

SPECTATOR

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Berkley High School

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“STOP WALL STREET FROM CASHING IN ON OUR KIDS:”

NEW STATE LEGISLATURE BILLS, PUBLIC EDUCATORS OUTRAGED

Clarissa Donnelly '13, Editor-in-Chief



Photo courtesy of NBC news



What does BHS want for the holidays?
Find out on pg. 11



Guys and Dolls Review
Hear about it on pg. 7



Right-to-work's Effect on Michigan
Learn what it is on pg. 2

On Nov. 27, 2012, a meeting was held for Oakland School District superintendents, public educators and concerned community members regarding three bills in Michigan's state legislature. All of these bills contain information that could drastically affect the future of public education.

Two of the bills, House Bill 6004 and Senate Bill 1358, are similar in content. They establish an Education Achievement Authority (EAA) in Michigan. The EAA is a new system that takes over the bottom performing five percent of public schools and reorganizes them in order to "provide a new, stable, financially responsible set of public schools that create the conditions, supports, tools and resources under which teachers can help students make significant academic gains" (Michigan.gov).

The language of these bills makes more specific what the EAA can do. The bill establishes regulations that would "design and focus [the EAA] to successfully execute its mission" (Michigan.gov). The way the bill does so is by "opening up the EAA to schools outside of the bottom [performing] five percent" (Michigan.gov). The Michigan State Board of Education claims that by this bill, the EAA would have the ability to take over any building that is not currently in use by a district regardless if the school district needs support by the EAA. They then claim that once a building is seized, the EAA has the ability to use it for its own schools, or lease it to a charter or otherwise non-public school.

In order to prevent this, The Michigan State Board of Education suggest that the language be clarified in the bill to keep the EAA operating within the bottom five percent of performing schools. They claim that in those schools is where the EAA's power would be better utilized.

Also included in these bills is the stipulation that once the EAA has taken control of a school, the school is exempt from oversight by the state superintendent. The person who would hold the superintendent's position of power in these scenarios would be a person appointed by

the governor. Advocates for public education are concerned that the power given to the EAA in this scenario seems to bypass the power of the superintendent and other elected members of the State Board of Education. They claim it will allow the EAA ultimate power without oversight by an outside party and from there, diminish the power of democracy.

Many concerned members of the public education system claim that these bills allow schools to be run like businesses instead of public schools. They claim they make the school system impersonal, as there would only be one person, appointed by the governor, to oversee all of the action. The peoples complaints with the school system would therefore not be heard as easily. Dr. Vickie Markavitch, Superintendent of Oakland Schools, used the example that members of the community can easily call up their district superintendent to voice complaints with the schools, but they cannot so easily call up the CEO of a major corporation with similar complaints.

The third proposed bill, House Bill 5923, creates numerous new charter and online schools. The problem many public educators find is the unlimited amount of schools the EAA may erect, but with a limited amount of funding from tax payers. This creates a conflict because online schools need much less money to provide the same type of education as a public school would need. Many claim that this equal distribution of wealth to online schools seems to be taking away possible money from public school systems.

Public educators hold an issue with this bill which was also prevalent in the last. All three bills allow the EAA to select which students they would like to permit for enrollment into their implanted schools in public buildings- for instance, only Christian students or only black students. These both seem to make the possibility of discrimination in a public education setting that much larger.

It seems that once these bills are voted on, will the future of Michigan's public education system be determined.

WORKING HARD OR HARDLY WORKING? INTELLIGENCE VS INTEGRITY

Veronica Marchese '13, Assitant Editor-In-Chief

Immediately prior to the ACT, a proctor reads students the unbreakable rules which aid in making the ACT a most daunting test. Some rules are as follows: no smoking (which is ridiculous – since it is illegal to all those taking the ACT), no electronics (with the exception of the calculator on only the math section), no skipping ahead to other sections or looking back at others, and above all, keep your eyes on your own test (which should be common knowledge for all tests). So why, roughly seven months ago, as I sat in my assigned room taking the ACT, waiting for the proctor to call time, did I see another test taker (let's call him Joe) flipping through to the next section and beginning to answer questions? And why, when I notified the proctor (call me what you will, but I will not stand for an unfair advantage with such a serious test) did she do nothing? I let it go; this boy would not put me in the wrong state of mind during this college fate-determining test.

During the next section, the boy in front of me raised his hand and told the proctor that he caught Joe looking at his test, and again, the proctor did nothing but tell Joe to look in the opposite direction. To top off this ice cream sundae of a testing disaster, Joe's watch then sounded. Can you guess what the proctor did in response to this? Confiscated his test and threw him out of the room? One would think, but again, she did nothing. Now correct me if I'm wrong, but in the rules we are told that if any of the aforementioned situations happen, as they did in my room, tests are taken away and to be voided. Joe shouldn't have been permitted to continue his testing, not only because he was breaking so many supposed "unbreakable" rules, but because what will this cheating get him?

Cont. on page 2

COOTIES OR NOT: YOUR CHANCE HAS COME AND GONE

Mitchell Hart '13, News Editor

When it comes to my colleague Veronica Marchese's article from the November issue titled "Cooties or not, give the girls a chance," I hold some issues. Although parts of which are valid arguments in terms of inclusion, many of the article consists of issues concerning things the senior girls brought on themselves. This dispute goes all the way back to freshmen year.

As the girls of our senior class chased after the much more mature older men, the freshmen boys were left by the wayside. This continued to be the situation until this year, when the girls ran out of older guys to obsess over at BHS. Us guys are fed up with the lack of attention from the girls, which causes this initial animosity. It seems to me that the girls' frustration comes from the attention they are no longer receiving.

In actuality, we invited freshmen, sophomore and junior girls to our weekly tailgate lunches. There is a difference between not liking women and not liking a specific group of women. Even though we didn't do anything wrong we decided that all should be aloud to participate in the newfound Friday tradition. Senior Vince Plaskey tweeted "All senior girls are invited to the tailgate on Friday..." Even once this invitation was presented to the senior girls they decided not to show up...well that is except for one. Madelyn Oliver decided to pave the way and be the first female to attend the tailgate. Zack Lask said with the integration of women, the tailgates have become "a lot sexier."

When it comes to hockey games, it's a different story. Senior Noah Duchan took one picture that shows both guys and girls in the front row. However, while the guys are standing up cheering as the team congregates near the student section, girls in the first row remained seated, doing other things.

Girls, enjoy your senior year. The moral of the story is, if you want to sit in the front row, be rowdy, if you want to come to the tailgates, come, no one is stopping you. In all actuality it would be encouraged, and if you don't want to be shunned for your previous choices show some initiative.

The Spectator Staff understands that some articles may not spark each student's interest, so we have organized a scavenger hunt for our beloved readers: look for senior Dugan Fernandez hidden within these pages. Once you do, bring your paper to Ms. Emily Mullins in room 165 and show her where Dugan is! If you are the first to do so, your name will be taken down, and you will be hidden in the next issue.



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WORKING HARD OR HARDLY WORKING?

Cont. from page 1

As we left the room that day after five long hours of testing, I could not help but wonder what Joe got on his ACT that day. Maybe, as a result of cheating, he received a 32 while I got the lower score of a 27 through my own brainpower. So, I ask another question, how is that hypothetically fair? Well, as my mom would say, as she does quite often, “life isn’t fair” and, as she would sing, “you can’t always get whatcha want.” But what I really want, demand really, is some justice.

Now no one can go find Joe, especially since he does not attend BHS nor since I myself do not even know his real name, and throw him in ACT integrity jail or revoke whatever score he got that day, but I know that someone can address the fact that every time we have a quiz in my AP Calculus class first hour, I look around and see countless students with old quizzes from past students scrutinizing it moments before the quiz — since they are hoping this year’s quizzes are a little similar. These same students tend to do a little better than most who are not equipped with old quizzes; this group of students is what I’m going to call the “pretenders.” Now I’m only making a generalization here, but these students are merely pretending to be as intelligent as they come off, when really this is just cheating.

Another group of cheaters, that we will call the “lookers,” are exactly what their name implies; they are the kids who take the casual glance, well, usually more than a glance, at their fellow student’s tests. I can, in all honesty, say that I am absolutely terrified of being caught cheating and having my test taken that I work to refrain from tempting a glance at Jane Doe’s Scantron next to me. Sophomore year in my Spanish class, I specifically remember the “looker” I was sat next to, blatantly staring at my test. In fact, believe or not, I was asked to move my arm so said “looker” could see my test better. I went to my teacher to notify her, and since she stated that she didn’t see him do it, as a result she couldn’t do anything; this was when I had had enough. Again, call me what you will, but I began purposely writing a few wrong answers to throw this “looker” off and get him to stop. This is the simplest and the worst form of cheating. If you are going to cheat, at least be smart about it.

A third and final group of cheaters, the “liars,” lie and then as a result, are cheaters. These “liars” are those who get their Scantrons returned to them and then change their answers from what were wrong to right. These people received their score, and are unhappy with it — although completely their own dumb fault — changes their answer. Also, often times, because teachers aren’t perfect (they are only human of course) they may mess up points sometimes in the grade book. Perhaps he or she added up wrong and put a 94/100 rather than the earned 84, and the “liars,” of course, do not tell the teacher because their B turned into an A, while students that the teacher added correctly for are left with what they earned, which is again, an unfair and unjust advantage.

Math teacher Mr. Steve Weingarden, in a response to how he feels about cheating, said, “In society people will always try to take the easy way out, but it is better if people would prepare themselves.” Weingarden could not be more right. Cheating will always be in the minds of students especially with new technology making it easier and easier to do so, but how far does cheating really get people? Perhaps maybe one or two glances from Jane or John Doe’s test just to make sure you’re doing whatever it is correctly, or getting some “help” from a friend who adds a point to your quiz won’t hurt anyone, but doing it again and again will only hurt the person cheating.

In the scheme of life everyone, at one point or another, no matter the scale, cheats, lies, or steals. One might go through their whole school career cheating off other people, then [hopefully] graduate college, but with what? What has he or she learned? Have they only learned how to effectively get answers from other people? Joe might, with my predicted higher score of his, gotten into Harvard versus the University of Michigan, and then he may have gone through his four or more years there, again, attempting, or succeeding, at cheating off those there, and coming out of it, with again, what? Joe wasn’t punished for the wrongs he committed in the ACT room over the summer, but later in life he may be. One day karma will come back full circle and get him, and there’s no cheating that. Whether someone is a “pretender,” a “looker,” or a “liar,” they are a cheater and it won’t push he or she further ahead in life. Because when it comes down to it, there is a large difference between integrity and intelligence. Own up to not knowing the answers, not everyone can know everything, but one should know the difference between hardly working by cheating and getting a better grade because of someone else’s knowledge, and working hard through one’s own integrity and their own merit and intelligence.

CORRUPT MICHIGAN GOVERNOR PASSES RIGHT-TO-WORK, LOOKS LIKE WE REALLY ARE DOOMED

Clarissa Donnelly '13, Editor-in-Chief

During the morning session of our state congressional hearing on Dec. 11 2012, Governor Rick Snyder signed two bills into law that make Michigan a “right-to-work” state.

Right-to-work is a scenario in which the powers of unions are significantly diminished. Unions are, by definition, a group of workers joined together. The purpose of unions is to represent the interests of its members in large numbers and allow them fair working conditions. There are unions for most every job, and as a member of a union, one must pay union dues. This money is then used for expenses of the union, such as paying the union leader, collecting for the union’s strike fund, etc. This new law will work to lessen a union’s power by expunging the requirement of paying dues. If members would still like to pay their dues, they are more than welcome, but they are no longer bonded to this payment agreement. Then, although certain members may not pay, they are still allowed to reap the benefits of the unions by piggybacking on the money of those who do continue to pay.

This becomes quite the problem. First of all, it diminishes all notions of possible success that can be attained from hard work in this country. It seems that there will no longer be any motivation for hard work since all members receive equal benefits despite their contributions. This idea of gaining benefits for free, leads to the likelihood that a significant amount of members will stop paying their union dues completely. This will ultimately be harmful to the union because if it is not getting money, it cannot support itself. And if it cannot support itself, it cannot exist. This trickle down effect will ultimately lead to the disappearance of unions, which will be inherently detrimental to American society.

