

Headlight

Written by the students of Marblehead High School for our school and community
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Not Much of a Winter Wonderland: Where's the Snow?

Danny Plunkett
Grieving Sports Fan,
Senior

December, January, and February: the wintry months. This is my favorite time of the year. It is a time of chestnuts roasting over open fires, icicles hanging from the eaves, snow banks so high you can't see over them, and hot tea on dark mornings.

Maybe I am the only one, but I truly enjoy stepping outside and taking a long breath of crisp, biting air. Every autumn my excitement grows as the leaves fall and the first frost invades the earth, indicators of what will come. This year was no different.

However, what we have gotten so far this winter is forty-degree days and rain - the worst kind of compromise. I like to go ice-skating on ponds, sledding on hills, and walking in blizzards where you cannot

see your hand in front of your face. There has been exactly one decent day to skate in the last two months (which I missed) and the ice immediately melted as temperatures rose above freezing once again. I have yet to put on my skates, something that was a daily occurrence only a year ago.

Snow. It is the essence of winter. A snow day is every child's dream, a gift from above. Staying home to play in the white powder is what winter is all about. For an adolescent snow is a source of income and a source of enjoyment. Every time it has rained this miserable winter I have hoped beyond hope that it would get colder. I have calculated how deep that snow would have been if it had not been rain, but to no avail.

Some may feel lucky to be able to wear only a sweatshirt in the middle of January, but not I. Bundling up in scarves, jackets, boots, and gloves is merely part of the winter experience

if you ask me. What could be better than coming home, ripping off your layers of insulation, plopping down on the couch with a blanket, and sitting in front of a fire with hot chocolate? Nothing.

Now this is only my opinion of course, and you probably don't agree, saying you are a "summer person." That is all well and good but why can't this year just be normal? Is that too much to ask for? Even a week of sub-thirty degree weather would appease me. This is a supplication for a few weeks of true winter, a few weeks of winter activities before the grass starts growing again and the flowers bloom.

I still have hope! But with each passing day the outlook seems gloomier. Fortunately, I am also a spring person, and a summer person, and an autumn person.... But I'll complain now while I still have the chance!

Books: The Next Endangered Species? The eBook Takeover

Davis Gold
Headlight Staff,
Freshman

The age which we live in now is all about modernizing everything we have. Cars can now run on electricity, homes are solar powered and books are going extinct. No, not literature, but physical books. Ever since Amazon came out with the kindle, people have shifted from the printed word to eBooks, or electronic books.

And why not? A Kindle or an iPad can store hundreds of texts, making it much more convenient to carry around one lightweight tablet than a couple heavy novels. Also, information can travel so quickly across the internet that instead of taking a walk or drive to the nearest bookstore, someone can just download a book at home in two minutes. In a time which being green is

important, a paperless copy of a Dostoevsky classic seems like a perfect choice instead of the 1,000 page behemoth. From the publisher's point of view, having to pay for paper, ink, covers, printing, and shipping for hardcovers is very expensive.

All the reasons to move away from a printed novel seem perfectly logical, but there's something wrong with saying that books are outdated. Being a traditionalist, I believe having a physical book in your hands and being able to turn a page is much more warm and satisfying than just flicking across a screen. Also, graphic novels like TinTin have beautiful artwork in them meant to be on paper, not pixels.

Nonetheless, many have felt the effect of the Kindle juggernaut. The popular bookstore, Borders, is going out of business and its retail stores are being sold off piece by piece or just shutting down completely. Other book-

stores whose outlooks are bleak are preparing for the worst. The question is, in the future will there be no paper books?

The answer is still unclear but it seems like every day, books become more of a thing of the past, being pushed over by their electronic substitutes. Many groups are trying to reignite the paperback economy by holding library and bookstore meetings, having coffee shops installed, or holding writing contests. Other paper sources like mail, dictionaries, and newspapers are being posted and sent on the internet rather than being printed because of how fast results can be delivered.

The fate of the book is still undecided, but those copies of the *Harry Potter* series on your shelf might be worth a lot more if books become obsolete.

HEADLIGHT TITLE CONTEST

Here at Headlight, we've had the same title graphic in normal font for awhile. We want something creative and fun!

If you have any design skills or a desire to create our new title graphic, send us your design!

Send your design to "headlight_mhs@yahoo.com" or leave it in Mr. Higgins' mailbox at the high school.

There will be a prize for the winning design! More details to come.

Buy your special someone a flower!

This week, the Freshman Class will be selling flowers in the cafeteria to be distributed on Valentine's Day.

Carnations are \$2 and roses are \$4.

Do you have talent?

Senior Show auditions are coming up soon!

Start thinking of your act, and talk to Ben Webber, Peyton Weston, or Jen Taranto with any questions. More details to come!

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