

Headlight

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

www.mhsheadlight.weebly.com

A Late End

Shanna Smith

Reporter in the Field, Junior

end tends to be more negative. "The snow days were nice, but they are really taking a toll on my summer," an anonymous source says. Like this student, many did not consider that lengthening their time to enjoy winter would shorten their time to enjoy summer. Everyone loves sleeping in, having an extra day to finish homework, or even simply enjoying the snow. But as many students complain, after the snow day is over, it usually is not worth it.

By the fifth snow day this year, students who had previously expressed excitement and passion for snow days changed sides. Many started to realize that summer activities would be held off by an entire week, and some grew tired of the snow. Sleeping in a few hours and procrastinating homework a little longer no longer seemed worth the effect it would have on summer vacation.

Marblehead High School junior Jessica Drooks earned a summer job as counselor at her overnight camp, Camp Tevya. Her job requires all counselors to attend orientation on June 19,

a commitment that would have been possible before the five snow days. However, with school now ending on June 27, Drooks is forced to balance school and her job. "I obviously can't make finals," she says. "I am going to have to take some of my finals early and miss some of my orientation." Drooks and many others show their dedication to both school and their jobs by finding a way to commit to both obligations; she is officially leaving for her job on June 25, six days later than previously planned.

Situations like Drooks's are difficult because there is no one to blame except Mother Nature. Finding a summer job can be an incredibly tricky and time-consuming task, so once students earn such a job, they must do whatever they can to keep it. School is also a top priority, and finals are essential to passing a class, so students must exert an extra effort to try to finish their finals early. In a situation like this, snow days do much more harm than good.

In the past few years, it seems like the end of the school year

has been pushed back further and further as a result of holidays and snow days. Some have suggested ways to limit snow days' effects on summer. "I would rather make up the snow days on weekends instead of having them cut into our summer," a student says. This is controversial in that it may be equally inconvenient for students to attend school on weekends. However, it deserves consideration. The truth is there is no good way to deal with the snow day situation; no matter what, the solution is going to be inconvenient for at least one group of people. The weather in New England is not the most severe in the world, but there are still days when it is nearly impossible for some students to drive down their street, let alone drive to school. Thus, snow days are necessary measures taken when Massachusetts is hit with severe weather; however, the majority of the student body would much rather have a long summer.

Memorial Day

Maddy Van Dussen, Junior
Student Affairs

Memorial Day is a federal holiday, assigned to the last Monday of every May. This day is dedicated to men and women who have died while in service of the United States Military. Up until the twentieth century, the date was called Decoration Day, in commemoration of Confederate and Union soldiers who died in the American Civil War only. Today, Memorial Day honors all those who have died while in the military.

People honor the dead soldiers in a variety of ways. In old tradition, flags are raised to full staff, then lowered to mid staff until noon, after which it is raised to full staff for the rest of the holiday. Graves are often visited by family, friends or loved ones. They may adorn the graves with flowers and other sentimental paraphernalia, hence why the holiday was once named "Decoration Day." More public festivities are also held. Memorial Day parades are common in which a community comes together to celebrate the bravery and sacrifice given that allow us to have and maintain freedom. Oftentimes, current service men and women march in these parades and are also honored. Speeches are given, commending the character of both the living and the dead.

When I think about Christmas, I think presents. When I think about the Fourth of July, I think fireworks. The same goes for Memorial Day. I think of a three day weekend, barbeques, and the start of summer. I admit that the word "honor" does not initially come to mind. It may not come to mind at all. I am guilty of, and I am sure others are too, of the all too common undermining of a federal holiday. Many use the holiday as an excuse to hold barbeques, use face paint, and pull out their summer wardrobe, just as many use the day the United States adopted the Declaration of Independence as a reason to light fireworks. The parades, speeches, and grave visitings are all important in remembering our soldiers. Yet in this day and age, it is easy to forget about the core meaning of things and to lose sight of what the real importance of something is. In 1968, the Uniform Monday Holiday Act was passed, moving Memorial Day from its original date of May 3, to the last Monday of every May. This ensured that there would be a three day weekend. Many people vacation on Memorial Day weekend because of the extra day off. I believe this leads to a further disconnect between the actual holiday and the celebrations that occur. Why are people celebrating if they don't know what they are celebrating for?

