



## Commentary on the September Democratic Debates

Miranda Connolly, Sophomore  
Opinion Editor

The Democratic Debates have started, and with them come a new wave of candidates trying to convince the American people why they would be best suited for President. At the beginning of the September debate, questions focused on the issues of medicare, racism, immigration, and gun violence, but not many answers were given. Throughout the entire debate, attacks were made on both President Donald Trump and on Joe Biden, as politicians were trying to win over the admiration of the audience.

Right from the gate, California Senator Kamala Harris directly addressed President Donald Trump, accusing him of lying and trying to distract people from his failed policies. Throughout the debate, a candidate always managed to bring the argument back and criticize the President, but few actually stated exactly what they would do differently from him and how.

Next, the candidates were asked how they will provide health care to the country, and this is where things got interesting. The debate started with Bernie Sanders, Elizabeth Warren, and Joe Biden. They were arguing which person would actually be able to pay for what they plan to do with health care. Biden made jibes at Sanders, and this is when Julian Castro decided that it was his time to shine. Castro mentioned that he worked for Barack Obama while he was president, and that Biden's plan for medicare would leave 10 million people without health insurance. He then said that his medicare wouldn't require people to buy in, like Biden's did, but rather would automatically enroll them into a public health care plan. When Biden corrected Castro for his incorrect remark about Biden's plan, Castro proceeded to say that Biden had forgotten what he had said from two minutes before, seemingly mocking his age. This brought the debate to a standstill, as the other politicians were quick to step in to say that making aggressive attacks against other candidates is the reason that people can't stand watching debates. Castro tried to defend himself by saying that that is how elections go, but Senator Amy Klobuchar struck him down saying, "a house divided cannot stand," and everyone moved on.

Overall, the debate showed that most of the candidates didn't really know who to attack first: the President or Biden? This resulted in unnecessary clashing and failed one liners instead of actual answers of what the politicians would do for the country if they were elected. While other candidates, like Beto O'Rourke, actually answered questions, they were overshadowed by the one liners and audience applause.

## An Insight into a Spanish Education: Interviews with Laura Álvarez and Ada López-González

Zoe Gast, Freshman  
Freshman

Mrs. Alvarez is a Spanish teacher here at Marblehead High School. She moved to America almost six years ago after marrying her American husband in Spain. They both moved to Canton, her husband's hometown, in search of jobs during the 2013 economic crisis in Spain. She hopes to move back to Spain sometime in the next four or five years as originally intended.

Ada is a Spanish exchange student from the village Bobadilla del Monte, which is just outside of Madrid. Through the program F-1, she is staying in Marblehead until June.

Many Americans kids watch *High School Musical*, *Clueless* and other quintessential American movies. They marvel at the high school experience depicted in these movies, thinking that it's similar to real life, only to get there and realize that their perceptions are completely unrealistic; however, the impression is quite the opposite for most foreigners. When asked if Marblehead High School is similar to schools in the movies, Mrs. Alveraz laughed and answered, "Yeah, yeah absolutely. I mean they stick to the standard."

It's hard to see because we have lived here all our lives, but we kind of do. We have Friday night football games, with smiling cheerleaders and a peppy marching band. We have the long hallways lined with tall lockers and the crowded cafeteria. We have all the stereotypes listed out in countless Disney films. At the football game last Friday, Ada uploaded multiple videos of the spectacle because she had never seen anything like it. Even having school-run activities is a foreign concept to many other countries, where all clubs and sports are done by independent companies that are not associated with the school system. This can create an overload of contact with the same people. Mrs. Alveraz explained that as a kid, "We always had two groups of friends: friends from school and whatever activity you do after school." Therefore, even friend group dynamics differ between America and Spain. In general, American school schedules also work very differently. In Ada's old school, they would start classes at nine and wouldn't end until five, but they had a two hour lunch break. This coincides with a cultural norm in Spain, where lunch is by far the most important meal. Although the schools in Spain and America are very different, they both give high class educations and consistently rank well in the top fifty in the world.

## Does Felicity Huffman Deserve What She Got?

Sophia Piper, Junior  
News Editor

*Desperate Housewives'* star Felicity Huffman was in Boston last week – but not for a fun vacation or movie shooting. Instead, she was receiving her sentence in federal court for her role in the college admissions scandal that emerged last year. Huffman was sentenced to 14 days in prison, 250 hours of community service, and a fine of \$30,000. The actress was found guilty of paying \$15,000 to get her daughter's ACT score improved.