Major benefits of unions include collective bargaining, labor contracts, and social justice. Collective bargaining abides by the statement that there is strength in numbers so therefore strength in unions. This makes it significantly harder for employers to take advantage of their workers because they now come in packs. Labor contracts specifically discuss the terms of a worker’s employment. This allows for fair wages, fair benefits and numerous others advantages. Social justice provides workers safety from physically dangerous working conditions as well as protecting them from harassment and other possible emotionally damaging aspects of a work place.

Unions ensure a portion of the American dream— that all people are actually equal and have the ability to achieve anything. If unions as we know them, cease to exist, it appears that all of the steps forward unions have allowed American workers to take will be replaced by colossal steps backwards in terms of social labor and social policy evolution.

Besides the obvious problem of diminishing unions, is the way in which these bills were passed. They were rushed through the process as representative Brandon Dillion grandly proclaimed when he addressed the state congress. His main point is that specifically, there were no congressional hearings pertaining to the bills and therefore no opportunities for members to debate or make amendments to these bills. With the fact that they were rushed through, the public’s knowledge of these bills was limited, or at least their time to act was limited. And in order to suppress those who were aware and had opposing opinions, open seats in the state congressional gallery were filled with flown in republicans. This caused every day citizens who came to hear the debates to be locked out. Governor Snyder rushed these bills, and continues to rush other bills, because of the lame duck session that the state legislature is currently in. Once the new representatives from the election come into office, the state congress will no longer have a republican majority. And Governor Snyder knew that without a republican majority, these bills would never pass.

Dillion’s and my ultimate problem with this scenario is that it goes completely against our system of governmental principles. It seems our governor ignored the democratic system of voting with these bills, and what the people actually wanted, in order to better suit his special interests—which seems to ultimately convert our once free system into a fascist state.

The continuance of these bills in Michigan’s society will cause astronomical defects. By diminishing unions, union members will no longer have the same abilities for a fair work environment. Specific members of unions important to us as students are teachers. If teachers cannot achieve fair benefits in their jobs it is highly likely that they will look to another field for work. The teachers who do stay though, will inherently receive lesser payment and benefits, and from their lesser benefits many will feel unmotivated to work. And if a teacher is unmotivated to work, the type of education then given to the students will be inherently inferior. If this happens, then the condition of our so heavily relied on state of public education will be completely incapacitated. This unavoidable lower form of education for future generations will undoubtedly lead our society to its demise.



BHS Phys Ed teacher Ben Bancroft, accompanied by BHS Science teacher Shawn Grose, among numerous other protesters, shakes hands with Reverend and civil rights activist Jesse Jackson outside the capitol building in Lansing.

Photo courtesy of Tanya Thomann

WHEN THE WORLD ENDS, HOW WILL YOU BE REMEMBERED?

Alison Jones '13, Assistant Editor-in-Chief

People say you have a lifetime to complete your goals, well, a “lifetime” most nearly means you have 80 odd years to “live your life to the fullest.” You have time to act like foolish children, crazy wild teens, responsible adults, and wise elders. But what if these 14-18 years were all that you had (considering we all die on Dec. 21)? Would you be happy with what you have done with your life? Would you be content with the fact that you only have a matter of hours left on this planet?

I know some of you are sitting there saying “but how can we accomplish all that we want to so young?” And for some, you can’t. For those of you whose dream it is to be the next Beyoncé or Justin Bieber (God forbid), this, for some, is not very plausible at this time in your life. The majority of us are around the ripe age of 17 and we do not know what the future has for us since we have not yet experienced the ‘real world’ outside of BHS. All we know is what we have learned in this fine institution that is Berkley High School.

Think about it this way: you, when you were five years old, doe eyed and naïve,

looked up to the people you thought held the traits you wanted to have when you were older. Whether it be your mom, brother or sister, or Britney Spears, there was bound to be someone in your life that you wanted to be like, in one way or another. Now think, would the five-year-old version of yourself look up to the person you are now? Do you hold the qualities you wish you possessed when you were younger?

Would you want to be remembered as the guy that yelled at a girl in the hallway over something that no one will remember five years from now? Or the girl that didn’t try in high school because it just didn’t matter to you? Or maybe the person that didn’t follow their dreams because it was simply just “too hard”? Personally, I know that I would want to do everything in my power to make sure that the impact I have made on this world in the last 14-18 years will not be ruined in a matter of days.

Now, I for one, know that I am not the only person who will be happy when we all wake up Dec. 22 and see that the world is still exactly how it was the day before. But I believe that if anything,

Dec. 21 will give us some perspective on what is really important to us. The people you would want to spend that last day with, the places you go, those are the things that are most important. That one day should tell people a lot about whom and what are truly important to them.

If you take one thing away from Dec. 21, I would hope it would be that people take life for granted. I realize that that idea is trite, but we, as humans, should not have to wait for “the end of the world” for us to start living our lives. We should be doing what we love, every day, with the people that we love. Instead of just talking about our dreams, we should be out there living them, at least trying to. I hope that even for a small second while reading, you stopped to think about your life. Or stopped to think that “yeah, my life is good enough, I’ve done everything I could to be a better person” or maybe you are the opposite. Maybe, this apocalypse will show you what is truly important to you and cause you to change your ways, and, for the next couple hours anyway, or not. It’s your prerogative.

iPads prove useless without WiFi network

Josh Radom '16, Assistant Opinion Editor

The use of iPads has become more common in the lives of Americans. In this past year Apple has sold over 33 million iPads to U.S. customers alone. This year the Berkley School District is attempting to bring the touch pads into the classroom in hopes that the teachers will use them as a learning tool.

As of Nov. 5, teachers have had the ability to go to the Avery Administration Building and pick up their new iPads from the BSD technology department. These iPads were given to teachers from the district to use as a learning resource. iPads could be a great resource for teachers. Choir teacher Ms. Julie Smith said, "I use my iPad in many ways during my classes. From taking attendance to keeping record of student's progress, it has been a great attribute to my classroom."

Helpful uses include an easily accessible grade book, calendar, and record book all in one. The iPads also have abilities to become a great tool to help students become more

intrigued in the classroom learning environment.

Teachers are trying to help students understand the material by not lecturing them. Instead they are attempting to make the class more exciting in hopes that students grasp the information with a better understanding. Junior Dominique Mitchell said, "When teachers use more technology instead of lecture us all hour, I tend to pay more attention." This could be because when students are using technology they are actually interacting in class, it becomes implanted in their minds which help them memorize and learn it better.

Even though iPads have the possibility to be great tool in the classroom, most teachers are currently not using them. When discussing the teachers' reasons for not taking advantage of their iPads, one reason is the inability to connect to a WiFi network without being in very specific locations within the school. A network gives technology, such as computers or iPads, access to the internet, and without WiFi there is not internet connection. Without WiFi, teachers are not able to download educational apps, access their grade



Mrs. Angie Church shows students a program on her iPad.

Photo by Jake Kreinbring

book, or take attendance with their iPads. The iPad that Smith is currently using is not the iPad that was purchased for her by the district; she bought it herself last year. It connects to the internet through a network the smartphones can use to connect to through wireless carriers such as Verizon or AT&T. "The one the district bought me doesn't really come into use because there is no internet access in the BHS building," Smith went on to say.

The iPads are useless without WiFi, but it could be coming to BHS soon. Library Media Specialist Ms. Martha Spear said, "WiFi is the goal of the district. They know it's important, and it is a work in progress, and it could be here as soon as next semester, but it could take longer." Obviously, the only way that teachers are going to be able to put their iPads to good use is if they have the capability to connect to the internet and use online resources in their classrooms.

The iPads that the teachers were given could be great additions to their classes. If the trend of not allowing the iPads to be put to use continues, the \$500 that were spent on each iPad would be a waste. A WiFi network could be coming soon, and when it does most teachers said they will then begin using their tablets. Until that time, teachers will probably continue to not use the expensive iPads, along with the learning resources that accompany this technology that which greatly help students.

How to personalize your appearance

Lindsay McFern '13, Student Life Editor

Every person has their own unique style, whether it be their love of yoga pants or their daily tribute to blazers. Either way, it shows how they like to be perceived. Style is something we all have at least a little of, whether it be outlandish or in the norm. So in order to represent oneself it is critical to show off our personal preferences through ones fashion choices each day. Here are some quick tips on how to show off what you love in your outfit everyday.

1. Always accessorize! Accessories are a key way to spice up any outfit. Throw on your favorite vintage rings, a simple printed scarf, or even that quirky pair of studs you like to wear. Each item adds a splash of personality to your ensemble, vital to every day's outfit. Find interesting ways to add these to your outfit, and you will be set.

2. Change up your hair. Do you wear it the same drab way everyday? Add some excitement and put it up, add a clip, or a braid. Wear it in a high sock bun and keep your look classy or fish-tail it for a more bohemian look. Constantly be changing your frock and it will show your mood off through your cute hairstyle. This tiny adjustment inserts a great amount of character to your outfit and others will be sure to notice.

3. Keep your nails nice and painted. Nails are one thing you can go crazy with and not look out of your mind. You could paint one nail a different hue or paint them your favorite color; you could even put on nail art like bows or stripes. The holiday season is great for nails; show off your season spirit with even Christmas-themed fingers. Nails have so many unique possibilities so they are the best way to show off your individuality.

4. Always smell good. Though it is not a visible attribute it is still just as important. Whether it is your signature perfume you wear every morning, or you are a smell junkie and change it up every time you can, your scent adds to your style. An individual smell can leave a lasting impression, so make it a good one.

5. Lastly, always, always, always wear whatever you want or feel most comfortable in! Don't let your friends, or even your mother, counsel you not to wear something because of their differing tastes, unless it be an overall dress (I should have listened...). But no matter what, if you are confident in your outfit it will show, and you will be sure to look fabulous every time.



All Photos by Jake Kreinbring

Freshman Lily Cohen, senior Micah Egnater, and junior Sabrina Fregolle show off their personalized style around BHS.

I was The Night Before Christmas, Hanukkah style

Jake Rothman '14, Feature Editor and Veronica Marchese '13, Assistant Editor-in-Chief

T'was the night before Christmas, when all through the shul all the creatures were stirring, Aunt Rivka, Zayde Mordchai and even Uncle Schmul.

The Hanukkah bush was sitting by the chimney with care, In hopes that Hanukkah Harry would soon be there. The children were nestled all snug in their beds While visions of warm latkes danced the horah in their heads.

And ima in her tichel, and I in my yarmulke Had just settled down to watch Casablanca When out on the lawn arose such a clatter I sprang from the bed to see what was the matter.

Away to the window I flew like a flash Tore open the shutters and threw up the sash When, what to my wondering eyes should appear But a black, shiny Audi in first gear With a little old driver, so lively and merry, I knew in a moment it must be Hanukkah Harry.

And he whistled, and shouted out "oy vey," His shlimazel of being discovered had caused his dismay. And then, in a moment, I heard something from the cool, crisp air The singing and wailing of the little man's prayer.

As I drew in my head, and was turning around, Through the front door came Hanukkah Harry with a bound. He was dressed in all cashmere, from his kippah to his feet His clothes were impeccable all clean and neat.

A bundle of dreidels he had flung on his back He looked like a peddler, just opening his pack. His lips the color of the Jerusalem cherry His cheeks so perky, his peyas so hairy. His mouth full with matzah ball soup As he brushed his fro with one simple swoop.

He was stumpy and plump, a meshugener old fellow With a voice that sounded like that of an old Klezmer cello. A wink of his eye and a nod of his head Soon gave me to know I had nothing to dread.