This Memorial Day, I challenge you to take time out of your long weekend to truly appreciate those who died for us. Those who cannot be with us, but have allowed us to have the privileges and liberties that we have today.

A Musical Review

Liam Reilly

Entertainment Editor, Sophomore

Daft Punk: Random Access Memories.

After a six-year hiatus, the dance/electronic giant that is Daft Punk has completed its fourth studio album, and not a moment too soon. RAM will be released on Tuesday, May 21, but has been available for streaming online for the last few days. After listening to the complete sonic odyssey (74 minutes of audio), RAM does not disappoint. One of the great qualities of Daft Punk is that they refuse to conform. Rather, the French duo strives to innovate. This allows for the group to create music that comes out of left field, and yet is made with such conviction that one has to be impressed. Having already revolutionized the dance/electronic genre over the last fifteen years, Daft Punk does so again on RAM. The first thing one should notice when listening to RAM is that, with the exception of the hit single "Get Lucky (feat. Pharrell Williams)," the vocals of every song on the album are recorded with a vocoder, a device used to give vocals a robotic and auto-tuned sound. While the use of a vocoder usually causes vocals to sound less human, the vocals on RAM are filled with emotion, giving each song a signature Daft Punk futuristic/robotic, and yet very human sound. The second thing one should notice when listening to RAM is that although characterized as a dance/electronic album, many of the songs on the album do not match that description, and sound more like rock influenced disco songs than anything else. In fact, the four or five pop/rock songs on RAM are better than most of the pop/rock genre currently, which is not even the targeted genre of the album. The rather

eclectic list of guests on RAM goes along with the wow factor of the album, with the likes of legendary guitarist Nile Rogers, hip-hop powerhouse Pharrell Williams, and Julian Casablancas of The Strokes. Oh, and if you are looking for old-fashioned dance/electronic music, Daft Punk supplies that as well. Songs like "Contact" will remind you of dance/electronic of the earlier days of Daft Punk, with plenty of synth and drums. RAM in my eyes is an early contender for Album of the Year, and reminds the rest of the world who the giants of the dance/electronic genre really are. (9.25/10) Key Tracks: "Instant Crush (feat. Julian Casablancas)," "Get Lucky (feat. Pharrell Williams)," and "Doin' It Right (feat. Panda Bear)."



(Pictured above are both albums featured on Google.com)

The following are two music reviews based on specific albums.

Demi Lovato: Demi

There is some good and bad news that comes with the release of Demi, the fourth studio album of Demi Lovato. The good news is that it seems as though Demi has managed to recover from the personal issues that have hindered her career as of late. The bad news is that Demi Lovato is still under the firm grip of Disney, the corporation that gave her career a jumpstart. Now, Demi must work to shake the Disney image, a daunting task which her predecessors (Miley Cyrus, Selena Gomez) have struggled to achieve.

The album begins with a bang, with the chart-favorite "Heart Attack." However, the rest of the album fails in supporting the strong sound of "Heart Attack". Rather, the majority of the other songs, while showing off the immense capability of Demi's voice, have a juvenile and Disney essence to them, an unfortunate side effect of Demi's previous career choices. Although generally lacking in big-ticket pop songs, Demi shows the growing maturity of Lovato, and is a step in the right direction. If she is able to shake the grip of Disney, Demi's musical future seems bright (5.5/10). Key Tracks: "Heart Attack," and "Really Don't Care (feat. Cher Lloyd)."

Interested in Writing?
Is writing your passion?

If so, Join Headlight! We are Marblehead High School's very own school newspaper. We meet on Mondays in room A303 at 2:45 p.m.

Have something to say?
Do you have a piece of writing?

Send it to us! Did you write something in English class? Your writing could be featured on this very page. Email your piece of writing to us at mhsheadlight@yahoo.com on a word document.

HEADLIGHT STAFF

2012-13

EDITORS-IN-CHIEF: Dan Rosenberg and Grace Perry

REPORTERS IN THE FIELD: Shanna Smith and Peirce Law

ENTERTAINMENT EDITOR: Liam Reilly WEBMASTER: Alex Kerai

STUDENT AFFAIRS: Darby Neuss, Morgan Hardwick and Maddy Van Dussen

DESIGN COORDINATOR: Caroline Hooper

FACULTY ADVISOR: Thomas Higgins