Even though many people are satisfied with Huffman's sentence, some believe she should not have received jail time. Eliminating prison for non-violent offenders has become increasingly favorable amongst the younger crowd. Perhaps instead of two weeks in a posh prison, Felicity should have had to pay more.

Her combined net worth with husband William Macy is around \$45 million. Since \$30,000 is practically pocket change to Huffman, paying off a few (or many) kids' tuition might have a bigger impact on her. If she had to pay for four kids at a price of \$60,000 a year, she would pay \$960,000 by the end of four years – still not making her bankrupt, but certainly more meaningful than a small fine.

Huffman is the first parent to get sentenced, and she is definitely not the worst of the bunch. She pled guilty and released a statement where she apologized to her daughter, saying that "there are no excuses or justifications for [her] actions. Period." Additionally, her payment was on the cheaper end of the spectrum. Some parents have been accused of paying up to \$6.5 million to get their child into an elite university. Judging by this, it seems like Felicity's sentence is going to pale in comparison to others'.

Just look at Lori Loughlin, the *Full House* actress who is still pleading not guilty to faking rowing pictures of her daughters and paying \$500,000 to the University of Southern California. Her daughter, the once-popular YouTuber Olivia Jade, also vehemently denies any allegations. If Loughlin doesn't plead guilty, she could easily face a few years in prison and perhaps a larger fine.

Huffman's sentence could be a warning to the other accused parents to just give in and plead guilty. Considering that rich celebrities often do no jail time for much more serious crimes than bribery, it seems like those in this particular scandal may be made into examples to eliminate similar crimes in the future. However, it's hard to believe that money will ever become meaningless in admissions. Kids whose parents donate large sums of money to universities will probably get in more easily than other students. SAT tutors will still cost thousands of dollars. The only thing we can do is try our best and hope we don't end up with crippling debt.



Source: *The Washington Post*

## Marblehead Magicians Win First Game Against Gloucester

Jared Lederman, Freshman  
Photo Manager

Last Friday, September 20, the Marblehead Magicians faced off in a hard-fought game against the Gloucester Fisherman. What felt like the whole town in attendance created an incredible atmosphere that seemed to shake the entire stadium. I saw teachers, students, and even many seniors at the game, which was indicative of how much high school football serves to unite Marblehead. Both teams played very well, with Marblehead coming out on top 49-0, taking them to an overall 3-0 standing, while Gloucester is now sitting at 0-2. This game was the ninth game in a row in which Marblehead beat Gloucester.

The Magicians were able to force three Fisherman fumbles which led to two touchdowns for Marblehead. The first touchdown of the night came after a fumble by Gloucester that led to Ryan Frieberger completing a 29-yard touchdown for Marblehead. This first score of the night was an amazing experience as all of the Marblehead fans rose to their feet to cheer on their town. Directly after this play, the Fishermen were able to bring the play all the way to the Marblehead 16 yard line. This ended up being their best chance of the game, although no points resulted. Marblehead was forced to deal with a tough 3rd and 31 situation on the Gloucester 35; however, Marblehead quarterback Josh Robertson was able to make the best of the circumstances and send A.J. Russo for a 29 yard gain and Tim Cronin to complete the touchdown from 4th and 2. Before halftime, Sean McCarthy was able to make a 16 yard run for another touchdown.

During halftime, the Marblehead marching band took the field led by band director Kevin Goddu and put on a great show.

Marblehead came into the Third quarter strong, with Will Twadell receiving a pass and running for a 61 yard gain. On the next play, Tim Cronin was again able to break the Gloucester defense and make the score 28-0. There were a total of three more touchdowns scored for Marblehead by A.J. Russo, Tim Cronin, and Will Twadell to bring the score to 49-0 for Marblehead. Josh Robinson completed 6 of his 7 passes for a total of 192 yards, along with two touchdowns. Tim Cronin also had an impressive performance on Friday, taking only 12 carries to complete three touchdowns. The Gloucester quarterback Sam Ciolino and his tight end Ben Renales were able to generate 64 yards throughout the game. Marblehead has had a great start to their season, and this game was no exception.



Source: *Gloucester Daily Times*

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