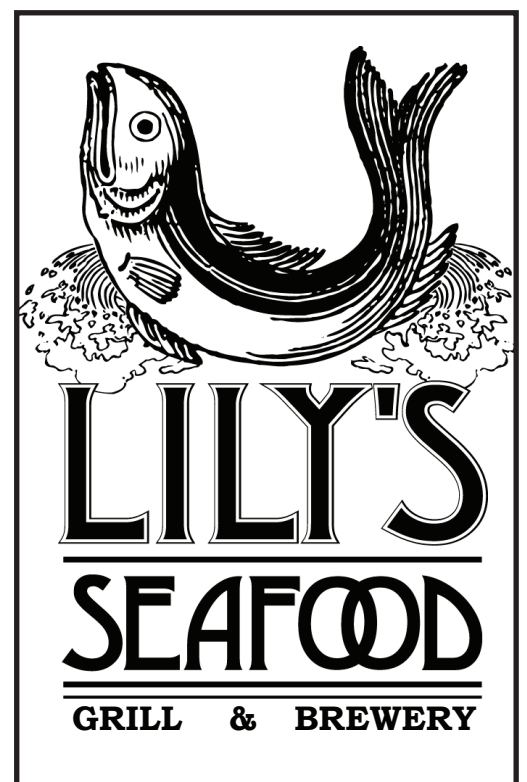
He spoke not a word, but went straight to his work He lit the menorah, then turned with a smirk. He layed his finger upon the tiny dreidel He left me watching it spin on the dining room table.

As he strutted to his Audi, I knew I had just seen a legend As he left town I could hear the roar of his engine, But I heard him exclaim as he drove out of sight "Mazel tov to all, and to all a good night."



Hanukah Harry arrives Christmas night to deliver holiday joy, in his new, black Audi.

Photos courtesy of audiw.net and bostoncostume.com



Accomplishments of the Human Race

Bennett Hart '16, Business/Ad Manager

As Dec. 21, 2012 nears, people are becoming nervous about the Mayan-predicted “end of the world”. The topic has discussed for almost a decade, and ever since the movie 2012 came out a few years ago, the debate has become even more heated. Regardless of your opinion, one can be sure everybody wants to exit this world on a high note. Therefore, I will take this opportunity to reminisce about some of my favorite things.

Quick and easy foods

Nowadays food has become more about convenience and less about quality. Hot -n-Ready pizza is a great example. Although I have never met anybody who eats this pizza for the taste, Little Caesars remains popular for their price, location and the fact that the crap is always ready. Despite this unfortunate trend, places such as Becky’s Nip ‘N Tuck in Berkley still make food that is fast yet still very delicious. Rounding out my food preferences, I would like to give a shout out to my grandmother’s chocolate chip cookies, Slurpees, bacon, Easy Mac and sprayable foods.

Inventions That Help You Get Through High School

Waking up for school is never easy. The invention of the snooze button is great because it allows students to get a few extra minutes of sleep and still be on time. Once you finally get up, you immediately rush down stairs. You slip on some shoes, and run out the door. Having procrastinated, you have no time to make a lunch and you are thus thankful that BHS has an open campus lunch. Later in math class you pull out your graphing calculator, and with nothing else to do, you resort to the games that would be outdated if they weren’t available on a school permitted device. Other things that help us all get through high school include TiVo (or DVR), test retakes, Sparknotes and snow days.

Things We Just Can’t Live Without

- Duct tape- Useful for quick fixes on a budget. Can even be used to repair cars or keep out zombies
- Microwaves- Awesome for after-school and late-night snacks.
- Thrift shops- Great for shopping on a minimal income.
- Aglets- The thing on the end of shoelaces is underappreciated but hard to live without
- Toilet paper. Enough said.

Regardless of your opinions about Dec. 21, it might be smart to enjoy some of your favorite things while you can in your last couple hours on earth.

Failures of the Human Race

Aaron Cohen '13, Senior Copy Editor

On Dec. 21, 2012 an angry man in the sky will reach out his mighty hand and smite the human race. Whether it be god, Morgan Freeman (same thing?), a reincarnation of Mayan King Yik’in Chan K’awil, or the guy in the Dos Equis commercials, some man (or woman) will have reached the point where he can no longer tolerate mankind. And who can blame him? Over the last 2012 years, we’ve done a lot to tick off the man upstairs. Though we can only speculate, here is a list of reasons we’re doomed – and deservingly so.

1. Calvin Johnson’s “incomplete” TD reception against the bears in 2010 and our lost perfect game:

It was the opening game of the Detroit Lions’ 2010 season, and with 30 seconds left on the game clock, the Chicago Bears led by four points. Detroit, in a last-ditch effort to win the game, threw to Calvin Johnson for the game-winning touchdown. But it was not to be. The referees ruled that Johnson had not “completed the process” of catching the football before stepping out of bounds. They were wrong. Calvin Johnson caught that pass, and the Lions should have won the game. Four men in zebra stripes broke my heart that day.

That same year, the Detroit Tigers’ pitcher, Armando Galarraga was robbed of a perfect game (no hits, no walks) on his very last batter. A routine play to first base turned into disaster as the nervous first base umpire, Jim Joyce, made the worst call in the history of Tigers baseball. One cannot be sure how the man in the sky felt about these missed calls, but one thing is for sure – H. Adam Cohen (my dad) was not pleased.

2. Starbucks now offers a \$7 cup of coffee:

Which means there are people in this world willing to spend \$7 on a cup of coffee. The man in the sky is not angry at the Starbucks corporation. It is simply feeding the demand our society provides. What he is mad about, is that the human race is too stupid to realize how ridiculous of a deal it really is.

3. There is no hockey this year:

And that means no Red Wings Press Day (I was really looking forward to that). Due to disagreements between players and management, the NHL has been locked out for the 2012-2013 season. Our own Berkley Bears will have to keep us satisfied until the puck drops next fall. While the man in sky was patient during the 2006 lockout, two times may prove to be too much.

4. The polar bears (or lack of):

The human race has decided that cars are more important than polar bears. Global warming has caused our polar ice caps to melt, allotting the polar bears less room to live freely. Imagine living on an island where every day the water came a little closer to the center until eventually the entire island was submerged. That is life for our polar bears. We get it, angry man in the sky. We’re sorry.

5. Ke\$ha dominates the charts:

Remember the days when the Beatles, Led Zepplin and The Rolling Stones topped the charts? Me neither. But I can imagine it being a lot better than listening to Ke\$ha’s songs on repeat. The fact that Ms. Mullins, in an edit of this article, changed the “s” in her name to a dollar sign makes me welcome the end of the world with open arms. I could write an article on how Kesha alone has brought on the apocalypse. It’s her fault “this place about to blow,” and “We’re gonna die young.”

6. Girls in my grade do not bathe:

There was once a time (2 weeks ago, to be exact) when I was under the impression that, like me, everyone showered once a day. You can imagine the feeling I got in the pit of my stomach when I was made aware of the fact that many girls in my grade shower once or twice a week. Ladies, the man in the sky is angry because you smell bad. He’s destroying the world because he cannot handle your stench.

7. Nobody reads the Spectator:

If you’ve read this far, you are the exception. Thank you. Our staff puts in hours upon hours of hard work to produce what you are holding in your hand. Take a moment to appreciate their dedication, and encourage the person sitting next to you to stop picking their nose and read this article.

The Tales of a Communist Christmas

Rostyslav Vyacheslavovich Yeshchenko '14, Sports Editor

Disclaimer: To be read in a thick soviet accent, similar to that of Moscow’s finest, Joseph Stalin.

On Dec. 25, people around the world celebrate the joyful holiday, Christmas. It is a cheerful time for family appreciation, gifting, and outdoors winter fun. But, in my lovely homeland, the USSR, the holiday is celebrated with a unique twist.

Since a very young age, girls and boys celebrating Christmas were most likely told the story of Santa Claus, an overweight fellow from the North Pole who brings gifts to all the nice kids in the world in one night.

In the USSR, the story is quite different. If you ask any comrade about Christmas, they will tell you the old tale of Santa Stalin. The only thing this wonderfully patient and giving man has in common with St. Nick is the bright red suit. Claus rides the sled with reindeer and upon arrival to individual households, enters through the chimney. Santa Stalin, on the other hand, uses KGB dogs as reindeer and upon arrival pounds on the door with his iron fist. Of course, it is traditional to leave cookies and a glass of milk for Claus, thanking him for the gifts. Santa Stalin does not ask for a glass of milk or a cookie, he,

of course, asks for all of your cookies and all of your milk. With the newfound scarcity of products, coal is considered a generous gift and a vital resource for the kids. So coal for the good comrades, and for the naughty comrades express train to Siberian work camps.

Preparation for the holidays is different, too. No family has its own Christmas tree. Instead, one big Christmas tree is placed in the middle of every village, town, and city. Homes are often decorated with portraits of notable USSR leaders and famous proletariat slogans instead of silly ornaments. Kids, instead of making snowmen, enjoy an afternoon of making snow monuments of Vladimir Lenin. Kids’ favorite activity is Russian snowball fights. These are not just balls of ice thrown at one another, these games involve AK47s, nuclear bombs, and vodka. Don’t bother searching for rules, because this game has none.

Christmas music is fun, but communist Christmas music is much more fun. Back in the USSR, we enjoy “Frosty the Communist,” “Red Christmas,” “All I want for Christmas is Equality,” “Here Comes Stalin,” “Santa Stalin is coming to

town,” and many more other Christmas hits.

In case you don’t believe me, this year, write your Christmas letter to Santa Stalin instead of Claus, but don’t blame me if you wake up in the cold Siberian Tundra on Dec. 25.



Santa Stalin enjoys another Christmas full of equality and AK47s in the USSR

Photo edited by Jake Rothman

Fourth hour battle for the halls

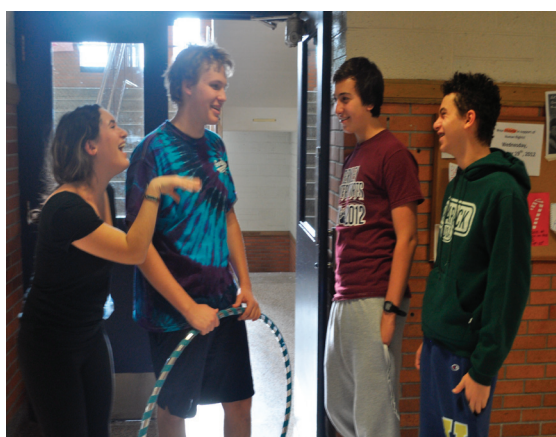
Jake Rothman '14, Feature Editor

Up and down the hectic halls of BHS, a battle for supremacy has emerged. Journalism, Advanced Video and Broadcasting, and Student Leadership have taken the spotlight as the players in the fight to rule the fourth hour hallways.

Each of these classes have various representatives that frequently travel amongst the passages of the school during fourth period. While all three of the classes could share the vast vestibules of BHS, there must be a supreme ruler of the cluttered halls.

During fourth hour, flocks of Advanced Video students can be seen throughout the BHS halls. The sheer amount of video kids consistently in the halls gives them an edge in that sense of the battle. Advanced video student and senior Karl Melin claims that Video rules the fourth hour halls. Melin credits Video’s dominance to the multitude of meaningful productions they put on for the school. Melin said, “We show everyone our product. We do the Film Fest, Senior Bear Awards, the video announcements, and the senior video.” He believes the creativity of these productions is what separates video from the

other two classes. In addition to the amazing videos they make, Video also can forcefully assert their hall supremacy because they “can tell people in the halls to shut up” for the good of the video. This attitude is what propels the video production staff to what they think is fourth hour supremacy.



Fourth hour students congregate in the congested halls.

Journalism and Student Leadership fall short in comparison to video mainly due to the excitement Video brings to BHS and its halls. “Who wants to write stuff?” Melin said in reference to the Spectator staff. He also notes that Student Leadership can not be as creative

with their productions as Video can be with theirs. From the opinion of an Advanced Video student, these negative features of the other classes set their class above the other two fourth hour superpower classes.

Us journalists over at the Spectator believe that we dominate the hall activity during fourth hour. We are constantly out interviewing and roaming the school to attain the highest quality of BHS’s finest, and only newspaper. Senior, and the Spectator’s own Entertainment Editor, James Demery, agrees with the notion that the folks in Journalism rank supreme over the opposing fourth hour superpower classes. Demery has been seen enforcing Journalism’s rule throughout the land of BHS atop Student Leadership’s scooter. He raves that, “Journalism is a big happy family. We’re a cohesive unit, working together to make the hallways ours.” Demery also warns all students in the school of the ruthless rule of the Spectator. He said, “If anyone crosses the

Journalism squad, be it a freshman, sophomore, junior, or senior, they will lose their legs. Simply, they will not be walking until the 22nd century.” Demery quite clearly exemplifies the unity and ferocity that the Spectator staff shows on a daily basis.

