

# Headlight



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

2015-2016 Issue

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March 31, 2016

## The Importance of Being an Artist

Kyra Veprek, Junior  
Reporter

If you had told me three years ago that I would voluntarily be taking an art elective, I would have laughed. Growing up, I was always a fan of coloring pages and would often brag about my ability to color in the lines. As I grew more competent, I began taking art classes at the Acorn Gallery and even believed I had a career in painting one day. The downfall came in middle school when we were assigned a self portrait project. The assignment was to draw a large scale free-hand portrait of your face according to your mirror reflection. Being the over-confident middle schooler most of us were, I was eager to show off to my peers my silver-key worthy masterpiece of a portrait; however, as I struggled to replicate the contours of my face and found myself with a drawing that only looked partially human, I realized I was poor at drawing. As I watched my peers produce works that took on some semblance of themselves, I developed a personal vendetta against drawing. From that point on, the pencil was not my friend, and I would not be in an art class if I had the choice.

After this brief history of my experience with art, I'm sure you can imagine my displeasure when finding out I was expected to develop a portfolio that contained "multiple forms of media" when applying for the architecture schools and programs I am interested in for college. For my love of the field, I sacrificed my study blocks to take an art class. In search of the class that I believed would take the least amount of artistic ability, I signed up for "CP1 Art Foundations," and found myself in this second-semester of junior year sitting in my first art class of high school.

Our first major assignment was a large scale value drawing, which entailed copying a still-life set up for us in class and shading it according to what we saw. In the weeks leading up to this assignment, we had completed only small-scale contour drawings, which only required you to draw basic lines to represent images, meaning it was okay if your drawing looked like a random squiggle. Entering this class, I assumed there would eventually be some sort of large-scale drawing but my fear of creating a lopsided figure drawing that I would later be expected to shamefully share with the class kept me from feeling much enthusiasm; but, with the proper coaching from Ms. Branham, and my other less-confident desk-mates, I began to draw what would later become my favorite high school project.

I was cautious with the first steps of the illustration; drawing permanent lines that will later be presented as a final drawing is scary when you are not accustomed to this sort of commitment. With each class, however, I watched as these lines came together to make shapes and these shapes came together to somewhat represent the still life. Was my drawing accurate and proportional? No, not at all. But, I found myself looking forward to class each day because of the peace I found in drawing lines and shading. For one hour each day, I felt I was able to release any pent-up stress through this pencil onto paper at my own will. Art allows freedom that pretty much no other area of life offers; whether I want to draw in acute detail, or large scribbles, or with dots is my decision. And so I learned to cherish my every minute in CP1 Art Foundations.

There are a lot of lessons you could take from this story: never give up, do what you love, not what you're good at, always keep an open mind. The most important thing to take away from this, however, is that you need to make time for art. No matter what walk of life you are in, voluntarily focusing on something other than work is therapeutic. From coloring, to painting, to doodling, to sculpting, creative activities work to lessen stress and promote confident thinking. Can I say my artistic abilities have improved? Eh, kind of. Can I say I've found my favorite cure for stress? Absolutely.

## Refugee Crisis: Part 2

Sophie Mae Berman, Sophomore  
Reporter

Masses of refugees and migrants are fleeing Iraq, Pakistan, Iran, Afghanistan and other countries, with a total of approximately *60 million refugees worldwide*. As the largest European Union country, Germany has been a "top destination" for the massive swell of migrants. This week, Germany has opted to establish temporary border controls by imposing document checks of people entering the country. This decision, a direct contradiction to the "cornerstone of European integration: open borders," was implemented according to German Interior Minister Thomas de Maizière as "a signal to Europe that the government will live up to its humanitarian responsibility. But the burden connected with the large number of refugees must be distributed in solidarity throughout Europe"(Troianovski/Thomas).

Although the United States has spent an enormous \$4 billion dollars in humanitarian aid to Syrians since their civil war began, only about 1500 Syrian immigrants have been allowed into the U.S. President Obama has requested that the U.S. accept 10,000 Syrian refugees. Republican Senator Lindsay Graham also supports the U.S. taking in immigrants, noting that our failure to do so would warrant "tearing down the Statue of Liberty because we don't mean it anymore" (Kingsbury).

Not everyone agrees with these positions, however. Many take note of how poorly the United States treats its own veterans, our own debt, and our cuts in desperately needed domestic programs. *What do you think of the current worldwide migrant refugee crisis? What is our responsibility in the United States?*

European Union leaders seek a deal with Turkey to slow the flow of migrants by sea to Greece, yet a few countries are opposed to the recently formed agreement, such as Cyprus. Leaders of the European Union's 28 nations plan to meet in Brussels this week with the hopes of resolving the disagreements on a proposed pact with Turkey, established on March 7; the pact would permit Greece to return migrants to Turkey as Europe opens new ways for prescreened migrants to seek asylum legally. In return for agreement with this novel refugee pact, Turkey wishes to be part of the European Union. Amidst these negotiations, Cyprus lies divided with a Greek dominated south and a Turkish militarized north. With millions of refugees seeking immediate relief from physically threatening conditions, a resolution must be reached.

