

# Headlight

Written by the students of Marblehead High School for our school and community  
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## Stein's Corner: Eighteen Years of Reflections

Alex Stein  
Editorial Manager, Senior

This is my penultimate article...

20 thoughts, lessons, and other shoulda-woulda-coulda's of my last 18 years

1. ALWAYS, ALWAYS take keyboarding as soon as it is offered. It became the most important class I have ever taken.

2. Using the school bathrooms is my worst nightmare. (*Editor's note: if you look hard enough, you can find some pretty nice bathrooms...*)

3. How come the kids who were a grade above you always looked so much older? When I was in first grade the kids in second grade looked like they just graduated college.

4. Never wear the same clothes two days in a row even if they are clean. Someone is bound to notice, and then it's just awkward.

5. I should've hired a set of NFL referees dur-

ing recess when we played football. We would have played much more. I think we spent more time arguing over who was going to get Will Quigley on their team.

6. Get involved in at least one group, sport, or club. It will broaden your horizons and expose you to people that you usually don't come into contact with.

7. *Fast Times at Ridgemont High* and *American Pie* are not plausible re-creations of high school.

8. Don't take electives that you have no interest in but seem easy. As soon as you get in the class, you will regret it and be bored to tears.

9. The friends you have in kindergarten will most likely not be your friends when you are a senior in high school.

10. I should've stopped caring about what everyone thought about me when I was playing basketball. I would have been far more successful.

11. Many of the things we thought were cool in 8th grade we wouldn't be caught dead doing today.

12. In 8th grade, Starbucks after school on Fri-

days was the coolest thing we could possibly do.

13. The day *Modern Warfare 2* came out when I was a sophomore in high school felt like the longest day ever.

14. Who remembers how many times they were "sent out on an island" in Mrs. Boulrier's art class?

15. How come we can wear hats in high school, but hats are forbidden in middle school?

16. We always knew who was going to ask the most awkward questions in Sex-Ed.

17. The "Fecal Phantom" may go down as the greatest conspiracy in Marblehead history.

18. There was nothing scarier than Marblehead Youth Baseball tryouts. What's more terrifying than Bruce Bial with a clipboard?

19. Is it a coincidence that the year we graduate the world is supposed to end? All that hard work may be useless.

20. Now an overused cliché: "Life moves pretty fast, if you don't stop and look around once in a while, you may miss it."

## Winging It: Local Eateries Proving Their Mettle on "Wing Nights"

Daniel Plunkett  
Sauce Editor, Senior

Sporting events...sticky fingers...mountains of dirty napkins piled on tiny plates. What's the common denominator? Chicken wings, and loads of them.

Wings are interesting to me. There is the obvious allure of the delicious sauce dripping off them, the satisfaction of picking one clean, and the horrifying way they can make a face look like a battleground, but there's something else. Wings are one of the only foods that I have never eaten alone... but that are horrible to eat around anyone else. Through rigorous experimentation, I have determined that it is physically impossible to finish off a plate of wings without embarrassing myself in the extreme. Drops of sauce fly everywhere, my shirt usually ends up stained beyond salvation, and my attempts to covertly lick my fingers always earn me naught but disapproving stares.

Wings are one of my favorite foods, and always have been. I try to eat them as much as possible, which is good because this has allowed me to break through the wing-guilt barrier and fully explore my wing-eating capacities without being overly self-conscious. What better time to do this than wing night?

Though I'm not sure when wing nights were first born, they are now solidly entrenched in our social scene. If you've never been to one, "wing night" happens when a restaurant picks one night of the week to sell chicken wings at absurdly low prices, and in absurdly high quantities. I generally go for the sole purpose of gorging myself and regretting it after...but other people that are less food-centric (I remain a firm supporter of food-centricity) go to hang out with friends and nibble on a wing or two.

Between sports teams and friends, I have very nearly traversed the entirety of the local wing-o-sphere, visiting the majority of the nearby restaurants that offer a wing night. Based on

careful observations taken in the past few years, I have broken down the elements of wing night into four categories: preparation, sauce, price, and atmosphere.

