



## The Wandering Man

Kristy Twaalfhoven, Junior  
Reporter

The Wandering Man\* roams the streets  
Searching but never finding  
Lonely but never minding  
Restless eyes dart, target to target  
From a crack in the sidewalk  
To a bird in the tree  
From a paint chipped fence  
To his own bare feet  
Unsteady footsteps are hesitant; uncertain  
As if each next step is too burdened a commitment

He pauses briefly to remove his woolen hat  
Only to return it after a moment of bald exposure

Continuing ahead, with shaky knees  
Like a lost sailor, alone on the seas  
But for what is he searching?  
Where is his shore?

Or perhaps he is not searching  
Perhaps he has surrendered to the moment  
Realizing that life is naught but the journey itself  
Perhaps we should all slow down  
Stop searching  
And surrender to the moment  
Like the Wandering Man

\*As seen from Marblehead Starbucks window

## 500,000 Bottles Saved

Sophie Hauck, Freshman  
Reporter

In 2013, Marblehead High School's graduating class donated an Elkay ezH2O filtered water fountain to the school. Located in the cafeteria, this machine serves numerous students each day. The fountain offers a traditional drinking spout, as well as one specialized for filling water bottles. Often when students take a drink or fill up their bottle, they notice the small screen in the corner with an ever-rising number. This number represents the total number of water bottles saved through the machine. By filling up with a reusable bottle, students eliminate the potential waste of disposable alternatives. However, does this tally affect the amount of waste saved? The machine does quantify the school's environmental impact, but numbers are only impactful if they motivate change. It is currently unclear whether or not the tracker is in fact a motivational tool. As for awareness projects led by students, the school's Environmental Club has made headway on bottle waste. By establishing recycling stations within the cafeteria, students can now dispose of their bottles in the place that they most consume them. Student leaders also plan further awareness on plastic bottle waste in the future. For now, they work towards reducing the district's polystyrene waste.

Nevertheless, the tracker recently hit a milestone; on Tuesday, April 3rd of 2018, the water fountain officially saved 500,000 water bottles. Marblehead High School is fortunate to have this machinery, however, is its full environmental impact being reached? Headlight is passionate about this topic, and will soon update with further investigation.

## Arm the Veterans: Save the Students

Adam Sherf, Sophomore  
Reporter

Since 2013, America has suffered from nearly 300 school shootings. In other words, there has been an average of at least one school shooting per week for the past five years. Quite clearly, the signs that read, "This is a Gun Free Campus," are neither preventing nor stopping such carnage. America needs change.

While stricter gun laws and more in depth and frequent background checks will better prevent the distribution of guns into the wrong-hands, they fail to provide protection for the circumstances in which yet another school falls victim to an armed attack. The most practical solution revolves around armed defense. However, with immense responsibilities as they are, teachers should not become responsible for the lives of their students during a shooting. Armed Veterans should be.

The men and women who once risked their lives in defense of American freedoms, now often struggle to re-assimilate within the workforce. According to AEI Citizenship, there are more than 1,000,000 unemployed Veterans in the United States. Unfortunately, there are many of whom who should not be given a gun within a school full of innocent children due to their ongoing suffering from combat related mental illnesses. However, there are countless other unemployed Veterans who are both physically and mentally capable of defending the nation's student population. Such defense positions would not only add protection to our schools, but also take significant strides in addressing an ongoing matter of Veteran unemployment.

In an ideal situation, attempted school shootings will result in no fatalities. However, if any were to occur, I can assure you that much of society would rather it be the sole shooter rather than 17 students.

The modern day Israeli society quite clearly reflects the success of such a policy. When terrorists attacked a school in Maalot in 1974, the country did not declare every school a gun-free zone. Instead Israel passed a law mandating armed security in schools. Since then, there have been just two school shootings, both resulting in the death of the shooter rather than the students.

We live in a very soft and easily-offended world in which people's focus upon gender identity and their tremendous fear of safe space violations blind them from the bigger picture that we need protection in schools. Honestly, it's pretty straightforward, the only thing that can stop a bad guy with a gun is a good guy with a gun. We need Armed Veterans.

## Quote of the Week

*"The poem is a little myth of man's capacity of making life meaningful. And in the end, the poem is not a thing we see - it is, rather, a light by which we may see - and what we see is life."*

- Robert Penn Warren

## Spotlight On: Kalief Browder, Victim of the Justice System

Shelby Casimir, Senior  
Reporter

The United States houses about 25% of the world's inmates. With mass incarceration being at a high of 2 million, the system is bound to break. With the Kalief Browder story, it truly did.

The criminal justice system's duty is to give someone due process; they failed to implement that for Kalief Browder, a Bronx teen. At the age of 16, Browder was accused of stealing a backpack. He spent more than a thousand days awaiting trial. He was later sent to Riker's Island, famous for having inhumane conditions. Just like Browder, about 80% of the inmates haven't been found guilty or innocent of their alleged crime. He spent three years at Riker's. On his first day there, video footage shows him repeatedly being beaten by officers. Browder was a target in the jail; due to his adolescence he was sought out. He was abused mentally, physically, and emotionally by inmates and officers for 1,095 days. During his torture, he maintained his innocence that he never stole a backpack and refused several plea deals. After the starvation, beatings, and 800 days spent in solitary confinement, Browder's case was dismissed; he was never convicted of stealing the backpack. All the pain that he endured was catastrophic; he tried to commit suicide several times in jail.



Kalief Browder, 1993- 2015

After the media attention of his story, he started speaking out against the criminal system. Browder's public speakings and story helped persuade New York City's Mayor Bill de Blasio to reform the city's criminal justice system. He attained his GED and went to college where he was an honor roll student, but he was suffering inside. Due to Riker's, he endured many mental issues. He suffered from depression, paranoia, and PTSD. His mental illnesses consumed him and he committed suicide by hanging himself; he was only 22 years old.

This painful story shows the reality of the justice system for black men. The justice system's duty is to protect and serve, but for people of color it oppresses. It should not take for such a horrific incident to happen for change. It should start before social media, before the news circuit, and before it gains national media attention. The system is very



broken, still encompassed by institutionalized racism and prejudice. The very dated American criminal justice system needs intense reform so a Kalief Browder does not happen again.

\*\*\*Part of my April Spotlight On series dedicated to things I like to discuss/discover.

## Headlight Staff 2017-2018

EDITORS-IN-CHIEF: Sophie Mae Berman, Emma Szalewicz, Lilly Tapper

REPORTERS IN THE FIELD: Peyton Applegate, Shelby Casimir, Sophie Hauck, Jillian Lederman, Alix Livermore, Kate Lothrop, Kimberly McLean, Clara Rapoport, Adam Sherf, Michael Simmons, Kristy Twaalfhoven, Adri Ustick

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