



Facebook  
jealousy--  
nobody has it  
all  
Janica Kaneshiro

The bad side  
of marketing

Ian Howard



Rioting just  
to riot

Branden Labarowski



## COLUMNS



### We have a lot more growing up to do

Julia Halpin | Associate Editor

“High school is the journey to finding your true self.”

Really? Because I must have taken a wrong turn when everyone else went straight, because I’m nowhere near to finding this, could you say, “true identity?”

When I was a little girl, I dreamed of being something new about every single day. I was a strange child, admittedly so, with gangly straight brown hair as long as my body, and a mouth that could run for days. I had an opinion on about everything under the sun, even when I had no idea what it was. I was the little girl that talked to grown-ups in the grocery store lanes, raised her hand to every question asked in grade school and read chapter books by the time I was five. Yeah, you could say I was a little bit of a “free-spirit.”

But, the real joy in being a child is that you have no idea who you’re going to become.

For some reason now, all of a sudden, I’m surrounded by teenagers who are so sure of themselves, so certain of their personalities, so confident in their abilities; they’re grown-ups. I look around and see business men in my dad’s office building, professional lawyers in big-time firms and artists with their own personal galleries. Everyone has a plan, like an athlete training for a marathon, each day marked with exactly what they have to do to get to the next level. How did everyone become so sure of themselves? I have no idea. Somewhere along the road through high school my peers figured out who they were, centered in on an identity for themselves that they would bring out into the world. Whether they’ve landed on athletics to pursue, the “hipster” identity to follow them to art school or the brain to take them to Wall Street, it seems like everyone finally knows who they are; we’re not kids anymore.

Well, I’m not a grown-up. I still have that little bit of childhood spunk in me, and more importantly, I still am driving down that road to figuring out what my life is going to turn into. I can’t be fully confident in who I am as a person yet, heck, I’m only 17.

This identity thing, isn’t solved in high school. We have a whole life ahead of us that’s going to take us through new relationships, new job experiences and new struggles that will eventually, mold us into the person that we’ve searched for since our childhood. We’re not done growing up yet.



### Dubstep more of an English thing

Thom Carter | Staff Writer

When musical genres amount to nothing but a trend, they lose all credibility. We are incredibly susceptible to such a phenomenon in Mason. Here, emerging artists from primarily urban dwellings have their sound diluted when they’re music is deemed “too weird.” Dubstep, a subgenre of electronic and drum n’ bass music, is currently that flavor of the month that emerged from a scene with dramatically more flair than it has now.

More than a decade ago, it was compromised almost exclusively of South Londoners harnessing the newfound power of their laptops and accompanying software. The amount of public attention was minimal, and the sound offset any other presumptions of where electronic music was headed at the time. The sound—integral for such an atypical genre—is akin to the hushed murmurs of darkened London alleyways. Burial, a dubstep artist, is a prime example of such atmospheric noise. He makes music that feels as if he plunged himself into the furthest corners of the city, scooped out the filth and pestilence, and jammed all of it through a magical program that churned out hideously sensual, yet wonderfully danceable songs.

Inevitably, the sound reached the masses and was cruelly modified.

Dubstep, a genre largely grounded in urban culture, was uprooted from its London roots and became a laughable disgrace. Labeling is the problem. We don’t like things that take a fair amount of explaining. We want to slap on tags that contain definitions streamlined and slimmed down in order to be brief and uninteresting. Take Skrillex, an artist that creates mushy compositions of cringe-inducing pop vocals and warped, incomprehensible synths. I don’t like the music, but what infuriates me more is that it is described as something it is not. It’s not dubstep. It’s hardly electronic. What it is instead is a buzzy, often ugly mishmash of unforgiving bass and lackluster samples which offer little in emotion, but a lot in migraines.

It’s infuriating that a genre with so much promise has boiled down to a buzz word. Dubstep, in a largely suburban sense of the word, is now synonymous with shuddering bass that allows kids to harness the power of their frivolous subwoofers. The genre has become laughable; a shell of its former self that needs a return to tradition.

## WHAT YOU THINK

compiled by Miranda Carney



“If I hear something that says [a] person is doing something all wrong and [that] you should vote for this person because [they will] do it all better, I don’t like that because it’s like you are pointing out only the wrong things of the opposite person and you should be pointing out good things about yourself, if you are going to run for something.”  
Ken Bredemeier, sophomore

### How does the media affect your political views?

“If I see a commercial for anything that’s political, then I’ll sort of go along with the commercial because I’m easily swayed, and when I see something along those lines, I will [assume] they must be correct.”  
Emily Burton, sophomore



“Watching different channels with different spins on issues makes me think differently. Fox news is more right-winged so I get more of a republican bias on some issues which leads me to be a little more republican.”  
Kaushik Chagarlamudi, senior



“I think [media] has a negative effect [on my views] when they start trashing the other people or mud-slinging. It’s more of a negative effect because when they [mudsling,] they don’t tell you what they actually think.”  
Mackenzie Rich, junior



“Media teaches us more about political [issues] because we don’t really learn about [politics] in school [since] we are still just taking the essential classes.”  
Michael Rueda, freshman

“I feel like media makes politics more accessible to youth because there are shows like the Daily Show and the Colbert Report that attract a younger audience and I feel like even that influences [us].”  
Colleen Kennedy, senior

