

Headlight



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

2017-2018 Issue

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Is Salem Inappropriately Capitalizing on the Witch Trials?

Alix Livermore, Junior
Reporter

Reading the 1950s play *The Crucible*, by Arthur Miller, has significantly changed the way I view both the Witch Trials and the Halloween ruckus that consumes Salem, Massachusetts every year. The emotional play explores the struggles and injustices that the wrongfully convicted people of the 1690s had to face. I even found myself close to tears as some of the major characters had to choose between confessing to witchcraft and saving themselves, or staying true to their morals and dying for their innocence.

This year, as I watch people walking around Salem in witch hats and paying hundreds of dollars for haunted houses and psychics, I can't help but feel sad for the 20 people who actually died here a little over 300 years ago. Every year the city experiences a huge boost in revenue by turning a tragic historical event into an entertaining tourist attraction. How is that just? If the men and women who died during the Witch Trials knew that their deaths were now equated to spooky tales told to tourists paying for overpriced tours, they would turn over in their nearby graves! Not to mention, the Witch Trials are not even an event to be proud of and flaunt. They occurred during a period of deceit, revenge, and hate that does not reflect well on the history of town. But, instead of being respectful to its own past, Salem has used it as an opportunity to gain money off of fried dough and carnival rides.

The poor souls of Salem, like John Proctor and Giles Corey, two people who actually died after being convicted as warlocks, deserve some respect during Halloween time. It's too late for the city to tone down the crazy spectacle that it is during this time every year, but it would be nice to hear tour guides being more compassionate during their tours, and tourists more respectful of the true history of the area. I hope that this article will spark a discussion within you about the morality of Halloween in Salem, and make you think twice before heading out with the other costumed crazies to "celebrate" in the city. And, in any case, I personally think that there are much better things to spend your time and money on than cheap tourist bait. After all, we do live next door!

2017 - 2018 Patriots Under The Microscope

Michael Simmons
Reporter

Season Prediction: The Patriots will have an 11-5 season record. They will lose in the second round of the playoffs.

The loss of Julian Edelman to an ACL injury is a huge blow to the Patriots' offense. The major reason is Edelman has great quickness as a solid receiver. Also, his experience working with Tom Brady is notable. Edelman typically has had 100 catches and over 1,000 yards receiving annually. His role as a slot receiver was mainly to get open for short passes. The Patriots can't replace that with one receiver, so they're using their depth on the team.

There was a lot of praise during the off season for the trades and signings the Patriots made. Everyone expected another Super Bowl trip when looking at the Patriots' roster. Brandin Cooks and Stephon Gilmore were both extremely significant off season signings. Cooks was a number one draft choice two years ago and is one of the fastest receivers in the NFL. He had two seasons of almost 1,000 yards receiving in New Orleans. Gilmore was an all pro cornerback for the last several seasons with Buffalo and viewed as a significant upgrade.

The Patriots also signed running back Mike Gillislee to take over the primary running role held previously by LeGarrette Blount. They also signed free agents Rex Burkhead (a combination runner - receiver) and linebacker Marquis Flowers. The loss of Julian Edelman led to a trade bringing on wide receiver Phillip Dorset from Indy. In addition, they signed linebacker Donte Hightower, corner back Malcolm Butler, and special teams Brandon Bolden. The Patriots let go Blount, tight end Martellus Bennet, and defensive end Chris Long among others.

I began this article in week three. What I see as key now for the team to achieve that 11-5 season or better is a big need to patch holes in their defense. In the first five weeks the front seven on defense showed a limited ability to stop the run or rush the passer. There was significant improvement in week five during their win over Tampa Bay. In the losses to the Kansas City Chiefs and the Carolina Panthers, both QB's Alex Smith and Cam Newton shredded the Patriots' secondary by throwing all day. The running back Kareem Hunt from KC and Newton also killed them via the run.

The hope in Patriots Nation is that Coach Belichick and his staff will build different schemes to improve the defense as they have done so in the past. The Patriots need to patch some holes in their defense to have a successful season. They cannot stop the run and have limited pass running ability.

Even though their record is 5-2, I hope that the Patriots are inspiring everyone and will win the 2017 - 2018 Super Bowl. However, I cannot see the Patriots repeating as champions because the defense has looked weak in the first six games. It's hard to think that it's going to get better. The offense, as is, is going to need to score a lot of points to make the 11-5 predication.

Quote of the Week

"People will forget what you said, people will forget what you did, but people will never forget how you made them feel."

- Maya Angelou

Earning My Gold Award

Lilly Tapper, Senior
Editor-in-Chief

I decided to start my Gold Award project in June of my Sophomore year. After a year and a half, I have finally earned this award. For those who do not know what the Gold Award is, it is the highest award a Girl Scout can earn. It is a sustained initiative that engages volunteers and takes 80 hours and over two years to complete. I chose the stress in high school students as the topic for my project. There are so many different methods that people can follow in order to reduce or prevent stress. Studies have shown the many benefits that fresh air has on people. I installed an outdoor classroom at Marblehead High School, because it is, what I believe, a simple solution to stress relief. Learning outdoors allows students to continue their daily routines of learning, while enjoying stress reducing benefits. I thought that creating an outdoor classroom would be a fun way to incorporate learning with going outside and gaining the benefits of fresh air at Marblehead High School.

I completed my Gold Award earlier this month. I have logged over 80 hours of work to earn this award. Some of these hours came from organizing and executing a clean-up of the Marblehead High School courtyard that I recently held. My fellow Girl Scouts, friends, and family removed four overflowing truck loads of branches, leaves, and grass from the courtyard. It took us about four hours to rake, weed, and trim the courtyard. There was a major transformation from before we started to when we finished. In the future, I hope that students or Girl Scouts mulch the beds and add perennials to brighten up the space. It is one thing to have a space for students and teachers to learn outside, but it is better when the space is clean and welcoming. I want to thank my family, Ali New, and Girl Scouts: Addy Moonie, Harper Moonie, Emily Ernst, Scarlett Kindle, and Molly Tapper. Also, troop leaders Ellen Ernst and Xhazzie Kindle. The clean-up was a success because we all worked together to beautify the space.

My Gold Award project has taken up a lot of my time, but it was all worth it because I was able to have an impact on my community. In class one day, when my teacher asked if we wanted to do our presentations outside in the outdoor classroom, everyone was very excited with that thought. Listening to my peers' response to going to the outdoor classroom make me realize that all my hard work and time spent on this project was worth it because I was able to make a difference at my high school in my four years there. I am proud of myself that I was able to complete such a big project. I am thankful to everyone that has helped me along the way, including Mr. Bauer, Mr. Dutch, Jessi Robinson, my Outdoor Classroom Club peers, and the teachers and students at Marblehead High School. I also want to thank my family for always being there and supporting me as I complete this award. I have learned so much about my topic. I also learned and improved skills, including organization, communication, public speaking, and responsibility. I can take these skills with me when I go to college and use them for the rest of my life.

Want to help Puerto Rico?

Spanish 5 Honors is collecting supplies and money to help Puerto Rico after the hurricane. There are bins located in the Marblehead High School lobby. Money donations can be given to Mrs. Grose. Please consider donating! Here is a list of the supplies that the Spanish 5 class is collecting:

- Diapers
- Bottled water
- Canned food
- Garbage bags
- Towels
- Canned and dry pet food
- Stomach and diarrhea relief medicine
- Mosquito repellent
- Blankets
- Pillows
- First aid kits
- Laundry detergent
- Dish soap
- Money donations

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