

Headlight



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

2015-2016 Issue

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Created Truths

Ben Birnbach, Sophomore
Reporter

A created truth is convenient
But to close the eyes

To disguise reality
Does but delay inevitability

To describe unknown
And weaken the trunk

Yet not accommodate in root
Of simple structure of ever hope

Destruction lies in overconfidence
In moral rights and ethical obligations

No wall can stand back true meaning
If it is to be heard

Misguided future
Is closer than believed

Thoughts of order
Keep loyal servants

Who restrain chaos
At the cost of entirety

A price collected untaxed
The treasury of desire lies filled

Long sought stability
Lies not within reach

But yet the door
Source of light not extinguished

Steady the course
Towards freedom

Domination the goals of past
Let learn the goal of tomorrow

Young Aspiring

Linda Fitzpatrick, Senior
Editor-in-Chief

This past week, social media has been abuzz with negativity towards Old Navy's newest clothing design for children. T-shirts with the words "Young Aspiring Artist President" or "Young Aspiring Artist Astronaut" are the center of this outrage. Customers are upset that Old Navy is discouraging artistic careers and marketing this message to children. This is especially surprising because most of Old Navy's marketing strategy has been done through artists themselves — including actresses Julia Louis-Dreyfus and Amy Poehler.

I don't think there is anything wrong with encouraging young children to aspire to become astronauts and presidents, but artists should be valued with as much importance. Art is engrained in our culture. We are entertained by art, surrounded by art, and yet, most of the time we neglect to truly acknowledge and value the art and artists in our lives.

As an artist myself — a writer — I have firsthand knowledge of the lack of appreciation by non-artistic individuals. Being a writer is one of the most important and often unnoticed forms of art within the world of entertainment. Think of all the brilliant movies and TV shows you have watched. Almost every person will praise the actors and directors for their work, but hardly ever does the screenwriter get the attention when it is the script that can make all the difference. To those of you who may believe that art should be a less valued job in our society, I disagree. Entertainment is highly persuasive, so the artists who are creating such entertainment actually hold a lot of power over viewers. They can choose to create to highlight problems in our world and educate our nation, and go beyond simply providing viewers with relaxation and a few laughs.

Growing up, I relied on art. While I did not always want to be a writer, I loved to be creative. And no matter what career a person desires, I believe that creativity is extremely important. We should be encouraging our children to be artists. Not everyone will want to dedicate their whole life to art as a formal field of study, but that does not mean they won't gain skill through working with colors, thinking outside the lines, and having the opportunity to create whatever their imagination can think up.

I understand that finding a job as an artist can be very difficult. As I head to college next year, an important factor to my family and me is making sure I set myself up for the best possible chance of finding a job. But finding a job is a concern to everyone, not just artists. We may have a tradition of thinking of all artists as poor twenty-somethings trying to make a living in an industry with fewer paying jobs, but that's just not completely accurate. Every twenty-something is trying to carve their way into a different business. Some careers are easier to break into than others, but that does not mean they are necessarily better. Astronauts and presidents will have just as difficult of a time securing a job as artists. The only real difference is the material each person is studying — politics, science, or art.

I personally think Old Navy has no business discouraging artists. I am especially saddened knowing that an artist designed this very anti-artist shirt. Any career has its side effects. Any career is unstable to some degree. Let's all aspire to do what we love and work hard through the challenges. Let's raise a nation of persistent dreamers who will make this world better instead of shying away from hard work. I personally am not going to be deterred from what I love doing because it ensures more uncertainty in the future than other careers; I hope you won't either.

The World is Your Canvas

Amanda Schillinger, Freshman
Reporter

My grandmother Bunny Hannaway lost a two-year battle to a brain tumor three months after my sixth birthday. I shared few moments and little time with her. I remember calling her Bebe, I remember that she was crazy (in a good way), that she cherished every moment with her family, she admired lighthouses and sunsets, she loved Elton John, and she specialized in watercolor painting. Bebe not only painted sunsets, but she urged us to observe them whenever possible. She often said to me,

"Watch the sunset every chance you get, because one sunset will never be the same as the next. Sunsets are a work of art as well as a part of the world's canvas."

