



Everything You Should Know About AIDS Awareness Month in America

Evelina Thibodeaux, Sophomore
REPORTER

December brings many things, such as holiday joy, snow, family, and togetherness. However, it also brings awareness to the disease of HIV. This is the virus that can lead to AIDS. December 1 is World AIDS Day, and the whole month is dedicated to the remembrance of those killed as a result of AIDS, as well as those currently living with the virus. From 1981-2004, over half a million people living in the United States died as a result of AIDS. Since then, the number

of deaths has declined. Still, over a million Americans suffer from HIV.

HIV is a disease that attacks the immune system by corrupting white blood cells called CD4 or T cells. This disables the cells, preventing them from fighting off viruses. If HIV goes untreated, it can become AIDS. AIDS is also known as Acquired Immune Deficiency Virus and is diagnosable when the patient has fewer than 200 CD4 cells per cubic millimeter. This lack of defense encourages cancer growth and life-threatening infection. Due to

the lack of government acknowledgment or help in the 1980s and 1990s, many cases of HIV went undiscovered, leading to hundreds of thousands of lives lost. Back then, to be diagnosed with HIV was a death sentence. Even now, there is no cure for HIV. However, the recent creation of antiretroviral treatment has allowed patients who have HIV to live longer and healthier lives.

On January 26, 1996, a musical showcasing the lives of people affected by this virus

debuted. *Rent*, written by Jonathan Larson, is loosely based on the opera 'La Boheme.' Since its release, it has won many awards as well as been turned into a movie that features many of the musical's original cast members. It has also been televised as *RENT Live* and performed by many smaller theatres all over the country. *RENT* humanizes members of the LGBT+ community who were the most affected by the AIDS crisis, as well as showing the effect of AIDS on addicts. This musical is still widely listened to today and is currently on a national tour, helping to

educate and move people all around the world.

To see this musical locally, the North Shore Children's Theatre's production will take place on Friday, December 20 at 7:00 PM, Saturday, December 21 at 2:00 PM and 7:00 PM, and Sunday, December 22 at 2:00 PM at the Peabody Black Box, 22 Foster St, Peabody, MA. Tickets are 10 dollars for kids, teens, and seniors, and 15 dollars for adults.

Naval Base in Pensacola Hit by Active Shooter

Sophia Piper, Junior
NEWS EDITOR

Last Friday, a naval base in Pensacola, Florida was ravaged by an active shooter, leaving four dead. The 21-year-old shooter, Second Lieutenant Mohammed Alshamrani of the Royal Saudi Air Force, was receiving training in the United States. This is a common practice—currently, there are more than 5,000 international students from 153 countries receiving military training from the United States. Their three years in the United States include pilot training, basic aviation, and English lessons. According to the Pentagon, all international students are vetted before they are allowed into the United States.

It was mid-morning on December 6 when the shooter opened fire on a classroom filled with other students. Three besides Alshamrani died, and 12 more were injured. The shooter was using a handgun, though no students are allowed to have weapons at the base.

The shooting occurred two days after a sailor at Pearl Harbor opened fire on civilian workers, killing two before committing suicide. There is no evidence that the two are connected.

Alshamrani had posted anti-U.S. quotes on Twitter before the shooting and had hosted a dinner at which he



The Epoch Times

and other students watched videos of mass shootings. During the attack

itself, one of the students who had been at the dinner took a video outside of the building while two other international students waited outside in a car. As of now, authorities are focused on determining whether the shooter acted by himself or if he was part of a larger network. The rigidity of the vetting process has also been under fire.

