

Headlight

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

<http://mhsheadlight.weebly.com/>

A Vote for My Generation

Dan Rosenberg

Editor-in-Chief, Junior

The 2012 presidential elections are closing in upon us, and soon America will make a decision for its future. A leader will be chosen, a president who will, for better or for worse, lead our country for the next four years. The choices this president makes will have a profound impact upon everyone's lives, not just those who can vote, but even young adults, like myself, who do not yet have the right to vote. Two years into this upcoming president's term, the young men and women of my generation, will be eligible to cast a vote. But, in this upcoming election, we have no say in the government. Our voices are not heard, and our opinions are dismissed. But they should not be. Because it's not just the future of the voters that this president will determine, but it is our future as well. Our voices should be heard in this election because the policies today will have a great impact on our lives tomorrow.

It's easy to dismiss the views of teenagers as unimportant, because we are young. But our ideas should not be taken so lightly, because we are not only the future of this country, but we are important members of society now. Every month, I get social security and Medicare taken out of my paycheck. I am a working American, just like the many blue-collar and white-collar folks across this country. So why shouldn't my voice be heard? What many people don't realize is just how important this election is to people my age. While we pay social security now, unless there is serious reform somewhere down the road, we won't reap the benefits of the fund. It's our future, but because of our age, we're seemingly dismissed, disregarded as men and women with opinions.

It doesn't stop there. As students of the public education system, we are affected by many of the policies enacted by the president. While the adults and politicians of America

debate over the legitimacy of education laws, we, the young men and women of America who are directly impacted by these laws, and whose children will be affected by these same laws, have no way of representing our opinions, or making our voices heard. While the lawmakers and legislators in Washington may be more experienced than us, and may have more knowledge than us, they should not be able to determine our futures without even considering us. No American would ever agree to have their opinions disregarded on the laws that would affect them. So why should my generation receive this treatment?

Not only are we the legislators and voters of the future, but we are the soldiers of the future as well. Many of my peers are actively engaged in ROTC and other military programs, and will be the soldiers who have to fight to preserve our freedom some day. The incoming president's decisions on the conflict in Afghanistan, and the crisis in Iran, will be integral in determining the wars of the future, wars that will be fought by my generation. But still, our opinions are ignored, politics are said to be things best left to the adults.

Well, I completely disagree with that. We are the adults of the future, and we are also the innovators of now. Perhaps we, with our technology and new ideas, could revitalize the American government, and postulate new policies that could help give us a brighter future. So why shouldn't we have a vote, a say in a government supposedly "for the people, by the people." That, unfortunately, is probably just a pipe dream. Teens will most likely continue to be ignored in political proceedings. But maybe every adult out there, every voter who would ignore or disregard the opinions of the youth, should reconsider. Think about whose future you're really voting

A Very Spirited School

Shanna Smith

Reporter in the Field, Junior

When you walk through a hallway and see dozens of students dressed in sports uniforms outrageous getups, you know you're at Marblehead High School. The students of Marblehead High School are always on display, showing off their spirit and unity as a team. Every day, a different team arrives to the building in some kind of wacky outfit, not only to amuse but to intimidate their opponents.

Picture this: walking into school and within five minutes, you already know which sports teams have games that day. The school administration makes sure to support team sports by writing on a whiteboard near the MHS field house, designated entirely to informing us all about school sports for the day. Practices, games, and cancellations, it's all on display on the board. Along with the help of the school, sports teams advertise their games not only through the white board, but also by wearing signs, posting on Facebook, and our favorite thing of all: dressing up for school.

No team is ashamed to dress up! Most sports teams advertise their games by wearing their jersey to school on game day. This is a very simple thing to do – in fact, it reduces the amount of time it takes to get ready in the morning, since no one has to search through their closet looking for a cute outfit – and it helps create the incredible atmosphere of school spirit and pride at our high school.

However, some teams take it to the next level. Any MHS student by now can safely say that they have seen a number of crazy outfit ideas – anything from hippies to panthers to Risky Business. Teams often have two or three games per week, so they have a lot of days to display their spirit. As a result, these teams come up with creative outfit ideas as an alternative to just wearing their uniforms, each idea more out there than the last. Even before first period begins, people have already caught on to which sports team are dressing up and what they're dressing up as.

Of course, I've heard other students' negative opinions on dressing up for school. Many students are embarrassed to dress up because they fear that they will be the only one on their team to do so. But that fear is unfounded; it's rare to see a team member who forgot to dress up. The whole team is as one, dressed in their costumes and ready to play.

As a member of the Marblehead Field Hockey team, I know exactly what it's like to sport a funky outfit to show dedication to my team. Dressing up not only shows that students are part of individual sports teams, but it shows that we are part of a unified and supportive school community. This is what makes students comfortable in their own shoes; they know that they can be unique and still be accepted in our community.

Win or lose, MHS sports are a single cohesive team, not a bunch of random athletes thrown together every fall. This is part of what makes Marblehead High School such a unique and unified community, and it demonstrates how proud we all are to be here.

We're going to be starting up an advice column soon! Got something on your mind? Send it to mhsheadlight@yahoo.com, and we'll answer some of your questions in an upcoming issue

The Mekong in the Morning

Caroline Hooper

Design Coordinator, Junior

Asia. When you hear that word what do you think of? Chinese food? The Great Wall of China? The Terracotta Warriors? That's what I thought of too before I traveled there. This summer I had the unbelievable opportunity to travel around Asia with my best friend Andrew. Although I miss the countries we visited, including Singapore, Vietnam, and China, the culture and memories will always stay with me. It was an amazing trip packed with day tours, shopping, dining and all things 'touristy'. It was the trip of a lifetime to say the least. We were in Asia for 26 days. The most memorable experience was the day we paddled down the Mekong Delta in Vietnam. We stayed in Ho Chi Minh city, which is the largest city in Vietnam. On a beautiful day in mid-July we took a two hour bus ride with our tour group to the Mekong Delta. The long ride was well worth it given the experience that awaited us...

We walked through a small market and onto the dock; roughly twenty people, including Andrew, his mom, and myself climbed into the river boat and headed out for a day on the Delta. We traveled in a covered boat with loud motors. The day was warm and sunny, which enriched the experience as the hot sun beat upon our backs. I was grateful that the boat travelled slowly; my love of photography came to life as I snapped picture after picture, thoroughly enjoying the view along the river. The water was an earthy brown color that seemed to tell the history of the many boats that had passed before us. We crossed the river and unloaded from the boat. From there we perused local

stores, browsing at a small market. We sampled tea with fresh honey and ginger cubes, and banana crisps. We around an area surrounded by dragon fruit plants. We passed through another market and ventured down to a canal connecting to the Delta. At the canal, we stepped into hollowed boats docked at the shore. There were hundreds of boats going in both directions, which reminded me of rush hour traffic on the highway, except without all the honking! The only sounds to be heard were the occasional wooden boats bumping against one another, the paddles dipping into the water, and the murmur of the locals and tourists chatting quietly. The river was just wide enough for two boats to pass each other, and the banks were covered with lush green trees. The natives on the river were wearing the straw hats shaped like wide cones to protect from the glaring sun.

After twenty minutes of paddling we saw our boat waiting in the Delta. We boarded the boat which would take us back to our starting point. We found our bus and headed back to Ho Chi Minh City. Later that night, we ate at a local restaurant, delighting in an entire fish, noodles and a vegetable soup. I learned to love most Asian food and became a master at using chopsticks. Going to Asia this summer was a once in a lifetime opportunity and I am forever grateful for it. That one day in Vietnam was an experience I will never forget, and one that I will remember for the rest of my life.

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