

# Headlight



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

2017-2018 Issue

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## Teacher Interviews Part II: Have You Met Mrs. Scott?

Clara Rapoport and Peyton Applegate, Sophomore Reporters

We then interviewed Mrs. Scott next. From an early start, Mrs. Scott knew what she wanted to with the rest of her life. And for some people, it's easy to find their calling. Mrs. Scott chose to be an English teacher, but not a traditional one. Using creative writing prompts and different activities, she keeps students interested and attentive.

S: So, Mrs. Scott, why did you get into this profession.

T: Well, when I was in high school I had the opportunity to train to be an ESL teacher and I went through all the training and I ended up becoming a tutor for a girl who was actually older than me. She was from Mexico and she was here for one year to improve her English so she could work in her father's business. I realized that, the more creative the work that I did with her was, the more engaged and able to have fun she was when learning. So, that was the start.

S: What is your favorite teaching memory?

T: \*sighs\* Oh boy. That's a tough one. One that comes to mind is one summer I worked at a theatre program in Brookline and I worked with a class of third graders. We were doing this activity where they created their own characters from the outside in. Some of them created brand new characters, but this one boy, he created a character that was based on his grandfather. This little, second or third grade boy just came alive as his grandfather named Mortimer and he was just so into it. He was a little quirky, he didn't really have a lot of friends at the program, but this gave him confidence so that was inspiring.

S: What's your funniest teaching memory?

T: So, I also taught kindergarten for one year and this little boy in my class would propose to me, pretty much every week. And every time I would say, "Ummm, I won't marry you, G-----."

S: Wait, did you work in Gloucester?

T: No, this was in Pennsylvania.

S: Oh wow, that was actually a crazy coincidence because my mom worked in Gloucester and every time I would come to work with her one of her students, I think his name was G-----, would try to propose to me.

T: Must be something with the name G----- I guess.

S: That's really weird.

T: He was very charming.

S: \*laughing\* What's the weirdest thing that has happened to you in this school?

T: I would have to say I have a lot of fond memories from our theatre class last year and trying to use makeup to make people look older. And no one wanted to go back into the school after we did crazy makeup and created costumes out of newspaper.

S: Camille did my makeup and it was so hard to get off!

T: Stage makeup is heavy duty.

S: Hmmm. We were trying to add more questions on with each teacher based on their answers, but I can't really think of anything.

T: Maybe an example of when I learned from a student?

S: Oh, that's good.

T: Ugh, now I have to think of an example to answer my own question. When I was in college, I tutored a girl for a couple of years. What I learned from her was that confidence and feeling empowered as a student is sometimes more important than actual content. She was placed with me because she was having trouble with reading, writing and literacy. And I saw that the more she had confidence, the more she realized that she loved to write short stories. And so, she taught me that that was really important. It's not always about your grades, it can be about what gives you joy as a learner.

S: And that concludes our interview.

T: Yay

## Why Taking A Knee Is Really Taking A Stance

Shelby Casimir, Senior Reporter



We saw Colin Kaepernick do it last year, and we're seeing a resurgence in it again: NFL players are kneeling during the national anthem before the start of an NFL game. Some have said, "That's anti-American! What about the veterans and troops that have fought for us and are still fighting for us?" These are the vacuous statements I've heard throughout this national debate, but people are failing to actually comprehend why NFL players are kneeling; it's not to protest the flag, it's not because NFL players hate the United States of America, it's because they love it.

What Colin Kaepernick and NFL players have been doing is downright patriotic. Kaepernick started to sit during the national anthem in 2015, before kneeling in 2016, gaining media attraction. When the media frenzy swarmed in at a NFL press conference, he deemed, "I am not going to stand up to show pride in a flag for a country that oppresses black people and people of color." Kaepernick set the precedent that others, not just professional athletes, but athletes on the spectrum from collegiate and high school, are following.

People have to keep in mind that this country was not built for people of color; it was built on the backs of them. The fundamentals of "We the People" in the Constitution does not represent people of color to any extent. As American citizens, we have a First Amendment right to peacefully protest, and pro-athletes are doing just that. Protesting is the central root of American ideology, but it's a problem when black bodies are the ones protesting. It's a problem when we're protesting black issues, like police brutality. It's a problem when we're protesting discrimination. It's only a problem when the hierarchy don't support it; and the privileged systematically do not support issues pertaining to people of color. Racism is so American that when protests happen, some Americans assume we're protesting America.

Kneeling for the National Anthem expresses the power for shifting change. Kneeling is a form of power that historically has been taken from black people. As much as political culture is thrusting itself into pop and now sports culture, we need to focus on mobilizing others into the fight against racism, not on the voice of a tweet. I stand in solidarity with the fight to halt the oppression of black and brown people in America, and I'll gladly be called a son of a b\*\*\*\* for that cause.

