

# Headlight



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

2015-2016 Issue

www.mhsheadlight.weebly.com

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## Let's Light Up the Town

Linda Fitzpatrick, Senior  
Editor-in-Chief

Yesterday was Veteran's Day, a day to share our love and support for the men and women who have served our country. Being a singer in MHS's Mixed Choir allows me to spend my day off at Abbot Hall celebrating and awarding members of our own community for their bravery and courageous life decisions. I'll be honest, I'm always a bit surprised at the amount of people who are acknowledged. To our privilege, war seems foreign, but we must remember that we are surrounded by individuals who have seen and participated in far more than we can imagine. As terrible as it is to admit, those of us who do not have someone actively serving in the Army, Marines or other branch of service can too easily forget what's happening around the world – that men and women are placing themselves in harm's way to keep us safe. Veteran's Day, the news, and even the airport can provide certain reminders of this important service and heroism in our midst.

My whole body stops when I see someone in uniform. The work boots, recently trendy again with teenagers, paired with the dusty green jump suit strike me worthy of a pause for gratitude, thanks, and awe. I'm always tentative in these circumstances. Do I approach the stranger and thank them for all they've done — typical to what you hear about on the news or in movies? And what about when they are out of uniform and can't be immediately recognized as a veteran? How do I show my gratitude?

Sometimes I feel like Veterans are depicted as foreign people, with whom we could never understand or even know for that matter. But they are far from that. They are our country's backbone, living as our teachers, parents, siblings, neighbors, fellow townsmen. They surround us, yet we forget to acknowledge them and share our gratitude when they are out of uniform. We forget about them when there is no reminder. That is a shame — one of the major faults of our society.

I am grateful for the fact that my mother works at Home Base, a partnership of the Red Sox Foundation and Massachusetts General Hospital, because I am always reminded of how difficult it can be for veterans to return home after deployment(s). I have a better understanding of PTSD, TBI, and the complications our country's warriors face. Home Base, and other similar organizations, help support veterans so that they are able to reestablish themselves in their community and families in a healthy manner. The tagline for Home Base says it all: Their Mission is Complete. Ours has just begun.

But, I still haven't figured out an answer to my question. How do I share my appreciation for active duty service men and women and veterans all year round? How do I make sure they realize that we as a country, state, and town have not forgotten about them?

As an elementary student, I used to send care packages with my class. Today, I turned my light to green, thanks to Greenlight A Vet. This campaign is an effort to "establish visible national support for our veterans by changing one light to green."

The term "greenlight" refers to forward movement, which is exactly what the campaign seeks to do to make veterans in our society visible when they return home and are "more camouflaged than ever." There are currently 610,052 people supporting this effort to express thanks to veterans and the number of supporters continues to rise as I write this. However, there is more work to do, America. We are a nation of over 318.9 million people. Imagine what it would be like to have our whole nation come together as one to celebrate our veterans on more days than just holidays. I dare each and every one of you to change one light to green this November, as you prepare for Thanksgiving. Because green isn't just a color anymore. It is a symbol of "hope, renewal, and well-being." It is our community recognizing our heroes.

But why stop there? There are thousands of ways to show appreciation for our veterans. The Love the Give foundation has teamed up with the Bob Woodruff Foundation in a social media campaign everyone can be a part of. All you have to do is post on Twitter, Facebook, Instagram, or Google+ #GIVE2VETERANS to donate \$1 towards the cause now through November 15th. These organizations pledge to donate up to a total amount of \$500,000 by the end of the campaign.

This holiday season, remember never to forget about our country's veterans. Whatever campaign you connect with most, I encourage you to take part in any way you can to show our veterans we appreciate them always.

## What: The New Way to be Popular

Alicia Katz, Junior  
Reporter

As a fan of comedy, I have logged many hours watching stand-up and television programs written by people like George Carlin and Louis C.K., and even some rising stars like Anthony Jeselnik and Aziz Ansari. In my addiction to laugh, I stumbled upon Bo Burnham. He is a young, rather awkward comedian who has proven time and time again his place in the community. I am attending his show *Happy* next week, and in order to prepare I watched his last show, *What*, for, I'm sure, the hundredth time.