As it relates to the other fourth hour classes, Demery has simple reasoning as to why the Journalism class is superior. He credits the Spectator’s dominance over Student Leadership to the fact that they sell the bagels while the Spectator eats the bagels. This can be taken metaphorically as the Student Leadership staff tends to the needs of the supreme Journalism crew.

On the other hand, Demery does give props to Video for the Film Fest, but continues to hold that the Journalism staff simply does more year round than just make some elaborate videos.

Student Leadership puts on many important events at BHS, and is the final major player in the battle for fourth hour supremacy of the halls. A source that preferred to remain anonymous said, “Student Leadership is always out and about

doing business and important tasks for the school.” This was said to show the magnitude of the importance of the many things Student Leadership does in comparison to the other two classes. The anonymous source said, “While the other classes are working on small videos or little writing things, we [Student Leadership] are doing real, important stuff.” The many, very important things Student Leadership does makes its case as supreme ruler of the fourth hour classes.

Each of these students, from each of the three classes, believe that their respective course is the ruler of the fourth hour halls. Therefore, the only logical conclusion from this bloody combat is that the Spectator staff is the supreme rulers of the fourth hour halls. The influence and mind shaping that the journalism crew has over all other BHS students validates this claim to greatness. We provide a great service to BHS inhabitants by being kind yet constantly asserting our dominance through our unmatched newspaper.

THE LEAGUE OF EXTRAORDINARY GENTLEMEN

Mitchell Hart '13, News Editor and Jimmy Demery '13, Entertainment Editor

As we progress into deep winter, the weather gets colder and the clothes change as well. Two gentlemen who signify the epitome of this progression are seniors Samuel Subia, and John Ciaramitaro. Day in and day out these two are dressed in only the most dapper of attire, inspiring envy and desire in all who cross their path (male and female). We sat down with these fine men to discuss what fashion means to them, in order to uncover the great depth and inner anguish of each of these gents.



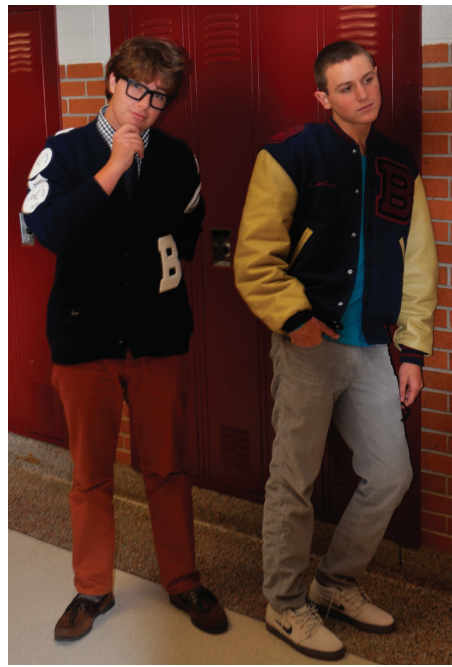
Subia shows off his classy attire.

Subia brings a Norwegian flavor to the table, and after attending only the most prestigious private Judaic academies for his entire youth, he wears only the snazziest of high end, Saks Fifth Avenue apparel.

Subia's current project pertains to ties, exploring new and inventive ways to fasten the collar to one's neck with the classiest of accessories. He always carries around an extra tie clip or two just in case a fellow gentleman finds himself in need. Subia also invented a spin-off of the ever popular varsity jacket, a customized varsity cardigan with all his various awards attached from the gentlemanly sport of tennis. Whilst Ciaramitaro rocks the classic varsity jacket, he wears it with a quiet dignity and grace that none can rival.

With baby-faced charm that could get a smile out of the sphinx, Ciaramitaro said, "I was born to be a model." and who would dare disagree with him? With color coordination that will blow one's eyes out of his or her sockets, Ciaramitaro never disappoints with his outfit selections. With a wardrobe that would make even Ron Burgundy envious, Ciaramitaro's diversity of style and fashion is unmatched by anyone in Berkley.

So, ladies, cherish every moment you see these two gorgeous and fashionable gents striding down the hallway. On May 23 they will be departing our fine educational institution, for good, never to return, except by way of myths and legends, countless ones which are already in the works.



Seniors Sam Subia and John Ciaramitaro strike stylish poses.



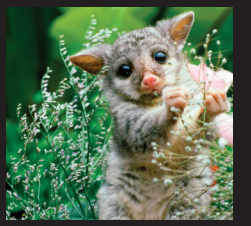
Ciaramataro shows off his casual side.

All photos by Jake Kreinbring.

AN HOUR BY HOUR LIST OF OBSCURITIES TO ACCOMPLISH ON YOUR LAST DAY ALIVE

Clarissa Donnelly '13, Editor-in-Chief
Aaron Cohen '13, Senior Copy Editor

1. Punch someone in the face: it doesn't have to be someone you hate, but haven't you always been curious about how it would feel?
2. Look at pictures of lemurs and mini-monkeys: wouldn't you rather have that as a lasting picture in your mind instead of an alien eating your friend's brain?
3. Go home for lunch and come back naked: who would feel the most uncomfortable? And who would make you put on clothes first?
4. Jump off of roofs and see if the coming apocalypse has given you any type of super power. If not, you are going to die anyways
5. Tell the kids you babysit how much you hate them and make them cry like they've made you cry when you are home, alone in your room
6. Let all of the animals out of the zoo — this can suffice as observation of a cute fuzzy animal
7. Set the school on fire, but make sure you've gotten all your homework in case the world doesn't end
8. Set Mr. Scott Doty's snake on fire so it will stop giving you nightmares
9. LARP with real swords
10. Brutally insult everyone's Facebook statuses and tweets on your timeline
11. Make and eat a krabby patty- haven't you always wondered what they taste like?
12. Don't turn in your PA paper before midnight
13. Offer drugs to a Huntington Woods cop
14. Sky dive without a parachute as you watch the world go down in fire or ice
15. Find the boy/girl you were always too nervous to talk to, tap them on the shoulder, and when they turn around tell them "the world isn't allowed to end until I do this..." and then kiss them passionately
16. Go 118 MPH down 11 mile and evade the Huntington woods police
17. Do something good, so you go out on a good note
18. Sprint down the halls of your elementary school, without your peace sign held high and scream at the top of your lungs
19. Take a quick trip to Russia and steal Vladimir Lenin's corpse — it's on display
20. Remove the members of One Direction's tongues with a large knife
21. Talk about Fight Club
22. Realize how implausible the end of the world actually is because the Mayans were too stupid to save their own race from becoming extinct — so hopefully you didn't follow this list literally



WINTER PLAYLIST

Jake Kreinbring '16, Photo Editor

In Michigan, winter is a cold, colorless season. It can be freezing, cold, and miserable. Sometimes it snows. Other times, January through March and sometimes even April the whole world looks black, white and dull. But under the horrendous weather and temperatures is something beautiful. The feelings the surroundings present show that winter needs a special kind of playlist. Music can make it feel different ways. It can be a jump start and a reminder that Winter will only last so long, and we will make through to the other side. Then again sometimes you just have to sink deeper into the long, cold experience of the three months ahead of you. I've handpicked a nice playlist that can do both. Either way, plug it in, and I'll see you on the other side.

"What a Year for A new Year"
Dan Wilson

This is one of the best holiday songs to come out in the last 10 years as it is just unbelievable in all aspects. The vocals are great, and Wilson seems to really capture the feelings of the holidays and the new year. His vocals and the lyrics work together to find that minor chord that signals the end of one year and the beginning of the next. It's that great mix of optimism for what's coming up tempered with the pain of leaving something behind. It's a song about growing up. Save this one for late at night when everyone else is asleep, and you can look at the lights on the tree or the menorah.

"Bloodhail"
Have A Nice Life

This post punk band captures a very strange feeling that I associate with winter. The eeriness of the song can change your mood completely because the band puts lyrics that are dark on top of the droning melody that pulls this song together beautifully. It can make you lose track of time and your surroundings, placing you in a cold, almost hypnotic trance. The way this song changes your emotions makes this a must for the Winter days that you just want to be over.

"No Other One"
Weezer

This song came from Weezer's Second Album, *Pinkerton*. The album carried a darker sound than they usually have. The song's heavy guitar and meaningful lyrics about his fear of losing someone add to the dark views of the album, but they still sound like Weezer with their nerd-rock roots. The heavier side to the song and the sad lyrics makes this a song to push you deep into your midwinter blues if that's cosy for you.. Sometimes the best way to deal with the blues is to embrace them.

"Wake Up"
Arcade Fire

Arcade fire is one of my favorite bands. Wake up is an insanely catchy song that is recognized as the sound of *Where the Wild Things Are*. The bands extreme energy with this song, and still having such deep lyrics, makes this tune something you cannot pass up listening to. The song starts off with inspiring yelling that seems to make everything better. The music is overwhelming, and the raw emotion put into this song is inspiring.

"A Bizarre Christmas Accident"
Ben Folds

On the flip side of Bruce is the Ben Folds' *"Bizarre Christmas Incident."* Where Springsteen reworks the classic Folds does his usual ironic, slightly warped, turn on the holiday image of Santa coming down the chimney. The song opens with a commotion that unfolds into a strange morning of finding a Santa dead in Ben Folds' chimney. He has made a song that is the counterpart to "The Hanukkah Song" by Adam Sandler. It's not exactly heartwarming but it is funny. It won't get old, and if you want to irritate your more "traditional" relatives, teach a couple of little kids to sing the chorus. "Honey call the lawyer fast/ Mrs. Claus is gonna sue our a**."

"Santa Claus is Coming to Town"
Bruce Springsteen

Springsteen and the E Street band attack this holiday classic and put together one of the most iconic holiday songs. Their spin on this song is just fantastic, changing it from the holiday jingle to a full throated arena sing along. It's cheesy but since there has to be a holiday song on this playlist, make it this one. It'll make your parents happy because it'll be the one song on the list they know.

"Jóga"
Bjork

This Icelandic singer-songwriter's vocals are amazing. Her music has a strange, trance like vibe to it. This girl gets winter. Her voice has got a strange otherness to, and that is not just because you cannot understand half the lyrics she sings. She buries you in the eeriness and sinks you deeper into winter's dark months. Still, there's a brightness in her delivery that gives just enough promise of a sunrise to keep from total despair.

"Holiday"
Vampire Weekend

This song off Vampire Weekend's second album carries their very distinct sound. This song has become a favorite for commercials, but should be looked at as more than just a commercial soundtrack. The faster beat and rather happy sounding lyrics make it a song that pushes you through the winter, even if the sound may be a bit too happy for the lyrics. This song, just like winter, is not just what it appears to be. The similarity of the two puts it on my winter playlist.

"If It Wasn't You"
Dale Earnhardt Jr. Jr.

Here's that jump start to get through the worst, wet part of a Michigan winter. A local pop band based in Royal Oak with a very unique sound. They are a blend of the pop and rock genres. Anyone even slightly interested in good music should look into DEJJ. They had a minor hit with *"Simple Girl"*, and while most of their music belongs in the Spring and Summer shuffle mix the pure fun of their music makes them a must for a winter playlist.

"A More Perfect Union"
Titus Andronicus

Winter makes me mad. If I can't get outside and burn some energy I need a way to vent, to break, or to be broken. Oh, Titus Andronicus, this is where you come in. This punk rock band has an interesting style, starting this song with a part from Abraham Lincoln's address given to the Young Men's Lyceum of Springfield, IL. Their references to American history introduce a new aspect to their lyrics. Their vocals seem almost like yelling rather than singing, but not in a bad way. The song's energy makes just about anybody want to air guitar, and if you know the words, you cannot resist singing along. This makes the song a top song on a winter playlist.

Homemade gifts brighten up the holiday season

Madison Huff '15, Bull's Eye Editor

Don't want to break the bank on gifts this year? Don't know what to get? Well fret no more and turn that frown upside down. Here are some homemade gift ideas that are as easy as they are cute.