Next on Shark Week: Waste Shark

Miranda Connolly, Sophomore
OPINION EDITOR

Many people have been worrying about the impact of plastic litter in our oceans. Recently, we have seen an outcry amongst young teens who are battling against plastic straws. If left in the ocean, plastic straws can be eaten by sea turtles, who will then suffocate. Richard Hardiman, CEO of RanMarine Technology, has also noticed the problem of the polluted ocean. He has decided to be proactive and has created the "Waste Shark," a project sponsored by the Port of Rotterdam Authority's Port Waste Catch. The "Waste Shark" is a robot that is used to pick up floating trash on the surface of any body of water. It is steered via remote control or moves along a plotted pathway. There is a small camera on its back, which is used to search for floating debris that it can then pick up.



RanMarine

Although the "Waste Shark" is a great way to start collecting garbage from the ocean, what is the next step? Where does the collected plastic go? How can we as a society efficiently begin to reuse plastic and integrate a more eco-friendly lifestyle into our lives? Many people have pursued the zero-waste lifestyle in an attempt to lessen their carbon footprint and the waste they leave on Earth.

I myself attempted to go zero waste for 30 days two years ago. Although I wasn't successful until the last 5 days, I was able to see just how much trash I produced every day. I can now confidently say that I am more conscious of the amount of waste I produce through small bits of plastic that can't be reused and other nonrecyclable materials. I encourage everyone to try to go zero-waste, even if it's just for the experience. If we all work together, we can reduce the trash and litter polluting our planet and be the generation that helps save the oceans.

MHS Students Participate in ADL Training

Alexis Earp, Sophomore
FEATURES EDITOR

Every two years, Marblehead High School and Team Harmony host the Anti-Defamation League's (ADL) peer training program, which began in Boston in 1985. Team Harmony is a club that works to promote diversity and combat bias at MHS. Over 60 million people worldwide have been trained as a part of this program, and over 200 people have been trained at MHS, where the training has occurred on and off for twenty years. Retired foreign language teacher Laurie Meagher was the first person to bring MHS students to the ADL Youth Conference, and she brought the training to Marblehead. It is now organized by Candice Sliney, the faculty advisor for Team Harmony.

This year, eleven students from grades 9-12 participated

in the training. They learned about the meanings of and differences between bias, discrimination, and prejudice. The workshop also included information to help students recognize and address situations that may arise at school and in the community. Julia Greenway, a sophomore who attended the training, said that the activities from the training were unique because students could interact and work with each other instead of just listening to someone else speak for hours on end. For one activity, students were put into groups to talk about different types of bias and examples of when they might occur. This opened discussions about personal experiences the students had with bias and how they reacted to those situations.



The lessons and skills the students gained during the training will have a lasting impact on Team Harmony and the school community as a whole.

The entire club meets twice each month, and the officers have two separate meetings per month. During the meetings, club members practice activities from the training.

In the second semester, Team Harmony members will go into freshman health classes to run a presentation that includes information and workshops from the ADL peer training program. After these presentations, many freshmen are inspired to join Team Harmony so that they can help in the mission to make the school and community more accepting.

According to Candice Sliney, "One of the most important principles of ADL is that equality cannot exist for anyone unless it exists for everyone." Ideas like this are spread in Team Harmony meetings and in the presentations in the freshman health classes until people across MHS are equipped with the tools to create an accepting community.



ADL

Headlight Staff 2019-2020

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF: Jillian Lederman

ASSISTANT EDITOR: Sophie Hauck

OPINION EDITOR(S): Madison Morris, Miranda Connolly, Kate Gardner NEWS EDITOR: Lily Morgan, Sophia Piper
FEATURES EDITOR: Alexis Earp PHOTO MANAGERS: Julia Greenway, Jared Lederman

REPORTERS: Anabel Anderson, Nora Bekkai, Riley Bowen, Alison Buxbaum, Katherine Cronin, Siya Curtis, Christopher English, Olivia Gardner, Zoe Gast, Martha Heffernan, Katherine Jenkins, Caroline Johnson, Jeffrey Lederman, Sean McLean, Eva Nickolas, Eliot Piper, Max Schapiro, Jamie Schurman, Olivia Spell, Evelina Thibodeaux

FACULTY ADVISOR: Thomas Higgins