Bo Burnham grew up in Hamilton, Massachusetts and attended St. John's Preparatory School. His popularity began to ascend due to a large following on YouTube. Currently he has over 900,000 subscribers. In 2010 he released his first comedy special *Words Words Words*, which aired on Comedy Central. *Zach Stone is Going to Be Famous* was created by Bo Burnham in 2013 but was canceled after one season due to the audience not understanding the satire, as well as lack of promotion. He continued to pursue comedy despite this failure. *What* was released in 2013, along with his poetry book, "Egghead."

*What* is a special kind of comedy that is rarely done by adult comedians. He writes music and incorporates his songs into his shows. He also talks about very controversial subjects and creates arguments in his show. He is not afraid to be audacious. He is very concise about his opinions on religion, comedy and even himself. He is honest about the world as he perceives it. Much of comedy is like this; Bo's approach, however, makes him unique. Although he is not appropriate for all, his show is not vulgar or gratuitous. If he uses a mature idea, it is to emphasize his opinion and not to solely produce a laugh. It is refreshing to listen to him sing about ideas and concepts that are not addressed in pop culture. Bo's ability to observe and evaluate what he sees is only improved upon by his translation of those ideas into song and comedy.

Bo Burnham is a new type of comedian. He rose from YouTube and was able to use his internet fame to get an MTV show and pursue his passion. So much of what was known about media is changing with the new ability for anyone to follow their passions simply by owning a computer. This is becoming a world controlled by popular opinion, not what is produced in studios and shoved down the throat of the consumer. Creators and visionaries are the true artists of today.

If you find yourself bored with the overproduced puppets that cloud true talent and passion, I encourage you to watch *What* and explore people like Bo Burnham - people who do what they love because they are far more entertaining than those who work for a paycheck.

## This Week in Politics

Amber Born, Junior  
Reporter

Two of my favorite political moments of the 2016 campaign season so far happened this week. First, Jeb Bush announced his new campaign slogan, "Jeb Can Fix It." I assume he meant that he can fix America, but there are a plethora of other things he should be fixing, like his poll numbers. And he might want to fix the problem of having a staff full of people who either didn't notice or didn't mention to Jeb that his slogan sounds an awful lot like something Bob the Builder would campaign on. Many people have also facetiously written that "Jeb Can Fix It" refers to the 2000 presidential election, something Jeb should probably never speak of. I'd like to suggest a new campaign song for Jeb, which fits with his accidental Bob the Builder theme: "Jeb the third Bush, can he fix it? Jeb the third Bush, no he can't."

Ben Carson has done lots of questionable things in his quest for president, but his absolute best (worst?) decision so far has been to run an ad that tries to appeal to black voters with the power of rap. I mean, it's not like this is the first time anyone has tried to do this...actually, yes, it seems to be the first time that a reasonably popular candidate has tried to reboot his campaign with rap. But it's not so far-fetched. Andrew Jackson distilled the election of 1824 into the slogan "John Quincy Adams who can write, or Andrew Jackson who can fight," which, aside from making Jackson sound illiterate, is basically a rap battle waiting to happen. Carson is just taking the idea of political slogans to their logical conclusion. I doubt it won him the black vote, but maybe it won him the rap vote.

In the continuing saga of unusual presidential candidates, I'd like to introduce you to some third party candidates. There are apparently lots of other political parties, and I'm not talking about independents. I was scrolling through the complete list of candidates on politics1.com and was shocked to see some of the parties. I was hoping for a Whig or a Federalist, but I had to settle for Transhumanists and Cherry-Pickers. Here are some of the more interesting third-party candidates that I found:

1. J.D. Criveau is a Constitutionist from Virginia. I watched part of his 2016 "LETTER OF INTRODUCTION FOR PRESIDENTIAL CAMPAIGN," and apparently he received over 8 million write-in votes in 2008, but I guess his career has been declining lately, because the video had 22 views. His website contains what is one of the greatest things I have ever read. There are lots of gems on Criveau's website, like on the top of his homepage, where he writes that there are several people copying him by saying they are running for president, but my favorite thing he said is this: "I have shown you that yes I am a very strong leader, I also have shown to all that I will keep my word, by several actions on the internet, and you all know I do not make promises unless I can keep them, THOUGH YES I AM A TERRIBEL SPELLER." That's the kind of honesty America needs, though I worry about what his educational policies would look like. Or should I say EDUCATIONEL POLICES?