Homemade Hot Chocolate Kit:

Start with an unused glass jar or a coffee cup. Then put in an unopened packet of hot cocoa and one large marshmallow with a handmade snowman face using food coloring and toothpicks. Add a tag with a personalized message like "a little something to warm you up over the holidays" or "a sweet treat for a sweet person" for a cute finale. You could even write a memory or quote on the cup with a sharpie and place in the oven to dry, adding a personal touch to this simple yet charming gift.

Chocolate covered treat "Holiday Platter":

In order to make this, you must gather milk and white or dark melting chocolate. The amount needed is based on how much you plan on making. Put the chocolate in a bowl over a pot of boiling water and stir till fully melted. Then take any treats of your choice and dip them in the still warm melted chocolate, like fondue. Cherries, strawberries, marshmallows, pretzels, and rice crispy treats are a few tasty dippers, but you may substitute with your own food ideas. Place the now dipped items on a towel covered plate and put them in the fridge to cool. Take them out when fully cooled and place on any design of your choice, such as a Christmas tree, candy cane, or star. Finally, you will end up with a homemade gift that is both eye catching and tasty.

Mint Candy Serving Tray:

Begin with peppermints, a cookie sheet, and parchment paper. Heat your oven to 350 degrees and place the parchment paper on the cookie sheet. Then, arrange the mints in any pattern you choose. You can alternate colors, try to create a checkerboard layout, or use all the same colored mints. Make sure there is space on each side of the cooking sheet then bake for 8-10 minutes. Once the time is up take out the tray to cool and remove the paper from underneath it carefully. The finished product is a beautiful homemade platter which will serve as a crafty yet usable gift.

Homemade Ornaments:

Start by getting some boring old glass bulbs and any old CD's that you don't use anymore. Then cut the CD's into various shapes and sizes with a strong pair of scissors. Glue a small amount with a hot glue gun onto the ornament, and press a piece of the CD onto it shiny side up. Keep gluing until the ornament is fully covered. Place some small colored ribbon inside the ornament to hide gaps from the spaces between CD pieces. Put the top back on and there you have it, a completely blinged out decoration.



Photo courtesy of Ms. Emily Mullins

Crayon Art:

First, hot glue a minimum of at least one of every color in the rainbow of crayons to the top of a small piece of canvas. But make sure the canvas is set up vertically or leaning against something in order for this to work. Then, get a hair dryer, turn the setting to hot/high, and go back and forth over the crayons slowly until they start to melt down the canvas. Once dry you have yourself a homemade crayon rainbow and anyone would be surprised yet joyed to receive this really unique piece of art.

Feeling the only child blues

Olivia Wood '14, Freelance Writer and Julia Pompilius '14, Freelance Writer

For the majority of one's adolescent life, he or she may feel as if the days could not pass quickly enough until one's sibling goes away to college. To have the bigger room, sole control over the remote, and the bathroom all to your newly only child-self seems to be the ultimate dream. Most kids rejoice when their siblings leave for college and they can finally have full reign.

At first, being the only child is bliss. Suddenly, your parents are allotting you more money when you go out. Your clothes are actually in your dresser, and your leftovers are still in the fridge. There is no one there to rat you out every time you sneak out past curfew, and your parents are sincerely interested in your life and have a lot more time to focus on you. Although it seems like the answer to your prayers, oftentimes when a sibling goes away you begin to miss them, harsh words, spats, and all.

For junior Hannah Milke, being a pseudo

parents without the buffer of an elder sibling can be frustrating and annoying. Soon enough, you will begin to dread going home after school, hearing your mother's nagging voice in your mind. Parents won't just nag you though; they will study your every move and want to spend every waking moment with you.

Sophomore Noah Witus can attest to this. His brother, former Editor-in-Chief of the *Spectator*, Zak Witus, graduated last year. Witus related, "It's a lot different in my house with no person that's relatable to me. I have a brother that's eight, but I can't really talk to him. When [Zak] comes back, we pick up where we left off."

Because the single sibling is, in fact, their last child, parents will begin to feel nostalgic and desperately try to keep their baby a baby. Typical NENS (Nearly Empty Nest Syndrome) behavior of parents includes interrupting whatever their child is doing to give him or her a long hug, suggesting he or she take their friends to Build a Bear Workshop for their seventeenth birthday party, and calling a four-hour family meeting every Saturday night to look at baby pictures and tell stories of the good old days when they wanted to spend time with them. Then there's the dramatic increase in one's chore load. Sure, your brother used to take the garbage out and set the table, but he's gone, and now it's your job. With more attention comes more responsibilities; isn't that how the saying goes?

This is the case with junior Corinne Moses. With her sister, BHS alumni Liz Moses, recently gone, Moses said, "It's really hard without my sister. My parents are really irritating now that I'm the only one for them to bother. My dad checks my grades every five minutes." However, for Moses, there are some benefits, such as eating out more often and additional closet space.

Soon enough, you will long for the company of your sibling.

Counting down the days to the next holiday when you will again be a sibling and not an only child (if only for a long weekend) will become your new obsession. Desperately wanting someone who truly understands how psychotic your parents are, you will long for the company of your sibling. Kids with siblings aren't properly equipped to face the wrath of their parents single-handedly; they have always had backup from their siblings. Thus, when deserted by their siblings, kids are harshly exposed to the only child way of life and are left wishing their older sibling had never left at all.

Photos by Veronica Marchese



only child is like getting the royal treatment. "I get all my parents' attention. My mom makes whatever food I want, she takes me wherever I want, I get to have friends over whenever I want, and I get to do whatever I want. My dog, Sassy, gives me a lot more attention and cuddles with me," she said contentedly. Some might argue that when older siblings leave, the youngest sibling becomes extremely spoiled, as is the case with Milke.

For those who have been an only child their whole lives, they have developed ways to avoid their parents so as not to have as much attention focused on their each and every move. But, for the newly single sibling, suddenly dealing with

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Drama Department hits high note with *Guys and Dolls*

Alison Jones '13, Assistant Editor-in-Chief

With a new director, new cast members, and a whole new outlook on the drama department, the ensemble of the show *Guys and Dolls* shined as the first performance of the year. If you did not have the immense pleasure of seeing this spectacle of a show, you certainly missed out on what could be considered one of the best shows to ever hit the Berkley High School stage. Seniors Aaron Cohen as Nathan Detroit, Tim Dalian as Sky Masterson, Isabelle Wroblewski as Miss Adelaide, Jake Vincent as Benny Southstreet, junior Andrea Megroet as Sarah Brown, and freshman Ryan Hurley as Nicely-Nicely Johnson, stole the show as the musical leads for this performance.

For most students who are not avid musical goers, this production attracted what could be argued as the most student and community populated show ever. Coming to school on the Monday after the shows, students could be found humming the sassy yet somber "Adelaide Lament" sung by the talented senior Isabelle Wroblewski,

or the upbeat tune "Fugue for Tinhorns" sung by freshman Ryan Hurley, junior Justin Rogers, and senior Jake Vincent.

The amount of hard work and time everyone puts in is unimaginable to most. With more than 50 people in the cast, 36 people in the crew, and 25 people in the pit, getting everyone to work together seamlessly is no easy task for the director. But with a man affectionately referred to as "JHops," director John Hopkins and this drama production could not fail.

Another woman credited with the success of the production is musical director and BHS choir teacher Ms. Julie Smith. "[Smith and Hopkins] are brilliant; I always say that directing a high school musical and putting it on is a miracle," senior Aaron Cohen said. "He, from the very start had an air of professionalism filled with passion and dedication towards making the show the best it could possibly be. There was never a point that I saw in him that he doubted us."

With two sold out shows, which is a first in BHS history, the show

went off without too many hiccups for all three nights. "What was great about the show was that even over the course of three nights, the show developed and changed and we improved with each night," senior Tim Dalian said.

As is tradition within the drama department, on closing night, the seniors from the cast, crew and pit all took center stage for one final goodbye as they were honored with roses from fellow cast mates. Freshman Ryan Hurley said "It's going to be sad with them gone next year; I have become such good friends with a lot of them." For anyone in attendance, the family-like atmosphere in the room could clearly be felt as one can expect from being a part of something for so long.

With the drama department having to start completely from scratch and rebuild their department, the three nights of shows were a magical success. All of those involved should be proud of the shows that they put on; it was thoroughly enjoyed by all.



The Gamblers show off their dancing skills.



The Hot Box Girls in costume just before show time.

Photo courtesy of Taylor Tucker

BEST MOVIES OF 2012

Emma Weisberger '16, Circulation Manager

Marvels: The Avengers

Marvels: The Avengers is a movie that almost anyone could go watch and actually, sincerely enjoy. This action/adventure blockbuster contains aspects that 8-year-old boys and 16-year-old girls can both appreciate and have a good time watching. The movie is not just a superhero movie, but the ultimate superhero movie. With all of the Marvel Superheroes in one film, with the exception of Spider Man, how could it not be amazing? The action of this movie was compelling and entertaining, but what increased the pleasure of watching *The Avengers* is that it gave superhero movies a different angle with genuinely funny lines that accompanied intense scenes. The story line could have been improved, as the story was mainly about Thor's problems, but regardless, it was an overall success. *The Avengers* is an enjoyable movie-going or watching experience.

The Dark Knight Rises

The epic finale of the Batman series, *The Dark Knight Rises*, allows the trilogy to end with a dramatic, lasting impression of the most recent Batman trilogy. Not only was *The Dark Knight Rises* a great action movie, it had a lot of drama and depth to it, similar to that of the previous movies, though it seemed like they tried to put more emphasis on the drama for this movie. Although the beginning of the movie was slow-paced and a bit uneventful, that was used, however, in order for the suspense to build to help create a dramatic ending, full of unexpected twists that produced a powerful ending. The addition of Catwoman, played by Anne Hathaway, was a success and gave the movie a new feature that separates it from the previous two. Overall, this dramatic film effectively wrapped up the epic Christopher Nolan Batman trilogy.

The Twilight Saga: Breaking Dawn Part 2

The fifth and final movie of the Twilight Saga finally hit theaters this November and drew to an end the huge spectacle that came from Stephanie Meyer's vampire novels. After the previous movie, *Breaking Dawn Part I*, left off at such a suspenseful moment, fans could not wait to see how the whole saga ended. The movie started out a bit cheesy with a the fake looking baby and less than realistic effects took away from the overall movie experience because they were so unrealistic that it was distracting and difficult to overcome. The effects did improve, however, as the movie went on. The end of the movie was, in some ways, different than the end of the book, making it enjoyable for those who already knew the story, so they could too be surprised at certain moments. The final scene with Edward and Bella in the meadow was adorable and wrapped up the entire series well.

21 Jump Street

This film stars Channing Tatum, who was recently voted People Magazine's Sexiest Man Alive. Need I say more? Well, if that's not enough to grab you, Tatum stars alongside Jonah Hill, a hilarious comedian who wrote the movie story, and typically appears in ridiculous yet funny movies. With these stars, *21 Jump Street* was bound to be successful among the teenage demographic. The movie tells the story of two pathetic cops who have to go back to high school for an undercover mission after graduating years ago. Their approach to handling high school leads them into some relatively unlikely and strange situations that added to the overall hilariousness of the movie. *21 Jump Street* is a movie that left viewers crying because they were laughing so hard and somewhat in shock that the characters had really just said all that. Generally, *21 Jump Street's* absurdity made it a perfect movie to watch if you just want a good laugh.

"I really like action and romance movies and 2012 had a ton of those movies."
-Junior Briana Green

"I loved *Breaking Dawn!* Best movie in the world!"
-Sophomore Ted Hall

"The story plot [of *The Dark Knight Rises*] was really good and I liked how it connected to the first two movies."
-Freshman Drake Yolkiewicz

"A very silly movie, not to be watched with family."
-Senior Molly Austin

We only got 24 hours to live

Shelby Silver '14, Opinion Editor

It's the end of the world as we know it (and I feel fine) and that means it is time for everyone to stop what they're doing and take a moment to ponder about this past year which may or may not be our last. 2012 was a year of iPhones, music, and BHS students doing what we do best, and that is being the best. But then again, every other year is full of this and the only difference is that the apocalypse is in about 24 hours. Besides the fact that the Olympics happened this past summer, 2012 has been a year that will be vaguely remembered when those of us who survive tomorrow take a look back on our lives. Considering everything that has happened in the past year, 2012 can be described by one word and one word only: Meh.

