

Headlight



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

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What the Super Bowl Means for Manning

Matthew Messinger, Sophomore
Reporter

February 7th marks the day that Peyton Manning will lead his 12-4 Broncos against Cam Newton's 1-loss Panthers team. With the chance of this being Manning's last game it could mean more to his career than any other game he has played. Peyton Manning may be the NFL's all time passing leader in yards and touchdowns but the question is, can he win the big game? Super Bowl 50 will be Peyton Manning's fourth Super Bowl, but he only has one ring. Rumors surrounding Manning say that this could be his last game in the NFL, and if the Broncos fail to win, then Manning could be remembered as the QB who almost won.

Compared to other great current quarterbacks, Manning's record in the playoffs lacks wins. In home divisional games Manning is just 2-5 while Tom Brady (8-1) and Ben Roethlisberger (3-0) have shown they can win in the playoffs. When favored in playoff games, it doesn't get much better for Manning as he is 10-10, while Brady and Roethlisberger have a combined 8 losses when favored to win. While all the pressure cannot be put on Manning to win, it comes with his position to get it done in the big games. Saints quarterback Drew Brees said, "It doesn't really matter if it's fair or not," and I believe that is true. The quarterback is typically the star of a football team and his job is to help his team win. Whether he wins or loses, Manning is undoubtedly a Hall of Famer and will go down as one of the best of all time. It is one thing if the defense allows 49 points, but in order for Peyton Manning to gain the support of the people and be compared to the greats such as Montana and Brady, he needs to win this Super Bowl.

Morocco

Lilly Tapper, Sophomore
Reporter

This past winter break, I had the opportunity to travel to Morocco with my grandparents and cousin. It was amazing and inspiring.

Typically, when Americans think of Islamic countries, we often automatically think of terrorists: the people responsible for 9/11, or the people responsible for the Boston Marathon bombings, or the attacks in Paris, or the San Bernardino attacks. The list could go on and on. I will be the first to admit that I was a little apprehensive about my trip after the San Bernardino attacks. This was totally unnecessary.

Let me give you some background on Morocco. Morocco has a population of 33 million people. Out of those 33 million people, 99% are either Sunni or Shia Muslims. Hearing this, you might just be surprised about what I have to say.

We flew into Marrakech and stayed there for four nights. As an American, the first thing I noticed walking outside the airport into the hot, polluted air was the amount of babies on motorbikes! We were greeted by a lovely man named Ali, who was outgoing, friendly, and very happy to welcome us to his country. We stayed in the heart of Marrakech, in the Riad Djemanna. Riad means house in Arabic. It was beautiful, and I was surrounded by totally authentic Moroccan culture.

The most amazing moment of the trip occurred on the third day. We toured mosques and many historic sites around Jemaa el Fna, the main square of Marrakech, filled with snake charmers, French cafes with rooftop terraces, shops, tents where you can get henna tattoos, monkeys, and stands where you can get a glass of freshly squeezed orange juice for 2 dirhams, the equivalent to about 20 U.S. cents. No matter how delicious the orange juice was, or how beautiful the architecture and Riad were, the best part of Morocco was the amount of religious toleration and friendliness that Moroccans had for visitors and fellow Moroccans. On the top of every mosque in Morocco, there are three spheres. The first sphere represents Islam, the second represents Christianity, and the third represents Judaism. In addition, mosques typically are tiled with three different colors that all represent something meaningful to Muslims. Green is always in mosques because green is the sacred and holy color of Islam. Blue is also represented in mosques because blue is the divine, and the color of God's Glory in the Jewish religion. The third color is an amber/red/gold which represents the overwhelming radiance of God in Christianity. In addition to all this, the people are some of the friendliest people that you will ever meet. Thank you, Morocco, for leading the way for religious tolerance in the world. Shukran lak Morocco, shukran.

Grease: Live

Linda Fitzpatrick, Senior
Editor-in-Chief

Last night *Grease: Live*, the newest addition to live musicals broadcasted on television, aired and it was just as electrifying as I hoped, filled with three hours of singing, acting, and of course, dancing. Each cast member brought something unique to their character, though some shined brighter than others. *Grease: Live* was also the first ever live musical to have a studio audience. The audience had the tendency to be distracting; however, during scenes in which it didn't feel misplaced to have a mass of people sitting around, they were a welcome addition to the already impressive production.

The most astounding performance of the evening came from Vanessa Hudgens who played the infamous Rizzo. Her performance was especially breathtaking with the news that her father died of cancer the night before and she was dedicating her performance to him.

Other shining stars included Keke Palmer (Marty) and her USO dream sequence of "Freddy My Love." Jordan Fisher (Doody) sang a beautiful guitar version of "Counterfeit" as well.

With all that said, the hidden all-stars of this live production were the people behind every camera. Seen through backstage footage, their roles were just as complex as the actors. Some hung from the ceiling while others ran with cameras strapped to their bodies. It was elaborate and the scenes looked beautiful on TV.

The most stunning scene of the musical came towards the end, with the car race of *Grease Lightning*. The shaky camera and spotty lightning allowed viewers to believe the two cars were speeding down a cement road beside each other. I will say, I expected more once I saw the flames light up the backside of *Grease Lightning*, but either way, the scene was well-executed.