2. My last article about this profiled candidates from Idaho, Nevada, New York, and Florida. If you thought Massachusetts was beyond this sort of political ridiculousness, you thought wrong. Here comes Frank DeCota, an independent from Massachusetts. He does actually have a specific plan for what he will do if elected, though some ideas are a little vague. He wants to end most foreign aid, eradicate American homelessness and poverty, and end participation in the UN. He will "ride into Washington DC on a bike named Accountability," because it's "all about ACCOUNTABILITY."

3. "Santa" Roy Clark is an Independent from Kentucky. Yes, Kentucky, there is a Santa Claus, and he could be president. Clark's top two goals, according to his website, are to run a social media campaign and to utilize the government's assets, in that order, so he has good priorities.

4. Joseph Bannerman is an Independent from Alabama. He says he's an ordained minister and he has won several awards, like the MVP award for Academic Bowl and the All-A-Honor Roll. Also, he's a high schooler. He forgot to finish making his website, so his "List of Issues" contains topics like education, healthcare, and the environment, but underneath them are default paragraphs reminding him to add his own text. I'm not mocking Bannerman, though. If he wins, I'd like him to consider me for Secretary of State, since apparently we're not doing the whole "you must be thirty-five in order to be President" thing anymore.

5. Zoltan Istvan is a Transhumanist from California. Oh, you've never heard of the Transhumanist Party? Well, Istvan says that the goal of transhumanism is to conquer death. His policies are based on science and technology, with his platform including ideas like implementing a Transhumanist Bill of Rights, "real-time democracy" and "mandatory preschool and college education in the age of longer lifespans." He also wants to reboot the space program, so if elected, he can probably put a man-robot on the moon.

## Lana Del Rey: A Trailblazer in Music

Maeve Reilly, Junior  
Reporter

Every year, Billboard honors females in the music industry, of varying genres and positions, through the annual Women in Music magazine print and invitation only event. Billboard describes this as their special way of recognizing women who "drive [the] business forward with their vision, dedication, and hard work." This year the publication will be released in late fall and the ceremony for those being honored will be held on December 11 in New York. Leading up to this anticipated printing, the music charts magazine has been announcing the recipients of certain awards. Demi Lovato will be receiving the Rule Breaker Award, Selena Gomez will be given with the Chart Topper Award, and Lady Gaga will be honored as Woman of the Year. On Friday, Billboard released that this year, the Trailblazer award will be given to Lana Del Rey, an artist who could not possibly be a more deserving recipient.

In the past three years, Lana Del Rey has released three albums and one EP, each of which has a different sound than the last. Del Rey is both prolific and wide ranging in the music she has created. Her first album, *Born to Die*, released in 2012, was heavily rooted in hip hop, techno and dance influence. Since then, Del Rey has fearlessly explored both rock and jazz inspired sounds. However, in every song she releases, she maintains her distinct musical identity. The themes of Del Rey's lyrics, the rich and deep quality of her voice, and the unpredictable melodies she writes combine to create an aura that cannot be replicated.

While Lana Del Rey's sound is one-of-a-kind and all her own, she certainly has served as inspiration for other female musical artists, such as 19 year old New Zealander, Lorde. Most notably, it has been wildly speculated that Taylor Swift drew inspiration from Del Rey's lyrics and music videos in the making of her latest hit song and video off the 1989 album, "Wildest Dreams." Similarities can be seen between Swift's lyrics, breathy tone, and video aesthetic, and those of Del Rey's earlier work.

Despite Lana Del Rey's obvious talent and versatility, she hasn't yet received the full recognition she deserves. Even though she has a following of diehard fans, she has never reached the same level of widespread popularity as many mainstream female artists, most of whom with much less to offer than Del Rey. Hopefully, with this upcoming award, Lana Del Rey will be one step closer to getting the credit she has rightfully earned. With any luck, readers of the popular magazine will start to see Del Rey for who she is, an incredibly unique artist who has continuously taken risks and "blazed trails" for women in the music industry.

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