Meh #1: The ever expanding tech world is coming to an abrupt halt as people get ready to duck and cover leaving their iPhones, tablets and other techy things behind. The modern world reached a lull when the iPod first came out in 2001. Every year since then, Apple has come out with the same types of products with very little differences, but huge reactions, which frankly I don't get. A new iPhone coming

out every six months is not something that everyone should be getting excited about. It's a phone, relax. It's not like it's a gadget that has the solution to the end of world hunger. If new phones and tablets is what get the people goin', then people need to get their priorities straight. *sigh*

Meh #2: Every year, the senior class calls themselves, "the best senior class ever" (except last year), but the only thing that makes them the best is the fact that they are the oldest. Freshmen, sophomores and juniors constantly dream about finally being able to stand in the limelight of BHS and be able to say it's their last year, but that's not going to happen so I might as well share my thoughts. It's the same thing every year. The senior men get rowdy and spirited at all games, and the ladies tag along to cheer on their men. Teachers begin to treat them more like friends than students, and making fun of underclassmen is their priority. They all suffer from either an insanely hard schedule, or suffer from the worst senioritis ever known to man, and the list goes on, and on and on. Face it people: Nothing has changed in the last bazillion years, and the senior class is only the "best of

the best" because they're the oldest and it's their turn.

Meh #3: It's not me; it's your taste in music. Like Ke\$ha says "We're gunna die young" and that means it's time to drop the bomb on how bad music has gotten. I mean, music has consistently gotten worse since 1980 happened, but the noise people are forced to listen to when they turn on the radio is so terrible. I understand that some of these teen heart throbs are fun to stare at (i.e. the One Direction boys and Justin Bieber), and Christina Aguilera has vocal chords that everyone covets, but that doesn't mean their music has to be liked. I cannot comprehend why people deliberately listen to top 40 songs, but before we all die, take out your old Beatles and Pink Floyd albums and listen to those. It doesn't have to end with Demi Lovoto and Nicki Minaj. Be good.

This year is coming to an end, but events that this past year has encountered will not stay in our memories. Whether it be watching the Olympics, or trying to resist the bad music that come on the radio, just remember that if we live, there is no way music could get any worse. As this rant on 2012 comes to an end, I must bid adieu and say buh-bye.

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HITS AND MISSES OF DECEMBER

HIT: Songza

Veronica Marchese '13, Assistant Editor-in-Chief

Songza, similar to Pandora and Infinity tracks (8tracks.com and an app), is a mood-generated music app that is taking smartphone users by storm. This app is especially helpful because it groups together different types of songs based on one's mood. If a user is feeling jolly and in the holiday spirit for example, there are playlists such as: "Billboard's Hot Holiday songs," "Classic Christmas," and "Hanukkah Hits." Say it's a Thursday afternoon and your options are: "an energy boost," "working with or without lyrics," "office-crowd pleasers," or "easing the tension." Depending how you are feeling at this moment, the smartphone app and website Songza can help users find the right tunes to go along with their mood through its "music concierge" option. Not feeling what Songza thinks you are feeling? In that case, there is the "popular playlist" option, or users can type in their mood in the search bar. No matter one's mood at the moment, not only is there an app for it, there's even a remarkable playlist.



MISS: Family Access

Jimmy Demery '13, Entertainment Editor

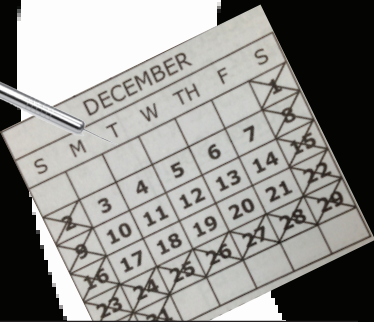
In our wonderful era of technology parents and students alike are able to check a student's grades and attendance at any time. In the blissful olden days students received a report card, on paper, every term and were entrusted to take it home to their parents, that trust is apparently lost. Now, instead, people obsessively check their Family Access or Student Access for every assignment or test to be entered. Over checking grades leads to unnecessary stress about school, we are supposed to learn in school, not work just hard enough to remember facts and regurgitate them on a test then forget everything we were taught. Perhaps we have come too far down the Family Access road to turn back, but please administration, you should, for the school's sake and mine.



MISS: Shortened winter break

Shelby Silver '14, Opinion Editor

The past 11 years that I have spent in grade school, middle school and high school, we've had the luxury of a 17 day winter vacation. Why this luxury was taken away from us, I cannot bear to fathom this change of events and I thoroughly disapprove. Even with a shortened break, BHS may be a bit luckier to now have a 12 day winter break (weekends included) than other schools that now only have seven. But even if our break is longer than others, we students are prissy princesses and do not want an extra week in the building. Spending our very last day before we die in school is not okay. Thank you Berkley Board of Education for ruining our chances of doing everything on our bucket list. So long cruel world.



HIT: Campus Martius

Alison Jones '13, Assistant Editor-in-Chief

Campus Martius, centered in downtown Detroit, is a popular winter night's hot-spot for all in the metro Detroit area. Campus Martius creates positive press for the Detroit area, as it is the most active pedestrian location in downtown Detroit year-round. The park itself is 2.5 miles wide and offers year-round entertainment for all. In the summer months, there are concerts, games and movies being played throughout the park. During the winter, Detroit inhabitants can find a plethora of things to do, including the 60-foot ice rink in the middle of the park. With an admissions cost of only \$7 and skate rentals at \$3, Campus Martius is a perfect spot to cure those winter blues. So grab a few friends, and head down for a night full of ice skating and hot chocolate.



Photos by Veronica Marchese

NEW CHOIR TEACHER BRINGS PASSION AND ENTHUSIASM TO STUDENTS

Aaron Cohen '13, Senior Copy Editor

Some may remember the article I wrote last year titled "Passion breeds excellence; in life and in sports." In short, the article spoke to the direct relation between passion and success. As the headline implies, sport is not the only situation where this theory is applicable. In almost any circumstance, love and dedication leads to a more desirable outcome. This could not be truer for Berkley's new choir teacher, Ms. Julie Smith.

Ms. Smith, known affectionately as "Mama" Smith, is nearing the completion of her first semester at BHS. In that time, she has musically directed Guys and Dolls and breathed life into a choir program in need of a fresh start.

Smith always knew she wanted to teach music, and she attributes her early inspiration to her elementary school music teacher. "[She] was my hero. She was everything to me," Smith said.

In high school, she continued pursuing her passion, earning lead roles in the school's musical productions, and participating in honors choir. From there, she went on to refine her skills at Eastern Michigan University, and is currently working towards her PhD at Oakland University.

Little known to many, Smith has been offered the job at BHS twice before, but it was not until this year that she felt the timing was just right. Now that she is here, she intends on doing everything she can to help the program succeed. When asked about her goals for the program, Smith responded with a tone of fierce dedication and commitment. "I want to maintain the standard of excellence that Berkley high school choirs have always had. But also, I want to build the program's relationship with the community," Smith said. She is also thinking long term: "If students are interested in pursuing a career in music, there should be a system in place to springboard them into the right college setting."

Teaching choir requires passion on several levels. Along with a love for educating, there

is a necessary musical connection that must be established. When asked about what it is like conducting a choir, Smith responded with an answer that matched the beauty of the sound she hopes to create. "It's somewhat surreal because you are shaping the sound with your hands. The sound you hear in your head, you're actually making with your hands," she added. "And then there's the personal connection you have with every one of your singers. When it's magical to you, it's magical to them. Without saying a word to each other, you are all aware that you are creating something beautiful."

Smith plans to continue getting the best out of her students here at BHS. "What do I want to be written on my teacher tombstone?" Smith asked. "In addition to being a great musician, I inspired my students, and they knew that I was always there for them."




Ms. Smith instructs her students while they read their sheet music.

Photo by Jake Kreibing

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March 19, 2013
April 16, 2013
May 21, 2013



BHS Collaborative Center 7:00 p.m.
Hope to see you there

Holiday commercialism: C'mon man

Jimmy Demery '13, Entertainment Editor

Sitting around the table with family, enjoying delicious, homemade food, basking in the warmth of family and thankfulness; that is what the holidays are all about or at least what they used to be about. Today, holidays in America are dominated by obnoxious commercials declaring "Target opens at midnight! Get started on your holiday shopping early!" Please, this makes me want to vomit. Instead of spending the holiday night with family that you probably do not get to see very often, people are out trampling all over each other trying to get a bargain on the newest novelty.

Call me crazy, but aren't the holidays about giving thanks for what we already have, not worrying about getting the newest smartphone or 70 inch plasma screen TV? In an era where everything is quite literally at our fingertips, we seemingly cannot be satisfied with the possessions we already have. There are people all over the world who fall asleep hungry almost every night, and we in America just keep on gluttonously buying and buying with what seems to be a bottomless want.

Every year there are more and more stories of people going over the top just to shop, and

people getting hurt just to get a bargain. People were ripping each other's hair out over a Nintendo Wii U, and a man shot at another person's car in a mad dash to a Wal-Mart simply because they "wouldn't get out of the way." C'mon now America, we are better than this. Holiday shopping and the ensuing hoopla have gotten completely out of control.

The holidays are about celebrating what you already have and spending time with friends and family, and it seems that a greedy, consumer driven America has polluted even these paragons of our culture. It is almost disgusting the lengths people and companies will go to in order to get a good bargain out of days that are supposed to be about charity and togetherness. Instead the holidays are now all about getting the coolest new thing for the lowest possible price.

However you feel about getting "60 percent off on everything in the store!" Holiday shopping has gotten out of control. No matter how great the new gadgets you may or may not have gotten this holiday season, please try to remember what this time is all about: friends, family, and spending time with the people you care most about.

Foreign language policy no es bueno

Bennett Hart '16, Business Manager

Let's be honest: Learning a language may not be the easiest or most enjoyable thing to do, and unfortunately, the state of Michigan has set new standards for public schools pertaining to foreign languages, starting with this year's freshmen class. From now on all students will have to take two consecutive years of the same foreign language in accordance with their graduation requirements.

It seems as though most students aren't excited as they are now forced to select a foreign language for their schedule. Freshman Ari Marcus is currently enrolled in Spanish one and said, "I dislike [Spanish], because I don't think I need to learn another language, and I'm not good at it." Marcus went on to explain that he only takes Spanish because it is required to graduate. Many students also feel this way. Students should not be subjected to have to use up one of their elective credits for something that he or she is uninterested in.

For people who do not, or cannot, attend C.A.S.A., the only other foreign language available at BHS is French. Freshman Jack Bacow, who is currently in French one decided to change languages for his freshman year because he was not happy with his Spanish experience during eighth grade.

Although many students at BHS are upset with the forced language requirements, others are not. Senior Jennifer Alpert is an AP Spanish student, and she said she continued to take Spanish beyond her requirements because she wants to become fluent in hopes to use Spanish in conversation throughout her life.

While talking to students about Spanish, it was clear that their opinions regarding whether or not languages should be required are very strong. Ms. Adrienne Armstrong in reference said, "The new standards are great because now many languages are spoken in the United States and students should be able to understand multiple languages." She went on to explain that the only reason why she does not like the language standards is that she wishes more languages were offered at BHS. Armstrong continued to say, "Students learn to read people and know what they're saying, even if [they] do not know every word they are saying. [Students] also learn cognates, which are words that are similar in multiple languages. Cognates allow [students] to understand many languages."

While it is great that people like Alpert have set high goals for themselves, it may become hard to maintain their fluency. Some may take languages for their exposure to Spanish cultures, but one can acquire knowledge pertaining to different cultures in the history classes that are offered here at BHS.

In addition, many people in other countries have learned enough English to legitimately communicate with Americans. Speaking multiple languages is a good skill to have, but the students of Michigan should not have to take them if they would rather take other courses.

With increasing language expectations for the state of Michigan, it is the sad truth that every future high school student will have to take a foreign language in order to graduate, thus eliminating room for classes students would rather take. To put it simply: the language standards are ridiculous and are no bueno.

