

Headlight

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

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Juvenile Detention

Dan Rosenberg
Editor-in-Chief, Junior

There are some scary things going on in the world today. Looking at CNN, there are stories about the threat of the North Korean nuclear program, bombings in Afghanistan, and turmoil in the economy. But a story that struck me recently was one involving two preteens, who conspired to hurt a fellow classmate. The interesting thing about this story was that these children, these fifth graders, were being tried as adults in court. I found this astounding that, even with such a heinous crime, these children could be tried as adults. After a bit of digging, I found that children as young as 10 years old can be tried as adults in America. More than anything, that scares me as a member of American society; how can we have our young people committing larceny, assault, or even murder?

The first part of this that jumps out to me is the availability of illegal substances and activities to teens and preteens. Drug and alcohol usage is increasingly more common amongst young people; often these substances act as a gateway, putting juveniles on a path of crime. Juvenile courts, in order to combat these issues, focus on rehabilitation. But if tried as adults, the adolescents often don't have access to these youth-oriented rehabilitation programs. No matter how violent or terrible their

crimes, we cannot abandon these children to a cell. Whether it be through re-education, therapy, or any other type of rehabilitation, we have a responsibility to help these lost children, not relegate them to a cell for the rest of their lives.

The inherent purpose of juvenile courts is to not only punish for past crimes, but to prevent further ones. Instead of harsher punishments, more preemptive measures is the better tactic to take in regards to youth crime. Improvement of schools in high-risk neighborhoods is the first step. More education, and safer school environments, is a deterrent against a youth descending into crime. The second step is decreasing the availability of firearms, drugs, and other vices to adolescents. This prevents both the means and the reason for juveniles to commit many of the crimes common amongst this demographic. The final step is re-educating parents, in the same high-risk areas, on how to prevent their children from being put into potentially criminal situations. Preventive tactics, instead of reactive ones, can help not only stop future crimes, but also help young people who have committed them in the past.

Simply put, juveniles are not adults. It is a scientific fact that brain development is not completed until after 18 years of age, and the decision-making and rationalization portions of the brain do not become fully developed until later in life. It's time for the judicial system to be pro-active, and, instead of waiting until it's too late to help children at risk, stop adolescent crime in its tracks.

Price of a Promenade

Peirce Law
Reporter, Junior

The idea of prom is an iconic and integral part of the high school experience. Prom is believed to have evolved from the popularity of upper class balls from centuries ago. Girls, wearing all white, walked in to the grand ballroom in all of its glory. This is where the word prom comes from; it is a shortened version of the word promenade. Prom slowly made its way from college to high school and evolved into what it is today.

An important part of modern day high school, prom is becoming an increasingly expensive. The average price of prom in the US is \$1,078. The average price of prom for the Northeast is \$1,944. As expensive as it is today, the cost of prom is still rising. The average cost increased 33.6% from 2011 to 2012 and is expected to rise even more.

A large majority of the cost comes from the attire and the accessories that are worn to prom. For the girls, the cost of hair, nails, and make-up really adds up, when just the dress will cost between \$100 and \$400. Guys have to buy or rent a tux, which costs on average of \$150. And for those of you who are buying the tickets to this year's prom, those could be upwards of \$60. Although most of the national and regional averages incorporate limos and dinners into the cost of prom, traditionally, Marblehead High School has had a required bus service, to and from the event, and a full buffet.

To offset the cost that each attendee pays individually, thousands of dollars are raised and set aside by the class to help pay for and organize the event. A lot goes into the organization of a prom. There has to be a location that can fit the amount of people attending with room to spare. Often pricey hotels are the popular spot for prom; Marblehead High School's Senior Prom is at the Ritz-Carlton Hotel in Cambridge, while the Junior Prom is at the Peabody Marriott. Then there's the cost of the DJ, and of course, the price of food. The right or wrong caterer can make or break a prom.

Not only is it expensive, but asking someone to prom, especially in Marblehead, requires creativity and ingenuity. People have asked in ways that range from romantic to extreme. Potential askers have spelled "prom" out using candles, snow, spray paint, sticky notes, with flags, with flowers, on cars and just about anything you could think of. It is as much of a proposal as it is a date. A teenager from California went over the top and asked supermodel Kate Upton to his prom by posting a video onto YouTube.

Alea Moscone, a junior at MHS and a planner for our prom, said "Prom is a really fun way to get in touch with your grade and unite with those you don't normally hangout with. And who doesn't like to dress up?"

Prom is a once in a lifetime event, and I know I'm excited. And to my girlfriend: Will you go to prom with me?

"Sound City" Review

Meredith Piela
Field Correspondent, Sophomore

"The following three weeks changed my life forever," said Dave Grohl, at the beginning of his documentary, "Sound City." Grohl was talking about his visit to the famous Sound City Studios, a recording complex in Van Nuys, California, where he and the rest of his former band, Nirvana, recorded their breakthrough album, Nevermind, in 1991. The documentary, written by Mark Monroe and produced and directed by Grohl, tells the fascinating story of the recording studio, from its early days until its closing in 2011. The studio included a unique recording console designed by Rupert Neve, and its acoustics gave the music a large and powerful sound, perfect for rock and roll. Many of the biggest acts went to Sound City to put their music on tapes, starting with Neil Young's album, "After the Gold Rush," in 1970. After that, artists such as Fleetwood Mac, Tom Petty, Elton John, Santana, Johnny Cash, and the Grateful Dead created albums there. Unfortunately, the studio's trademark Neve console was sold when digital technology became the industry standard in the late 1990s. Fortunately, Dave Grohl later purchased it. The film includes interviews with many of the technicians and artists who worked at Sound City, and it also shows how the rise of digital recording technology has changed the music business and affected the way many musicians work.

I had been aware that Fleetwood Mac had produced records at Sound City, but I didn't know that the band got their start there. It was interesting to see how Mick Fleetwood, Stevie Nicks, Lindsey Buckingham, and everyone else formed together to make one incredible band. I was also fascinated by the fact that Rick Springfield had recorded several songs at Sound City, including his biggest hit, "Jessie's Girl." Lastly, even though I am not a fan of Nirvana, their recording of the song "Cut Me Some Slack," which featured the remarkable Paul McCartney, blew me away. This documentary was exceptional, and it helped me understand what music production is like. The film gave me a more complete picture of the persona of Dave Grohl, and proved to me that he is much more than the crazy drummer of Nirvana and the Foo Fighters. I truly enjoyed this film, and encourage all music lovers to see this movie.

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