For a live musical event, FOX lucked out with minimal issues. In fact, the only major slip up was the loss of audio during the beginning of the hand jive that lasted approximately 15 seconds. This technical error didn't take any of the joy away from the musical. I especially enjoyed the dance competition portion of the musical because the director switched from a colored screen to a black and white, old fashioned TV screen. The original Frenchy and her waitress friends were shown watching the live broadcast in the diner reminiscing on high school days. (continued)

Kung Fu Panda 3 Movie Review

Jacob Keller, Junior
Reporter

It comes with no surprise to see a widely popular movie franchise try to stretch out its success in creating a sequel. The first two *Kung Fu Panda* movies grossed a combined \$380,683,654, and were arguably one of DreamWorks' best series. This begs the question: does *Kung Fu Panda 3* add to the series' greatness? Well the answer is no and yes.

Kung Fu Panda 3 promises to explore not only the relationship with Po and his newly discovered father Li Shin, but also the relationship between Po and the rest of his kind who he believed to be extinct, Po's journey to become a kung fu teacher, and his face off with the movie's antagonist Kai. Yet the movie only does a mediocre job at this. Although it has some scenes where Po and his father Li Shin realize how similar they are and how much they care for each other, towards the end of the movie Li Shin fades into the background like any of the other pandas. And when their relationship conflicts with Mr. Ling's relationship with Po, the person who raised Po, the movie again doesn't focus on it long. Mr. Ling's jealousy serves to do nothing for the movie. This means that these two things, things that had the potential to be very important to the movie, acted as filler. Its message about how people can have more than just one significant figure in their life is neglected.

Similarly, there is another message of the movie that could have been portrayed better. Although Po thought that there were no other pandas, and that having the opportunity to interact with other pandas would be a big deal in the movie, not much time was directed towards this. The pandas just felt like new faces, even though they should have felt important as a message about family and bonding. This message was only given attention in the climax, and it fitted awkwardly there; it seemed a bit out-of-the-blue and silly as the pandas ended up being key in defeating the villain Kai rather than Po himself. It felt like Po should have been capable by himself.

Po was tasked by his master to serve as a teacher, specifically to the "Furious Five," the elite kung fu fighting team in his land. He didn't end up teaching them even though he did grow to become a teacher. The "Furious Five" was an important group in the past two movies, yet it wasn't given much attention even though it should have. However, Po's training of the other pandas was entertaining and did highlight his growth. His battle with Kai emphasized the message of teamwork as he needed the other pandas - his family and friends - to help him, even though the message could have been placed better. The battle was a tad boring, but Kai was an interesting character. Problematically, Kai was similar to the other villains of the series in that he too was power hungry and fixed on conquering and revenge. Similarly, the message of "be yourself" was repeated in this movie, as it was in the other two, along with things like the exploration in self discovery and inner peace.

In some ways *Kung Fu Panda 3* felt like a mediocre clone of the other two movies. However, it had some unique and funny moments. The movie was by no means bad. As a movie just for kids, it will serve well to entertain. Unlike the past two movies, where a lot of the humor was catered to everyone, there weren't that many funny moments for older audiences. At times *Kung Fu Panda 3* was boring. Overall the movie could be better, but it was entertaining for most of the time.

What Not to Do

According to a Series of High School English Teachers

Alicia Katz, Junior
Reporter

Teachers tell me no. Throughout my high school career, teachers have all but thrown my papers back in my face with statements like "too many prepositions," "wrong punctuation placement" and "doesn't make sense." Most of these, I admit, are valid criticisms. I will be the first person to tell you that my writing is far from perfect and I do not believe in the coddling of children as a way of teaching. Having said all of that, I find myself frustrated because after years of instruction I continue making mistakes and not feeling as though I am improving. For years I have been told what not to do when writing. Now I'll share these same "rules" with you while simultaneously breaking them.

1) Do not use the first person and address the audience.

I am sure you have heard this one before. When you wish to be persuasive or make a strong point, it is not about you, but rather the subject. Now, this rule is beneficial to writers at the beginning of their careers. It keeps phrases like "I think" in the mind rather than on the paper. I have also been told to incorporate the first person into my writing and that personal anecdotes can increase the appeal when writing. So, really, you can tell me which is right.

2) Do not use an excessive amount of adjectives and adverbs.

Describing ideas using anything besides nouns and verbs is tantamount to lying in the eyes of some teachers. Every adverb and adjective written must be proved in order to be considered true. So, I am left with articles, nouns, verbs, and prepositions to carry me through my writing, unless I wish to prove my use of a certain adjective or adverb, which more often than not leads me on a useless tangent that clutters my writing. It seems silly to neglect some of the most beautiful words in our language based on their subjectivity.

3) Do not end a sentence with a preposition.

Does anyone really know the purpose of this one? I mean, I'm sure there is one, but to me it seems that leaving a preposition at the end of a sentence is informal. I've finished many sentences with a dangling preposition before. See? Not the end of the world? Still, even when reading someone else's work or listening to someone else speak, I become mildly irritated when he/she ends a sentence using a preposition.

These are only three of the many rules that I have been told, over and over and over again. I know these rules. I know the preferences of specific teachers. Despite all of this, I make the same mistakes over and over and over again. The problem then lies in the method. I am told what not to do, but not once am I told what to do.

(continued)

While not everybody loved the modern remake of the classic movie, *Grease: Live* made bold decisions in its casting and production that allowed the show to be as fun and exciting to watch as the original. FOX raised the bar for all other live musical events and that is a wonderful thing for viewers. A line spoken by both Danny and Sandy sums up the essence of the musical. "What's the point of livin' if you don't take a few chances?" *Grease: Live* took chances and that made the musical that much more memorable.

Headlight Staff 2015-2016

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