

## Welcome to Headlight

-Matt Lieberson

The weather is beginning to cool off. Tints of orange and red are appearing on the leaves of local trees. Football's back with a vengeance, and the baseball season is winding down. Yep, these are all the signs of fall. With fall comes school, much to the chagrin of students across the community. The early weeks of the school year mark a new era at Marblehead High School. The new senior class has made their presence felt with their primal scream through the hallways to welcome the underclassmen, and a new freshman crew has risen to join the ranks of our hallways. And after everything has settled down, people start to adapt back to the daily grind of the school year, including myself. It is in this spirit that I, as editor-in-chief, give everybody a late Sunday night welcome to the inaugural issue of Headlight for 2011-2012.

I have spent the past three years on the Headlight staff, writing various articles under an ever-changing staff. The last 2 years, the newspaper roost was ruled by the double-trouble tandem of the Drumm twins, Michael and Brian. The two of them left large shoes to fill, even with their diminutive stature. They set a high standard for this publication. Last year, right around their graduation, they announced that I would get the privilege to become editor-in-chief for this year. They trained me in the ways of the editing "force," playing editorial Yoda to my Luke Skywalker. I manned the Headlight ship for the last few issues last year, and I got a good hold on how exactly an issue of Headlight is created. Now that the Drumms are onto bigger and brighter things at Harvard, they have left me and my loyal staff to run this publication. I would like to thank the Drumms for all they did last year, and for those readers who were fans of the Drumms, stay tuned, as they have promised a guest article or two at somepoint this year.

With the Drumms, as well as the rest of the Class of 2011, gone, this is the year for the Class of 2012. With a senior-heavy staff (5 seniors), this year looks very exciting. At the end of last year, the Headlight staff all looked very enthusiastic about the future of the newspaper. This year looks to be a lot of fun. Besides ignoring school as an entity altogether, the Headlight staff has spent all summer tossing around random ideas for this year's paper. The ideas ranged from serious, like publishing throughout the school, to sarcastic, like mocking the idiosyncrasies of the Marblehead Police Log in a future issue. Under any circumstance, the one thing that everybody on the staff agreed is that we want to make this year fun. We want the issues to be fun to write, and just as fun to read. MHS English department stalwart Mr. Ryan claims that "writing should have surprises in thought and surprises in language." Hopefully this year, our newspaper will be full of both.

Before this first issue, I have spent a good amount of time recruiting underclassmen to join the newspaper. Anybody is welcome to join Headlight. (Quick sidebar-if any parents are reading this, GET YOUR KID TO JOIN!) My trips to various English classes were met with moderate success, garnering a few shy freshmen to commit to come to later meetings. As I went to these classes, I remembered when the editor my freshman year, Ian Kingsbury, came into my English class to try to recruit students for the newspaper. Ian, who became a mentor and friend of mine through Headlight, caught my attention with his pitch to join the newspaper. He talked about the honor of being published in the community. He talked about the development of creative writing skills. What struck me most, though, was his claim that one of us in that class could be editor-in-chief one day. I laughed under my breath at this thought, finding it to be somewhat of a pipe dream. But something drew me to Mr. Higgins' room that next Monday. I slipped quietly into the meeting, and was met with warm smiles by Ian and the other newspaper members. The next week, I wrote my first article, and I was published in the newspaper. I was so proud of myself. Now, I am standing in front of freshman English classes, making that same exact pitch to fellow students. Sooner or later, I will have to pass the torch onto someone new. Maybe one day I'll read this paper and find a name of someone in one of those English classes. But before I get nostalgic, I have to focus on what lies ahead this year. And this year, I am more excited about Headlight than I ever have been.

Here's to a good year.

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