

# Headlight



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

2015-2016 Issue

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## Republican

Amber Born, Junior  
Reporter

Remember the 2012 election? Mitt Romney and Rick Santorum were the two frontrunners (Santorum was the anti-Romney and Romney was the Romney) and Newt Gingrich was the comic relief, partially because he was funny but mostly because his name is Newt Gingrich. Ron Paul was also there, I think. That election was so boring compared to whatever it is that's happening right now. As the numbers stand currently, Donald Trump is in the lead with 678 delegates, Ted Cruz has 423, and John Kasich has 143. Things are a lot more difficult than they were in 2012. Rick Santorum only got 245 delegates in 2012, and people actually liked him. The problem with Trump and Cruz right now is that the Republican establishment doesn't really like either of them. They're even looking into having a brokered/contested/open convention in order to prevent Trump and/or Cruz from securing the nomination. Since the Republicans are considering their options, mostly people who aren't even running (they aren't considering Kasich for some reason, possibly because they don't know who he is), I'd like to make some suggestions on who the Republicans should nominate should there be a contested convention.

1. Who: John Kasich

Why: He's the only Republican still running that isn't Trump or Cruz. Call me old-fashioned, but I'd like the nominee to be someone who's actually running for president. Also, here's what he said about the idea of a brokered convention: "It's exciting...I think it will be very cool." You have to support a candidate who talks about a brokered convention like a Star Wars fan talks about Episode VIII.

2. Who: Sarah Palin

Why: It'd be funny if the Republicans voted down Trump and replaced him with Trumpette.

3. Who: Stephen Colbert, in character

Why: I miss the character now that the real Colbert is hosting The Late Show. He would also make the debates more entertaining than they would be with traditional politicians, and he's probably more knowledgeable than a lot of them. Who: a hologram version of Ronald Reagan

Why: He's the only Republican that Republicans ever mention favorably, so I think he'd have a good chance in the general election. Though it would also be nice if Trump won first and then Reagan ran against him in 2020, mostly so Reagan could say, "Mr. Trump, tear down this wall."

5. Who: Adele

Why: I know she's not American, a Republican, or old enough to be president, but she's more universally beloved than any actual politicians. She could win Grammys for her debate performances. She's popular in almost every demographic, so she could easily win the general election. And if she lost...well, at least she could say that she tried.

## Refugee Crisis Part 1

Sophie Mae Berman, Sophomore  
Reporter

Conflict in Syria, violence in Afghanistan, Iraq, and Eritrea, and poverty in Kosovo continue, driving a massive surge of refugees into Europe. As families flee from destitution and violence, world leaders argue about policy; what should be done to solve this rapidly swelling global problem? "Trembling in their house in the blasted-out Syrian city of Homs, Ahmad, his wife, his son and his daughter listened for the barrel of bombs. They had been falling on the neighborhood for three days with the frequency of raindrops... the conflict assumed a terrifying regularity. The buzz of a warplane. Then a deep, heavy thump as yet another structure in their corner of the city was blown to smithereens. And then there were the knocks on the door two houses down... a frenzy of violence. The neighbors were not strong enough to keep out the soldiers. The women in the house were raped before their throats were slit. The men were simply shot. Ahmad and his family took what they could carry and ran..." (Kingsbury). In September, The Boston Globe and Wall Street Journal headlines were dominated by the global migration crisis of desperate families and children fleeing their native countries in fear of their lives, while clinging to the desperate hope of beginning new ones. Imagine the entire population of the state of Connecticut scrambling fearfully to save their lives, paying smugglers \$1800 per person to board rubber rafts that might lead to safety after traveling two hours across the sea. Huddled families, often propelling themselves with a single oar or "clawing at the sea with cupped hands" face this challenge daily, many drowning in the process. The massive population of the state of Connecticut would not quite equal the 4 MILLION refugees who have fled Syria alone since its civil war began in 2011, precipitated by peaceful prodemocracy protests. Half of Syria's refugees crossed the Aegean Sea into Turkey, landing first on the island of Lesbos where 2,000 people still arrive daily (Sacchetti).