At six years old, this didn't strike me as important. But as I grew, so did the meaning of what she told me.

I believe people should treat life like a canvas, as well as appreciate it like a work of art. I believe that we are handed this canvas to make it our own by making small gestures here and there to fill the canvas with as much color as possible, a little bit at a time. Not only should we fill the canvas with our own attempts at compassion, but we should also admire the small delicacies we create that are put into the canvas as we paint, like we should admire the small beauties in life itself.

A close friend I've known since fourth grade fills in her canvas one stroke at a time for each thank you letter she stamps, mails, and sends. A week after every birthday party of hers, I check my mail and there sits a pink envelope addressed to me. Tearing the seal and reading considerate, handwritten notes brings a smile to anyone's face, and my face is no exception. Can you imagine how happy the world would be if everyone frequently received letters like this? Just this small stroke of humanity adds to her painting of colorful gestures, and with each letter she mails, she paints on.

I can remember a day when I felt less than awake, dragging myself along and struggling to keep my eyes open. Days like this happen to everyone, but I never knew something other than a nap or a cup of coffee could cure me. As I trudged down the street, I walked past a boy who probably noticed my tired eyes. He gave me his best and most immense ear-to-ear grin, nodded hello, and kept walking. Just a smile and nod added more color to his painting. This small act of kindness made my day go from what would have been a long, sluggish one to a brighter and more hopeful day filled with the opportunity to make someone else's day.

The small tokens of consideration like this add life to the canvas. I'm not asking you to cure brain tumors or to paint the whole picture in one day. Take it one stroke at a time. I believe these small actions of pure generosity can most definitely make a huge difference in other people's lives. I believe we should not only perform these modest acts of goodness, but we should try to appreciate them like something as simple as a sunset, because it's the little gestures here and there that make the painting full of life and beauty. So, how will you paint your canvas?

This piece was read at the 2015 MVMS Graduation Ceremony.

The Drive

Becky Twaalfhoven, Junior
Editor-in-Chief

The winter vacations are difficult for a number of reasons. You have to go back to school and therefore have assignments to think about, and everyone is away or with family for several days. Most importantly, the weather is cold and usually dry, so it is difficult to go out when "out" isn't an option. One surprising activity that has fallen out of fashion is going for a drive. Now that cars rule the roads, traffic and time constraints take the enjoyment out of driving for most people, who spend hours driving every week just to get to where they need to be on time. But what if they drove for the sake of it, with no time limit or destination? The drive would be fun. Driving can be an escape from the house, the town, and responsibility. Even if it's only a 10-minute excursion, going somewhere new is refreshing, especially in Marblehead. There are countless commercials where cars are featured as part of an adventure, not just a mode of transportation. While it may seem hard to believe, it's true: the destination is not the only important part of a journey. When you go on a drive, you can pause what's going on in your life and look out at the rest of the world. Here are some tips for how to make the drive worth it:

1. Bring a friend. Share the moment with somebody who makes you happy. Keep a good conversation, or just sit in silence. Whatever mood you're in, bring someone with you who appreciates it.
2. Play good music. Music improves mood, especially upbeat music, and singing can be an outlet for anything kept bottled up. Even if the feeling evoked is negative, in the end the release of any sort of emotion is important.
3. Find a scenic route. The downside of driving as an enjoyable activity is that it could potentially fail; any number of hazards would ultimately make the driver feel worse. The key to a successful drive is choosing an easy, relaxing route where the driver doesn't have to make difficult decisions. For this reason, I recommend a trip in the early morning or at night, away from busy roads and residential areas (for example, Lynn Shore Drive and Nahant Road in Lynn).
4. Know your limits. If you're driving, the route should be one you have driven or know how to drive, especially in terms of speed limit and road hazards. The music should be supplemental but not overwhelming, and any passengers should know when to step back and allow you to focus on the road. Although it can be a leisure activity, driving is still a responsibility, and should be treated as such. Go drive. You choose where you go, how long you spend, and who you're with. You choose silence or noise. Even if it's only for a few minutes, it is an incredibly liberating experience to get up and just go.

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