## Rapper Phife Dawg of A Tribe Called Quest Dies at 45

Aidan Collins, Sophomore  
Reporter

Malik Taylor, or better known by his stage name Phife Dawg, passed away Tuesday, March 22, according to a statement made by his family. His death resulted from long term problems stemming from his type one diabetes, which was first diagnosed in 1990. Taylor, who grew up in Queens, New York, was a rapper and founding member of A Tribe Called Quest, along with his childhood friend Q-Tip (Jonathan Davis) and his classmate, Ali Shaheed Muhammad. The rap group paved the way for alternative rap styles as they infused their music with jazz instrumentals.

In 1990 they dropped their first album, *People's Instinctive Travels and the Paths of Rhythm*, which jump-started their career to become one of the most critically acclaimed rap groups in history. In subsequent years, they released *The Low End Theory*, which was named #154 on *Rolling Stone's* Best 500 Albums of All Time, and *Midnight Marauders*, which spawned the famous singles "Electric Relaxation" and "Award Tour." In "Electric Relaxation," he opens with one of the most memorable lines, "I like 'em brown, yellow, Puerto Rican or Haitian/Name is Phife Dawg from the Zulu Nation," delivered with his sharp confidence. Phife, with his unique high pitched-voice, was known for bouncing rhymes off of the Q-Tip's butter smooth flow with a balance of verses that Chinese philosophers would be jealous of. He brought the energy and humor that was so beloved by fans. His contribution to the group was key to their success and led to a string of five albums that would immortalize Tribe in hip hop history.

In 1998 the group split due to internal strife and led to the start of the members' solo careers. Tip went on to boom and find fame while Phife was sidetracked by his declining health. In Tribe's documentary, he went on to say that he was in denial but soon had to accept the harsh truth that if he did not do anything about his disease, it would destroy him. Phife would reunite with the group for live shows, in part to pay for the medical costs that plagued him. In 2008 Taylor underwent a kidney transplant during his battle with diabetes, a common outcome for those afflicted. Finally, at the young age of 45, his life was sadly taken. This can be a lesson for many people who do not understand the true danger of diabetes. Many people are ignorant and fail to capture the harmful toll that type 1 and type 2 diabetes take, especially on the black and Hispanic populations, which statistically have a higher chance of developing it.

Malik Taylor will be remembered for his sincere kindness, his deep love for his family, and devotion to God. Hip hop fans around the world mourn the loss of such a legend. Complex lyrics were only part of what made him such a good rapper; his style would go on to influence many future performers. In a time when gangster rap was at its height, A Tribe Called Quest gave birth to a subgenre that inspired Pharrell, Kanye West, and The Roots. Even in his toughest times, he always had a positive outlook on the road ahead of him. May Phife Dawg rest in peace and his creativity as an artist never be forgotten.

## Take a Moment to Say Thank You

Jake Emerick, Sophomore  
Reporter

Take a moment to think of all the people you interact with on a daily basis. Try to think of all the things they do for you. You probably thought of your mom, dad, siblings, friends and maybe even your dog. Now try to think of some of the people you might have missed. The people I'm referring to are the ones with the occupations we usually don't appreciate as much as we should such as janitors, lunch ladies, garbage men, cashiers and all of the other people who quietly serve. Next time you see a janitor laboring after school cleaning up our messes, stop and say thank you. When a lunch lady serves you, look her in the eyes and say thank you to her.

There are so many people who serve us and we take their services for granted, and yet our lives would be impacted greatly if we didn't have these hard working people in our lives. So the next time you are served take a moment to look at the person's eyes and say thank you because you know that without them faithfully doing their job for you, your life would be much harder.

## Attention Seniors!

The application deadline for Marblehead Dollars for Scholars is tomorrow, Friday, April 1. Seniors who demonstrate financial need are encouraged to apply for a scholarship by visiting the following website and creating their online profile:

[www.marblehead.dollarsforscholars.org](http://www.marblehead.dollarsforscholars.org)

Questions can be directed to the High School Awards Committee:

Day Newburg at [daynewburg@gmail.com](mailto:daynewburg@gmail.com), Mary Ellen Hart at [orrams12351@aol.com](mailto:orrams12351@aol.com), EuRim Chun at [eurimchun@gmail.com](mailto:eurimchun@gmail.com), Patricia Rockett at [orprockett@com-cast.net](mailto:orprockett@com-cast.net), or Jenn Schaeffner at [jenschaeffner@aol.com](mailto:jenschaeffner@aol.com)

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