Generation Z: Underage girls gone crazy

Madison Huff '15, Bullseye Editor

Girls often claim not to care what others say or think of them, that is, whether the 'talk' is positive or negative. They often claim that there is no such thing as 'bad publicity.' It seems their desire to fit in is practically programmed into their brains and it turns them into attention seeking zombies. Without even realizing it, many girls lose themselves in the process of trying to "fit in." Because of this, it seems individuality has officially become an endangered part one's personality.

Everyone has heard of and has witnessed many examples of the stereotypical 'Mean Girl' behavior, however, generation Z could shock even the creator of the movie *Mean Girls*. Lindsay Lohan said, "Calling someone fat doesn't make you any skinnier, calling someone stupid doesn't make you any smarter, and calling someone ugly doesn't make you any prettier." Yet girls in this teenage generation often gossip with their friends saying things similar, if not worse than the rude and obnoxious comments in *Mean Girls* just for the fun of it. This is my generation and it defines class... not.

Putting partying first and grades second is how groups of girls my age appear to prioritize their life. Gals, do you honestly think partying is going to end up being your future career? Come on now. Everyone has the potential to do well, whether they use said potential or not is up to them. High school is the time in our lives when we either come out on top or get left behind. These girls may not be too worried about their life in the moment, but they should be. Let's just say if generation "Z's" girls keep acting the way they are, there will be no chance of repairing the damage that has been done.

In terms of outside influences, the term "YOLO" still appears to be the motto of this type of girls. They make a choice, which others would view as a giant and detrimental mistake, but claim "You only live once" as validation of this. Whether these girls think it is okay to put the blame on outside influences or not, take responsibility for your actions. You slipped up, so own up.

Back in the day, before Twitter and Facebook, girls had no choice but to confront their issues head on, but now girls take it to the internet. Using websites like Facebook and Twitter, girls now have the ability to hide behind a virtual wall giving them more confidence in what they choose to say. Girls can either bash on someone or talk about personal issues without having an up front conversation via sub tweets. For instance: When their friends say or do something that irritates them, they will end up tweeting about what that friend did which then initiates unnecessary drama. This is an on going cycle of generation Z and displays just how "classy" these girls truly can be.

Turning into something you are not has begun to trend throughout the current "young adult" age group. Like a disease, the need to be "popular" is infecting generation Z. Breaking them until they think the only way to achieve the highest level of "popularity" is to become life size Barbies. These girls now think it's okay to wear wear clothes meant to fit toddlers and put on make-up that makes them look like they belong on the *Jersey Shore*.

Not only are these girls giving themselves a bad reputation, but the generation as a whole. Although the change in behavior is not entirely always one's fault, the choices she makes in the end are her decisions. Come on girls, you are making Regina George look like a saint. We are so much better than this. The girls of generation Z clearly need to get a reality check.



Photo by Jake Kreinbring
Sophomores Lily Upp, Kara Unitin, and Gabi DiCarlo imitate the cover of *Mean Girls*. (These girls are very nice. Not like the examples mentioned in this article)

The pop culture effect

Lindsay McFern '13, Student Life Editor

Music and television are a constant presence in 21st century teenage life, but both are beginning to influence adolescent behavior and not necessarily in a good way. Television shows such as *Skins* and *Awkward* claim to represent "real" teenage life, but tend to portray it as a huge party complete with drugs, drinking and sex. Music also feeds into this with lyrics mothers would all scorn, as one in three popular songs contains explicit references to drugs or alcohol, according to a report in "The Archives of Pediatrics and Adolescent Medicine." Teens believe this is genuinely how they should also behave, yet it is just a glamorized version of teen society off of which Hollywood makes money. Pop culture strongly impacts the way students perceive what "normal" behavior is, urging them to act in ways detrimental to their well-being.

Popular culture use its imminent presence to influence teens by bragging about drugs and alcohol which creates an illusion for teens to emulate. When most of America's youth is swayed to believe this is the way all their peers are acting, they tend to act similarly. "Teens are definitely influenced by pop culture, they look up to people in music and TV and try to be like them," senior Jeff Tomaszewski said. It seems as if half our school's population holds an MIP or something comparable, yet BHS' populace still goes along with the "hype," gilding the truth of the issue that teenage substance abuse is clearly a problem. Senior Billy Adler added, "People do it to impress others or because it's seen as cool, but it's not worth an arrest or probation." Serious consequences come along with experimenting with drugs and drinking,



most of which certain students have learned first-hand. As students try to rival the popular stereotypes by "partying like a rock star," girls are especially targeted and feel overwhelmed by the pressure of the media. Pop culture does not only affect the things people are doing, but also how they feel. TV shows and types of music paint pictures of perfection far from attainable. Girls are shown to all be miniscule, complete with perfect skin and hair, and according to most recent rap songs, they are expected to be extremely promiscuous. These lead girls to attempt to be just as the things they have seen: perfect floozies. If they dare not to be they are scrutinized and are seen to be as no good. These images make girls lose confidence in their completely normal bodies, and strongly encourage an unsafe way of behavior. Music and television use their immense power to brainwash the teens of society into acting as if they were stars of *Jersey Shore*, making them obsessed with self-image and delinquency.

American society glamorizes bad behavior and bad attitudes, especially in teens. It shows a sort of teen utopia unfeasible to any adolescent population making teens chase after it like the next new Apple product. Teens now, more than ever before, need to realize their priorities should be set on school and forwarding their life, not on next weekend's activities. One has their whole life to "party," and hopefully when legally allowed, one will be much smarter about it.

Border courtesy of how-to-draw-cartoons-online.com

All photos courtesy of kiamitju.blogspot.com, MichaelJackson.com and MTV.com

High School 101: A lesson on yourself

Lim-Lim Kobe '13, Freelance Writer

In high school, I came in as a freshman unsure of where I placed in the society of more than a thousand. I grew up with the same hundred or so people through Norup. Becoming acquainted with people from all walks of life was intimidating, to say the least. However, it turns out that the scariest part of high school was actually becoming acquainted with me.

In these four years, we have updated our wardrobes from middle school, no longer plastering 'Hollister' or 'Abercrombie and Fitch' across our chest. As we grow, we want to make something of ourselves and set ourselves apart from everyone else. The way to be seen is to be "unique." Therefore, new hairstyles are tested, as well as new hair colors, as we strain to find our niche. Our taste in music varies, we find artists by ourselves, and we don't simply listen to the music our parents listen to or what Channel 95.5 tells us is "Detroit's Hit Music." These slight changes indicate our unconscious, or perhaps

conscious, obsession with how the world sees us. People judge us by what music we listen to, and through such insignificant facts as such, they take it upon themselves to decide what personality we have, and our philosophy on life. With such quick analysis, we students have to make sure what we do will define us in the way we want to be defined whether it be as a "hipster," "metal head," or other high school clichés.

Being unique means exploring options, whether in careers or socially. Senior Brodie Burns appreciated, "the support of music and my band. High school has really pushed me as a musician." The amount of student involvement in the community is astounding and makes for a more welcoming place – something that is important for self-growth. Burns intends to make music a career.

Aside from music, Berkley is well-defined by its student section. One person you will always see in the ridiculously

hype group is Senior Sean Calendar, one of the Most Changed Award nominees. Participating in school events has made him more "outgoing and confident in [him]self."

After interviewing most of the nominees I found that most of them had one resounding quality that high school helped them find: Being more comfortable and open with both themselves and others. According to Senior Kelly Jensen, she became the person she is today because she "stopped trying to be someone [she] wasn't so people would like me [and she] just started being herself."

Lastly, a few words of advice from senior Mitchie Oliva, "Don't let people change you, find your way yourself." This is the time of your life where you have the opportunity to explore yourself. I hope you never let anyone hinder that.



From freshman to senior year (from left to right): Kelly Jensen, Mitchie Oliva, and Sean Calendar show their immense changes.

Dear Mr. Gawel and Santa,

Collectively, the Berkley students have acted as a well behaved student body this year. Because of this, we all should be awarded with something better than coal this holiday season. We are not very demanding, we only ask for the following:

1) A goat: If you've been to a sporting event, you have heard the student section's chant yelling, "We are buying a Goat!" But having a goat comes with responsibility, so the goat will help out in multiple ways. First, this goat could make appearances at all sporting events. This could help our teams because as distracting as our student section can be, imagine if we added a goat to the madness. Secondly, it could act as a hall monitor who only needs to be fed scraps to work. So, Mr Gawel, a goat would be a great present. They are only \$120 and it would make everybody here very happy.

2) Technological Freedom: As kids living in the digital age, most of us have our fair share of technology. Berkley currently has an extremely limited amount of WiFi connection available to students, and students are not allowed to bring in their own technological devices such as tablets or laptops. Newer technology has the ability to further the learning experience of kids by using apps and programs such as Prezi to replace more boring programs like Powerpoint. Finally, the Berkley technology Terms of Use says that students are not allowed to download programs. These may be able to make more kids engaged in learning using more interactive programs, so why would an educator say no? So, for the holidays, Berkley wants WiFi and the ability to bring in their own devices.

Students are not the only people who want something for Christmas, Hannukah, or their other respective holiday this year. The BHS teachers work hard every day to make sure kids are learning new material in interesting days. Teachers want smaller class sizes. Social studies teacher Mrs. Angela Church said that "I would love to have more space in my room. Smaller class sizes would be amazing." Science teacher Ms. Diana Dildine agreed, saying that smaller class sizes would be "awesome" because she could get help more kids if they are struggling.

So, Santa or Mr. Gawel, these gifts are all we want for the holidays. Just these three small gifts and we will be happy. Most of us have been decent humans and do not want to be left without a goat in our stockings or under the tree this year.

Sincerely,
Jake Kreinbring '16, Photo Editor

Terrible tweets of twenty twelve

"Is it actually raining? Are you kidding me....Every [flipping] Friday."

Now, I'm not a meteorologist, but I'm pretty sure it doesn't rain EVERY friday.

"Bulldozers and those crane things scare the [crap] out of me they're like giant robots"

This is a little unrealistic, bulldozers and cranes are construction vehicles.

"I swear something was chasing me up the stairs from my basement #holy[poop]"

Oh was something really chasing you? What? Some dust bunnies?

"Wat r "

Pants are an article of clothing.

"WTF is 90 + 70?"

160

"Do you think animals do drugs?"

I would say not since there's no way they can voluntarily.

"New tweet"

OK



We at *The Spectator*, as well as we're sure, others, beg and plead to all tweeters that they refrain from tweeting such idiotic things. Yes you have 180 characters to say whatever your heart desires, however what your heart desires is not always what we care to read about.

Photos courtesy of Twitter

SPORT OR HOBBY?

FIND OUT IF DRIVING A CAR MAKES YOU AN ATHLETE

Corey Lipton '16, Assistant Copy Editor

The word "sport" can take on many different connotations. My definition may differ from yours, but I believe that a sport is something that is competitive, takes skill, takes athletic ability, and cannot be done without intense practice. A sport not only challenges one's body, but it challenges one's mind. Throughout my life I have heard people question whether or not something is a sport. So, without further ado, here I am to rid the tension between what is and isn't a sport.

Swimming: doggy paddle or backstroke, it's still a sport

Whether or not swimming is a sport is a very hard decision for me. In its early stages, swimming was considered a survival skill, but the evolution of it has changed my opinion about whether or not swimming is an actual sport. In order to swim at the highest level, swimmers must be one of the most fine-tuned athletes in any sport. To be great, swimmers have to dedicate most of their time, and this includes constantly training and preparing, in and out of the pool. Olympian Michael Phelps worked six days a week five hours a day while training for the 2008 Beijing Olympics. That amount of training is unheard of even for the best athletes in the NFL, NBA and NHL.



NASCAR: a trip around a track, still not a sport

I have yet to hear one legitimate argument that NASCAR is a sport. Some people say that it takes skill, but in my opinion, give anyone a month long crash course and they could compete. Race car driving is definitely not a sport because it involves almost no athletic ability. All the drivers do is turn left over and over and over again. Some people may say that NASCAR is a sport because it puts an immense amount of stress on one's body to race, but if anyone has ever driven on the highway, I think they can handle it. Take a four week long course at Ted's driving school and you're good to go.



