

Headlight

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

mhsheadlight.weebly.com

A Discourse on Sequestration

Dan Rosenberg
Editor-in-Chief, Junior

A disconcerting and relatively recent theme in political discourse has been the idea of holding the American people hostage. It's something that has become commonplace for both parties to do: if there is a law that is distasteful to the Democrats, or to the Republicans, they end up basically threatening the future of the American people. We see this right now, with the sequestration crisis; we saw it a couple of months ago, when America seemed poised to go off the fiscal cliff; and we saw it even before then, when the Senate was trying to raise the debt ceiling.

The reason this should be such a worry for the American people is because we are the ones who have elected these representatives into office. They are meant to protect our interests, and pass laws that will help us. However it seems that the interests of the American people have become merely bargaining chips, played when in order to block partisan laws from passing. Instead of being helped, it seems we are being held hostage. It

appears that politicians have adopted the mindset that if they go down, they're bringing the country down with them. It's not okay. The whole purpose of elected officials is to establish stability for their constituents. Using us as bargaining chips is just the opposite of that.

Of course, the easiest way to fix this problem is to change political discourse away from the ideas of each party, and back to the needs of the people. The focus of our political machine needs to be less upon the fights in Washington, and more on the conflicts at home: the single mother struggling to support her kids, the family with a father in Iraq. That's the real foundation of America, not the senators and congressmen, not the president and his cabinet, rather the average man. The one who struggles and fights for his place in America. And he shouldn't be held hostage by his government; he should be cherished, protected, and guided. America was founded upon the principles of life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. It's time politics returns to those roots, and upholds the natural rights of man instead of tearing them down.

Junior Auction is March 8th!

All adults are welcomed and encouraged to attend, and proceeds go to fund the Junior Class of MHS

Media Drawbacks

Shanna Smith
Reporter-in-the-Field, Junior

Today's media is looked down upon for so many reasons: it's invasive, controversial, and often spreads "facts" that essentially amount to lies. But nothing is more distasteful than the media's effect on the way girls look at themselves.

The reason behind teenagers' self-consciousness is crystal clear; the media depicts unrealistically tall and skinny girls, who adolescents try to emulate just to fit in. How many times do you glance at a magazine display and see a cover story of a celebrity's most recent weight loss?

There are many means by which the media enforces this self-consciousness on girls, the most important being celebrities' and models' appearances. It seems like every celebrity is either stick thin or is looked down upon for being "fat." I cannot count how many times I have seen an average-weight celebrity be called overweight or been slammed for not dieting on Entertainment Tonight or in People magazine. These are images and ideas that remain with impressionable girls, and create an ideal that is impossible for girls to attain.

However, society's version of "beautiful" does not only come from celebrities. Models in almost every clothing advertisement have the "ideal body": long legs, a flat stomach, and virtually no body fat. And, to make it worse, many models are touched up to seem even thinner. Adolescents strive to look exactly like models in magazines, but the models don't even look like that! Designers hire models with the good intention of promoting their product

to draw in customers. It seems, however, that this deed has done more harm than good.

Why must only tall and skinny girls, who represent a very small percentage of society, be the faces of clothing stores? Wouldn't it make more sense for an average-weight, average-height model to show off the clothing? This way, customers can see what the store's clothes actually look like, instead of being misled by how outfits look on the "ideal" body. And if more average-size models were employed, wouldn't celebrities stop obsessing over losing weight, and then wouldn't society stop striving to be stick thin?

After asking the above question to almost every girl and woman I know, I received the same response: stores must use tall and skinny models because they make their clothes appealing. If one store began to use "normal size" models, no one would buy their clothes. Although this answer is true in our society right now, it doesn't have to be. Whether we know it or not, our views of beauty are based on what the media tells us is beautiful. If every store begins to use models of all shapes and sizes, and every magazine stops showing off the most recent celebrity weight loss, it seems like this problem could slowly but surely be fixed. It will take a while, but once society stops telling girls what their body shape should be, these same women might finally be able to be comfortable in their own skin.

Horoscopes

Grace Perry
Editor-in-Chief, Junior

Feeling anxious about March? Curious about what your future holds? If so, check out these MHS inspired horoscopes. If unsure of your horoscope sign, refer to the birth months below. If you are a Sagittarius, Capricorn, Aquarius or Pisces, please refer to our next issue.

Aries, March 21st-April 19th

It is your month, Aries. You will find yourself open to productivity. Maybe even creating your own birthday cake? As an Aries, you believe there is a certain beauty in privacy. I encourage you to settle down and find time to appreciate the little things. Find some free time for yourself and get to work! Whether that be cleaning out your room or re-organizing your schedule, be open to change. Great things are bound to come your way.

Taurus, April 20th-May 20th

Congrat's, dear Taurus! Last month you found yourself in a position of power. Whether inside or outside of MHS, you have led yourself in a great direction. Be sure to stay in control and do not sell yourself short. If you have recently gotten an amazing test grade, stick with it, and continue working hard. It will pay off in the long run. Do not lose focus. There may be a few distractions at hand, but with a little determination, you shall conquer all obstacles. Good luck and good job.

Gemini, May 20th-June 20th

Be careful this month, Gemini. This month is going to be quite controversial. You may meet someone that sparks your interest. Be cautious. Be true to who you are, as well. March proves to be the month of love for you. Watch out, Cupid may strike.

Cancer, June 21st-July 22nd

As a summer child, you have been ready to get out of MHS and into the sunshine. Don't worry friend, the ground hog saw his shadow. Spring will hopefully come soon. With this month, sunshine shall bring great happiness to your life. Get outside and out of that cave that you call a bedroom. Be open to new experiences and breathe in some fresh air. Life is good.

Leo, July 23rd-Aug 22nd

As a Leo, we are full of the unexpected. We are outgoing and courageous, yet centered and ambitious. Dear Leo, try and stay out of the crowd this month. Try a new food or find a new hobby that lets you be creative. You are a creative and unique individual, so why not show it? I see a nervous and lazy energy in your horizon, break free and explore.

Virgo, Aug 23rd-Sept 22nd

Why, hello Virgo! This month you may find yourself emerging into a beautiful human being. I encourage you to be helpful to others. Do something selfless. You know what they say: treat people the way you want to be treated.

Libra, Sept 23rd-Oct 22nd

You may find yourself bored this month. Time is just not on your side. You seem to have too much or too little of it. I encourage you to make a change. Spring tryouts are approaching, maybe join a sport! Or even Headlight. Whatever change it may be, I promise it shall spice up your life.

Scorpio, Oct 23rd-Nov 21st

Welcome to March 2013 Scorpio. Apparently this month is all for you. Get excited. Romance and new found fun are bound to come your way. Yet, be responsible with every decision you make. Just don't party on school nights.

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