Topping off my list is O'Neil's Bar in Salem. They simply have the most mouth-watering, lip-tingling, belly-warming wings around. They prepare them perfectly (in my humble opinion), managing to create crispy, delicious wings that are neither deep-fried nor overly chewy. They also offer a fantastic selection of sauces and seasonings, including a zesty asian, honey BBQ, and three levels of spice, from buffalo to "MILK! I NEED MILK NOW!" which they never lay on too thickly. At 25 cents per wing, my teenage friends and I have no budgetary qualms when we go on Monday nights. In all, O'Neil's has constructed a minor masterpiece in each wing, and the quiet, weeknight bar atmosphere merely adds to the experience.

Most often, I go with my fellow track team members to the Three Cod Tavern in downtown Marblehead since it is a more local destination. Offering a 50-cent wing on Tuesday nights, Three Cod is significantly more expensive, but their wings make up for it in full. In contrast to O'Neil's, their wings are thoroughly breaded and deep-fried, veritably drowning in a flood of BBQ, buffalo, or teriyaki sauce. Unfortunately, Three Cod is not the perfect venue for a wing night. The tavern is a great place to get dinner, but for a rowdy group of teenagers the atmosphere can be a little awkward. I remember times when I felt guilty about disturbing the otherwise peaceful diners of other patrons with my raucous eating.

Coming in at third on my list is the Howling Wolf Taqueria on Derby St in Salem. The Wolf is easily my favorite overall chow establishment in the surrounding towns, and their wings only increase my ardor for the place. On Wednesday nights patrons can go south of the border for only 30 cents a wing that are almost disturbingly delicious. The Wolf's

tangy mexican sauce is out of this world, but it is regrettably the only wing-smothering option other than plain. The wings are not quite as crisp as I'd like, though overall their wings are just as good as the rest of their food. The high tables with stools, wafting aromas, and loud, exciting ambiance makes it a fun place to hang out and eat to your heart's content.

Buffalo Wild Wings serves just what you might expect: wild wings. A large chain, they tout more sauces and flavors for their wings than I have fingers and toes combined! BWW has fairly mastered the "sports wing," a messy, crunchy explosion of flavor that goes down nicely while you watch a game on one of their massive TVs. Even though their wings are great, the boisterous restaurant fills up quickly and I have been lost in the crowd a bit as far as service goes. The hike to the mall on a school night can also be a little arduous, especially when other options are closer to home.

Last, and in this case least, on my extremely unofficial list is the Tavern in the Square. It is a relatively new restaurant that has enjoyed immense popularity since its opening. Don't get me wrong, most of the food there passes my inspection with flying colors, and the atmosphere is definitely fun and inviting, but the wings are....neglected. Love is the key to good food (as well as bacon), and these wings are truly unloved. Skin: limp. Size: small. Sauce: scarce and bland. The wings are only a quarter each which improves the outlook of this wing night but it still just doesn't make the cut.

If you haven't yet, try it out! Go get some wings, chow down, and have a good time. I'll probably see you there.

*Sauce Editor Daniel Plunkett is famous for his inaugural appearance at Three Cod Tavern's Wing Night. When asked for a drink order, Plunkett requested a "cup of wings". Plunkett denies the incident from ever having occurred.*

Thanks to all who came to support the Senior Class at the Carnival! With your help, over \$8,600 was raised!

## Headlight's Cartoonist Laments over Lack of Drawing Freedom

Zhen Humenn  
Guest Cartoonist,  
Freshman

For most animators, sketchers, and almost all people under the title of cartoonist, everyone gets criticized. Some believe that cartoons have crossed the line from being funny to being dangerous. When drawing, the artist has one point to get across-the-punchline.

Some cartoons are often taken the wrong way, not

the way the artist intended. This is the great battle of controversy of cartoons. Are they funny, or are they offensive?

In 2005, when an artist drew a cartoon of Muhammad, people took offense and violence broke out within the Muslim population. Political cartoons, and most cartoons in general, are propaganda trying to get people to see their side of a story. Cartoons are a way to convey what people are thinking without saying it. Some people find these cartoons to be dangerous, that us cartoonists can say anything to

anyone and nothing is off-limits.

The First Amendment states that we have freedom of speech. Is drawing and doodling under the title of "speech"? Some debate that these types of cartoons should be banned, for being rude and containing loads of stereotypes. Others say that if viewers find them offensive they don't have look at them, and it's their own problem. If there were limits on our drawing so that none are offensive to anyone, would our favorite weekly funnies still exist?

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