Golf: perfect swings takes skill, a sport

Anyone who says that golf is not a sport has never played. Golf not only challenges your physical ability, but it is one of the toughest mental challenges an athlete will face. Golf challenges players to hit a tiny ball with a tiny clubface, golfers must swing a club precisely and in turn, make perfect contact with the ball. If one cannot clear their mind after a bad shot, the game wins and the player ends up with a score that is 10 over par. If you do not think golf is a sport, I challenge you to go and play 18 holes carrying your own bag, and not to just play, but play well, that's without throwing any clubs.



Cheerleading: doing backflips, not a sport

When people say that cheerleading is a sport, I can definitely see where they are coming from. It takes flexibility to do certain kicks, and it takes strength to lift and throw others, but in a routine, not all of the cheerleaders do these activities. If it were a sport, they would be on the field, not the sideline. In order for me to believe that cheerleading is a sport, you can't have cheerleaders cheering at the sideline of other sports. People say that cheerleading takes practice and athletic ability, and that is true but it takes less amount of practice than any other so-called sport out there. Cheerleading is more similar to being a fan than any other sport. Think about it: cheerleaders cheer for a team, fans cheer for a team. Cheerleaders have chants, fans have chants. I know that nobody, no matter how dedicated a fan they are, believes that being a fan is its own sport.



Fencing: fearless fencers rejoice, it is a sport

Fencing is a sport because of the immense amount of skill one needs in order to be good at this. Fencers need agility, quickness, timing and strength. Fencing experts are very uncommon, which makes it more impressive if one is able to fence well. Fencing takes years of training; imagine how hard it is to find a fencing instructor, so you know if someone fences, they must be dedicated, and they're probably not wasting their time being mediocre. You don't run into someone who teaches fencing for a living every day. Fencers need more agility and dexterity than an NFL receiver, more quickness than an NBA point guard, and more stamina than an NHL skater. Plus, they get to where those really cool outfits.



Photos courtesy of olympicimages2012.com, autoweek.com, cedarchasegolfclub.com, nytimes.com, menloathletics.com

SPORTS BRIEFS

VARSITY BASKETBALL TEAM FINDS FOOTING

Jimmy Demery '13, Entertainment Editor

The Berkley Bears varsity basketball team opened their 2012-2013 on the road against longtime rival, the Royal Oak Ravens on Dec. 4. The final score was 58-49 with the Bears coming out on top. Sophomore Jon Radner led the Bears with 27 points. The team's second game against Plymouth was cancelled because Plymouth scheduled two games for the same day.



The squad hopes to improve on their 3-17 record last year, and a first game victory against a rival will surely provide some momentum. Starters of the team against Royal Oak were seniors Jeff Tomaszewski, Roy Johnson, Alex Agbay, Leondra and sophomore Jon Radner. When asked about his thoughts on this year's team Tomaszewski said, "Better than last year's for sure, we have a lot better leadership on this team. We're all on the same page, we just want to win." The team lost to University High School 81-69 in their home opener, moving their record to 2-1.

If you are a basketball fan, and would like to spread the fan love, Berkley Hoops is right around the corner with games starting Jan. 8 at the Huntington Woods Recreation Center, featuring such explosive talent as senior Tommy Despard, Alexander Gross, and Brad Riebe.

BERKLEY CHEER LOOKING UP

Emma Weisberger '16, Circulation Manager

In the past few years, the Berkley Competitive Cheer squad has been the "underdog" of the cheerleading world. With new coaches, however, the girls are looking to raise their status as a cheer squad among competitors.

Due to the fact that previous coach, Ms. Diane Dildine, had to be recertified as a teacher, she could not coach the team this year. The coach who has taken her place is coach Leilani Inthavong and assistant coach Rachael Brunell. The team is excited to see what they have to bring to the squad and how the training techniques of these coaches will help them to improve for the upcoming season. "We have had a different coach every year," junior Shelby Roy said, "This is by far the most experienced coach we have had and I can really see the team getting better and improving." The girls are appreciative of Coach Leilani and are eager to see how her coaching will benefit the team.

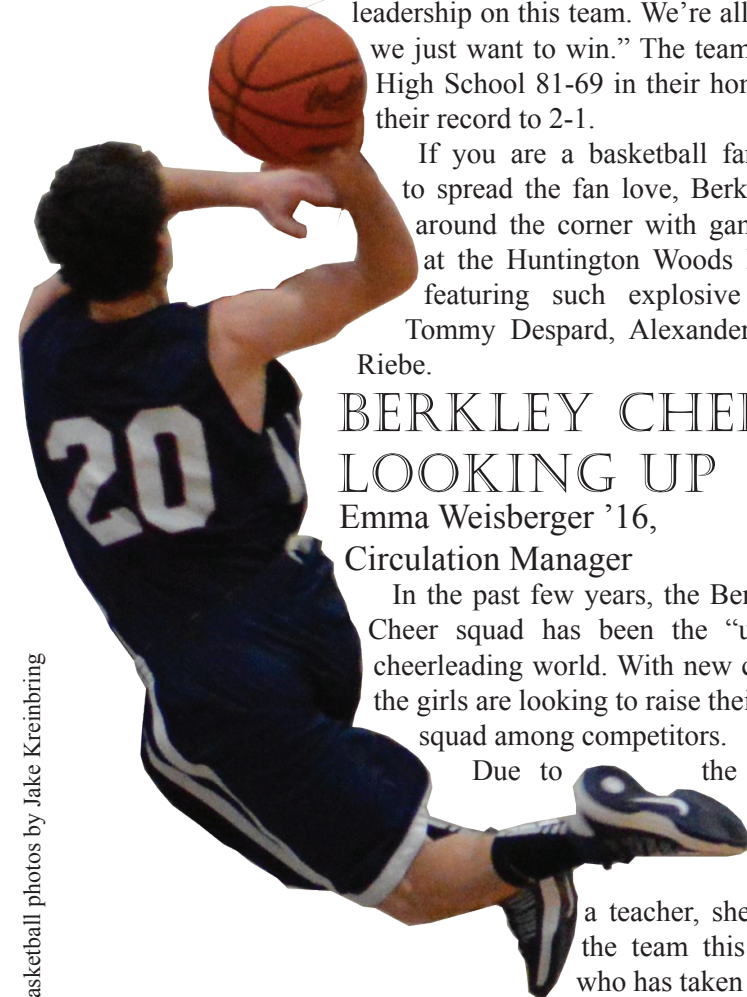
Going into the season, there was a lot of uncertainty regarding the fate of the cheer team. Freshman Ashlyn Conrad said, "I didn't know if I was going to [be on] the team. I didn't know if I was good enough for it or if [the team] was even good." Based on last year's season, many girls did not know what the future held for the squad. This year, things are looking better for the team, as their improvements are already evident due to their third place finish at a competition at Gibraltar Carlson on Dec. 8. Their success this year could help Berkley to develop and improve the cheer program in future competitions and years.

BOWLING BOWLS FOR A STRIKE

Jimmy Demery '13, Entertainment Editor

Onto one of the least heralded, yet for the people who play it, most fun sports at BHS: bowling. Senior Billy Adler said, "We lost some key players last year, but we have a lot of new talent this year and we're hoping to go undefeated." The team won their first match against Hazel Park and finished 14th in the Lake Orion Bowling Invitational.

Basketball photos by Jake Kreimbring



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Note: Class dates and times subject to change**Driver Education Segment One: Seaholm High School (Room A105)**

SEPT 10-27, 2012	Sept 10,11,12,13,17,18,19,21,24,25,26,27, 2012 5-7 pm	SEA912 seg 1
OCT 8-25, 2012	Oct 8,9,10,11,15,16,18,19,22,23,24,25, 2012 5-7 pm	SEA1012 seg 1
NOV 5-28, 2012	Nov 5,6,7,12,13,14,19,20,21,26,27,28, 2012 5-7 pm	SEA1112 seg 1

Driver Education Segment Two: Seaholm High School (Room A105)

SEPT 4,5,6, 2012	T, W, Thurs	7-9 pm	SEA912 seg 2
SEPT 18,19,21, 2012	T, W, F	7-9 pm	SEA912B seg 2
OCT 2,3,4, 2012	T, W, Thurs	5-7 pm	SEA1012 seg 2
OCT 16,18,19, 2012	T, Thurs F	7-9 pm	SEA1012B seg 2
OCT 29,30, NOV 1, 2012	M, T, Thurs	5-7 pm	SEA1012C seg 2
NOV 12,13,14, 2012	M, T, W	7-9 pm	SEA1112 seg 2
NOV 26,27,28, 2012	M, T, W	7-9 pm	SEA1112B seg 2

Driver Education Segment One: Groves High School (Room B-24)

SEPT 4-27, 2012	Sept 4,5,6,11,12,13,18,20,21,25,26,27, 2012 4-6 pm	GHS912 seg 1
OCT 2-25, 2012	Oct 2,3,4,9,10,12,16,17,18,23,24,25, 2012 6:15-8:15 pm	GHS1012 seg 1
NOV 6-29, 2012	Nov 6,7,8,13,14,15,19,20,21,27,28,29, 2012 4-6 pm	GHS1112 seg 1
NOV 27-DEC 20, 2012	Nov 27,28,29, Dec 4,5,6,11,12,13,18,19,20, 2012 6:15-8:15 pm	GHS1112B seg 1

Driver Education Segment Two: Groves High School (Room B-25)

AUG 28,29,30, 2012	T, W, Thurs	6:15-8:15 pm	GHS812B seg 2
SEPT 11,12,13, 2012	T, W, Thurs	6:15-8:15 pm	GHS912 seg 2
SEPT 25,26,27, 2012	T, W, Thurs	6:15-8:15 pm	GHS912B seg 2
OCT 9,10,12, 2012	T, W, F	4-6 pm	GHS1012 seg 2
OCT 23,24,25, 2012	T, W, Thurs	4-6 pm	GHS1012B seg 2
NOV 6,7,8, 2012	T, W, Thurs	6:15-8:15 pm	GHS1112 seg 2
NOV 19,20,21, 2012	M, T, W	6:15-8:15 pm	GHS1112B seg 2
DEC 4,5,6, 2012	T, W, Thurs	4-6 pm	GHS1212 seg 2
DEC 18,19,20, 2012	T, W, Thurs	4-6 pm	GHS1212B seg 2

CHECK OUR WEBSITE FOR OTHER DATES AND LOCATIONSwww.appledriving.com**Apple Driving School Inc. 248-689-8224**

NEEDED: PICTURES/ WRITTEN ACCOUNTS OF RANDOM ACTS OF KINDNESS

In the wake of the tragic shooting at Sandy Hook Elementary School in Newtown, Connecticut last Friday, we at the *Spectator* would like to remind those in the Berkley Community of the good in people. For next issue, we would like to ask that the staff, students and faculty send visual and written depictions of random acts of kindness that restore our faith in humanity.

Did someone help someone else pick up their fallen books? Did someone stand up for a student being bullied? We would like to know about it. Get out those iPhones and snap a quick picture. These can be anonymous or include as much identifying information as possible. We would like to create a visual/written collage.

We appreciate any submissions. These can be given to any *Spectator* staff member, dropped off to room 116/165, or emailed to Ms. Mullins at emullins@berkleyschools.org.

Thank you!

Looking for opportunities to
help the community?



Earn volunteer hours at Yad Ezra,
the Kosher Food Pantry
2850 W. 11 Mile, Berkley
Contact Darlene Rothman:
Darlene@yadezra.org, or call 248-
548-3663

Follow us on Twitter @yadezradet
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replenish

YOGA studio

Teen yoga for ages: 11-18yrs old

Berkeley Parks & Recreation 248-658-3470 or www.berkleymich.org

Session begins Tuesday, January 15th

\$ 70 for session or \$15 drop in

Replenish Yoga Studio is offering teens techniques for coping with the unique issues they're faced with everyday.

Insecurity, changing of their bodies, enormous pressure to fit in and dealing with stressful, busy schedules.

Besides the physical benefits, these teenagers will gain a mental edge when preparing for exams and sporting events.

We give time to tune into all teenagers needs and abilities, by helping reinforcement, encouragement and confidence to their busy lifestyle.