

A Special Reflection by Charlotte Coulter, MC Prez 05

BHS MC has given me numerable opportunities that most high school students never get the chance to experience. I am sure all of the presidents (including myself) are going to mention how we have gained confidence in ourselves, in our speaking skills, how we've had incredible opportunities to see historic sights, and eat mouth watering foods etc. All of which are what I honestly have gained from MC. But I feel that I've also taken away life lessons and life long friendships, truly BHS MC has given me a family. This family has given me the confidence to go out in the world unafraid and prepared for college; it has been a real pleasure to be part of this family. I hope that I have been able to influence my peers and underclassmen the way they have influenced me.

My MC family is incredible because we have a mix of jocks, nerds, computer science geeks, the theatre kids etc. No group in the high school is excluded, everyone is represented, and having so many different perspectives and opinions present really make MC unique. But also, BHS MC (and Petela) has given me the chance to become a leader, a teacher and mentor. The most valuable learning experience for me has been being able to be that teacher and mentor. Until these past 2 years I've been the student; and now I've stepped up to the plate and have realized my potential. I can express myself, aid younger members, teach the MC skills and help improve the club for everyone.

My most amusing moments this year began with our first MC Sr. Presidents dinner. There was so much good food and conversation between all of us that I knew this year was going to be especially great. I also had a blast when I was able to go to Princeton MC this past fall. Going with a group of my close friends, walking around D.C. and hanging out in our rooms together was priceless, I'll never forget it. I really enjoyed when Margaret found the wheel and tire on the side of the street when we were walking to dinner one evening. Also when Rossetti, Seth, Lemley, Christian and I were the only juniors to go on PMC 03' with all the seniors, we felt so special! But let us not forget one of the best MC times ever, when Rossetti and I were talking in the stairwell, and Petela thought we ran away and was about to call our parents! My least amusing MC experiences were when Christian would get uptight and look to everyone for comfort, but he's grown out of that now. It took a lot of effort sometimes to cheer him up again; but everything always came right.

What have I not given to BHS MC is the real question, just kidding ☺ But really I have given up a lot of weekend nights and afternoons during the past 4 schools years and summers much to the disappointment of my friends especially! But in the end, I'm proud of my sacrifice because of how the club as benefited from my sweat & well more sweat. ☺ What is has come down to is that for the past 4 years I have helped prep for the Whiff concert weeks before, the afternoon and night of, and then I helped clean up every year until either 12 or even 1:30, or until it was all done. Over the past 4 years I have also put together, sifted through, organized, reorganized, separated, and laid out pictures upon pictures in numerous albums for MC's that I myself had and had not attended. Sometimes these afternoons @ Petela's have dragged on into the night and was able to get some good eats from his house. But, I have since continued on with this job, and trained younger members to

continue it on when I graduate. I have helped to decide which 8X11's to display; I have baked, glued, cut, taped paper and pictures, folded programs, called members and officers countless times for reminders etc. I have helped to create slideshows for the end of the year banquets, I've helped people lost @ Congresses find their ways. I have gone to every possible bill writing help sessions and prep sessions for underclassmen over the last 2 years to give advice and act as a mock chair. Besides all of this, I have also brought in several new members through out the years. And while this may seem a lot, I'm almost positive that I'm forgetting something, most definitely call my parents to see what I've missed at your leisure ☺!

The quality of my work is, I'd like to say unsurpassed, but I will be honest and I know I've made some mistakes when I was first learning how to do the photo albums. But I made leaps and bounds to mend those mistakes and I think I've prevailed. But I know that even before I was president that BHS MC (and its advisor) looked to me many times to be a leader, and to be the mender of other people's mistakes as well. There were some very long nights, and some nice meals that I've had in this whole process but like I said before, even though I gave all this time I know I got a lot back in return.

Underclass MCers need to believe in themselves and also have to make the time commitment to the club. They've got to realize that at times it is as demanding as an officer as it is to play a sport, our state playoff finals I'd like to think is the Whiff concert. But other than that underclassmen need to know how to have fun in this club. Since its establishment so many amazing, intelligent, funny and wonderful people have gone through the program who have been able to find the balance between the business of MC and the fun of MC, a lot of times they can go hand in hand; but, when its time to do business things have to get done, otherwise no one will be able to enjoy this in years to come.

BHS MC IS FRAGILE!!! Take care of it for me, I want to come back and be able to see everyone on a trip @ some point and reflect and probably cry that I can't do it anymore!

Kelly Peterson and Jen Platt should keep up the good work, one day they're going to be unstoppable; I really want to see them succeed. And Gabriel will need to find a way to keep the ladies off of him, he's just too good, they all swoon as he walks by, but maybe it's good to have that as a politician. Jared Sparks should always keep laughing and making good arguments, he's an amazing comic relief in the sometimes serious to be senior class. And to those MCers in the years to come: look up to the upperclassmen, I know you're all scared at some point while you're a part of this club, I know I was; but if you begin to emulate those ahead of you who seem to be calm, clear headed and collected, making concise and intriguing arguments, eventually you too will begin to do the same and will be the models for younger members. I've said it one too many times but BHS MC has been a fantastic experience.

Final thoughts, I have a few. I'm really going to miss complaining but secretly loving everything I had to do for MC. I'm really going to miss spending time with Petela and the MC Presidents too. My only regret of my MC experience is not having been able to go to more overnight trips, but I was extremely pleased with the ones that I did go on. In terms of shameful or regretful actions I don't have any, in fact I don't think have any in my life time. Any mistakes or discomforts I've committed or done along the way I haven't kept a secret. I've had an amazing 4 years with MC and I wouldn't want anything to taint that.

Charlotte will be graduating from Bates College in 2009 as an Art History Major, w/ a high GPA ☺