## Crisis

Becky Twaalfhoven, Junior  
Editor-in-Chief

This article is dedicated to my classmates, who silently suffer behind a facade of calm and collected control. This is for the juniors who have no idea what they are doing yet, who don't know how to start planning and, up until recently, hadn't thought much about college. This is for those of my peers who are overwhelmed with the sudden onslaught of information and deadlines and demands and applications and transcripts and requests and forms and obligations.

I feel your pain.

Heading into junior year, I expected constant pressure and preparation for college. I was excited to "do college stuff" and slowly build up my confidence with thinking about the future. I was not at all prepared for what actually happened.

The "college stuff" hit like a tidal wave in the first week of March. One morning I was sitting in a study and happened to see an email from a teacher to all of his students, telling us that he would only accept 12 students who requested letters of recommendation from him, and had in fact already promised 3 of those. It took me a few moments to figure out that he meant college recommendations. College. I hadn't even thought about recommendations yet. I promptly ran to my guidance counselor to get whatever I needed for whatever he was talking about - a form, as it turned out, to sign guaranteeing his recommendation for my applications. I spent the entire day running around the school to find him, checking during and between every class with a racing heart and shaking hands. I turned in a math quiz with an empty answer simply to catch him during a transition, only to hear that he had already accepted 12. I was lucky enough to score an unprecedented 13th spot - a testament, I think, to my fanatical drive to get that signature - and, thankfully, my math grade didn't suffer. But this was it: day one of crisis mode.

As it turns out, I was at a slight disadvantage in the college preparation process, as my English class missed a two-day guidance seminar due to a counselor's absence. The next week in the seminar, we got request forms, which theoretically are still not due. The counselor attempted to explain the many packets of information and forms we received, setting a due date in early May to "give us time to think," but the damage was done. The crisis of college was upon us. The counselor also showed us how to narrow down a list of schools we're thinking about based on our preferences. "What if we don't have any preferences?" I ask. "That's okay; you'll still narrow down your list." He was utterly wrong. By the end of class, when people printed their lists of 50-100 schools, I was stuck at 463 wondering whether I can envision myself at a school where bagpiping is a major. I'm still at 463.

The information guidance gave us is only a small piece of the torrent released two weeks ago. For example, course selections for next year were due as part of a drive to get schedules for next year finalized by this spring. This wouldn't be a stressor if not for the sudden reminders that everything you do in school is important for your future and will go on your application and you should really think about who you are and what you want in life because whether or not you take Film Studies next year determines what your future will be.

For some students, including myself, applying for National Honor Society was just another weight to add to the increasingly heavy list of stressors dragging us down. I had to collect signatures, write four papers, secure teacher recommendations, and attempt to convince a mysterious board of "unknown" teachers that I am a good person within two weeks, during which time I experienced the worst side effect of achievement: insecurity. Every morning another distraught friend would confide in me, sharing their deepest fears that 100 hours of helping homeless children was not impressive enough or that nobody would believe they walked 50 miles for cancer. This is not a new phenomenon by any means, but as I was applying myself, I felt the strain of trying to find confidence while constantly confronted with other people's accomplishments. My crisis level was on high for those two weeks; nothing else seemed as important as acceptance to the "renowned" society.

I won't address standardized tests, because they are a separate beast and deserve their own tribute; but they are an integral factor in the heightened anxiety of these months.

There comes a point where you have to recognize that the crisis is all in your head. This is not to say that the stress is not real, because it most certainly is a very real force, but the panic and sense of impending doom are by-products of that stress. I'm sharing my experiences because it bothers me that I have to tell people that junior year is "good," and I want others to know they are not alone in crisis. I won't say that everyone is in the same boat, because we all know that is not the case; some people really do have college counselors and talk to admissions officers and go on 12 college tours in 3 days. But for the majority of students, the college process is a smack in the face and an unwanted reminder that the future isn't so far away. For anyone who feels lost, blind, or helpless, you're on the right track. Everyone needs an existential crisis every once in a while, and I recommend questioning your identity at least twice a month to keep you in touch with yourself and remind yourself of what matters.

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