looking for ways to support students that are equitable and meet their needs. Social emotional learning surveys show that students need more support." This support will come from making better connections between students and teachers during the Magic Blocks. In addition, "We wanted to set it up so that students have a voice and choice in using that time," meaning that students have the choice to use this time in the way most helpful to them. Dr. Buckey is fully on board with this plan to use Magic Blocks.

Although most students would wish it otherwise, this means that study blocks are most likely being removed. Since the pandemic is still happening, we had to address mask mandates and rules for the upcoming year. As of right now, masks are mandatory in Marblehead Public Schools. However, Dr. Buckey is hoping to make masks optional. According to the state, there must be proof of vaccination from 80% of the students and staff. That is why all vaccinated students at the schools must send in vaccination cards. Once that 80% is achieved, Dr. Buckey can apply to the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) to make masks optional for students and teachers. So, in other words, masks may be optional in Marblehead Public Schools soon.

Speaking of the future, one of the questions asked is about plans for better sustainability at the high school. This year, the school administration did away with styrofoam trays in the cafeteria, switching to compostable cardboard. He hopes he can work together with students and staff to create a more sustainable system.

I hope that I have helped to dispel some questions and rumors around the public schools administration. If you still have questions, feel free to reach out to the administration or look on our *Headlight* website for more details on the interview.

Headlight Staff 2021-2022

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF: Miranda Connolly

ASSISTANT EDITORS: Ila Bumagin and Mona Gelfgatt

TECHNOLOGY EDITOR: Talia Schwartz

SOCIAL MEDIA EDITOR: Martha Heffernan

REPORTERS: Sydney Armini, Nora Bekkai, Sofia Bottari, Benji Boyd, Elise Burchfield, Benny Burns, Alison Buxbam, Saylor Caruso, Olivia DiGiovanni, Alexis Earp, Aislin Freedman, Olivia Gardner, Julia Greenway, Katherine Jenkins, Nina Johnson, Anya Kane, Angelo Knight, Georgia Lloyd, Madison Lofmark, Madeleine Molinari, Evangelia Nickolas, Leroy Njoroge, Michael Piper, Lilah Siegel, Katherine Simcoe, Olivia Spell, Alex Thibodeaux, Katherine Twomey, Amira Warab, Nadia Warab

FACULTY ADVISOR: Thomas Higgins