## Colin Kaepernick: Unworthy of Citizen of The Year Award

Adam Sherf, Junior Reporter

Earlier this month, the well renowned media platform, GQ Magazine, elected Colin Kaepernick as the "Citizen of The Year." However such a decision was a tremendous mistake as Kaepernick does not reflect the characteristics of such immense honor and recognition.

Throughout the 2016-2017 NFL season, Kaepernick refused to stand during the playing of the American National Anthem. To no surprise, such actions sparked significant controversy and attracted notable attention. Under questioning, Kaepernick furthered the controversy as he stated, "I am not going to stand up to show pride in a flag for a country that oppresses black people and people of color." Upon releasing such statements, Kaepernick faced significant criticism as his claims of oppression were quite clearly contradicted by the fact that he was receiving millions of dollars for an occupation as simple as throwing a football for several months each year. Furthermore, such claims of oppression are countered by the fact that the highest position in the United States was held by Barack Obama, a black man, for eight consecutive years. Several weeks later, Kaepernick further inflicted social divisions as he publically wore socks portraying white police officers as pigs. Coincidentally, his apparel-based statement occurred in a facility that was under police protection. No matter his intentions, Colin Kaepernick has undoubtedly furthered social divisions throughout America, making it a nation of black and white rather than a nation of Americans.

With that being said, there were countless members of society who were far better deserving of the "GQ Magazine: Citizen of The Year" award. For instance, JJ Watt, of the Houston Texans does far more than play in the NFL. In August of this year, Hurricane Harvey struck the city of Houston as an estimated 27 trillion gallons of rain washed throughout Texas for six consecutive days. The immeasurable destruction of the city required not only significant funding, but more importantly, social unity. With that being said, JJ Watt immediately launched his Houston Flood Relief Fund. Within just several weeks he managed to raise nearly \$38,000,000, which will be used to rebuild homes, restore child-care centers, provide food and address the health needs of those affected by Hurricane Harvey. Beyond the finances, Watt also exemplified the unparalleled power of unity, "I have said it many times over the course of the past few months, but it bears repeating again: The most difficult times seem to bring out the best in humanity, I cannot thank everyone enough for their support and donations from across the country and around the world. You have truly shown what is possible when everyone bands together for one common cause." The immense leadership and initiative exemplified by JJ Watt have strengthened the nation as a whole.

The title of, "Citizen of The Year," should not be granted to a man who further divides the nation, but rather one who better unites it. With that being said, JJ Watt is quite clearly far more deserving of such an honor.

## Colin Kaepernick: Worthy of Citizen of The Year Award

Emma Szalewicz, Senior Reporter

On November 13, 2017, Colin Kaepernick was chosen as GQ Magazine's Citizen of the Year "for his powerful symbol of activism and resistance." I believe that Kaepernick is more than worthy of this honor and recognition. His tremendous strength and bravery helped to open the minds of millions of Americans about the ever-present race issues existing in the country.

Kaepernick played for the San Francisco 49ers until late 2016. Beginning in August 2016, Colin began sitting during the playing of the "Star Spangled Banner." During a post game interview, Kaepernick said, "I am not going to stand up to show pride in a flag for a country that oppresses black people and people of color. To me, this is bigger than football and it would be selfish on my part to look the other way. There are bodies in the street and people getting away with murder." He added that he would continue to protest until he felt like "the American flag represents what it's supposed to represent." Later in the year, Kaepernick began kneeling instead of sitting during the national anthem that plays before NFL games in order to show more respect for military members and veterans. His simple, quiet gesture caused a huge divide in ideas and opinions all over the world. Many people who do not support Kaepernick's actions criticize him because he is an NFL football player who makes millions of dollars a year. While he does make millions, I have a much greater level of respect for him than I would for another NFL player, because unlike most NFL players, Kaepernick uses his popularity and role in the US to better our society and make a difference. This requires an extreme amount of courage, bravery, and passion to make a difference.

While many of the other candidates for GQ Magazine's Citizen of the Year Award have done amazing things like raising money for Hurricane Harvey victims, no one has even come close to the impact Colin Kaepernick has made on opinions on race in both the United States, and the world.

## Freshmen Class Fundraiser

Eat at Mino's on December 12 and support Marblehead High School's freshman class! 20% of the day's proceeds will go towards funding for future dances and other class activities. Not only will your purchase go towards a great cause, but also you will be supporting a fantastic local business serving delicious food! Hope to see you there!

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